



We work with the people who work the land.

40 Magnolia Square Way, Suite 5
Lexington, Virginia 24450
(540) 319-6453

Natural Bridge SWCD DISTRICT MINUTES

May 20, 2026

The Natural Bridge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting electronically on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 via ZOOM and in person at the Lexington USDA Service Center conference room. The meeting was open to the public in person and by request via telephone. The Ag BMP Cost-Share Committee met this evening. The meeting was called to order by District Chairman, Rob Deyo at 6:35 p.m. A total of fifteen persons participated.

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present:

**Rob Deyo
Tom Stanley
Herbie Huffman
Billy Grose, Jr.
Charles Leech, V
Robbie Beard**

Associate Directors Present:

None

Associate Directors Absent:

**Brian Jenkins
Larry Hurd**

Directors Absent:

**Charles Winder
Tim Goodbar
Others Present:
Elise Sheffield
Ben Eland**

AGENCIES REPRESENTED:

**Tad Williams, DCR CDC
Dorian Perez, NRCS
Tom Stanley, VCE**

DISTRICT STAFF:

**Robert Hickman, District Manager
Jennifer Huffman, Office Administrator
Margaret Spencer, Admin Assistant
Buzzy Reese, Conservation Technician
Lee Cummings, Conservation Technician**

CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order by District Chairman, Rob Deyo at 6:35 pm. Director attendance was recorded, and a quorum was declared. Those participating in person met in the conference room at the Lexington USDA Service Center in Lexington, Virginia.

A review of electronic guidelines was stated by the Chairman. Directors unable to meet in person are allowed to fully participate in Board business per the District's adopted Remote Participation Policy.

MINUTES

Minutes from the April 15, 2026 business meeting were distributed for review. There were no issues or questions. A motion was made to approve the Minutes as presented.

(Huffman, Stanley/ Unanimous)

Minutes from the April 15, 2026 Cost-Share Committee meeting were distributed for review. There were no issues or questions. A motion was made to approve the Minutes as presented.

(Beard, Stanley/ Unanimous)

TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the April 30, 2026 Treasurer's Report was distributed for review, and there were no outstanding issues or questions. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

(Huffman, Stanley/ Unanimous)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

➤ Spring Field Day

Lee briefly reminded directors and those in attendance of our annual Spring Field Day. This year the field day will be held at Ingleside Dairy Farm and Palmer Community Center on June 4, 2026. He reviewed the agenda briefly.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ Boxerwood Funding Request – Elise Sheffield

Elise Sheffield and Ben Eland were present to present a funding request proposal for FY27. Elise provided a written handout for all directors and discussed the proposed partnership and outcomes of her request. Boxerwood's "Comprehensive Educational Services" would provide conservation education to 1,000 local youth. After her presentation, discussion was had, and it was decided the matter would be decided on by the Finance Committee at their upcoming budget committee meeting.

➤ Finance Committee Meeting

Jennifer is working with the members of the Finance Committee to get a meeting scheduled in order to develop the FY27 Operational Budget. Meeting details forthcoming.

SWCD COMMITTEE UPDATES/STAFF REPORTS

Ag BMP Cost-Share:

The following cost-share contracts were presented for approval:

Director Robbie Beard recused himself for the following contract presentation and vote.

A motion was made to approve the conservation plan CP-04-26-0019.

(Grose, Stanley/ Unanimous)

- 1) SL-6W/ Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer and Land Grazing Management. 15-year contract at 100% cost-share. The total estimated cost for this contract is \$70,455.90, with estimated cost-share amount of \$70,455.90 and a buffer incentive payment of \$2,928.00 for a total cost of \$73,383.90. Contract #04-26-0051.

A motion was made to approve contract #04-26-0051.

(Stanley, Huffman/ Unanimous)

- 2) SL-7/ Extension of Watering Systems. 10-year contract at 75% cost-share. The total estimated cost for this second instance of contract #04-26-0051 is \$9,890.00, with estimated cost-share amount of \$7,417.50 for a total cost of \$7,417.50.

A motion was made to approve the second instance of contract #04-26-0051.

(Stanley, Huffman/ Unanimous)

Director Robbie Beard returned to the room for voting.

A motion was made to approve the conservation plan CP-04-26-0020.

(Grose, Beard/ Unanimous)

- 3) SL-6W/ Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer and Land Grazing Management. 15-year contract at 100% cost-share. The total estimated cost for this contract is \$194,386.23 with estimated cost-share amount of \$194,386.23 and a buffer incentive payment of \$18,000.00. Total cost-share \$212,386.23 Contract #04-26-0053.

A motion was made to approve contract #04-26-0053.

(Stanley, Huffman/ Unanimous)

Lee presented an amendment to Contract #04-26-0049 increasing the total cost-share payment by \$1,904.40 for additional cross fencing. The new total cost-share estimate is \$16,610.03.

A motion was made to increase the cost-share payment for contract #04-26-0049 by \$1,904.40.

(Gross, Leech/ Unanimous)

Lastly, Lee stated that since we are nearing the end of the fiscal year, the board may want to delegate authority for the cost-share committee to approve any contracts for the remainder of the year. A motion was made to authorize the cost-share committee to approve BMP contracts that come in late in the fiscal year for the remainder of FY26.

(Stanley, Grose/ Unanimous)

Technical: Robert Hickman, District Manager

A copy of Robert's written report was included in the electronic meeting packet.

Administrative: Jennifer Huffman, Office Administrator

A copy of Jennifer's report was included in the electronic meeting packet.

Finance: Charles Winder, Treasurer

Charles was not present at the meeting.

PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Department of Conservation and Recreation: Tad Williams, CDC

A copy of Tad's May report was included in the electronic meeting packet and is attached as part of these minutes. Tad highlighted several items from his written report and advised the board about the option to grant the chairman approval to sign the grant agreements when they are provided. Tad reminded directors that At-Large director appointments are due to be appointed or re-appointed this year.

A motion was made to re-appoint Robert Beard as At-Large Director for the Natural Bridge Soil & Water Conservation District.

(Leech, Stanley/ Unanimous)

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Dorian Perez, DC

A copy of Dorian's May report was included in the electronic meeting packet and is attached as part of these minutes. Dorian also handed out a Local Working Group packet for partners to fill out and return.

Virginia Cooperative Extension: Tom Stanley, Extension Agent

Tom Stanley provided a brief oral report.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality: Sara Jordan, Water Monitoring & Assessment Scientist

A copy of Sara's May report was included in the electronic meeting packet and is attached as part of these minutes.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Position Vacant

No report provided.

Virginia Department of Forestry: Mitchell Kim

Mitchell Kim did not provide a written report and was not present at the meeting.

DIRECTOR & STAFF COMMENTS:

Beau Leech asked if there had been any development on the information discussed during the Closed Session of the April 15, 2026 meeting. Discussion was had and it was determined a Personnel Committee meeting will need to be scheduled. This matter was tabled for future discussion.

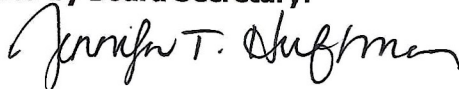
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to address, Rob Deyo adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

The next district business meeting will be held Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lexington USDA Service Center Conference Room.

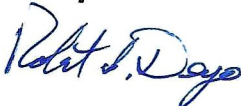
Minutes Submitted by Board Secretary:

June 17, 2026



Minutes Approved by Board of Directors:

June 17, 2026



**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
2026**

The NATURAL BRIDGE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT will hold its monthly Board of Directors meetings for the year 2026 according to the following schedule:

January 21	July 15
February 18	August 19
March 18	September 16
April 15	October 21
May 20	November 18
June 17	December 16

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the Lexington USDA Service Center Conference Room, 40 Magnolia Square Way, Suite 5, Lexington, Virginia, and via ZOOM until further notice. Cost-Share committee meetings are held each month prior to the regularly scheduled business meeting, as needed.