



## **EASTERN SHORE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

### **MINUTES OF DISTRICT BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 5:00 p.m.**

**USDA Service Center, 22545 Center Parkway, Accomac, VA 23301**

**ATTENDANCE:** The following Directors and Associate Directors were in attendance:

Robin Rich-Coates, Chair

Kyle Sturgis, Director

Nick Thomas, Vice-Chair

Sands Gayle, Director

Others present were:

Carmie Savage, District Manager

Jenny Templeton, NRCS

Bill Savage, Conservation Specialist

Jaclyn Friedman, DCR CDC

**CALL TO ORDER:** Robin Rich-Coates, Chair, called to order the April 14, 2021 District Board Meeting of the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District.

**MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Director Kyle Sturgis made a motion to approve the March 10, 2021 meeting minutes and the March 2021 financial reports as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Nick Thomas, carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. VA Soil and Water Conservation Board Draft Minutes- March 16, 2021 meeting:**

A copy of the meeting minutes were provided in the Board packets for review.

**B. ESVA Groundwater Committee Draft Minutes- March 16, 2021 meeting:** A copy of the meeting minutes were provided in the Board packets for review.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Welcome New ESSWCD Director- Sands Gayle:** Chair Robin Rich-Coates welcomed new appointed Director Sands Gayle to the District Board. Mr. Gayle was appointed by the VA Soil and Water Conservation Board during their March 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to fill the remaining term of the late Fred Holland. Mr. Gayle's appointed term began March 23<sup>rd</sup> and will end on December 31, 2023.

**B. FY21 Cost Share Report:** Carmie Savage presented the following report- Obligated funds for agronomic practices carried over from FY20 to FY21 total \$9,498.00 in Ches

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD CHAIRMAN

BOARD SECRETARY

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Bay funds and \$2,501.40 in OCB funds. One WP-4 poultry project has been completed and paid. FY20 Obligated funds carried over to FY21 for animal waste BMPs now total \$1,613,104.14 in Ches Bay funds and \$230,834.87 in OCB funds. The FY21 VACS Allocation totals \$560,561.00 in Ches Bay funds and \$285,682.00 in OCB funds. Interest accrued through March 31, 2021 totals \$1,482.72 towards Ches Bay funds and \$249.37 towards OCB funds. The District has received repayments of Ches Bay cost share dollars for non-compliant no-till contracts totaling \$997.63. VA Soil and Water Conservation Board reallocated and additional \$552,812 in VACS Ches Bay funds and \$145,291 in VACS OCB funds to the Eastern Shore SWCD. FY20 VNRCF TA remaining funds totaling \$449,471.87 were approved by the District Board to be used towards funding shortfalls as needed. After the addition of the reallocated OCB VACS funding there is still a funding shortfall for agronomic practices on the Seaside of \$243,959.58 funded using the approved FY20 VNRCF TA funds. After reported plantings and spotchecks have been conducted, obligated funding towards agronomic requests totals \$743,466.30 in Ches Bay and \$675,181.95 in OCB leaving a balance of \$372,387.05 in available funding in Ches Bay VACS and zero in OCB VACS. The remaining balance of the \$449,471.87 available in FY20 VNRCF TA funds is \$205,512.29 with \$204,007.71 approved March 10, 2021 to obligate to a Seaside WP-4 project leaving a new balance of unobligated FY20 VNRCF TA funds of \$1,504.58. **Director Nick Thomas made a motion to approve the FY21 Cost Share Report as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Kyle Sturgis, carried unanimously.**

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Director Sands Gayle exited the meeting room.

The following cost share requests were presented for Board approval to be funded by State Source Funds not VACS or MEB grant funds:

Contract:	Instance:	RMP:	Total Acres:	FY21 Ches Bay VACS:
RM-2 Contract 20-21-0178	427699	20-17-0001	301	\$ 1,505.00
	427700	20-17-0002	207.1	\$ 1,035.50
	427701	20-17-0011	278.1	\$ 1,390.50
RM-2 Contract 20-21-0179	427702	20-20-0003	205.15	\$ 1,025.75
	427703	20-20-0004	131.05	\$ 655.25
	427705	20-20-0007	153.75	\$ 768.75
	427707	20-20-0008	312.76	\$ 1,563.80
	427709	20-20-0009	217.34	\$ 1,086.70
<b>Total RM-2 Requests for Board Approval:</b>				<b>\$ 9,031.25</b>

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**Director Kyle Sturgis made a motion to approve new cost share requests for State Source funds as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Nick Thomas, carried unanimously.**

Director Sands Gayle rejoined the meeting.

One conservation plan was presented for approval. CP-20-20-0002 was planned for 2-WP-4 Litter Sheds and was written by certified planner, Carmie Savage. **Director Nick Thomas made a motion to approve conservation plan CP-20-20-0002 as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Kyle Sturgis, carried unanimously.**

The following update on the FY21 Most Effective Basin (MEB) Grant- Eastern Shore was presented:

Grant Scope: March 1, 2021- May 31, 2022- Bayside Acres only- first-come, first-served basis, no cap limit, no ranking required. Requires RMP fully developed or under development to receive cost share funds. In FY22, priority will be given to those who participated in FY21. Technical Assistance available: \$ 111,610.00 Total Cost Share funds available: \$ 865,241.00		
ESSWCD-01	WFA-1 Contract: 20-21-0171	\$ (135,942.40)
ESSWCD-02	WFA-1 Contract: 20-21-0174	\$ (20,491.50)
ESSWCD-03	WFA-1 Contract: 20-21-0175	\$ (123,499.00)
<b>Obligated MEB funds as of 4/14/2021:</b>		<b>\$ 279,932.90</b>
<b>Unobligated MEB funds as of 4/14/2021:</b>		<b>\$ 585,308.10</b>

The following update on Obligated Poultry Projects was presented:

Contract:	Instance:	BMP:	Description of Practice:	Estimated 75% Cost Share:	Funding Source:	Status:
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20-20-0199	383632	WP-4	Litter Sheds	\$ 178,693.71	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	Project Complete \$ 176,576.63 pd.
20-20-0170	378612 379658	WP-4 WP-4C	Litter Sheds Composter	\$ 142,624.20 \$105,270.80	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	under construction- delay on lumber
20-20-0185	379662	WP-4	Litter Sheds	\$257,724.45	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	under construction- delay on lumber
20-20-0206	389615	WP-4	Litter Shed	\$71,124.85	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	Pre-construction mtg on 3/30/21, cleared to begin construction
20-20-0175	378741 378757	WP-4 WP-4C	Litter Sheds Composter	\$134,221.39 \$94,390.48	FY20 Carryover OCB (Seaside) VACS	currently under construction
20-20-0164	377886	WP-4	Litter Shed	\$65,532.76	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	Needs site plan, contractor bids, in process of obtaining
20-20-0203	387185 387186	WP-4 WP-4C	Litter Shed Composter	\$56,727.23 \$123,354.63	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	In the process of obtaining engineered design.
20-20-0202	387178 387179	WP-4 WP-4C	Litter Shed Composter	\$56,727.23 \$123,354.63	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	In the process of obtaining engineered design.
20-20-0168	378470 379660	WP-4 WP-4C	Litter Shed Composter	\$87,069.46 \$101,160.39	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	Has not moved forward- will need to cancel- will not meet 6/30 completion deadline
20-20-0188	379750	WP-4C	Composter	\$50,000.00 cap	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	Cancelled Contract
20-20-0201	386895	WP-4C	Composter	\$50,000.00 cap	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	Cancelled Contract
20-20-0197	383163 383587	WP-4 WP-4C	Litter Shed Composter	\$85,102.25 \$71,899.58	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	Cancelled Contract
20-20-0200	386767	WP-4	Litter Sheds	\$158,568.00	FY20 Carryover Ches Bay VACS	Cancelled contract
20-21-0176	426648	WP-4	Litter Sheds	\$204,007.71	FY21 Project funded by FY20 VNRF TA (Local funds)	In the process of obtaining engineered design

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Total Obligated FY20 Carryover VACS funds towards Poultry Projects:	\$ 2,013,546.04
Total Obligated FY20 VNRCF TA (Local Funds) towards Poultry Projects:	\$ 204,007.71

**C. Local Working Group Questionnaire for USDA Programs:** Jenny Templeton, Acting DC for NRCS, presented to the Board a questionnaire that has been developed to gather input on how well USDA NRCS programs address natural resource concerns. The questionnaire was emailed to the District Board prior to the meeting for consideration. Input obtained from the Board will be added to the input gathered from other members of the Local Working Group. Carmie will be mailing out the questionnaire on 4/15 to the rest of the Local Working Group with a 4/30 submittal deadline.

**D. Endowment Committee Draft Meeting Minutes:** The Endowment Committee met virtually on April 8, 2021. The draft meeting minutes were presented to the District Board for approval.

- Zero applications received for the W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship or the William H. Beasley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship. The allocated \$1000 for each scholarship was relocated towards 2021 Spring Conservation Grants.
- A total of five applications for 2021 Spring Conservation Grants were funded totaling \$4,541.17. Four applications received were funded up to the \$400 grant cap. The unobligated scholarship funds were allocated towards Kiptopeke State Park's application towards their Visitor Center.
- Conservation Youth Camp this year was renamed to the VA Academy of Natural Resources as it is being held in conjunction with the VA Department of Forestry. It is scheduled to be held virtually July 12-16, 2021. The cost will be \$25.00 per person. The Committee has allocated \$100 towards the sponsorship of campers.

**Director Nick Thomas made a motion to approve the Endowment Committee Minutes from the April 8, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Kyle Sturgis, carried unanimously.**

**E. Operations Committee Meeting- Verbal Summary:** The Operations Committee met on April 14, 2021 prior to the District Board meeting. Robin Rich-Coates gave a verbal summary of the meeting to the Board.

- The Committee reviewed a draft FY22 Annual Plan of Work (APOW) and recommended the draft plan for Board approval. The draft was presented to the Directors for review. **Director Nick Thomas made a motion to approve the FY22 Annual Plan of Work (APOW) as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Kyle Sturgis, carried unanimously.**

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- The 2019-2022 ESSWCD Strategic Plan was reviewed as annually required by DCR.
- The District was recently audited for the period of July 1, 2018- June 30, 2020 (FY19 & FY20) by Clifton, Larson, Allen (CLA), LLP. The Exit Interview was held virtually on March 9, 2020 with the Auditor, Carmie, Robin, and Jaclyn Friedman participating. Carmie provided the committee with a copy of the Exit Interview which showed no issues to address and no findings.
- The Committee will be working on the FY22 Budget during the May/June Operations Committee meetings for Board Consideration in June.
- Effective June 1, the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield rates for Health Insurance under the Key Care 15 Plus PPO with Major Vision plan will increase from \$603.15/ mo. per employee to \$631.84/ mo. per employee. The Major Dental plan rate per month will stay the same. Currently the District's health/dental insurance policies are enrolled through Accomack County's Employee plans and this benefit is paid 100% by the District to its full-time employees. The committee recommended continuing the 100% benefit for full-time employees with the increase in the health insurance rate for Board approval. **Director Kyle Sturgis made a motion to approve the increased health insurance benefit for full time employees as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Sands Gayle, carried unanimously.**
- The lease for the District's copier is set to expire in June 2021. The committee asked Carmie to gather information on the costs of purchasing the recommended copier outright vs leasing and keeping the maintenance agreement. This will be revisited with the new information at the May Operations Committee meeting.
- The next Operations Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. prior to the District Board meeting. The June District Board meeting was scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> but has been rescheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Operations Committee will meet again at 4:00 p.m. prior to the June 16<sup>th</sup> District Board meeting.

**F. VASWCD 2021 Final Legislative Tracking Report as of April 7, 2021:** The legislative tracking report as of April 7, 2021 was provided to the Board in the meeting packet for review.

**G. ESVA Cover Crop Workshop:** VA Cooperative Extension in partnership with Eastern Shore SWCD is hosting a Cover Crop Workshop on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. The District is providing the funding for coffee, juice and biscuits and is on the agenda to give an update to announce sign-up and updates to the cost share program. This event will be held at the Painter AREC. AREC faculty and staff will also be giving

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updates and then taking folks on a tour of their cover crop field plots. Pre-registration is required through VCE Agents- either Theresa Pittman or Ursula Deitch.

- H. Arbor Day Events:** Arbor Day Events are planned for May 1 at the Eastern Shore Community College and Eastville Courthouse Green following COVID-19 safety requirements. This is a partnership between the District, the Department of Forestry and ANEC. Seedling and native plants will be given away during the event at each location. Both sites will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will end at noon.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

**District Manager Report:** Carmie Savage, District Manager, included a written report in the meeting packet and it is on file in the District office. She summarized her report to the Board.

### **FY21 Cost Share:**

#### **Agronomic Update:**

- All spreadsheets and tracking has been updated to reflect all passed practices after spot check verifications. Processing payments for NM-1a as submitted. Have begun processing payments for VACS practices as burn down is reported. Reached out to all Split Application/Side dress participants to remind of specification requirements and to turn in application form within two weeks of application.
- **Whole Farm Approach Pilot Program (WFA-1):** All WFA-1 practices have been entered into Tracking and are currently up-to-date. Have requested funds from DCR to begin processing payments as completed.
- **RMP-2s:** Tracking is up-to-date to reflect new RM-2 practices.

#### **Poultry:**

##### **• Poultry Project Updates:**

- Status of poultry projects were presented in the Cost Share Report under New Business.
- Explained Shortage of Lumber issue that may affect completion by deadline on some projects to Dave Bryan, DCR BMP Program Manager, received authorization to request extension if needed.
- 4/6- Helped NRCS with fieldwork to conduct surveys needed for two poultry sites

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**Attachment E Report:** Completed and submitted electronic copy of Attachment E Report for quarter ending 3/31/20 to DCR on 4/8 with corresponding QB reports as required. Signed hardcopy was given to Jackie prior to the District meeting.

**RMP TA Request Report:** Completed and submitted electronic copy of RMP TA Request for 5 RMP Certification Inspections. The District is eligible to receive \$3.00/ acre in Technical Assistance (TA) for completing certification inspections. Requested \$3,690.03 in TA.

**District Audit:** The District's Exit Audit was conducted on 3/9/21 with auditing firm, Robin Rich-Coates, Jaclyn Friedman, DCR and Carmie for the period of July 1, 2018- June 30, 2020 (FY19 & FY20). Result: No issues.

**Endowment Committee:** Prepared meeting packet and participated in meeting on 4/8. Drafted meeting minutes for Board approval under New Business.

**Operations Committee:** Prepared meeting packet, plan to participate in meeting on 4/14 and will draft the meeting minutes. Have been worked on many agenda items that will be discussed and reviewed during meeting.

**ESVA Cover Crop Workshop:** District is Partnering with Extension to have a Cover Crop "Workshop on 4/20 at the Painter AREC. Carmie will be speaking to present updates and announce FY22 sign-up period. District will be funding the breakfast from the "Partner Workshop" line item in the Operational budget.

**Local Working Group:** Have been working with Jenny Templeton to compile questionnaire to gather input on how well USDA NRCS programs address natural resource concerns. Carmie will be emailing it out to the Local Working Group to also gather their input on 4/15 and then helping to compile responses.

**Trainings/ Virtual Meetings:**

- 3/16: Attended VA Soil & Water Conservation Board virtual meeting
- 3/30: Hosted virtual pre-construction meeting with participant, engineer, contractor, Norman Pitt and myself participating.
- 4/7: Participated in "Nutrient Management & Precision" Training; earned 2 Conservation Planner CEUs

**Conservation Specialist Report:** Bill Savage, Conservation Specialist, included a written report in the meeting packet and it is on file in the District office. He summarized his report to the Board.

**BMP - Cost Share:**

- Ongoing: FY21 No-Till pre-qualification spot checks in Accomack County.
- Completed: WFA-1 cover crop spot checks in Accomack County.
- Completed: Logging in spot check dates in DCR Tracking.
- Ongoing: Logging in Kill down dates as farmers report them.



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- Ongoing: Assisting Carmie in Tracking as needed.

### **Groundwater Committee Meeting – March 16th:**

- The Committee welcomed two new members for Northampton County: Roberta Kellam and Paul Grossman
- Britt McMillan gave an update on the groundwater with drawl farm permit from the last meeting. Total of 250 acres could be planted. They have primarily Yorktown – Eastover groundwater wells. Expected usage approximately 130 million gallons / year based on three greenhouse plantings per year and field use.
- During the 2019 – 2020 Legislative Session, The Commonwealth of Virginia enacted two Bills and DEQ is in the process of developing support regulation.
- The first Bill establishes a general Permit for groundwater with drawl from the surficial aquifer on the Eastern Shore.
- The second Bill prohibits groundwater with drawls outside of the surficial aquifer for non - agricultural irrigation wells.
- Scott Kudlas – DEQ received both the 2019 and 2020 Groundwater Award for his efforts in developing and facilitating the Eastern Shore Surficial Aquifer General Permit Regulatory Advisory Group.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **VESLT Reports:**

- Three monitoring reports were received this month.

### **Vehicle Maintenance:**

- During a recent inspection, the Soils trailer was found to have a broken license plate bracket. This was ordered and replaced on March 18th.
- The roof of the soils trailer was “planted” with two rows of corn roots on April 5<sup>th</sup> to simulate being under an actual corn field.

**Envirothon T-Shirts Display:** In the new conference/ education room, Bill hung all of the framed Envirothon T-shirts from 1993 – 2014 for display. Six more frames will be ordered to hang the remaining shirts.

**Soils Trailer:** Bill saved back some of his Indian Corn roots from a previous crop and hung "rows" in the ceiling of the Soils Trailer. Now it really has the feel of walking underground with the corn roots hanging down above.

### **Training:**

- Completed Precision Nutrient Management training webinar on April 7<sup>th</sup>

**Conservation Technician Report:** Norman Pitt, Conservation Technician, was unable to attend the meeting due to a recent loss in his family.

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**Education Director Report:** Julie Head, Education Director, included a written report in the meeting packet and it is on file in the District office. She was unable to attend the meeting.

**Education Outreach:**

- YMCA program on 3/12
- Soils trailer and what comes from soil on 4/9
- Working on a plants unit for 1<sup>st</sup> graders at Accawmacke Elementary
- Working with Northampton Middle School on an end of the year unit that will involve soils, water, wildlife, forestry, and sustainability.

**Environmental Literacy Plan Template:**

- Last year Julie was involved in a state wide group that developed an Environmental Literacy Plan Template for use by Virginia School Divisions. Over the next couple of months she will be spearheading an effort to put together a suggested Environmental Literacy Plan for the districts on the Eastern Shore. This will not pre-empt any of our regular programs. However, VDOE would like to see that each district has a specific plan for each grade to make them more environmentally literate.

**Scholarships:**

- No applications

**Spring Conservation Grants:**

- Six applications were received

**Visitor Display at Kiptopeke State Park:**

- Providing technical/educational assistance on a soils display at their new visitor's center. Our logo will be included as part of the display.

**Other:**

- Completing the documentation to renew my teaching credential. Julie does not plan on leaving but it is a BIG selling point when she works with teachers and administrators.

**Upcoming:**

- 4/20 – deliver materials to Occohannock for “Letters from a Plastic Bag”
- 4/22 – first meeting on Environmental Literacy Plan template
- 4/23 – Enviroscape at Kiptopeke Elementary with 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- 4/24 – Rain Barrel Workshop with Kiptopeke State Park
- 5/1 – Arbor Day Events

**PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS:**

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**Department of Conservation & Recreation Update:** Jaclyn Friedman, DCR CDC, included a written report in the meeting packet and it is on file in the District office. She summarized her report to the Board.

**Administrative and Operational Items:**

- **FY21 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Reports due April 15, 2021-** Submitted 4/14/21.
- **FY22 Budget Preparations-** Finance committees should begin preparations for FY22 budgets for district board discussions. These committee meetings may provide a great time for a review of the *Desktop Procedures for District Fiscal Operations*. FY22 budgets are to be SWCD board approved by June 30.

**Aq Cost Share:**

- **Average Cost List and Secondary Considerations for PY22.** Average Cost Lists, much like Secondary Considerations, can be changed at the beginning of each program year before any VACS cost-share projects are ranked and approved. Some Districts simply may rely on NRCS cost lists, which is allowable, but preferably each SWCD should put a good deal of effort into the development of their list based upon market costs of components in their local area. Once the first project is ranked and approved using the Board-approved Average Cost List and Secondary Considerations, every single program participant should be held to the same standard in an equitable manner, thereby avoiding unfair treatment of participants and potential litigation issues. While currently there is no mechanism in VACS for changing cost lists mid-year, DCR is recommending to the Soil and Water Conservation Board that a provision be made in VACS (for PY22 and forward) that would allow for Districts to allow for a one-time, mid-program year update to their Average Cost Lists under certain market-based conditions such as we are currently facing. This provision would be run similar to the current Variance process and would require both District Board and DCR approval. For now, participants that have not started construction have the choice of cancelling and signing up again next year when the District should be operating under a new, updated Average Cost List.
- **Unforeseen site conditions:** Under the current VACS Program there is currently only one allowance for changing Estimated Instance Costs for practices and that is due to "*site conditions unforeseen during the design of the practice*" such as dry well issues or hitting rock during construction where "*additional material expenses must be directly related to the unforeseen site condition*" (VACS Guidelines Pages II-29 and II-30). This allowance for the District Board to approve additional cost-share does not include increases related to market-based cost increases for planned components which should be addressed through annual Average Cost List updates.

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- **New Ag Tax Credits:** Per newly signed legislation, the cap for the 25% agricultural tax credit will be raised from \$17,500 to \$25,000. An enhanced tax credit for BMPs installed on land where there is a certified RMP will be eligible for a 50% tax credit up to a \$50,000 cap. These tax credits will be based upon true out-of-pocket costs AFTER cost-share and should be a huge help in addressing the challenges of these market-based price increases that many Districts are dealing with. Please note that once the law goes into effect on July 1st, it will be retroactive to January 1, 2021 and thus will impact many current VACS contracts including some that are already complete. DCR will share further details regarding how these changes will be addressed at the upcoming June VACS Update sessions on June 2nd and 8th and AgBMP Tracking-related impacts at the July Tracking Updates on July 13th and 22nd.
- **PY21 Interim Procedure for Processing a Transfer of Responsibility Agreement & Associated W-9 Form:** Due to the sensitive personal information listed on the Transfer of Responsibility Agreement form and the W-9 form, DCR recognizes that email is not the most secure way to share these documents. With the security of personal information in mind, DCR has developed an interim process to utilize the tracking program to upload and submit by instance the Transfer of Responsibility Agreement forms and W-9 forms to DCR. Guidance has been e-mailed to District staff. By the time the PY22 VACS program begins, DCR will have that function at the contract level in tracking. We will review this during the VACS Update webinars.
- **DCR-DSWC Update:** In compliance with the most recent Executive Order CDCs may attend in-person board and committee meetings if there are 50 or less attendees and if socially distanced and masked.

**Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) Training-**The Code of VA now requires that once every two years locally elected officials must take COIA training. Directors last took this in 2019 between July and December. The training can be accessed at <https://ethicswebinar.dls.virginia.gov/>. Each module is specific to the role in which you serve so select the proper role (**Local elected officials or EDAs/IDAs**) in order to activate the correct training to fulfill your required training requirement. 2021=COIA; 2022=FOIA

**Upcoming Training and Important Dates:**

- **April 14: VASWCD Virtual Quarterly Meeting** 9:00 am Materials for the spring quarterly board meeting will be posted on the VASWCD website –
- **April 21: VA SWCB Audit Subcommittee** 9:00-10:00 AM
- **April 21: VA Soil and Water Conservation Board** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- **May 4: Admin/Ops Topic: Attachment D** 1:00PM-2:00PM This session will cover admin/ops topics including a review of the Attachment D budget template process required of your local SWCD board by July 15.

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- **May 14 : BMP Carryovers** that need DCR approval must be submitted to David Bryan by this date
- **May 20: VA Soil and Water Conservation Board** 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
- **June 2: 2022 VACS Updates webinar** 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- **June 8: 2022 VACS Updates webinar** 9:00 am – Noon
- **June 30: Secondary Considerations** due to DCR, David Bryan
- **July 13: VACS Tracking Program Updates** webinar 9am-Noon
- **July 22: VACS Tracking Program Updates** webinar 1:00-4:00 pm

**NRCS District Conservationist:** Jenny Templeton, NRCS Acting District Conservationist, gave a verbal report to the Board.

**Acting District Conservationist:** Jane Corson-Lassiter has recently retired from NRCS as the District Conservationist (DC) at the Accomack Service Center. Jenny Templeton is now the Acting DC.

**New Soil Conservationist Position:** Interviews for new Soil Conservationist took place on Friday 4/9. One selection was sent to Keith Boyd, NRCS for review.

**Accomack Service Center Update:** Accomack Service Center is open to visitors one at a time for FSA/ NRCS with a scheduled appointment.

**EQIP:** Ranking deadline for EQIP is April 23, 2021

**CSP:** Application deadline for CSP is April 30, 2021

**Application Updates:** By next board meeting, NRCS may know which poultry applications have not been preapproved. For Bayside contracts that are not funded, will inform participants of current potential funding opportunity at the District.

**The April 14, 2021 Board meeting was adjourned.**

*Meeting minutes were recorded by Carmie M. Savage*