



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

We work with the people who work the land.

Natural Bridge SWCD **DISTRICT MINUTES**

December 18, 2024

The Natural Bridge Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting electronically on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 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 did not meet this evening. The meeting was called to order by District Vice Chairman, Herbert Huffman at 6:30 p.m. A total of twelve persons participated.

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present:

Robbie Beard
Herbie Huffman
Tom Stanley
Charles Winder
Lee Cummings
Billy Grose

Associate Directors Present:

None

Directors Absent:

Rob Deyo

Associate Directors Absent:

Brian Jenkins
Larry Hurd

AGENCIES REPRESENTED:

Tad Williams, DCR
Dorian Perez, District Conservationist, NRCS
Tom Stanley, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

DISTRICT STAFF:

Robert Hickman, District Manager
Jennifer Huffman, Office Administrator
Margaret Spencer, Administrative Assistant
Buzzy Reese, Conservation Technician

CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order by District Vice Chairman, Herbert Huffman at 6:30 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 Vice Chairman. Directors unable to meet in person are allowed to fully participate in Board business per the District's adopted Remote Participation Policy.

Lee Cummings participated remotely.

MINUTES

Minutes from the November 20, 2024 business meeting were distributed previously for review and there were no outstanding issues or questions. A motion was made to accept the Minutes as presented.

(Grose, Stanley/ Unanimous)

Minutes from the November 20, 2024 Cost-Share Committee meeting were distributed previously for review and there were no outstanding issues or questions. A motion was made to accept the Minutes as presented.

(Beard, Stanley/ Unanimous)

Minutes from the November 25, 2024 Strategic Planning Committee meeting were distributed previously for review and there were no outstanding issues or questions. A motion was made to accept the Minutes as presented.

(Grose, Stanley/ Unanimous)

Minutes from the December 17, 2024 Finance Committee meeting were distributed previously for review and there were no outstanding issues or questions. A motion was made to accept the Minutes as presented.

(Goodbar, Stanley/ Unanimous)

TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the November 30, 2024 Treasurer's Report was distributed prior to the meeting for review, and there were no outstanding issues or questions. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

(Winder, Stanley/ Unanimous)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

➤ **VASWCD Annual Meeting Recap**

Jennifer gave the board a brief recap of the VASWCD meeting and noted that all staff were present along with directors Rob Deyo and Billy Grose.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **2025 Meeting Schedule**

The 2025 District Board Meeting schedule was included in the electronic meeting packet. Meeting will continue to be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the USDA Service Center Conference room.

➤ **Approval of 2025-2028 Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Planning Committee has drafted a final version of the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. A copy of that draft had previously been sent to directors for review and a copy is included in the electronic meeting packet. With no further revisions or discussion, a motion was made to approve the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan as presented.

(Stanley, Grose/ Unanimous)

➤ **Approval of FY25 Amended Budget**

A copy of the proposed amended FY25 budget was included in the electronic meeting packet. Jennifer briefly discussed the purpose of the amendments and a motion was made to approve the FY25 Amended Budget as presented.

(Goodbar, Stanley, Unanimous)

➤ **Nominating Committee for January Officer Elections**

Herbie noted that the Officer Elections are coming up in January and appointed Rob Deyo and Tom Stanley to serve on the ad hoc Nominating Committee.

➤ **Remote Participation Policy**

The Natural Bridge SWCD Remote Participation Policy was included in the electronic meeting packet. The current policy is expiring December 31, 2024. A brief discussion was had on the matter. A motion was made to extend the current Remote Participation Policy for the 2025 calendar year.

(Beard, Stanley, Unanimous)

SWCD COMMITTEE UPDATES/STAFF REPORTS

Ag BMP Cost-Share: Lee Cummings, Committee Chair

Lee stated there were no cost-share contracts for approval this meeting.

Technical: Robert Hickman, District Manager

A copy of Robert's 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.

TMDL Watershed

Buzzy mentioned there were no updates on the TMDL.

Finance: Charles Winder, Treasurer

Charles briefly reported on the Finance Committee meeting held December 17, 2024.

PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Department of Conservation and Recreation: Tad Williams, CDC

A copy of Tad’s December report was included in the electronic meeting packet and is attached as part of these minutes. Tad went over a few important items in his report, such as the importance of fully executed VACS Contracts and the implications of missing signatures, and information on DCR’s Nutrient Management Program training courses in January.

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Dorian Perez, District Conservationist

NRCS did not include a written report this month. Dorian noted 38 EQUIP & CSP applications, of which 23 were eligible as of Friday. A local working group date should be available by next month.

Virginia Cooperative Extension: Tom Stanley, Extension Agent

A copy of Tom’s written report was included in the electronic meeting packet and is attached as part of these minutes.

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

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

Virginia Department of Forestry: Mitchell Kim

Michell Kim did not provide a written report.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Lindsay Spotts

A copy of Lindsay Spotts’ December report was included in the electronic meeting packet and is attached as a part of these minutes.

DIRECTOR & STAFF COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

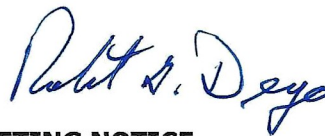
With no further business to address, Herbert Huffman adjourned the meeting at 6:51 pm.

The next district business meeting will be held Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lexington USDA Conference Room and electronically via Zoom.

**Minutes Submitted by Board Secretary:
January 15, 2025**



**Minutes Approved by Board of Directors:
January 15, 2025**



**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
2025**

The NATURAL BRIDGE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT will hold its monthly Board of Directors meetings for the year 2025 according to the following schedule:

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

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.