



**Minutes**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**March 12, 2026**

This meeting was conducted for general business of the VOF Board of Trustees and in accordance with VOF Electronic Meeting Policy 600.1.

**Attendees**

**Trustees attending onsite:**

Vernon “Tack” Richardson, Chair  
Elizabeth “Sissy” Crowther  
Elizabeth Copeland  
Ann Pittman

**Trustees Attending Virtually:**

Sophie Chafin-Vance from Abingdon  
James “Jim” Rich from Florida  
Achille Guest from Florida

**Other Attendees:**

Kim Biasiulli, Piedmont Environmental Council  
Rich Mahevich, Office of the Attorney General  
Wesley Morgan, Office of the Attorney General  
Ellen Shephard, Virginia United Land Trusts

**Staff:**

Brett Glymph, Executive Director  
Brad Baskette, Regional Director  
Bobbie Cabibbo, Executive Assistant  
Kathy Combs, Finance Manager  
Leslie Grayson, Deputy Director  
Harry Hibbitts, Regional Director  
David Morton, IT Directors  
Emily White, Grant Director

Tack Richardson, the chair, called the meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Elizabeth Copeland made a motion to approve the order of business; motion seconded by Sissy Crowther and passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Brett reported on the following items:

- The Commonwealth’s Biennial Budget may be delayed because of the issue of tax exemption for data center.
- The resolution honoring VOF’s 60 years has passed both houses. Brett intends to send a written thank you to all the sponsors.
- Senate Bill 342, which outlines additional deterrents for infrastructure development on protected land has passed the house. The bill calls for reimbursement to the Commonwealth and localities any tax credit or preferential tax treatment received due to the easement. It is likely that the governor will sign this bill.
- The Great Outdoors Act did not make it through the budgeting process in the legislature, but support for this is strong and hopefully will fare better in the future.

Brett asked Regional Directors for updates. Brad Baskette reported that we are in contact with the powerline companies and they are clear that avoiding our easements is their best choice. Many lines are still in design, and avoiding ALL easements may not be possible. What we do know is that the towers are bigger and therefore wider Right-of Ways may be needed, while trying to co-locate will be the challenge.

Tack Richardson expressed concern about adequate staffing for the uptick in public and donor questions that will arise from this situation. Brett assured the trustees that staff resources will be distributed to manage the workload.

Harry Hibbitts reported that Loudoun County is considering equine use at Banshee Reeks Preserve. Although VOF's conservation easement does not prohibit equine use specifically, the easement has many protections that must be considered when adding a new type of use to the preserve.

Brett invited Ellen Shepard, Executive Director of Virginia United Land Trusts to speak. Ellen extended an invitation to the 20<sup>th</sup> VaULT conference.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment was offered.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Elizabeth Copeland made a motion to accept the minutes for the September 2025 meeting as presented; Anne Pittman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### **FINANCE, AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Tack Richardson reported receipt of a clean, unmodified and timely Fiscal Year 2025 audit. Our Fiscal Year 2026 budget is on track to finish within all parameters.

#### **RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DEED SIGNATORIES**

Elizabeth made a motion to approve the resolution appointing the staff members who are authorized to sign real estate documents on behalf of VOF; the motion was seconded by Anne Pittman and passed unanimously. See Attachment A.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2028 UPDATE**

A report on VOF's land protection statistics was displayed on screen, is attached to these minutes as Attachment B and is on permanent record with the file of this meeting. Brett reported that we are making good progress on all goals of the strategic plan. Sissy Crowther suggested doing a targeted engagement with select legislators outlining public policy issues that VOF can help address.

#### **OWNED LANDS REPORT**

Leslie reviewed the meeting materials, noting highlights, and answered questions regarding the management of VOF properties and activities taking place on each.

## **LAND CONSERVATION PRESENTATION AND PROJECTS**

### FOREST CORE

Emily White narrated a presentation which is on file with the permanent record of this meeting. Sissy made a Motion approve both recommended funding and the projects as listed below; Elizabeth Copeland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**NDPonics**--Botetourt & Rockbridge Counties - 428 acres approved funding: **\$942,112.50**

**New River Soil & Water Conservation District** – Grayson County -94 acres - approved funding: **\$244,400**

**The Nature Conservancy** - Bath County-134 acres – approved funding: **\$380,150**

**Virginia Institute for Invertebrates** – Giles County - 222.21 acres approved funding: **\$700,131**

### REGIONAL LAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Emily narrated a presentation reviewing statistics and showcasing select projects. This presentation is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

Elizabeth made a motion to approve the projects listed below; Anne Pittman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Michael and Mary Carter** – Scott County - 330.471 acres

**Karen L. Smith & Debra L. Smith** – Washington County - 170 +/- acres

**Edmondson Heritage Farm, LLC**—Washington County - 132 +/- acres

**Justin and Brenda Hill** – Carroll County - 192 +/- acres

**Frederick Gale and Lisa Lynn Lowe** – Smyth County - 473 +/- acres

**Kevin & Elizabeth Kegley and Donald & Trish Kimberlin** – Smyth County – 183 acres

**Chad and Jessica Stevenson** – Smyth County - 303 +/- acres

**Hubert C. Owen Living Trust** – Henrico County - 62.131 acres

**Friends of Dragon Run** – Middlesex County - 32.4 acres

**Gill, John and Christopher** – Surry County - 122.46 acres

**David A. Taliaferro** – Essex County – 200 +/- acres

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Bobbie Cabibbo reminded attendees that the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will be in Blacksburg and on June 11 there will be a field trip.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Sissy made motion to adjourn at 12:30 p.m.; Elizabeth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.



**RESOLUTION**  
**VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION TO**  
**APPROVE SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR REAL PROPERTY INSTRUMENTS**  
**AND GRANT AGREEMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 10.1-1801, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (the “Foundation”) is established to promote the preservation of open-space lands and to encourage private gifts of money, securities, land or other property to preserve the natural, scenic, historic, scientific, open-space and recreational areas of the Commonwealth.

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of its statutory mission, the Foundation may acquire by gift, devise, purchase, or otherwise, absolutely or in trust, and to hold and, unless otherwise restricted by the terms of the gift or devise [...] any real property, or any estate or interest therein, as may be necessary and proper in carrying into effect the purposes of the Foundation;

**WHEREAS**, the Foundation’s work requires the execution of real estate deeds (including easements ) and related documents including deeds of correction, amendment, restatement, rights-of-way for access and utilities, and other real property instruments related to its real estate portfolio (together “Real Property Instruments”) and the execution of grant agreements for the Preservation Trust Fund (PTF) and for grant programs for which the Foundation is the applicant, including, but not limited to, grant applications to state and federal agencies for open-space conservation on behalf of the Board of Trustees (together, “Grant Agreements”);

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**WHEREAS**, the Foundation’s work requires the signing of Real Property Instruments and Grant Agreements around the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Director, Deputy Directors and Regional Directors work closely with the Office of the Virginia Attorney General, in-house counsel and other senior staff to review the Real Property Instruments and Grant Agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, in the case where the VOF Board of Trustees has previously reviewed and approved the acceptance of a deed: and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees has previously delegated authority to the Executive Director and Deputy Directors to sign deeds for acceptance of easements; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation Board of Trustees this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026, That the Executive Director, Deputy Directors, and Regional Directors are hereby authorized to execute Real Property Instruments and Grant Agreements specifically authorized by the Board of Trustees on behalf of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

Adopted by a vote of 4 for and 0 against.

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ATTEST: Brett C. Glymph, Executive Director