

**LORD FAIRFAX SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES**  
**Strasburg Community Center**  
**January 23, 2020**

<b>Directors Present</b>		<b>County</b>
Burkholder, Paul	Winchester City	
Childs, Corey	Extension Agent	
Comanor, Joan	County of Shenandoah	
Fagan, James	County of Shenandoah	
Gaither, Kermit	County of Frederick	
Gessner, Mary	County of Shenandoah	
Hockman-Nicholas, Kitty	County of Frederick	
Hoover, Richard	County of Warren	
Mackay-Smith, Justin	County of Clarke	
Richards, Ira	County of Warren	
Simpson, HB	Winchester City	
Webb, Wayne	County of Clarke	
<b>Directors Absent</b>		<b>County</b>
Burkholder, Paul	Winchester City	
<b>Associate Directors</b>		<b>County</b>
Martin, Jim	County of Warren	
Nagelvoort, Bud	County of Clarke	
<b>Associate Directors Absent</b>		<b>County</b>
Bushong, Jason	County of Shenandoah	
Walls, Marietta	County of Frederick	
<b>Volunteers Absent</b>		<b>County</b>
Dibenedetto, Vincent	Winchester City	
Stanford, Rick	County of Shenandoah	
<b>Staff Absent</b>		
Livesay, Nick	LFSWCD Conservation Specialist	
Truban, Sam	LFSWCD Conservation Specialist	
<b>Staff Present</b>		<b>Affiliation</b>
Campbell, Amanda	LFSWCD Administrative Assistant	
Gochenour, Dana	LFSWCD Sr. Conservation Specialist	
Ponn, Allyson	LFSWCD Education & Program Support Specialist	
Sloop, Alison	LFSWCD Conservation Specialist	
Brezinski, Brian	NRCS	
Cross, Debbie	DCR	

Meeting called to order at 10:0

**Minutes: Motion made to approve the minutes as distributed. (Simpson, Gessner, motion passed)**

**Chair's Report:**

The Chair introduced J. Kermit Gaither, Frederick County's new director. The District is planning an hour's briefing on what the District does and who does what. Debbie Cross added that she too will be giving a briefing and would like to combine her briefing with the District. She gave Dana several dates that she is available.

Hoover discussed the letter the District received from Russ Baxter, DCR Deputy Director of Dam Safety & Floodplain Management & Soil & Water Conservation. The District must have 90 percent of cost share obligated in order to retain full TA funds at the end of the year. As of now we are at 41 percent.

VCAP public feedback discussed.

The Chair has not received any 2020 requests for committee membership assignments and reassignments.

Jim Fagan reported that four directors attended Legislative Day. They met with all delegates and legislative staff. It was a productive day. Don Wells puts together a tracking report. Well over 1,000 bills were presented this year.

Comanor added that the VASWCD Legislative Agenda is developed at the annual meeting in December.

Hoover reported that he will be presenting the District's budget requests next week to the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim Martin reported that the bank and credit card statements have not been reviewed as of this report. The audit is scheduled for February 3th. Campbell requested that it be rescheduled for February 19th.

**LFSWCD Reports:**

**Senior Conservation Specialist Report:** Gochenour had nothing to add to her writ report. Staff will be attending a Virginia Forage & Grassland Conference tomorrow.

**Conservation Specialist Report:** Truban was absent from the meeting.

**Conservation Specialist Report:** Sloop had nothing to add to her written report.

**Conservation Specialist Report:** Livesay was absent from the meeting.

**Contractor for Conservation Services Report:** Ferguson submitted a written report.

**Education & Program Support Specialist:** Ponn reported that she spent December checking cover crops, planning the Envirothon and Awards luncheon. The Envirothon will be held April 15<sup>th</sup> at Sherando Park.

**Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley:** Comanor reported that the Alliance is recruiting 2 full time positions. The Board meets next on January 23.

**Alternate Funding Committee:** Richards had nothing to report.

**Conservation Easement Committee:** Richards reported that he has been out of the loop with easements. Hoover gave an update on the Cuddeback Easement.

**Conservation Technical Committee:** Gessner reported that the tech committee approved 2 new projects (SL-8H and SL-11 – 2020 VACS) and 3 project increases (SL-6 - 2015 VACS, SL-6W and SL-8B - 2020 VACS).

**Motion made to approve 3 project increases and 2 new projects. Gessner, Hockman-Nicholas, motion passed. Webb opposed.**

Mary reported that Shenandoah County has a new planner, who recently reached out to LFSWCD, asking us to provide comments on two Special Use Applications (SUP) during the agency comment period. Although LFSWCD used to provide Erosion and Sediment Control reviews for several jurisdictions, this would be a new practice for us. Both applications request approval for uses that are not allowed by-right on land zoned agricultural. One parcel is on the North Fork of the Shenandoah and the other is on Smith Creek and both are currently in agricultural use. After discussion, it was agreed that in lieu of providing comments on these or future SUPs, we would let the planner know that we are available to provide technical assistance as requested. Corey Childs suggested opting out of the request.

**Dam Safety Committee:** Fagan reported on the Dam Owners Workshop meeting. He gave an update of the joint procurement contract. Money is in the state budget to get remote monitoring. A 20 million bond issue is in the Governor's budget for dam repairs.

**Education & Information Committee:** Comanor reported that the committee will meet following the board meeting to review the annual work plan and determine any adjustments needed.

**Finance Committee:** Webb had nothing to add to his written report. Comanor added that Shenandoah County's budget is at 1 pm on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Legislative Committee:** Fagan had nothing additional to report.

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission:** Webb had nothing to add to his written report.

**Operations Committee:** Justin Mackay-Smith reported that he needs to hear from Committee Chairs for mid-year review.

**Personnel Committee:** Simpson reviewed the committee minutes. He reviewed the Personnel Policy and time sheet.

**Motion made that change be approved. (Comanor, Gessner, the motion passed).**

The Personnel Committee minutes will be brought back next month for approval.

Comanor reviewed the VA. Association for Biological Farming.

**Shenandoah County Water Resources Advisory Committee:** Comanor had nothing to report.

**Shenandoah Pure Water Forum:** Hoover discussed funding available for 2020 projects.

**Urban BMP Committee:** Hockman-Nicholas had nothing to report.

**Agency Reports**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service:** Brezinski discussed the office rent. (5 year extension)

**Dept. of Conservation & Recreation:** Debbie Cross reviewed her written report.

**Virginia Dept. of Forestry:** No written report submitted.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension:** Corey Childs reported that jurisdictions need to have individuals registered for herbicide trainings.

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation:** No written report submitted.

**Department of Environmental Quality:** Written report submitted by Sara Bottenfield.

**Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 (Webb, Simpson, motion passed)**

**Respectfully submitted,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda G. Kempbell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Secretary**

**2/13/2020  
Approved**