



8850 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, VA 20109
www.pswgcd.org
pswgcd@pswgcd.org

Phone: 571.379.7514
Fax: 571.379.8305

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, July 16, 2026
Wetland Studies & Solutions, Inc.
5300 Wellington Branch Dr #100, Gainesville, VA 20155 – Jefferson Conference Room

In-person Attendees:

John Price, Director – Chairman
Jenny Reed, Director – Vice Chairman
Nancy Vehrs, Director – Secretary
Thomas Bolles, Director – VCE Agent
Mansimran Kahlon, Director
Sonnie Cuffey, Associate Director
Jim Gehlsen, Associate Director - Treasurer
Jay Yankey, District Manager
Casey Iames, District Conservationist – NRCS
Hunter Quinones, Conservation Specialist
Alex Murphy, Urban Conservation Specialist
Josie Anderson, Water Quality & Outreach Specialist
Debbie Cross, Conservation District Coordinator – DCR

Absent:

Melina Cienski, Urban Forester – DOF
Andrew Uglow – Associate Director
Linda Dunn – Office Manager

Virtual Attendees:

Will Lintner, Associate Director
Nicole Slazinski, Urban Conservation Specialist
Veronica Tangiri, Water Quality Manager
Breanna Jones, Water Quality Specialist

Board of Directors Meeting, July 16, 2026

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Mr. Kahlon was not present at the start of the meeting.

Chairman's Remarks –

Potomac Watershed Roundtable – Ms. Vehrs stated that Elizabeth Ward submitted her nomination for the Potomac Watershed Roundtable Environmental Representative. Ms. Vehrs also stated that Barbara Bailey, with Virginia Cooperative Extension in Loudoun County, worked on a project involving tree seedling plantings in raised gravel beds. This process is expected to promote more root growth. It was observed that there was not much of a difference between this process and planting the seedlings in the ground.

The topic of controlling invasive Trapa plants across watersheds was discussed. Trapa is an invasive plant that is located in Prince William County and spreading to surrounding counties.

A representative from George Washington Regional Council spoke about its septic relief program that assists property owners repair, replace, or correct failing septic systems. Mr. Lintner stated that this program will be phased out. As of July 1, 2026, the program is restricted to projects located within areas of Caroline County and Spotsylvania County.

Mr. Lintner reported that Charlie Grymes resigned from the roundtable, and nominations for two positions are open for environmental groups.

Mr. Linter stated that the next meeting of the Potomac Council and Watershed Roundtable is scheduled on Friday, October 9, 2026, and will be hosted by the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District.

Minutes of the May 21, 2026, Meeting – The motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Vehrs, with a 2nd by Mr. Bolles, and passed by a 4/0/0 vote.

Treasurer's Report for May 2026, FY 26, 4th qtr. & year-end Financials – The motion to approve was made by Mr. Bolles, with a 2nd by Ms. Vehrs, and passed by a 4/0/0 vote.

Managers Time – Jay Yankey

Mr. Yankey stated that conservation staff are working on several VACS plans. Technical staff are working on several VCAP plans and continue to receive requests for new ones.

Ms. Anderson was accepted to the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute program. Ms. Tangiri has the opportunity to attend the Virginia Water Quality Monitoring Conference this fall.

Board of Directors Meeting, July 16, 2026

Upcoming Meetings/Events

July 27-31	Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting
August 1	African American Heritage Festival
August 20	Water Quality - Master Gardeners Training
August 27	PWSWCD Volunteers Appreciation Event
August 25-29	Sustainable Life Cycle Assessment Summer School
September 26	Annual Occoquan River Cleanup
September 29	Virginia Water Quality Monitoring Conference
October 3	Occoquan River Cleanup by FOTO

Meetings/Events Attended

See attached June staff reports.

Casey James, NRCS District Conservationist (*written report submitted*)

Environmental Qualities Incentives Program (EQIP) –

Ms. James stated that 2 EQIP applications have been pre-approved: One in Loudoun County, and one in Fauquier County.

NRCS currently has 33 active contracts: 2 in Prince William County, 11 in Loudoun County, and 20 in Fauquier County. Total obligations = \$3,179,741.46

See attached for Ms. James' complete report.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Office – Thomas Bolles, Associate Extension Agent

Mr. Bolles reported the following:

VCE Report – Ongoing/Upcoming Events

- Summer Reading program with the libraries has started
- SLF Telemundo Interview
- Working with Caitlin Burke on GIS Ag Tourism/Soils Overlay
- Piedmont Strawberry Growers' Meeting on 7/20 at Messick's Farm Market
- Meeting with Agritecture (the County's Agribusiness/Agritourism consultants) and county staff and attending three public meetings related to the study in late July
 - 7/27 Brentsville Hall
 - 7/28 The Winery at La Grange
 - 7/29 Harbor View Wedding and Event Venue
- Public Health, Nutrition, and Gardening at Bull Run Library on 7/21
- Virginia Soil Health Coalition planning meetings for September Soil Health event in the Valley, more details to come
- Regional Salt meeting in late July
- Continuing to monitor drought conditions within the county and region

Board of Directors Meeting, July 16, 2026

Debbie Cross, Conservation District Coordinator – DCR (written report submitted)

Ms. Cross stated that the VA Soil & Water Board will meet on 7/24/26 to approve FY 27 policies and grant agreements.

Initial disbursement letters will be transmitted on 7/30/26.

Districts should complete their FY 27 Cash Reserves Plan before September 30, 2026.

Signed board meeting and committee meeting minutes need to be uploaded to District websites within 7 days of approval.

See attached for Ms. Cross's complete report.

VA Dept. of Forestry – Melina Cienski

Ms. Cienski unable to attend.

Associate Directors –

Sonnie Cuffey – Mr. Cuffey stated that the African American Heritage Festival is scheduled on Saturday, August 1, 2026. He discussed the public comment notice for Microsoft data centers. For more information, visit https://www.insidenova.com/news/business/public-comment-notice-for-microsoft-data-center-raises-transparency-concerns-in-prince-william/article_0a4658c0-73fa-4158-b721-c1837338d6b0.html

Jim Gehlsen – Mr. Gehlsen discussed his concern over a previous District employee that was approved for unemployment insurance benefits.

Will Lintner - Mr. Lintner stated that he read an article pertaining to concerns over data centers. For more information, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jQCPpp9nfQ&t=108s>

Andrew Uglow – Mr. Uglow unable to attend.

Operations

Mr. Kahlon arrived and participated in remainder of votes.

Approve Recommendations from the Finance Committee Meeting on July 9, 2026 – This item was not voted on, as the committee minutes were not provided at the meeting.

Approve the FY 26 4th Qtr. and Final Att. E – The motion to approve was made by Mr. Bolles, with a 2nd by Ms. Vehrs, and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Ratify the FY 27 Revised VACS Carryover Report – The motion to approve was made by Mr. Bolles, with a 2nd by Ms. Vehrs, and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Board of Directors Meeting, July 16, 2026

Approve the Prince William County Quarterly Report – The motion to approve was made by Mr. Bolles, with a 2nd by Ms. Vehrs, and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Approve the City of Manassas Yearly Report – The motion to approve was made by Ms. Vehrs, with a 2nd by Ms. Reed, and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Approve Appointment of Jim Gehlsen to the TRC Committee – The motion to approve was made by Mr. Bolles, with a 2nd by Ms. Vehrs, and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Approve the District's FY 27 Budget – Mr. Price made the motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 District budget as presented, pending changes by the Virginia State funding allocations. Ms. Vehrs seconded the motion. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Ms. Cross stated that the DCR Assessment Report will be reviewed at the September 17, 2026, board meeting.

Other Business

None

Conservation

Ms. Slazinski mentioned that the District's conservation plans are being reviewed by DCR. She and Mr. Murphy were informed that they are writing good plans and meeting requirements.

Approve Recommendations from the TRC meeting on July 9, 2026 – The motion to approve was made by Mr. Bolles, with a 2nd by Ms. Vehrs, and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Mr. Bolles made the motion to amend the approval of the recommendations from the TRC meeting on July 9, 2026, to include the following conservation plans. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

CP-35-27-0001 Scarlet Grace Estate

7294-96-7682

Participant: Clinger, Shaelyn

14660 Fitzwater Drive, Nokesville, VA 20181

Plan Writer: Hunter.QuinonesPW

PL33: Kettle Run

Pasture : 5.5 acres

Total Acres in Production: 5.5

CP-35-27-0002 Arnold Farm

7593-40-3247

Participant: Arnold, Doug

12800 Slate Bridge Court, Nokesville, VA 20181

Plan Writer: Hunter.QuinonesPW

PL40: Slate Run-Cedar Run

Pasture : 4.5 acres

Total Acres in Production: 4.5

Board of Directors Meeting, July 16, 2026

Contract #	BMP	Participant	Project Lead	Phase of Development	Approved Design?	Last updated on:	Project Status Notes June 30, 2026
35-25-0004	SL-6W	Nichols, Paul	Jay Yankey	Construction in progress	Yes	6/26/2026	Practice is still in the same place as last month. Touched base with the landowner and he hasn't had time to finish up the trough installation. Once that is complete he's ready for his final inspection and we can prepare the as-built.
35-24-0017	SL-7	Evergreen Bend Farm/Heaton	Jay Yankey	Construction In Progress	Yes	6/26/2026	Contractor nearly has the project complete. Practice has been carried over. JUS have to get the as-built approved by engineering staff and prepare payment.
35-26-0009	SL-6W, SL-7	Albert Davis	Jay Yankey	Contractor Selection/ Construction	Yes	6/26/2026	Mr. Davis has selected a contractor. We have had our preconstruction meeting. Contractor is gathering materials for approval and plans to begin construction the week of July 13th.
35-26-0008	SL-7	Jim Viar	Jay Yankey	I&E	no	6/26/2026	The Viars cancelled this practice and we have plans to sign them back up in early FY27
	SL-6W	Regina Williams	Jay Yankey	Cons. Plan Development/ I&E	no	6/26/2026	No change. Still waiting on the landowner to be ready. She anticipates signing up in the fall of FY27
	WQ-12	Tiffany Jackson	Jay Yankey	I&E	no	6/26/2026	The Jacksons may be interested in moving forward with this practice. Have had contact with the Jacksons about scheduling a site visit but we have had to reschedule a couple times and now have conflicting vacations scheduled. Should be able to get eyes on the ground in mid July.
	SL-6W	David Wease	Jay Yankey	I&E	no	6/26/2026	No change. Going out to gather I&E info in July to submit to engineering staff and then signing up the practice upon approval.

Mr. Bolles made the motion to approve the amendment. Mr. Price seconded the motion. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Water Quality Programs Update – Veronica Tangiri

Ms. Tangiri provided a quarterly update on trash quantities collected from cleanups between April – June 2026. She provided information on several conferences and symposiums she has attended. She recognized Drew Uglow for his assistance with installing Adopt-A-Stream signs. Ms. Tangiri stated that the sculpture will be at the county complex this summer.

Education Programs Update – Josie Anderson

Ms. Anderson stated that the volunteer awards ceremony is scheduled on Thursday, August 27th, at Windy Knoll Farm. She is scheduled to attend several outreach events over the next several weeks.

Outreach Programs – Alex Murphy

Nothing to report at this time.

VCAP Update – Nicole Slazinski

Ms. Slazinski stated that \$4M was passed in the state budget for the VCAP program. This amount covers fiscal years 27 & 28. The waiting list has been lifted.

Board of Directors Meeting, July 16, 2026

VACS Update – Hunter Quinones

Mr. Quinones stated that he is working on three new conservation plans and four renewal plans this month. He attended the RUSLE2 Installation Training and RUSLE2 Part C Training on 6/17/26.

Directors' Time –

Ms. Vehrs – Ms. Vehrs stated that she attended the virtual Green Breakfast event, sponsored by the Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District, on July 11, 2026. The topic was “The Problem with Plastic and the Realities of Recycling,” presented by Jen Cole, Executive Director of Clean Fairfax.

Director's Time does not include remainder of Director comments, as the board went into a closed meeting.

Mr. Price moved that the Prince William SWCD Board of Directors and Jay Yankey go into Closed Meeting at 12:51 p.m. in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act § 2.2-3711(A)(1) to discuss personnel matters. Motion by Mr. Price, 2nd by Mr. Bolles. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

At 1:04 p.m., the board came out of closed session and certified the meeting per notice. Motion by Mr. Price, 2nd by Ms. Vehrs. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Mr. Price moved that
WHEREAS, the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District has convened 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, § 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District that a closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) 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 (ii) only such public business matters as identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District.

Ms. Vehrs seconded the motion. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Ms. Vehrs made the motion to hire Ammanawit Haines as a part-time summer intern, per the District Manager, as discussed in closed session. Mr. Kahlon seconded the motion. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Ms. Vehrs moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:06 p.m. Mr. Bolles seconded the motion. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Board of Directors Meeting, July 16, 2026

Next TRC meeting – Thursday, August 13, 2026, 1 p.m., 8033 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, VA – Conference Room D

Next Board meeting – Thursday, August 20, 2026, 11 a.m., Wetland Studies & Solutions, Inc., 5300 Wellington Branch Dr #100, Gainesville, VA 20155 – 2nd Floor Training Room

Next Finance Committee meeting – Thursday, October 8, 2026, 12 p.m., 8033 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, VA – Conference Room D

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:



Linda Dunn, Office Manager



Nancy Vehrs, Secretary