

New River SWCD

February 23, 2026

Directors present:

David Frazier Gary Boring J.D. Testerman Cindy Webb
Mike Rhudy

Staff present:

B.T. Tomlinson Tim Phipps Tracy Goodson Emily Coomes

Others present:

Nathan Osborne Carrol Boring

The New River Soil & Water Conservation District Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Frazier on February 23, 2026.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Officer elections were discussed. Cindy Webb made a motion to keep the existing slate of officers: Chair – David Frazier, Vice-Chair – Mike Rhudy, Treasurer – Cindy Webb, and Secretary – Gary Boring, while also closing the floor for further nominations. The motion was seconded by Gary Boring, and it carried.

Cindy Webb made a motion to add J.D. Testerman to the bank signature card and remove Pete Farmer. Gary Boring seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After review, Gary Boring made a motion to approve the minutes for December 15, 2025, Board meeting. Mike Rhudy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After review, Gary Boring made a motion to approve the financial report, subject to audit. Seconded by Cindy Webb. The motion carried.

The District had two tax credit authorizations signed by the designated signer, Gary Boring.

The District jackets were given out to the Directors.

Gary Boring made a motion to appoint Emily Coomes as the Records Retention Officer. Seconded by Cindy Webb, the motion carried.

Gary Boring made a motion to appoint Emily Coomes as the FOIA Officer. Seconded by Cindy Webb, the motion carried.

Area IV meeting will be on March 17, 2026, at the Abingdon 4-H Center. Let Emily know if you would like to attend.

Gary Boring made a motion to approve the donation of no more than \$650.00 for campers to attend Camp Woods and Wildlife Camp. Mike Rhudy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Our District will be hosting an Area IV Envirothon training on March 11, 2026, at the Forestry office.

We will be hosting a fence building school at the farm on April 8, 2026. The time is to be determined.

Our District and other agencies will partner together to host Earth Day Field Days on April 22 and 23, 2026, at the Forestry office.

We will be hosting Area IV Envirothon at New River Hill Farm and Forest on April 30, 2026.

An ASA complaint #1120 for Stephen Davis was completed (letter attached).

Several conservation plans were submitted to the Board for approval (see attached). Mike Rhudy proposed a motion to approve the conservation plans, seconded by Steve Pottorff. The motion carried.

Several BMP applications were presented for approval (see attached). Gary Boring made a motion to approve the BMP applications. Seconded by Mike Rhudy, the motion carried.

Several tax credits were submitted for approval (see attached). Gary Boring made a motion to approve the proposed tax credit. Seconded by Cindy Webb, the motion carried.

Several TMDL applications were presented for approval (see attached). Cindy Webb made a motion to approve the proposed TMDL applications. Seconded by Gary Boring, the motion carried.

Cindy Webb made a motion to approve the transfer of a contract #11-23-0026 for Jason Robert Hill to Jeffrey Vass due to the owner selling the property. Gary Boring seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Cindy Webb proposed a motion to retain the existing board meeting schedule, which was seconded by Mike Rhudy. The motion carried.

Tim Phipps gave a farm update.

Emily Coomes gave the DCR report (attached).

Nathan Osborne gave a NRCS report (attached).

Gary Boring gave an Association report.

Gary Boring made a motion to write a letter of support regarding the senate budget. Cindy Webb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

With no further business, Cindy Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Rhudy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Secretary: Benny Banning

Chairperson: David Frazier

Prepared by: Emily Coomes



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

PO Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218

www.vdacs.virginia.gov

Charles Green
Commissioner

February 2, 2026

Mr. Stephen Davis
302 Stone Acres Lane
Independence, VA 24348

RE: Agricultural Stewardship Act Complaint #1120

Dear Mr. Davis:

In response to the Corrective Order that was issued by my office to you on March 25, 2025, an Agricultural Stewardship Act (ASA) Plan was developed for your beef cattle feeding operation located on your property along **Beaver Dam Road**, in Grayson County. Joe Maloskey of my staff has informed me that the measures set forth in this plan have been completed. Based on Joe's observations on January 14, 2026, the establishment of a hardened feeding area and travel lane that provides access to a newly established loafing lot, should prevent pollution to state waters via sediment loss or nutrient enrichment.

By completing and maintaining the measures included in your Agricultural Stewardship Plan, you have satisfied the requirements set forth by the Corrective Order and the Agricultural Stewardship Act. Moving forward, you are required to continue to follow the conditions set forth in this plan. This plan should be considered a working document and should be reviewed periodically to ensure the measures listed are being maintained and are still sufficient to prevent pollution to state waters. As stated in your plan, please consult ASA Program staff before any changes are made to this plan. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this letter or its contents, please feel free to contact Joe Maloskey at (804) 837-9311.

Thank you for cooperating with the ASA Program. Through cooperation from producers like you, we can address water pollution without the need for more stringent laws and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Green".

Charles Green
Commissioner

cc: New River Soil & Water Conservation District (via email)
Joe Maloskey, Agricultural Stewardship Coordinator

February 23, 2026

Conservation Plans

CP#11-24-0022	FR-3
CP#11-26-0016	SL-6W
CP#11-26-0020	CREP
CP#11-26-0021	SL-6W
CP#11-26-0022	SL-6W
CP#11-26-0023	SL-6W
CP#11-26-0024	SL-1

BMP Applications

#11-26-0008	WFA-NM	Approved \$109.20	\$372.00
#11-26-0009	WFA-CC	Approved \$1,729.60	\$426.80
#11-26-0012	WFA-CC	Approved \$2,100.00	\$2,310.00
#11-26-0020	WFA-CC, WFA-NM	Approved \$2,048.40	\$1,755.00
#11-26-0061	WFA-CC, WFA-NM		\$4,896.00
#11-26-0062	CREP	\$15,006.00	
#11-26-0067	FR-3	\$1,437.50	
#11-26-0070	SL-1	\$6,829.38	

Tax Credit approved by Board delegation

#11-25-0028	SL-1	\$476.52
#11-25-0040	SL-1	\$609.95
#11-23-0053		\$3,666.88

Chestnut Creek TMDL Application

#11-26-0069	\$11,250.00
#11-26-0071	\$6,250.00
#11-26-0072	\$9,375.00

February 2026 – Conservation District Coordinator (CDC) Report

Becky Hubble, Conservation District Coordinator

DCR-Division of Soil and Water Conservation – Radford Regional Office

Becky.hubble@dcr.virginia.gov | 804.997.5069



Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

• Administrative and Operational Items

- **SWCD Websites:** If you have a SWCD website and are not updating those; please update and maintain them.
- **Dates for Obligations data pull and Disbursement letters:**
 - Pull obligations Feb. 1, letters to DCR Feb 9, dated to SWCDs Feb. 12
 - Pull obligations May 1, letters to DCR May 6, dated to SWCDs May 11
 - Pull obligations June 1, letters to DCR June 3, dated to SWCDs June 8
- **Complete your Annual Fixed Asset Inventory** –See the Desktop Procedures Manual for additional details (Pages 26, 27, 41) All inventory items should be tagged, and the serial tag number included on the inventory listing. Remember that all external data storage devices, regardless of value, must be included on the inventory list due to the important data and intellectual property stored on these devices. The fixed assets inventory should be revisited annually and all changes should be board approved and recorded in the minutes.
- **Security for Public Deposits Act (SPDA) Verification:** This is just a friendly reminder about the requirement under the Security for Public Deposits Act (SPDA) that requires verification for bank account balances of public funds. <https://spda.trs.virginia.gov/search/user/signin>. SWCDs must have a log-in and verify accounts on a quarterly basis. Anyone who sets up a log-in and password will get a notification regarding the deadline each quarter. The deadline 4th Quarter verifications is March 28, 2026.
- **Reminders:**
 - Please be aware of Conflict of Interest in board meetings. If a topic or item for discussion/action pertains to you directly or indirectly, please excuse yourself from the meeting and let the meeting minutes reflect the absence.

• Ag and Cost Share Items

- **Conservation Planning Grant Deliverables Help Session** February 12th 9am-11am, [Conservation Planning Grant Deliverables Help Session | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#), for the purpose of reviewing the conservation planning grant deliverable requirements and answering your questions related to the process and improvements highlighted in your mid-year reviews. **If you have any questions related to the midyear reviews, the process, or related needs you can share them with Carl and Vanessa by February 10th to kick off the conversation.** If you have a plan you would like to screen share, let Vanessa know and they can work through it on the 12th. <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/29104016253521?p=zYcuYzZrHCdFLOh5ua>

- **Upcoming Conservation Planner Certification Course Dates:**
 - **April 1-2, 2026:** Conservation Selling Skills at Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, VA.
 - **May 20, 2026:** Stream ID Course from 8:00AM until 4:30PM in Charlottesville, VA.
 - **Summer & Winter 2026:** Nutrient Management Training Course.
 - **October 7-8, 2026:** Virginia Resource Training (Online Webinar Series).
 - **TBD:** RUSLE 2 Part A, B, C.
 - **October 14-16, 2026:** DCR Conservation Planner Course in Buckingham County (In Person Course).

- **Reminder:** Conservation Planners, review in information included in the blue i (informational) buttons in CAS on the details page of Conservation Plans related to Objectives, Operation, and Assessment sections. The information found after clicking is a reminder of what information should be provided for each of those three sections.

- **Follow-up to Random and End of Lifespan Verifications:** The expectation is that these issues are to be resolved within 180 days of the initial inspection when the issue is discovered.

- **IMPORTANT** Don't get caught issuing contract payments before all signatures are received. Please review Section 12 (Page 25-26) of the PY26 Cost-Share and TA Policy, which addresses missing signatures on the VACS Contract. I have cut and pasted the section immediately below for your convenience. As a reminder this is not a new policy as it was initially implemented and went into effect July 1, 2022.
 - Signatures on the VACS Contract - For any practice funded in whole or in part by the VACS Program, a VACS contract must be completed and signed in its entirety by both the appropriate District staff, District Director, and the participant. For any practice marked complete and issued payment on or after July 1, 2022, failure to obtain the appropriate signatures on a VACS contract in its entirety will result in the amount provided in VACS cost-share funding for the practice, including the associated technical assistance funding, being withheld from the District's cost-share and technical assistance allocation for the next fiscal year by the Department. VACS cost-share files will be examined during financial audits, administrative cost share file reviews, and verifications to ensure the appropriate signatures have been obtained.

Should your CDC discover missing signatures on Contract Part I, II, or III while completing a cost-share admin review, it will be documented on the current admin review worksheet, which is reported to DCR-Richmond. Additionally, the District Liaison, Ag Incentive Program Manager and DCR Area Manager will be made aware of the discovery. As a reminder: this is an OAG driven policy change and consequences for not following the policy require VSWCB action.

- **VACS Practices Requiring Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) Before Cost-Share Payment/Tax Credit Issued:** This is the annual reminder that many VACS Program Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as cover crop and animal waste, require that a NMP be prepared and signed by a certified nutrient management planner before such BMPs can be certified as complete and paid. Refer to the BMP Table Pages 1-4 of the *PY26 VACS Program Manual* for a complete practice list. Cost-share payments or tax credits cannot be issued until a current NMP is on file with the SWCD. Please assist participants in need of NMPs to contact a planner well in advance of practice completion to ensure that payments are not delayed. DCR nutrient management specialists are available and willing to write plans but cannot always fulfill last-minute requests. Another option is to refer producers to DCR's Direct Pay Program that pays private plan writers to provide plans. DCR created a NMP Information Sheet for districts to use. It can be downloaded from DCR's website: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/document/VACS-NutMgmt-FILLABLE-flyer.pdf>

● Grant Agreement Reminders

- **Signed Board Meeting Minutes:** Per the *FY26 Administrative and Operational Grant Agreement, Deliverable #7*, DCR-DSWC CDCs are required to maintain copies of the approved, signed meeting minutes (regular, special-called, and committee). Please continue to email me approved signed minutes each month, as they become available or include them in the following month's board meeting packet.
- **Host at least one agricultural community outreach event** during the year that met the following:
 - Was marketed through at least one venue that was directed towards producers with small farms or producers considered socially disadvantaged
 - Included an introduction of District, programs, staff and directors; and
 - Included a discussion featuring local agricultural producers that utilized the VACS Program
 - Provided notice to partners, including the Virginia State University Small Farm Outreach Program, of the event and provided an opportunity to partners to participate in the agenda
- **DCR-DSWC News:**
 - Nikki Rovner has been appointed as DCR Director.
 - Sarah Spota has been appointed as DCR Deputy Director.

Upcoming Training and Important Dates

- **February 12:** Virginia General Assembly Crossover
- **February 12:** Conservation Planning Grant Deliverables Help Session 9am-11am, [Conservation Planning Grant Deliverables Help Session | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)
- **February 16:** President's Day State offices closed
- **February 18:** Virginia No-Till Conference at the Rockingham Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg, VA
- **March 14:** Virginia General Assembly adjourns
- **March 17:** Area IV Meeting Abingdon, VA
- **April 22:** General Assembly reconvenes to act on Governor's amendments
- **May 1:** Obligation report will be pulled from CAS for the fourth quarter disbursement.
- **June 1:** Obligation report will be pulled from CAS for the mid-fourth quarter disbursement.
- **June 15:** Deadline for obligating PY 2026 VACS funds

cc: Blair Gordon, SWCD Operations Coordinator
Sara Bottenfield, Agricultural Incentives Program Manager
Angela W. Ball, PhD, DCR Western Area Manager

Electronically sent to SWCD offices 02/03/2026.

GALAX SERVICE CENTER REPORT NEW RIVER SWCD Board Meeting February 23rd, 2026

Program Updates/Deadlines:

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
 - FY26 Application deadline was January 15th, accepted 68 applications. Still working on cost lists, ranking tools etc ranking deadlines have been set at March 20th for Act Now and April 2nd for everything else. These dates could be pending depending on further guidance.
 - FY 2026 53 payments on 116 items for \$969,001.34.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
 - 3 FY26 Applications, ranking deadline is April 2nd.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**
 - Finally, we're able to contract and pay our first ALE for \$1,016,500
- **Conservation Reserve Program/Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CRP/CREP)**
 - 14 expiring contracts are up for reenrollment. Me and Donnie will be looking at those in the coming weeks.

BMP Projects/Partnership Activities

- Applied for NACD TA Grant for NRSWCD to continue the partnership on CREP/BMP's and with EQIP.

Other Collaborations/Key Interactions Benefitting Districts

Local Working Group/Public Meetings

- Will be returning for this year. More details to come.

Outreach/Agency Activities/Events (dates)

Upcoming Training Opportunities in the Area (JEDs, Webinars, Field Days)

- JED meeting May 21st on Nutrient Management Training, for SWCD employees also. DCR Planner CEU's will be offered. Need to know a head count on attendees by this Friday the 27th.

Earth Team Volunteer Program

VA NRCS Operational/Personnel Changes

- Macey Thompson is back from her Parental Leave after the birth of her baby girl on October 18th.
- Still no vacancies are being advertised, and John Womack is continuing to act for Area II.

Submitted By Nathan Osborne, District Conservationist