



EASTERN SHORE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
Island House Restaurant, 17 Atlantic Ave., Wachapreague, VA 23480

ATTENDANCE:

The following Board members, Staff, and Partners were in attendance:

Robin Rich-Coates- Chair, Nick Thomas- Vice Chair, Kyle Sturgis- Director, Jim Evans- Director, Robbie Lewis- Associate Director, Edwin Long- Associate Director, Chip Turlington- Associate Director, Carmie Savage- District Manager, Julie Head- Education Director, Bill Savage- Conservation Specialist, Ben Young- NRCS Soil Conservationist, Jenny Templeton- NRCS District Conservationist, seven guests

The following Board Members and Staff were unable to attend:

Sands Gayle- Director, Ursula Deitch- Director, Rick Hall- Associate Director, Bill Shockley- Associate Director

CALL TO ORDER: Robin Rich-Coates, Chair, called to order the December 8, 2021 District Board Meeting of the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Recognition of Robin Rich-Coates for 30 years of Service to ESSWCD:** On December 9th, during the virtual VASWCD Annual Meeting, the State Association recognized Robin's 30 years of service to the District. The Board and Staff presented Robin with a wooden engraved plaque to commemorate how much she is valued for her many years of dedication and contribution to the District.
- B. FY22 Cost Share Report- Carmie Savage:** Carmie presented the following report: Board approved carryover for Poultry BMPs from FY20 to FY21 and then to FY22 is \$1,002,440.78 in Ches Bay VACS and \$228,611.87 in OCB VACS. The FY22 VACS allocation is \$1,198,908 in Ches Bay VACS and \$583,598.00 in OCB VACS. Interest

APPROVED: _____ **SIGNED:** _____
BOARD CHAIRMAN BOARD SECRETARY

Minutes

December 8, 2021

earned through November 30, 2021 totals in \$149.52 towards Ches Bay funding and \$40.67 towards OCB funds. Non-compliant BMP repayments in Ches Bay funds total \$269.76 bringing the total of available FY22 funds to \$1,199,327.28 in Ches Bay and \$119.70 in OCB bringing the total of available FY22 funds to \$583,758.37 in OCB. The Ches Bay cost share requests as of December 8th total \$1,133,956.45 and \$1,092,247.35 in total cost share requests for OCB funds. VACS funds needed to fully fund all requests as of December 8th total \$508,488.98 in OCB VACS with \$65,370.83 unallocated in Ches Bay. Carmie reminded the Board that actual plantings are still being reported and these numbers will change reducing the VACS amount needed to fully fund OCB requests but there will still be a need at the end of reporting. Once all plantings have been reported to the District, staff will have a better handle on the actual need.

The following conservation plan was presented for approval:

Contract:	Cons Planner:	Agency:	Cropland or Poultry:
8133A7200EF	Jane Corson-Lassiter	NRCS	Cropland

Director Nick Thomas made a motion to approve Conservation Plan 8133A7200EF as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Jim Evans carried unanimously.

The following WFA-1 update was presented with no change from the November meeting:

Grant Scope: March 1, 2021- May 31, 2022- Bayside Acres only- first-come, first-serve basis, no cap limit, no ranking required. Requires RMP fully developed or under development to receive cost share funds. In FY22, priority is given to those who participated in FY21.	
Technical Assistance available: \$ 111,610.00	
Total Cost Share funds available: \$ 865,241.00	
-Disbursed in FY21: \$279,932.90	
-Funds Available for Disbursement in FY22: \$585,308.10	
WFA-1 Contract: 20-22-0075	\$ 37,747.30
WFA-1 Contract: 20-22-0179	\$ 174,508.40
WFA-1 Contract: 20-20-0180	\$ 153,951.60
Total FY22 WFA-1 Cost Share Requests (Ches Bay funded only):	\$ 366,207.30

Minutes

December 8, 2021

Carmie updated the Board on the poultry practices, two projects have reported completion this week. Once the engineers submit the As-Built for each project to the District, she will submit them to the State Engineer for review and schedule the State Inspection. Once more project is near completion. **Director Nick Thomas made a motion to approve the FY22 Cost Share report as presented. The motion, seconded by Kyle Sturgis, carried unanimously.**

- B. VA Tax Credits for No-till or Precision Equipment and Ag BMPs update:** Carmie clarified that the tax credit for no-till or precision ag equipment is 25% of all expenditures capped at \$17,500 and does not offer an additional or increased credit for having a Resource Management Plan (RMP).

The Ag BMP Tax Credit does however, as it is a two-tiered credit. For those having a District approved RMP on acreages where the BMP is implemented on, the tax credit is 50% capped at \$50,000. The RMP must be in the implementation stage or beyond. For those acres that are not included in an RMP, they qualify for 25% tax credit capped at \$25,000 but will need a board approved conservation plan prior to the BMP implementation. Both credits are based on out of pockets expenses after cost share so much be able to show receipts. The Ag BMP application is due by April 1st. Carmie noted that most cases staff is unaware as to what will qualify for tax credits until the end of the cover crop practices for those acres that exceed the state cost share caps. They do not write conservation plans for all cover crop acres as this is not required by VACS and the amount of producers/ acres the District handles would be an extreme additional workload in the beginning of sign-up. She said she was concerned this requirement would become an issue.

- C. Eastern Shore AG Conference:** The Eastern Shore Ag Conference will be held on January 26-27 at the Exmore Moose Lodge. The District will have a booth. The Young Farmers will be hosting the Ag Conference once again. Tickets for the Oyster Roast are on sale now. **Director Jim Evans made a motion for the District to purchase 8 tickets for Staff and Directors as previously purchased the last time the Ag Conference was held in-person in February 2020. The motion, seconded by Nick Thomas, carried unanimously.**

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 was unable to attend.

Director Reminder:

- **Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) Training:** The Code of VA requires once every two years locally elected officials to take COIA training. The training is at <https://ethicswebinar.dls.virginia.gov/>. Select "Local elected officials or EDAs/IDAs" to complete the correct training to fulfill the training requirement as a District Director. **There is no completion certificate**, but let the clerk of the local jurisdiction know you have completed the training as well as your SWCD administrative staff. Must be completed by 12/31/2021.

Minutes

December 8, 2021

Carmie reminded Director Jim Evans that he would need to complete his COIA training by December 31, 2021.

The December 8, 2021 Board meeting was adjourned.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Carmie M. Savage