

Meeting Minutes
Monacan Soil and Water Conservation District
March 17, 2025
Goochland Agricultural Center
Central High School, 2748 Dogtown Rd
Goochland, VA

A. Call to Order and Roll Call – 9:00 AM

1. Directors present – John Kochensparger, Matt Dabney, Sandy Brindley, Sebastian Volcker, Kate Anderson, Skye Brickhouse (Goochland VCE Ag Agent)
2. Associate Directors present – Dan Jones, John Few (Powhatan VCE Ag Agent)
3. Staff present – Keith Burgess, Colton Sullivan, Lissy Hamilton
4. Others – Denney Collins, DCR Conservation District Coordinator; Emily Langford, Goochland; Tara Ciavarella, NRCS
5. Not present – Maddie Wiley (staff), Ken Carter (Associate Director)

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Public Comment Period – John recognized Jonathan Lyle is here today.

D. Approve Minutes – February minutes were presented. Sebastian made a motion to approve. Matt seconded the motion. Discussion- John presented amendments. Sebastian changed his original motion to approve with presented amendments. Matt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

E. Treasurer's Report

1. Monthly Report – Lissy presented. Sebastian made a motion to accept as presented. Matt seconded the motion. There was discussion about the Short Term LGIP account. The motion carried.

F. Chairman's Report

1. Virginia Grey Fox Project information was presented for informational purposes.
2. Area III Meeting – all staff, 2 directors, and 1 associate director plan to attend.

G. Director/Associate Director Reports

1. Sandy – attended the finance committee meeting. She thanked Keith and Sebastian for their prep work. She apologizes for missing the last meeting, she was in Korea visiting her daughter.
2. Sebastian – nothing to report.
3. Dan – With the federal cutbacks – what are our funding streams? Keith responded that none of our funding is directly federal funds. Dan asked what the percentage of our funding is state vs local. He and Keith will meet.
4. Matt – met with a student to get some volunteer hours in that are conservation related. He managed to get him into do the Ducks Unlimited banquet.
5. Kate – Skye was able to visit Kate's farm.
6. Skye – There is a new administrative position open for the Goochland location. The Spring Garden Fest Master Gardeners Program will be on April 26. CBLP program
7. John F – Farm to Table program – 5 classes will be offered.
8. John K – Did meet with Keith about the budget; Delegate Ware and Senator Cifers presented at the Powhatan Chamber of Commerce meeting which John attended and talked with them; will be meeting with Powhatan Economic Development Director later this week; Met with Powhatan County Manager and they had no questions on the budget request submitted by Monacan; Informed the county administrator that there hasn't been a Powhatan County representative at our meeting in two years.

H. Liaison Reports

1. Goochland – Trying to figure out funding for next year, there are some new requirements for inspections after snow events, and how limited staff will accommodate this.
2. Powhatan – none present.

I. Committee Reports

1. Agricultural Committee – Kate presented.
 - a. VACS contract approvals – the following contracts were presented as a motion from the committee for approval:

1. 38-25-0045 - SL-7 - Cost Share \$11,238.00; Tax Credit \$936.50
2. 38-25-0046 - NM-5N - Cost Share \$5,647.44
3. 38-25-0047 - NM-5P - Cost Share \$11,146.08
4. 38-25-0048 - NM-5P - Cost Share \$1,354.64
5. 38-25-0049 - NM-3C - Cost Share \$432.36

The motion to approve the above contracts carried.

- b. Conservation Easements – The committee met last month and discussed current and future easement considerations. The committee took no formal action and therefore there is recommended action at this time. Jane from CRLC attended the Ag Committee meeting. The committee will meet again to discuss fund management and easement criteria.
2. Finance Committee – Sebastian presented. Keith went over the budget at the committee meeting. No formal action or recommendations were presented today. If anyone has any comments or suggestions about the budget, Keith would like them to reach out.
3. Personnel Committee – Sandy presented. Performance reviews will be coming up, she will be working with Keith on this process. Feels that Keith is fairly overextended, suggested that there should be some restructuring in staff duties/responsibilities.

J. Unfinished Business

1. Goochland Day May 17, 11am -3pm – Matt had ideas on a float. There were discussions on promo items, sharing a space with a partner. Prices for registering have increased. It was suggested that space in the parade be researched. Matt and staff will further evaluate participation.

K. New Business

1. Awards/recognition event – Keith had brought this up to Sandy, she has volunteered to help with this. Looking at doing this sometime in June. Any suggestions/ideas are welcome. Emily suggested she contact Piedmont SWCD since they host one every year.

- L. DCR Conservation District Coordinator – Denney Collins* - There is a meeting minutes training later today. Reminder that committee meeting minutes are to follow FOIA. DCR has lots of new staff changes. VSWCB will be meeting Wednesday at Twin Lakes State Park. They will meet in April at the Drury hotel on the 16th.

M. Staff Reports & Presentation – copies of staff reports were provided in the meeting packets.

1. Keith – attended HR training provided by VASWCD, among other trainings. Budget development, worked with Maddie on analysis of Goochland agricultural land data.
2. Colton – working on VACS projects. There is a possibility of two new projects that will require EJAA.
3. Lissy – attended HR training and records retention training. Social media posts on Facebook for National Groundwater Awareness Week.
4. Maddie – Attended Fencing training with Keith, VACS field visits with Colton, continues to work on training,

N. Reports of Cooperating Agencies

1. VCE – Please see under Item G
2. NRCS – still working on applications which are due on March 28th. All programs are on hold. Between voluntary resignations, terminations, etc., there have been 33 staff members leave Virginia NRCS. Kilby is retiring in April. All tentative and final job offers for new hires have been rescinded and are still on freeze.
3. Capital Region Land Conservancy – Dan reported.
 - a. DWR Wildlife Corridor Action Plan – Keith asked if directors would like staff to attend this.
 - b. Funding – Sebastian asked what is going on with the funds situation, Keith responded it is still being discussed and policy is being developed to manage the conservation stewardship funds.
4. DOF – none present.

O. Upcoming Activities

1. Financial committee – budget
2. Strategic Planning public meeting

Adjourn - 10:06 am

Respectfully submitted,



Lissy Hamilton
Office Administrator

Approved: _____

4/21/25
Date



John Kochensparger, Chair