



We work with the people who work the land.

722-B East Queen Street
Strasburg, VA 22657
(540) 465-2424, Ext. 5
www.lfswcd.org

September 9, 2021

MINUTES

The August LFSWCD Board of Director's Meeting was held, in person, at the Strasburg Town Park Rotary Pavilion located on Park Road, Strasburg, VA 22657.

Those attending were:

LFSWCD Directors and Associate Directors

Richard Hoover, Chairman
Joan Comanor, Vice Chairwoman
Justin Mackay-Smith
HB Simpson
James Fagan
Ira Richards
Paul Burkholder
Wayne Webb
Bud Nagelvoort
Kermit Gaither
Corey Childs

LFSWCD Staff Members

Dana Gochenour
Nick Livesay
Alison Sloop
Sarah Fleming
Madison Coffey

Absent Directors or Staff:

Mary Gessner
Allyson Ponn
Sam Truban
Sheryl Ferguson

Cooperating Agency Representatives in Attendance:

Brent Barriteau, USDA, Natural Conservation Service
Debbie Dross, CDC/DCR

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hoover at 10:00 am.

- Approval of August 2021 Minutes

Motion made to approve the August 2021 minutes. Motion made by Joan Comanor, seconded by Kitty Hockman-Nicolas. Motion Passed. Voting Ballot is as follows. * Mary Gessner was absent from the Board Meeting at time of vote.



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| Name | Yes | No | Abstain | Name | Yes | No | Abstain |
|----------------|-----|----|---------|------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| Richard Hoover | X | | | Kermit Gaither | X | | |
| Joan Comanor | X | | | Kitty Hockman-Nicholas | X | | |
| Ira Richards | X | | | HB Simpson | X | | |
| Corey Childs | X | | | Paul Burkholder | X | | |
| *Mary Gessner | | | | Justin MacKay-Smith | X | | |
| James Fagan | X | | | Wayne Webb | X | | |

Chairman's Report:

- Alison Sloop has notified the District she will be leaving as of October 8, 2021. Chairman Hoover thanked her for her tenure with the LFSWCD and wisher her well on her new position.
- Chairman Hoover thanked Joan and Staff for their presentation at the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors meeting held Tuesday, August 24, 2021.
- Directors (Burkholder, Hoover, Simpson) as well as Staff (Dana G & Ally P.) meet with the Winchester Parks & Rec Director; Christopher Konyar. Burkholder said the Staff shined in their presentation. Staff look forward to working with Konyar's in the future by way of the Green Trail and Adult Workshops. VCAP was also discussed during the presentation.
- Thank you to Nick L. who gave a presentation to NARFE on the VCAP Conservation Landscaping Program.
- Your chairman authorized, August 17th, the District's contribution of \$200 to the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Educational Foundation, per the suggestion of Kendall Tyree, in memory of Shenandoah SWCD Director and past Area I Chairwoman Linda Campbell of Luray's Khimaira Farm, who passed on the 15th.

MOTION: The Board endorses this \$200 contribution to the VASWCD Educational Foundation in memory of Linda Campbell. Motion made by Joan Comanor, seconded by Kitty Hockman-Nicolas. Motion Passed. Voting Ballot is as follows. * Mary Gessner was absent from the Board Meeting at time of vote.

| Name | Yes | No | Abstain | Name | Yes | No | Abstain |
|----------------|-----|----|---------|------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| Richard Hoover | X | | | Kermit Gaither | X | | |
| Joan Comanor | X | | | Kitty Hockman-Nicholas | X | | |
| Ira Richards | X | | | HB Simpson | X | | |
| Corey Childs | X | | | Paul Burkholder | X | | |
| *Mary Gessner | | | | Justin MacKay-Smith | X | | |
| James Fagan | X | | | Wayne Webb | X | | |

- Staff attended the annual Graves Mountain SWCD Training in Syria, VA on August 24 & 25, 2021.



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- Dedicated Reserves - Where are we in the process? Finance Director Webb deferred the question to Interim Treasurer Nagelvoort. At this time the dedicated reserves have not been addressed as Nagelvoort is working on gathering information to ensure numbers. Debbie Cross, DCR addressed the importance that this be completed prior to the end of First Quarter Att E submission which is due October 15, 2021.

MOTION: The Board grants authority to the Chairman Hoover to approve the Dedicated Reserves to be presented by October 1, 2021. Motion made by Paul Burkholder, seconded by Wayne Webb. Motion Passed. Voting Ballot is as follows. * Mary Gessner was absent from the Board Meeting at time of vote.

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Abstain</i> | | <i>Name</i> | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Abstain</i> |
|----------------|------------|-----------|----------------|--|------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| Richard Hoover | X | | | | Kermit Gaither | X | | |
| Joan Comanor | X | | | | Kitty Hockman-Nicholas | X | | |
| Ira Richards | X | | | | HB Simpson | X | | |
| Corey Childs | X | | | | Paul Burkholder | X | | |
| *Mary Gessner | | | | | Justin MacKay-Smith | X | | |
| James Fagan | X | | | | Wayne Webb | X | | |

Treasurer’s Report:

- Mr. Nagelvoort, Interim Treasurer reports that the monthly financial statements for August appear to be in good order.

Board Secretary:

- Nothing to add to written report.

Technical Reports:

Senior Conservation Specialist, Dana Gochenour: Nothing to add to written report.

Conservation Specialist, Sam Truban: Not present due to Career Training.

Conservation Specialist, Ali Sloop: Nothing to add to written report.

Conservation Specialist, Nick Livesay: Harvest Festival is Saturday September 11, 2021. Techs will start set up at 8:00 in the park. If anyone would like to donate a cake for the “Cake Walk” let him know.

Conservation Specialist, Madison Coffey: Has completed her DCR online courses and has participated in multiple field visits with fellow staff.

Education and Program Support Specialist, Allyson Ponn: Not present due to Career Training.

Contractor for Conservation Services, Sheryl Ferguson: Sheryl was not at meeting as she was handling IT needs in the office.



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Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley: Joan Comanor

- Mrs. Comanor had nothing to report at this time.

Conservation Easements Committee:

- Mr. Richards had nothing to report.

Conservation Technical Committee:

- Corey Childs reviewed the CTC written report.

MOTION: Board recommends that project, WP-4LL (13-22-0007), with a cost of \$547,656.45 as listed in the 9/2/2021 CTC meeting minutes, is sent on to the DCR Variance Committee for their review and approval. * Mary Gessner was absent from the Board Meeting at time of vote.

| Name | Yes | No | Abstain | Name | Yes | No | Abstain |
|----------------|-----|----|---------|------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| Richard Hoover | X | | | Kermit Gaither | X | | |
| Joan Comanor | X | | | Kitty Hockman-Nicholas | X | | |
| Ira Richards | X | | | HB Simpson | X | | |
| Corey Childs | X | | | Paul Burkholder | X | | |
| *Mary Gessner | | | | Justin MacKay-Smith | X | | |
| James Fagan | X | | | Wayne Webb | | X | |

Motion to approve the remaining BMP projects as stated in the CTC minutes of 8/5/2021. Motion made by Corey Childs, seconded by Kitty Hockman-Nicholas. Motion Passed. Voting Ballot is as follows. *Mary Gessner was absent from the Board Meeting at time of vote.

| Name | Yes | No | Abstain | Name | Yes | No | Abstain |
|----------------|-----|----|---------|------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| Richard Hoover | X | | | *Kermit Gaither | | | |
| Joan Comanor | X | | | Kitty Hockman-Nicholas | X | | |
| Ira Richards | X | | | HB Simpson | X | | |
| Corey Childs | X | | | Paul Burkholder | X | | |
| *Mary Gessner | | | | Justin MacKay-Smith | X | | |
| James Fagan | X | | | Wayne Webb | | X | |

Motion to approve a WP4-LC (13-22-0018) piggyback project with NRCS with a cost of \$103,918.85, to include a tax credit, as presented by Dana Gochenour. Motion made by Paul Burkholder and seconded by Corey Childs. Motion Passed. Voting Ballot is as follows. * Mary Gessner was absent from the Board Meeting at time of vote.



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|----------------|-----|----|---------|--|------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| Richard Hoover | X | | | | Kermit Gaither | X | | |
| Joan Comanor | X | | | | Kitty Hockman-Nicholas | X | | |
| Ira Richards | X | | | | HB Simpson | X | | |
| Corey Childs | X | | | | Paul Burkholder | X | | |
| *Mary Gessner | | | | | Justin MacKay-Smith | X | | |
| James Fagan | X | | | | Wayne Webb | | X | |

Motion to recommend that project, WP4-LL (13-22-001) with a cost of \$311,292.21, is sent on to the DCR Variance Committee for their review and approval, as presented by Dana Gochenour. Motion made by Paul Burkholder and seconded by Corey Childs. Motion Passed. Voting Ballot is as follows. ** Mary Gessner was absent from the Board Meeting at time of vote.

| Name | Yes | No | Abstain | | Name | Yes | No | Abstain |
|----------------|-----|----|---------|--|------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| Richard Hoover | X | | | | Kermit Gaither | X | | |
| Joan Comanor | X | | | | Kitty Hockman-Nicholas | X | | |
| Ira Richards | X | | | | HB Simpson | X | | |
| Corey Childs | X | | | | Paul Burkholder | X | | |
| *Mary Gessner | | | | | Justin MacKay-Smith | X | | |
| James Fagan | X | | | | Wayne Webb | | X | |

Dam Safety Committee:

- Participated in the Virtual Dam Safety meeting. Discussed funds for small dam repairs. Remote monitoring will be coming within the next year, completely funded by the State.
- This years' Annual Dam Inspection is an In-House Inspection to be performed by LFSWCD, suggests a Staffer be the lead.

Education and Information Committee:

- Committee Meeting will follow 9/9/21 Board Meeting.
- Annual Awards Luncheon planning is in progress.

Finance Committee:

- Mr. Webb had nothing to add to his written report.

Legislative Committee: Paul Burkholder

- Mr. Burkholder emphasized that we reach out to those who like us and encouraged notes to constituents and supporters.



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- Debbie Cross, CDC, DCR applauds our Legislation participation.

Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Committee: Wayne Webb

- Mr. Webb had nothing to add to his written report.

Operations Committee: Justin MacKay-Smith

- Mr. Mackay-Smith had nothing to add to his report.

Personnel Committee: HB Simpson

- With the news of Alison's departure Mr. Simpson asked for the Position Description and Job Advertisement be sent to the Committee for review in preparation for advertising.

Shenandoah County Water Resources Advisory Committee: Joan Comanor

- The next Water resource Advisory Committee meeting is November 10, 2021

Shenandoah Pure Water Forum: Dick Hoover

- Mr. Hoover had nothing to add to his written report.

Urban BMP Committee: Kermit Gaither

- Mr. Gaither had nothing to report.

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Brent Barriteau

- COVID mandates for office - Mask are to be worn while in office regardless of vaccination status. Office staffing for NRSC/LFSWCD is at 50%. Visitors and Contractors are to show proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test result within 3 days of visiting the office to be allowed inside.

Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation: Debbie Cross

Debbie reviewed her written report.

- Association Annual Meeting will be held virtually December 6 & 7, 2021. The General Business meeting for Directors will be on the December 7, 2021.

Virginia Cooperative Extension: Corey Childs:

- Rain came to late causing significant crop loss to area farmers
- High hopes that although the rain came late for many it may bring a good 2nd cutting/late hay crop



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- Coop Extension Office will be doing Water Testing in October. Sign ups have started online.
- The Spotted Lantern Fly is not going away. It is expanding quickly and some areas are no longer tracking.
- Elm Saw Fly is a new invasive species being found in the area.
- Pesticide Application Classes
 - Recertification will be late Fall 2021
 - Commercial = January 2022
 - Certification = February 2022

Virginia Department of Forestry: Matt Wolanski

- Not in attendance.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Matt Kowalski

- Not in attendance.

Department of Environmental Quality: Sara Bottenfield

- Not in attendance.

Other:

- Chairman Hoover requested a brief Closed Session Meeting. Motion follows.

Motion: I move that the Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors in attendance and CDC, Debbie Cross, go into Closed Meeting in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act § code section 2.2-3711(1) to discuss performance of elected and appointed directors. Motion made by Richard Hoover, seconded by Joan Comanor. Motion Passed. Voting Ballot is as follows. *Mary Gessner was absent from the Board Meeting at time of vote.

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|----------------|------------|-----------|----------------|--|------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| Richard Hoover | X | | | | Kermit Gaither | X | | |
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Motion: Pursuant to the *Code of Virginia § 2.2-3712(D)*, I move to certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted and as identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard or discussed by the Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District during the Closed Meeting. Motion made by Joan Comanor, seconded by Kitty Hockman-Nicholas. Motion Passed. Voting Ballot is as follows. * Mary Gessner was absent from the Board Meeting at time of vote.

| Name | Yes | No | Abstain | Name | Yes | No | Abstain |
|----------------|-----|----|---------|------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| Richard Hoover | X | | | Kermit Gaither | X | | |
| Joan Comanor | X | | | Kitty Hockman-Nicholas | X | | |
| Ira Richards | X | | | HB Simpson | X | | |
| Corey Childs | X | | | Paul Burkholder | X | | |
| *Mary Gessner | | | | Justin MacKay-Smith | X | | |
| James Fagan | X | | | Wayne Webb | X | | |

Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Wayne Webb, seconded by Kitty Hockman-Nicholas. Motion passed. Voting Ballot is as follows. ** Mary Gessner was absent from the Board Meeting at time of vote.

| Name | Yes | No | Abstain | Name | Yes | No | Abstain |
|----------------|-----|----|---------|------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| Richard Hoover | X | | | Kermit Gaither | X | | |
| Joan Comanor | X | | | Kitty Hockman-Nicholas | X | | |
| Ira Richards | X | | | HB Simpson | X | | |
| Corey Childs | X | | | Paul Burkholder | X | | |
| *Mary Gessner | | | | Justin MacKay-Smith | X | | |
| James Fagan | X | | | Wayne Webb | X | | |

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah R. Fleming