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MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, February 19, 2026
WSSI, 5300 Wellington Branch Dr., #100, Gainesville, VA 20155

In-person Attendees:

John Price, Director – Chairman, Interim Treasurer
Nancy Vehrs, Director - Secretary
Jenny Reed, Director – Vice-Chairman
Mansimran Kahlon, Director
Thomas Bolles, Director – VCE Agent
Jay Yankey, District Manager
Linda Dunn, Office Manager
Debbie Cross, Conservation District Coordinator – DCR
Sonnie Cuffey, Associate Director
Jim Gehlsen, Associate Director
Will Lintner, Associate Director
Veronica Tangiri, Water Quality Manager

Absent:

Melina Cienski, Urban Forester – DOF
Andrew Uglow, Associate Director
Josie Anderson, Water Quality and Outreach Specialist

Virtual Attendees:

Casey James, NRCS District Conservationist
Nicole Slazinski, Urban Conservation Specialist
Alex Murphy, Urban Conservation Specialist
Seth Hatfield, Conservation Specialist

Board of Directors Meeting, February 19, 2026

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. as a quorum was established.

Chairman's remarks – Mr. Price congratulated Ms. Tangiri for being the 2026 Silver medal winner of the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards. He informed the board that the Directors, Mr. Yankey, and Ms. Dunn will go into closed session at the close of the board meeting today to discuss Personnel topics.

Potomac Council Update – Ms. Vehrs stated that no updates are to be presented at today's meeting, since the Potomac Council meets quarterly. She discussed her concern for the sewage spill into the Potomac River and noted that the drinking water source is north of the area where the spill occurred.

Minutes of the December 18, 2025 & January 15, 2026 Meetings – The motion to approve was made by Mr. Bolles with a 2nd by Ms. Vehrs and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Treasurer's Report for January 2026 Financials – The motion to file the Treasurer's Report for audit was made by Ms. Reed with a 2nd by Ms. Vehrs and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Managers Time – Jay Yankey

Mr. Yankey stated that Mr. Mohr was subpoenaed as a witness regarding the Hailer property. Mr. Hailer had a large number of trees removed from his property. Several neighboring landowners filed a civil suit against him stating that the removal caused damage to their properties due to erosion and runoff issues. The District previously completed a conservation plan on the Hailer property and has received a FOIA request for information relating to the plan.

The Farmer & Landowner Outreach event is scheduled on Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 6-8 p.m. at Windy Knoll Farm. Ms. Slazinski stated that nine individuals have registered to date. Mr. Yankey advertised the event on the Facebook Community page, and posters have been displayed in several public areas.

The District is holding a large cleanup event with the City of Manassas Park on Saturday, February 28, 2026.

April 15, 2026 is the Area II Spring meeting at Oatlands in Loudoun County. Please let Ms. Dunn know if you plan to attend.

Staff are currently working on 20 plans, as well as several BMPs.

Ms. Cross conducted the District's cost share file audits that she will discuss during the partner reports time.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Feb. 26	6 PM-8 PM	Farmer & Landowner Outreach Event - Windy Knoll Farm	
Feb. 28	9 AM-12 Noon	Manassas Park City Water Quality Awareness and Cleanup	
March 7	9 AM-12 Noon	Neabsco Boardwalk/ Creek Cleanup	
March 14	9 AM-12 Noon	Bull Run Watershed Protectors Cleanup	
March 21	9 AM-12 Noon	Little Bull Run/Bull Run Cleanup	
March 24	All Day	Virginia Environmental Symposium	
March 31	All Day	Prince William County Neighborhood Conference	
April 11	10 AM	Powells Creek Biological Monitoring	
June 1-3		Chesapeake Community Research Symposium	

Meetings/Events Attended

See attached January staff reports.

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

Ms. Casey stated that the application deadline for NRCS programs closed January 15th with 49 applications. The ranking deadline for applications received by January 15, 2026 is April 2, 2026.

The draft agenda for 2027 lists the application deadline for the beginning of October. The exact date will be determined once the agenda is finalized.

Joint Employee Development trainings are being revamped. NRCS is requesting that individuals register for the trainings at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oHP9BckWjccBb42mRtc5GMfvMd41x77UDYNiiYyMRiU/edit?usp=sharing>.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Office – Thomas Bolles, Associate Extension Agent

Mr. Bolles stated that VCE is working on Spring and Summer programs. Growers' meetings for specialty crops and fruits are to be scheduled. He will notify the board when they have been scheduled.

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

Ms. Cross stated that disbursement letters were emailed on February 12, 2026. Districts can expect direct deposits within 30 days. She reminded the District to provide an updated Associate Director Responsibilities list if it has not done so already.

Ms. Cross stated that she will work with Ms. Dunn to provide all board and committee meeting signed documents.

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DCR completed a mid-year conservation plan review for Prince William SWCD. Comments were emailed to staff to notify them of what needs to be worked on before the end of the program year.

DCR conducted a Conservation Planning Grant Deliverables training on February 12, 2026. Ms. Slazinski attended the training.

Before cover crop payments are made, current participants need nutrient plans. All participants need to be included in the plan.

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 he is working on a date for the slave cemetery cleanup.

Discussion: The board discussed salt usage on roadways, the effects on waterways, and possible alternatives.

Will Lintner - Mr. Lintner stated that he attended the VA Soil & Water Coalition meeting on January 30, 2026. He spoke about David Bulova, who is the new Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources for VA. Over the next four years, his focus is going to be on the Chesapeake Bay watersheds, with more focus on prevention ahead of time, rather than conducting cleanups afterwards. The use of technologies and agriculture remains a priority with him, as well as actions in urban settings to assist property owners. Mr. Bulova oversees DCR, DEQ, The Dept. of Water Resources, and the Dept. of Historic Resources. His discussion was followed by a discussion by Deputy Secretary Adrienne Kotula. She is the Watershed Coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. She is knowledgeable about the Chesapeake Bay agreements and progress that has been made in regard to cleaning up the Bay. She is focused on reducing the target pollutants in the bay.

Mr. Lintner reported that Mary Sketch Bryant, the head of the VA Health Soil Coalition, spoke about her strategic plan for her organization, including her three major priorities.

Jim Gehlsen – No comments.

Andrew Uglow unable to attend.

Operations

Approve Jim Gehlsen as Treasurer of the Prince William SWCD Board - – The motion to approve was made by Ms. Vehrs with a 2nd by Mr. Kahlon and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Board of Directors Meeting, February 19, 2026

Other Business

Discuss: Dates and times to meet at Truist Bank and Virginia National Bank to change check signers.

The Directors will schedule a meeting at Virginia National Bank on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

The Directors will schedule a meeting at Truist Bank on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

The Directors will add/maintain the following check signers to the Truist Bank and the Virginia National Bank: Jay Yankey, John Price, Nancy Vehrs, Thomas Bolles, and Jim Gehlsen.

The Directors will remove the following check signers from the Truist Bank and the Virginia National Bank: Duane Mohr, Will Lintner, and Mansimran Kahlon.

Discuss: Conservation practice tour for Directors and Associate Directors – Mr. Yankey stated that Directors, Associate Directors, and partners are welcome to join him and staff in May to visit sites that they have conducted conservation plans and VCAP plans for, so they have a better understanding of what types of projects they are working on or have completed. Mr. Yankey will follow up on this at the March 19, 2026 board meeting.

Conservation

Approve Recommendations from the TRC meeting on February 12, 2026 – The motion to approve was made by Mr. Bolles with a 2nd by Ms. Reed and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

2 Recommended Approval of VACS BMPs by BOD **Motion:** **Second:** **Vote:**
BMPs

3 Recommended Approval of VCAP BMPs by BOD **Motion:** Price **Second:** Reed **Vote:** 4-0
VCAP

Daniecki, Emily

4610 Spalding Dr, Montclair, VA 22025

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Practice	Contract No.	Total Est. Cost	Est. State C/S	Area (sq. feet)	Number	Gallons
Conservation Landscaping	VCAP 35-26-004	\$8,015.00	\$6,412.00	1,000.0	0.000	0.000
Conservation Landscaping	VCAP 35-26-003	\$10,975.00	\$7,000.00	3,490.0	0.000	0.000
Totals:		\$18,990.00	\$13,412.00	4,490.0	0.000	0.000

4 BMPs and VCAP Completed this Month **Motion:** **Second:** **Vote:**
BMPs

VCAP

Name Address	Contract No.	Practice	Area (sq. feet)	#	Gallons	Final Cost Share
Piesto, Nancy 476 Overlook Dr, Occoquan, VA 22125	VCAP 35-25-009	Conservation Landscaping	1,932.0	0.000	0.000	\$7,000.00
Totals:			1,932.0	0.000	0.000	\$7,000.00

Crop	Acres	NUT. Reduction		
		N. (lbs)	P. (lbs)	Sed. (T)
Crop	77.7	297.9795	16.6667	1.1655
Totals:	77.7	297.9795	16.6667	1.1655

<u>Total # of Plans for This Month</u>	<u>Total # of BOD Approved Plans so far:</u>
New Plans: 0	New Plans: 4
Revisions: 2	Revisions: 14
Total # of Plans: 2	Total # of Plans: 18

These totals do not include the plans for this month as they have not been officially approved.

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5 Upcoming Conservation Plans

Kettle Wind (continued) - Murphy
Jonathan Bender - Hatfield
Brad Eustace - Hatfield
Yankey - Slazinski, with assistance from Mohr (9 plans)
Suzanne Mulet - Slazinski
Butch Beard - Slazinski (pending)

2/12/2026

7 Update on monthly engineering meeting with DCR

The monthly engineering meetings held on Jan. 6, 2026 and Feb. 3, 2026 went well. There are only 4 cost-share practices that are active and under construction. These practices are moving forward and making progress. Mr. Yankey also reported that the Viar family is interested in signing up for an SL-7 on a past SL-1 to extend their watering and grazing system.

8 Update on carry-over projects

See Update on monthly engineering meeting above

9 Update on VCAP

VCAP is moving to stage 2 on encouraging the public to support the program.

10 Other discussions

Water Quality Programs Update – Veronica Tangiri

Ms. Tangiri stated that she submitted a grant to the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia for funding of the Leesylvania State Park Partnership project. She has received \$30,000 to date that will be used towards the 3-D Watershed Model.

The Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation received a \$1,000 donation from Nancy Vehrs, in memory of Harry Glasgow, to be used towards the Leesylvania State Park Partnership project.

See attached for Ms. Tangiri's complete staff report.

Education Programs Update – Jay Yankey

Ms. Anderson is on vacation this week. In her absence, Mr. Yankey provided an update.

Ms. Anderson has a MWEE program scheduled at Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge on March 19, 2026. She is also preparing for MWEE events with several Manassas public schools that will run from 3/23 – 3/27.

VCE, 4-H, and Natural Resources staff met with the new manager of the Prince William County Fairgrounds. The meeting went well, so Mr. Yankey stated that he plans to arrange a time to meet with the manager to discuss the possibility of holding the Farm Field Days event this year.

Outreach Programs – Alex Murphy

The Education & Information Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Yankey stated that the location was not determined. He suggested that the committee meet at the district office. He will send an email to the attendees notifying them of the location. Ms. Cross stated that the meeting has to be publicly posted 3 days in advance.

Mr. Murphy stated that the Bluebell Festival is scheduled on Sunday, March 29, 2026. Ms. Anderson will be leading a walk.

VCAP Update – Nicole Slazinski

Ms. Slazinski stated that the VA Soil & Water Conservation District remains in the process of requesting funding for the VCAP program. She has one application that will be presented at the March TRC meeting. Mr. Murphy has two VCAP projects listed on the February 12th TRC agenda. One contract had to be removed from the TRC report, as the property owner did not meet the scoring requirements.

The Native Plant Symposium was held on Saturday, February 14, 2026. Ms. Slazinski stated that 275 people attended and that it was a very successful event. She also stated that approximately 80 people attended virtually.

VACS Update – Seth Hatfield

Mr. Hatfield stated that due to current weather conditions, construction on several projects has slowed. No new applications have been received.

Directors' Time –

Mr. Bolles – Mr. Bolle's stated that there is a pesticide disposal event scheduled on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at Long Park. Any labeled residential and commercial pesticide containers will be accepted. A flyer will be created and distributed this summer.

Ms. Vehrs – Ms. Vehrs thanked Ms. Slazinski and those that planned the Native Plant Symposium event. Evelyn Parks, with the Prince William Conservation Alliance, coordinated the Zoom meetings for the planning committee. Ashley Studholme, the Executive Director, led the effort last year. She delegated Evelyn to assist with the event this year.

Ms. Vehrs stated that she was unable to attend the Native Plant Symposium wrap-up meeting, as she was attending the Board of County Supervisors' meeting at 2 p.m. that day.

Diane Nelson was able to get the board to recognize National Invasive Species Awareness Week being held February 23-27, 2026. An invasives plant pull is scheduled in March at the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre.

Board of Directors Meeting, February 19, 2026

The Virginia Native Plant Society is holding its annual workshop via Zoom on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 and Wednesday, March 25, 2026 from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. These are both virtual workshops. The theme is wetlands. Doug DeBerry from the College of William & Mary & Bo Lusk from The Nature Conservancy are the speakers on March 18th.

Ghost Pipes wildflower T-shirt designs are being created that will be voted on at the March 18th meeting with winners announced at the March 25th meeting.

For information and to register, click on the following link:
<https://vnps.org/events/vnps-annual-workshop-2026-via-zoom/>.

A proposal to memorialize Harry is being processed through the Fairfax County Park Authority to name the boardwalk at Huntly Meadow's Park in his memory.

Ms. Reed – Ms. Reed stated that the Native Plant Symposium was a great event. She enjoyed the speech by Janene Cullen on climate change.

Ms. Reed stated that she and Kenny Boddye are meeting to discuss the possibility of supporting him in obtaining a 2-3 acre model farm for the board. In return, he would like the Prince William SWCD BOD to publicly support him in writing in creating a model department. It was the consensus of the board that they cannot provide funding or staff time for this type of project.

Mr. Kahlon – No further comments.

Mr. Price - No further comments.

Ms. Vehrs moved that the Prince William SWCD Board of Directors and Jay Yankey, Linda Dunn & Jim Gehlsen go into Closed Meeting at 12:55 p.m. in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act § 2.2-3711(A)(1) to discuss personnel matters. Motion by Ms. Vehrs, 2nd by Mr. Kahlon. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

At 2:48 p.m., the board reconvened in open session with all members present, and with Chairman Price presiding.

Ms. Vehrs 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

Board of Directors Meeting, February 19, 2026

identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District.

Mr. Kahlon seconded the motion, and it passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Ms. Vehrs moved that the Board authorize Mr. Yankey to hire Hunter Quinones as a Conservation Specialist, with a bonus on completion of the Conservation Planner Certification, in accordance with the compensation agreed to in closed session. Mr. Bolles seconded the motion. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Ms. Vehrs moved that the Board authorize Mr. Yankey to offer Josie Anderson the position of Education & Outreach Specialist, in accordance with the compensation agreed to in closed session. Mr. Bolles seconded the motion. Passed by a 4/0/1 vote, with Ms. Reed voting against the motion.

Ms. Vehrs moved that the Board authorize a one-time bonus to Josie Anderson for serving in an acting capacity in the position at the present time, in accordance with the compensation agreed to in closed session. Mr. Bolles seconded the motion. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.


Ms. Vehrs moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 p.m. Mr. Kahlon seconded the motion. Passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Next TRC meeting – Thursday, March 12, 2026, 1 p.m., 8033 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, VA – Conference Room D

Next Board meeting – Thursday, March 19, 2026, 11 a.m., Wetland Studies & Solutions, 5300 Wellington Branch Dr #100, Gainesville, VA – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Next Finance Committee meeting – Thursday, April 9, 2026, 12 p.m., 8033 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, VA – Conference Room D

Respectfully Submitted:


Linda Dunn, Office Manager

Approved:


Nancy Vehrs, Secretary

RESOLUTION #: _____

MEETING DATE: Feb. 19, 2026

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the ^{PNSWCD} {Public Body} 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 {Public Body} that a closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ^{PNSWCD} {Public Body} 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 {public body}.

MOTION BY: ^{PNSWCD} Nancy Velis

SECOND BY: Miriam Kahn

VOTES (Requires Roll Call Vote):

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

[For each nay vote, the substance of the departure from the requirements of the Act should be described]

ABSENT DURING VOTE: 0
ABSENT DURING MEETING: 0

Attendees: Joy Kanber
Linda Dunn

Nancy Velis
Secretary of {Public Body}

Jami Gehlsen

This information was prepared by staff of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for members of the Commonwealth's Soil and Water Conservation Districts as a means of raising awareness and understanding about certain provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. It should be used as a companion reference to the Code of Virginia. It is not intended to serve as a legally binding interpretation of the act or its provisions. Should an interpretation be needed, contact the VA FOIA Advisory Council (foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov or 1-866-448-4100) or your OAG representative. You may also visit the FOIA Advisory Council's website at <http://foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov/> for additional information.
January 2019

