

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, June 3, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

East Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad St, Richmond, VA 23219

AGENDA

Welcome

1. Secretary Call to Order, Introduction of Members, and Opening Remarks
Stefanie Taillon, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Business and Financial Matters

2. Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2024, Board Meeting
Secretary Taillon
3. Virginia Land Conservation Fund Financial Report
Laura Ellis, Deputy Director for Administration and Finance, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
4. Annual resolution to authorize DCR to expend interest from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, pursuant to § 10.1-1020
Suzan Bulbulkaya, Land Conservation Manager, DCR
5. Update and proposed action for Enrichmond's VLCF Stewardship Fund Payment
Gina DiCicco, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR

Virginia Outdoors Plan

6. The 2024 Virginia Outdoors Plan
Kristal McKelvey, Chief Recreation Grants Manager, DCR-Planning & Recreation Resources

VLCF Grant Program

7. Review of VLCF Grant Projects that have closed since November 2024
Damian Martin, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR
8. Discussion and Approval of the VLCF FY26 Grant Round
 - a. Proposed FY26 Grant Manual
Elizabeth Andrews, VLCF Subcommittee Chair
 - b. Proposed FY26 Fiscal Expenditure Plan
Suzan Bulbulkaya
 - c. Proposed Timeline for Applications and Awards
Suzan Bulbulkaya

d. Public Comment
Secretary Taillon

e. Board Discussion and Adoption of FY26 Grant Round Documents

Other Business

9. Items of Other Business
Suzan Bulbulkaya

10. Public Comment
Secretary Taillon

11. Adjourn
Secretary Taillon

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees

Chairman: The Honorable Stefanie Taillon, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Vice Chair: Morgan Slaven

Member Ex Officio: The Honorable Matthew Lohr, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Executive Secretary: Matthew Wells, Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation

1st Congressional District Robert Beals
2nd Congressional District Jay C. Ford
3rd Congressional District Col. Brian Hallberg
4th Congressional District Stuart Leeth
5th Congressional District Kathleen Kilpatrick
6th Congressional District Morgan Slaven
7th Congressional District The Honorable Ed Scott
8th Congressional District Gabriella Hoffman
9th Congressional District VACANT

10th Congressional District Bradley Gable
11th Congressional District Michael Molina
Chief William “Frank” Adams
The Honorable David W. Marsden
The Honorable Richard H. Stuart
Elizabeth Andrews
James Beamer
Leslie Cockburn
Sonya Powell



Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees

**Thursday, November 21, 2024
East Reading Room, Patrick Henry
Building Richmond, Virginia**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, Board of Trustees took place at 9:30 a.m. on November 21, 2024, in the East Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building in Richmond, Virginia.

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

The Honorable Travis Voyles, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, Chair
Deputy Secretary Beth Green, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
Morgan Slaven, Vice Chair
Chief Frank Adams
Leslie Cockburn
Elizabeth Andrews
Colonel Brian Hallberg
James Beamer
Michael Molina
Gabriella Hoffman
Jay C. Ford
Sonya Powell
Stewart Leeth
Kathleen Kilpatrick
Lisa Kestner Quigley
The Honorable Ed Scott
Matthew Wells, Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Executive Secretary

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

Samantha Vargas Poppe
The Honorable David W. Marsden
The Honorable Richard H. Stuart

William “Bear” Lloyd
One Vacancy, 1st Congressional District

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR
Jason Bulluck, DCR
Whitten Cluff, DCR
Linda Crowe, DCR
Lore DeAstra, TAX
Emi Endo, DCR
Rob Evans, DCR
Brian Fuller, DCR
Rebecca Gwynn, DWR
Genny Harris, DOF

Charles Marston, DCR
Damian Martin, DCR
Lisa McGee, DCR
Kristal McKelvey, DCR
Larry Mikkelsen, DCR
Karri Richards, DHR
Paul Saunders, DCR
Kellie Seaton, DCR
Andrew Smith, DCR
Frank Stovall, DCR

OTHERS PRESENT

Parker Agelasto, Capital Region Land Conservancy
Sherry Buttrick, VOF
Christy Everett, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Rachel Henley, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation
Andrea Reese
Heather Richards, The Conservation Fund

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

With fifteen (15) members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Secretary Voyles called the meeting to order at 09:33 a.m.

Secretary Voyles welcomed new Board members and called for member and staff introductions.

INTRODUCTION TO VLCF

Lisa McGee, DCR Director of Policy, Planning and Legislative Affairs - Board Membership

Ms. McGee presented an overview of the Freedom of Information Act and how it pertains to Board members as well as an overview of pertinent administrative procedures.

Suzan Bulbulkaya, Land Conservation Manager - VLCF Grant Program and Land Preservation Tax Credit Program

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented the Board with an overview of the history of the grant program and information on the programs for which the Board is responsible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 13, 2023, BOARD MEETING

BOARD ACTION

Mr. Ford moved that the minutes of the June 5, 2024, meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees be approved as submitted. Ms. Slaven seconded, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION HONORING MICHAEL FLETCHER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Lisa McGee, DCR Director of Policy, Planning and Legislative Affairs

Ms. McGee presented the following resolution for adoption by the Board:

Honoring Michael Fletcher on His Retirement

WHEREAS, Michael Fletcher has dedicated 30 years of service to the Commonwealth of Virginia, with 27 years specifically at the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); and

WHEREAS, Michael Fletcher began his career with the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1994 during the Administration of Governor George Allen; and WHEREAS, in 1997, he began his tenure at DCR as the

Director of Development, showcasing his leadership and dedication to the Department; and

WHEREAS, Michael Fletcher has served as the Freedom of Information Officer for DCR, ensuring transparency and accountability within the Department; and

WHEREAS, since 1998, he has been the DCR Board Liaison, overseeing various Boards and Special Committees, including the Virginia Board of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Cave Board, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, and numerous ad hoc committees; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2024, Michael Fletcher retired as the Board and Constituent Services Liaison, as well as the FOIA Officer for the Department of Conservation and Recreation, leaving behind a legacy of dedication and service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the chairs of each Board, and the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, commend Michael Fletcher for his outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be presented to Michael Fletcher in recognition of his contributions and achievements during his esteemed career with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

BOARD ACTION

Mr. Beamer moved the resolution be adopted as presented. Ms. Andrews seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Secretary Voyles called for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board.

BOARD ACTION

Mr. Leeth nominated Ms. Slaven. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Beamer, and the motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF A SUBCOMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE FY26 GRANT MANUAL

Prior to the development of the FY26 VLCF Grant Manual, certain areas were identified as requiring additional review which include PDR's, applications that result in multiple easements, and integrating the new Virginia Outdoors Plan into scoring criteria. A subcommittee will be tasked with this review and will work closely with the Inter-Agency Task Force to address how these issues are managed in the next VLCF grant manual.

The Board's current bylaws allow the Board's Chair to appoint a committee.

The committee will meet in the winter to develop recommendations to bring before the Board in the spring of 2025.

Secretary Voyles announced the members of the subcommittee:

- Ed Scott
- Stewart Leeth
- Elizabeth Andrews

FINANCIAL UPDATE: VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FUND

Frank Stovall, DCR, Deputy Director for Operations

Mr. Stovall presented the following financial information:

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	
Fund Statement	
As of October 31, 2024	
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
FY23 Appropriation - Chapter 2	\$16,000,000
FY24 Appropriation - Chapter 1	\$16,000,000
FY25 Appropriation - Chapter 2*	\$16,000,000
FY23 Interest	\$506,071
FY24 Interest*	\$1,485,359
FY25 Interest*	\$486,596
TOTAL INCOME	\$56,492,125
DISBURSEMENTS	
FY23 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$2,124,370
FY24 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$1,667,123
FY25 Stewardship Fund Disbursements*	\$0
FY23 Grant Payments	\$5,507,148
FY24 Grant Payments*	\$7,980,536
FY25 Grant Payments*	\$1,034,415
FY23 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$4,000,000
FY24 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$4,000,000
FY25 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments*	\$2,000,000
FY23 Administrative Expenses	\$122,897
FY24 Administrative Expenses*	\$54,947
FY25 Administrative Expenses*	\$9,480
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT	\$28,500,916
* Changes since last report	
OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE - October 31, 2024	\$44,278,987

UPDATE ON THE LAND PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Lore DeAstra, Department of Taxation, Land Preservation Tax Credit Analyst

Ms. DeAstra provided an update on the Land Preservation Tax Credit Program.

UPDATE ON LPTC TRANSFER FEE REVENUES*Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR, Land Conservation Manager*

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

2024 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Stewardship Fund				
	AGENCY NAME	NUMBER OF DONATIONS	% OF TOTAL DONATIONS	AMOUNT OF FUNDS
1	500-Year Forest Foundation	7	1.61%	\$35,684.04
2	Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
3	Broad Water Innovations	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
4	Capital Region Land Conservancy Inc	9.5	2.18%	\$48,428.34
5	Central Virginia Battlefields Trust	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
6	Chesapeake Conservancy	2	0.46%	\$10,195.44
7	City of Chesapeake	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
8	City of Franklin	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
9	Coastal Virginia Conservancy	2	0.46%	\$10,195.44
10	County of Albemarle	16	3.67%	\$81,563.52
11	County of Chesterfield	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
12	County of Clarke	7	1.61%	\$35,684.04
13	County of Fauquier	4	0.92%	\$20,390.88
14	County of Shenandoah	0.5	0.11%	\$2,548.86
15	County of Warren	3	0.69%	\$15,293.16
16	Ever Green Team	85	19.50%	\$433,306.22
17	Historic Virginia Land Conservancy	5	1.15%	\$25,488.60
18	Land Savers United	17	3.90%	\$86,661.24
19	Land Trust of Virginia	52.5	12.04%	\$267,630.31
20	Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
21	Monacan Soil & Water Conservation District	0.5	0.11%	\$2,548.86
22	New River Conservancy	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
23	New River Land Trust	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
24	Northern Neck Land Conservancy	10	2.29%	\$50,977.20
25	Northern Virginia Conservation Trust	5	1.15%	\$25,488.60
26	Old Dominion Land Conservancy, Inc.	45	10.32%	\$229,397.41
27	Outdoors Preservation Foundation	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
28	Piedmont Environmental Council	8	1.83%	\$40,781.76
29	Potomac Conservancy	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
30	Shenandoah National Park Trust	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
31	Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation	2.5	0.57%	\$12,744.30
32	The Nature Conservancy	6	1.38%	\$30,586.32
33	The Town of Lovettsville	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
34	Shenandoah Valley Conservancy (formerly Valley Conservation Council)	24.5	5.62%	\$124,894.14
35	Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation	1	0.23%	\$5,097.72
36	Virginia Department of Forestry	7	1.61%	\$35,684.04
37	Virginia Department of Historic Resources	2	0.46%	\$10,195.44
38	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources	3	0.69%	\$15,293.16
39	Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust	4	0.92%	\$20,390.88
40	Virginia Outdoors Foundation	94	21.56%	\$479,185.70
	TOTALS	436	100.00%	\$2,222,606.00

BOARD ACTION

Vice Chair Slaven moved to approve the Stewardship Fund Payments as presented. Ms. Hoffman seconded, and the motion carried.

VLCF GRANT PROGRAM – FY25 GRANT ROUND

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented the Board with the following overview of the FY25 Grant Round:

FY25 GRANT ROUND OVERVIEW

The FY25 Grant Round was open to accept applications from June 5 through August 28, 2024.
 Funding provided in state budget: \$16 million appropriation –
 \$4 million to VOF Preservation Trust Fund, per Va. Code =
 \$12 million

Interest through 04/30/2024: \$1,020,910
 Returned grant funds: \$1,419,724

TOTAL available grant funding: \$14,440,634

- 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 27 and posted to the VLCF webpage.
- The Interagency Taskforce met on September 20 and October 11 to discuss applications and make recommendations for each category.

Applications Received: 40	Recommended for Funding to Board: 28
10 in Farmland Preservation	6 in Farmland Preservation
8 in Forest Preservation	7 in Forest Preservation
8 in Historic Preservation	4 in Historic Preservation
5 in Natural Area Preservation	5 in Natural Area Preservation
9 in Open Spaces and Parks	6 in Open Spaces and Parks
Total requested funding: \$24,497,108	Total recommended funding: \$14,440,634
Total requested acreage: 12,301.93	Total recommended acreage: 11,219.78
	ConserveVirginia: 93% (26/28) are within

VLCF 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.
- 13 of the recommended projects (50% of total funds) would provide public access
 - 16 of the recommended projects (56% of total funds) would have open-space easements

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

Genette 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: Hazelwood Farm; Applicant: The Conservation Fund
Easement on 339 acres along the Rappahannock River in Caroline County.
Total Project Cost: \$1,906,500; Grant Request: \$440,750; Recommend: \$440,750
2. Project: Jatt Farm - Musapatike; Applicant: Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Easement on 353.56 acres along Finneywood Creek in Mecklenburg County.
Total Project Cost: \$1,234,000; Grant Request: \$480,715; Recommend: \$480,715
3. Project: Greg & Kyli Waddle Property; Applicant: Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Easement on 850 acres in Smyth and Washington Counties.
Total Project Cost: \$2,731,500; Grant Request: \$989,300; Recommend: \$914,017
4. Project: Beaver Dam Legacy, LLC; Applicant: Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Easement on 138.32 acres in Loudoun County.
Total Project Cost: \$2,000,000; Grant Request: \$125,000; Recommend: \$125,000
5. Project: William Long Farm; Applicant: Stafford County
Easement on 69.25 acres in Stafford County.
Total Project Cost: \$508,000; Grant Request: \$254,000; Recommend: \$254,000
6. Project: Panamint Farm; Applicant: Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Easement on 533 acres in Louisa County.
Total Project Cost: \$1,017,500; Grant Request: \$389,700; Recommend: \$389,700
7. Project: Daniel & Pamela Bell Farm; Applicant: Stafford County
Easement on 20 acres in Stafford County.
Total Project Cost: \$208,000; Grant Request: \$104,000; Recommend: \$0
8. Project: Fansler Farm; Applicant: Clarke County
Easement on 88.95 acres in Clarke County.
Total Project Cost: \$407,500; Grant Request: \$100,000; Recommend: \$0
9. Project: Pagnotta Property; Applicant: Stafford County
Easement on 35.40 acres in Stafford County.
Total Project Cost: \$308,000; Grant Request: \$154,000; Recommend: \$0

10. Project: Schenemann Property; Applicant: Stafford County
Easement on 20 acres in Stafford County.
Total Project Cost: \$208,000; Grant Request: \$104,000; Recommend: \$0

Farmland Preservation Totals:

Acres: 2,447.48	Requested: \$3,141,465
Project Costs: \$10,529,000	Recommended: \$2,604,182

FORESTLAND PRESERVATION

Genette 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:

Forestland Preservation Applications

Amount of Funding Available: \$2,897,117

1. Project: Huff Rock; Applicant: Land Trust of Virginia
Easement on 647 acres on Powell Mountain in Wise County.
Total Project Cost: \$454,000; Grant Request: \$182,000; Recommend: \$45,000
2. Project: Shooting Creek; Applicant: Virginia Department of Forestry
Easement on 674.68 acres in Patrick County.
Total Project Cost: \$592,500; Grant Request: \$337,500; Recommend: \$286,875
3. Project: Working Forests Between Battlefields; Applicant: Virginia Department of Forestry
Easement on 797.80 acres in Dinwiddie County.
Total Project Cost: \$1,851,000; Grant Request: \$925,500; Recommend: \$775,000
4. Project: Tank Hill; Applicant: Virginia Department of Forestry
Easement on 1,491.54 acres in Dinwiddie County.
Total Project Cost: \$2,751,000; Grant Request: \$952,720; Recommend: \$810,000
5. Project: Richard Rolan Property; Applicant: Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Easement on 697 acres along the North Fork Holston River in Washington County.
Total Project Cost: \$868,500; Grant Request: \$417,500; Recommend: \$354,875
6. Project: Southampton 900; Applicant: Virginia Department of Forestry
Easement on 900 acres along Blackwater River in Southampton County.
Total Project Cost: \$1,613,500; Grant Request: \$400,000; Recommend: \$340,000
7. Project: Monacan Indian Nation – Daisy Adcock Property; Applicant: Monacan Indian Nation
Fee acquisition of 100.40 acres in Amherst County.
Total Project Cost: \$434,600; Grant Request: \$434,600; Recommend: \$285,367
8. Project: Camp Shenandoah; Applicant: Virginia Department of Forestry
Easement on 458 acres in Augusta County.
Total Project Cost: \$1,523,500; Grant Request: \$375,000; Recommend: \$0

Forestland Conservation Totals:**Acres: 5,766.42****Requested: \$4,024,820****Project Costs: \$10,088,600****Recommended: \$2,897,117****HISTORIC AREAS 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 Areas Preservation Applications**Amount of Funding Available: \$2,849,430**

1. Project: Oak Hill; Applicant: The Conservation Fund
Fee acquisition of 86 acres in Loudoun County.
Total Project Cost: \$7,578,000; Grant Request: \$3,000,000; Recommend: \$2,000,000
2. Project: Seven Pines at Broad Water Creek; Applicant: Capital Region Land Conservancy
Easement on 23.99 acres in Henrico County.
Total Project Cost: \$543,500; Grant Request: \$271,750; Recommend: \$271,750
3. Project: Funk Tract at Cedar Creek; Applicant: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation
Fee acquisition of 45.56 acres in Warren County.
Total Project Cost: \$830,548; Grant Request: \$415,274; Recommend: \$415,274
4. Project: Jackson at Wilderness; Applicant: American Battlefield Trust
Easement on 36.17 acres in Orange County.
Total Project Cost: \$409,475; Grant Request: \$204,238; Recommend: \$162,406
5. Project: Robinson at Manassas; Applicant: American Battlefield Trust
Fee acquisition of 1.75 acres in Fairfax County.
Total Project Cost: \$480,410; Grant Request: \$240,205; Recommend: \$0
6. Project: Brandy Rock Farm II at Brandy Station; Applicant: American Battlefield Trust
Easement on 225.80 acres in Culpeper County.
Total Project Cost: \$2,473,110; Grant Request: \$630,155; Recommend: \$0
7. Project: Massad Tract at Fredericksburg; Applicant: American Battlefield Trust
Fee acquisition of 5.42 acres in Stafford County.
Total Project Cost: \$1,722,993; Grant Request: \$859,446; Recommend: \$0
8. Project: Goddard at Eltham's Landing; Applicant: American Battlefield Trust
Easement on 51.98 acres in New Kent County.
Total Project Cost: \$366,805; Grant Request: \$182,528; Recommend: \$0

Historic Preservation Totals:**Acres: 476.67****Requested: \$5,803,594****Project Costs: \$14,404,841****Recommended: \$2,849,430**

NATURAL AREA PROTECTION

Jason Bulluck, DCR, Director, Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Mr. Bulluck 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: \$3,393,973

1. Project: Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve – Crow's Nest Harbor Partnership Phase 1; Applicant: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Fee acquisition of 262 acres in Stafford County.
Total Project Cost: \$254,500; Grant Request: \$153,500; Recommend: \$153,500
2. Project: South Quay Sandhills Natural Area Preserve – Biodiversity, Climate Resilience, And Public Access in Chowan River Basin; Applicant: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Fee acquisition of 1,900 acres in Suffolk County.
Total Project Cost: \$6,100,000; Grant Request: \$1,300,000; Recommend: \$1,300,000
3. Project: Ellett Escarpment – Eastern Divide South; Applicant: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Fee acquisition of 84 acres in Montgomery County.
Total Project Cost: \$3,000,000; Grant Request: \$3,000,000; Recommend: \$975,219
4. Project: Ellett Escarpment Natural Area Preserve – Supplemental Funding; Applicant: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Fee acquisition of 34.38 acres in Montgomery County.
Total Project Cost: \$165,254; Grant Request: \$165,254; Recommend: \$165,254
5. Project: Ellett Escarpment – Eastern Divide North; Applicant: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Fee acquisition of 36 acres in Montgomery County.
Total Project Cost: \$800,000; Grant Request: \$800,000; Recommend: \$800,000

Natural Areas Protection Totals:

Acres: 2,316.38

Requested: \$5,418,754

Project Costs: \$10,319,754

Recommended: \$3,393,973

Mr. Bulluck noted that full funding was not being requested for Ellett Escarpment – Eastern Divide North.

There was discussion about the options the Board has for awarding the grant or choosing to instruct the Inter Agency Task Force to make a further recommendation after review.

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 and Parks Applications

Amount of Funding Available: \$2,965,932

1. Project: Hanock North Landing Open Space FY25; Applicant: City of Virginia Beach
Fee acquisition of 28 acres along the North Landing River in Virginia Beach.
Total Project Cost: \$1,529,000; Grant Request: \$675,000; Recommend: \$650,000
2. Project: City of Chesapeake Open Spaces and Parks Application; Applicant: City of Chesapeake
Fee acquisition of 96 acres along the Elizabeth River in the City of Chesapeake.
Total Project Cost: \$3,008,795; Grant Request: \$1,465,000; Recommend: \$800,000
3. Project: Lake Caledon – Caledon State Park Expansion; Applicant: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Fee acquisition of 468 acres in King George County.
Total Project Cost: \$6,000,000; Grant Request: \$1,000,000; Recommend: \$500,000
4. Project: Robinson-Baker's Creek Acquisition; Applicant: Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority
Fee acquisition of 513.32 acres along the York River in King and Queen County.
Total Project Cost: \$607,950; Grant Request: \$303,975; Recommend: \$255,000
5. Project: Patowomek Tribe Land Grant; Applicant: Patowomek Indian Tribe of Virginia
Fee acquisition of 14.24 acres along the Rappahannock River in Stafford County.
Total Project Cost: \$500,000; Grant Request: \$500,000; Recommend: \$390,932
6. Project: Pleasure House Point Access/Waterfront Area; Applicant: City of Virginia Beach
Fee acquisition of 0.57 acres on Crab Creek in Virginia Beach.
Total Project Cost: \$600,000; Grant Request: \$300,000; Recommend: \$100,000
7. Project: Cole's Point Water Access – Additional Funding; Applicant: Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
Fee acquisition of 2.60 acres at Branson's Cove on the Potomac River in Westmoreland County.
Total Project Cost: \$1,012,025; Grant Request: \$230,000; Recommend: \$0
8. Project: New River Trail State Park: Draper Viewshed Protection & Recreation Access; Applicant: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Fee acquisition of 97.25 acres in Pulaski County.
Total Project Cost: \$1,112,500; Grant Request: \$1,112,500; Recommend: \$0
9. Project: Arlington Outdoor Education Association; Applicant: Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Fee acquisition of 75 acres in Fauquier County.
Total Project Cost: \$847,000; Grant Request: \$522,000; Recommend: \$0

Open Spaces & Parks Totals:**Acres: 1,294.98****Requested: \$6,108,475****Project Costs: \$15,217,270****Recommended: \$2,695,932****COMMENTS FROM GRANT APPLICANTS AND THE PUBLIC**

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

BOARD DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF FY25 GRANT AWARDS

Secretary Voyles opened the floor for discussion.

There was additional discussion regarding the options the Board has for awarding grant funds to the Ellett Escarpment – Eastern Divide North project.

BOARD ACTION

Mr. Ford moved that the Board approve the grants as presented, and instruct the Inter Agency Task Force to present an update on the Ellett Escarpment – Eastern Divide North Project at the spring meeting, and if necessary, a proposed reallocation of the fund for this project within the FY25 Round.

Vice Chair Slaven seconded, and the motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER DEPARTURE

Secretary Voyles left the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

RECENTLY COMPLETED VLCF GRANT PROJECTS

Larry Mikkelson, DCR, Land Conservation Specialist

Vice Chair Slaven introduced Mr. Mikkelson and announced his retirement and thanked him for his service and assistance to the Board.

Mr. Mikkelson provided the following update:

I) Recently Closed Projects

The following seven VLCF grants have successfully closed since the June 5, 2024, VLCF Board meeting:

1) **American Battlefield Trust – Rollins Tract at Bristoe Station Battlefield (FY2021 Round II)**

The American Battlefield Trust, utilizing a VLCF grant of \$285,000, was able to acquire the 22-acre Rollins Tract, located in Prince William County, and record an open-space easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources, protecting the property's historic and natural resources. The tract intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia and is in the Core Areas of the Bristoe Station Battlefield and the Manassas Station Operations Battlefield. Preservation of this property was a priority for the county and the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. In addition to its historic significance, the property includes a perennial stream, which is protected with 35-foot vegetated buffers. The Trust plans to transfer the parcel to the county for incorporation into the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park.

Grant Award: \$285,000. Payment amount: \$285,000. Match: \$743,752. Grant closed: July 2024.

2) **Department of Conservation and Recreation – The Cedars Natural Area Preserve – Kinzer Hollow Cave (FY2021 Round II)**

DCR's Natural Heritage Division received VLCF grant funding to acquire 55 acres as an addition to the Cedars Natural Area Preserve in Lee County. The property supports several rare plants, foraging habitat for endangered Gray Bats, and Kinzer Hollow Cave, which is home to a globally rare isopod. An underground stream within the cave drains to the Powell River supporting a host of Species of

Greatest Conservation Need. For over 25 years, DCR has been stitching together small parcels to protect these resources and build a functional and resilient natural area. This tract is within two categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience.

Grant Award: \$204,000. Payment amount: \$136,315. Match: \$15,000. Project closed: June 2024. Amount to be returned to Natural Area Preservation Category: \$67,685

3) The Conservation Fund – Nottoway River Wildlife and Recreation Area (FY2021 Round II and FY2023)

Two grants from FY2021 Round II and FY2023 awarded to The Conservation Fund, enabled the Department of Wildlife Resources to acquire 1,596 acres in Sussex County. This new Wildlife Management Area now provides public access to the Nottoway River and protects land for hunting, fishing, hiking, and wildlife watching. The property contains 2.5 miles of frontage on the Virginia designated Scenic Nottoway River, 2.5 miles along Black Branch Swamp, 220 acres of forested wetlands and 400 acres of bottomland hardwoods. The property is identified as a priority in ConserveVirginia in three categories: Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, and Scenic Preservation. Plans are to restore the property to native longleaf pine and hardwoods to better support water quality and habitat for endangered species, such as the federally threatened red-cockaded woodpecker. Federally endangered Roanoke logperch and dwarf wedgemussel are also found in this section of the Nottoway.

Grant Awards: FY2021 Round II: \$264,500; FY2023: \$450,000. Payment amount: \$714,500. Match: \$3,204,555. Project closed: May 2024.

4) The Nature Conservancy – Pinnacle State Natural Area Expansion – Weaver Creek (FY2022)

The Nature Conservancy received a VLCF grant to purchase 121 acres in Russell County, including a large riparian corridor along Weaver Creek, a significant tributary to the Clinch River. This acquisition protects the viewshed of the Clinch River State Park and potentially provides hiking opportunities for park visitors. Protection of this forested acreage complements both the Pinnacle and Cleveland Barrens State Natural Area Preserves, increasing the Commonwealth's conservation footprint in a biologically critical section of the Clinch River, designated as having "outstanding biological significance" by DCR's Division of Natural Heritage. The property is within the ConserveVirginia Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers. Partners include the Department of Wildlife Resources, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Clinch River Valley Initiative.

Grant Award: \$133,000. Payment amount: \$79,473. Match: \$79,473. Project closed: September 2024. Amount to be returned to Natural Area Preservation Category: \$53,528.

5) Department of Wildlife Resources – Copper Creek Initiative (FY2022)

The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) utilized an FY2022 VLCF grant to acquire and conserve a six-acre parcel located at the confluence of Copper Creek and the Clinch River in Scott County. The shoreline along the Clinch River now provides a new fishing and boating access point for the public. Companion public boating access sites are located 2.5 miles upstream and 9.5 miles downstream. DWR will protect the shorelines of Copper Creek that transect the property, removing threats of sedimentation and nutrient-loading. Many rare and endangered fish are known near the mouth of Copper Creek, including several Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Twenty-eight mussel species, including 19 federally endangered, have been reported from Copper Creek, which is by far the most of any tributary on the Virginia side of the Clinch River. This parcel is within three categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Scenic Preservation.

Grant Award: \$100,000. Payment amount: \$99,046. Match: \$0. Project closed: August 2024.
Amount to be returned to Open Spaces and Parks Category: \$954.

- 6) Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Camp Branch Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition (FY2023)
Virginia Outdoors Foundation partnered with Natural Heritage to acquire 56 acres as an addition to Camp Branch Wetlands Natural Area Preserve in Floyd County using an FY2023 VLCF grant. The property includes forested wetlands and riparian areas along Camp Branch as well as habitat for numerous species of greatest conservation need, and two significant natural heritage resources, including a Tier 1 (Critical Conservation Need) species. The entire natural Virginia range of this species is restricted to an approximately 10-mile radius in Floyd County, where it requires very specialized habitat conditions and active management. Additionally, the property shares a long boundary with the existing preserve and creates a contiguous connected stream corridor. The property is within two layers of ConserveVirginia: Protected Landscapes Resilience and Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity.

Grant Award: \$365,000. Payment amount: \$291,936. Match: \$0. Project closed: August 2024.
Amount to be returned to Natural Area Preservation Category: \$73,064.

- 7) City of Charlottesville – Moores Creek Land Acquisition (FY2023)
The City of Charlottesville purchased 80 acres of land with the assistance of an FY23 VLCF grant. The property will become a city park with daily public access and is located across Moores Creek from Azalea Park. This recent purchase protects the site from development, thus retaining the scenic view of open space and natural area from Azalea Park. The property also helps to complete the greenbelt around Charlottesville. The City plans to continue the use of a community garden as well as incorporate a bicycle pump track, trails and bridges on the property. Plans are also in place for stream restoration along Moores Creek, improved public fishing, swimming access, and wildlife viewing. The property is within three layers of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Scenic Preservation.

Grant Award: \$175,000. Payment amount: \$171,704. Match: \$171,704. Project closed: August 2024. Amount to be returned to Open Spaces and Parks Category: \$3,296.

II) Change of Scope

- 1) Department of Conservation and Recreation – Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve Addition (FY2022)

The DCR Division of Natural Heritage received an FY22 grant for \$515,000 to acquire 156 acres adjacent to the Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve in Montgomery County. In July 2024 Natural Heritage requested a change of scope for the project due to unanticipated title issues with two of the three tracts originally proposed in their application. The tracts were inherited by two sisters, each owning a single parcel with one jointly owned. Title issues with two of the tracts, 76 acres, were unable to be cured within the three-year VLCF grant cycle. Natural Heritage returned \$335,000 of the original grant, retaining \$180,000 to acquire the remaining 80-acre parcel. The parcel lies adjacent to the preserve and within the Pedlar Hills Conservation Site with a biodiversity rank of B1, the highest rank possible due to a suite of highly viable rare species habitats and rare woodland communities. This acquisition will improve access to the preserve and protect federally endangered plants and a large swath of forest. The property intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$515,000. Remaining grant amount: \$180,000. Amount to be returned to Natural Area Preservation Category: \$335,000; Date of Change of Scope: August 2024.

III) Withdrawn Grants

Three grants have been withdrawn since the Board's last meeting.

1) Department of Conservation and Recreation – Pedlar Hills Addition – Supplemental Funding (FY2024)

This project sought additional funds needed to complete the acquisition of 156 acres as an addition to Pedlar Hills Natural Area Preserve in Montgomery County. When the scope of the project was reduced, these supplemental funds were no longer needed.

Grant Award: \$65,000. Note: Funds will be returned to the Natural Area Preservation Category.

2) Meadowview Biological Research Station – Caroline Diamonds – The Oak Barrens and Barrel Springs (FY2022) and (FY2023)

The Meadowview Biological Research Station received two VLCF grants in consecutive grant rounds totaling \$292,935. Meadowview sought to acquire and protect 96 acres of a globally rare gravel bog and the surrounding oak barren uplands in Caroline County adjacent to an existing 17-acre preserve. However, after much negotiation over the three-year grant cycle, the landowner of a significant portion of the property remained unwilling to sell the property for the appraised value, demanding a far excessive amount. The plan to acquire the property did not come to fruition and the two grants were withdrawn.

Grant Awards: \$292,935 (FY2022: \$161,000; FY2023: \$131,935). Note: Funds will be returned to the Forest Preservation Category

Summary of Open VLCF Grants

- There are six open grants from the FY22 grant round.
- For the FY23 grant round, 21 of the 40 grants awarded are open.
- 28 of the 29 grants awarded in the FY24 grant round remain open.
- Currently, we are managing a total of 55 open grants with a total value of \$24,554,262.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting
June 3, 2025**

**VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
Fund Statement
As of April 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
FY23 Appropriation - Chapter 2	\$16,000,000
FY24 Appropriation - Chapter 1	\$16,000,000
FY25 Appropriation - Chapter 2	\$16,000,000
FY23 Interest	\$506,071
FY24 Interest	\$1,485,359
FY25 Interest*	\$1,340,382
TOTAL INCOME	\$57,345,911

DISBURSEMENTS

FY23 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$2,124,370
FY24 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$1,667,123
FY25 Stewardship Fund Disbursements*	\$2,222,606
FY23 Grant Payments	\$5,507,148
FY24 Grant Payments	\$7,980,536
FY25 Grant Payments*	\$6,610,395
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
FY23 Administrative Expenses	\$122,897
FY24 Administrative Expenses	\$54,947
FY25 Administrative Expenses*	\$113,757
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT	\$38,744,081

* Changes since last report

OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE - April 30, 2025 **\$34,889,608**

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
June 3, 2025
Resolution: Authorization for Administrative Funding for FY 2026

Background:

Pursuant to Va. Code § 10.1-1020(G): Up to \$250,000 per year of the interest generated by the Fund may be used for the Foundation's administrative expenses, including, but not limited to, the expenses of the Board and its members, development of the Foundation's strategic plan, development and maintenance of an inventory of properties as provided in subdivision 1 b of § [10.1-1021](#), development of a needs assessment for future expenditures as provided in subdivision 1 c of § [10.1-1021](#), and fulfillment of reporting requirements. All such expenditures shall be subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

Interest Balance on June 30, 2024	\$1,992,780
Interest Earned during FY25 through April 30	\$1,340,382
VLCF Administrative Expenses for FY25	(\$59,676)
Budgeted Natural Heritage Expenses	(\$100,000)
FY25 Grant Round	(\$1,020,910)
FY25 Grant Round to VOF (25%)	(\$340,301)
Available interest	\$1,812,275

Authorization:

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board authorizes the Department of Conservation and Recreation to expend up to \$250,000 of interest generated by the Fund in FY 2026 for use consistent with the legislative authority provided by *Code of Virginia* § 10.1-1020.G.; as outlined below:

FY 2026 \$250,000

Address existing administrative, web service and database-related expenses incurred by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in support of Virginia Land Conservation Foundation grant management activities. Specifically, the funding will be used in support of staff assisting with the VLCF grant program, the Webgrants online Grants Management Portal, land conservation database support of the Foundation's mission, and fulfillment of statutorily required reporting requirements.



Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Staff Report

TOPIC: Land Conservation, VLCF Stewardship Funds

SUBJECT: Update and proposed action for Enrichmond's VLCF Stewardship Fund Payment

ACTION: Disbursement of VLCF Stewardship Funds to Capital Region Land Conservancy

DATE: June 3, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ISSUE SUMMARY:

- In accordance with § 58.1-513 C.2. of the Code of Virginia, a portion of the fees arising from the transfer or distribution of tax credits is provided to the organizations responsible for the stewardship and monitoring of easement associated with the tax credits.
- Having received a qualified land donation in 2020, the Enrichmond Foundation was slated to receive VLCF Stewardship Funds in 2021, 2022, and 2023. However, in 2022 the Foundation closed abruptly.
- The Enrichmond Foundation dissolved before receiving \$8,317.11 in Stewardship Funds.
- In light of the Foundation's dissolution, the VLCF Board voted to hold the Stewardship Funds and disburse them in the future to the conservation organization that took over management of the property.

STATUS:

- In April 2025, the property was transferred to Capital Regional Land Conservancy (CRLC).
- Before transferring ownership of the parcel to Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation for public outdoor recreational use, CRLC will record a conservation easement on the property. CRLC is responsible for enforcing the conservation and preservation purposes of the property in perpetuity.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Staff recommend issuing \$8,317.11 in Stewardship Funds to CRLC, who now owns and manages the property for which the stewardship funds are to be awarded.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS:

Subdivision C.2. of Section 58.1-513: A fee of two percent of the value of the donated interest shall be imposed upon any transfer arising from the sale by any taxpayer of credits under this article and upon the distribution of a portion of credits under this article to a member, manager, partner, shareholder or beneficiary pursuant to subsection B. The two percent fee shall not apply to a distribution of credits to a nonresident owner of a pass-through entity when such credits are applied by the pass-through entity to the withholding tax pursuant to subdivision B 2 of § ~~58.1-486.2~~. Revenues generated by such fees first shall be used by the Department of Taxation and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for their costs in implementing this article but in no event shall such amount exceed 50 percent of the total revenue generated by the fee on an annual basis. The remainder of such revenues shall be transferred to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund for distribution to the public or private conservation agencies or organizations, excluding federal governmental entities, that are responsible for enforcing the conservation and preservation purposes of the donated interests. Distribution of such revenues shall be made annually by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation proportionally based on a three-year average of the number of donated interests accepted by the public or private conservation agencies or organizations, excluding federal governmental entities, during the immediately preceding three-year period.

ATTACHMENTS:

- None

Status Report on VLCF Grant Projects

June 3, 2025

Recently Completed Projects

The following 15 VLCF grant projects have successfully closed since the VLCF Board meeting on November 21, 2024. One of the projects received a second grant providing supplemental funds needed to complete the project. A total of 16 grants have been closed out.

1. Capital Region Land Conservancy – Campbell’s Bridge Mills (FY2022)

Capital Region Land Conservancy received \$375,000 in grant funding in FY22 for the acquisition and protection of 3.6 acres containing historic mills at Campbell’s Bridge along the Appomattox River in Chesterfield County. A historic open-space easement is held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources protecting the archaeological, historic, ecological resources and providing daily public access. This parcel contributes to a larger partnership with the county, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and Friends of Lower Appomattox River, where a larger parcel was acquired and conserved with a VOF easement. Together the property includes islands and the site of the Ettrick Mill, Northside Mill, Campbell’s Mill, Powhatan Mill, Eanes Mill and their associated mill races. The entire property is within the Cultural & Historic Preservation and Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia. The site is now part of the Appomattox River Trail and Ettrick VSU Special Area Plan.

Grant Award: \$375,000; **Payment amount:** \$375,000; **Match:** \$1,730,278; **Project closed:** December 2024

2. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve Addition (FY2022)

The DCR Natural Heritage Program received a VLCF grant for \$515,000 from the FY22 grant round to acquire 156 acres adjoining the Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve in Montgomery County, which now totals 1,257 acres. The property lies within the Pedlar Hills Conservation Site, which has a biodiversity rank of B1 – the highest rank possible – due to a suite of highly viable rare species habitats and rare woodland natural communities. Acquisition of this property helps to close a gap within the preserve, protects a sub-population of a federally endangered plants, and provides a large swath of forested land that improves access to the preserve. The Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia intersect the acquired property.

The grant was amended to acquire 80 acres of the original 156 acres in the application due to unresolvable title issues. The amount of the amended grant was reduced to \$180,000, with the remainder returned to VLCF in the FY25 grant round.

Grant Award: \$180,000; **Payment amount:** \$161,800; **Match:** \$0; **Project closed:** October 2024;
Amount Returned to Natural Area Preservation Category: \$18,201

3. Capital Region Land Conservancy – Brander Street (FY2022)

Capital Region Land Conservancy, in partnership with the City of Richmond, acquired 4.47 acres located along the south bank of the James River containing the path of the Richmond Slave Trail. The property is adjacent to Ancarrow's Landing and across the river from Great Shiplock Park. It is within the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia and was previously owned by Norfolk Southern and zoned for industrial use. The Richmond Riverfront Plan and James River Park Master Plan called for this property to become part of the city's James River Park system. The property is now owned by the city and conserved by an easement held by CRLC and DCR.

Grant Award: \$150,000; **Payment amount:** \$64,953; **Match:** \$60,439; **Project closed:** May 2025; **Amount Returned to Open Spaces and Parks Category:** \$85,047

4. The Conservation Fund – Roanoke River Working Forest (FY2022)

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) in partnership with The Conservation Fund, has conserved a total of 898 acres of working forestland near Charlotte State Forest, also funded in part through a prior VLCF grant. This project partially funded open-space easements held by DOF on two tracts. A third tract was acquired in fee and conserved by DOF using alternate funding. Collectively, these properties support a critical wildlife corridor and important habitat for threatened and endangered species; maintain sustainable working forests; and safeguard clean drinking water. The project is within five layers of ConserveVirginia: Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement.

Grant Award: \$464,000; **Payment amount:** \$375,764; **Match:** \$375,764; **Project closed:** May 2025; **Amount Returned to Forestland Preservation Category:** \$88,236

5. Piedmont Environmental Council – Farmland Protection along Brook Run (FY2023)

PEC and the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District received a VLCF grant for \$500,000 to conserve a 700-acre farm along the Rapidan River in Culpeper County. The farm is a cattle operation with an average of 170 acres in pasture. Approximately 420 acres of cropland produces corn, soybeans, wheat and rye. Productive soils cover 76% of the farm. This project encompasses over 189 acres of water quality-related conservation priorities according to ConserveVirginia. Buffering approximately 3.5 miles of the Rapidan River, Brook Run, and other tributaries will help enhance water quality in the watershed. In addition to VLCF funds, this project received \$1,100,000 from NRCS.

Grant Award: \$500,000; **Payment amount:** \$500,000; **Match:** \$1,720,028; **Project closed:** December 2024

6. Department of Forestry – Taylors Mill Farm (FY2023; FY2024)

The 1,145-acre Taylors Mill Farm tract in Greensville County contains 860 acres of high conservation value forest, with 6.8 miles of perennial and intermittent streams and 640 acres of wetlands. The remaining 285 acres are in tillable cropland and contain prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance. An ecological core found on the property is ranked at the highest possible score. This is a family-owned farm that has been in the same family for three generations. A Department of Forestry open

space easement protects the sensitive bottomlands and perennial streams and ensures that future generations may continue to own and manage its farmland and forests in perpetuity.

Grant Awards: FY23: \$450,000, FY24: \$45,000; **Payment amount:** \$495,000; **Match:** \$792,500; **Project closed:** November 2024

7. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve Addition – Accokeek Bottomlands II (FY2023)

DCR’s Natural Heritage Division received a VLCF grant for \$390,000 to acquire three tracts adding 222 acres to Crow’s Nest Natural Area Preserve in Stafford County. These tracts will enhance DCR’s ability to protect natural heritage resources and key visual and ecological buffers along the main public access corridor into the preserve and prevent incompatible development. Most of the property includes forested wetlands and riparian areas along Accokeek Creek. One of the parcels supports the state endangered and federally threatened Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*). The property is in one of Virginia’s essential conservation sites as well as a mapped ecological core.

Grant Award: \$390,000; **Payment amount:** \$252,916; **Match:** \$0; **Project closed:** September 2024; **Amount Returned to Natural Area Preservation Category:** \$90,354

8. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve – Battlefield Addition Tract (FY2023)

The purchase of these 100 acres adjoining the Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve in Rockingham County and overlapping the core area of the Port Republic Civil War Battlefield supports two globally rare natural communities and four rare plant species. Although protected by a prior easement held by Virginia Outdoors Foundation, incorporation into the natural area preserve provides long-term protections for managing natural resources and creates opportunities for ecological restoration. This acquisition by DCR will improve the long-term resiliency of one of Virginia’s most outstanding B1-ranked conservation sites and protect a globally significant National Audubon Society Important Bird Area.

Grant Award: \$453,800; **Payment amount:** \$439,120; **Match:** \$0; **Project closed:** Late September 2024; **Amount Returned to Natural Area Preservation Category:** \$14,680

9. New River Soil and Water Conservation District – New River Hill Park (FY2023)

New River Soil and Water Conservation District received funding to purchase 91.24 acres in Grayson County to create New River Hill Park. The project borders the New River, an American Heritage River and will protect water quality along its 4,800 feet of streams. This project protected approximately 1,700 feet of ridgetop from development and the scenic viewshed for those utilizing river recreation and those traversing the New River Blueway. The New River Hill Park will provide a natural area for public use and passive recreation, hiking, biking, environmental education, enjoyment of diverse wildlife, fishing and water activities.

Grant Award: \$156,350; **Payment amount:** \$156,350; **Match:** \$283,440; **Project closed:** March 2025

10. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – East West Creek Farms LLC (FY2024)

Virginia Outdoors Foundation received \$610,000 in VLCF grant funds for the partial purchase of an open-space easement on a 720-acre farm in Mecklenburg County. The project protects prime soils and statewide important farmland included in ConserveVirginia's Agriculture and Forestry category. The property is part of a larger multi-generational family farm producing corn, beans, and tobacco, as well as pasture and hay. The property contains two miles of frontage on Parham Creek and Flat Creek, which will remain protected with 50-foot forested buffers benefiting water quality and wildlife habitat and corridors. The property is bounded on two sides by permanently protected lands under easement, resulting in a contiguous block of 1,417 conserved acres.

Grant Award: \$610,000; **Payment amount:** \$610,000; **Match:** \$1,072,915; **Project closed:** November 2024

11. Stafford County – AP Legacy, LLC Farm (FY2024)

Stafford County received a VLCF grant to assist in the recordation of an open-space easement held by the county under their Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program on a Century Farm known as the AP Legacy Farm. The 73-acre farm is primarily farmed for hay production and livestock. The easement protects 41 acres of prime farm soils and soils of statewide importance; 12 acres of mixed forestland; and environmental features including 7,120 linear feet of forested perennial streams, wetlands, and special flood hazard area. The property falls within an ecological core and is adjacent to two conserved parcels under easement with VOF. The property was the site of the Brunswick Parish Glebe, one of two 18th century glebes in Stafford, owned by Parson John Waugh (1630-1706). The property is located along a Virginia scenic byway, providing visual access to the traveling public.

Grant Award: \$248,450; **Payment amount:** \$248,450; **Match:** \$308,972; **Project closed:** March 2025

12. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Nottoway 186 (FY2024)

VOF now holds an open-space easement over the 186-acre farm that protects the property's agricultural fields and forests, wetlands, and more than 3,000 feet of frontage on the state scenic Nottoway River in Southampton County. The property contains working pine forest and old-growth Cypress, and mixed hardwood stands along the river. The property is listed in six ConserveVirginia categories: Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, Cultural and Historic Preservation, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement. There are five species of conservation concern per DWR's Wildlife Information Service.

Grant Award: \$537,500; **Payment amount:** \$537,500; **Match:** \$132,415; **Project closed:** March 2025

13. Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia – Acquiring Rappahannock Tribe's Ancestral Homelands Phase III (FY2024)

The Rappahannock Tribe acquired 969 acres of ancestral homelands on the Rappahannock River at Fones Cliffs in Richmond County to conserve it as a natural area and for educational purposes, with funding

assistance from a FY24 VLCF grant. The property was formerly owned by the VA True Corp., who had it re-zoned for a golf resort with hundreds of residential housing units but declared bankruptcy in 2017. Pursuant to the grant, The Conservation Fund purchased the property, conveyed conservation easements to the Virginia Board of Historic Resources and USFWS, and then fee title to the Tribe. The property contains a mile of frontage along the river and was the largest of the remaining unprotected riverfront ownerships within the Refuge boundary. Its protection creates 2,454 acres of contiguous conserved habitat along three miles of riverfront. The tract is immediately adjacent to property owned by the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, which is in turn adjacent to land owned by the Tribe. It is an example of Northern Coastal Plain/Piedmont Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest. Larger trees are found in deep ravines bisecting the property with waterways at the bottom, all of which flow into the river, forming tidal marshes at their terminus.

Grant Award: \$1,716,166 (\$450,000 from Forestlands funding and \$1,266,166 from Historic Resources funding); **Payment amount:** \$1,716,166; **Match:** \$1,039,544; **Project closed:** April 2025

14. American Battlefield Trust –Brandy Rock Farm I Tract at Brandy Station Battlefield (FY2024)

The Trust has preserved the 100-acre Brandy Rock Farm I Tract in Culpeper County via an open-space easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The Brandy Rock Farm I Tract is unimproved and located entirely within the core area of the Brandy Station Battlefield. The property includes 82 acres of open farming area, nine acres of woods, and 1,084 feet of streams. The historic easement preserves the tract's agricultural productivity, the natural and historic resources, and the viewsheds of Brandy Station Battlefield and nearby Culpeper Battlefields State Park. The property is part of a larger 539-acre tract currently in active agricultural use.

Grant Award: \$271,660; **Payment amount:** \$266,297; **Match:** \$846,714; **Project closed:** December 2024; **Amount Returned to Historic Resources Preservation Category:** \$5,363

15. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Beaver Dam Legacy, LLC (FY2025)

VOF received a grant for \$125,000 to place an easement on 138-acre farm in Loudoun County, which is adjacent to three other properties protected by VOF easements and within one mile of nearly 1,700 acres of protected land. The property fronts Beaverdam Creek, a tributary of Goose Creek, for 2,800 feet and contains several historic buildings, which are also contributing structures to the Unison Battlefield Historic District. The property is bisected by, and the historic buildings are visible from, Newlin Mill Road, part of the Beaverdam Creek Historic Roadways District.

Grant Award: \$125,000; **Payment amount:** \$125,000; **Match:** \$1,756,358; **Project closed:** February 2025

Withdrawn VLCF Grant Projects

Five grant projects have been withdrawn since the Board's last meeting.

1. Department of Forestry – Poplar Hollow (FY2022; FY2024)

The Department of Forestry sought to conserve approximately 583 acres of forestland in Shenandoah and Frederick Counties adjoining Devil's Backbone State Forest. The project was withdrawn after the landowners objected to non-negotiable forestry deed language.

Grant Awards: FY22: \$300,000; FY24: \$250,000. **Note:** Funds will be returned to the Forestland Preservation Category.

2. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Chestnut Creek Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition (FY2022)

Natural Heritage requested a grant to acquire 11 acres as an addition to the Chestnut Creek Natural Area Preserve in Floyd County. This project was withdrawn in late October 2024 after DCR received an alternative funding source.

Grant Award: \$165,000. **Note:** Funds will be returned to the Natural Areas Preservation Category

3. Department of Wildlife Resources – Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative II (FY2024)

The Department of Wildlife Resources was awarded a grant to acquire and conserve approximately 476 acres in Accomack County. Along with Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative III, this project would have consolidated ownership, removed complicated boundary and access concerns, and provided the public with opportunities for wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, and hiking. DWR withdrew this project after learning that the landowners harvested timber on the target parcels in the proposal to complement their habitat goals for migratory birds in an area of hemispheric importance.

Grant Award: \$300,000. **Note:** Funds will be returned to the Forestlands Category

4. Department of Wildlife Resources – Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative III (FY2024)

The Department of Wildlife Resources was awarded a grant to acquire and conserve approximately 762 acres in Accomack County in FY24 which would have complemented the recently completed VLCF-funded initiative to purchase 8,800 acres on the Eastern Shore. The landowner decided to keep their farm in the family instead of selling, following receipt of a lower-than-expected appraisal.

Grant Award: \$450,000. **Note:** \$441,300 will be returned to the Forestlands Preservation Category and \$8,700 to the Open Spaces and Parks Category

5. City of Chesapeake – City of Chesapeake Open Spaces and Parks Application (FY2025)

The City of Chesapeake requested a grant to acquire 96 acres to protect wetlands, water quality, and aquatic ecological integrity while providing public waterfront access along the southern branch of the

Elizabeth River. Upon receiving the appraisal that valued the property significantly less than anticipated, the landowner was no longer interested in selling the property.

Grant Award: \$800,000. **Note:** Funds will be returned to the Open Spaces and Parks Category

Summary of Open VLCF Grants

- For the FY23 grant round, 17 of the 41 grants awarded remain open.
- For the FY24 grant round, 19 of the 29 grants awarded remain open.
- For the FY25 grant round, 26 of the 28 grants awarded remain open.
- Currently, we are managing a total of 62 open grants with a total value of \$30,221,970.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
Proposed GRANT FUNDING PLAN FOR FY26
June 3, 2025

FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY25 Budget Bill Chapt. 2, Item 360 A.1. \$16,000,000	Interest through June 1, 2025 \$1,000,000	Unspent Grant Funds to be Approved & Reallocated	TOTALS Available
I. VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25% per § 10.1-1020 C.)	\$4,000,000	\$250,000	N/A	VOF PTF: \$4,250,000
II. Grant Program				VLCF Grant Round
(i) Farmland Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$2,550,000
(ii) Forestland Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$150,000	\$1,379,536	\$3,929,536
(iii) Historic Area Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$150,000	\$5,363	\$2,555,363
(iv) Natural Area Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$150,000	\$288,235	\$2,838,235
(v) Open Spaces and Parks	\$2,400,000	\$150,000	\$893,747	\$3,443,747
TOTAL for Grant Round	\$12,000,000	\$750,000	\$2,566,881	\$15,316,881
Summary of Additional Unspent Grant Funds				
Farmland Preservation	\$0	N/A		
Forestland Preservation	\$1,379,536	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY22 DOF, Poplar Hollow \$300,000 . FY24 DWR, Eastern Shore Initiative Ph. III \$441,300 . FY24 DOF, Poplar Hollow (Supplemental Funding) \$250,000 . FY24 DWR, Eastern Shore Initiative Ph. II \$300,000 . <u>Unexpended Remainder:</u> FY22 The Conservation Fund, Roanoke River Working Forest \$88,236 .		
Historic Area Preservation	\$5,363	<u>Unexpended Remainder:</u> FY24 American Battlefield Trust, Brandy Rock Farm I Tract at Brandy Station Battlefield \$5,363 .		
Natural Area Preservation	\$288,235	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY22 DCR-DNH, Chestnut Creek \$165,000 . <u>Unexpended Remainder:</u> FY22 DCR-DNH, Pedlar Hills \$18,201 . FY23 DCR-DNH, Crow’s Nest (Accokeek Bottomlands) \$90,354 . FY23 DCR-DNH, Deep Run Ponds (Kaylor) \$14,680 .		
Open Spaces and Parks	\$893,747	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY24 DWR, Eastern Shore Initiative Ph. III \$8,700 (funded from two categories). FY25 City of Chesapeake, City of Chesapeake OSP \$800,000 . <u>Unexpended Remainder:</u> FY22 CRLC, Brander Street \$85,047 .		

Chapter 725, Item 360 of the Budget Bill, 2025

A.1. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$16,000,000 the first year and \$16,000,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia. No less than 50 percent of the appropriations remaining after the transfer to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust fund has been satisfied are to be used for grants for fee simple acquisitions with public access or acquisitions of easements with public access. This appropriation shall be deemed sufficient to meet the provisions of § 2.2-1509.4, Code of Virginia. **[Grant Funds]**

2. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$1,500,000 the first year and \$1,500,000 the second year from nongeneral funds to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund to be distributed by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation pursuant to the provisions of § 58.1-513, Code of Virginia. **[Stewardship Funds]**

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
Proposed GRANT TIMELINE FOR FY26
June 3, 2025

<i>Proposed FY26 VLCF Grant Schedule</i>	
April 17, 2025	VLCF Subcommittee meeting to discuss draft grant manual.
April 18 to May 9, 2025	Public comment period for the draft grant manual.
June 3, 2025	VLCF Board meeting to approve grant manual and initiate the grant round request for proposals (RFP).
Week of June 3, 2025	Announce official opening of grant round (update website and send emails).
June 17, 2025	Virtual Grant Workshop: orientation and program information for grant applicants.
August 12, 2025	Deadline for application submittal. (<i>10 weeks</i>)
Weeks of September 8 and 22, 2025	Interagency taskforce meetings to score projects and finalize recommendations – usually takes two meetings.
Early October 2025	SNHR and Director's review of applications and recommendations of IAT.
Late October 2025	VLCF Board meeting. Approval of grant awards.
Early November 2025	Grant agreements sent to grant recipients. Projects have two years to close.