

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 13, 2024

ATTENDEES:

- DIRECTORS:** Greg Basye, Benson Braxton, Vince Garland, Robert Pickett, Aaron Rowland, Bobby Vanlandingham, Lewis Walker,
- STAFF:** Kathy Clarke, Brandon Dillistin, Joanna Balderson, Lowery Becker, Kelly Brann, Aaron Saunders
- PARTNERS:** Karen Balentine (NRCS), Drew Gladwell (NNLC), Ashley Kemp (SEAS), Lucee Kossler (NRCS), Marissa Roland (DCR), Mike Vanlandingham (SEAS), Amy Walker (DCR), Aaron Wendt (SEAS)

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Robert Pickett opened the meeting at 12:33PM.

MINUTES:

The Minutes from the February 14, 2024, Board Meeting were presented for review. *Vince Garland moved to accept the Minutes as presented. Bobby Vanlandingham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Reports for February 2024 were accepted as presented and filed for audit.

BUSINESS:

1. SEAS Presentation – Mike Vanlandingham & Aaron Wendt (see attached)

Mike Vanlandingham and Aaron Wendt presented on the growth of the Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service (SEAS) Program and the need for a boat to more efficiently conduct their work. They originally pursued a grant to purchase such a boat but complications arose when DCR objected to the idea of watercraft ownership and instead approved funding for renting a boat. In canvassing the local rental opportunities and recalling that the NNSWCD had once considered the idea of purchasing a boat, the SEAS staff approached the group regarding a potential partnership.

Lowery Becker presented on the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) and highlighted the local popularity of the program given the Living Shoreline component (see attached). She noted VCAP has become a significant part of her day-to-day workload and a boat would be advantageous for performing site visits.

Kathy Clarke spoke on the historical relationship between the NNSWCD and the SEAS Program dating back to the 1940s and 1950s when shoreline erosion became a significant local conservation concern. In 1965, as a result of the NNSWCD's years of advocacy efforts (including a boat tour), Kenneth Rice was hired as the first Shoreline Erosion Engineer in the United States and assigned to the Warsaw USDA Service Center as an employee of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), (now known as NRCS). A special appropriation of federal funds was made for the work which encompassed a service area consisting of Essex, Lancaster, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland Counties. In the late 1970s, the Shoreline Erosion Program was transferred from SCS to the Soil & Water

Conservation Commission (now known as DCR) and the SEAS Program was officially created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1980. Following a series of budget reductions, the SEAS Program became unfunded and unstaffed, prompting the NNSWCD to host a Shoreline Erosion Tour on October 21, 2014. The event was a huge success and led to the reinstatement of funding for the SEAS Program, expanding the program to include a reporting and tracking component for capturing sediment and nutrient load reduction credits in the Bay Model, and leveraging public and private dollars in a cost-share program to address shoreline erosion. Given the significant historical relationship between the NNSWCD and the SEAS Program, in addition to the NNSWCD's current financial ability to purchase a boat, Kathy noted that a potential partnership between the two entities seemed destined. She recommended the NNSWCD Board defer the concept of such a project to the Operations Committee for further consideration. ***Greg Bayse moved to defer further consideration of a contractual partnership between the NNSWCD and SEAS Program related to the acquisition and utilization of a boat to the Operations Committee. Bobby Vanlandingham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.***

2. VCAP

a) March 2024 Application Approvals (see attached)

Ruth Fuller (Lancaster County) VCAP Contract #08-24-007 Living Shoreline
Total estimated Cost: \$28,900.00 Total estimated cost-share \$23,120.00

David Harrison (Lancaster County) VCAP Contract #08-24-008 Living Shoreline
Total estimated Cost: \$9,664.00 Total estimated cost-share \$7,731.20

Larry Sawyer (Lancaster County) VCAP Contract #08-24-009 Living Shoreline
Total estimated Cost: \$28,357.00 Total estimated cost-share \$22,685.00

The Board was surveyed to identify any known conflicts, none were noted. ***Aaron Rowland moved to approve the submission of VCAP Contract #08-24-007, #08-24-008, and #08-24-009 to the VASWCD VCAP Review Committee for further consideration. Bobby Vanlandingham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.***

3. SWCD Representation on Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee (EVGMAC)

Robert Pickett presented a brief summary of the EVGMAC (see attached) and noted that upon recently reaffirming his service as the VASWCD's primary representative on the Committee, he was asked by DEQ to name an alternate that could attend meetings in the event of his absence. After consulting with the VASWCD, it was suggested that the alternate be sourced from the NNSWCD in an effort to facilitate open and consistent communication. Kathy Clarke noted that she would be willing to serve as the alternate if no one else was interested considering Pickett didn't foresee many occasions in which the meetings conflicted with his schedule. ***Bobby Vanlandingham moved to approve Kathy Clarke serving as the VASWCD's alternate on the EVGMAC. Greg Basye seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AG COMMITTEE - Brandon Dillistin presented the *Recommendations from the NNSWCD Technical Staff* (see attached). The individual items brought to the Board for approval were:

I. Approval of 1 Non-COIA Conservation Plan for SL-1 Cropland Conversion - CP-8-24-0005 ***Vince Garland moved to approve. Bobby Vanlandingham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.***

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Lowery Becker advised that the Committee is scheduled to meet on April 2nd for the purpose of reviewing the 2024 scholarship applications and selecting the NNSWCD's recipient(s) and/or nominee for the VASWCD award.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Robert Pickett, Committee Chair, presented the most recent Legislative Update as provided by the VASWCD (see attached).

TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE – Brandon Dillistin, Technical Review Committee Chair, reported that the Committee met on March 6, 2024. The DRAFT Minutes and Recommendations from the meeting were presented for review (see attached). The individual items brought to the Board for approval were:

I. Review and Approval of 1 Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Greg Basye moved to approve RMP #08-23-0010. Lewis Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PARTNER AGENCY & STAFF REPORTS:

DCR – Marissa Roland – see attached report.

NRCS – Lucee Kossler – see attached report.

NNLC - Drew Gladwell thanked everyone for the opportunity to participate as a partner at the recent Producer Conference.

Area III – Robert Pickett reminded everyone that the 2024 Area III Spring Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th at St. Margaret's in Tappahannock. He circulated his bio as he will be seeking nomination during the meeting as the Area III representative on the Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Board (VSWCB) (see attached).

VASWCD – Kathy Clarke noted that the VASWCDEF's Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 8th. The NNSWCD has budgeted to be a Tournament Sponsor this year which includes the registration of a team in the competition. Directors, staff, and partners were encouraged to notify Kathy or Joanna of their interest in representing the NNSWCD on a foursome team.

STAFF – Kathy Clarke – see attached report.

STAFF – Brandon Dillistin – see attached report.

STAFF – Joanna Balderson – see attached report.

STAFF – Lowery Becker – see attached report.

STAFF – Kelly Brann – see attached report.

STAFF – Aaron Saunders – see attached report.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. FY25 VACS Updates

Marissa Roland noted that the FY25 VACS Updates trainings have been scheduled for June 13th and 18th; the identical trainings will be held virtually and recorded.

5. Community Fundraiser

Robert Pickett advised that the Northumberland Lions Club would be hosting a fundraiser breakfast on March 23rd to benefit the Callao Hometown Park; donations will be accepted.

6. Forage Conference

Aaron Saunders noted that the 2024 Eastern Virginia Forage Conference will be held at the Doswell Ruritan Club on Wednesday, March 20th.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 6PM in the NNSWCD Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT: *Vince Garland moved to adjourn the meeting. Greg Basye seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM.

Robert E. Pickett

Robert E. Pickett, Chairman

04/10/2024

Date