

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees**  
**Tuesday, October 27, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Virginia State Capitol, Senate Room 3, Richmond, Virginia**

**MINUTES**

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees Members Present**

The Honorable Molly Ward, Secretary of Natural Resources, Chair  
Robert Lazaro, Jr., Vice Chair  
Joe Elton for Clyde Cristman, Executive Secretary  
Sam Towell for The Honorable Todd Haymore, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Byron M. Adkins, Jr.	Stephen L. Apicella
R. Brian Ball	Glenda C. Booth
Susan E. Donner	Jay C. Ford
The Honorable Emmet Hanger, Jr.	Valerie D. Hubbard
Ollie Kitchen, Jr.	Anna Lawson
Paul V. Milde	Mary Helen Morgan
The Honorable Albert C. Pollard, Jr.	The Honorable John Paul Woodley, JR.

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees Members Not Present**

Joan Fenton	The Honorable Jill Holtzman Vogel
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**State Agency Staff Present**

Rochelle Altholz, DCR	Danette Poole, DCR
Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR	Sarah Richardson, DCR
Jennifer Coleman, OAG	Michael Santucci, DOF
Michael R. Fletcher, DCR	Kevin Schmidt, VDACS
Matthew Gooch, OAG	Tom Smith, DCR
Gary Martel, VDGIF	Andrew Sorrell, VDACS
Lisa McGee, DCR	Elizabeth Tune, DHR
Wendy Musumeci, DHR	Deb Van Duzee, VDGIF
Sharon Partee, DCR	Irvine Wilson, DCR

**Others Present**

Parker Agelasto, Capital Region Land Conservancy  
Kathy Baker, Stafford County  
Chief Walt "Red Hawk" Brown, Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe  
Bruce Bytnar, Boxerwood Education Association  
Justin Doyle, James River Association  
Joseph Epps, Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe  
Virginia Frediani, Virginia Environmental Endowment  
Regan Gifford, Chesapeake Conservancy  
Dan Iglhaut, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority  
Joseph Maroon, Virginia Environmental Endowment  
Jane Myers, Capital Region Land Conservancy  
Ray Pickering, Fauquier County  
Nikki Rovner, The Nature Conservancy

**Approval of Minutes from June 16, 2015**

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Kitchen moved that the Board approve the minutes of the June 16, 2015 meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation as submitted. The motion was properly seconded by Mr. Woodley. With no objections and Mr. Milde abstaining, the minutes were approved by a majority vote.

**Update on Prior VLCF Projects** – Sarah Richardson, DCR

- The Pigeon Hills Forestry easement project in Essex County closed in January.
- The Farmlands easement project in Fauquier County closed in August.

**VLCF - Financial Update** – Sharon Partee, DCR

Ms. Partee presented the Board with the following financial update of the fund balance to include income and disbursements:

FUND BALANCE – September 30, 2013	\$1,544,164
<b>INCOME</b>	
FY13 Stewardship Funds	\$1,236,939
FY14 Stewardship Funds	\$1,088,822
FY15 Stewardship Funds	\$ 855,400
FY14 Appropriation – Chapter 3	\$1,000,000
FY15 Appropriation – Chapter 806	\$1,000,000
FY16 Appropriation – Chapter 665	<u>\$4,000,000</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$9,181,161
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
FY14 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$1,258,638
FY15 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$1,088,822
FY16 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$ 0
FY14 Grant Payments	\$ 834,978
FY15 Grant Payments	\$ 566,937
FY16 Grant Payments	\$ 90,000
FY14 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$ 250,000
FY15 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$ 250,000
FY16 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$ 250,000
FY15 Appropriation Reversion- Part 3, 1.01 ZZ.1, CH 665	<u>\$ 300,000</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT	\$4,879,375
FUND BALANCE – September 20, 2015	\$5,845,950

**Approval of Distribution of VLCF Stewardship Funds** – Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR

Ms. Bulbulkaya explained that § 58.1-513C.2. of the *Code of Virginia* establishes Virginia’s land conservation stewardship fund by imposing a two percent fee on the sale or transfer of land preservation tax credits. The distribution of the stewardship fund is calculated based on a three-year average of the number of donated interests accepted by the conservation agency or organization as set out in Code. The money is to be used for the monitoring and enforcement of conserved lands. The Board was presented with the following 2015 stewardship fund distribution of a total of \$855,400 going to 45 agencies and organizations for approval:

<b>2015 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Stewardship Fund</b>				
	<b>AGENCY NAME</b>	<b>NUMBER OF DONATIONS</b>	<b>% OF TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>AMOUNT OF FUNDS</b>
1	Archaeological Conservancy	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
2	Blue Ridge Land Conservancy	4	0.78%	\$6,682.81
3	Capital Region Land Conservancy Inc	0.5	0.10%	\$835.35
4	Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
5	Chesapeake Airport Authority	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
6	City of Danville	2	0.39%	\$3,341.41
7	County of Albemarle	12	2.34%	\$20,048.44
8	County of Chesterfield	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
9	County of Clarke	11	2.15%	\$18,377.73
10	County of Fauquier	10	1.95%	\$16,707.03
11	County of Fluvanna	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
12	County of Henrico	2	0.39%	\$3,341.41
13	County of King William	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
14	County of Louisa	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
15	County of Northumberland	0.5	0.10%	\$835.35
16	County of Warren	2	0.39%	\$3,341.41
17	Eastern Shore Land Trust	1.5	0.29%	\$2,506.05
18	Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District	0.5	0.10%	\$835.35
19	Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District	0.5	0.10%	\$835.35
20	Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
21	Historic Green Springs, Inc.	3	0.59%	\$5,012.11
22	Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
23	Land Trust of Virginia	23	4.49%	\$38,426.17
24	Middle Peninsula Land Trust	4	0.78%	\$6,682.81
25	The Nature Conservancy	4	0.78%	\$6,682.81
26	New River Land Trust	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
27	New River Soil & Water Conservation District	0.5	0.10%	\$835.35
28	North American Land Trust (NALT)	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
29	Northern Neck Land Conservancy	0.5	0.10%	\$835.35
30	Northern Virginia Conservation Trust	4	0.78%	\$6,682.81
31	Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
32	Old Dominion Land Conservancy, Inc.	9	1.76%	\$15,036.33
33	Piedmont Environmental Council	7	1.37%	\$11,694.92
34	Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
35	Potomac Conservancy	3	0.59%	\$5,012.11
36	Shenandoah County Conservation Easement Authority	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
37	Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation	0.5	0.10%	\$835.35
38	Town of Strasburg	0.5	0.10%	\$835.35
39	Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, Inc.	2	0.39%	\$3,341.41
40	Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation	2	0.39%	\$3,341.41
41	Virginia Department of Forestry	36	7.03%	\$60,145.31
42	Virginia Department of Historic Resources	16	3.13%	\$26,731.25

43	Virginia Outdoors Foundation	330.5	64.55%	\$552,167.38
44	Wildlife Foundation of Virginia	1	0.20%	\$1,670.70
45	Williamsburg Land Conservancy	5	0.98%	\$8,353.52
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>512</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$855,400.00</b>

USDA NRCS co-holds one easement with two other entities. Because federal agencies are ineligible to receive VLCF funds the 1/3 share was not counted and the other two co-holders were each given a 50% share.

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Lazaro moved that the Board approve the distribution of VLCF Stewardship Funds as submitted by staff. The motion was properly seconded by Mr. Woodley. With no objections, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Bulbulkaya explained that DCR would issue the funds to the recipients in the next week or two.

**Grant Round Overview** – Sarah Richardson, DCR

Ms. Richardson reported that the grant application process was initiated following the Board’s approval of the grant round at the June 16, 2015 meeting. During this process, 18 applications were received and scored by an interagency committee according to the criteria established in the grants manual. Ms. Richardson further noted that staff will develop grant agreements for each project awarded and the Grantees will have two years in which to complete their projects.

**Recommended Grant Projects for Authorization**

**Farmlands and Forest Preservation - Kevin Schmidt, VDACS**

Fauquier County Agricultural Development Department – Highwater Farm

The grant request is for the purchase of development rights and placement of a conservation easement on a 181.65-acre beef cattle farm that includes 60 acres of pine woodlands. Protection of the property, which is part of the 19,000-acre Southern Fauquier Agricultural and Forestal District, helps accomplish one of the major goals of the county’s PDR program, which is to establish a critical mass of protected farmland and open space. The project will include vegetated riparian buffers along 4,000 feet of frontage on two streams in the Rappahannock watershed.

**Total Project Cost:** \$183,000 **Match:** Fauquier County PDR program. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$72,500.  
**Recommended amount:** \$72,500.

Stafford County – Jones Farm Easement II

The grant request is for additional funds to purchase a conservation easement on 43 acres of farmland in Stafford County that was previously funded by VLCF in 2014. The Jones Farm consists of 13 acres of active farmland (producing hay) and 24 acres of mixed timber forest land. 68 percent of the property is prime farmland and statewide important soils. The property has a minimum of 35 foot vegetative buffers along the approximately 2,600 feet of streams and wetlands and is within one quarter of a mile of conserved property. While the property is in an area that retains large parcels that continue to be used for agricultural purposes, it does have over 500 feet of public road frontage and well-drained soils, which makes it subject to significant development pressure.

**Total Project Cost:** \$680,000. Match: Stafford County PDR program. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$290,000.  
**Recommended amount:** \$130,000.

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**Board Comments:** Mr. Milde asked how the recommended amount of \$130,000 was determined and Ms. Hubbard asked what the County would be able to accomplish with the funds. Ms. Richardson advised that she contacts the applicant to find out if a reduced amount is sufficient to make the project viable. She further commented that the intent was to make the funds cover as many projects as possible.

Ms. Baker, from Stafford County advised the Board that Stafford County has additional funds left over from VDACS from the previous year. These funds will be used for an additional match and will leave the project about \$5,000-8,000 short. She noted that the County hopes to close on the property in about three months. Ms. Richardson added that many projects were funded with grants from different sources.

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*Farmlands and Forest Preservation (Continued) – Michael Santucci, DOF*

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James River Association – Seven Islands Easement

The grant request is to support the purchase of a conservation easement to be held by the Va. Dept. of Forestry on 360 acres of land and islands located southeast of Charlottesville in Fluvanna County. The easement will preserve riparian areas along streams flowing into the James; protect and enhance water quality; protect wildlife habitat and threatened native wildlife species; and maintain at least 75% of the land as a sustainable forest resource. The property, which is 97% forestland, is located between two DGIF Wildlife Management Areas that provide public access, and is on a stretch of the river that has been found to qualify for scenic-river status. It is also in an area that is part of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the Upper James River Heritage Trail.

**Total Project Cost:** \$375,559. Match: bargain sale and \$250,000 from Va. Dept. of Forestry. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$125,559. **Recommended amount:** \$110,000.

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Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – Ridley Farm Easement

The grant request is to fund partial purchase of a conservation easement that will protect 567 acres in Southampton County containing 185 acres of swamp/bottomland hardwoods that includes old-growth Tupelo/Bald Cypress swamp with nearly 20,000 feet of frontage on the Nottoway River. The property is also a working farm, with 130 acres of largely prime farmland currently under intensive agricultural use. The swamp and bottomland hardwoods, which lie within the larger DCR Natural Heritage-designated Cypress Swamps Conservation Site, will be protected from timber harvesting and will serve as an effective buffer to the Cypress Bridge Natural Area Preserve that is directly across the Nottoway River. The easement will limit development on the upland portion of the property and will help preserve the viewshed of a state Scenic River.

**Total Project Cost:** \$555,000. Match: partial donation of easement value. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$272,750. **Recommended amount:** \$250,000.

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***Historic Resources Category - Wendy Musemeci, DHR***

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Civil War Trust – Gaines Tract

Funds are requested for the fee-simple purchase of 1.1 acres within the core area of the Sailor’s Creek Battlefield in Amelia County. The Battle of Sailor’s Creek, on April 6, 1865, led to the surrender of General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse just 72 hours later. Acquisition of the tract will allow the removal of modern buildings and will protect this core battlefield land by allowing its incorporation into Sailor’s Creek State Park.

**Total Project Cost:** \$225,000. **Match:** Civil War Trust or other grants. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$87,500.  
**Recommended amount:** \$87,500.

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Boxerwood Educational Association – Boxerwood Easement

The Boxerwood Education Association, which currently owns the 14.56-acre Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden near Lexington, is requesting \$50,000 for a partial purchase of a conservation easement on the property that will be held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The property contains a historic house that is listed on the National and Virginia Historic Registers. The nature center is open to the public as an outdoor classroom in support of educational programs in the Rockbridge County, Lexington, and Buena Vista Public School systems. The Brushy Blue Trail System, which will link the Brushy Hills area to Lexington, Buena Vista, and the Blue Ridge Parkway, is planned to be constructed across the property.

**Total Project Cost:** \$100,000. **Match:** Bargain sale value of easement. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$50,000.  
**Recommended amount:** \$50,000.

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**Board Comments:** Mr. Towell asked if restoration of these historic sites included removal of forested land and Ms. Hubbard requested additional information regarding the battlefield rating. Ms. Musemeci responded that removal of forest cover must meet certain historic requirements and must mean a return to the condition of the land at the time of the battle. As for the battlefield rating, Ms. Musemeci advised that the rating was based on a study of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in 1993. This was a priority rating system which included consideration of whether the property retains the integrity of the battlefield and whether it is threatened by potential development.

Mr. Ball asked about the breakdown for the use of funds. Ms. Richardson advised that grant monies are utilized for acquisition, not for development of the property.

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***Natural Area Protection – Tom Smith, DCR***

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Department of Conservation and Recreation – The Cedars Natural Area Preserve Additions

DCR’s Natural Heritage Program seeks to purchase in fee approximately 121 acres from five landowners within the Cedars region of Lee County as additions to The Cedars Natural Area Preserve. The Cedars region is one of the most biologically diverse places in North America. Within this roughly 50 square mile area, the Natural Heritage Program has documented 224 occurrences of 93 unique elements of rare plants and animals, significant terrestrial communities, biologically significant caves and freshwater communities. Throughout the region, key tracts are continuously at risk to conversion to intensive uses which diminish the rich biodiversity. Residential development is especially problematic as septic systems on karst are likely to pollute groundwater and thus impact rare cave species. Conversion also

removes habitat for rare plants and opens avenues for invasive species. The properties targeted for protection here will mitigate against those threats and will lead to restoration of parts of the landscape that have been converted to incompatible uses.

**Total Project Cost:** \$448,950. **Match:** \$20,000. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$428,950. **Recommended amount:** \$221,700

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The Nature Conservancy – Protection of Flatwoods at Piney Grove Preserve

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is seeking \$105,000 in grant funding from VLCF to acquire approximately 75 forested acres adjacent to TNC's Piney Grove Preserve in Sussex County, Virginia. Acquisition by TNC will benefit two natural heritage resources: Coastal Plain Seasonal Ponds and Virginia's sole population of the federally endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Conservancy ownership will ensure protection of future Red-cockaded Woodpecker nesting and foraging habitat and will involve reintroduction of fire to restore pine savanna habitat for numerous fire-dependent species. The hydrology of the Seasonal Ponds and surrounding hydric soil areas will be preserved as well. The Conservancy will complete the acquisitions for an estimated cost of \$210,000 and will secure 1:1 matching funds to complete the purchase. The project tracts will be incorporated into Piney Grove Preserve and designated by Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VA DCR) as a Natural Area Preserve system tract. TNC will secure 1:1 matching funds in 2016 through a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) North American Wetland Conservation Act grant or from private sources.

**Total Project Cost:** \$220,000 **Match:** \$110,000. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$110,000 **Recommended amount:** \$69,655

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Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal Heritage Foundation, Inc. – Fee Simple Acquisition by Cheroenhaka Indian Tribal Heritage Foundation and Easement Addition to Cypress Bridge Swamp Natural Area Preserve – Cheroenhaka Tract

The project will protect approximately 170 acres adjacent to DCR's Cypress Bridge Swamp Natural Area Preserve and land already owned by the Cheroenhaka Tribe. The property will be held under easement of natural area dedication by DCR's Natural Heritage Program. Approximately 10 acres of the property is native bottomland forest and most of the remainder is upland planted with loblolly pine. The applicant proposes to harvest the pine forest and replant with native Virginia longleaf pine and restore the upland into an uneven-aged, open canopy longleaf pine savannah with a diverse herbaceous understory through selective thinning and prescribed fire. Protection of the property will serve as an important buffer to the natural area preserve and prevent incompatible uses, particularly industrial or commercial development. The Cheroenhaka Tribe is seeking \$280,515 in grant funding and proposes a 1:1 match through a bank loan secured in part with the timber value on the subject property.

**Total Project Cost:** \$561,030. **Match:** \$280,515. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$280,515. **Recommended amount:** \$271,145

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***Open Space and Parks – Danette Poole, DCR***

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Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – Springdale Regional Park Acquisition.

Grant funds are requested to acquire 149.51 acres of land with approximately 2,080 linear feet of frontage on the Potomac River. The property, which also fronts on Route 15 in northern Loudoun County, includes over 7,000 linear feet of streams and 15.8 acres of wetlands. The project is within the

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and the Journey through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area. The property will become a regional park open to the public, with passive recreational uses such as hiking, wildlife observation, fishing, and picnicking.

**Total Project Cost:** \$4,000,000. **Match:** LWCF and NOVA Parks funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$390,000.  
**Recommended amount:** \$300,000.

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Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation – James River Conservation Area

Funds are requested to assist in the purchase of 109.875 acres with 4,600 linear feet of frontage on the James River, at the confluence of the river with Falling Creek southeast of Richmond. The property, which is just north of Drewry's Bluff National Park, is planned to be developed as a public park for walking, biking, nature observation, and a boat-launch facility. The project will serve as a major segment of the James River Linear Park and Trail.

**Total Project Cost:** \$785,000. **Match:** donated property value and County funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$355,000. **Recommended amount:** \$302,000.

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Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries – Aspen Grove Farm

Grant funds will help acquire the 85-acre Aspen Grove property in New Kent County, which controls access to the Ware Creek Preserve that is being acquired with the help of VLCF funding. The project will protect significant nesting, staging, and wintering habitat for migratory birds, and habitat for threatened and endangered species.

**Total Project Cost:** \$375,000. **Match:** Pittman-Robertson funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$75,000.  
**Recommended amount:** \$62,500.

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Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – West Woods

Grant funds are sought to help purchase 31 acres to be added to SVBF's Third Winchester Battlefield Park, a 572-acre block of contiguous protected land in Frederick County that is open to and interpreted for the public. The project will help protect a wildlife corridor and historic site from planned commercial development. The property, which is part of a commercial shopping center, was recently under contract to WalMart.

**Total Project Cost:** \$4,977,898. **Match:** Civil War Trust, SVBF, and land donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$500,000. **Recommended amount:** \$123,000.

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Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Ditchley Farm

Funding is requested for the purchase of a conservation easement on the property known as Ditchley. The 162-acre historic waterfront property near Kilmarnock has multiple conservation values, including significant agricultural, historic, and recreational features. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) easement will assure public access to tidal shoreline areas and the Chesapeake Bay, and will permanently protect the property from intensive residential and commercial development. Project objectives include providing recreational access to Dividing Creek, directly across from the Hughlett Point State Natural Area Preserve, and two miles from the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay, in an area where public access opportunities are scarce. A second canoe/kayak access site will be developed on Prentice Creek. In addition to providing recreation, the easement will help in protecting one hundred



seventeen acres – 72% of the property – that is USDA-designated prime agricultural soil. Ditchley is a productive farm that has been in continuous cultivation for 400 years.

**Total Project Cost:** \$3,000,000. **Match:** landowner donation and cash. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$350,000. **Recommended amount:** \$200,000.

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**Public Comment from Grant Applicants**

- Chief Walt Brown from the Cheroenhaka Tribe thanked the Board for the support and for working with the Tribe for the acquisition.
- Mr. Doyle of the James River Association commented that the Seven Islands Farm acquisition would preserve a beautiful natural wilderness for the hundreds of people who float down the James River.
- Mr. Connock of Chesterfield County expressed his appreciation for the Board support and complimented the work of the staff on these projects.

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Lazaro moved that the Board approve all projects as submitted with the exception of the Piney Grove Flatwoods Acquisition. The motion was properly seconded by Mr. Apicella and approved by a unanimous vote.

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Lazaro moved that the Board approve the Piney Grove Flatwoods Acquisition project. The motion was properly seconded by Mr. Towell, with no objections and Mr. Ball abstaining, the motion passed with a majority vote.

Mr. Ball commented that he has watched the grant process for many years and expressed his appreciation for the landowners and for how staff work with limited resources.

**Guidance on Conservation Easement Dispute Resolution** – *Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR*

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented the Board with an amended draft of the *Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Document on Conservation Easement Dispute Resolution*. The document was originally presented to the Board at the June 16, 2015 meeting and was amended to incorporate recommendations received during the posted public comment period.

**Board Comment:** Mr. Apicella concurred with the reason for removing option A regarding a request for time on the Board agenda. He also noted that on page 3 of the document, the section on confidentiality could be deleted as it was already referenced in the Dispute Resolution Act. Mrs. Morgan requested that the document include definitions for the terms Chair and Director. Ms. Booth asked if mediation would be provided by an employee of the state or an independent person. Further minor edits were recommended by the Board.

Ms. Bulbulkaya agreed that the changes streamlined the document and that she would include the following definitions: “Chair” means the Secretary of Natural Resources and “Director” means the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Ms. Richardson advised that in most cases mediation would be provided by an employee of the state but that a mediator could be hired by one of the parties at their cost. Ms. Bulbulkaya noted that in the event there is a dispute resolution request, several DCR staff members have received training in dispute resolution and added that a request for this

process might occur more with second generation landowners who wish to use a property for a purpose not permitted under the easement.

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Adkins moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation adopt the document as presented with the following additional edits: 1) Chair and Director shall be defined; 2) Subsection 4 will be renamed “process”; 3) Subsection 4, item 6, the agreement to the mediation shall be in writing; and 4) the final paragraph should note that the requestor will provide a list of parties to the dispute.

The motion was properly seconded by Mr. Woodley and with no objections was carried by a unanimous vote.

### **Agency Treasures Updates Lightning Round**

- *Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Andrew Sorrell*

Mr. Sorrell reported that since 2008 VDACS has preserved over 9,600 acres, to include about 25 Century Farms, through their Purchase of Development Rights Program with localities. About \$1.5 million has been allocated to six localities to establish easements on 1,500 acres. An additional \$2 million is now available to be allocated. Mr. Sorrell advised the Board that the application period was open through the end of October 2015.

- *Department of Conservation and Recreation – Joe Elton*

Mr. Elton presented a brief overview regarding DCR’s development of a tracking process to measure progress towards Governor McAuliffe’s “1,000 Treasures” goal. Mr. Elton reported that 239 Land Conservation Treasures have been created and 67 natural, cultural, or recreational treasures have been approved since the beginning of the Governor’s term and DCR will continue to work with the Governor’s and Secretary’s Offices to track the goal.

- *Department of Historic Resources – Wendy Musumeci*

Ms. Musumeci reported that since January of 2015 DHR has recorded 17 easements on over 1,000 acres and has submitted over 300 rehabilitation tax credit projects between January 2014 and September 2015.

- *Department of Forestry - Michael Santucci*

Mr. Santucci reported that since January 2014 DOF has working forest easements on roughly 2,000 acres that are 90% forested. This includes 14 miles of water courses. DOF has sent proposals to the U.S. Forest Service regarding funding for about 6,500 acres and DOF is hiring a Western Region Forest Conservation Specialist. Mr. Santucci commented that this is the first time since the inception of the easement program that DOF will have statewide coverage.

- *Department of Game and Inland Fisheries - Deb Van Duzee*

Ms. Van Duzee reported that DGIF has finalized two acquisitions totaling 164 acres; will be acquiring an additional 1,600 acres in Roanoke, New Kent, Appomattox, Pittsylvania, Carroll, and Bath Counties; and assisted 14 municipalities in obtaining grants for boating access sites.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Other Business:** Senator Hanger commented that the work the VLCF is doing is very good. He acknowledged the enthusiasm of the new members and that he sensed members were interested in more involvement. Senator Hanger suggested that the Board consider the possibility of establishing subcommittees to work together to further the mission of the VLCF. He also suggested that the agenda include an opportunity for final Board comments prior to adjournment.

Ms. Bulbulkaya offered that Board members would be invited to participate in the grants workshops as scheduled in the future.

**Adjourn:** There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

**NOTE:** Following the business meeting, the new members of the Board were presented with an overview of the applicable resources available and training on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) presented by Assistant Attorney General Matthew Gooch.

Respectfully submitted,

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The Honorable Molly Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources, Chair

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Clyde E. Cristman  
Director, Executive Secretary