

**Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
Monday, September 14, 2026
Briar View Farms
Callands, Virginia**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board took place at 4:18 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2026, at Briar View Farms in Callands, Virginia.

VIRGINIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

John Schick, Vice Chair
Robert Mills
Kevin Tate
Nick Thomas
Dr. Dan Goerlich, VCE

Stephanie Cornnell
Kevin Dunn
Leigh Pemberton
Dr. Edwin Martinez, NRCS

VIRGINIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Nate Aker
Jason De La Cruz

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION STAFF PRESENT

Nikki Rovner, DCR Director
Sarah Spota, DCR Deputy Director
James Martin, Director, Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Christine Watlington Jones, Policy and District Services Manager
Breanne Lindsey, Board and Constituent Liaison
Blair Gordon, District Operations Coordinator
Nico Robichaud, Policy and Program Assistant
Carl Thiel-Goin, DCR
Becky Hubble, DCR
Angela Ball, DCR

OTHERS PRESENT

Kendall Tyree, VASWCD
Benjamin Young, ESSWCD
Lucy Earl, ESSWCD
Carmie Ross, ESSWCD
J. Wyatt Cox, Chowan Basin SWCD
Jennifer Coker, Chowan Basin SWCD
Granville Maitland, Appomattox River SWCD
Buck Tharpe, SSWCD
Jimmy Rigway, PSWCD

Charles Newton, Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Austin Magruder, Peanut SWCD
Courtney Coleman, Peanut SWCD
Robert Waring, Colonial SWCD
Sam Chappell, Blue Ridge SWCD
Luke Longanecker, TJSWCD
David Massie, Culpeper SWCD
Jessy Lacks, Pittsylvania SWCD
Amber Eanes, Pittsylvania SWCD
Jake Tabor, Farm Bureau
Stephen Bartz, VCE
John Womack, NRCS

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

With seven (7) members of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board present a quorum was established.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chairman Schick called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m. and asked for introductions.

TOUR OF BRIAR VIEW FARMS

Mr. Mills provided an in-depth tour of Briar View Farms, outlining the various types of tobacco products grown on-site, the cultivation and harvesting processes, and the contributions he and his family make to the tobacco industry.

DISCUSSION OF TRADITIONAL COVER CROP VERIFICATION PROCEDURES

Ms. Watlington Jones provided a brief overview of the cover crop verification procedures, which were discussed at the August 20, 2026 Cover Crop Subcommittee meeting.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS OF SURVEY PROVIDED TO DISTRICTS REGARDING COVER CROP PRACTICES

Ms. Watlington Jones presented an overview of the feedback gathered from the survey completed by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts prior to the meeting. Following her presentation, DCR staff, Board members, and District staff engaged in an open discussion regarding cover crop verification along with the needs of the Districts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment outside of the open discussion held during the meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS

The Board was provided dates for upcoming meetings:

- September 15, 2026; Hunt and Company Restaurant and Catering, Chatham, VA
- December 10, 2026; Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, VA
- Thursday, March 25, 2027
- Tuesday, April 20, 2027
- Thursday, May 27, 2027

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.