

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, May 16, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

East Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad St, Richmond, VA 23219

AGENDA

Welcome

1. Call to Order, Introduction of Secretary, Introduction of Members, Opening Remarks: *Travis Voyles, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources – 5 min*

Business and Financial Matters

2. Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2022, Board Meeting: *Secretary Voyles – 3 min*
3. Virginia Land Conservation Fund Financial Update: *Sharon Partee, Director of Finance, DCR – 5 min*
4. Request to spend interest from Virginia Land Conservation Fund, pursuant to § 10.1-1020: *Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR – 5 min*
 - a. Resolution to request administrative funding

VLCF Grant Program

5. Review of VLCF Grant Projects that have Closed since November 2022: *Larry Mikkelson, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR – 5 min*
6. Discussion and Approval of the VLCF FY24 Grant Round: *Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR – 20 min*
 - a. Proposed Grant Fiscal Expenditure Plan
 - b. Proposed Timeline for Applications and Awards
 - c. Proposed Grant Manual
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. Board Discussion and Adoption of FY24 Grant Round Documents

Other Grant Programs

7. Brief Introduction to the Interagency Task Force and Other Land Conservation Grant Opportunities – *5 min each*
 - a. Jen Perkins, VDACS
 - b. Karl Didier, VDOF
 - c. Karri Richardson, VDHR

- d. Jason Bulluck, DNH-DCR
- e. Kristal McKelvey, PRR-DCR
- f. Becky Gwynn, VDWR
- g. Martha Little, VOF

8. Public Comment

9. Adjourn

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees

Chairman: The Honorable Travis Voyles, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Vice Chair: Mary-Carson Stiff

Member Ex Officio: The Honorable Matthew Lohr, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Woodie Walker

Samantha Vargas Poppe

Jay C. Ford

Krystina E. White

Susan E. Donner

The Honorable David W. Marsden

Bruce Vlck

The Honorable Richard H. Stuart

Dr. James F. Casey

Elizabeth Andrews

Kat Imhoff

Leslie Cockburn

Glenda C. Booth

Andrew C. Jennison

Lisa Kestner Quigley

Sonya Powell

Executive Secretary: Matthew Wells, Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees
Monday, November 14, 2022
Patrick Henry Building
Richmond Virginia**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees took place at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2022 in the East Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building, Richmond, Virginia.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Travis Voyles, Chair

The Honorable Matthew Lohr

Mary-Carson Stiff, Vice Chair

Woodie Walker

Glenda C. Booth

Leslie Cockburn

Jay C. Ford

Kat Imhoff

Samantha Vargas Poppe

Bruce Vlk

The Honorable David W. Marsden

The Honorable Richard H. Stuart

Matthew S. Wells, DCR Director, *Executive Secretary*

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Elizabeth Andrews

Dr. James F. Casey

Susan E. Donner

Andrew C. Jennison

Sonya Powell

Lisa Quigley

Krys White

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR

Derrick Bolen, DCR

Rod Compton, VTAX

Lore DeAstra VTAX

Karl Didier, DOF

Rob Evans, DCR

Brian Fuller, DCR

Kristal McKelvey, DCR

Karri Richardson, DHR

Frank Stovall, DCR

Deputy Secretary Beth Green

Jason Bulluck, DCR

Emi Endo, DCR

Gina DiCicco, DCR

Laura Ellis, DCR

Michael R. Fletcher, DCR

Charles Marston, DCR

Larry Mikkelson, DCR

Kellie Seaton, DCR

Richard Mahevich, Office of the Attorney General

OTHERS PRESENT

Parker Agelasto, Capital Region Land Conservancy
Heather Richards, The Conservation Fund
Ellen Shepard, VaULT
Evan Visconti, Virginia Mercury

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

With twelve (12) members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Voyles called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. He asked for member and staff introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 12, 2022

BOARD ACTION

Senator Stuart moved that the minutes from the July 12, 2022 meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees be approved as submitted. Ms. Stiff seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON THREE PARCELS IN SHENANDOAH COUNTY WILLED TO THE VLCF – *Suzan Bulbulkaya, Land Conservation Manager DCR*

Ms. Bulbulkaya provided an update regarding the Shenandoah County parcels willed to the VLCF. She reminded the Board that, at the July meeting, the Board had adopted a resolution to notify the executor of the estate and their attorney that the Commonwealth could not accept the properties. DCR consulted with the Office of the Attorney General to draft the necessary paperwork.

This paperwork has been completed and filed.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FUND FINANCIAL UPDATE – *Laura Ellis, DCR Deputy Director of Administration and Finance*

Ms. Ellis gave the financial update on behalf of DCR Finance Director, Sharon Partee, who was unable to attend the meeting.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
Fund Statement
As of October 31, 2022

OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE - June 30, 2019 **\$4,802,212**

INCOME

FY19 Stewardship Funds	\$1,507,831
FY20 Stewardship Funds	\$2,125,898
FY21 Stewardship Funds*	\$1,865,802
FY22 Stewardship Funds*	\$2,124,370
FY20 Appropriation - Chapter 854	\$4,500,000
FY21 Appropriation - Chapter 1289	\$4,500,000
FY21 Appropriation - Chapter 56	\$5,500,000
FY22 Appropriation - Chapter 552*	\$10,000,000
FY23 Appropriation - Chapter 2*	\$16,000,000
FY20 Interest	\$171,646
FY21 Interest*	\$73,026
FY22 Interest*	\$44,883
FY23 Interest*	\$53,021
TOTAL INCOME	\$48,466,477

DISBURSEMENTS

FY20 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$1,507,831
FY21 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$2,125,898
FY22 Stewardship Fund Disbursements*	\$1,865,802
FY23 Stewardship Fund Disbursements*	\$0
FY20 Grant Payments	\$1,627,477
FY21 Grant Payments*	\$1,730,509
FY22 Grant Payments*	\$3,479,700
FY23 Grant Payments*	\$1,686,223
FY20 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$1,125,000
FY21 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$2,500,000
FY22 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments*	\$2,500,000
FY23 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments*	\$2,000,000
FY20 Administrative Expenses	\$73,077
FY21 Administrative Expenses	\$92,962
FY22 Administrative Expenses*	\$175,264
FY23 Administrative Expenses*	\$18,196
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT	\$22,507,939

* Changes since last report

OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE - October 31, 2022 **\$30,760,750**

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
Restricted Fund Statement
As of October 31, 2022

OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE - June 30, 2017 **\$0**

INCOME

FY18 Mitigation Funds Received - Dominion (Skiffes Creek)	\$12,500,000
FY18 Mitigation Administrative Funds Received - Dominion (Skiffes Creek)	\$625,000
FY18 Interest	\$147,674
FY19 Interest	\$204,884
FY20 Interest	\$131,408
FY21 Interest*	\$35,743
FY22 Interest*	\$3,694
FY23 Interest*	\$1,785
TOTAL INCOME	\$13,650,188

DISBURSEMENTS

FY18 Grant Payments	\$200,000
FY19 Grant Payments	\$7,014,191
FY20 Grant Payments	\$40,907
FY21 Grant Payments	\$4,004,311
FY22 Grant Payments*	\$990,592
FY23 Grant Payments*	\$0
FY18 Administrative Expenses	\$15,193
FY19 Administrative Expenses	\$8,254
FY20 Administrative Expenses	\$206,739
FY21 Administrative Expenses	\$30,448
FY22 Administrative Expenses*	\$46,108
FY23 Administrative Expenses*	\$12,791
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT	\$12,569,533

* Changes since last report

OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE - October 31, 2022 **\$1,080,655**

LAND PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Mr. Compton and Ms. DeAstra gave the update regarding the Land Preservation Tax Credit 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	183	41,859	\$75,000,000
2022	84	17,520	\$49,538,135
Grand Total	4,656	1,017,077	\$1,952,413,431

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 2022	FY 2021
Revenue Collected – Cardinal VGLR001 – fund 0216 RSC 02740	3,736,966	3,349,609
Less: Transfer to GF, Chapter 2, item 3-101 paragraph S	-466,600	-466,600
Net Revenue	3,270,366	2,883,009
Expenses		
Less: DCR Expenses	482,949	483,276
Less: TAX Expenses	663,047	533,931
Total Expenses	1,145,996	1,017,207
Transfer Amount	2,124,370	1,865,802

Department of Taxation Expenses

Description	Amount
Staff Salary and Benefits	370,774
Office of the Attorney General-Salary and Benefits	241,294
Non-personal Services (Appraisals etc.)	50,979
Total	663,047

Enhanced Review Protocol for LPC Applications

- Compliance Review Coordination between the Tax Credit and Property Tax Units
- Requirement of the Baseline Documentation (BDR) with all LPC applications
- Collaboration with DCR, VOF, DOF, VaULT, and other public/private agencies
- Development of LPC Appraisal log and compliance review checklist
 - Code of Virginia
 - IRC
 - Appraisal Foundation
 - Appraisal Institute Standards
- GIS mapping of all Conservation Easements including DCR, VOF, DOF, PTU, Federal and Localities

LPTC PROGRAM TRANSFER FEE REVENUES AND APPROVALS OF DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2021 VLCF STEWARDSHIP FUND PURSUANT TO §58.1-513 – *Gina DiCicco, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR*

Ms. DiCicco presented the recommended Stewardship Fund transfers. She noted that the total available funds were \$2,124,370.00. Members were provided a spreadsheet in the meeting packets. A copy of that spreadsheet is included as Attachment #1.

Ms. DiCicco advised that this funding is provided by a two percent fee on the transfer of Land Preservation Tax Credits. DCR and Tax receive a portion of the funding. The remainder goes to the fund. This covers donations between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2022. During this window there were forty qualifying agencies.

Ms. DiCicco noted that the Enrichment Foundation was scheduled to receive \$4,553.85. However the Foundation has dissolved. DCR staff have discussed this with the Office of the Attorney General. The recommendation is to hold those funds until the appropriate steward can be identified. If the steward cannot be identified then the funds will be forwarded to payments to be made in 2023.

Senator Stuart asked if that entity should be removed from the list prior to approval.

Ms. DiCicco noted that staff did not wish to remove the project and redistribute the funds in the event there was a mechanism to get the funds to the actual steward of the property.

BOARD ACTION

Ms. Stiff moved that the \$4,553.85 designated for the Enrichment Foundation be removed from the list of Stewardship Fund disbursements. Those funds will be held by DCR until an appropriate steward for the property is identified or, if that is not possible, the funds will be forwarded to the 2023 fund distribution.

Senator Stuart seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

BOARD ACTION

Senator Stuart moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees approve the disbursement of the Stewardship Fund as amended.

Mr. Ford seconded and the motion carried.

VLCF GRANT PROGRAM

Recently completed VLCF Grant Projects – Larry Mikkelson, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR

Mr. Mikkelson gave an overview of recently completed projects. He noted that the following seven VLCF grants successfully closed since the July 12, 2022 VLCF Board meeting.

1. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve Additions (FY2020)

By means of an FY20 VLCF grant for \$186,000, DCR's Division of Natural Heritage added two parcels totaling 1.3 acres, to Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve in Stafford County. Crow's Nest is one of the signature public access preserves within the Virginia natural area preserve system and is open year round. DCR ownership of both lots will help to provide for a safer public visitor experience and improve the scenic value. The first lot, situated along the preserve entrance gate can now provide more secure access and deter trespassers. The second lot has a heavily run down residence that had become a primary vector for illegal activities, which is now scheduled for removal. The property falls within two categories of ConserveVirginia (Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience).

The fee acquisition cost for the two lots totals \$119,555, leaving a balance of \$66,445. This grant will be closed out when the final due diligence costs are provided to VLCF staff for reimbursement to DCR DNH.

Grant Awards: \$186,000. **Payment amount for purchase:** \$119,555. **Remainder for pending due diligence:** \$66,445. **Match:** \$0. **[Project closed:** September 2022]

2. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Cypress Bridge Swamp Natural Area Preserve Addition (FY2020)

DCR's Natural Heritage Program utilized this VLCF grant from the FY2020 grant round to acquire in fee 17 acres to be added to the Cypress Bridge Swamp Natural Area Preserve (CBSNAP) in Southampton County. The tract falls within four categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Protected Landscapes Resilience, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Scenic Preservation. The project and preserve are located in one of Virginia's essential conservation sites, encompassing five different natural heritage resources deemed critical for biodiversity conservation in Virginia, including one irreplaceable element found nowhere else in the Commonwealth. The parcel is a key inholding at CBSNAP.

Grant Awards: \$52,000. **Payment amount for purchase:** \$31,950. **Remainder for pending due diligence:** \$20,050. **Match:** \$0. **[Project closed:** November 2022]

3. City of Franklin – Blackwater Conservation Acquisition (FY2021; FY2021 Round II)

The City of Franklin, in partnership with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF), has acquired 200 acres along the state scenic Blackwater River for the creation of a new public park. Two VLCF grants totaling \$543,500 (FY21 and FY21 Round II grant rounds), contributed to the success of the project. A VOF open-space easement now ensures public access and protects the 140 acres of old growth cypress-tupelo swamp on the property in perpetuity. The park includes an elevated boardwalk through the swamp and a loop pathway on a forested island surrounded by the river's swamp system. The park also features a picnic pavilion on the upland portion of the property. The project is within the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Awards: \$375,000; \$168,500. **Payment amount:** \$543,500. **Match:** \$1,168,438. **[Project closed:** October 2022]

4. Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority – South Garden International LLC Public Access Land Expansion (FY2021 Round II)

The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA) received \$312,000 in VLCF's Open Spaces and Parks category to acquire 98 acres in Gloucester County to double the size of public access to state waters of the Middle Peninsula region for residents and visitors. This fee-simple acquisition is adjacent to the Captain Sinclair Recreational Area, 97 acres of existing MPCBPAA recreational resources, and will expand recreational interests and preserve important wetland communities. For the last 10 years, South Garden International LLC has provided a space for scientific research and nature observation to encourage preservation of this pristine landscape. This property will be open daily for public waterfront access. The property is in the Floodplains and Flooding Resilience category of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$312,000. **Payment amount:** \$312,000. **Match:** \$471,674. **[Project closed:** August 2022]

5. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands (FY2021 Round II)

DCR's Natural Heritage Division utilized a VLCF grant to acquire 58 acres in Stafford County as an addition to Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve. The subject parcel is adjacent to the preserve and situated along Raven Road. Acquisition of this tract enhances DCR's ability to protect key visual and ecological buffers along the main public access corridor into the preserve and prevent incompatible development. The majority of the property includes forested wetlands and extensive forested riparian buffers along Accokeek Creek that provide habitat for numerous species of greatest conservation need including songbird habitat and protect water quality. The tract falls within three categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Floodplains and Flooding Resilience.

Grant Award: \$450,000. **Payment amount for purchase:** \$372,817. **Remainder for pending due diligence:** \$77,183. **Match:** \$0. **[Project closed:** June 2022]

6. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve – Northeast Addition (FY2021 Round II; FY2022)

DCR's Division of Natural Heritage acquired a 78-acre forested area that adjoins the Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve in Roanoke County using two VLCF grants (FY21 Round II and FY22) totaling \$346,000. The Preserve, established in 1991, is designed to protect the world's largest population of a globally imperiled plant species and the pine-oak heath habitats it occupies. This habitat is subject to natural fires that tend to burn across large areas making contiguous, un-fragmented managed areas critical. The newly added acreage not only supports individuals of the globally rare Pirate Bush, it provides significant buffer on the northeastern flank of the Preserve and effectively completes the Preserve design in this direction. The property falls within the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience categories of ConserveVirginia.

Natural Heritage's acquisition costs total \$276,168; leaving a balance of \$69,832 in grant funds to cover DGS and OAG due diligence costs. Once those are paid, the remainder will be returned to the Natural Area Protection grant category.

Grant Awards: \$109,153; \$236,847. **Payment amount for purchase:** \$276,168. **Remainder for pending due diligence:** \$69,832. **Match:** \$0. **[Project closed:** July 2022]

7. Town of Blacksburg – Brush Mountain Park – Edison Property Expansion (FY2022)

An FY22 VLCF grant of \$210,000 contributed to the Town of Blacksburg's acquisition and protection of 205 acres of richly biodiverse forest habitat used as a recreational resource in Montgomery County. The property represents a priority view shed along the southeastern face of Brush Mountain, which is now protected in perpetuity by an open-space easement held by Virginia Outdoors Foundation. 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. Partnerships among the town, New River Land Trust and a diverse set of community stakeholders ensured the long-term success of this project. This property is within the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity layer of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$210,000. **Payment amount:** \$210,000. **Match:** \$324,075. **[Project closed:** September 2022]

Mr. Mikkelson summarized the open VLCF Grants.

- There are currently three open grants from the FY20 VLCF grant round. These remaining grants have been extended until January 1, 2023.
- There are seven open grants from the FY21 grant round.
- There are 13 grants that remain open from the FY21 Round II grant round.
- For the FY22 grant round, 24 of the 30 grants awarded are open.
- Currently, there are a total of 47 open grants.

FY23 Grant Round

Grant Round Overview – Suzan Bulbulkaya, Land Conservation Manager, DCR

Ms. Bulbulkaya gave an overview of the FY23 Grant Round. She expressed appreciation to the working group for scoring the applications. She also noted that some members might wish to abstain for voting on certain projects.

Ms. Bulbulkaya advised that members of the Inter Agency Team would present highlights from each category. She noted:

- The FY23 Grant Round was open to accept applications from July 12 through September 6, 2022.
- Funding provided in the state budget:
 - \$16 million appropriation, \$4 million of which goes to the VOF Preservation Trust
- Returned grant funds: \$2,297,440
- TOTAL available funding \$14,927,440
- A total of 45 applications were received. The IAT recommended funding for 39.

IAT members reviewed the following recommendations.

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

Ms. Perkins was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Bulbulkaya presented the following projects:

Amount of funding available: \$2,400,000

1. Piedmont Environmental Council; Farmland Protection along Brook Run; easement on 698 acres in Culpeper County; **total project cost:** \$2,040,000; **grant request:** \$500,000; **recommend:** \$500,000
2. Piedmont Environmental Council; Farmland Protection West of Gordonsville; easement on 360 acres in Orange County; **total project cost:** \$990,000; **grant request:** \$237,500; **recommend:** \$237,500
3. Virginia Outdoors Foundation; Harris Farm; easement on 327 acres in Spotsylvania County; **total project cost:** \$1,035,000; **grant request:** \$400,000; **recommend** \$400,000

4. Piedmont Environmental Council; Protection of Thornridge Farm; easement on 203 acres in Rappahannock County; **total project cost:** \$676,300; **grant request:** \$160,000; **recommend:** \$160,000

Farmland Preservation Totals: acres: 1,589; **project costs:** \$4,741,300; **recommend:** \$1,297,500.
Farmland Preservation remainder: \$1,102,500

Forestland Preservation – Karl Didier, Forestland Conservation Program manager, Department of Forestry

Mr. Didier presented the following projects.

Amount of funding available: \$2,800,000

1. The Conservation Fund, Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area II, fee acquisition of 1,597 acres in Sussex County; **total project cost:** \$6,400,000; **grant request:** \$450,000; **recommend:** \$450,000.
2. Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, Conservation of Ancestral Lands – Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe's Return to the River; fee acquisition of 866 acres in King William County; **total project cost:** \$3,610,000; **grant request:** \$310,000; **recommend:** \$310,000.
3. Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia, Rappahannock Tribe's Return to the River, Phase II; fee acquisition of 703 acres in Richmond County; **total project cost:** \$4,769,912; **grant request:** \$500,000; **recommend:** \$500,000.
4. Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Pierces Lowgrounds, Meherrin River Conservation Easement II; easement on 2,860 acres in Greensville County; **total project cost:** \$2,954,000; **grant request:** \$400,000; **recommend:** \$300,000 (\$100,000 from Forestland Preservation funds and \$200,000 from Farmland Preservation funds).
5. Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Taylors Mill Farm; easement on 1,145 acres in Greensville County; **total project cost:** \$1,192,500; **grant request:** \$450,000; **recommend:** \$450,000 (\$225,000 from Forestland Preservation funds and \$225,000 from Farmland Preservation funds).
6. The Conservation Fund, Roanoke River Working Forest II; easement on 1,347 acres in Charlotte County; **total project cost:** \$1,590,000; **grant request:** \$395,000; **recommend:** \$395,000.
7. Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources, Securing Conservation Corridors in the "Green Sea"; fee acquisition on 244 acres in Chesapeake; **total project cost:** \$1,124,875; **grant request:** \$281,219; **recommend:** \$281,219.
8. Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Three Creek Capron Phase II; easement on 376 acres in Southampton County; **total project cost:** \$36,054; **grant request:** \$36,054; **recommend:** \$36,054.
9. Meadowview Biological Research Station, Caroline Diamonds - The Oak Barrens at Barrel Springs II; fee acquisition of 96 acres in Caroline County; **total project cost:** \$800,400; **grant request:** \$139,200; **recommend:** \$131,935.

10. Virginia Dept. of Forestry, Hornet Swamp; easement on 615 acres in Southampton and Sussex Counties; **total project cost:** \$775,000; **grant request:** \$400,000; **recommend:** \$400,000 (\$122,500 from Forestland Preservation funds and \$277,500 from Farmland Preservation funds).
11. Clarke County, Newfound Farm; easement on 59 acres in Clarke County; \$254,750; **total project cost:** \$254,750; **grant request:** \$125,000; **recommend:** \$100,150.

Forestland Preservation Totals: acres: 9,908; **project costs:** \$23,652,741; **requested:** \$3,486,473; **recommend:** \$2,651,858.

Forestland remainder: \$148,142

Historic Area Preservation – Karri Richardson, Easement Program Specialist, Department of Historic Resources

Ms. Richardson presented the following Historic Area Preservation Projects:

Amount of funding available: \$3,000,000

1. Capital Region Land Conservancy; Haskins Farm at New Market Heights; fee acquisition of 50 acres in Henrico County; **total project cost:** \$1,349,000; **grant request:** \$600,000; **recommend:** \$600,000.
2. Capital Region Land Conservancy; 5270 New Market Road; fee acquisition of 40 acres in Henrico County; **total project cost:** \$1,201,500; **grant request:** \$588,250; **recommend:** \$588,250.
3. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; Shiflett Tract at Piedmont Battlefield; an easement on 141 acres in Augusta County; **total project cost:** \$906,866; **grant request:** \$253,433; **recommend:** \$253,433.
4. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; Edwards Tract at Port Republic Battlefield; an easement on 107 acres in Rockingham County; **total project cost:** \$1,662,571; **grant request:** \$172,058; **recommend:** \$172,058.
5. American Battlefield Trust; Amelia & Associates LLC Tract at Boydton Plank Road Battlefield; fee acquisition of 12 acres in Dinwiddie County; **total project cost:** \$277,908; **grant request:** \$121,982; **recommend:** \$121,982.
6. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; Woodworth Cottage; fee acquisition of 0.26 acres in Shenandoah County; **total project cost:** \$270,000; **grant request:** \$135,000; **recommend:** \$135,000.
7. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; French Tract at Fisher’s Hill Battlefield; an easement on 146 acres in Shenandoah County; **total project cost:** \$1,648,517; **grant request:** \$474,258; **recommend:** \$474,258.
8. American Battlefield Trust; Mauller Tract at Second Manassas Battlefield; a fee acquisition of three acres in Prince William County; **total project cost:** \$535,828; **grant request:** \$253,439; **recommend:** \$253,439.
9. American Battlefield Trust; Carter Tract at Seven Pines Battlefield; fee acquisition of 12 acres in Henrico County; **total project cost:** \$430,191; **grant request:** \$183,745; **recommend:** \$183,745.

10. Capital Region Land Conservancy; Camp Holly Springs; an easement on 145 acres in Henrico County; **total project cost:** \$2,488,000; **grant request:** \$750,000; **recommend:** \$0.
11. American Battlefield Trust; Proctor Tract at Cedar Mountain Battlefield; a fee acquisition of seven acres in Culpeper County; **total project cost:** \$848,138; **grant request:** \$420,469; **recommend:** \$217,835.
12. American Battlefield Trust; TRPF Tract at Glendale Battlefield; fee acquisition of 11 acres in Henrico County; **total project cost:** \$187,128; **grant request:** \$82,734; **recommend:** \$0.

Historic Area Preservation Totals: **acres:** 675; **project costs:** \$11,805,647; **recommend:** \$3,000,000.

Natural Area Protection – Jason Bulluck, Director, Virginia Natural Heritage Program, DCR

Mr. Bulluck presented the recommended Natural Area Protection projects:

Amount of funding available: \$3,337,440

1. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation - Div. of Natural Heritage (DCR - DNH), Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands II, fee acquisition of 222 acres in Stafford County; **total project cost:** \$390,000; **grant request:** \$390,000; **recommend:** \$390,000.
2. DCR – DNH, Brocks Gap Natural Area Preserve, fee acquisition of 244 acres in Rockingham County; **total project cost:** \$670,000; **grant request:** \$670,000; **recommend:** \$670,000.
3. DCR – DNH, Chestnut Ridge Natural Area Preserve – Buckhorn Phase 1 Addition, fee acquisition of 1009 acres in Bland and Giles Counties; **total project cost:** \$1,285,000; **grant request:** \$1,285,000; **recommend:** \$0.
4. DCR – DNH, Mill Creek Springs Natural Area Preserve Expansion, fee acquisition of 318 acres in Montgomery County; **total project cost:** \$1,285,000; **grant request:** \$1,285,000; **recommend:** \$1,030,140.
5. DCR – DNH, Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve – Battlefield Addition tract, fee acquisition of 110 acres in Rockingham County; **total project cost:** \$453,800; **grant request:** \$453,800; **recommend:** \$453,800.
6. DCR – DNH, Ellett Escarpment Natural Area Preserve, fee acquisition of 33 acres in Montgomery County; **total project cost:** \$293,500; **grant request:** \$293,500; **recommend:** \$293,500.
7. DCR - DNH/ Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Bull Run Mountains NAP Addition - Eastern Overlook, fee acquisition of 10 acres in Prince William County; total project cost: \$525,000; grant request: \$500,000; recommend: \$500,000.
8. DCR – DNH, Camp Branch Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition, fee acquisition of 56 acres in Floyd County; **total project cost:** \$365,000; **grant request:** \$365,000; **recommend:** \$0.

9. Franklin Parks Foundation, Cypress Bridge NAP Addition - Musser Tract, easement on 69 acres in the City of Franklin; **total project cost:** \$223,500; **grant request:** \$111,750; **recommend:** \$0.

Natural Area Preservation Totals: acres: 2,072; **project costs:** \$5,490,800; **requested:** \$5,354,050; **recommend:** \$3,337,440.

Mr. Bulluck advised that due to information received following the distribution of this list to the Board, DCR was recommending that the funding for Mill Creek be decreased by \$365,000 in order to fully fund the Camp Branch Wetlands Project.

Open Spaces and Parks – Kristal McKelvey, Recreation Grants Manager, Planning and Recreation Resources Division, DCR

Ms. McKelvey presented the recommended Open Spaces and Parks projects:

Amount of funding available: \$3,390,000

1. Capital Region Land Conservancy, Mayo Island, a fee acquisition of 14.50 acres in the City of Richmond; **total project cost:** \$11,882,000; **grant request:** \$2,000,000; **recommend:** \$1,500,000.
2. Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, Red Hill, an easement on 596 acres in Charlotte and Campbell Counties; **total project cost:** \$1,245,500; **grant request:** \$622,750; **recommend:** \$602,830.
3. City of Danville Parks and Recreation Department, Memorial Drive Recreation Area, a fee acquisition of 7 acres in the City of Danville; **total project cost:** \$3,029,050; **grant request:** \$1,500,000; **recommend:** \$500,000.
4. Downtown Greens Inc., Downtown Greens Expansion Project, an easement on 56 acres in the City of Fredericksburg; **total project cost:** \$1,267,800; **grant request:** \$400,000; **recommend:** \$400,000 from Farmland Preservation.
5. The Nature Conservancy, Gent Branch – Elk Conservation Area, a fee acquisition of 179 acres in Buchanan County; **total project cost:** \$143,875; **grant request:** \$71,937; **recommend:** \$71,937.
6. Dept. of Wildlife Resources, Coles Point Boating Access, fee acquisition of 3 acres in Westmoreland County; **total project cost:** \$1,032,025; **grant request:** \$532,025; **recommend:** \$532,025
7. New River Soil and Water Conservation District, New River Hill Park, a fee acquisition of 82 acres in Grayson County; **total project cost:** \$312,700; **grant request:** \$156,350; **recommend:** \$156,350 (\$8,208 from Open Spaces and Parks and \$148,142 from Forestland Preservation).
8. City of Charlottesville, Moores Creek Land Acquisition, fee acquisition of nine acres in Albemarle County; **total project cost:** \$368,300; **grant request:** \$175,000; **recommend:** \$175,000.

9. Franklin Parks Foundation, Blackwater Park – Deer Creek Tract, a fee acquisition of 96 acres in the City of Franklin; **total project cost:** \$868,800; **grant request:** \$404,000; **recommend:** \$0.

Open Spaces & Parks totals: acres: 1,041.57; **project costs:** \$20,150,050; **requested:** \$5,862,062; **recommend:** \$3,938,142 (\$3,390,000 from Open Spaces and Parks plus \$548,142 from Farmland and Forest Preservation.

Secretary Voyles thanked the members of the IAT and asked if there was public comment from the grant applicants.

Mr. Agelasto thanked the VCLF Board for the opportunity for the Capital Region Land Conservancy. He noted that while this was the largest VCLF grant round to date, there are still unfunded projects.

BOARD ACTION

Senator Stuart moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of DCR staff for the Natural Area Protection Project that the recommend amount for the Mill Creek project be decreased by \$365,000 in order to fully fund the Camp Branch Wetlands Project in that amount.

Mr. Ford seconded and the motion carried.

BOARD ACTION

Senator Stuart moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees approve the grant funding as recommended by agency staff. Ms. Imhoff seconded.

The motion carried with the following abstentions.

Ms. Imhoff and Ms. Cockburn abstained from voting on projects 1, 2, and 4 in the Farmlands Preservation category.

Senator Stuart abstained from voting on project 6 in the Open Spaces and Parks category.

Ms. Stiff abstained from voting on project 1 in the Open Spaces and Parks category.

Secretary Voyles thanked the Board and staff for their work regarding the grant round. He noted that DCR is finishing two annual reports that will be provided to the Board in January, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Booth commented that the July meeting the question was raised regarding using funds to restore native habitat. She noted this is important in urban and suburban areas where there is little left to preserve. She asked if the funding could address more restoration efforts and asked if the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources or the Office of the Attorney General could examine and determine what authority the Board has in that regard.

Secretary Voyles replied that staff will pursue this information and will report back to the Board at a future date.

ADJOURN

There was no further comment and the meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Attachment #1

2022 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)	2	0.43%	\$9,107.70
2	Blue Ridge Land Conservancy	25.5	5.47%	\$116,123.12
3	Broad Water Innovations	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
4	Capital Region Land Conservancy Inc	8.5	1.82%	\$38,707.71
5	Central Virginia Battlefields Trust	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
6	City of Charlottesville	2	0.43%	\$9,107.70
7	City of Hampton	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
8	City of Harrisonburg	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
9	City of Staunton	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
10	County of Albemarle	26	5.57%	\$118,400.04
11	County of Clarke	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
12	County of Fauquier	13	2.79%	\$59,200.02
13	County of Loudoun	0.5	0.11%	\$2,276.92
14	County of Stafford	2.5	0.54%	\$11,384.62
15	County of Warren	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
16	Enrichmond Foundation	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
17	Ever Green Team	72	15.43%	\$327,877.04
18	Friends of Dragon Run	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
19	Friends of the Rappahannock	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
20	Historic Green Springs Inc.	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
21	Historic Virginia Land Conservancy	15	3.22%	\$68,307.72
22	Land Trust of Virginia	36	7.72%	\$163,938.52
23	New River Land Trust	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
24	Northern Neck Land Conservancy	14	3.00%	\$63,753.87
25	Northern Virginia Conservation Trust	7.5	1.61%	\$34,153.86
26	Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
27	Old Dominion Land Conservancy, Inc.	47	10.08%	\$214,030.85
28	Outdoors Preservation Foundation	3	0.64%	\$13,661.54
29	Piedmont Environmental Council	4	0.86%	\$18,215.39
30	Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation	2.5	0.54%	\$11,384.62
31	Southern Virginia Land Conservancy	0.5	0.11%	\$2,276.92
32	The 500-Year Forest Foundation	8	1.71%	\$36,430.78
33	The Conservation Fund	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
34	The Nature Conservancy	4	0.86%	\$18,215.39
35	Valley Conservation Council	12	2.57%	\$54,646.17
36	Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
37	Virginia Department of Forestry	9	1.93%	\$40,984.63
38	Virginia Department of Historic Resources	3	0.64%	\$13,661.54
39	Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust	1	0.21%	\$4,553.85
40	Virginia Outdoors Foundation	133	28.51%	\$605,661.76
	TOTALS	466.5	100.00%	\$2,124,370.00

*US Navy co-holds 1/2 interest in one easement, but is ineligible to receive payment, per § 58.1-513.

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
May 16, 2023

Resolution: Request for Administrative Funding for FY 2024

Background:

Va. Code § 10.1-1020 G: Up to \$250,000 per year of the interest generated by the Fund may be used for the Foundation's administrative expenses, including, but not limited to, the expenses of the Board and its members, development of the Foundation's strategic plan, development and maintenance of an inventory of properties as provided in subdivision 1 b of § [10.1-1021](#), development of a needs assessment for future expenditures as provided in subdivision 1 c of § [10.1-1021](#), and fulfillment of reporting requirements. All such expenditures shall be subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

Unspent Interest as of June 30, 2022	\$179,195
Interest Earned during current year	\$159,868
VLCF Administrative Expenses for FY23	(\$40,000)
Budgeted Natural Heritage Expenses for FY23	(\$100,000)
Available interest that can be spent as of March 31, 2023	\$199,063

Request:

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board approves the request from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to expend up to \$200,000 in FY 2024 for use consistent with the legislative authority on the use of interest generated by the Fund, *Code of Virginia* § 10.1-1020.G.

FY 2024 \$200,000

Address existing administrative, web service and database-related expenses incurred by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in support of Virginia Land Conservation Foundation grant management activities. Specifically, the funding will be used in support of staff working to assist with VLCF grant management, Webgrants online Grants Management Portal, land conservation database support of the Foundation's mission, and fulfillment of statutorily required reporting requirements.

Recently Closed VLCF Grant Projects

May 16, 2023

The following six VLCF grants have successfully closed since the November 14, 2022, VLCF Board meeting.

1. Department of Forestry – Three Creek Capron (FY2021 Round II; FY2023)

The Virginia Dept. of Forestry received a FY21 Round II grant award of \$200,000 to acquire an open-space easement over Three Creek – Capron, a 376-acre forested tract in Southampton County. A second grant was awarded in FY23 for \$36,054, to assist with covering the project's due diligence costs. The easement prohibits subdivision of the property, permanently protects riparian forest habitat along 1.8 miles of stream frontage on Three Creek, a tributary of the Nottoway River, and ensures continued use of upland acreage for commercial timber management. The tract is comprised of roughly 300 acres of forested wetlands and 75 acres of upland pine forest. The project protects an Ecological Core and is in the Forestry layer of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Awards: FY21R2 \$200,000; FY23 \$36,054. **Payment amount:** \$236,054. **Match:** \$209,275 Landowner donation. [**Project closed:** March 2023]

2. Department of Forestry – Round Hill Swamp at Doles Farm (FY2021 Round II)

VLCF contributed \$225,000 in a FY21 Round II grant to the Virginia Dept. of Forestry to acquire an open-space easement over a 707-acre farm in Southampton County. The easement permanently protects forest habitat and ensures continued use of the upland acreage for agriculture and forest management. Round Hill includes over 500 acres of forestland and 150 acres of prime farmland. The property also includes 137 acres of blackwater swamp containing Cypress-Tupelo forests. The easement requires 100-foot-wide riparian buffers along 3.2 miles of streams to protect habitat and water sources that drain directly into the Blackwater River at the Antioch Pines Natural Area Preserve. This project intersects the Agriculture, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$225,000. **Payment amount:** \$225,000. **Match:** \$1,342,555 Landowner donation. [**Project closed:** November 2022]

3. Belmead on the James, Inc. – Drexel-Morrell Center (FY2021 Round II)

With the assistance of a FY2021 Round II VLCF grant for \$228,450, the Drexel-Morrell Center purchased and conserved the 56-acre Rosemont property in Powhatan County. The center donated an open-space easement to the Board of Historic Resources, which ensures protection of the historic 1890's home listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places, an original woodframe barn, 40 acres of woodlands, 16 acres of open space, and perennial streams that bisect the property. Partners for the project include, among others, the Capital Region Land Conservancy, Atlantic Heritage, Colonial Farm Credit, and NAACP. The project creates and preserves a safe-space museum for common stories, history, and cultural inter-enrichment, providing a protected learning place of preserved natural life and of beauty. Conserving this property, within the Cultural & Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia, shares a crucially important story of African American life impacted by the Drexel and Morrell schools in rural Virginia.

Grant Award: \$228,450. **Payment amount:** \$228,450. **Match:** \$247,025 VOF Preservation Trust Fund and landowner donation. [**Project closed:** February 2023]

4. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – **Edwards (FY2021 Round II; FY2022; FY2023)**

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF) received three VLCF grants totaling \$360,287 to protect the 107-acre Edwards property in Rockingham County, with a historic preservation and open-space easement held by the Board of Historic Resources. This property is part of the “The Coaling,” because of the role this commanding landscape feature played during the Battle of Port Republic during the Civil War. Control of this high ground determined not only the victor in the Battle of Port Republic, but also the fate of the 1862 Valley campaign. Prior to closing this grant, nine acres of The Coaling were owned by SVBF but the majority of the site was still unprotected. This project preserves the remaining undeveloped land and will be open as parkland with trails and historic interpretive markers. The property intersects the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and the Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Awards: FY21 R2 \$29,550; FY22 \$158,679; FY23 \$172,058. **Payment amount:** \$360,287. **Match:** \$1,289,404 Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, American Battlefield Protection Program, and SVBF. [**Project closed:** April 2023]

5. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – **Thomas Neck Family Farm (FY2022)**

A VLCF grant for \$879,750, awarded in Fiscal Year 2022 to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, assisted in the acquisition of an open-space easement over an 840-acre working farm in Essex County. The property has been farmed by the same family for more than 50 years, presently in accordance with a nutrient management plan for crops including wheat, soybeans, and corn. The VOF easement assures the land remains available for agricultural production while providing natural habitat for wildlife and protecting water quality within the Chesapeake Bay watershed and flood and coastal resiliency, protecting the property’s conservation values in perpetuity. One-hundred-foot-wide forested buffers along 17,500 feet of frontage on Occupacia Creek will benefit wildlife habitat and water quality in perpetuity. The farm is located within: the Rappahannock River Audubon Important Bird Area; the federal boundary of the Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge; and the Agricultural & Forestry, Cultural & Historic Preservation, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$879,750. **Payment amount:** \$879,750. **Match:** \$2,509,029 Landowner donation. [**Project closed:** April 2023]

6. Town of Colonial Beach – **Eleanor Park Conservation Easement (FY2022)**

The Town of Colonial Beach has permanently conserved a 1.8-acre waterfront property adjacent to the Potomac River. With the help of a Virginia Land Conservation Foundation FY22 grant for \$387,416, this last undeveloped and publicly owned waterfront greenspace in town is now forever available as a public recreation resource. Eleanor Park is also home to several large, native, mature hardwood trees, which provide a sanctuary for osprey, eagles, and other wildlife. This property is a unique space for people to enjoy outdoor recreation and wildlife observation adjacent to the

Potomac River. The town plans to implement a variety of public uses including picnic areas, walking paths to enjoy the out-of-doors, and kayaking, swimming, and fishing along the river. The property falls within the Cultural & Historic Preservation, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$387,416. **Payment amount:** \$387,416. **Match:** \$719,434 Landowner donation. [Project closed: January 2023]

Expected to Close before May 16, 2023

1. Capital Region Land Conservancy – Dock Street (FY2020)

Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC), in partnership with The Conservation Fund and City of Richmond acquired and will conserve 4.33 acres of property along Dock Street and the James River. The site was the only remaining privately owned parcel along the north bank of the tidal James River in the city. The project allows for extension of the Virginia Capital Trail and expands city-owned parkland by incorporating the property into the city’s James River Park System. DCR will co-hold an open-space easement with CRLC.

Grant Award: \$500,000. **Expected payment:** \$500,000. **Match:** \$3,778,477 CRLC, LWCF (cash and real property donations).

2. Department of Wildlife Resources – Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative (FY2020; FY2021)

The Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources received two grants totaling \$714,162, to assist in acquiring multiple parcels totaling more than 7,900 acres of forestland in Accomack and Northampton counties. These fee-simple acquisitions expand existing Wildlife Management Areas, support coastal resiliency, provide new public lands for wildlife-related recreation, and improve habitat for migratory birds and species of greatest conservation need in an area of hemispheric importance. The Delmarva Peninsula supports 7-10 million birds in fall migration annually. The lack of sufficient food and shelter in the Virginia portion creates an energy deficit for birds attempting to cross the Chesapeake Bay; this project could double the food resources available to migrating birds in this region. Virginia’s Eastern Shore continues to be a destination for outdoor recreation, and the addition of this acreage to the public land portfolio will substantially expand opportunities for wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, hiking, and more. Project partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited and The Conservation Fund.

Grant Awards: FY20 \$292,287; FY21 \$421,875. **Expected payment:** \$714,162. **Match:** \$7,442,830: Several DWR funding sources, Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration funds, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Coastal Wetlands Conservation and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants.

Withdrawn VLCF Grant Projects

Five grant projects have been withdrawn since the Board's last meeting.

1. Piedmont Environmental Council – **Farmland Conservation at the Crossroads of Old Fredericksburg Road (FY2020)**

This project aimed to permanently protect the 348-acre Madden Farm, located in the Chancellorsville Battlefield Study Area in eastern Culpeper County, with an NRCS Agricultural Land Easement co-held by PEC and Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District.

Grant Award: \$300,000. **Note:** This project is no longer viable because the landowner changed their mind and decided to lease the property for commercial solar development.

2. Department of Conservation and Recreation – **Pickett's Harbor Natural Area Preserve – Lake Allure Woods (FY2021 Round II)**

DCR's Natural Heritage Division sought to purchase a 44-acre open-space easement to protect high ecological value, mature maritime forests that adjoin Pickett's Harbor Natural Area Preserve and the largest natural lake known on the Eastern Shore.

Grant Award: \$142,298. **Note:** This project was withdrawn because the landowner changed her mind and is no longer willing to pursue the project.

3. Campbell County Training School Complex, Inc. – **CCTSC Restoration Project (FY2022)**

The Campbell County Training School Complex includes a Historic Rosenwald School and is located in Rustburg. CCTSC was awarded a VLCF grant to help protect this historic nine-acre property with an easement, held by the Board of Historic Resources.

Grant Award: \$138,150. **Note:** This project was withdrawn because the landowners received other funding in the state budget and no longer needed the VLCF funds.

4. Department of Conservation and Recreation – **Dendron Swamp Natural Area Preserve Addition (FY2022)**

DCR's Natural Heritage Division received VLCF funds to acquire 102 acres in Sussex County adjoining the 636-acre preserve. 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.

Grant Award: \$300,000. **Note:** This project was withdrawn because the landowner rejected DCR's purchase offer as too low.

5. Department of Conservation and Recreation – **Mill Creek Springs Natural Area Preserve Expansion (FY2023)**

DCR’s Natural Heritage Division received \$665,140 in funding to support acquisition of a key addition to Mill Creek Springs Natural Area Preserve in Montgomery County. The 318-acre tract would have enhanced DCR’s ability to protect additional natural heritage resources and provided ecological buffers for the existing Preserve.

Grant Award: \$665,140; **Note:** This project was withdrawn because the landowner rejected DCR’s purchase offer as too low.

Summary of Open VLCF Grants

There are currently two open grants from the FY20 VLCF grant round.

There are seven open grants from the FY21 grant round.

There are nine grants that remain open from the FY21 Round II grant round.

For the FY22 grant round, 20 of the 30 grants originally awarded are open.

The FY23 grant round, where 39 grants were awarded, now has 36 open grants.

Currently, we are managing a total of 74 open grants with a total value of \$21,925,216.

**VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
GRANT FUNDING PLAN FOR FY24**

May 16, 2023

FUNDING CATEGORIES		FY23/24 Budget Bill Chapter 2, Item 375 A.1. (2022)*	Unspent Grant Funds to be Approved & Reallocated	TOTAL Available for Grant Round
1.	I. VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25% per § 10.1-1020 C.)	\$4,000,000		
2.	II. Grant Program			
3.	(i) Farmland Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$300,000	\$2,700,000
4.	(ii) Forest Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$0	\$2,400,000
5.	(iii) Historic Area Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$69,075	\$2,469,075
6.	(iv) Natural Area Protection	\$2,400,000	\$1,782,667	\$4,182,667
7.	(v) Open Space and Parks	\$2,400,000	\$0	\$2,400,000
TOTAL		\$16,000,000		\$14,151,742

Summary of Additional Unspent Grant Funds

Farmland Preservation	\$300,000	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY20 Piedmont Environmental Council, Crossroads of Old Fredericksburg Road \$300,000 .
Forest Preservation	\$0	
Historic Area Preservation	\$69,075	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY22 Campbell Co. Training School Complex Restoration Project \$69,075 .
Natural Area Protection	\$1,782,667	<u>Unexpended Remainder:</u> FY20 DCR-DNH Crow's Nest NAP Addtn \$58,513 ; FY20 DCR-DNH Cypress Bridge Swamp NAP Addtn \$12,966 <u>Withdrawn:</u> FY21RII DCR-DNH Pickett's Harbor NAP-Lake Allure Woods \$142,298 ; FY22 DCR-DNH Dendron Swamp NAP Addtn \$300,000 ; FY23 DCR-DNH Mill Creek Springs NAP Expansion \$665,140 <u>Revised Scope:</u> FY21 DCR-DNH, Southside VA Conservation & Recreation Complex \$603,750 .
Open Space and Parks	\$0	

*Pending finalization of the FY24 state budget.

Item 375 of Chapter 2 of the 2022 Virginia Acts of Assembly Special Session I

A.1. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$16,000,000 the first year and \$16,000,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia. No less than 50 percent of the appropriations remaining after the transfer to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust fund has been satisfied are to be used for grants for fee simple acquisitions with public access or acquisitions of easements with public access. This appropriation shall be deemed sufficient to meet the provisions of § 2.2-1509.4, Code of Virginia. [**Grant Funds**]

2. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$1,500,000 the first year and \$1,500,000 the second year from nongeneral funds to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund to be distributed by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation pursuant to the provisions of § 58.1-513, Code of Virginia. [**Stewardship Funds**]

Proposed FY24 VLCF Grant Schedule

May 16, 2023	VLCF Board meeting to approve grant manual and initiate the grant round request for proposals (RFP).
Week of May 16, 2023	Announce official opening of grant round (update website and send emails).
Week of June 5, 2023	Virtual Grant Workshop: orientation and program information for grant applicants.
Friday, August 18, 2023	Deadline for application submittal. (12 weeks)
Weeks of September 11 and 25, 2023	Interagency taskforce meetings to score projects and finalize recommendations- usually takes two meetings.
Early October 2023	SNR and Director's review of applications and recommendations of IAT.
Mid October 2023	VLCF Board meeting. Approval of grant awards.
By end of November 2023	Grant agreements sent to grant recipients. Projects have two years to close.