

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees  
September 19, 2017  
East Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building, Richmond, Virginia**

**TIME AND PLACE**

The meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees took place at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 in the East Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building, Richmond, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

The Honorable Molly Ward, Secretary of Natural Resources, Chair  
Robert Lazaro, Jr., Vice Chair

Steven L. Apicella  
R. Brian Ball  
Glenda C. Booth  
Susan E. Donner  
The Honorable Emmet Hanger, Jr.

Valerie D. Hubbard  
Anna Lawson  
The Honorable Albert C. Pollard, Jr.  
The Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

The Honorable Basil L. Gooden, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry  
Byron M. Adkins, Jr.  
Joan Fenton  
Jay C. Ford  
Paul V. Milde

Julian Ottley  
Russell Vern Presley  
The Honorable Jill Holtzman Vogel

**STATE AGENCY STAFF PRESENT**

Clyde E. Cristman, DCR, Executive Secretary  
Rochelle Altholz, DCR  
Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR  
Jason Bulluck, DCR  
Rob Evans, DCR  
Michael Fletcher, DCR  
Melissa Jackson, DCR  
Kristin Jones, VOF  
Martha Little, VOF  
Gary Martel, DGIF  
Larry Mikkelson, DCR

John Mitchell, DCR  
Wendy Musumeci, DHR  
Stephanie Pate, DHR  
Danette Poole, DCR  
Sarah Richardson, DCR  
Mike Santucci, DOF  
Tom Smith, DCR  
Andy Sorrell, VDACS  
Elizabeth Tune, DHR  
Deb Van Duzee, DGIF

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Parker Agelasto, Capital Region Land Conservancy  
Kathy Baker, Stafford County

Bill Dickinson, NVCT  
David Goodview, City of Franklin  
Dara Green, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation  
Dan Iglhaut, NOVA Parks  
Beth Lewis, City of Franklin  
Alan Rowsome, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust  
Ellen Shepard, VAULT  
Phil Sheridan, Meadowview

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

With ten (10) members present, a quorum was established.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Secretary Ward called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. and asked for the calling of the roll. A quorum was established.

Secretary Ward noted that there would be a special Board meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2017. This is a very important Board meeting as the Board will be reviewing the grant round for the DuPont settlement and receiving an update on the Surry-Skiffes Creek settlement. She stressed the importance of the meeting and the need for a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 24, 2017 BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Lazaro moved that the minutes of the May 24, 2017 meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees be approved as submitted. Ms. Lawson seconded and the motion carried.

**VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION UPDATES** – *Clyde Cristman, DCR Director*

Director Cristman gave an overview of the Surry-Skiffes Creek and DuPont Settlement Agreements.

*Surry-Skiffes Creek Memorandum of Agreement*

- |                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. DCR: \$25,000,000             |             |
| a. Administrative expenses:      | \$1,250,000 |
| 2. VCCF: \$12,500,000            |             |
| a. Administrative expenses       | \$625,000   |
| 3. DGIF: \$4,205,000             |             |
| a. Administrative expenses       | \$210,250   |
| 4. DHR (Administrative expenses) | \$400,000   |

*DuPont Settlement Agreement*

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Land protection/acquisition/enhancement: | \$19,500,00 |
| a. DCR and VLCF                             |             |

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 2. Water Quality Improvements (Agriculture and Urban BMPs):    | \$10,000,000 |
| a. DCR, DEQ, and SWCD  |              |
| 3. Mussel Stocking:  | \$4,000,000  |
| a. DGIF  |              |
| 4. Songbird Habitat:   | \$2,500,000  |
| a. DCR and VLCF  |              |
| 5. Recreational Fishing Improvements and Access Points:        | \$2,500,000  |
| a. DGIF  |              |
| 6. Upgrades at Front Royal Fish Hatchery: In-kind contribution |              |
| a. DGIF  |              |

Mr. Smith gave an update regarding the criteria for the process of disbursing the funds for the Surry-Skiffes Creek Settlement. With regard to the \$12.5 million to the VLCF there are multiple approval steps. A draft grant manual was distributed for a 30-day comment period. This is not a public comment period but limited to the signatories to the agreement. DCR has been responding to comments. The grant manual will go to the State Historic Preservation Officer and then the Army Corps of Engineers for approval. The Corps will make the final ruling on the proposed manual at which time DCR can officially announce the grant round.

Director Cristman noted that the DuPont Settlement had been pending for three to four decades. This relates to mercury pollution in the South River near Waynesboro over a period of time in the 1950s to 60s. Secretary Ward and John Daniel from the Office of the Attorney General worked for the final approval of the settlement. Funding is designed for restoration and mitigation of the habitat. A significant portion of the settlement will come before the VLCF for recommendations.

**LAND PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ITEMS** – *Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR*

Ms. Bulbulkaya gave an overview of Land Preservation Tax Credit Items.

Ms. Bulbulkaya referenced a memorandum from the Department of Taxation regarding the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Stewardship Fund. Pursuant to Va. Code § 58.1-513(C)(2), the Department of Taxation collects a two percent fee on the transfer of Land Preservation Tax Credits. At least 50% of money collected every year must go into the Stewardship Fund. In FY17, Taxation collected \$1,745,672. Fifty percent of that amount, \$872,836 was transferred to DCR to be disbursed to the private and public agencies who hold conserved lands that were donated within the past three years.

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented the recommended distribution for the 2017 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Stewardship Fund.

2017 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Stewardship Fund			
AGENCY NAME	NUMBER OF DONATIONS	% OF TOTAL DONATIONS	AMOUNT OF FUNDS
1 American Conservation Legacy Fund, Inc.	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
2 Blue Ridge Land Conservancy	4	0.88%	\$7,656.46
3 Capital Region Land Conservancy Inc	2.5	0.55%	\$4,785.29
4 Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Inc.	3	0.66%	\$5,742.34
5 Chesapeake Airport Authority	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
6 City of Danville	2	0.44%	\$3,828.23
7 Civil War Preservation Trust	2	0.44%	\$3,828.23
8 County of Albemarle	22	4.82%	\$42,110.51
9 County of Clarke	11	2.41%	\$21,055.25
10 County of Fauquier	17	3.73%	\$32,539.94
11 County of Henrico	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
12 County of Stafford	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
13 County of Warren	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
14 Eastern Shore Land Trust	3	0.66%	\$5,742.34
15 Ever Green Team	0.5	0.11%	\$957.06
16 Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District	0.5	0.11%	\$957.06
17 Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.	2	0.44%	\$3,828.23
18 Historic Green Springs, Inc.	4	0.88%	\$7,656.46
19 Historic Virginia Land Conservancy	6	1.32%	\$11,484.68
20 Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
21 Land Trust of Virginia	13	2.85%	\$24,883.48
22 Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
23 New River Land Trust	2	0.44%	\$3,828.23
24 Northern Neck Chesapeake Bay Public Access	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
25 Northern Neck Land Conservancy	2	0.44%	\$3,828.23
26 Northern Virginia Conservation Trust	11	2.41%	\$21,055.25
27 Old Dominion Land Conservancy, Inc.	21	4.61%	\$40,196.39
28 Piedmont Environmental Council	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
29 Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.	2	0.44%	\$3,828.23
30 Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation	1.5	0.33%	\$2,871.17
31 The 500-Year Forest Foundation	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
32 Topotomoy Battlefield at Rural Plains Foundation	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
33 Town of Strasburg	0.5	0.11%	\$957.06
34 Town of Tangier	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
35 Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, Inc.	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
36 Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation	4	0.88%	\$7,656.46
37 Virginia Department of Forestry	48	10.53%	\$91,877.47
38 Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	2	0.44%	\$3,828.23
39 Virginia Department of Historic Resources	7	1.54%	\$13,398.80
40 Virginia Outdoors Foundation	248	54.39%	\$474,700.28
41 Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation	0.5	0.11%	\$957.06
42 Wildrock Inc.	1	0.22%	\$1,914.11
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$872,836.00</b>

Federal agencies are ineligible to receive VLCF funds; the one donation held by NPS was not counted.

**BOARD ACTION**

Mr. Apicella moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees accept the recommended distribution of the Stewardship Fund. Mr. Lazaro seconded and the motion carried.

**REPORT OF THE VLCF SUBCOMMITTEE – The Honorable Albert Pollard**

Mr. Pollard that the VLCF Subcommittee met on September 5, 2017. The primary focus of the meeting was a presentation by Mr. Jason Bulluck, Director of the DCR Division of Natural Heritage regarding the four different categories for land conservation and the priority lands within each of those categories.

Because the lands in some categories overlap the Subcommittee asked staff to prepare a document that shows the top twenty percent of priority lands in each category and where those lands overlap.

The Subcommittee is also considering how recreational lands are addressed with regard to land conservation. This is addressed in the Virginia Outdoors Plan but not currently included in the state maps tracking conserved lands.

The Subcommittee hopes to produce a vision document by the end of the year. There will likely be another meeting in late October or early November.

**UPDATE ON COMPLETED VLCF GRANT PROJECTS** – *Larry Mikkelson, DCR*

Mr. Mikkelson gave an update regarding completed and withdrawn VLCF grant projects.

The following projects have been completed since the Board last met on May 24, 2017:

*Virginia Outdoors Foundation*

*Farmland Surrounding Bacon's Castle (FY2015)*

Funding from two VLCF categories (Farmlands & Historic Preservation) helped purchase a conservation easement on 1,260 acres of privately owned land known as Bacon's Castle Farm in Surry County.

Grant Award: \$257,996 (\$47,500 from Farmlands, \$210,496 from Historic Preservation).

Payment Amount: \$257,996

Match: \$952,000

*Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*

*Big Woods – Westervelt (FY2015)*

VLCF Forestlands grant funds assisted with the purchase of a 2,046-acre property that added to a network of contiguous protected habitat that includes the existing Big Woods Wildlife Management Area, Big Woods State Forest, and Piney Grove Preserve (total of 7,700 acres)

Grant Award: \$100,000

Payment Amount: \$100,000

Match: \$3,773,460

*Pulaski County*

*New River Connector (FY2015)*

Pulaski County acquired 11.93 acres near the City of Radford with Open Space and Parks funds to provide public access for canoeing and fishing and to allow for the construction of a 1.5 mile recreational trail.

Grant Award: \$125,000

Payment Amount: \$125,000

Match: \$150,000

*Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation*

*West Woods (FY2016)*

Open Space and Parks grant funds contributed to the purchase of 26 acres that was 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.

Grant Award: \$123,000

Payment Amount: \$123,000

Match: \$2,767,346

*Town of Altavista*

*Dalton's Landing Canoe Launch (FY2017)*

VLCF Open Space and Parks funds were used to acquire a recreation easement on a 1.4 acre property to provide public water access for fishing and canoeing. The site will serve as the beginning point of an approximate seven-mile water trail on the Staunton River, ending at the DGIF boat ramp located at Altavista' English Park.

Grant Award: \$23,313

Payment Amount: \$20,868

Match: \$20,868

*Funds available for Board consideration for FY18 grant round: \$2,445*

The following projects were withdrawn from the FY2017 Natural Areas Category.

*Department of Conservation and Recreation*

*The Cedars Natural Area Preserve*

The amount of the appraisal for the property cannot support the purchase price the landowners are demanding for the property.

Grant Award: \$501,511

*Department of Conservation and Recreation*

*Antioch Pines Natural Area Preserve Addition*

Despite strong initial landowner interest in selling their property, the landowner has decided not to sell.

Grant Award: \$118,650

Mr. Mikkelson noted that the following funds were available for the Board's consideration to include in the FY2018 Grant Round.

*Open Space and Parks Category (FY2017)*

- \$2,445 remaining from Town of Altavista, Dalton's Landing Canoe Launch project.

TOTAL OS&P Funds = \$2,445

*Natural Area Preservation Category (FY2017)*

- \$501,511 withdrawn by DCR, Cedars NAP addition project
- \$118,650 withdrawn by DCR, Antioch Pines NAP addition project

TOTAL Natural Area Funds = \$620,161

**BOARD ACTION**

Mr. Woodley moved that the available funds in the amount of \$2,445 in the Open Space and Parks Category for a completed project, and the \$620,161 in the Natural Area Preservation Category from withdrawn projects be returned to their respective categories for inclusion in the FY2018 grant round. Mr. Ball seconded and the motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT ON AVAILABLE FUNDS** – Sharon Partee, DCR

Ms. Partee gave the financial report as of August 31, 2017.

<b>OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE – October 31, 2014</b>	<b>\$1,437,487</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
FY15 Stewardship Funds	\$855,400
FY16 Stewardship Funds	\$1,043,198
FY17 Stewardship Funds	\$872,836
FY15 Appropriation – Chapter 806	\$1,000,000
FY16 Appropriation – Chapter 665	\$4,000,000
FY17 Appropriation – Chapter 780	\$8,000,000
FY17 Appropriation – Chapter 836*	\$4,500,000
FY16 Excess City of Chesapeake project money returned	\$50,000
FY16 Interest	\$30,138
FY17 Interest	<u>\$64,231</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$20,415,803</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
FY16 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$855,400
FY17 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$1,043,198
FY15 Grant Payments	\$556,937
FY16 Grant Payments	\$1,054,230
FY17 Grant Payments	\$2,231,464
FY18 Grant Payments	\$618,868
FY15 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$250,000
FY16 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$1,000,000
FY17 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$2,000,000
FY15 Appropriation Reversion – Part 3, 1.10 ZZ.1, CH665	<u>\$300,000</u>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENT</b>	<b>\$9,910,097</b>
<b>OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE – August 31, 2017</b>	<b>\$11,943,193</b>

\*Pending deposit from DPB

**REQUEST TO SPEND INTEREST GENERATED BY THE FUND FOR THE VLCF** – Clyde Cristman, DCR

**BOARD ACTION**

Mr. Ball moved the following:

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees approves the request from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to expend up to \$70,000 in FY 2018 and \$65,000 in FY 2019 consistent with the legislative authority on the use of interest generated by the Fund, *Code of Virginia* § 10.1-1020.G.

FY 2018           \$70,000

Address existing administrative, web-related and grant management expenses incurred by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in support of Virginia Land Conservation Foundation related activities. Specifically, the funding will be used in support of staff working to assist with grant tracking and stewardship to include site inspections of VLCF projects, development of a grants database to better monitor and report on grants, and land conservation database support of the Foundation's mission.

FY 2019           \$65,000

Address existing administrative, web-related and grant management expenses incurred by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in support of Virginia Land Conservation Foundation related activities. Specifically, the funding will be used in support of staff working to assist with grant tracking and stewardship to include site inspections of VLCF projects, development of a grants database to better monitor and report on grants, and land conservation database support of the Foundation's mission. The budget assumes \$40,000 in additional interest to be earned and it is understood expenditures will not exceed available funds.

Ms. Lawson seconded and the motion carried.

**FY18 GRANT ROUND OVERVIEW** – *Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR*

Ms. Bulbulkaya introduced the FY18 Grant Round. The following projects were recommended for funding.

*Farmlands Preservation – Andrew Sorrell, VDACS*

Mr. Sorrell presented the following projects.

**Northern Virginia Conservation Trust – Long Lane**

This grant request is to fund partial purchase of a conservation easement on an active 98.98-acre family farm that raises pastured livestock and is located in western Loudoun County. The project is proposed to be a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) to be co-held by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) and Loudoun County. Protection of this property will: enhance water quality with approximately 1,500 linear feet of permanent vegetated riparian buffers with appropriate livestock exclusion along an intermittent stream and conserve 91 acres of prime and statewide important agricultural soils that will remain available for agricultural use. The property is within a half mile of land protected by a conservation easement with Loudoun County.



**Total Project Cost:** \$417,100. **Match:** NRCS ACEP-ALE and NVCT. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$208,550. **Recommended amount:** \$187,695.

Valley Conservation Council, Inc. – Valley Pike Farm

This grant request is to fund partial purchase of a conservation easement on an active 85.88-acre family farm that raises poultry, beef cattle, corn, soybeans, barley and hay in Rockingham County. Valley Pike Farm, Inc. is a Virginia Century Farm that has been in continuous ownership and operation by the same family for over 100 years. The conservation easement is proposed to be held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF). Protection of this property will: conserve 78 acres of prime and statewide important agricultural soils on a farm that utilizes best management practices to protect the soil and improve water quality within the Smith Creek watershed. The property is adjacent to land previously protected by a conservation easement with VOF.

**Total Project Cost:** \$258,000. **Match:** Partial donation of easement value. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$129,000. **Recommended amount:** \$116,100.

Stafford County – McClevey Farm

This grant request is to fund partial purchase of a conservation easement on the McClevey Farm, 80 acres of farm and forest land in Stafford County. The property has been identified as a priority parcel for conservation by the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program due to its close proximity to Marine Corps Base Quantico. Protection of the McClevey Farm will protect 47 acres of prime and statewide important agricultural soils. The conservation easement is proposed to be held by Stafford County. Water quality will be protected with approximately 7,900 linear feet of permanent vegetative buffer along perennial and intermittent streams and wetland. The property is immediately adjacent to a public county park.

**Total Project Cost:** \$600,000. **Match:** Stafford County. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$300,000. **Recommended amount:** \$146,205.

*Forest Preservation Category – Mike Santucci, DOF*

Mr. Santucci presented the recommendations in the forest preservation category.

Meadowview Biological Research Station – Game Lake Refuge at Joseph Pines Preserve

The grant request is to help fund the fee-simple purchase of a 190-acre addition to the Joseph Pines Preserve in Sussex County. The subject property lies between the preserve and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) Game Refuge Lake. When added to the existing preserve of 232 acres, it will make for a contiguous protected area of 422 acres. The additional property will be placed under easement with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) as an amendment to the existing easement on the preserve.

**Total Project Cost:** \$444,506. **Match:** Cash match through a Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund Land Conservation Loan. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$178,203. **Recommended amount:** \$175,000.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – Jack Mountain Tracts Easement

The grant request is to fund the partial purchase of an open space easement that will protect 1,658 acres of forestland on two tracts in Highland County. The tracts occupy the upper slopes and four miles of summit along Jack Mountain, the 12<sup>th</sup> highest peak in Virginia and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in Highland County.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,614,500. **Match:** Combination of several grant sources and partial donation of easement value. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$250,000. **Recommended amount:** \$225,000.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – White Easement

The grant request is to fund partial purchase of an open space easement that will protect 545 acres of forest and farmland in Southampton County. The property contains nearly a mile and a half of frontage along the Meherrin River, this stretch of which has been identified as worthy of future study as a state-designated Scenic River.

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**Total Project Cost:** \$469,250. **Match:** Combination of several grant sources and partial donation of easement value. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$200,000. **Recommended amount:** \$50,000.

*Historic Resources Category – Elizabeth Tune, DHR*

Ms. Tune presented the following projects. Mr. Cristman recused himself from the discussion regarding the historic area projects.

Civil War Trust (CWT) – Turner Tract at the North Anna Battlefield

The CWT seeks \$238,800 in grant funding to acquire approximately 125.7 acres in Hanover County containing farmland, wooded cover, wetlands, and 1,278 linear feet of frontage on the North Anna River. The property lies within the core area of the Civil War Battle of North Anna (1864). Additional historically significant resources associated with the property include the circa mid-19<sup>th</sup> century brick dwelling known as the “Fox House/Ellington,” which played a pivotal role in the 1864 battle, a circa early 19<sup>th</sup> century brick school house, a cemetery, earthworks, and the location of the historic Chesterfield Bridge crossing. The property was subject to a court-ordered sale in mid-July 2017. CWT intends to rehabilitate the dwellings and interpret the property with signage, pathways, and tours. The project will protect an architecturally and historically significant site while also providing public access and encouraging heritage tourism.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,234,400. **Match:** Civil War Trust, federal battlefield preservation grant, and land/real property donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$238,800. **Recommended amount:** \$238,800.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Bell House

The grant request is for \$209,996 in VLCF funds to protect a 0.68-acre lot owned by SVBF and located in the City of Winchester. The parcel lies within the core area of the Third Winchester (Opequon) Battlefield (1864) and is within the study area of three additional Civil War Battlefields: First Winchester (1862), Second Winchester (1863), and Second Kernstown (1864). In addition to its Civil War history, the property is distinguished by a historically significant 19<sup>th</sup> century Federal style dwelling that is a contributing resource to the Winchester Historic District, which is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places. The dwelling, known as the “Bell House” was present at the time of the battle. Grounds on the property are open to the public on a daily basis for self-guided tours while the dwelling is utilized for educational purposes, events and conferences. The project will protect an architecturally and historically significant site while also providing public access and encouraging heritage tourism.

**Total Project Cost:** \$817,492. **Match:** federal and state battlefield preservation grants. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$209,996. **Recommended amount:** \$209,996.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Clinedinst/Crim Greenway Project

The grant request is for \$155,439 in VLCF funds to protect an approximately 1.94-acre property owned by SVBF and located in the Town of New Market. The parcel is within the core area of the Civil War Battle of New Market (1864) and is distinguished by a circa 1882 historic frame dwelling that is a contributing resource to the New Market Historic District, which is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places. A 1.23-acre portion of the property is open space land that contains an historic dry-laid stone wall. SVBF intends to incorporate the property into a pedestrian greenway trail which will provide a direct link between the Virginia Military Institute Hall of Valor Museum and the New Market Historic District, allowing visitors to follow the flow of the battle. The project will protect an architecturally and historically significant site while also providing public access to a pedestrian greenway trail and encouraging heritage tourism along U.S. Route 11, a Virginia Byway.

**Total Project Cost:** \$468,120. **Match:** federal and state battlefield preservation grants. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$155,439. **Recommended amount:** \$155,439.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Lyon Farm

The grant request is for \$154,283 in VLCF funds to protect a 62.398-acre property acquired by SVBF in July 2017. The parcel is within the core area of the Civil War Battle of Fisher’s Hill (1864) as well as the study area of the Cedar Creek Battlefield (1864). Lyon Farm was near the center of Confederate earthworks that spanned the Fisher’s Hill Battlefield and contained Gordon’s Hill, used as a key artillery position during the battle. Portions of these sites and features remain intact on the property. In addition to its historic significance, the property fronts Battlefield Road, a Virginia Byway and contains farmland actively pastured for cattle, approximately 12 acres of wooded cover. SVBF intends to incorporate the property into its 12-mile long publicly accessible Valley Pike and Fisher’s Hill pedestrian trail system, which links the Fisher’s Hill Battlefield with the Belle Grove and Cedar Creek National Historical Park.

**Total Project Cost:** \$717,567. **Match:** SVBF, federal and state battlefield preservation grants. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$154,283. **Recommended amount:** \$154,283.

Capital Region Land Conservancy – Malvern Hill Farm

The Capital Region Land Conservancy (“CRLC”) is requesting \$400,000 in additional VLCF funds for the fee simple acquisition of approximately 435+/- acres in Henrico County. The VLCF grant would apply to about a 435-acre portion of the larger 871 acre Malvern Hill Farm property. Malvern Hill Farm lies within the core and study areas of the Civil War Battle of Malvern Hill (1862), Glendale (1862), and First Deep Bottom (1864). It is also listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places, primarily for the archaeological and architectural significance of the brick ruins of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century manor house present during the 1862 battle, but destroyed in a 1905 fire. In addition to being the site of a Civil War engagement, Malvern Hill also witnessed the encampment of General Marquis D. Lafayette in 1781 and the Virginia Militia during the War of 1812. The property contains prime soils, high conservation value forest cover, perennial streams, and fronts Route 5, a Virginia Byway. The Virginia Capital Trail also runs through the property. CRLC previously applied for \$1,000,000 in VLCF funding during the FY 2017 grant round and was awarded \$687,500. They are seeking additional funds to assist with unanticipated costs resulting from due diligence, survey, and title review.

**Total Project Cost:** \$6,695,500. **Match:** state and federal battlefield preservation grants, Cabell Foundation, Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, and private donors. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$400,000. **Recommended amount:** \$141,482.

*Natural Areas Category – Jason Bulluck, DCR*

Mr. Bulluck presented the following recommendations.

Department of Conservation and Recreation – Pedlar Hills Natural Area Preserve Addition

DCR’s Natural Heritage Program proposes to acquire approximately two acres along the South Fork Roanoke River adjacent to Pedlar Hills Natural Area Preserve in Montgomery County. Upon notification of the VLCF Board’s approval of funding, DCR will request legislative approval to expand this Natural Area Preserve to help DCR accomplish the legislative mandate outlined in the Virginia Natural Area Preserves Act (10.1-209). Although small, the subject property is within a mapped Conservation Site, which has the highest possible biodiversity ranking in Virginia and is expected to support long term resiliency of the already protected and highly significant lands. The tract is directly adjacent to the existing Preserve, lying just below a significant mapped occurrence of a globally rare “Ridge and Valley Dolomite Glade”, and a population of the federally endangered Smooth Coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*), and will extend resource protection to the banks of the South Fork Roanoke River.

**Total Project Cost:** \$53,500. **Match:** none. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$53,500. **Recommended amount:** \$53,500.

Department of Conservation and Recreation – Mount Joy Ponds Natural Area Preserve Addition

DCR’s Natural Heritage Program seeks to purchase in fee approximately 85 acres in Augusta County as an addition to the Mount Joy Ponds Natural Area Preserve. Upon notification of the VLCF Board’s approval of funding, DCR will request legislative approval to expand this Natural Area Preserve to help DCR accomplish the legislative mandate outlined in the Virginia Natural Area Preserves Act (10.1-209).

This project is expected to improve resiliency of one of the world's best examples of a Shenandoah Valley sinkhole pond, populations of at least six significantly rare plants (including two federally Threatened species), and a population of the state endangered Tiger Salamander. The tract will also protect forests of "high conservation value" according to Virginia Department of Forestry's (VDOF) model, and part of a large block of intact forested cover (mapped as one of Virginia's "outstanding ecological cores", along with approximately 4,225 feet of streams. The tract will build connectivity to the adjacent George Washington National Forest, most of which has been designated as "Special Biological Area" in recognition of the biodiversity significance. Protecting the subject tract will provide hydrological and management buffer to support continued fire management on the existing Natural Area Preserve.

**Total Project Cost:** \$316,400. **Match:** none. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$316,400. **Recommended amount:** \$316,400.

Department of Conservation and Recreation – **Antioch Pines Natural Area Preserve Addition**

DCR's Natural Heritage Program is seeking a grant to purchase approximately 109 acres in Isle of Wight County adjacent to the Antioch Pines Natural Area Preserve. The subject property shares a long common boundary with the existing Preserve and is especially important as a "smoke buffer" to support the active controlled burn program on the existing Preserve. Forested areas present on the tract are considered "very high" value by the Virginia Department of Forestry's Forest Economics Model, and includes high priority area for longleaf pine restoration. The property has approximately 8,549 feet of streams, and 13 acres of wetlands and supports common wildlife game species, such as Wild Turkey and White-tailed Deer, and will provide eventual habitat for declining species, such as Northern Bobwhite.

**Total Project Cost:** \$419,900. **Match:** none. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$419,900. **Recommended amount:** \$419,900.

Department of Conservation and Recreation – **Camp Branch Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition**

DCR's Natural Heritage Program seeks funding to assist with the purchase cost of a fee simple acquisition of approximately 76 acres as an addition to the Camp Branch Wetlands Natural Area Preserve in Floyd County. Upon notification of the VLCF Board's approval of funding, DCR will request legislative approval to expand this Natural Area Preserve to help DCR accomplish the legislative mandate outlined in the Virginia Natural Area Preserves Act (10.1-209). The subject parcel shares nearly a half mile of boundary with the existing preserve and is central to protecting three imperiled species known to be present, including a globally rare dragonfly called the Appalachian snaketail (*Ophiogomphus incurvatus incurvatus*) and two additional federally and state listed species. The tract includes 3,171 feet of streams and an estimated 15 acres of wetlands.

**Total Project Cost:** \$258,000. **Match:** Match promised by DGIF from non-game funds to support conservation of one of the target species **VLCF Grant Request:** \$100,000. **Recommended amount:** \$100,000.

Department of Conservation and Recreation – **Magothy Bay Natural Area Preserve Addition**

DCR's Natural Heritage Program proposes to acquire approximately 161 acres, in two parcels, near the southern end of the Delmarva Peninsula as an addition to the Magothy Bay Natural Area Preserve. This location is internationally significant for avian protection. Each Fall, the southern tip of Northampton County supports one of the largest concentrations of landbirds along the Atlantic Coast. Literally, tens of millions of individual birds pass through during fall migration, comprising nearly 200 different species (representing about 70 percent of all breeding bird species in North America). As a major stopover area, these birds need food and cover before crossing open water and flying south. Existing farm fields provide little direct benefit to these species, so the Heritage Program and its partners actively restore such areas to native vegetation to provide critical forage and natural cover from predators. Proximity to Kiptopeke State Park and existing NAP lands provides an excellent step toward forging landscape connectivity between the protected areas and goes a long way toward establishing a "shore to shore" connection. Not only will this project create substantially improved habitat for migratory birds, it will provide opportunities for State Parks and Division of Natural Heritage to collaborate and jointly improve public access while protecting these important habitats.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,140,600. **Match:** NOAA Coastal Zone Management, administered through VADEQ. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$398,400. **Recommended amount:** \$398,400.

#### Department of Conservation and Recreation – Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve Addition

DCR proposes to acquire approximately 69 acres in Halifax County as an addition to the Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve. This Preserve is designed to protect one of the most significant conservation sites in the piedmont of Virginia, and one of the most diverse and significant botanical assemblages in all of Virginia. Not only does the site have the highest diversity of wildflowers known in the Virginia Piedmont, it provides habitat for 12 species of plants and one species of butterfly that are rare in the Commonwealth. Of special significance is one of only two known populations in the world for Tall Barbara's Buttons (*Marshalli legrandii*). Not only does the subject tract directly adjoin the existing Preserve, with which it shares nearly 3,200 feet of boundary, it also fills an unprotected gap between the NAP and the nearby Kerr Reservoir lands protected and managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

**Total Project Cost:** \$174,200. **Match:** none. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$174,200. **Recommended amount:** \$174,200.

*Open Spaces and Parks Category – Danette Poole, DCR*

Ms. Poole presented the following recommendations.

#### Roanoke County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism – Carvins Cove Connector

This multifaceted project involves: the fee acquisition of 2.75 acres on Timberview and Dutch Oven Roads to provide a trailhead with restroom, and trailhead amenities; a conservation easement acquisition of two miles of right-of-way 40-feet wide for creation of a greenway from Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail to trails within Carvins Cove Nature Reserve; the acquisition by donation of 200 acres of forested property adjacent to the trail, which includes a 4000' perennial stream; and acquisition by donation of 35 acres adjacent to Dutch Oven Road, which has 3600' of frontage along Mason Creek where fishing, wading and kayaking will be made possible.

**Total Project Cost:** \$613,060. **Match:** Land Donation of \$396,700; Cash of \$76,330; VOF grant of \$70,050. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$69,980. **Recommended amount:** \$69,980.

The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Chapter – Catharine M. Grey Preserve

The Nature Conservancy seeks VLCF assistance to aid in the acquisition of a 127-acre property situation near the mouth of the Onancock River in Accomack County for the creation of a nature preserve. Adjacent to Parker’s Marsh Natural Area Preserve, the Catharine M. Grey property will be open year round for shoreline fishing, environmental education and nature study, kayaking, and hiking. Permitting hunting will be allowed under the supervision of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The property lies along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the Onancock Water Trail.

**Total Project Cost:** \$642,000. **Match:** Cash and TNC General Funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$321,000. **Recommended amount:** \$321,000.

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks) – Pohick Bay Regional Park Stribling Acquisition

NOVA Parks is requesting VLCF assistance to acquire an inholding in Fairfax County within Pohick Bay Regional Park adjacent to the Potomac River, an American Heritage River. Acquiring the property will protect land that is part of a regionally significant conservation corridor, provide public access for water based recreation. Additional recreational use of the property includes the potential for trail development, picnicking and nature exploration.

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,025,000. **Match:** Cash and up to \$150,000 in other grant funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$400,000. **Recommended amount:** \$400,000.

City of Franklin – Riverview Walk Park

The City of Franklin is requesting VLCF assistance with the acquisition of 22 acres along the Blackwater River for use as a public Riverwalk Park. Approximately six acres of the property is upland and will be used for park development for fishing, kayaking, walking, unstructured play, nature observation and picnicking.

**Total Project Cost:** \$195,500. **Match:** Land Donation of \$150,000. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$45,500. **Recommended amount:** \$45,500.

Civil War Trust (CWT)– Culpeper Crossing Tract at Rappahannock Station Battlefield

The CWT is seeking VLCF assistance in the purchase of a 12.37 property situated along the scenic Rappahannock River. The property also has frontage along James Madison Highway, which is a component of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground American Byway. Following acquisition, CWT intends to restore and interpret the tract.

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,463,100. **Match:** Land Donation of \$625,000; Potential American Battlefield Protection Grant of \$1,231,550. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$485,000. **Recommended amount:** \$82,159.

Department of Conservation and Recreation – Blackwater Scenic River Corridor Protection (Antioch Pines Natural Area Preserve Addition)

DCR proposes to protect two miles of river frontage along the east bank of the Blackwater River, a state designated Scenic River. When combined with the adjacent, existing Antioch Pines Natural Area Preserve, nearly five contiguous miles of river frontage “viewshed” along the east bank of the River will be protected. The project would protect forests of “very high” value according to the VDOF, as well as the national champion overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*). All riparian and bottomland forests present will be protected in perpetuity, thus contributing significantly to the preservation of this scenic and wild waterway as well as benefitting recreational users of the River. About half of the tract is an upland sandy soil ridge, which will be restored to longleaf pine as part of an ongoing partnership between DCR, the VDOF and several other agencies and organizations. Remaining funds from the Natural Areas Category is funding this project because it claimed Natural Areas as a Secondary Category and it scored the highest among those who did.

**Total Project Cost:** \$495,000. **Match:** None. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$495,000. **Recommended amount:** \$57,761.

*Public Comment from Grant Applicants*

There was no public comment from grant applicants.

**BOARD ACTION**

Mr. Woodley moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees approve the list of recommended projects as presented by staff and as amended. Mr. Ball abstained from votes regarding The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Apicella seconded and the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the East Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building, Richmond, Virginia.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



The Honorable Molly Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources, Chair

Clyde E. Cristman  
DCR Director, Executive Secretary