

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees
Thursday, December 6, 2012
West Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building, Richmond, Virginia

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board Members Present

The Honorable Doug Domenech, Chair
Alexandra Liddy Bourne, Vice Chair
Steven L. Apicella
Robert E. Beals
R. Brent Blevins, Jr.
Robert L. Davenport, Jr.
Margaret H. Davis
Herbert L. Dunford, Jr.
Ollie W. Kitchen, Jr.
Anna Lawson
Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Mary Helen Morgan
Kevin Schmidt for The Honorable Todd Haymore
Brooks M. Smith
David A. Johnson, Executive Secretary

Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board Members Not Present

The Honorable Emmet W. Hanger, Jr.
The Honorable Jill Holtzman Vogel
L. Clifford Schroeder, Sr.

Agency Staff Present

Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR
David C. Dowling, DCR
Michael R. Fletcher, DCR
Bob Lee, Virginia Outdoors Foundation
John Moore, DCR
Wendy Musumeci, DHR
Danette Poole, DCR
Sarah Richardson, DCR
Mike Santucci, Department of Forestry
Tom Smith, DCR
Deb Van Duzee, DGIF
Michelle Vucci, DCR
Jeb Wilkinson, DCR
Elizabeth Andrews, Office of the Attorney General

Others Present

Judy Dodson, Warrenton
Mike Nardollili, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Andrea Reese, Civil War Trust
Jon Scott, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Charles H. Seilheimer, Virginia Outdoors Foundation Board of Trustees
Nikki Rovner, The Nature Conservancy
Brian Van Eerden, The Nature Conservancy

Call to Order

Secretary Domenech called the meeting to order and asked for introductions. He expressed appreciation for members making their way to Richmond for the meeting. He thanked members for their service and commitment to the Board.

Secretary Domenech asked for member and staff introductions.

Approval of Minutes from August 2012

MOTION: Mr. Kitchen moved that the minutes from the August 20, 2012 meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees be approved as submitted by staff.

SECOND: Ms. Lawson

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Financial Report

Mr. Moore gave the financial report. A full copy of the financial report is available from DCR.

Total liabilities and equity as of June 30, 2012 was \$4,868,047.

VLCF Projects Update

Ms. Richardson provided a progress report regarding the FY11 and FY12 Grant Round. A copy of this update is available from DCR. She noted that of the projects approved a year ago five have closed. Staff receives quarterly project updates. Other projects are close to completion.

Ms. Richardson said that two projects had closed since the August Board meeting. Both were in the Natural Areas category.

The Nature Conservancy – Cedars Natural Area Preserve, Bowen Tract

A grant was provided for fee simple acquisition by The Nature Conservancy of 296 acres as an addition to the existing 731 acres owned by The Nature Conservancy and the 1,487-acre DCR Cedars Natural Area Preserve. The site contains 45 acres of riparian habitat along 1.8 miles of the globally significant Powell River and 0.25 miles of Hardy Creek. This globally significant freshwater fish and mussel habitat supports 16 globally and state rare species, in addition to globally significant terrestrial plant species and cave and karst resources.

Total Project Cost: \$653,000. VLCF funds matched with VA Aquatic Resources Trust Funds and USFWS Powell River enhancement funds. VLCF request: \$250,000. Grant amount: \$250,000.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Milton easement, Peddler Hills Glades addition

A grant was provided to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to purchase a 165-acre conservation easement. The site is part of a B1 globally significant natural heritage conservation site and within functional proximity to existing protected land held by DCR and The Nature Conservancy.

Total Project Cost: \$332,167. VLCF funds matched with a land-value donation by the landowner. VLCF request: \$255,500. Grant amount: \$155,087.

Expenditure Plan Overview

Mr. Dowling reviewed the Funding Summary Plan for the 2012 Grant Round. A copy of the plan is available from DCR.

Mr. Dowling noted that looking at the plan the only difference from what was approved at the August meeting was a potential reduction of FY14 funds. He said that the recommendations coming before the Board at this meeting would account for this potential reduction.

Ms. Bourne asked the reason for the potential reduction.

Mr. Dowling said that the Governor had asked all executive branch agencies to look at a 4% reduction in all funding.

Secretary Domenech noted that this had been asked from all agencies. He said that until the Governor's budget was released the final position regarding this funding was unknown. He asked if the \$40,000 was not taken if it would revert to the same projects.

Mr. Dowling said that staff would be asking the Board to approve restoration of those funds.

Mr. Kitchen asked if the amount could end up being more or less than the \$40,000.

Mr. Dowling said that the amount could be reduced but it was not anticipated that it would be reduced.

Ms. Bourne asked where the funding would come from if the \$40,000 needed to be replaced.

Mr. Dowling said that the funds would not be replaced; rather the grant awards would be reduced. He said that should the funds be restored, staff would like Board approval to move ahead.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
FUNDING CATEGORIES	CHAPTER 3 (FY 13) APPROPRIATION ACT	CHAPTER 3 (FY 14) APPROPRIATION ACT	Additional Funds from Past Projects	Prior Approved Expenditure Plan	Potential FY14 Reductions	Recommended Grant Awards	ROW
VOF	250,000	250,000		500,000	4,186	495,814	1
Open Space and Parks	187,500	187,500		375,000	4,188	370,812	2
Natural Area Protection	187,500	187,500	92,500	467,500	23,250	444,250	3
Historic Area Preservation	187,500	187,500		375,000	4,188	370,812	4
Farm and Forest Preservation	187,500	187,500		375,000	4,188	370,812	5
Grants subtotal (Rows 2-5)	750,000	750,000	92,500	1,592,500	35,814	1,556,686	
TOTAL	1,000,000	1,000,000		2,092,500	40,000	2,052,500	

NOTE: Unlike past rounds, no funds from cancelled projects, interest, or vehicle registration fees are available; just FY13 and FY14 Appropriation Act allocations. The Blackwater Old Growth 4 project closed on 08/17/2012 with a remaining balance of \$92,500, and the Board approved the use of those funds for FY13 Natural Area Protection category.

NOTE: Grant Funding available for this round is the sum of rows 2 through 5 which equals \$1,592,500. This represents a combination of FY13 and 14 funds plus remaining funds from one project. With the \$40,000 potential reduction in Foundation funding, the available amount for the grants is \$1,556,686.

NOTE: Contracts for grants awarded FY14 funds will need to contain language indicating that funding for the grant is contingent on the continued availability of these funds in FY14.

Item 361 D of Chapter 3 of the 2012 Virginia Acts of Assembly Special Session 1 (HB1301)

D.1. Included in the amount for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$1,000,000 the first year and \$1,000,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund. § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia.

2. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$2,000,000 the first year and \$2,000,000 the second year from nongeneral funds to be deposited into the

Virginia Land Conservation Fund to be distributed by the Virginia Land Conservation Fund pursuant to the provisions of § 58.1-513, Code of Virginia.

Grant Round Overview

Ms. Richardson reviewed the 2012 Grant Round.

- The grant round opened August 24, 2012 and closed October 24, 2012.
- Announcements were sent to every county or city and all land trusts and conservation organizations in Virginia.
- Two grant workshops were held in September, one in Lynchburg and one in Fredericksburg
- 15 applications were received:
 - 7 in Farmlands and Forest
 - 4 in Historic Areas
 - 3 in Natural Areas
 - 1 in Open Spaces and Parks
- More eligible projects were received than the VLCF allocation could fund.
- Total amount of funding authorized by the Board for this grant round is \$1,592,500.
- Potential budget reductions (\$40,000) result in a total amount of \$1,552,500 available.
- Total amount of funding requested was almost \$2.5 million, with total project cost over \$8 million.
- If all projects could have been funded, they would have protected 2,366 acres.
- Interagency task force met twice to discuss and score the projects in accordance with the Board's criteria.
- 12 projects are recommended for funding
 - These 12 will help protect 1,858 acres.
 - Match for recommended projects will be \$4,624,080.
 - 9 out of the 12 recommended projects (44% of funding) will be easements.
- 11 of the recommended projects will provide some level of public access.
 - 2 of the projects will offer full public access.
 - 3 of them will offer limited public access (not every day, or part of the property).
 - 6 of them provide visual access.
- 4 projects are recommended in the Farmlands and Forest category.
 - The top two Farmlands projects can be fully funded.
 - Three Forest projects were received, but one can be funded from Open Space and Parks category.
 - Funding for the other two Forest projects will be less than requested, with the concurrence of the applicants.
- 4 projects are recommended in the Historic Area category.
 - One of the projects can be partially funded from the Open Space & Parks category, since it will be a park.

- § Allows the Historic Areas funding to stretch further down the list of projects.
 - Funding for one of the recommended projects will be less than requested, with the concurrence of the applicant.
- 3 projects are recommended in the Natural Areas category.
 - All projects in this category can be fully funded.
 - Remaining funding from this category (\$23,250) can be used for potential funding reductions, applied to one of the projects, or held for a future grant round.
- 2 projects are recommended in the Open Spaces and Parks category.
 - Both projects were submitted in other categories, but received high scores in the OS&P category.
 - § This helps further spread the funding to additional projects.
 - Funding for one of the recommended projects will be less than requested, with the concurrence of the applicant.
 - The other project can be funded partly from the Historic Areas category, to provide the full amount requested.

Ms. Richardson said that task force members would be presenting the recommended projects.

Farmlands and Forest Preservation Category

Mr. Schmidt presented the recommended projects in the Farmlands and Forest Preservation Category.

Fauquier County Purchase of Development Rights Program – Messick Farm PDR Project

The grant request is for the purchase of a conservation easement on 408.3 acres in Fauquier County on the O.B. Messick and Sons dairy farm in Remington. Crops are grown on a portion of the property while the remainder is used for pasture for the dairy cows. More than 85 percent of the property is either prime farmland or statewide important soils. The Messick Farm borders eight properties under easements, seven of which are under the Fauquier County PDR Program. In protecting the Messick Farm, a total of 1,605 contiguous acres will be protected through conservation easements. In addition, the farm property borders approximately ½ mile of the Rappahannock River on the west side, and fencing has been constructed along the entire length to preserve the integrity of the river.

Total Project Cost: \$709,000. Match: Fauquier County, PDR program/VDACS Farmland Preservation Fund \$609, 000. VLCF Grant Request: \$100,000. Recommended amount: \$98,953. Contingency amount: \$100,000.

Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority – Moore & Dorsey – Dorsey Orchard Tract

The grant request is for the purchase of a conservation easement on 68 acres in Clarke County. Moore and Dorsey have owned the farm for more than 60 years. This farm and

an additional 800 acres owned by Moore and Dorsey was a viable apple orchard until recently when this farm was converted to cropland due to a downturn in the apple industry. This property contains a total of 100 percent prime, statewide and locally important soils, and is located in the Long Marsh Rural Historic District. The farm also has implemented numerous Best Management Practices (BMP) including conservation crop rotation, high residue no-till, and nutrient management. In addition, Mr. Dorsey will begin implementing a wildlife habitat plan on the farm next year, installing native warm season grasses, wildflowers and shrubs on portions of the farm.

Total Project Cost: \$330,500. Match: NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection program \$162,500; landowner donation \$81,250; Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority/Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund \$25,000. VLCF Grant Request: \$61,250. Recommended amount: \$60,203. Contingency amount: \$61,250.

Mr. Santucci presented the Forestry projects.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – Sundance LLC

The grant request is to help fund the purchase of conservation easement on 206 acres of forestland in Rockingham County. Nearly the entire property is covered in working forests, all of which is classified as having high forest conservation value of the VDOF. The property contains approximately 5,600 feet of the upper reaches of Little Dry River (a primary tributary to the North Fork Shenandoah River) and approximately 4,100 linear feet of upper reaches of Sugar Run (a principal tributary of Little Dry River), contributing to the portable water sources for the downstream communities of Broadway, Timberville, and New Market. Sixteen natural heritage resources have been identified within two miles of the property, including potential endangered wood turtle habitat along the Little Dry River on the property. The property contributes to a large expanse of unbroken forestland in the area, bounded by the George Washington National Forest on three sides, and within one mile of the 1,100-acre Feedstone Hunt Club land protected by a VDOF open-space easement, a 2008 VLCF project.

Total Project Cost: \$642,000. Match: bargain sale from the landowner. VLCF Grant Request: \$310,000. Recommend amount: \$150,703. Contingency amount: \$151,750.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – BLD Farms Rose Hill

The grant request is for the partial purchase of a conservation easement on 250 acres of forestland approximately one-half mile west of Drewryville in Southhampton county. Eighty-two percent (82%) of the property is covered in working forestland, almost half of which is classified as having high forest conservation value by the VDOF. The property includes approximately 3,500 feet of Three Cree and 1,700 feet of Nicholson Creek, tributaries of the Nottoway River, maintaining water quality for downstream communities that use the river as a potable water source. The property is known to contain two natural heritage resources as confirmed by Natural Heritage Division (DCR-NH) ecologists, and is part of an area designated by DCR-NH as the Three Creek Stream Conservation Unit.

Total Project Cost: \$345,642. Match: bargain sale from the landowner. VLCF Grant Request: \$235,000. Recommended amount: \$62,000.

Northern Virginia Conservation Trust – Belmont Bay Farm Phase I

This project will protect a 115-acre forested parcel, located on Mason Neck in southeast Fairfax County. The property is part of the last remaining 400-acre expanse of forest and farmland under private ownership of Mason Neck, and one of only two unprotected properties of this size remaining in Fairfax County. Surrounded by over 6,500 acres of publicly owned open space and private conservation easements, the project provides a critical wildlife corridor, including habitat for bald eagle and numerous migratory birds, protects several streams that feed Belmont Bay and the Potomac River, and provides a scenic view from Mason Neck State Park located directly across Belmont Bay, NVCT will phase the protection of Belmont Bay Farm over the next several years, and intends to secure public access to Belmont Bay and public trails across the farm.

Total Project Cost: \$1,829,600. Match: NVCT funds and landowner donation. VLCF Grant Request: \$540,000. Recommended amount: \$247,906 from Park and Open Space Category. Contingency amount: \$250,000 from Parks and Open Space Category.

MOTION: Mr. Dunford moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees accept the recommended Farmlands and Forestry Preservation projects for the FY13 and FY14 Grant Round as presented by staff.

SECOND: Mr. Beals

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried.

Historic Resources Category

Ms. Musumeci presented the recommendations in the Historic Resources Category.

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – Jackson House at Ball’s Bluff

Funding is request for a 3.22-acre parcel of land located within the core area of the Ball’s Bluff Battlefield. The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission has given this battle a preservation priority rating of III.2 Class B. Acquisition and permanent protection of the parcel will protect the Jackson House, a key landmark around which the initial fighting and skirmishing of the battle took place. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority intends to incorporate the parcel into the existing Ball’s Bluff Regional Park, provide full public access to the property and adapt the existing Jackson House residence for use as a visitor and interpretive center. The parcel is adjacent to two existing parks, located in the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, and will link federal, regional, and local park lands.

Total Project Cost: \$500,000 Match: \$325,000 (\$325,000-Civil War Trust in purchase funds; property will be donated to Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority) VLCF Grant Request: \$175,000. Recommended amount: \$172,906 (\$50,000 from Historic

Resources, \$122,906 from Parks and Open Space). Contingency amount: \$175,000 (\$50,000 from Historic Resources, \$125,000 from Parks and Open Space).

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Prillaman Farm/Gabriel Jones Farm
Funding is requested for acquisition of an easement over the 92-acre Prillaman/Gabriel Jones Farm. The property is located within the core and study areas of the Port Republic Battlefield. The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission has given this battlefield a preservation priority rating of II.2, Class B. The property is adjacent to the historic Bogota Farm, under easement with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and includes the house site of the original settler of the property Gabriel Jones. This project will also conserve prime farmland 800-feet of frontage on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, 13 archaeological sites, and contribute to the 2,162-acre block of preserved battlefield farm and forest land in the viewshed of the Shenandoah National Park and Skyline Drives.

Total Project Cost: \$323,613 Match: \$218,936 (\$150,000-American Battlefield Protection Program grant; \$68,936-Virginia Civil War Sites Preservation Fund grant) VLCF Grant Request: \$102,871 Recommended amount: \$101,475. Contingency amount: \$75,000.

Clarke County Easement Authority – Chapman Farm

Funding is requested for purchase of an easement over a 140-acre farm located within the core area of the Cool Springs Battlefield in Clarke County. The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission has given this battlefield a preservation priority rating of II.3, Class C. A portion of the Chapman Farm is also located within the boundaries of the Cool Springs Battlefield Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Permanent protection of the Chapman Farm will augment efforts by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to place easements on other large portions of the Cool Springs Battlefield, including the 195-acre Textron Tract and the 965-acre Holy Cross Abbey Tract. This project will also conserve prime farmland, forested cover of high conservation value, and one-half mile of frontage on the Shenandoah River.

Total Project Cost: \$500,000 Match: \$400,000 (Clarke County - \$75,000; Land/Real Property Donation by landowner - \$125,000; VDACS - \$75,000; Piedmont Environmental Council - \$125,000). VLCF Grant Request: \$100,000. Recommended amount: \$98,604. Contingency amount: \$75,000.

Civil War Trust – Crew House at Malvern Hill

Funding is requested for fee simple acquisition of a 1-acre property located within the core area of the Malvern Hill Battlefield in Henrico County. The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission has given this battlefield its highest preservation priority rating of I.1, Class A. The Battle of Malvern Hill, which took place on July 1, 1862, was the last battle of the Seven Days' Campaign. Acquisition and permanent preservation of the property through an easement will protect the Crew House, a key feature of the 1862 battle. The Crew House stood at the point of the Union line where Confederates directed their attacks later in the day. Brig. Gen. George Morrell, commanding the division that was the target of these attacks, made his headquarters in the Crew House. The property is directly adjacent to the Richmond National Battlefield Park and lands protected by the

Civil War Trust. In partnership with the National Park Service and Henrico County, the Civil War Trust intends to provide full public access to the property and adapt the existing dwelling for use a visitor and interpretative center.

Total Project Cost: \$344,470 Match: \$174,470 (Civil War Trust cast and additional grand funding not yet committed). VLCF Grant Request: \$170,000 Recommended amount: \$120,733. Contingency amount: \$122,129.

MOTION: Mrs. Morgan moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees approve the recommended projects in the Historic Resources category for the FY13 and FY14 grant round as presented by staff.

SECOND: Mr. Dunford

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried

Natural Areas Category

Mr. Tom Smith presented the recommendations in the Natural Areas Category.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Smooth Coneflower Habitat, Milton Part Two Funding is requested by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) for the VOF and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to purchase an open-space easement and natural area preserve dedication on 165 acres of privately owned land in Montgomery County. This project is the second phase of a two phase project to protect rare species and significant natural communities in the Peddler Hills region of Montgomery County. Like the first phase of this project, the easement will be written to protect habitat for several rare plant species, including the federally threatened smooth coneflower, and the significant Ridge and Valley dolomite woodland natural community that are known to occur on the property. The subject property adjoins a 257-acre tract (Milton Part One) that was protected through an open-space easement and deed of natural area preserve dedication recorded in October of 2012. The expanded acreage of protected land resulting from the second phase of this project will increase the likelihood of conservation success for the conservation targets found here. A portion of the fair market value of the easement on Phase Two, estimated to be about \$54,000, will be donated to VOF and DCR by the owner of this property. This project will protect open space values of Montgomery County as the forested hillsides on the property, viewed daily by the thousands of travelers on the I-81 corridor adjacent to this property, will remain forever in a forested condition.

Total Projected Cost: \$223,355 Match: As the applicant is a state agency no match is required. However the landowner is willing to contribute a \$54,105 in-kind donation, a portion of the value of the easement, to reduce VOF's cost for this project. VLCF Grant Request: \$169,250 Recommended amount: \$169,250.

The Nature Conservancy – South Quay Natural Area Preserve Project, Phase II

In 2009, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) protected 420 acres of forestland in their South Quay – Phase I project funded by a grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation. The second phase of TNC's South Quay conservation effort now proposed is the fee-simple purchase of a 99-acre tract (the Bear Deal LLC tract) located as an inholding in a 2,900-acre tract which will soon be purchased by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. This tract supports a total of eight state rare plant species including 70 acres of Virginia native longleaf pine seedlings planted in 2012. Protection of the Bear Deal tract is an important component in the larger strategy to protect the South Quay conservation site and to restore native longleaf pine sandhill natural communities in Virginia. Purchase and management of this tract will eliminate the threat of future incompatible land use such as sand mining or development, which would greatly hamper the larger restoration effort. Restriction of land development and forest management will ensure continued water quality protection for aquatic conservation targets, particularly the lower Nottoway's rich freshwater mussel fauna.

From a landscape perspective, this project will contribute to the TNC, DCR, DOF and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries efforts to place over 4,500 acres of land in the South Quay conservation site under permanent protection. Combined with over 16,000 acres of adjacent land along the Chowan River in North Carolina, the complex of conservation land centered on South Quay represents the largest block of protected forest land in the northern range of the longleaf pine ecosystem.

Total Project Cost: \$310,000 Match: \$155,000 in Forest Legacy funding obtained by The Nature Conservancy. VLFCF Grant Request: \$155,000. Recommended amount. \$155,000.

The Nature Conservancy – Clinch River: Cleveland to Artrip Conservation Area

Funding is requested for the fee-simple purchase of land along the Clinch River in Russell County. This project will protect close to 1.8 miles of river frontage along the Clinch River, within the "Clinch River – Little River Stream Conservation Unit," which had been designated as having outstanding biological significance by DCR's Division of Natural Heritage. In order to provide a protected corridor for the important terrestrial and freshwater conservation targets found in this significant stretch of the Clinch River, and effort has been underway since 1990 to connect the state natural areas and Nature Conservancy preserves from the town of Cleveland to the Big Cedar Creek and beyond. Until recently, the rural nature of this area has provided some protection to many of the rare elements. However, that protection will be tested in the decades to come as the public continues to move into the special places of southwest Virginia. The subject properties of the Conservancy intends to purchase are, or once were, part of working farms. Only a small portion of these properties remains in pasture and agricultural fields. On the north side of the river the forested slopes are generally rough with steep bluffs, numerous limestone outcrops, and flat, narrow terrace adjacent to the river bank. DCR biologists believe that these forested areas are likely to contain very rich and diverse flowering plant communities. Once acquired, these properties will be owned by The Nature Conservancy. Properties purchased with VLFCF funding will further protected through an open space easement and deed of natural area preserve dedication.

Total Project Cost: \$320,000 Match: \$200,000 (Cash from The Nature Conservancy)
VLCF Grant Request: \$120,000. Recommended amount: \$120,000.

MOTION: Mr. Brooks Smith moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees approve the recommended projects in the Natural Area Protection category for FY13 and FY14 as presented by staff.

SECOND: Mrs. Morgan

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried with Ms. Lawson abstaining from The Nature Conservancy vote.

Parks and Open Space Category

Ms. Poole said that the funds in the Parks and Open Space Category provided secondary projects for other categories and that there were no additional recommended projects in this category.

MOTION: Mr. Kitchen moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees approve the use of Open Space and Parks funding as additional funding to projects already presented by staff.

SECOND: Mr. Beals

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Update on Distribution of VLCF Stewardship Fund for 2012

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented an update regarding the VLCF Stewardship Fund. A copy of this update is available from DCR.

Ms. Bulbulkaya said that the charge represented the 52 conservation agencies that received funding from the Stewardship Fund.

Land Preservation Tax Credit Report for 2011

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented an update regarding the Land Preservation Tax Credit for 2011.

2011 LPTC Findings

- Cap increased from \$106.8 million to \$108.4 million
- 367 applications filed with TAX
- 75,025 acres protected
- 85 localities
- Most claimed Conservation Purpose was Preservation of Scenic Open Space
- Cap met on May 1, 2012
- DCR reviewed 28 LPTC applications for \$1 million or more

2011 Top Localities for Number of LPTC Applications

Rank	County	Number of Applicants	Total Acres	Credit Requested
1.	Albemarle	27	3,726	\$8,016,076
2.	Fauquier	24	3,662	\$9,063,760
3.	Rockbridge	15	3,007	\$2,477,030
4.	Loudoun	14	2,137	\$8,532,400
5.	Greene	12	1,550	\$1,919,800

2011 LPTC Working Lands (SB384, 2010 Senator Hanger)

- Land owners reported:
 - 27,594 acres were used for production agriculture, of which 24,281 acres (88%) are reported to have BMPs to protect water quality.
 - 22,520 acres were used for active forestland, of which 22,055 acres (98%) are reported to have BMPs to protect water quality.

211 LPTC Riparian Buffers (SB979, 2011 Senator Whipple)

- From 7/1/11 to 12/31/11 land owners reported:
 - 820,742 feet of Forested Buffers (restrictions on mowing or timber harvesting)
 - 273,142 feet of No-Plow Buffers (allows mowing or timber harvesting such as pasture or grasslands)

DCR Conservation Value Review of Sites Seeking \$1 Million or More

Year	#Reviewed by DCR	#Recorded with TAX	Total Filed with TAX	LPTC Cap	Total Acreage
2007	18		254	\$100.0M	59,331
2008	40		224	\$102.3M	56,000
2009	36	13+7 from '08	228	\$106.6M	63,485
2010	25	14+3 from '09	144	\$106.8M	41,776
2011	26	11+4 from '10 +2 from '09	367	\$108.4M	75,028

2012	13 so far	TBD	TBD	\$111.1M	TBD
------	-----------	-----	-----	----------	-----

Partner Agency Updates

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Mr. Schmidt said that since 2008 VDACS had distributed \$6.45 million to local PDR programs. Most of those funds have been used for 43 easements in 12 localities for a total of 5,733 acres.

Mr. Schmidt said that the local contribution to those easements has been \$6,596,000. VDACS has contributed \$5.3 million of that. There has been a total transaction cost of just under \$15 million. Of those transactions VLFCF funds were \$519,625.

Mr. Schmidt said that VDACS was getting ready to roll out the 2013 allocations. He said that nine localities applied by the deadline. He said that there was \$15.7 million in local funds to match the \$1.2 million available.

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Mr. Wilkinson said that the Governor's land conservation goal was currently at a little over 122,000 acres. He said that DCR recently recorded a 249 acre easement with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation as an addition to the Peddler Hills Natural Area Preserve.

John Mitchell has been hired to work on land conservation. He said that Mr. Mitchell was currently working on easements on an 8,000 acre property in Halifax County. He said that there were not many easements in Southside Virginia.

Department of Forestry

Mr. Santucci thanked the Board for approving the two forestry related projects. He said that since the last meeting the Department had added seven easements totaling roughly 3,500 acres. He said that DOF anticipates another five easements for another 1,000 acres by the end of the year.

Mr. Santucci said that DOF is looking at developing a forestland loss mitigation program. He said that the Department had recently hired a voluntary mitigation program fund manager.

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Mr. Cook gave an update from DGIF. He said that since the last meeting DGIF received a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Coast Wetland grant to complete one project and move another.

Mr. Cook said that DGIF worked with Virginia Beach for an 84-acre easement at Pleasure House Point in Virginia Beach. He said that DGIF had a second project due to close the following week in a partnership with The Nature Conservancy. This project is funded with the same grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Department of Historic Resources

Ms. Musumeci said that since the last meeting DHR now holds 546 easements on over 35,000 acres.

Ms. Musumeci said that in 2012 DCR did protect of architectural properties including the Walter Reed birthplace in Gloucester County, the Henry County Courthouse in Martinsville, and two buildings on the St. Paul College Campus in Brunswick County.

Ms. Musumeci said that the Commonwealth is still celebrating the 150 Anniversary of the Civil War through public events and focused battlefield preservation efforts.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Mr. Lee provided members with copies of the 2013 VOF calendar as well as the Annual Report.

Mr. Lee introduced Charles H. Seilheimer, Chairman of the VOF Board of Trustees.

Mr. Lee said of particular importance to the VOF was the 25% Virginia Land Conservation Foundation funding that comes to VOF. He said that VOF uses this for the preservation trust fund. He said that in the last fiscal year, VOF spent \$170,000 on 31 cost reimbursement projects on 6,700 acres in 19 localities. Since 1997 when the program originated VOF spent \$10 million from the preservation trust fund to protect nearly 70,000 acres. Mr. Lee said that VOF was proud to be partners with the VLCF.

Mr. Seilheimer thanked the Board for the work and the cooperation. He said that VOF was hoping to project a lot more land.

Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

Adjourn

Secretary Domenech thanked members for attending. He said that the projects would be announced via a press release in the coming days.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.