

Technical Advisory Committee – Stream Protection Subcommittee
DCR Staunton Office
Staunton, Virginia

Stream Protection Subcommittee Members Present

Mark Hollberg, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation – Div. of Soil & Water Conservation (DCR-DSWC)
(Chair)

Charlie Wootton, Piedmont Soil & Water Conservation District

Ashley Wendt, Department of Environmental Quality

Jason Carter, Virginia Cattlemen’s Association

Nick Livesay, Lord Fairfax Soil & Water Conservation District

Matt Booher, Virginia Cooperative Extension (Proxy for Scott Baker)

Gary Boring, Virginia Assn. of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) Area IV Representative

Chris Barbour, Outside of the Chesapeake Bay (OCB) Districts Representative

Tom Turner, Chesapeake Bay Districts Representative

Luke Longanecker, Thomas Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District

Robert Bradford, VASWCD Area II Representative

David Massie, Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District

Raleigh Coleman*, DCR-DSWC

Keith Thomas, Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

Stream Protection Subcommittee Members Absent

Tim Higgs, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Emily Horsley**, United States Dept. of Agriculture – Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA)

Matt Kowalski, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Chad Wentz, United States Dept. of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Shawn Ralston, James River Association

Stacy Horton*, DCR-DSWC

Robert Shoemaker*, DCR-DSWC

Public Participants Present

John Kaylor, Headwaters Soil & Water Conservation District

Aaron Lucas, Headwaters Soil & Water Conservation District

(*Non-voting member)

(**Participated via conference call)

WELCOME

The subcommittee meeting began at 9:37am with an introduction from Mr. Hollberg. A quorum was established with 13 voting members present.

DRAFT MINUTES

The minutes of the September 10, 2018, meeting of the Stream Protection Subcommittee were presented for approval. Mr. Turner requested that the minutes be amended to reflect his representation of the Chesapeake Bay Districts and Mr. Wootton’s representation of Piedmont SWCD. Mr. Wootton made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Longanecker seconded the

motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

There was much discussion over various fence setback distances and payment rates.

A specific discussion of Matrix Suggestion #17S was led by John Kaylor and Aaron Lucas of Headwaters SWCD to explain their reasons for the suggestion. The suggestion was made with the goal of increasing program participation and stream exclusion on rented land, since a large portion of Virginia's cattle population spend time on rented land, and renters are reluctant to participate in the current SL-6 practice because (1) they do not want to rely on an automatic livestock watering system and (2) they do not know if they will have control of the land for the duration of the 10-year contract. The suggestion is to have a stream exclusion practice that will reduce maintenance requirements (by creating limited accesses from more durable materials than standard stone stream crossings), increase reliability (by relying on reliable streams as the water source), and have a reduced setback distance (10-ft). The consensus was that the existing WP-2 practice specification could be modified to create this practice. The consensus was that this practice should be offered in the Chesapeake Bay watershed only, and that it should be open to any landowners who would like to apply (as opposed to only being available on rented land). Mr. Wootton and others recommended that the landowner (instead of the renter) be the program participant in cases where the land is leased.

ACTION: Mr. Hollberg asked Headwaters SWCD staff to work on developing some practice language to discuss with the subcommittee at the October 11, 2018, meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Barbour that a 100% cost-share reimbursement rate should not be made available through the VACS Program. Mr. Wootton seconded the motion. The motion failed based on the 80% requirement for a passing vote (8 yeas, 5 nays).

There was a general discussion of Matrix Suggestions #7S/8S/9S regarding the creation of CCI practices for SL-6/LE-2 practices that are coming out of lifespan. The existing CCI-SE-1 does not offer maintenance funds for the livestock watering system. Offering a CCI-SL-6 and/or CCI-LE-2 would incentivize participants to maintain those practices that are coming out of lifespan and allow the credits to be maintained in the Bay Model (since practices coming out of lifespan are dropped out of the model currently). **ACTION:** Mr. Turner will draft language for the subcommittee to discuss at the October 11, 2018, meeting.

Prescribed grazing was discussed briefly. **ACTION:** Mr. Wootton will work on merging ideas from the SL-9 and former SL-10 practice for the subcommittee to discuss at the October 11, 2018, meeting.

The subcommittee discussed the idea of buffer payments to be paid up-front as part of new stream exclusion practices. The subcommittee generally supports the idea of buffer payments to further incentivize sign-up and count buffer acres. There was discussion of perhaps capping the buffer width that would be eligible for payment at 50ft. Buffer payments will be considered at future meeting dates after further discussion.

Mr. Hollberg summarized the action items to be completed prior to the October 11 meeting as follows:

- (1) Headwaters SWCD: Draft Modified WP-2
- (2) Tom Turner: Draft CCI-SL-6/CCI-LE-2

(3) Charlie Wootton: Merge SL-9 & Former SL-10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hollberg explained that three or more members of the subcommittee cannot discuss subcommittee matters together outside of the public meetings.

The Stream Protection Subcommittee will meet again on October 11, 2018, at 9:30am in the Staunton DCR Office (12 Sunset Blvd., Staunton, VA 24401)

ADJOURN

The subcommittee meeting adjourned at 2:04pm.