

Minutes
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Board of Trustees Special Forestry Committee
November 15, 2018

Attendees

Board of Trustees:

Eleanor Brown, Chair
Elizabeth Obenshain

Emily White, Conservation Program
Administrator

Staff:

Brett Glymph, Executive Director
Bobbie Cabibbo, Executive Assistant
Leslie Grayson, Deputy Director
Martha Little, Deputy Director
Johnny Mitchell, Special Projects Associate
Jason McGarvey, Communications and
Outreach Manager

Consultants:

Amanda Colocho, Hodges Partnership
Sean Ryan, Hodges Partnership

Guests:

Katie Hellebush, Hellebush Consulting,
LLC
Zachary Sheldon, Nature Conservancy
Stephanie Kitchen, Farm Bureau
Kelly Eddings, Conservation Partners

Eleanor Brown opened meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Clyde Cristman, Director the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) welcomed the group.

The Chair acknowledged all the hard work and effort, especially Emily White's, remarking that the quality of the work product is excellent, even more so with the short period of time. The opportunities to review these projects and award grants is exciting and based on the requests, there is a great need.

Sean Ryan from Hodges Partnership reviewed a plan for the upcoming release of information about the Forest CORE Fund awards. Eleanor wants to ensure that in addition to the outlined plan VOF can tell its own story on social media and other places.

Forest CORE Fund

Martha Little reported that \$3M is the amount for this first grant round. A recent update shows that 48% of the MVP grubbing has been done so there is some flexibility with the amount of money available for distribution.

Emily White reported on the 11/9/18 meeting of the Forest CORE Fund MVP Technical Work Group.

The Technical Committee reached consensus recommending the following projects:

1. Chestnut Ridge submitted by DCR
2. Poor Mt. Greenways submitted by DCR
3. Brush Mountain submitted by the New River Land Trust

4. McAfee Knobb submitted by Appalachian Trail Viewshed
5. Mystic Forest submitted by VOF
6. Explore Park submitted by Roanoke County
7. Wayside Park submitted by Pittsylvania County

The scoring sheet measured the ecological/natural resources, but the committee acknowledged it didn't "tell the whole story" about each project. The community impact along with environmental justice also played an important part in the decision of the Technical Committee.

The Special Forestry Committee will recommend the 7 projects submitted to the full Board on 12/5/18 with one change to fully fund the Brush Mt. project which brings the awards to \$3.6M.

The trustees suggested a process called "reverse scoring" to refine the scoring sheet to refine being able to try and capture the nuances and the qualitative aspects, bring them under consideration and give those aspects a number.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.