

Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Pocahontas State Park

Chesterfield, Virginia

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board convened at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 in the Swift Creek Dining Hall at Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield, Virginia.

VIRGINIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard A. Street, Chair
Barry L. Marten, Vice Chair
Mario Albritton
Chuck Arnason
Gray Coyner
Charles Newton
Cindy Smith
Adam Wilson
Clyde Cristman, DCR Director, Ex Officio
John A. Bricker, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ex Officio
Dan Goerlich, VCE, Invitee

VIRGINIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Janette Kennedy

DCR STAFF PRESENT

Rochelle Altholz, Deputy Director for Administration
Isaac Sarver, Deputy Director for Boards and Constituent Services
David Bryan, Agricultural Incentives Program Manager
Anne Crosier, Enforcement and Compliance Manager
Leigh Estes, Grants Manager
Michael Fletcher, Board and Constituent Services Liaison
Kimberly Freiburger, Policy Analyst
Darryl M. Glover, Director, Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Blair Gordon, Conservation District Coordinator
Wendy Howard-Cooper, Acting Director, Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management
Melissa Jackson, Budget Manager
Bernadette LeMasters, Virginia Management Fellow
Christine Watlington, Policy and Regulatory Coordinator
Paul Kugelman, Office of the Attorney General

OTHERS PRESENT

Suzanne Brown, Loudoun SWCD
Sharon Connor, Hanover-Caroline, SWCD
Giannina Frantz, VASWCD
David Kriz, NRCS
Adrienne Kotula, Chesapeake Bay Commission

Tim Mitchell, City of Lynchburg
Ben Rowe, Virginia Farm Bureau
Kyle Shreve, Virginia Agribusiness Council

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

With eight (8) members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Street called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked for introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 24, 2019

BOARD ACTION

Mr. Arnason moved for the approval of the April 24, 2019 meeting of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board as submitted by staff. Mr. Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

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

Mr. Cristman welcomed Mr. Kugelman from the Office of the Attorney General. Mr. Kugelman was filling in for the position vacated by Mr. Gooch. That position has not yet been filled.

Mr. Cristman also noted the following:

- As reported at the April meeting the agency was accepting applications for the position of Director of the Dam Safety and Floodplain Management Division. The position closed on Friday, May 17, 2019. However, sufficient applications to begin the interview process were not received. The position will be reopened and will remain open until filled.
- Governor Northam released a draft of the Chesapeake Bay WIP III. Public comments will be received until June 7. The draft is posted on the DEQ website and information on how to submit comments is located on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL page.
- May 31 is National Dam Safety Awareness Day. The Governor will be issuing a proclamation. DCR will host an event at Pocahontas State Park. Staff will forward the invitation to Board members.

DAM SAFETY AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Division Report – Wendy Howard Cooper

Ms. Howard Cooper presented the following written report.

Priorities

- 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.

Mr. Arnason moved that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board approve the use of up to \$400,000 from the Soil and Water Conservation District Dam Maintenance, Repair, and Rehabilitation Fund for the purchase and installation of remote monitoring equipment for District-owned high and significant hazard dams. The Board authorizes the Department to purchase the necessary equipment through the appropriate procurement process.

The Board further directs the Department to coordinate with the eligible Districts to determine the most cost-effective and efficient method of procuring equipment installation. The Department should provide an update to the Board on such determination and request additional authorizations, if needed, at the next meeting.

Mr. Newton seconded and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Establishment of the Timberlake Watershed Improvement District – Christine Watlington

Ms. Watlington reported that the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District certified the formation of the Timberlake Watershed Improvement District (WID) at their April 25 meeting. Minutes from that meeting were approved at a special meeting on May 9. As required by Code, the establishment of the WID requires that the District submit the certification and official minutes. There was no action required by this Board.

Ms. Watlington also noted that the WID may appoint up to three individuals to serve as Trustees of the WID. Two names and resumes were submitted with the certification of the WID. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board must approve the appointment of the Trustees.

The Board did not have enough information was available to appoint the Trustees and agreed there should be a third Trustee. It was recommended that the WID be invited to the September meeting to present the recommended Trustees and to advise the Board regarding what actions they intend to pursue with the WID.

BOARD ACTION

Mr. Arnason moved that the Board table the discussion of the WID Trustees and request that representatives from the District and the WID be invited to the September Board meeting to provide additional information regarding the purpose and direction of the WID. Mr. Coyner seconded and the motion carried.

Election of Officers

Chairman Street advised that terms for Mr. Marten, Ms. Kennedy, and himself were expiring on July 1. Chairman Street is not eligible for reappointment. Mr. Marten and Ms. Kennedy have asked not to be