



**Minutes**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**April 8, 2021**  
**Virtual meeting Via Zoom**

**VIRTUAL ATTENDEES:**

**Trustees:**

Eleanor Brown, Chair  
Viola Baskerville  
Raul Garcia  
Beth Obenshain  
Steph Ridder  
Tom Slater  
Brent Thompson

**Council:**

Richard Mahevich, Office of the Attorney General

**Other Attendees:**

Terry Lasher, Dept. of Forestry  
Beck Stanley  
Sarah Baumgardner  
Ellen Shepherd, VaULT  
Stefanie Taillon, Farm Bureau  
Liz Belcher  
Leigh Mitchell  
Jen Perkins, VDACS

**Staff:**

Brett Glymph, Executive Director  
Brad Baskette, Assistant Director, Stewardship  
Bobbie Cabibbo, Executive Assistant  
Anna Chisholm, Deputy Director, Administration  
Nat Elliston, Land Conservation Assistant  
Link Elmore, Land Conservation Assistant  
Leslie Grayson, Deputy Director  
Martha Little, Deputy Director  
Jason McGarvey, Communications and Outreach Manager  
Dave Morton, IT Director  
Tommy Oravitz, Stewardship Specialist  
Kaitlyn Thomas, Stewardship Assistant  
Allison Tillett, Land Conservation Assistant  
Emily White, Grant Programs Manager

Eleanor Brown, the chair, opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. stating the following: As a result of the state of emergency declared in the Commonwealth by order of the Governor on March 12, 2020: Pursuant to Executive Amendment 28 to HB29 (2020), the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) will meet by electronic communication means, without more than one Board member physically assembled at one location, to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of VOF and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties and responsibilities, as outlined in the meeting agenda. Due to the Governor's declared state of emergency, the meeting will be held electronically because the nature of the emergency makes it impracticable and unsafe to assemble in a single location. In addition, the purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact business statutorily required to continue the operations of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

Eleanor asked Bobbie to conduct a roll call for the trustees and all 7 were present as listed above. Eleanor then asked for a motion to approve the Order of Business. Steph Ridder moved to approve the Order of Business; motion was seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Eleanor asked for public comments and none were submitted in advance, nor did anyone request to speak.

## **PREVIOUS MEETINGS MINUTES**

Tom Slater submitted a change to the Draft Minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting on 2/9/2021 stating that the attorneys Stephen Busch and Richard Cullen were with McGuire Woods law firm. Motion made by Tom to approve draft minutes of 2/9/2021 meeting with that change; motion seconded by Steph and passed unanimously.

Motion made by Viola to approve the draft minutes from the following meetings as presented:

2/9/2021 – Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee

2/5/2021 – Preservation Trust Fund Committee (Grants Programs Committee)

3/1/2021 – Special Forestry Committee

Motion seconded by Steph and passed unanimously.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Eleanor went over the current meeting schedule and noted that the Finance Audit and Compliance meeting was moved from 4/8/2021 to 4/21/2021 and an Energy and Infrastructure Committee meeting was added and scheduled for 5/3/2021. She added that the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting is scheduled to be virtual.

Eleanor said she cannot overstate the importance to the VOF program, of the newly passed HB1760/SB1199 bill co-sponsored by Senator Chap Petersen and Delegates Michael Webert and Wendy Gooditis. She thanked Piedmont Environment Council, The Nature Conservancy, and all VaULT members, noting that their support and work resulted in bipartisan passing of these bills. In addition, she added that through the efforts of the same groups the Virginia Land Conservation Fund was restored to full funding for FY 22

Eleanor recognized the 8-year anniversary of trustees Steph Ridder, Beth Obenshain and Brent Thompson. She thanked them for their support, work, and guidance over the 8 years.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brett Glymph extended her thanks to those that helped support and pass HB1760/SB1199 and for their help and support for the restored funding to VLCF. A Request for Proposals for the Preservation Trust Fund Public Access and GoFund has been advertised and those applications will be presented to trustees during the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval. She mentioned the annual VaULT conference on April 20<sup>th</sup> and asked Martha Little to share some information.

Martha spoke about the Inspector General's report request for information, which was sent to state agencies and private land trusts alike asked for specific information about our program. Martha thanked Brad Baskette for taking on the task to assemble the requested information. The Department of Conservation and Recreation conducted a study commissioned by the General Assembly to determine the viability of Hayfields property, in Highland County, as a state park. VOF participated in the study and shared our data from the January 2019 VOF commissioned, StanTech report on Hayfields.

## **LONG TERM STEWARD**

Martha narrated a presentation on 2 projects from the pilot Long Term Steward program. In February, trustees requested some before and after pictures. The pictures shown are mid project, there will be extensive tree planting in the future. Our annual monitoring begins in 2022 and our Long-Term Steward responsibilities begin in 10 years.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Brett introduced the 2019 Strategic Plan presentation that showed progress on the Goals and Measures. Anna Chisholm, Martha Little and Leslie Grayson were the narrators. The presentation is on file with the permanent record of this meeting and is available through a Freedom of Information Act request.

## LAND CONSERVATION

### SCORE CARD PRESENTATION

Emily White introduced the VOF staff presenters and authors of a video - Kaitlyn Thomas, Link Elmore, and Allison Tillet. The video is on file with the permanent record of this meeting and is available through a Freedom of Information Act request.

### CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

#### Preservation Trust Fund Projects

Motion made by Beth Obenshain to approve the projects listed below; motion seconded by Viola and passed unanimously.

Proposed open space easement –*Dufour Siblings* in Bath County

Proposed open space easement- *Reid Mackey* in Rockbridge County

#### Open Space Easements

Motion made by Viola to approve the proposed easements listed below; motion seconded by Steph and passed unanimously.

Proposed open space easement *Johanne Barham & William Peak* “Three Creeks Tract” in Southampton County

Proposed open space easement *Johanne Barham & William Peak* “Nottoway Tract” in Southampton County

Proposed open space easement *Davis* in Essex County

Proposed open space easement with NAVYREPI funding *Tam Foxwell* in Westmoreland County

Proposed open space easement *W. Levi Old, IV & Elizabeth Old Littlejohn* in the City of Suffolk

#### Forest CORE Fund

Emily presented the applications. Motion was made by Viola to approve the projects and recommended grant amounts listed below; motion seconded by Beth and passed unanimously.

Locality	Project Name	Applicant	Recommended and Approved Grant Amount
Roanoke	Carvins Cove Shoreline Protection	Western Virginia Water Authority	\$175,000
Danville	Anglers Ridge Trail	City of Danville	\$200,000
Franklin County	Round Hill	Friends of Rivers Virginia	\$94,100
Giles County	Newport Park	Giles County	\$200,000
Montgomery	Brush Mt. Property 2: Trail Planning & Implementation	New River Land Trust	\$32,460
SWVA Region	Plant SWVA Natives Campaign & Propagation Center	New River Valley Regional Commission	\$175,000
Blacksburg/Montgomery	Meadowbrook Greenway	Town of Blacksburg	\$85,000
Giles County	Mill Creek Nature Park Revitalization	Town of Narrows	\$39,490

The next Forest CORE grant round will be in 2022.

The meeting was paused for a 10 minute break.

**Closed Session for discussion as provided for in the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711(A)(3)(7)**

When the meeting resumed Bobbie Cabibbo read the following. The Board will go into a closed meeting pursuant to

Section 2.2-3711.A.3 & 7 and for:

1. consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiation or litigating posture of the public body, and consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel:
  - Consideration of acquisition of real property in Fauquier County
  - Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to probable litigation involving easement ALB-3855
  - Jackson River Farm, LLC v Virginia Outdoors Foundation

This closed meeting will be attended only by members of the Board. However, pursuant to Section 2.2- 3712 (F), the Board requests the VOF’s Attorney General Counsel, the Executive Director, the Deputy Directors, the Executive Assistant, and IT Director as it believes their presence will reasonably aid the committee in its consideration of topics that are the subject of the meeting.

- Consideration of acquisition of real property in Fauquier County
- Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to probable litigation involving easement ALB-3855
- Jackson River Farm, LLC v Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Steph moved the motion; and Viola seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Raul Garcia and Brent Thompson left the meeting.

Upon return from the closed meeting at 4:57 p.m. Bobbie read the following:

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees conducted 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, Section 2.2-3712.D of the Code requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, 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 only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Tom Slater so certified, Eleanor Brown so certified, Viola Baskerville so certified; Beth Obenshain so certified.

**Consideration of acquisition of property in Fauquier County**

Steph moved the follow motion: “I move to authorize acceptance of gift of property consisting of 57.02 acres in Fauquier County subject to customary due diligence and with final terms and conditions acceptable to the VOF Executive Director”; motion seconded by Tom and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.