



EASTERN SHORE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT CHRISTMAS BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Island House Restaurant, 17 Atlantic Ave, Wachapreague, VA 23480

ATTENDANCE:

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

Nick Thomas- Chair, Jim Evans- Vice Chair, Sands Gayle- Director, Sally Williams- Director, Carmie Savage- District Manager, Bill Savage- Conservation Specialist, Palmer Smith- Conservation Technician, Julie Head- Education Director, Jenny Templeton,- NRCS District Conservationist, Ben Young- NRCS Soils Conservationist, Rick Hall- Associate Director, Edwin Long- Associate Director, Hunter Blake- Associate Director, and Olivia Leatherwood- DCR.

The following Board Members and Staff were unable to attend:

Kyle Sturgis- Director, Ursula Deitch- Director, Matt Hickman- Associate Director, Robbie Lewis- Associate Director, Chip Turlington- Associate Director, Norman Pitt- Associate Director, and Bill Shockley- Associate Director

CALL TO ORDER: Nick Thomas- Chair, called to order the December 14, 2022 District Board Meeting of the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District.

MINUTES and FINANCIAL REPORTS: Director Sally Williams made a motion to approve the November 16, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Jim Evans, carried unanimously. Director Sands Gayle made a motion to approve the November financial reports as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Jim Evans, carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. n/a

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY23 Cost Share Report- Carmie Savage: One WP-4 Poultry project has been completed and paid since the new fiscal year started leaving a balance of obligated '20 VACS funds for Poultry projects of \$245,044.12 in Ches Bay and \$0 in OCB along with a remaining balance of \$168,847.83 in obligated FY22 Ches Bay Transfer funds. The FY23 VACS allocation totals \$1,945,741.00 in Ches Bay VACS and \$1,051,251.00 in OCB VACS. Interest earned through November 30th of \$339.72 and a BMP repayment of \$980.16 leaves a new balance of \$1,947,060.88 in Ches Bay VACS. Interest earned in OCB VACS through November 30th of \$51.56 leaves a new balance of \$1,051,302.56 in

APPROVED: _____ **SIGNED:** _____

BOARD CHAIRMAN

BOARD SECRETARY

OCB VACS. Approved ranked cost share requests through November 16th total \$272,228.75 in Ches Bay VACS and the approved ranked cost share requests through November 30th total \$284,141.10 in OCB VACS. The remaining unobligated balances of \$1,674,832.13 in Ches Bay VACS and \$767,121.46 in OCB VACS can be applied to WFA approved practices. The approved WFA Cost Share requests as of November 16th total \$3,429,772.90. Additional Cost share requests for Ches Bay VACS were presented totaling \$134.80. Additional OCB Cost Share request totaling \$335.00 were presented and additional WFA cost share requests were presented totaling \$117,438.70. After applying the unobligated balances of Ches Bay and OCB VACS totaling \$2,441,483.79 to the WFA need, there still leaves a need of \$1,105,727.81 to fully fund WFA requests. DCR has guaranteed the funding difference so all eligible WFA requests will be funded. During the November 16th District Board meeting, Director Jim Evans was appointed the Designated Authority for any approvals needed prior to planting or prior to December 31st. Due to a potential conflict of interest, Chair Nick Thomas, exited the meeting. Included in the totals above, on November 23rd Jim approved “new” cost share requests for WFA funding totaling \$10,985.00, “new” cost share requests for Ches Bay VACS of \$134.80 and “new” cost share requests for OCB VACS of \$335.00 so the acres could be planted. **Director Sally Williams made a motion to accept the approvals made by Director Jim Evans on November 23rd and approve the new/ additional OCB and WFA Cost Share requests as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Sands Gayle, carried unanimously.** Chair Nick Thomas rejoined the meeting. Carmie explained the balances are ever changing as implemented BMPs are still being reported to the District. She also recommended revisiting the sign-up procedures for next year to allow for easier accounting. One poultry project has been completed and the final as-built inspection is scheduled for December 20th with Amanda Pennington, DCR. On November 22nd, Director Jim Evans, as designated authority, approved conservation plan CP 20-23-0001 written by Bill Savage. **Director Sands Gayle made a motion to accept the approval of CP 20-23-0001 made by Director Jim Evans on November 22nd. The motion, seconded by Director Sally Williams, carried unanimously. Director Sands Gayle made a motion to approve the cost share report as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Jim Evans, carried unanimously**

B. FY23 VCAP Report- Bill Savage: There are currently four VCAP living shore line potential projects. Bill and Palmer have conducted site visits. Proposed Living Shoreline project (Contract 20-22-03) designed to stabilize a section of shoreline located along Jacobus Creek was presented for approval to send to the VCAP Steering Committee. Another proposed Living Shoreline project (Contract 20-22-05) designed to stabilize a section of shoreline located near East Point in Cashville was also presented for approval to send to the VCAP Steering Committee. **Chair Nick Thomas made a motion to approve the two Living Shoreline projects as presented to send to the VCAP Steering Committee and approved the FY23 VCAP Report as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Jim Evans, carried unanimously.**

C. Update to Eastern Shore SWCD Credit Card Policy to include Palmer Smith, Conservation Technician: An updated copy of the Eastern Shore SWCD Credit Card policy which included Palmer Smith, Conservation Technician, was presented for approval. **Chair Sally Williams made a motion to approve the updated Eastern Shore SWCD Credit Card policy to include Palmer Smith as presented. The motion, seconded by Director Jim Evans, carried unanimously.**

D. Eastern Shore SWCD Audit: The Eastern Shore SWCD was audited on Friday, November 18th for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022 by Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates PLLC. Nick and Carmie attended the Exit interview. There were no issues found or noted.

E. Eastern Shore SWCD Endowment Committee Meeting: The next meeting of the Eastern Shore SWCD Endowment Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

F. 33rd Annual Agricultural Ag Conference: The annual Ag Conference is scheduled for January 25-26 at the Exmore Moose Lodge in Exmore. The District will have an exhibit space to advertise programs offered by the District. The annual Barbeque and Oyster Roast will be hosted by the VA Tech Eastern Shore Ag Research and Extension Center in Painter. The Eastern Shore Young Farmers will be assisting with the event. The cost to attend the event is \$50 per person. **A motion was made by Director Jim Evans to purchase the same amount of tickets as last year. The motion, seconded by Director Sands Gayle, carried unanimously.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESS:

A. n/a

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.

Conservation Specialist Report: Bill Savage, Conservation Specialist, included a written report in the meeting packet and it is on file in the District office

Conservation Technician Report: Palmer Smith, Conservation Technician, included a written report in the meeting packet and it is on file in the District office.

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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.

PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS:

Department of Conservation & Recreation Update: Olivia Leatherwood, DCR CDC, included a written report in the meeting packet and it is on file in the District office.

The December 14, 2022 Board meeting was adjourned.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Carmie M. Savage

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