

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, October 27, 2021  
West Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building, Richmond, VA**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees convened at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 in the West Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building in Richmond, Virginia.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Ann Jennings, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, Chair

Vice Chair: Mary-Carson Stiff, Vice Chair

The Honorable Bettina Ring, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Ex Officio

Albert C. Pollard, Jr.

The Honorable David W. Marsden

Bruce Vlk

The Honorable Richard H. Stuart

Kat Imhoff

Elizabeth Andrews

Glenda C. Booth

Executive Secretary: Clyde E. Cristman, Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Jay C. Ford

James W. Beamer

Susan E. Donner

Andrew C. Jennison

Dr. James F. Casey

Sonya Powell

Robert Lazaro, Jr.

Russell Vern Presley, II

John Paul Woodley, Jr.

STATE AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Josh Sacks, SNR

Brian Fuller, DCR

Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR

Charles Marston, DCR

Jason Bulluck, DCR

Kristal McKelvey, DCR

S. Buttrick, VOF

Larry Mikkelson, DCR

Gina DiCicco, DCR

Jen Perkins, VDACS

Karl Didier, VDOF

Karri Richardson, DHR

Larry Durbin VTAX

Kellie Seaton, DCR

Rob Evans, DCR

Tom Smith, DCR

Michael Fletcher, DCR

OTHERS PRESENT

India Adams-Jacobs, Town of Colonial Beach

Parker Agelasto, CRLC

Paul Gilbert, NOVA Parks  
Tom Gilmore, American Battlefield Trust  
J.C. LaRiviere, Town of Colonial Beach  
Victoria Luna, Town of Colonial Beach  
Heather Richards, The Conservation Fund  
Robin Schick, Town of Colonial Beach  
Ellen Shepard, Virginia United Land Trusts  
Kyle Shreve, Virginia Agribusiness  
Caryn Self Sullivan, Town of Colonial Beach  
Zachary Sheldon, The Nature Conservancy

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

With ten (10) members of the Board present, a quorum was declared.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Jennings called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. She advised that former Secretary Matt Strickler had taken a position with the Biden Administration. She noted that this was the first in-person meeting of the Board since November 2019. She thanked members and staff for attending.

Secretary Jennings called for the introductions of Board members.

Secretary Jennings asked Mr. Tom Smith, DCR Director of Operations to stand for recognition. She advised that Mr. Smith will be retiring from DCR after 31 years with the agency. Mr. Smith came to Virginia after working in Tennessee and Pennsylvania. He was appointed the Director of the DCR Division of Natural Heritage in 1990.

Secretary Jennings commented that Mr. Smith's impact on the Natural Heritage programs is beyond compare. She thanked him on behalf of the Board and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Director Cristman announced that Mr. Frank Stovall will assume the role of Deputy Director of Operations and will begin with the agency on November 15, 2021. Mr. Stovall is currently with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 10, 2021

#### BOARD ACTION

Ms. Imhoff moved that the minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees be approved as submitted by staff. Senator Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FUND APA AUDIT – Clyde E. Cristman, Director, DCR

Director Cristman reported that the DCR audit had just been completed. There were zero audit points but two areas of management concern already addressed by the agency. In a separate audit, the VLCF fund received a clean audit. He thanked the Board for their support and oversight of this process.

LAND PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

*Update from Department of Taxation – Larry Durbin, Assistant Tax Commissioner, Department of Taxation*

Mr. Durbin's presentation was delayed until later in the meeting.

*LPTC Program Transfer Fee Revenues and Approval of distribution of the 2021 VLCF Stewardship Fund, pursuant to § 58.1-513 – Gina DiCicco, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR*

Ms. DiCicco presented the update regarding the 2021 VLCF Stewardship Fund.

Ms. DiCicco advised that for the last eleven years the Stewardship Fund has collected a two percent fee on tax credits. These funds are made available to agencies and organizations who have received donations. She noted that federal agencies are not eligible to receive these funds.

There were forty-two organizations or agencies holding easements or making acquisitions.

2021 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Stewardship Fund				
	AGENCY NAME	NUMBER OF DONATIONS	% OF TOTAL DONATIONS	AMOUNT OF FUNDS
1	American Battlefield Trust (formerly Civil War Trust)	4	0.80%	\$14,971.33
2	Blue Ridge Land Conservancy	29	5.82%	\$108,542.14
3	Broad Water Innovations	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
4	Capital Region Land Conservancy Inc	6	1.20%	\$22,456.99
5	City of Charlottesville	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
6	City of Hampton	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
7	City of Harrisonburg	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
8	City of Staunton	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
9	County of Albemarle	24	4.81%	\$89,827.98
10	County of Clarke	6	1.20%	\$22,456.99

11	County of Fauquier	24	4.81%	\$89,827.98
12	County of Loudoun	0.5	0.10%	\$1,871.42
13	County of Stafford	1.5	0.30%	\$5,614.25
14	County of Warren	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
15	Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District	0.5	0.10%	\$1,871.42
16	Enrichmond Foundation	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
17	Ever Green Team	54	10.83%	\$202,112.95
18	Friends of Dragon Run	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
19	Friends of the Rappahannock	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
20	Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District	0.5	0.10%	\$1,871.42
21	Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
22	Historic Green Springs Inc.	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
23	Historic Virginia Land Conservancy	16	3.21%	\$59,885.32
24	Land Trust of Virginia	41.5	8.32%	\$155,327.55
25	New River Land Trust	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
26	Northern Neck Land Conservancy	19	3.81%	\$71,113.82
27	Northern Virginia Conservation Trust	7.5	1.50%	\$28,071.24
28	Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
29	Old Dominion Land Conservancy, Inc.	39	7.82%	\$145,970.47
30	Outdoors Preservation Foundation	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
31	Piedmont Environmental Council	3.5	0.70%	\$13,099.91
32	Potomac Conservancy	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
33	Rockbridge Area Conservation Council	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
34	Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
35	The 500-Year Forest Foundation	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
36	The Conservation Fund	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
37	The Nature Conservancy	3	0.60%	\$11,228.50
38	Valley Conservation Council	12	2.41%	\$44,913.99
39	Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
40	Virginia Department of Forestry	23	4.61%	\$86,085.15
41	Virginia Department of Historic Resources	3	0.60%	\$11,228.50
42	Virginia Outdoors Foundation	154	30.89%	\$576,396.20
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>498.5</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$1,865,802.00</b>

RECENTLY COMPLETED VLCF GRANT PROJECTS – *Larry Mikkelson, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR*

Mr. Mikkelson provided the following update regarding grant projects.

The following three VLFCF grants have successfully closed since the June 10, 2021 VLFCF Board meeting. One of the grants is from restricted funds for the Dominion Surry-Skiffes Creek grant round.

1. American Battlefield Trust – Cedar Run Tract at the Cedar Mountain Battlefield (FY2020)

The American Battlefield Trust utilized a VLFCF grant to preserve the 86-acre Cedar Run Tract at the Cedar Mountain Battlefield in Culpeper County. This project protects the rural character of the Cedar Mountain Battlefield (a Priority I.2, Class B battlefield), scenic James Madison Highway, and associated farmland, all of which are prioritized in ConserveVirginia's Cultural & Historic Preservation, Agriculture & Forestry, and Scenic Preservation categories. In addition, the project preserves 52 acres of open and agricultural fields, 34 acres of forest lands, 2,600 feet of streams (including frontage on Cedar Run), over two acres of wetlands, and a half-acre pond. The Trust recorded an open-space easement on the property held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources, and will work cooperatively with the Friends of Cedar Mountain to steward the property.

Grant Award: \$412,500. Payment Amount: \$412,500. Match: \$441,005.

2. The Nature Conservancy – Piney Grove Vernal Pools Project (FY2020)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) acquired 330 acres in Sussex County utilizing a VLFCF grant and placed a DCR Natural Heritage Deed of Dedication over the property. The project includes preservation of an additional 116 acres of adjacent TNC-owned land. Together, the Piney Grove Sandhills Natural Area Preserve is one of the largest blocks of fire-maintained southern pine savanna in Virginia, which supports one of just two breeding populations of the federally endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker in the state. TNC, DCR, and other state conservation agency partners will restore pine savanna habitat to facilitate growth of the woodpecker population and ensure protection of four vernal pools that support populations of several state rare amphibian species. Establishing a DCR Natural Heritage presence at the site will facilitate more comprehensive and collaborative management of heritage trust resources among TNC and other state agency partners in the nearly 10,000-acre Piney Grove/Big Woods conservation area. ConserveVirginia categories include: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Protected Landscapes Resilience.

Grant Award: \$367,000. Payment Amount: \$367,000. Match: \$436,705.

3. American Battlefield Trust – Colonial Williamsburg Tract at Williamsburg Battlefield (Dominion Surry-Skiffes Creek)

A VLFCF restricted-funds grant helped the American Battlefield Trust purchase the fee-simple acquisition of the 28-acre Colonial Williamsburg Tract, located in the City of Williamsburg and James City County. The property is within the core area of 1862 Battle of Williamsburg and is permanently protected under an open-space easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The Trust will provide an additional public access point and install interpretive signage on the property related to

the battle and the importance of protecting natural and cultural resources within the James River Watershed. The property is within the Cultural and Historic layer of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$100,000. Payment Amount: \$100,000. Match: \$2,639,138.

Mr. Mikkelson provided a summary of open VLCF grants.

There are currently 13 open grants from the FY20 VLCF grant round. Five have closed and one was previously withdrawn. The remaining projects are moving forward and most are expected to close by the end of 2021.

There are eleven open grants from the first FY21 grant round. Twelve grants were awarded, but one was withdrawn. None of these grants, issued in February 2021, have closed yet.

All of the 22 grants from the FY21 Round II grant round awarded in June are open and active.

#### FY22 GRANT ROUND

*VLCF FY22 Grant Round Overview – Suzan Bulbulkaya, Land Conservation Manager, DCR*

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented an overview of the FY22 Grant Round.

Ms. Bulbulkaya advised that she would present an overview of the funds available. She noted that a representative from the interagency team would present the projects in each category.

#### FY22 Grant Round

- \$10M was appropriated for FY22 Grant Round
  - As required by Code, 25% goes to VOF's Preservation Trust Fund: \$2.5M
  - \$7.5M balance available for grants
- The FY22 Round was open from June 10 through August 9, 2021
- Announcements were emailed to localities, land trusts, interest groups, conservation organizations & agencies
- Virtual grant workshop was held on June 30 and posted on our website

#### FY22 Grant Applications

- 34 applications received:
  - 3 in Farmland Preservation
  - 5 in Forest Preservation
  - 8 in Historic Areas

- 9 in Natural Areas
- 9 in Open Spaces & Parks
- Total requested funding: \$10.5M, with total project costs exceeding \$58.9 M
- If all projects could be funded, they would protect 8,345 acres

#### IAT Grant Round Recommendations

- 30 Projects are recommended for funding:
  - 3 in Farmland Preservation
  - 5 in Forest Preservation
  - 5 in Historic Areas
  - 9 in Natural Areas
  - 8 in Open Spaces & Parks
- The total acreage of the recommended projects: 7,977 acres
- Of the recommended projects, 97% (29) are within ConserveVirginia

#### FY22 Grant Round Requirements

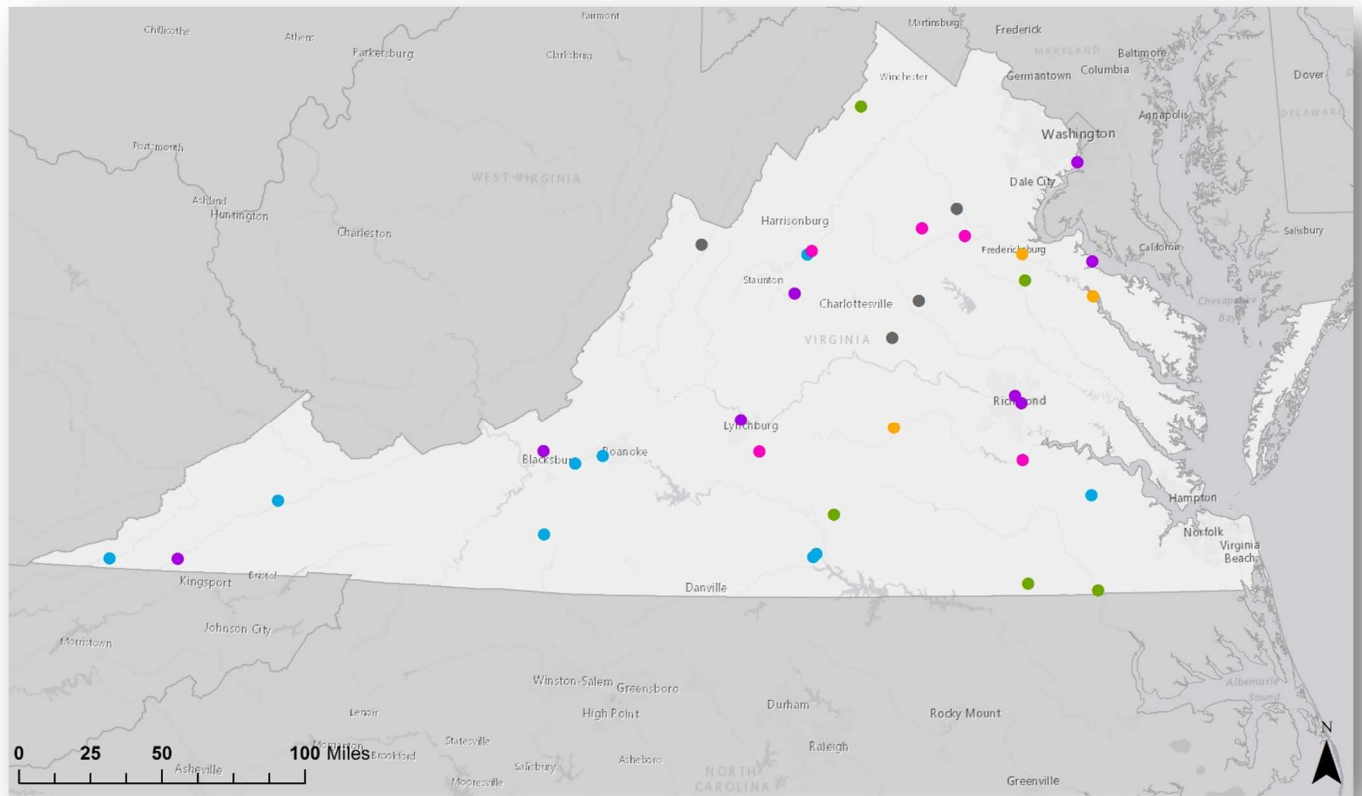
##### VLCF Grant requirements:

- Budget requires at least 50% of grant funds be used for projects that provide public access; and
- Code requires at least one third of grant funds to be used for projects that secure easements to be held or co-held by a public body.

##### The recommended projects:

- 22 (61% of total funding) will provide public access.
- 18 (73% of total funding) will have open-space easements.

##### Locations of FY22 VLCF Applications



Before moving on to the recommended project descriptions, Secretary Jennings called on Mr. Durbin to present an update.

*Update from Department of Taxation – Larry Durbin, Assistant Tax Commissioner, Department of Taxation*

Mr. Durbin gave the update for the Department of Taxation. He noted that VTAX has been processing the tax credits and providing oversight since the inception of the program.

Donations History Data



<u>Tax Year</u>	<u># of Credits</u>	<u># of Acres</u>	<u>Credit Amt Issued</u>
2000-2008	2,035	414,574	\$939,125,062
2009-2014	1,296	312,618	\$504,623,179
2015	182	42,362	\$48,625,672
2016	162	30,981	\$59,968,175
2017	200	49,127	\$75,000,000
2018	165	35,384	\$50,533,208
2019	193	34,677	\$75,000,000
2020	156	37,975	\$75,000,000
2021	118	29,571	\$44,258,330

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<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,507</b>	<b>987,269</b>	<b>\$1,872,133,626</b>
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Mr. Durbin noted that in the beginning of the program there was no statewide cap. The cap was imposed in 2007 and in 2017 was reduced to \$75 million.

Code of Virginia §58.1-512 (D)(4):

*a. No credit shall be allowed for any land or interest in land conveyed unless (i) for a conveyance made before January 1, 2020, a complete application for tax credit with regard to the conveyance has been filed with the Department by December 31 of the third year following the calendar year of the conveyance or (ii) for a conveyance made on or after January 1, 2020, a complete application for tax credit with regard to the conveyance has been filed with the Department by December 31 of the second year following the calendar year of the conveyance.*

*c. Beginning with calendar year 2015, the maximum amount of credits that may be issued in a calendar year shall not exceed \$75 million. In no case shall the Department issue any tax credit for a donation from any allocation or pool of tax credits attributable to a calendar year prior to the year in which the complete tax credit application for the donation was filed.*

#### Land Preservation Transfer Fees

Revenue	FY 2021	FY 2020
Revenue Collected - CARS 1671 - fund 0216 RSC 02740	3,349,609	3,613,632

Less: Transfer to GF, Chapter 2, Item 3-101 paragraph T	-466,600	-466,600
Net Revenue	2,883,009	3,147,032
Expenses		
Less: DCR Expenses	483,276	477,650
Less: TAX Expenses	533,931	543,484
Total Expenses	1,017,207	1,021,134
Revenue Less Expenses	1,865,802	2,125,898
Transfer Amount	1,865,802	2,125,898

Department of Taxation Expenses

Description	Amount
Staff Salary and Benefits	343,949
Office of the Attorney General-Salary and Benefits	143,801
Non-personal Services (Appraisals etc.)	46,181
Total	533,931

Litigation

Circuit Court for the City of Richmond

James C. Justice Companies, Inc. v. Virginia Department of Taxation, Case No. CL20-2648

- ▶ The taxpayer donated a conservation easement to the Albemarle County Conservation Authority on 4,500 acres located in Albemarle County referred to as "Presidential Estates".
- ▶ The taxpayer's appraiser determined that the highest and best use of the property would be for residential development with a potential of 460 lots.
- ▶ The taxpayer's appraiser estimated the fair market value of the land before application of the conservation easement at \$67,000,000 and \$15,750,000 after application of the easement.
- ▶ The fair market value of the conservation easement was estimated at \$51,250,000.

- ▶ On September 3, 2019, the taxpayer submitted Form LPC-1 to the Virginia Tax to apply for \$20,500,000 in Land Preservation credits.
- ▶ Prior to issuing tax credits, Virginia Tax secured it's own appraisal of the conservation easement.
- ▶ The tax appraisal determined that the highest and best use of the property would be to hold it for future development.
- ▶ The appraiser estimated the fair market value before application of the conservation easement at \$18,000,000 and \$8,100,000 after application of the easement.
- ▶ The fair market value of the conservation easement was estimated at \$9,900,000.
- ▶ Virginia Tax issued credits of \$3,960,000 based on the fair market value of \$9,900,000.
- ▶ The matter is scheduled for trial April 19-22, 2022.
- ▶ No other litigation is pending.

### **PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR AUTHORIZATION**

*Farmland Preservation: Jen Perkins, Coordinator, Office of Farmland Preservation, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

Ms. Perkins presented the recommended projects for the Farmland Preservation category.

#### **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Forkland Dairy**

This project will protect one of the last two dairies in Cumberland County by placing a VOF-held conservation easement on the 900-acre Forkland Dairy farm, a multi-generational Century farm in the family since 1848. The farm lies along the Appomattox River for 0.8 miles, and has been awarded the Clean Water Farm award and the Forage and Grassland Council's award. Three generations are actively involved in the operation of the 300-head dairy, with plans for future expansion. Best management practices have been installed including Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, cover crops, tree planting in buffer areas and the Precision Phosphorus Feeding Program through VA Tech. The property intersects the Agricultural and Forestry, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,041,000. **Match:** VOF Preservation Trust Fund grant and landowner donation. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$500,000 (FY21 Round II). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$813,800. **Recommended amount:** \$500,000.

#### **Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Thomas Neck Family Farm**

Virginia Outdoors Foundation is working with Thomas Neck Family Farm to conserve 840 acres of working farmland, including 90 acres of high conservation value forest located within the Occupacia-Rappahannock Rural Historic District in Essex County. A VOF conservation easement will ensure the protection of: water quality within the Chesapeake Bay watershed; flood and coastal resilience; and natural habitat for wildlife and plants. The property has been farmed by the same family for more than 50 years, presently in accordance with a nutrient management plan for crops such as wheat, soybeans

and corn. The farm is located within: the Lower Rappahannock River Audubon Important Bird Area; the federally designated boundary of the Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge; and the Agriculture & Forestry, Cultural & Historic Preservation, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$3,246,500. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$1,623,250. **Recommended amount:** \$879,750.

#### Stafford County – **Kevin Jones Farm (Phase II)**

Stafford County is seeking to conserve the Kevin Jones Farm, which intersects both the Cultural & Historic Preservation and the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity categories of ConserveVirginia. The 70-acre farm produces crops and livestock and is located along Forest Land Road, a scenic, rural road. The conservation easement will be held by the county under its Purchase of Development Rights Program and will protect 36 acres of prime farm soils and soils of statewide importance; 15 acres of forestland; and environmental features including 2,430 feet of a forested perennial stream and five acres of high quality wetlands. The easement will also protect a DCR ecological core and an element occurrence of a threatened and endangered species, as well as historic Civil War trenches. The property is adjacent to other conserved lands.

**Total Project Cost:** \$333,000. **Match:** Stafford County. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$46,250 (FY21 Round II). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$120,250. **Recommended amount:** \$120,250.

*Forestland Preservation: Karl Didier, Forestland Conservation Program Manager, Department of Forestry*

Mr. Didier presented the recommended projects for the Forestland Preservation category.

#### Virginia Outdoors Foundation – **Pierces Lowgrounds – Meherrin River Conservation Easement**

Pierces Lowgrounds consists of 2,860 acres of multigenerational family-owned and operated forest and farmland along the Meherrin River in Greensville County. The property contains high conservation value forest with bottomlands, buffers and sloughs in and along the Meherrin River. The open grounds consist of approximately 450 acres of Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Additionally, an outstanding ecological core blankets the tract from the river to the road. A VOF open-space easement will protect the sensitive bottomlands, buffers and wildlife habitat along on the Meherrin River, and ensure that future generations may continue to own and manage its forests in perpetuity. The property is within four categories of ConserveVirginia: Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement.

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,863,000. **Match:** NAWCA grant funds and landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$350,000. **Recommended amount:** \$350,000.

### The Conservation Fund – Roanoke River Working Forest

The Virginia Department of Forestry is proposing to hold a conservation easement on 932 acres of working forestland adjacent to the newly created State Forest in Charlotte County, also funded in part through a VLCF grant (FY20). The Conservation Fund is working in partnership with DOF to permanently to protect a critical wildlife corridor and important habitat for threatened and endangered species; maintain sustainable working forests; and safeguard clean drinking water. These efforts will contribute to a larger protected landscape, increasing habitat connectivity and resilience and supporting a sustainable timber supply for one of the Commonwealth's largest industries. The project is within five layers of ConserveVirginia: Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,160,000. **Match:** Anticipating a Forest Legacy grant. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$464,000. **Recommended amount:** \$464,000.

### Virginia Department of Forestry – Over the River and Point Beach

Two properties along the State Scenic Nottoway River under the same family ownership for almost 100 years are proposed to be placed under easement with the Department of Forestry. Over the River consists of approximately 300 acres, including 25 acres of Cypress bottomlands and high bluffs overlooking 3,200 feet of river. The property is contiguous to the General Vaughn Wildlife Management Area and contains the historic Smith Ferry landing and roadbed. Remnants of the original ferry crossing dock and road site remain in place today. Point Beach is a 20-acre peninsula of Cypress bottomland with more than one mile of frontage on the Nottoway River. It contains the ruins of an historic fish camp. Scenic values along the Nottoway River will be protected and the cypress stands will be managed to encourage the long-term health of the cypress stands and to improve wildlife habitat. The two properties intersect five layers of ConserveVirginia: Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Scenic Preservation, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement.

**Total Project Cost:** \$580,500. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$250,000. **Recommended amount:** \$225,000.

### Virginia Department of Forestry – Poplar Hollow

The Poplar Hollow property is a 611-acre property in Shenandoah County with 568 acres of High Conservation Value Forest adjacent to Devil's Backbone State Forest. The Department of Forestry is seeking to place a conservation easement on Poplar Hollow, which is part of an ecological core and is almost entirely within the Cedar Creek Stream Conservation Unit and the Natural Land Network. A DOF easement will ensure permanent conservation of the high quality forest canopy protecting habitat for state-threatened species, provide water quality protections to more than 4,000 feet of perennial streams and maintain an undeveloped buffer for the state forest. Buffering reduces ecological edge effects, in particular helping protect core forests from invasive species, and helping to maintain large

blocks of continuous habitat for wildlife species. This project lies within the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$611,500. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$300,000.

**Recommended amount:** \$300,000.

**Meadowview Biological Research Station, Inc. – Caroline Diamonds – The Oak Barrens and Barrel Springs**

The Meadowview Biological Research Station seeks to acquire and protect 96 acres of a globally rare gravel bog (G1S1) and surrounding oak barren uplands in Caroline County by adding it to the adjacent existing 17-acre preserve. This property contains the northern-most native purple pitcher plant population in Virginia and one state threatened plant (*Juncus caesariensis* Coville). The preserve is managed and restored through mechanical clearing and prescribed fire to enhance indigenous rare plants found on the property. The site is used for guided tours, research, educational and recreational purposes. The existing conservation easement co-held by Caroline County on the preserve would be expanded to include the new acreage. This project intersects the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$800,400. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$400,200.

**Recommended amount:** \$161,000.

Ms. Booth asked staff to elaborate on the meaning of globally rare.

Mr. Bulluck advised that the term globally is based on the ranking system that is part of the Natural Heritage methodology. The term means that there are ten or fewer known locations of a species on the planet.

Ms. Stiff asked why such an outstanding project was only being funded partially.

Mr. Didier replied that this project ranked the lowest of the five. It is a small property with not much forestland. He noted that it might have ranked higher in a different category.

*Historic Areas Preservation: Karri Richardson, Easement Program Specialist, Department of Historic Resources*

Ms. Richardson presented the recommended projects in the Historic Areas Preservation category.

**The Germanna Foundation – Siegen Forest**

The Siegen Forest project will advance the preservation of important archaeological artifacts and assist in preserving undeveloped park lands in Orange County. The Siegen Forest easement encompasses 170 acres of both floodplain and upland mature forest that borders the Rapidan River for 1.4 miles.

Significant archaeological artifacts found on the property include remains of an early 19th century mill, along with the mill race, rifle pits from the Civil War, a cemetery and a 1920s navigational marker. The property was part of the advance/retreat portion of the Wilderness Battlefield and includes seven miles of walking trails, along with a Visitor Center telling the story of the diverse people who lived and worked this land from the 18th and 19th centuries. The Germanna Foundation is working in partnership with the American Battlefield Trust, Department of Historic Resources and the Piedmont Environmental Council to make this project possible. The property is located within the Cultural & Historic Preservation, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,294,740. **Match:** anticipating ABPP grant funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$647,370. **Recommended amount:** \$647,370.

#### Capital Region Land Conservancy – Campbell’s Bridge Mills

Capital Region Land Conservancy, in partnership with Chesterfield County and Friends of Lower Appomattox River, is seeking to acquire the site of the Ettrick Mill, Northside Mill, Campbell’s Mill, Powhatan Mill, Eanes Mill and their associated mill races. The 29.6 acres of land and islands are located in Ettrick in Chesterfield County along the Appomattox River, an area that falls within the Cultural & Historic Preservation and Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia. For this grant request, CLRC is seeking to acquire and protect five of the acres with the greatest intact historic resources at Campbell’s Bridge. CRLC intends to place a conservation easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources on the property and provide public access and implement the Appomattox River Trail and Ettrick VSU Special Area Plan.

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,225,000. **Match:** Chesterfield County will apply for LWCF and VOF Preservation Trust Fund. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$750,000. **Recommended amount:** \$375,000.

#### Campbell County Training School Complex, Inc. – CCTSC Restoration Project

The Campbell County Training School Complex (CCTSC) Restoration Project (a Historic Rosenwald School) is located in Rustburg (Campbell County). VLCF funding is requested to help protect this historic nine-acre property with an easement, held by the Board of Historic Resources. The complex consists of four original one-story buildings listed on Virginia and the National Historic Registries, including the original two-room classroom building. A larger community effort is in place to restore and develop the CCTSC property. Efforts include structure restoration, as well as development of outside spaces to encourage outdoor recreational activities, community gatherings, walking trails, outdoor classes, archaeological digs and more. This site intersects the Cultural & Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$138,150. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$69,075. **Recommended amount:** \$69,075.

#### American Battlefield Trust – Pegrams Battery Tract at Cedar Mountain

The American Battlefield Trust seeks to preserve the 44-acre Pegram's Battery Tract, located in Culpeper County, via a fee acquisition and a conservation easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The tract is entirely within the Core Area of the Cedar Mountain Battlefield, a Priority II.2 (Class B) Battlefield, according to the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report. The property is currently used for agriculture and falls within the Cultural & Historic Preservation and Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia. The Trust intends to steward the tract and incorporate it into its existing Cedar Mountain Park, which is open to the public year-round for educational purposes.

**Total Project Cost:** \$514,152. **Match:** ABPP grant expected and ABT Trust funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$249,876. **Recommended amount:** \$249,876.

#### Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Edwards

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation seeks funding to protect the 107-acre Edwards property located in Rockingham County, which intersects the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and the Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia. This property is part of the "The Coaling," made famous by the role this commanding landscape feature played during the Battle of Port Republic during the Civil War. It was control of this high ground that determined not only the victor in the Battle of Port Republic, but also the fate of the 1862 Valley campaign. Today, nine acres of The Coaling are owned by SVBF but the vast majority of the site is still unprotected. The Edwards property makes up most of that unreserved land, which has been subdivided into 12 parcels. This project will preserve the remaining, unsold, 10 parcels and open them as parkland with trails and historic interpretive markers.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,634,136. **Match:** ABPP grant. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$29,550 (FY21 Round II). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$370,450. **Recommended amount:** \$158,679.

Secretary Jennings asked if, on the American Battlefield Trust Project, DCR would work with the landowner to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Ms. Bulbulkaya responded that the use of BMPs is required for all VLCF projects.

*Natural Area Protection: Jason Bulluck, Director, Virginia Natural Heritage Program, DCR*

Mr. Bulluck presented the recommended projects in the Natural Area Protection category.

#### Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage Program – Difficult Creek South Addition

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage Division requests funding to support a two-acre addition to the 819-acre Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve (DCNAP) in Halifax County near Scottsburg. This "south addition" parcel will expand connectivity between DCNAP and the soon to be acquired Southside Virginia Conservation and Recreation Complex. Taken together, these



areas provide of one of the largest landscape-scale projects in the Piedmont region (from Maryland to Alabama). Situated on one of the Virginia's rarest geologic types, this small tract also supports intact hardwood forest that likely represents a significantly rare community type. The property intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and the Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$30,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$30,000. **Recommended amount:** \$30,000.

**Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage– Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve Addition**

The DCR Natural Heritage Program seeks funds to purchase 156 acres adjoining the Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve in Montgomery County. The property will become the latest addition to the preserve, which currently totals 1,177 acres. The property lies within the Pedlar Hills Conservation Site, which has a biodiversity rank of B1 – the highest rank possible – due to a suite of highly viable rare species habitats and rare woodland natural communities. Acquisition of this property will help close a gap of the preserve, protect a sub-population of a federally endangered plant and a large swath of forest and improve access to the preserve. The Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia intersect the proposed acquisition.

**Total Project Cost:** \$515,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$515,000. **Recommended amount:** \$515,000.

**Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage– Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve Land Donation**

The Natural Heritage Division seeks funds to complete the due diligence necessary to accept the fee simple donation of a one-acre parcel adjoining the 905-acre Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve in Rockingham County. The property lies within the priority Deep Run – Madison Run Pond Conservation Site. Acquisition of the tract will expand the preserve and remove the possibility of incompatible development. The property intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience and Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity layers of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$20,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$20,000. **Recommended amount:** \$20,000.

**Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage– Dendron Swamp Natural Area Preserve Addition**

The Dendron Swamp Natural Area Preserve Addition project, proposed by DCR's Natural Heritage Division, is seeking funds to acquire 102 acres in Sussex County adjoining the 636-acre preserve, which contains one of Virginia's original natural areas, the Steirley Heron Rookery. The property lies within the Dendron Swamp Conservation Site and supports an unprotected portion of an outstanding occurrence of a Bald Cypress – Water Tupelo Brownwater Swamp community. The tract would provide road frontage and forest road access into the preserve, and falls within the Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvements layers of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost: \$300,000. Match: \$0. VLCF Grant Request: \$300,000. Recommended amount: \$300,000.**

**Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve – Northeast Addition**

DCR's Natural Heritage Division seeks to acquire 77 acres to improve the resiliency of Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve in Roanoke County. Partial funding was awarded during the last VLCF round. These acres, which support intact forest in a mapped ecological core, a headwater stream/tributary of the Roanoke River, a drinking water spring used for several generations, and a viewshed observed from Salem and southwest Roanoke and users of the Appalachian Trail, are highly vulnerable to development. The existing pine-oak heath habitat is prone to high-intensity natural fires that are difficult to control, so minimizing wildland-urban interface here will provide multiple benefits to people and natural resources. The tract supports a globally imperiled species known as Pirate Bush (*Buckleya distichophylla*) and facilitates protection of the world's largest population of this rare species. In addition, the tract provides significant buffer and creates a management boundary along a portion of the preserve. The ConserveVirginia Protected Landscapes Resilience and Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity layers overlap the property.

**Total Project Cost: \$346,000. Match: \$0. Prior VLCF Grant Award: \$109,153 (FY21 Round II). VLCF Grant Request: \$236,847. Recommended amount: \$236,847.**

**Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – Chestnut Creek Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition**

The DCR Natural Heritage Program seeks to purchase 11 acres in Floyd County that adjoin the 244-acre Chestnut Creek Wetlands Natural Area Preserve. The acquisition will support three rare animal species – two of which are endangered – and a globally rare plant. The property lies within the priority Chestnut Creek Wetlands Conservation Site and intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia. Natural Heritage will restore the farmstead area to native vegetation on the edge of the wetlands and remove incompatible development from the edge of the preserve.

**Total Project Cost: \$165,000. Match: \$0. VLCF Grant Request: \$165,000. Recommended amount: \$165,000.**

**Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – Difficult Creek North Addition – Life Estate**

The Natural Heritage Division seeks to acquire a 1.5-acre inholding within the Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve in Halifax County near Scottsburg. The parcel is within the Protected Landscapes Resilience and Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity ConserveVirginia layers. The preserve supports a high number of significant natural heritage resources, many of which are fire-adapted. Acquisition of this inholding will improve the ability to implement prescribed fires that are necessary to adequately manage and restore the vegetation and natural heritage resources. DCR will acquire the property with the current owners/residents retaining a life estate.

**Total Project Cost: \$50,153. Match: \$0. VLCF Grant Request: \$50,153. Recommended amount: \$50,153.**

**Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – The Cedars Natural Area Preserve Powell River Addition**

DCR's Natural Heritage Division seeks VLCF funds to match a federal grant for the acquisition of 205 acres in Lee County as an addition to the Cedars Natural Area Preserve. The property lies within the Powell Ford Woodlands Conservation Site and borders the Powell River for approximately two miles on a section designated as the Powell River – Wallen Creek to Sewell Bridge Stream Conservation Unit. Acquisition of the tract will protect newly discovered populations of four significantly rare plant species, the headwaters and outflow of a natural spring with an unnamed (possibly new to science) isopod, and remove cattle grazing from the extensive riparian zone along the Powell River where a suite of rare mussels, fish and other aquatic species are known to occur. The property intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and the Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$474,242. **Match:** Federal grant. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$50,000. **Recommended amount:** \$50,000.

**The Nature Conservancy – Pinnacle State Natural Area Expansion – Weaver Creek**

The Nature Conservancy is requesting a grant for the fee simple purchase of 92 acres including a large riparian corridor along Weaver Creek, a significant tributary to the Clinch River, in Russell County. This acquisition will protect the viewshed of the new Clinch River State Park and potentially provide hiking opportunities for visitors. Protection of this forested acreage will also complement both the Pinnacle and Cleveland Barrens State Natural Area Preserves, increasing the Commonwealth's conservation footprint in a biologically critical section of the Clinch River, including the "Clinch River – Little River Stream Conservation Unit" designated as having "outstanding biological significance" by DCR's Division of Natural Heritage. The property is within ConserveVirginia's Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers. Partners include the Department of Wildlife Resources, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Clinch River Valley Initiative.

**Total Project Cost:** \$266,000. **Match:** TNC private funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$133,000. **Recommended amount:** \$133,000.

Secretary Jennings asked Mr. Bulluck to clarify the Life Estate on the Difficult Creek project.

Mr. Bulluck advised that the couple who live on the property support the work of Natural Heritage but are not yet in a position to sell and move away. They ultimately want the property to become part of the Difficult Creek NAP. Natural Heritage will manage the property while they still live there.

Ms. Shankles advised that DCR plans to acquire the fee simple interest in the property and lease it back to the family.

Ms. Stiff asked if the structure would eventually be demolished.

Mr. Bulluck replied that when the property is vacated the structures would be demolished and removed.

Senator Marsden asked if the projects were evaluated with the current appraisal.

Mr. Evans advised that the projects do include an appraisal and the purchase price, but that the funding also covers due diligence for the appraisal, the survey, and the environmental review.

*Open Spaces and Parks: Kristal McKelvey, Recreation Grants Manager, Planning & Recreation Resources Division*

Ms. McKelvey presented the recommendations in the Open Spaces and Parks category.

#### Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources – Copper Creek Initiative

The Department of Wildlife Resources seeks to acquire and conserve an eight-acre parcel located at the confluence of Copper Creek and the Clinch River in Scott County. The shoreline along the Clinch River will provide a new fishing and boating access for the public. Companion public boating access sites are located 2.5 miles upstream and 9.5 miles downstream. The site is easily accessible, located 0.6 miles from a four-lane highway. DWR will protect the shorelines of Copper Creek that transect the property, removing threats of sedimentation and nutrient-loading. Many rare and endangered fish are known near the mouth of Copper Creek, including several species of Greatest Conservation Need. Copper Creek has been a refuge for many species during, and as a source of replenishment after, pollution events in the Clinch River. Twenty-eight mussel species, including 19 federally endangered, have been reported from Copper Creek, which is by far the most of any tributary on the Virginia side of the Clinch River. This parcel is within three categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Scenic Preservation.

**Total Project Cost:** \$100,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$100,000. **Recommended amount:** \$100,000.

#### Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Camp Kum Ba Yah

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation is seeking additional grant funds to secure a conservation easement with Camp Kum-Ba-Yah (CKBY) on a 47-acre urban forest located in Lynchburg. CKBY has facilitated outdoor nature programming for more than 70 years. CKBY entered into a contract to purchase the property in the fall of 2021. The land has connections to the civil rights movement – the only space in the city to offer a meal to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on his 1962 visit – and the first pools in Lynchburg to welcome African American families to swim alongside their white neighbors. Generations of children have had formative nature experiences in the woods, which includes a fishing pond, walking trails, low-impact day camp sites, a ropes course and community garden. Today, KBY offers scholarships to nearly half its campers, fulfilling a core value that no child is denied the gift of camp due to financial need. It

continues to expand its year-round programming to school groups, families and partner organizations. The property is not within ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,007,500. **Match:** VOF Preservation Trust Fund and landowner donation. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$201,134 (FY20), \$79,807 (FY21 Round II). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$251,330. **Recommended amount:** \$250,000.

#### Town of Colonial Beach – **Eleanor Park Conservation Easement**

The Eleanor Park Conservation Easement project seeks to protect in perpetuity 1.9 acres of waterfront property from sale and development. The land is owned by the Town of Colonial Beach and is adjacent to the Potomac River. This parcel is the last undeveloped and publicly-owned waterfront greenspace in town, making it a unique space for townspeople and wildlife alike. Eleanor Park is home to large, native, mature hardwood trees, which provide a sanctuary for osprey, eagles and other wildlife. The space has been used as a park on and off for more than 130 years, and is currently a passive recreation space. Without a conservation easement, this unique natural resource will remain in jeopardy of being sold, subdivided and developed for residential housing. The town seeks to protect the park and to increase its scenic, cultural/historic, flood resilient and water quality conservation values. The property is in the Cultural & Historic Preservation, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,127,000. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$463,500. **Recommended amount:** \$387,416.

#### Virginia Outdoors Foundation – **The Green at the Science Museum of Virginia**

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond propose an innovative partnership to allow the museum to convert a surface parking lot at its historic Broad Street Station into an urban park that will be protected in perpetuity as open space providing recreational and environmental benefits. The proposed 5.2-acre project will incorporate and demonstrate science-based, natural solutions to the effects of climate change while addressing the growing need for open green space in an area under intense development pressure. Transferring control of the parcel to VOF protects it from the threat of future development and provides necessary capital for its transformation into a high-quality public park and sustainable landscape. It will serve museum visitors, public transit passengers and a growing number of residents and workers within a 10-minute walk, bike, or bus ride. This site is highly accessible with the promise of becoming a signature park for both the City of Richmond and the Commonwealth. The property intersects the Cultural & Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$21,540,000. **Match:** LWCF and landowner donation. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$90,000 (FY21 Round II). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$250,000. **Recommended amount:** \$250,000.

#### Capital Region Land Conservancy – **Brander Street**

Capital Region Land Conservancy, in partnership with the City of Richmond, is seeking to acquire six acres located along the south bank of the James River adjacent to Ancarrow's Landing within the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia. The property is across the river from Great Shiplock Park and is currently owned by Norfolk Southern and zoned for industrial use. The Richmond Riverfront Plan and James River Park Master Plan call for this property to become part of the city's James River Park, as the path of the Richmond Slave Trail crosses the extent of it.

**Total Project Cost:** \$300,000. **Match:** Expected VOF Preservation Trust Fund and private donations. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$150,000. **Recommended amount:** \$150,000.

#### Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – River Farm

River Farm is a public garden and event venue consisting of 24 acres on the Potomac River in Fairfax County, threatened by sale. To secure the property for continued public access and resource preservation, NOVA Parks is working with Fairfax County, elected officials and Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. NOVA Parks is seeking additional VLCF support to help purchase the property. River Farm holds community significance for gatherings, nature walks and its history of ownership by George Washington. It offers scenic and water quality conservation values, too. River Farm fills a local need for public open space with river access. District 44 is one of the few districts in Fairfax County classified as "moderate social vulnerability." The property is within the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$13,065,750. **Match:** VOF Preservation Trust Fund, LWCF, Virginia General Fund, and private donations. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$150,000 (FY21 Round I). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$500,000. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

#### City of Waynesboro – Basic Park Natural Area

The City of Waynesboro seeks to acquire 44 acres adjacent to Basic Park and South River. The project will create a natural area for the public to enjoy nature and wildlife. The forested parcels offer numerous trails for hiking, wildlife viewing and river access for fishing, paddling and bank swimming in the South River. The project would protect vegetative buffers along 1,100 feet of the South River's banks, safeguarding the viewshed from this Virginia Scenic River. Steele Run also passes through this property and approximately 2,500 linear feet of riparian buffer would be protected from development. Numerous opportunities exist to educate visitors on native and invasive plants, trees, the importance of urban forests, birds and river systems, including oxbows and wetlands, with interpretive signage on a self-guided hike through the trail system in this project. The tract is within the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$175,000. **Match:** City of Waynesboro. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$87,500. **Recommended amount:** \$87,500.

#### Town of Blacksburg – Brush Mountain Park – Edison Property Expansion

The Town of Blacksburg is seeking to protect 207-acres of richly biodiverse forest habitat used as a recreational resource in Montgomery County. The property represents a priority viewshed along the southeastern face of Brush Mountain. Once acquired, the property will be integrated into the Brush Mountain Park system serving as a bridge between the Poverty Creek Trail System in the Jefferson National Forest, and ultimately to the Huckleberry Trail. There is urgency to complete a deal, as an option to buy contract with the landowner expires in December 2021. Immediately adjacent to the property is a large-lot subdivision, demonstrating the development pressure. Partnerships among the town, New River Land Trust and a diverse set of community stakeholders ensure the long-term success of this project. This property is within the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity layer of ConserveVirginia.

**Total Project Cost:** \$550,000. **Match:** Appalachian Trail Conservancy grant, Town of Blacksburg, and New River Land Trust funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$220,000. **Recommended amount:** \$210,000.

#### 9. Tadpole Land and Trail Conservancy – Ballenger Creek Nature Preserve

In July 2021, TLTC purchased 76 acres along Ballenger Creek in Fluvanna County to create Ballenger Creek Nature Preserve. The land is covered in forest and recovering forest, with a diversity of hardwood trees, shrubs, wildflowers and ferns and contains several attractive cliffs covered with mountain laurel. TLTC plans to place 73 acres of this property in a conservation easement with Virginia Outdoors Foundation to conserve the land, prohibit timber harvesting, and provide public access and trails. TLTC plans to build trails, parking lots, information kiosks, and plant and habitat interpretive signs. The property is not within ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$312,324. Match: Private donations. VLCF Grant Request: \$65,084. Recommended amount: \$65,084.

Director Cristman advised that the project for River Farm was withdrawn because of a change in management. The applicant is not quite ready to move ahead. They hope to come back for the next grant round.

Secretary Jennings ask if there were comments from any of the grant applicants. There were none.

#### BOARD ACTION

Ms. Booth moved that the applications for the VLCF FY22 Grant Round be approved as submitted by staff. Senator Marsden seconded.

Ms. Imhoff advised that she would have to abstain from voting on the Siegen Forest project.

Secretary Jennings called for the vote. The motion carried with Ms. Imhoff abstaining from action regarding the Siegen Forest project.

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF VLCF REQUEST FOR PRE-PROPOSALS: PRE-PROPOSAL GRANT MANUAL AND RANKING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY** – *Suzan Bulbulkaya and Larry Mikkelson*

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented the draft of the Pre-Proposal Grant Manual. She noted that pre-application is not required to receive an actual grant for funding. She advised that the Pre-Proposal Grant Manual is consistent with the Grant Manual for the actual grant rounds.

The purpose of the pre-proposal is to solicit possible projects for the report to the General Assembly due on December 15. The intent is that the proposal will help show the need for land conservation funding.

**BOARD ACTION**

Senator Stuart moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees approve the Pre-Proposal Grant Manual as presented by staff. Ms. Imhoff seconded and the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Secretary Jennings opened up the meeting for public comment.

Ms. Imhoff asked if there was a legislative update.

Director Cristman advised that the Governor would release his budget on December 16. Until that time. He noted that there was ten million in funding in the biennial budget but noted that he could not reply further.

Heather Richards from the Conservation Fund thanked the Board for approving the grant for Roanoke River. She commented that the \$10.5 million requested in this grant round does not actually capture the need for conservation funding. She advised that her hope was the Board understood that the applications don't represent the actual needs.

Mr. Sheldon from The Nature Conservancy thanked the Board for approving their grant. He advised that he is working with a coalition to recommend funding be increased for the VLCF.

There was no further public comment.

**ADJOURN**

There was no further public comment and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



