

MINUTES
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Board of Trustees Meeting
Richmond, 6/12/2025

Attendees:

Board of Trustees

Sissy Crowther, Chair
Elizabeth Copeland
Anne Pittman
James Rich
Tack Richardson

Absent:

Elsie Delva
Ali Alfonja

Staff:

Brett Glymph, Executive Director
Brad Baskette, Regional Director
Kathy Combs, Finance Manager
Leslie Grayson, Deputy Director
Martha Little, Deputy Director
David Morton, IT Director
Cori Rivara, Records Manager
Emily White, Grants Director

Other Attendees:

Rich Mahevich, Office of the Attorney General
Wesley Morgan, Office of the Attorney General
Brooke Howser, Office of the Attorney General,
Intern
Ellen Shephard, Virginia United Land Trusts
Joe Webber, Department of Conservation and
Recreation

Kim Biasioli, Piedmont Environmental Council
Rachel Henley, Virginia Farm Bureau
Emily Gard, Virginia Farm Bureau
Parker Agelasto, Capital Region Land
Conservancy

Sissy Crowther, Chair called the Meeting to Order at 10:02 AM.

APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Motion made by Tack Richardson to approve the order of business; motion seconded by James Rich and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments offered.

PRESENTATION ON CONSERVE VA

Joe Webber, Chief of Biodiversity Information and Conservation Tools from The Department of Conservation narrated a presentation on Conserve Virginia. The presentation is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by James to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting 3/13/2025 and Finance Audit and Compliance Committee Meeting 5/08/25; motion seconded by Tack and passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Brett Glymph reported:

- The September Board of Trustees Meeting location is still to be determined but will be in the Northern Virginia area.

- The first City of Portsmouth and City of Salem easements were signed and recordation is imminent. These easements support our strategic initiative of recording an easement in every Virginia locality.
- Brett informed trustees that staff received notice of a potential issue regarding a change in use on an easement in Loudon County about adding equine trails on Banshee Reeks Preserve.
- Brett went over the Strategic Plan Update using a report published in the meeting materials. She highlighted how we calculate our portfolio acreage, use our relationships with localities to remain proactive regarding notifications for building and other uses that require permits on easement properties, and the importance of VOF's communication with landowners and their neighbors about any concerns on easement properties.
- The Bull Run Community Impact Report for 2024 was given to trustees.

REPORT ON FINANCE AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE (FAC) COMMITTEE MEETING

Tack Richardson, Chair, reviewed details from the FAC meeting on May 8, 2025. Tack highlighted discussions suggesting an annual review of our fee schedule, the decision to remain in our current Local Government Investment Pool, and the awareness of needing resources to support the best practices of our Information Technology needs.

FY26 PROPOSED BUDGET AND FY25 UPDATE

Kathy Combs reviewed the FY25 figures included in the meeting materials. Motion made by Tack to approve the FY26 Budget and resolution; motion seconded by Elizabeth Copeland and passed unanimously.

ELECTRONIC MEETING POLICY

Motion made by James to approve the adoption of the policy; motion seconded by Anne Pittman and passed unanimously.

OWNED LANDS REPORT

Leslie Grayson reported that last week VOF received a gift of 178 acres to add to the Bull Run Mountains Preserve. She also reviewed the report included in the meeting materials highlighting the improved kiosks at House Mountain, and Bull Run, the Spotted Salamander event, new trail up Catlett's Branch, and a visit by Javier Guerra, manager of Dracula Reserve in Ecuador. Tack asked for clarification on the liability protection on VOF reserves and was assured VOF holds liability coverage with the Commonwealth's Division of Risk Management.

LAND CONSERVATION PRESENTATION

Emily White narrated a presentation on conservation project figures and stats for conservation values and types of projects for approval at this meeting. The presentation is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

EASEMENT ASSISTANCE CATEGORY CHANGES & FY26 FUNDING

Emily described the proposed allocation of Preservation Trust Fund (PTF) FY26 funds and the proposed increases to income qualification categories for PTF easement assistance. Motion made by Elizabeth to accept the allocation of PTF funds for FY26 and the new PTF easement assistance income qualification categories; motion seconded by Tack and passed unanimously.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Motion made by Elizabeth to approve the 31 projects (listed below) as presented in the meeting materials, listed on the agenda, recommended by staff and where applicable, the recommended PTF funding; motion seconded by James and passed unanimously.

Conservation Projects - Western Region

1. New River Land Trust, Mill Creek Headwaters Protection, Montgomery County, 64 acres, funding: \$175,000
2. New River Soil & Water Conservation District, New River Hill Park Expansion II, Grayson County, 145 acres, funding \$314,300
3. Homestate Properties, LLC, Floyd County, 240.62 acres
4. Kyli and Greg Waddle, Smyth and Washington Counties, 823.1 acres
5. Richard Rolen, Washington County, 697 acres, funding: \$33,500
6. Ralph and Sharon Dillard, Botetourt County, 99 acres
7. Diane C. McFaden, Bedford County, 465.42 acres
8. Henry W. Carneal, Town of Saltville, 563.75 acres
9. Nicole Terry, Scott County, 98 acres

Conservation Projects - Central Region

10. American Battlefield Trust, Robinson Tract at First Manassas, Fairfax County, 1.5 acres, funding: \$260,955
11. Friends of the Rappahannock- Public Access, Fall Hill Ave and Rappahannock River, City of Fredericksburg, 20.59 acres, funding: \$100,000
12. Lunenburg County, Lunenburg Airport Trailhead, Lunenburg County, 11 acres, funding: \$75,000
13. Monacan Indian Nation, Daisy Adcock Property, Amherst County, 100.4 acres, funding: \$206,989
14. Town of Keysville, Keysville Reservoir Revitalization, Charlotte County, 140 acres, funding: \$150,000
15. Town of South Hill, Whittle's Mill Historic Site and Park, Mecklenburg County, 9.12 acres, funding: \$61,700
16. Afro American Historical Assoc. of Fauquier, The Morgantown School Project: A Moment in Time, Fauquier County, .91 acres, funding: \$185,000
17. Walter Ronald Crigler, Madison County, 192.692 acres
18. P. Brendan Burke & Lillian G. Azevedo, Amelia County, 186.4 acres, funding: \$264,000
19. Katherine and Bruce Johnson & Sherry M. Burke, Panamint, Louisa County, 533.139 acres, funding w/ contingency-\$100,000
20. Jane Froeling, Rappahannock County, 127.88 acres

Conservation Projects - Eastern Region

21. Capital Region Land Conservancy, Urban Agriculture at Doran Road, Henrico County, 61.76 acres, funding: \$400,000
22. City of Portsmouth, City of Portsmouth, Parkview Living Shoreline and Stormwater Park, .35 acres, funding: \$128,000
23. Little River Marsh, LLC, Little River Marsh, Hanover County, 140 acres, funding: \$240,000

24. Marks Brothers Farms, LLC, Southampton County, 340 acres, funding: \$100,000
25. Woodland Restoration Foundation, Woodland Cemetery Restoration Work, Henrico County, 30 acres, funding:-\$25,000
26. Southampton County, Monroe Bridge Boat Ramp and Park, Southampton County, 146.6 acres, additional funding \$40,000
27. Southeastern Public Service Authority, Canebrake, City of Suffolk, 459.64 acres
28. Southeastern Public Service Authority, Magnolia, City of Suffolk, 282.92 acres
29. Snidow, Southampton County, 211.447 acres
30. Hennage, Chuck, Westmoreland County, 104.22 acres
31. Beau Seabury, Essex County, 269.241 acres

CLOSED MEETING

The following motion was read by Brett Glymph:

"Madame Chair, I move that the Board go into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.8 and A.1 for:

1. consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiation **or** litigating posture of the public body, and consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel; and
2. discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, discipline, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body.

This closed meeting will be attended only by members of the Board. However, pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 (F), the Board requests the VOF's, Office of Attorney General's representatives, the Executive Director, the Deputy Directors, Finance Manager, and Regional Director as it believes their presence will reasonably aid the committee in its consideration of topics that are the subject of the meeting. "

Motion was so moved by James; motion seconded by Elizabeth and passed unanimously.

The meeting went in to closed session. Upon returning to open session the following certification was read and certification called by Brett.

"WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees conducted a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712.D of the Code requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board."

DRAFT

Sissy Crowther so certified; Elizabeth Copeland so certified; Anne Pittman so certified; Tack Richardson so certified; and James Rich so certified.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

Motion made by Elizabeth to adjourn the meeting at 1:56 p.m.; motion seconded by James and passed unanimously.