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**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Thursday, June 26, 2025**  
**Wetlands Studies and Solutions Inc.**  
**5300 Wellington Branch Dr. Suite 100 Gainesville, VA 20155**

***In-person Attendees:***

John Price, Director – Chairman, Interim Treasurer  
Jenny Reed, Director – Vice-Chairman  
Nancy Vehrs, Director – Secretary  
Mansimran Kahlon, Director  
Harry Glasgow, Associate Director  
Jim Gehlsen, Associate Director  
Thomas Bolles, Director – VCE Agent  
Andrew Uglow, Associate Director  
Debbie Cross, Conservation District Coordinator – DCR  
Brianna Cox, Soil Conservationist - NRCS  
Linda Dunn, Office Manager  
Veronica Tangiri, Water Quality Manager  
Josie Anderson, Water Quality and Outreach Specialist  
Nicole Slazinski, Urban Conservation Specialist  
Seth Hatfield, Conservation Specialist  
Jack Bourdon, Agriculture Conservation Specialist

***Absent:***

Jay Yankey, District Manager  
Duane Mohr, Cost Share Specialist  
Melina Cienski- Urban Forester– DOF  
Casey James, NRCS District Conservationist – NRCS  
Kim Lowther, Education Specialist  
Will Lintner, Associate Director

***Virtual Attendees:***

Nicole Slazinski, Urban Conservation Specialist  
Alex Murphy, Conservation Specialist  
Sonnie Cuffey, Associate director

Board of Directors Meeting, June 26, 2025

However, due to anticipated low participation, it is likely that offering the class would not be beneficial at this time.

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

Ms. Cross informed the district that they will no longer be required to return technical assistance funds for canceled practices. However, all deliverables outlined in the district's grant agreement must still be completed by June 30th. She noted that the draft budget submitted by Mr. Mohr should be finalized no later than July 1st. Additionally, all reports are due by July 15th, and the district's cost-share files are scheduled for audit in late summer to early fall. Technical staff were reminded to ensure all relevant data is properly entered into tracking systems. Ms. Cross also announced that the Area 2 legislative call is scheduled for August 13th at 8:30 a.m., and the district has until July 31st to submit any legislative proposals.

- The Program Year 2026 (PY26) CAS (Conservation Application Suite) Virtual Training sessions will be held on:
  - July 8th at 1:00 p.m., and
  - July 24th at 9:30 a.m.
- VACDE Summer Training at Graves Mountain Lodge is on August 19<sup>th</sup> to August 21<sup>st</sup>

The Board of Directors will decide at the July board meeting if they will move the August 21<sup>st</sup> board meeting to accommodate the graves mountain training

See attached for Ms. Cross's complete report.

***VA Dept. of Forestry – Melina Cienski***

Ms. Cienski was not in attendance.

***Associate Directors –***

Harry Glasgow – Mr. Glasgow stated he had no further comments.

Will Lintner – Mr. Lintner was not in attendance.

Sonnie Cuffey – Reported follow-up cleanup efforts at the Dumfries Slave Cemetery with the Friends group. Approximately 30–40 bags of leaves were collected.

Andrew Uglow – Mr. Uglow stated he had no further comments.

Jim Gehlsen – Mr. Gehlsen stated he did decline the Treasurer position due to health concerns related to hip recovery. He will be absent from several upcoming meetings due to his recovery and commitments to his agricultural business.

Board of Directors Meeting, June 26, 2025

The motion to approve was made by Ms. Vehrs, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Bolles. Motion was passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Approve Delegation to John Price through the July 17, 2025 board meeting to address all cost share and end-of-year decisions, including approving year-end financials

The motion to give Delegation to John Price was made by Ms. Vehrs, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Bolles. Motion was passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

### **Discussions**

#### **Discuss Prince William SWCD Legislative Agenda**

Discussion: Mr. Price reminded the meeting participants that if they have any items to add to the legislative agenda, these should be brought up at the next Board meeting, as the agenda is due by July 31st. Ms. Reed asked whether resubmitting her previous idea regarding wells and green walls would be advisable, and the board agreed that it was a good idea.

Ms. Cross suggested that the district support ideas to increase VCAP funding or maintain it at the current level.

Mr. Kahlon expressed interest in contributing ideas to the legislative agenda and inquired about which state representatives are particularly interested in conservation. The representatives mentioned included David Bulova and Briana Sewell.

### **Conservation**

Approve Recommendations from the Technical Review Committee on June 12, 2025. Forty four total conservation plans were completed for FY25.

The motion to approve was made by Ms. Reed, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Kahlon, and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

**3 Recommended Approval of VCAP BMPs by BOD**

**Motion:** Price

**Second:** Reed

**Vote:** 3-0

**VCAP**

**Piesto, Nancy**

476 Overlook Dr, Occoquan, VA 22125

Practice	Contract No.	Total Est. Cost	Est. State C/S	Area (sq. feet)	Number	Gallons
Conservation Landscaping	VCAP 35-25-009	\$8,856.00	\$7,000.00	1,932.0	0.000	0.000
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>\$8,856.00</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>	<b>1,932.0</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>

**4 BMPs and VCAP Completed this Month**

**Motion:** Reed

**Second:** Price

**Vote:** 3-0

**BMPs**

**VCAP**

Name Address	Contract No.	Practice	Area (sq. feet)	#	Gallons	Final Cost Share
<b>Stewart, Maria</b> 8399 Briarmont Lane, Manassas, VA 20112	VCAP 35-25-006	Conservation Landscaping	1,150.0	0.000	0.000	\$4,730.14
<b>Totals:</b>			<b>1,150.0</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>\$4,730.14</b>

***Water Quality Programs Update – Veronica Tangiri***

Ms. Tangiri shared that the Leesylvania State Park project received a \$3,500 grant from the Virginia Wetland and Watershed Association, and she is currently working on a grant application for the DCR Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

She also mentioned that the district received a new YSI (*Yellow Springs Instruments*) probe to monitor harmful algal blooms, while another probe has just returned from the factory for maintenance.

Ms. Tangiri highlighted that the Water Quality Program recently held a meeting with Dr. Rosalina Christopher of George Mason University to support the chemical monitoring team in identifying algae blooms, especially when unrecognizable species are found in known algae cultivation ponds.

She was also invited to present alongside Tom Ligon, a chemical monitor, at the Virginia Water Monitoring Conference in September.

The Chemical Monitoring Program added three new sites, and the Benthic Monitoring Program is expected to add six new certified monitors in August.

***Directors' Time –***

Mr. Kahlon – Mr. Kahlon expressed his interest in the upcoming governor and delegates races in Virginia. He also mentioned that a group of youths approached him asking if he knew of any farms that accept young people for mentorship and possible future ownership. Ms. Cross advised that HuI Newcomb's Potomac vegetable farm in Loudoun and Fairfax counties accepts young people for such opportunities. Mr. Bolles encouraged considering areas such as western Fauquier, Orange, and Madison counties as more plausible locations to start agricultural businesses. He also mentioned that the Carver Center offers opportunities in this regard.

Mr. Bolles – Mr. Bolles started off by thanking Ms. Tangiri for lending him the water quality probe to assist a client who was concerned that her water quality had declined to non-viable levels for fish.

Ms. Vehrs – Ms. Vehrs reported that the Prince William Wildflower Society will host a presentation by Stephanie Johnson, a landscaper involved with VCAP, who will speak about invasive species and their substitutes. Ms. Vehrs invited everyone to attend. She also extended an invitation to a bird and nature walk at Merrimac Farm on Sunday, June 29th.

Ms. Reed – Ms. Reed shared that she is currently participating in the Master Naturalist program and will be taking the certification exam scheduled for October.

Mr. Price – Mr. Price stated he has no further comments.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:26 p.m. was made by Mr. Bolles, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Kahlon, and passed by a 5/0/0 vote.

Next TRC meeting – Thursday, July 10, 2025, 1 p.m., 8033 Ashton Avenue, Conference Room D

Next Board meeting – Thursday, July 17, 2025, 1 p.m., Wetland Studies and Solutions, 5300 Wellington Branch Dr., Gainesville, VA 20155

Next Finance Committee meeting – Thursday, July 10, 2025 12:00 p.m., 8033 Ashton Avenue, Conference Room D