



Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting
3/13/2025, Charlottesville

Attendees:

Board of Trustees

Sissy Crowther, Chair
Ali Alfonja
Elsie Delva
Ann Pittman
Tack Richardson

Absent:

Elizabeth Copeland
James Rich

Staff:

Brett Glymph, Executive Director
Brad Baskette, Regional Director
Bobbie Cabibbo, Exec. Assist
Kathy Combs, Finance Manager
Leslie Grayson, Deputy Director
David Morton, IT Director
Emily White, Grant Director

Other Attendees:

Rich Mahevich, Office of the Attorney General
Rob Evans, Department of Conservation and
Recreation, (DCR) Natural Heritage
Wesley Morgan, Office of the Attorney
General

Amber Vandevander, Lightburn Farms
Ellen Shephard, Virginia United Land Trusts
Rachel Henly, Virginia Farm Bureau
Mikela Ruiz-Ramone, Nature Conservancy
Robert Lightburn, easement owner

Sissy Crowther, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Approval of The Order of Business

Tack Richardson made a motion to approve the order of business; motion seconded by Ali Afonja and passed unanimously.

Public Comments

No public comments we offered at this time.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Tack to approve the minutes as presented for Board of Trustees Meeting 10/12/24 and Finance Audit and Compliance Committee Meeting 2/13/25; motion seconded by Ann Pittman and passed unanimously.

Report on Finance Audit and Compliance Committee Meeting

Tack, Chair of the committee, reported that VOF's consulting accountant, Corbin Stone from Robinson, Farmer and Cox attended the committee meeting virtually. In addition, these topics were discussed:

- Audits
- FY 25 YTD figures
- Discussion concerning revenue expansion.

Director's Report

Brett Glymph reported:

- that the Electronic Meeting Policy is deferred until staff gathers more information from the FOIA Council.
- the General Assembly met, and our general appropriation is holding steady as is the Preservation Trust Fund amount.
- House Bill 1721 Easement Relocation Act has some fine tuning that needs to be done including working with the OAG's office and partner members at VaULT.
- that staff is watching the Virginia bipartisan committee that has been established by the legislature.
- that VOF recorded 62 new easement instruments – 9,488, acres and the total acres protected is over 900,000
- VOF granted \$71,000 in PTF Easement Assistance grants.
- the VaULT Land Conservation and Greenways Conference is April 28 -30. Brett Instructed trustees to contact her if they want to attend.

Owned Lands Report

Leslie Grayson reported that the construction of a parking lot at the Bull Run Mountain Natural Area Preserve (BRMNAP) is well underway. Leslie led us through highlights of the report included in the meeting materials.

Dave Morton presented a video of drone footage recorded at BRMNAP which is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

Land Conservation Presentation

Forest CORE Proposed Projects

Emily White led us through a presentation on the history of the Forest CORE Fund and an overview of submitted projects. A copy of this presentation is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

Project Name	Applicant	Locality	Acres	Recommended Funding
Eastern Divide	DCR	Montgomery County	158	\$528,201
DCR Grassy Hill	DCR	Franklin County	301.07	\$1,157,049
Mays and Purgatory Mts.	Wildlife Foundation of Virginia	Botetourt County	6,486	\$1,714,750
Short Hills	NDPonics	Rockbridge County	785.78	\$600,000

Motion made by Tack to approve the Forest CORE projects as presented and the recommended funding for the projects as noted in the list above; motion seconded by Ann Pittman and passed unanimously.

Conservation Easement Projects

Emily White narrated an overview of the projects below. The presentation is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

Applicant	Real Estate Interest	Locality	Protected Acres
Tuggland, LLC	Deed of Open Space	Floyd County	63.99
Latifundia De Miceli Trust	Deed of Open Space	Bath County	197.11
Alpine 96, LLC	Deed of Open Space	Rappahannock County	147.99
Vercellotti, Douglas W. and Debra S.	Deed of Open Space	Halifax County	140.90
Quaker Hill Farm, LLC	Deed of Open Space	Louisa County	397.84
NewVest Farm, LLC	Deed of Open Space	Albemarle County	91.63

Motion made by Ali Afonja to approve the projects in the above chart as presented: motion seconded by Elsie Delva and passed unanimously.

Brett extended an invitation to Jason Bulluck, Natural Heritage Director, to do a presentation on Conserve Virginia at the VOF June meeting via Rob Evans.

The Chair reopened **Public Comments**. She recognized Mr. Robert Cole Lightburn, a multi-easement owner in both Madison County and Louisa County. Mr. Lightburn suggested that the public, or at least easement owners, have accessibility to our database so they could see the restrictions on different properties. He suggested that VOF consider using a mascot to remind landowners to remember that their properties are subject to easements. He asked the board to consider whether solar farms should be deemed a farm of agriculture and be enabled on easement properties.

New Business

No new business

Adjournment

Motion made by Tack to adjourn; motion seconded by Elsie and passed unanimously.