

**Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
Wednesday, March 20, 2019
Claytor Lake State Park
Dublin, Virginia**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board convened at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at the Water's Edge Meeting Facility at Claytor Lake State Park in Dublin, Virginia.

VIRGINIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard A. Street, Chair	Janette Kennedy
Barry L. Marten, Vice Chair	Charles Newton
Mario Albritton	Cindy Smith
Chuck Arnason	Adam Wilson
Gray Coyner	Clyde Cristman, DCR Director, Ex Officio

VIRGINIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

John A. Bricker, NRCS, Ex Officio
Dan Goerlich, VCE, Invitee

DCR STAFF PRESENT

Russell W. Baxter, Deputy Director, Soil and Water Conservation/Dam Safety and Floodplain Management
Isaac Sarver, Deputy Director for Board and Constituent Services
David Bryan, Agricultural Incentives Program Manager
Michael Fletcher, Board and Constituent Services Liaison
Darryl M. Glover, Director, Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Blair Gordon, SWCD Liaison
Wendy Howard-Cooper, Acting Director, Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management
Lisa McGee, Policy Director
Scott Thomas, Dam Safety Engineer
Christine Watlington, Policy and Regulatory Coordinator
Matthew Gooch, Office of the Attorney General

OTHERS PRESENT

Chip Jones, VASWCD
Matt Kowalski, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Martha Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau
Lucia Street

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

With nine (9) members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Street called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5, 2018**BOARD ACTION**

Mr. Arnason moved that the minutes of the December 5, 2018 meeting of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board be approved as submitted. Mr. Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Clyde E. Cristman, DCR Director*

Mr. Cristman noted that spring would arrive at 5:36 p.m. He also advised that the United Nation's General Assembly had declared March 20 to be "World Happiness Day."

Mr. Cristman gave an overview of General Assembly Budget and Legislative Actions.

Budget amendments for Agricultural Cost-Share Program

- **FY2019 Supplemental funding for SL-6L backlog: \$5,884,000**
 - Outside the Bay watershed: \$4,600,000
 - Within the Bay watershed: \$608,000
 - Technical Assistance: \$676,000

- **FY2020 WQIF Deposit \$73,757,699**
 - Carve-outs
 - CREP (split equally): \$2,000,000
 - VCAP: \$1,000,000
 - Nonpoint source projects: \$750,000 (Poultry litter and RMPs)
 - Department of Forestry: \$500,000
 - WQIF deposit: \$8,288,850
 - Natural Resources Commitment Fund \$61,218,849
 - Within the Bay: \$37,282,279
 - Outside the Bay: \$15,978,120
 - Technical Assistance: \$7,958,450

- **Recordation revenue appropriation of \$10 million**
 - Increased technical assistance funding provided with recordation revenue from \$1,200,000 to \$1,300,000 for FY2020

Budget amendments related to Dam Safety

- Increased appropriation for Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund to \$732,147 for FY2020 (an increase of \$267,853)
- Installation of remote monitoring equipment for District-owned high and significant hazard dams - \$400,000
- Provided \$5.0 million for College Lake Dam in Lynchburg
- Independent study for Cherrystone and Roaring Fork Dams - \$100,000

Legislation

- The General Assembly approved the resolutions honoring the Clean Water Farm Award recipients (HJ980)
- Governor's appointments to the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board were confirmed for: (SJ295)
 - Charles Newton (Area I representative)
 - Adam Wilson (Area IV representative)

AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – *Barry L. Marten, Subcommittee Chair*

Mr. Marten gave the report from the Audit Subcommittee meeting.

The Subcommittee reviewed the audit results from the 22 Districts with audits ending June 2018. Four Districts were identified with notable deficiencies. Those Districts are Tri-County City SWCD, Virginia Dare SWCD, Big Walker SWCD, and New River SWCD.

Tri-County/City and Virginia Dare will be issued letters requiring the submission of corrective action plans to the Department no later than June 30 2019. Big Walker and New River have significant findings; however, both have submitted letters indicating corrective actions they have already taken. They will be required to provide documentation of the actions already taken to ensure that appropriate procedures are in place.

Tri-County/City, Virginia Dare, and Big Walker will be required to undergo special one-year audits. Assuming New River is able to provide requested documentation, that District will not be required to have a special audit.

Ms. Watlington advised that the Department would be issuing an RFP for an auditing firm to conduct the next round of audits. This is required every three years.

DAM SAFETY AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Division Report – Wendy Howard-Cooper, Acting Director, Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management

Ms. Howard-Cooper gave the following report.

Priorities for the Division

- Ensure Emergency Action Plans and Inspection Reports for all high hazard dams are recorded in the Dam Safety Inventory System (DSIS).
- Bring dams of regulatory size with unknown hazard class under certificate.
- Bring dams with expired operation and maintenance certificates back under certificate.
- Review agricultural exempt dams of regulatory size with expired exemptions to make determinations about continued exemptions.
- Further, promote flooding awareness and the need for flood insurance through various media.
- Respond to the requirements of the Governor's Executive Order 24.

Dam Failures and Incidents

From January 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019, there were eighteen reported dam failures and incidents. Almost forty percent of those failures or incidents were of high hazard dams, with another twenty-eight percent from dams with an unknown hazard classification. A detailed report has been provided.

Hazard Classification	Number of Failures/Incidents	Percent
High	7	39%
Significant	1	6%
Low	3	17%
Low-Special	1	6%
Not Regulated by DCR	1	6%
Unknown	5	28%
Total	18	100%

Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund

- Application period opened January 2, 2019 and closes March 29, 2019.
- At the direct of the Board, DCR will review applications for missing components and provide applicants a period of time to correct deficiencies prior to the start of grant reviews.
- \$1,000,000 is available for grants
 - Up to \$400,000 for Flood Prevention and Protection
 - At least \$600,000 for Dam Safety
- Statewide training was conducted during February to ensure dam owners and localities understood requirements of the program.
- Training also included breakout sessions for Dam Owner 101, Dam Safety Inventory System and Floodplain Management.

Training occurred as follows:

Region	Date	Location	Dam Safety	Floodplains	Total
Southwest	2/5/2019	Natural Tunnel State Park	1	16	17
West	2/6/2019	Claytor Lake State Park	5	11	16
Northeast	2/13/2019	Westmoreland State Park	12	7	19
Central	2/19/2019	Department of Forestry	28	20	48
Central	2/25/2019	Pocahontas State Park	14	30	44
East	2/28/2019	First Landing State Park	13	12	25
Total Attendees			73	96	169

Dam Safety Inventory System

- Scanning of documents for high hazard dams in Regions 1, 2 and 3 of the state is complete. This covers the north, southeastern, and eastern parts of the state.
- Scanning for Region 4 has begun (southwest) and Region 5 (central and northwest) is slated to begin soon. One of our scanning staff accepted another job and this would slow the process until we hire a replacement. Scanning will begin for significant hazard dams after the completion of Region 5.
- DSIS went live for public use in June 2018. As of March 1, 2019 there are 224 non-DCR users enrolled in the system up from 81 in September.
- As a result of the statewide training, February had the largest single month DSIS signup to date.

Floodplain Management

Governor Northam proclaimed the first Virginia Flood Awareness Week as March 10-16, 2019. On March 11, 2019, DCR was joined by the Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, VDEM, the SCC, and the City of Richmond at the Richmond floodwall to provide citizens information about flood risk and flood insurance. Free tours of the floodwall were offered to the public.

Approval of Dam Safety Pilot Project

Ms. Howard-Cooper reviewed the Dam Safety and Floodplain Management Local Government Pilot Project.

There are more than 3,000 dams in the Commonwealth; many were constructed 50 years ago or longer. More than 2,000 of these dams are regulated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the majority are privately owned by individuals, families, and homeowners associations or other common interest communities. Approximately 71 percent (1,046) of regulated dams in the Commonwealth are privately owned. Of these 1,046 dams, 17 percent (178) are classified as High or Significant Hazard meaning they pose the greatest risk to public safety and the lives and property of the citizens of the Commonwealth, Another 66 percent have an unknown hazard classification and may include a large number of High or Significant Hazard Dams. As reported in the division's update, during the period from January 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019, there were 18 reported dam incidents and failures. Not all incidents and failures were to privately owned dams, but 45 percent of those failures were related to High or Significant Hazard Dams.

In an effort to address the priorities of the Board and the agency to bring dams of regulatory size with unknown hazard class under certificate, ensure emergency action plans and inspection reports for all high hazard dams are recorded in the Dam Safety Inventory System (DSIS), and further promote flooding awareness, DCR proposes to establish a Pilot Project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District (USACE) to perform initial assessments of all known dams of regulatory size within a selected locality or localities. After initial assessments, dams will be prioritized for inspections, dam break inundation zone mapping, emergency action plans, and, where the dam resides in a special flood hazard area, flood inundation zone mapping. All studies and mapping will be performed by the USACE.

The Corps, through the Planning Assistance to States Program (PAS), is provided authority to assist the states, local governments, and other non-federal entities by performing studies such as dam safety/failure studies, flood damage reduction studies and floodplain management studies. These studies are cost shared on a 50 percent Federal and 50 percent non-Federal basis and may include 100 percent work in kind.

Localities would be required to coordinate with dam owners to gain cooperation for the Pilot Project. This may require community meetings, which would include DCR and USACE explaining the process and gaining the trust of the community. In some instances, localities may be required to provide funding upfront to meet PAS program requirements until reimbursed by DCR from the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund (Fund) or DCR may be required to advance funding from the Fund. Strategies are being discussed to minimize the impact to local budgets. There should be no final cost to either the local government or the dam owner.

While DCR has been able to fund certain engineering, planning, and other activities through the Fund (§10.1-603.16 et. seq.), many private dam owners do not have the resources to provide the required 50 percent cost share. Through this Pilot Project, funding strategies will be tiered to better leverage resources. This will allow a portion of federal dollars to be matched with in-kind services from the locality and a portion to be matched with dollars allocated from the Fund. If DCR contracted for these services on its own, the Fund would carry 100 percent of the cost.

DCR has preliminarily selected Southampton County and the City of Franklin for the Pilot Project (Project). Currently there are thirteen known dams in these localities, eleven with an unknown hazard class, and all thirteen are without inspections, dam break inundation zone maps, emergency action plans, or operation and maintenance certificates. If DCR is unable to obtain cooperation from a majority of dam owners, another locality will be selected.

Once these studies have been completed, DCR will use the appropriate studies to seek additional funding from any available source, Federal and non-Federal, to make the necessary repairs and/or upgrades to these dams.

BOARD ACTION

Mr. Coyner moved the following:

The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board approves the use of up to \$300,000 from the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund for the Dam Safety and Floodplain Management Local Government Pilot Project. The Board grants the Department of Conservation and Recreation the authority to administer the Project and to enter into any agreements, contracts and memorandums of agreements or understandings necessary to administer the Project.

Mr. Arnason seconded and the motion carried.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DIVISION

Division Report – Darryl Glover, Director, Division of Soil and Water Conservation

Mr. Glover gave the following report:

Livestock Stream Exclusion Update

As noted in the FY2020 state budget, the remaining 105 PY15 pending SL-6 livestock stream exclusion practices have been appropriated \$5.2M to complete them statewide under the 100% cost reimbursement initiative. The eight affected Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are Big Walker, Monacan, Mountain Castles, Patrick, Peter Francisco, Pittsylvania, Robert E. Lee, and Southside. They have been asked by the Department to provide updated cost estimates by April 2, and will be asked to sign a supplemental grant agreement, which will be presented to you for your approval in April, and return it to the Department no later than June 30, 2019. These SWCDs will have until June 30, 2021 to complete these remaining SL-6 BMPs.

Resource Management Plan Program Update

The Department continues to explore ways to increase Resource Management Plan (RMP) Implementation and certification. A new pilot project is proposed in Northern Neck SWCD. With your approval, approximately \$400,000 from the special appropriation in the FY 2020 state budget for RMPs, poultry litter transport, and other water quality projects, will be set aside for this project in May. All currently approved RMPs in the Northern Neck SWCD would be eligible to receive funding to implement all of the agronomic BMPs included in these RMPs for one year. RMP Technical Assistance (in place of Operational Support) for the SWCD for certification in inspections, and a payment to participating producers equal to that for the RMP-2 certification practice will also be included in this project. The Northern Neck SWCD Board met on March 13 and signed onto this project, pending your concurrence. The Department will also propose \$100,000 in RMP contracts in FY 2020 for development and certification outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Whole Farm Approach Pilot Project

At your meeting in December 2018, you approved a Whole Farm Approach pilot project in Three Rivers SWCD. The District will soon schedule pre-signup for this project. Later today, we shall propose a new BMP specification and provide the draft grant agreement for your review that will more easily enable implementation and tracking of participants in this pilot project.

Conservation Planning Certification Training

Several of the required in-person classes are being scheduled, beginning this summer and continuing through early 2020. Soil and Water Conservation District staff that are already enrolled in the DCR certification training curriculum will have their seats automatically reserved unless they individually decline to attend a particular class.

Table 1. DCR Conservation Planning Certification Class Schedule

Nutrient Management Soil Science	July and December annually	DCR	Register when scheduled
VA Rare, Threatened, Endangered	September and October 2018	DNH/DGIF	Completed
VA Cultural and Historical	September and October 2018	DHR	Completed
RUSLE 2	July and August 2019	NRCS	SWCD staff list provided
Pesticide Management Orientation	In development for on-line, Fall 2019	VA Tech	Register when available
VACS Program	August 2019 (at Graves Mt.)	DCR	Register via VACDE
Perennial Stream Identification	September and October 2019	VIMS	SWCD staff list provided
Conservation Selling Skills	November 2019	Private	SWCD staff list provided

Virginia Water Concerns	Under development	DEQ	Register when scheduled
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We are also planning to offer the DCR Conservation Planning Program course late winter-early spring 2020. As further details are confirmed, they will be shared with Districts and VACDE.

Equine Workgroup

The Workgroup of the Agricultural BMP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on March 12 at the Madison County Extension Office. Two sub-committees were formed: (1) to bring back language to the full subcommittee to modify the eligibility definition for VACS to clarify that larger equine operations are eligible for VACS funding, and if they meet District secondary considerations, could be funded. Martha Moore (VA Farm Bureau) is chair of this sub-subcommittee and will consult with DCR-DSWC about existing agricultural cost share policies for horse operations; (2) to develop a recommendation to the full subcommittee for a Virginia Conservation Assistance Program-like pilot project to address smaller equine operations, including "hobby-horse" land owners. Amanda Pennington (DCR-DSWC) is chair of this sub-subcommittee. The main issue for this group to consider is whether to allow those larger horse operations that could qualify for agricultural cost-share (if the full TAC and the VSWCB were to approve an eligibility language change) to also be eligible for this pilot project. The Workgroup has not yet addressed appropriate horse stocking rates or how best to continue to provide education about proper horse pasture management, such as the very successful Healthy Land for Healthy Horses workshops that DCR, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and handful of Soil and Water Conservation Districts partnered on in both 2017 and 2018.

The full Agricultural BMP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will reconvene in early July, primarily to continue working on suggestions received last year that need to either be developed further and/or require additional discussion before a consensus recommendation from the TAC can be voted on. The Department will notify all of last year's TAC members in early April regarding meeting dates and locations. TAC subcommittees will also each receive a list of topics to discuss and are encouraged to meet before the full TAC reconvenes.

Chesapeake Bay WIP III

All Districts with Chesapeake drainage either submitted agricultural BMP input decks for Watershed Implementation Plan Phase III (WIP III) projecting additional BMPs that can be implemented by year 2025, or opted to commit to WIP II BMP implementation targets. DEQ evaluated the input decks and concluded that 73% of the total combined reductions for nitrogen and phosphorus could be achieved by what was nine but is now ten Bay Districts: Eastern Shore, Culpeper, Hanover-Caroline, Headwaters, Lord Fairfax, Northern Neck, Robert E. Lee, Shenandoah Valley, Three Rivers, and recently added Thomas Jefferson.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the SWCDs with Chesapeake Bay drainage, taken as a whole, the WIP III SWCD BMP input decks did not meet the earlier WIP II nutrient reductions. Consequently, decisions were made at the state level to significantly increase the number of agricultural nutrient management plan acres, both core and precision; to significantly increase cover crop acres; and to significantly increase poultry litter transport. By year 2025 nearly 90,000 tons/year of poultry litter, both from Rockingham and Page counties in the Valley area, and for the first time by the Department, from Accomack County on the Eastern Shore, needs to be transported. The aforementioned line item in the FY 2020 state budget for poultry litter transport will greatly assist this effort.

In order to ensure that these SWCDs receive adequate cost share and technical assistance even in the event of financial downturn at any time before 2025, the Department is proposing changes to cost share/technical assistance allocation and reallocation policies in FY 2020, in that: (1) each of these ten Bay SWCDs receive additional cost share and technical assistance, via either supplemental funding added to their regular allocation or a pilot project that will contribute to meeting Chesapeake Bay year 2025 nutrient reduction goals; and (2) 100% of all end of FY 2019 and 2020 unobligated cost share and technical assistance funds within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, will be reallocated to these 10 Bay SWCDs.

Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District's FY2020 Budget – Christine Watlington, Policy and Regulatory Coordinator

Ms. Watlington presented the request from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District for the approval of the Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District FY2020 Budget.

§ 10.1-626. Levy of tax or service charge; when district in two or more counties or cities; landbooks certified to treasurers.

A. On or before March 1 of each year, the trustees of the watershed improvement district shall make an estimate of the amount of money they deem necessary to be raised for the year in such district (i) for operating expenses and interest payments and (ii) for amortization of debt, and, after approval by the directors of the soil and water conservation district or districts, and the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, shall establish the tax rate or service charge rate necessary to raise such amount of money. The tax rate or service charge rate to be applied against the amount determined under subsection C or D of this section shall be determined before the date fixed by law for the determination of the general levy by the governing body of the counties or cities in which the district is situated.

BOARD ACTION

Mr. Coyner moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board approve the Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District FY2020 budget as submitted by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and presented by the Department. Mr. Arnason seconded and the motion carried.

AGRICULTURAL BMP COST-SHARE MANUAL AMENDMENTS

Director Cristman gave an overview of recommended changes to the Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Manual.

- Nearly 190 suggestions were received
 - Because of the volume of suggestions, each suggestion was assigned to 1 of 6 TAC subcommittees:
 - Animal Waste
 - Cover Crop
 - Forestry
 - Nutrient Management
 - Programmatic
 - Stream Protection
- 4 full TAC meetings were held (September, November, December, and January)

- Subcommittees met in between full TAC meetings and several continue to meet now in preparation for the upcoming TAC cycle this summer
- Established an Equine Workgroup in December to focus on horse pasture management

Participation

- Over 80 people participated
- 68 voting members
- Average of 61 people attended each full TAC meeting
- 18 Districts (several had multiple representatives participating)
- 8 representatives of agricultural and forestry industries (includes Association of SWCDs)
- 4 nonprofits
- 5 state agencies
- 2 federal agencies
- 14 DCR staff members

Director Cristman noted the following:

- Each recommendation to the Board represents a significant amount of time and effort from both each TAC subcommittee and the full TAC
- In recognition of that time and effort, there is a hesitancy to ignore the suggestions endorsed by the TAC or to overrule the TAC
- We have received additional suggestions recently related primarily to participant caps
- Participant caps will be discussed again during this year's upcoming TAC cycle
- Specific BMP suggestions will be assigned to the appropriate subcommittee

Specific recommendations endorsed by the TAC were presented to the Board. All suggestions that were tabled by the TAC or are still being discussed at the subcommittee level were also presented to the Board. Specific recommendations related to the work of the stream protection subcommittee were discussed in detail.

Mr. Marten asked why the number of feet was not included in the stream exclusion example.

Ms. Watlington replied that this item would depend upon how the Board wants to structure practices. Internal staff discussions have noted that if the TAC subcommittee recommendations were followed, there were 22 individual specifications. Staff recommended that this be simplified to two BMP specifications for both the SL-6 and WP-2; one specification for buffers below 35 feet and one specification addressing buffers of 35 feet and above. Simplifying the specifications in this way would keep the subcommittee's intent. She noted that it would be helpful to staff if the Board would agree in concept to the idea of combining the specifications. Consensus of the Board was to agree to this simplification.

Ms. Watlington advised that this item would be brought back to the Board at the April meeting for review and approval. The Board was reminded that all the recommended revisions to the Manual for the upcoming year had now been presented to the Board. She asked that any questions or concerns be directed to Mr. Fletcher.

District Director Resignations and Appointments – Christine Watlington

Ms. Watlington presented the recommended District Director Resignations and Appointments.

Eastern Shore

Resignation of Ms. Theresa Pittman, of Accomack County, effective 1/16/2019, VCE appointed director position (term of office expires 12/31/2021).

Recommendation of Ms. Ursula Deitch, of Northampton County, to fill unexpired VCE appointed director term of Ms. Theresa Pittman (term of office to begin on 4/1/2018 – 12/31/2021).

Recommendation of Mr. Nicholas Thomas, of Accomack County, to fill the vacant at-large appointed director position (term of office to begin on 4/1/19 – 12/31/2022).

Thomas Jefferson

Resignation of Ms. Mistie Goodman, of Louisa County, effective 6/27/2018, elected director position (term of office expires 12/31/2019).

Recommendation of Mr. Stephen Lucas, of Louisa County, to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Mistie Goodman (term of office to begin on 4/1/19 – 12/31/2019).

Three Rivers

Recommendation of Mr. Robert Longest, of Essex County, to fill the vacant VCE appointed director position (term of office to being 4/1/19 – 12/31/2022).

BOARD ACTION

Mr. Coyner moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board accept the District Director resignations and approve the appointments as submitted by staff. Mr. Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

Review of FY2019 SL-6 Supplemental Grants – Director Cristman

Director Cristman noted that the funds in the table below are recommended in the Appropriations Act. The General Assembly will reconvene on April 3 to consider the final budget. These numbers will not be finalized until the Governor signs the final budget.

Total Estimated Cost Share Payment			
District	Number of BMPS	Estimated Funding Needed	Total Estimated Cost Share Payment
Big Walker	13	\$1,079,576.00	0
Monacan	12	\$521,324.55	0
Mountain Castles	1	\$111,341.20	0

Patrick	10	\$321,950.00	0
Peter Francisco	2	\$86,616.25	0
Pittsylvania	16	\$583,559.50	0
Robert E. Lee	29	\$1,680,830.50	0
Southside	22	\$795,082.43	0
	105	\$5,180,280.43	0

Pilot Project with Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District – Christine Watlington

Ms. Watlington reviewed the grant agreement and specifications related to the Whole Farm Approach Pilot Project. The agreement with Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District will become effective on June 1, 2019. The Board approved funding for this concept at the December 5, 2018.

This pilot will collect data from producers for every conservation practice they are implementing or installing on their lands. The payment rates for each practice are established in the WFA specification. If there is inadequate funding to fully fund every practice, each participant will be compensated at a certain percentage. Ensuring every participant is funded at some level may assist with increasing participation with smaller producers. T

REVIEW OF BOARD BYLAWS – *Lisa McGee, Policy Director*

Ms. McGee presented recommended revisions to the Board Bylaws. She noted that the Bylaws were last revised in 2013. She advised that the document was provided for Board review and for possible action at the April meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PARTNER REPORTS

Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Chip Jones, VASWCD President reported that the Association was in the midst of area meetings. He noted the following scheduled events.

- April 4 Quarterly VASWCD Board meeting
Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, Glen Allen
- May 1 Association Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament
- June 24-25 Summer retreat at Graves Mountain Lodge

December 8-10 Annual Meeting at the Norfolk Sheraton

Virginia Farm Bureau

Martha Moore from the Virginia Farm Bureau complimented Mr. Glover and the Department for the BMP TAC process. She commended the fair process and noted that partner concerns were being addressed.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Mr. Kowalski from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation commented that he appreciated that DCR opened up the TAC process to a wide range of participants. He noted the following events:

June 1 Clean the Bay Day

June 4 Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, details are forthcoming.

COIA/FOIA TRAINING – *Matthew Gooch, Office of the Attorney General*

Mr. Gooch provided the annual COIA/FOIA training for the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

NEXT MEETINGS

- April 24, 2019 – Virginia Horse Center, Lexington
- May 22, 2019 – Swift Creek Dining Hall, Pocahontas State Park, Chesterfield

ADJOURN

There was no additional business and the meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.