

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees**

**Thursday, November 3, 2025**

**Auditorium, Richmond Main Library**

**Richmond, VA**

**TIME AND PLACE**

The meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, Board of Trustees, took place at 2:00 p.m. on November 3, 2025, in the Auditorium of the Richmond Main Library in Richmond, VA.

**VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS PRESENT**

The Honorable Stefanie Taillon, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, Chair

The Honorable Matthew Lohr, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Chief Frank Adams

Elizabeth Andrews

James Beamer

Bradley Gable

Colonel Brian Hallberg

Gabriella Hoffman

Kathleen Kilpatrick

Stewart Leeth

Michael Molina

The Honorable Ed Scott

The Honorable Katie Lamb

Morgan Slaven

Ryan Horsley

The Honorable David Marsden

Andrew Smith, Acting Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Secretary

**VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Robert Beals

The Honorable Richard Stuart

Sonya Powell

Lauren Martin

**AGENCY STAFF PRESENT**

Rob Evans, DCR

Charles Marston, DCR

Brian Fuller, DCR

Paul Saunders, DCR

Emi Endo, DCR

Breanne Lindsey, DCR

Laura Ellis, DCR

Frank Stovall, DCR

Linda Crowe, DCR

Kristal McKelvey, DCR

Damian Martin, DCR

Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR

Gina DiCicco, DCR

Amanda Scheps, DOF

Genette Harris, DOF

Lore DeAstra, VA Tax

Karri Richardson, DHR

Lesley Starke, DCR

Kevin Schmidt, VDACS

Emily White, VOF

Richard Mahevich, OAG

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Leslie Cockburn, Former VLCF Board of Trustees Member  
 Parker Agelasto, CRLC  
 Bridget Braunscheidel, Conservation Partners

Ellen Shepard, VAULT  
 Rachel Henley, Virginia Farm Bureau  
 Mikaela Ruiz-Ramón, TNC

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

With sixteen (16) members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Secretary Taillon called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. She announced the departure of Matthew Wells, former DCR Director, and informed the Board that Andrew Smith, previously the Chief Deputy Director, is now serving as Acting Director. Secretary Taillon then requested introductions from the Board members, staff, and Interagency Task Force members.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 3, 2025, BOARD MEETING**

#### **BOARD ACTION**

Mr. Leeth moved to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2025, meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, Board of Trustees as presented. Chief Adams seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by: Adams, Andrews, Beamer, Gable, Hallberg, Hoffman, Horsley, Lamb, Leeth, Lohr, Marsden, Molina, Kilpatrick, Scott, Slaven, and Taillon.

### **NEW POLICY FOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

#### **BOARD ACTION**

Ms. Andrews moved to approve the Policy for Virtual meetings as presented. Ms. Slaven seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by: Adams, Andrews, Beamer, Gable, Hallberg, Hoffman, Horsley, Lamb, Leeth, Lohr, Marsden, Molina, Kilpatrick, Scott, Slaven, and Taillon.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE: VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FUND** – *Laura Ellis, DCR, Deputy Director for Administration and Finance*

Ms. Ellis presented financial information and a fund statement, provided below:

**VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**  
**Fund Statement**  
**As of September 30, 2025**

**OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE – June 30, 2022**

**\$16,287,778**

**INCOME**

FY22 Stewardship Funds	\$2,124,370
FY23 Stewardship Funds	\$1,667,123
FY24 Stewardship Funds	\$2,222,606
FY25 Stewardship Funds*	\$979,432
FY23 Appropriation – Chapter 2	\$16,000,000
FY24 Appropriation – Chapter 1	\$16,000,000
FY25 Appropriation – Chapter 2	\$16,000,000
FY26 Appropriation – Chapter 725*	\$16,000,000
FY23 Interest	\$506,071
FY24 Interest	\$1,485,359
FY25 Interest*	\$1,665,087
FY26 Interest*	\$0

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$74,650,048</b>
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**DISBURSEMENTS**

FY23 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$2,124,370
FY24 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$1,667,123
FY25 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$2,222,606
FY26 Stewardship Fund Disbursements*	\$0
FY23 Grant Payments	\$5,507,148
FY24 Grant Payments	\$7,980,536
FY25 Grant Payments*	\$6,810,796
FY26 Grant Payments*	\$4,009,812
FY23 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$4,000,000
FY24 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$4,000,000
FY25 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$4,340,301
FY26 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments*	\$2,000,000
FY23 Administrative Expenses	\$122,897
FY24 Administrative Expenses	\$54,947
FY25 Administrative Expenses*	\$151,724
FY26 Administrative Expenses*	\$77,682
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENT</b>	<b>\$45,069,943</b>

\*Changes since last report

<b>OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE – September 30, 2025</b>	<b>\$45,867,883</b>
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**UPDATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION** – *Lore DeAstra, Department of Taxation, Land Preservation Tax Credit Analyst*

Ms. DeAstra provided an update on the Land Preservation Tax Credit Program. She provided data of the donation history for the program:

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u># of Credits</u>	<u># of Acres</u>	<u>Credit Amt Issued</u>
2000-2014	3,331	727,192	\$1,443,748,241
2015	182	42,362	\$48,625,672
2016	162	30,981	\$59,968,175
2017	200	49,127	\$75,000,000
2018	165	35,384	\$50,533,208
2019	193	34,677	\$75,000,000
2020	156	37,975	\$75,000,000
2021	183	41,859	\$75,000,000
2022	160	31,365	\$75,000,000
2023	168	37,482	\$75,000,000
2024	179	34,879	\$59,727,675
2025	62	10,431	\$50,331,564
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,141</b>	<b>1,113,714</b>	<b>\$2,162,934,535</b>

**LPTC PROGRAM TRANSFER FEE REVENUES** – *Gina DiCicco, DCR, Land Conservation Specialist*

Ms. DiCicco presented the Board with the following information regarding stewardship fund payments:

<b>2025 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Stewardship Fund</b>				
	<b>AGENCY NAME</b>	<b>NUMBER OF DONATIONS</b>	<b>% OF TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>AMOUNT OF FUNDS</b>
1	500 – Year Forest Foundation	2	0.46%	\$4,539.66
2	Albemarle County	16	3.71%	\$36,317.29
3	Amherst County	2	0.46%	\$4,539.66
4	Black Family Land Trust	1	0.23%	\$2,269.83
5	Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy	1	0.23%	\$2,269.83
6	Broad Water Innovations	1	0.23%	\$2,269.83
7	Capital Region Land Conservancy Inc	14	3.24%	\$31,777.63
8	Chesapeake Conservancy	1	0.23%	\$2,269.83
9	City of Franklin	1	0.23%	\$2,269.83
10	Clarke County	6	1.39%	\$13,618.98
11	Coastal Virginia Conservancy	2	0.46%	\$4,539.66
12	Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District	1.5	0.35%	\$3,404.75
13	Eastern Shore Land Trust	2	0.46%	\$4,539.66
14	Ever Green Team	92	21.32%	\$208,824.44
15	Fauquier County	5	1.16%	\$11,349.15
16	Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District	0.5	0.12%	\$1,134.92
17	Historic Virginia Land Conservancy	4	0.93%	\$9,079.32
18	Land Savers United	20	4.63%	\$45,369.62
19	Land Trust of Virginia	50	11.59%	\$113,491.54
20	Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority	1	0.23%	\$2,269.83
21	Monacan Soil & Water Conservation District	0.5	0.12%	\$1,134.92
22	New River Conservancy	1	0.23%	\$2,269.83
23	New River Land Trust	3	0.70%	\$6,809.49
24	Northern Neck Land Conservancy	12.5	2.90%	\$28,372.89
25	Northern Virginia Conservation Trust	5	1.16%	\$11,349.15
26	Old Dominion Land Conservancy, Inc.	33	7.65%	\$74,904.42
27	Piedmont Environmental Council	13.5	3.13%	\$30,642.72
28	Potomac Conservancy	1	0.23%	\$2,269.83
29	Shenandoah County	1.17	0.27%	\$2,648.13
30	Shenandoah National Park Trust	1	0.23%	\$2,269.83
31	Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation	5.5	1.27%	\$12,484.07
32	Shenandoah Valley Conservancy (formerly Valley Conservation Council)	26.33	6.10%	\$59,772.21
33	The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust	1	0.23%	\$2,269.83
34	The Nature Conservancy	2	0.46%	\$4,539.66
35	Town of Lovettsville	3	0.70%	\$6,809.49
36	Virginia Department of Forestry	14	3.24%	\$31,777.63
37	Virginia Department of Historic Resources	2	0.46%	\$4,539.66
38	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources	2	0.46%	\$4,539.66
39	Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust	2	0.46%	\$4,539.66
40	Virginia Outdoors Foundation	76	17.61%	\$172,507.14
41	Warren County	3	0.70%	\$6,809.49
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>431.50</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$979,432.00</b>

**BOARD ACTION**

Mr. Scott moved to approve the Stewardship Fund payments as presented. Ms. Slaven seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by: Adams, Andrews, Beamer, Gable, Hallberg, Hoffman, Horsley, Lamb, Leeth, Lohr, Marsden, Molina, Kilpatrick, Scott, Slaven, and Taillon.

**NEW RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN OFFICIAL PROCESS FOR AMENDING AWARDED GRANTS**

– *Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR, Land Conservation Manager*

Secretary Taillon provided background information to the Board regarding the need for the proposed resolution. She explained that in June, DCR staff presented information about a Natural Area Preservation project that had received a VLCF grant award supported by significant federal matching funds. Due to uncertainty surrounding the availability of those federal funds, DCR staff requested a change in the project's scope. The Board approved that request, recognizing that similar situations might arise with other projects in the future.

To address not only uncertainties related to matching funds but also issues concerning project acreage discrepancies, VLCF staff have been working with the Office of the Attorney General to draft a resolution. The intent of this resolution is to clarify how grantees may seek amendments to existing grants when project circumstances change.

While grantees are expected to complete projects as outlined in their applications, it is understood that changes may occasionally prevent full delivery as proposed. The resolution outlines the process for requesting a change of scope based on the extent of the change in protected acreage and specifies whether such requests should be submitted to DCR, the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, or the Board.

The Board discussed the resolution, and Ms. Andrews recommended revision to the chart on the third page to match the language within the section titled "Adjustments to Project Acreage that Result in a Reduction of Acres Conserved."

**BOARD ACTION**

Ms. Kilpatrick moved to approve the resolution with the amendment to update the language within the chart on page three. Mr. Scott seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by: Adams, Andrews, Beamer, Gable, Hallberg, Hoffman, Horsley, Lamb, Leeth, Lohr, Marsden, Molina, Kilpatrick, Scott, Slaven, and Taillon.

**RECENTLY COMPLETED VLCF GRANT PROJECTS** – *Damian Martin, DCR, Land Conservation Specialist*

Mr. Martin provided the following update regarding the status of recently completed VLCF Grant Projects. The following six VLCF grant projects have successfully closed since the VLCF Board meeting on June 3, 2025.

**1. American Battlefield Trust – Mauller Tract (FY2023)**

The American Battlefield Trust has acquired the three-acre Mauller Tract near Manassas in Prince William County and recorded a historic preservation and open-space easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The tract is located entirely within the Core Area of the Second Manassas Battlefield and is adjacent to the Manassas National Battlefield Park. The property is mostly open with scattered trees and includes 423 feet of an intermittent stream. The Trust intends to restore the tract to a natural state by demolishing the existing structures and offer periodic tours to the public.

**Grant Award:** \$253,439 **Payment Amount:** \$253,439 **Match:** \$336,453 **Project Closed:** August 2025

## **2. Capital Region Land Conservancy – Mayo’s Island (FY2023)**

Since the 1980s, the City of Richmond sought to acquire the 14-acre Mayo’s Island property located in the James River for a public park. Mayo’s Island holds a significant historical legacy dating back to the 18th century when the first bridge was built linking the north and south sides of the James River. Since then, the island has been used for industrial, commercial, and recreational purposes. The city’s acquisition and conservation of Mayo’s Island was accomplished by assembling funding from the Community Flood Preparedness Fund, VLCF, and the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund. This achievement bolsters the outdoor recreation economy in downtown Richmond. Capital Region Land Conservancy and DCR now co-hold an easement on the island.

**Grant Award:** \$1,500,000 **Payment Amount:** \$1,500,000 **Match:** \$10,781,561 **Project Closed:** September 2025

## **3. Trust for Public Land – Lower Potomac River Corridor (FY2024)**

The Lower Potomac River Corridor project conserved 304 acres of farmland in Westmoreland County. These two adjoining farms are located along the Potomac River and Popes Creek directly across from and within the viewshed of the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, a unit of the National Park Service. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) received the VLCF grant, and in partnership with the landowners, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and the U.S. Navy acquired open-space easements on the two farms to be co-held by VOF and the Navy. These farms are now part of a complex of contiguous farmland, forests and wetlands protected through conservation easements, collectively amounting to 2,700-acres, and link to another 3,000 acres of public and privately conserved land, including the GW Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland State Park, and Stratford Hall National Historic Landmark. These conserved lands now extend for eight miles along the Potomac River.

**Grant Award:** \$585,000 **Payment Amount:** \$585,000 **Match:** \$2,379,548 **Project Closed:** July 2025

## **4. Franklin Parks Foundation – Deer Creek (FY2024)**

The Franklin Parks Foundation, in partnership with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the City of Franklin, acquired and conserved 99.76 acres with frontage on the state scenic Blackwater River. VOF now holds an easement on the parcel. This project adds additional parkland to the adjacent Blackwater Park with a primitive camp site and boat launch. The property contains old growth hardwood bottomlands and supports several rare species and significant natural communities including anadromous fish and colonial water birds. The wetland forests rank high on over 60 acres of river frontage. The park will be open daily to the public.

**Grant Award:** \$180,000 **Payment Amount:** \$180,000 **Match:** \$1,028,177 **Project Closed:** July 2025

## **5. Department of Forestry – Tank Hill (FY2025)**

The Department of Forestry secured a 1,486-acre open space easement to protect working forestland in Dinwiddie County with the assistance of a VLCF grant from FY25. The easement also protects riparian lands along White Oak Creek, designated as Threatened & Endangered Species Waters by the Department of Wildlife Resources due to the presence of Roanoke Logperch, a state and federally endangered fish. The landowner plans to keep the land as working forestland and has removed the possibility of major development. The project aligns with the locality's comprehensive plan, the Virginia Outdoors Plan, and efforts to protect the flight path between Ft. Barfoot and Ft. Gregg-Adams.

**Grant Award:** \$810,000 **Payment Amount:** \$810,000 **Match:** \$2,240,915 **Project Closed:** September 2025

#### **6. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Lake Caledon – Caledon State Park Expansion (FY2025)**

The Lake Caledon acquisition expands Caledon State Park, a designated National Natural Landmark, by nearly 20% through a Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) partnership with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the U.S. Navy. The 471-acre lakefront property in King George County was a long-standing acquisition priority for DCR, the Friends of Caledon State Park, and King George County. The property is mostly forested and had been slated for a residential subdivision before TPL secured a purchase agreement with the owners. This expansion increases recreational opportunities such as camping, hiking, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and the potential for overnight lodging.

**Grant Award:** \$500,000 **Payment amount:** \$500,000 **Match:** \$5,562,021 **Project Closed:** October 2025

#### **WITHDRAWN VLCF GRANT PROJECTS**

In addition, Mr. Martin provided an update regarding the VLCF Grant Projects that have been withdrawn since the Board's last meeting. The two projects that have been withdrawn are listed below:

##### **1. The Nature Conservancy – Gent Branch – Elk Conservation Area (FY2023)**

The Nature Conservancy sought to conserve approximately 179 acres Buchanan County for an elk conservation area. The project was withdrawn in late July after the landowners were unable to convey a good, insurable, and marketable fee simple title to the property.

**Grant Award:** \$71,937 **Note:** Funds will be returned to the Open Spaces and Parks Category.

##### **2. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve - Browne Farm (FY2024)**

Natural Heritage requested a grant to acquire approximately 45 acres as an addition to the Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve in Halifax County. This project was withdrawn in mid-September 2025 after the landowner sold the property to an individual that did not intend to sell the land to DCR for a Natural Area Preserve.

**Grant Award:** \$250,000 **Note:** Funds will be returned to the Natural Areas Preservation Category

Mr. Martin provided a summary of the open VLCF grants. There are six open grants remaining from the FY22 grant round. For the FY23 grant round, 21 of the 40 grants awarded are still open. Additionally, 28 of the 29 grants awarded in the FY24 grant round remain open. In total, the organization is currently managing 55 open grants with a combined value of \$24,554,262.

#### **VLCF GRANT PROGRAM – FY26 GRANT ROUND** – *Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR, Land Conservation Manager*

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented the Board with the following overview of the FY26 Grant Round:

#### **FY26 GRANT ROUND OVERVIEW**

The FY26 Grant Round was open to accept applications from June 3 through August 12, 2025.

Funding provided in state budget: \$16 million appropriation –  
\$4 million to VOF Preservation Trust Fund, per Va. Code  
**\$12 million**

Interest through June 1, 2025: **\$1,000,000 (-\$250,000 to VOF PTF)**

Returned grant funds: **\$3,060,418**

**Total available grant funding: \$15,810,418**

- Grant round announcements were emailed to localities, land trusts, interest groups, past applicants, conservation organizations and agencies.
- A virtual grant workshop was held on June 17, and presentations were posted to the VLFCF webpage.
- The Interagency Taskforce met on September 8 and October 7 to discuss applications and make recommendations for each category.

**Total Applications Received: 32**

9 in Farmland Preservation  
 7 in Forestland Preservation  
 6 in Historic Area Preservation  
 5 in Natural Area Preservation  
 5 in Open Spaces and Parks

**Recommended for Funding to Board: 29**

7 in Farmland Preservation  
 7 in Forestland Preservation  
 5 in Historic Area Preservation  
 5 in Natural Area Preservation  
 5 in Open Spaces and Parks

Total request funding: \$17,212,352

Total request acreage: 8,711.00

Total recommended funding: \$15,772,609

Total recommended acreage: 8,650.50

ConserveVirginia: 89.7% (26/29 are within)

*VLFCF Grant Requirements are met:*

1. The state budget requires at least 50% of funds be used for projects that provide public access; and
2. The Code requires at least 1/3 of funds be used for projects that secure easements to be held or co-held by a public body.
  - 18 of the recommended projects (64% of funds) would provide public access
  - 19 of the recommended projects (56% of funds) would have open-space easements

**PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE**

***FARMLAND PRESERVATION*** – Gennette Harris, Department of Forestry, Working Lands Conservations Specialist

Ms. Harris presented the Board with a description of each of the projects and the following overview of applications and the resulting recommendations:

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION APPLICATIONS**

**Amount of Funding Available: \$2,604,182**

1. Project: **Avalon Land, LLC**; Applicant: Land Trust of Virginia  
Easement on 81.29 acres along the James River in Nelson County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$257,000; Grant Request: \$121,750; Recommend: \$121,750**
2. Project: **Calloway Tract at Brandy Station**; Applicant: American Battlefield Trust  
Easement on 475.87 acres of farmland along the Rappahannock River in Culpeper County. **Total Project Cost: \$1,758,000; Grant Request: \$879,000; Recommend: \$879,000** (\$504,578 from Farmland Preservation and \$374,422 from Historic Area Preservation)
3. Project: **Bryant Land Company**; Applicant: Virginia Outdoors Foundation  
Easement on 408 acres of farmland in Southampton County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$940,600; Grant Request: \$225,000; Recommend: \$225,000** (\$224,114 from Farmland Preservation and \$886 from Forestland Preservation)
4. Project: **Windfield Farm**; Applicant: Clarke County  
Easement on 126 acres of farm and forestland on the Shenandoah River in Clarke County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$510,500; Grant Request: \$200,000; Recommend: \$200,000**
5. Project: **Parkland Farms**; Applicant: Virginia Outdoors Foundation  
Easement on 949.67 acres of active farmland in Mecklenburg County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$2,727,000; Grant Request: \$1,402,000; Recommend: \$751,753**
6. Project: **Brandy Rock Farm at Brandy Station**; Applicant: American Battlefield Trust  
Easement on 225.8-acres of farmland in Culpeper County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$2,473,910; Grant Request: \$636,405; Recommend: \$636,405**
7. Project: **Daniel & Pamela Bell Farm**; Applicant: Stafford County  
Easement on 20 acres of pastureland in Stafford County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$222,800; Grant Request: \$111,400; Recommend: \$111,400**

*Forestland Preservation – Amanda Scheps, Department of Forestry, Program Manager, Office of Working Lands Preservation*

Ms. Scheps presented the Board with a description of each of the projects and the following overview of applications and the resulting recommendations:

#### **FORESTLAND PRESERVATION APPLICATIONS**

**Amount of Funding Available: \$3,929,536**

1. Project: **Henry W. Carneal**; Applicant: Virginia Outdoors Foundation  
Easement on 563.00 acres of forestland along the North Fork Holston River in Smyth & Washington Counties.  
**Total Project Cost: \$839,750; Grant Request: \$281,150; Recommend: \$281,150**
2. Project: **Conservation and Cultural Access in Amherst County**; Applicant: The Conservation Fund  
Easement on 421.25 acres of forestland on the northern slope of Bear Mountain, containing the peak of Cedar Mountain in Amherst County.

**Total Project Cost: \$575,000; Grant Request: \$287,500; Recommend: \$287,500**

3. Project: **Preserving Bear Mountain**; Applicant: Monacan Indian Nation  
Fee acquisition of 339.40 acres of forestland on Bear Mountain in Amherst County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$1,800,000; Grant Request: \$1,210,000; Recommend: \$1,210,000**
4. Project: **Darden Farms**; Applicant: Virginia Outdoors Foundation  
Easement on a 1,052.68-acre Century Farm in Southampton County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$2,874,100; Grant Request: \$775,000; Recommend: \$775,000**
5. Project: **Closing the Gap: Dragon Run Conservation & Wildlife Corridor**; Applicant: Friends of Dragon Run  
Fee acquisition and easement on 240.58 acres of active agricultural land, forestland, and bald cypress swamp in King and Queen County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$988,000; Grant Request: \$475,000; Recommend: \$475,000**
6. Project: **Threewitts Farm LLC**; Applicant: Virginia Department of Forestry  
Easement on a 672.00-acre Century Farm adjacent to the Dendron Swamp Natural Area Preserve in Surry County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$1,735,600; Grant Request: \$450,000; Recommend: \$450,000**
7. Project: **Hunting Quarter Farm**; Applicant: Virginia Department of Forestry  
Easement on a 662.00-acre Century Forest property one mile from Chub Hill NAP and State Scenic Nottoway River in Sussex County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$991,100; Grant Request: \$450,000; Recommend: \$450,000**

*Historic Area Preservation – Karri Richardson, Department of Historic Resources, Easement Program Specialist*

Ms. Richardson presented the Board with a description of each of the projects and the following overview of applications and the resulting recommendations:

#### **HISTORIC AREA PRESERVATION APPLICATIONS**

**Amount of Funding Available: \$2,726,963**

1. Project: **Hylton Tract at Bristoe Station**; Applicant: American Battlefield Trust  
Fee acquisition of 152.18 acres of farmland in Prince William County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$8,482,475; Grant Request: \$1,100,000; Recommend: \$1,100,000**
2. Project: **Martin Indigenous Archaeological Site**; Applicant: The Archaeological Conservancy  
Fee acquisition of 16.26 acres along the New River in Wythe County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$584,900; Grant Request: \$292,250; Recommend: \$292,250**
3. Project: **Pappas Tract at Fisher's Hill**; Applicant: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation  
Easement on 110.50 acres of forested land in Shenandoah County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$620,632; Grant Request: \$310,316; Recommend: \$310,316**
4. Project: **Shiflett II at Piedmont Battlefield**; Applicant: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation  
Fee acquisition of 87.71 acres of farmland in Augusta County along the Middle River.

**Total Project Cost: \$1,016,550; Grant Request: \$508,275; Recommend: \$508,275**

5. Project: **Goodale I & Deane I Tract**; Applicant: Richmond Battlefields Association, Inc.  
Easement on 14 acres of farm and forestland owned by applicant in Henrico County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$283,400; Grant Request: \$141,700; Recommend: \$141,700**

*Natural Area Preservation – Lesley Starke, DCR, Acting Director, Natural Heritage Program*

Ms. Starke informed the Board that the application for Piney Grove Flatwoods Natural Area Preserve – Luster Tract Addition was withdrawn and the funding that was to be distributed to this application is intended to be reallocated to the other grant applications to provide them with full funding. Ms. Starke presented the Board with a description of each of the projects and the following overview of applications and the resulting recommendations:

**NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION APPLICATIONS**

**Amount of Funding Available: \$3,088,235**

1. Project: **Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve – Bournes Addition**; Applicant: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Natural Heritage  
Fee acquisition of 23.50 acres as an addition to one of the Commonwealth's most irreplaceable conservation sites, Difficult Creek NAP in Halifax County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$120,000; Grant Request: \$120,000; Recommend: \$120,000**
2. Project: **Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve Addition (Highpoint Lane Parcel)**;  
Applicant: Virginia Outdoors Foundation  
Fee acquisition of a 5.49-acre forested addition to the Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve in Fauquier County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$411,000; Grant Request: \$411,000; Recommend: \$411,000**
3. Project: **Eastern Divide South – Hagan Tract Addition (supplemental funding)**; Applicant: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Natural Heritage  
Fee acquisition of 104.00 acres of karst landscape in Montgomery County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$2,350,000; Grant Request: \$1,074,781; Recommend: \$1,074,781**
4. Project: **South Quay Sandhills Natural Area Preserve – Phase I Addition (supplemental funding)**; Applicant: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Natural Heritage  
Fee acquisition of approximately 846.00 acres of forestland and wetlands in Suffolk County.  
**Total Project Cost: \$3,065,000; Grant Request: \$1,765,000; Recommend: \$1,482,454**

*Open Spaces and Parks – Kristal McKelvey, DCR, Chief Recreation Grants Manager, Planning & Recreation Resources*

Ms. McKelvey presented the Board with a description of each of the projects and the following overview of applications and the resulting recommendations:

**OPEN SPACES & PARKS APPLICATIONS**

**Amount of Funding Available: \$3,515,684**

1. Project: **Gum Swamp Warren Property**; Applicant: City of Virginia Beach  
Fee acquisition of 26.00 acres of Gum Swamp, one of the headwaters of the Virginia Scenic North Landing River in the City of Virginia Beach.  
**Total Project Cost:** \$2,529,000; **Grant Request:** \$1,200,000; **Recommend:** \$1,200,000
2. Project: **Kane Gap Connectivity Project**; Applicant: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Fee acquisition of 250.00 acres in Scott County to complete the development of Wilderness Road and provide public access to the cultural, scenic, and natural resources of Kane Gap.  
**Total Project Cost:** \$464,000; **Grant Request:** \$464,000; **Recommend:** \$464,000
3. Project: **Stratford Hall Historic Preserve**; Applicant: Trust for Public Land  
Fee acquisition of 475.00 acres along the tidal Potomac River in Westmoreland County.  
**Total Project Cost:** \$2,187,000; **Grant Request:** \$665,500; **Recommend:** \$665,500
4. Project: **Wilson Hollow – New River Trail Expansion**; Applicant: New River Soil and Water Conservation District  
Fee acquisition of 239.00 acres of forestland and grasslands along the New River in Grayson County.  
**Total Project Cost:** \$1,103,600; **Grant Request:** \$550,900; **Recommend:** \$550,900
5. Project: **Riverheads School Complex – Adjacent Property**; Applicant: County of Augusta  
Fee acquisition of 24.59 acres adjacent to the Riverheads school complex in Augusta County for future outdoor facilities.  
**Total Project Cost:** \$570,950; **Grant Request:** \$285,475; **Recommend:** \$285,475

#### **COMMENTS FROM GRANT APPLICANTS AND THE PUBLIC**

There was no comment from members of the public or grant applicants.

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF FY26 GRANT AWARDS**

The Board discussed the grant applications and how the scoring of the applications are reviewed by the Interagency Taskforce members. There was also discussion regarding the expertise members of the Interagency Taskforce members have and how their knowledge assists the various grant categories.

#### **BOARD ACTION**

Mr. Beamer moved to approve the grants as presented. Ms. Slaven seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by: Adams, Andrews, Beamer, Gable, Hallberg, Hoffman, Horsley, Lamb, Leeth, Lohr, Marsden, Molina, Kilpatrick, Scott, Slaven, and Taillon.

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION**

The Board engaged in a discussion regarding flood plains and flood resilience in relation to current and upcoming grant applications. The Board directed the Interagency Taskforce to research this matter and present findings at the next Board meeting. The objective is to consider the potential integration of flood planning into the grant categories prior to the FY26 Grant Rounds.

**VLCF DEED REVIEW AND VERIFICATION OF REQUIRED PROPERTY PROTECTIONS** – *Damian Martin, DCR, Land Conservation Specialist*

Mr. Martin provided an overview of the VLCF deed review process, per the Board's request for information at a prior Board meeting. The Office of Land Conservation (OLC) reviews conservation easements and deeds of acquisition with open-space dedications to ensure compliance with the VLCF Grant Manual, Grant Agreement, and application requirements. Draft deeds are reviewed by OLC staff, with initial edits made by the Land Conservation Specialist or Grants Manager and final approval required from the Land Conservation Manager before recording. OLC collaborates with grantees to bring documents into compliance and provides detailed guidance on deed requirements, internal review procedures, and common edits. Supporting materials include a grant close-out template to track due diligence items and financial tracking tools to ensure grant reimbursements align with actual expenditures and award amounts.

**BOARD MEMBER DEPARTURE**

Mr. Gable left the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

The Board discussed the development of easements and adequate protection of different conservation values of property. Board staff were directed to review this topic and provide an update at the next Board meeting.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.