



MINUTES
Shenandoah RC&D Council
Shenandoah County Government Center
Woodstock, Virginia
VCE Conference Room
10:00 a.m.

Council Members Present:	Rick Shiflet, HSWCD Joan Comanor, LFSWCD Esteban Nieto, At-Large	Jim Boland, HSWCD (Alt.) Kelly Watkinson (Alt.)	Bill Latham, SVSWCD (Alt.) Bobby Clark (Alt.)
Members Absent:	Jim Nichols, HSWCD Jill Keihn., NSVRC Jeff Rinker, SVPure H20	Jim Lawrence, LFSWCD Elizabeth McCarty, CSPDC John Eckman, VCC	Linda Campbell, SVSWCD David Frackelton, SVSWCD Maria Papadakis, At-Large
Associate Members Present:	Joe Lehnen, DOF		
Staff Present:	Kathy Holm, NRCS/SRC&D Lorraine Cormier, NRCS/SRC&D	Becky Barlow, Marketer – Organic Resources	
Others Present:	Ellen Pearson, USDA Ethics Mike Liskey, NRCS	Patrick Felling, Potomac Conservancy	

The meeting was **called to order** by Vice-Chair, Joan Comanor. **A quorum was declared** with seven voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The **minutes** of the July 13, 2009 were distributed. A motion was made by Rick Shiflet to approve and seconded by Bill Latham. The minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The treasurer’s report was distributed to Council. Joan Comanor stated that the accounts were reviewed and balanced by the Treasurer. She stated that the treasurer’s report is accepted as read.

The following reflects activity in the Shenandoah RC&D checking accounts:

SunTrust Operating/Administrative Account:

June 2009

Opening Balance:	\$15,647.32
Checks Cleared:	(\$12,520.78)
Deposits Cleared:	\$24,500.67
Balance in Checkbook:	\$27,627.21 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	(\$43.30)
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$0.00
New Checks:	\$0.00
New Deposits:	\$250.00
Ending Balance:	\$27,833.91

July 2009

Opening Balance:	\$27,627.21
Checks Cleared:	(\$4.95)
Deposits Cleared:	\$1,000.96
Balance in Checkbook:	\$28,623.22 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	(\$43.30)
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$0.00
New Checks:	\$0.00

New Deposits: \$0.00
Ending Balance: \$28,579.92

SunTrust Projects Account:***June 2009***

Opening Balance: \$4,434.59
Checks Cleared: (\$28,103.60)
Deposits Cleared: \$76,432.72
Balance in Checkbook: \$52,763.71 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared: (\$12,052.26)
Deposits Not Cleared: \$0.00
New Checks: (\$2,000.00)
New Deposits: \$4,075.03
Ending Balance: \$42,786.48

July 2009

Opening Balance: \$52,763.71
Checks Cleared: (\$19,777.23)
Deposits Cleared: \$6,326.50
Balance in Checkbook: \$39,312.98 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared: (\$742.23)
Deposits Not Cleared: \$0.00
New Checks: \$0.00
New Deposits: \$4,047.36
Ending Balance: \$42,618.11

DCCU - Projects Account***June 2009***

Opening Balance: \$71,055.57
Checks Cleared: (\$11,000.00)
Deposits Cleared: \$11,000.00
Dividends \$107.16
Balance in Checkbook: \$71,162.73 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared: \$0.00
Deposits Not Cleared: \$0.00
New Checks: \$0.00
New Deposits: \$0.00
Ending Balance: \$71,162.73

July 2009

Opening Balance: \$71,162.73
Checks Cleared: \$0.00
Deposits Cleared: \$0.00
Dividends \$120.88
Balance in Checkbook: \$71,283.61 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared: \$0.00
Deposits Not Cleared: \$0.00
New Checks: \$0.00
New Deposits: \$0.00
Ending Balance: \$71,283.61

DCCU - Administrative Account***June 2009***

Opening Balance: \$25.12
Checks Cleared: \$0.00
Deposits Cleared: \$0.00
Dividends \$0.06
Balance in Checkbook: \$25.18 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared: \$0.00
Deposits Not Cleared: \$0.00

New Checks:	\$0.00
New Deposits:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$25.18

July 2009

Opening Balance:	\$25.18
Checks Cleared:	\$0.00
Deposits Cleared:	\$0.00
Dividends	\$0.00
Balance in Checkbook:	\$25.18 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	\$0.00
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$0.00
New Checks:	\$0.00
New Deposits:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$25.18

SunTrust Investments**13-month CD (3.68%)**

Opened 9/13/08: \$5,000.00
 Value at Maturity 9/13/09:\$5,203.66
 Will rollover at maturity to 32 mo. CD – 2.4%
 or move to another bank at a higher rate – per executive committee

25-month CD (3.92%)

Opened 9/13/08: \$5,000.00
 Value on 12/31/08: \$5,066.48

The bank statements for all accounts for the month of June and July were reconciled with the checkbook. Details of the above financial activities are on the reconciliations, which are being distributed. If there are specific questions concerning this activity, you may view statements, reconciliations, and original receipts which are kept in the RC&D office.

COUNCIL OPERATIONS**New Projects****Easements and Agriculture**

Kelly Watkinson reported on this project. The Executive Committee met about this project because of a deadline for getting dates and times set up. This project was recommended for approval by the Managed Growth Committee. The goal is to bring down people from Lancaster County for PDRs in Shenandoah and Frederick Counties to brainstorm about agriculture and conservation easements and identify where there may be conflicts or opportunities to make easements work better with agriculture. There was some discussion about the audience and counties to be targeted. Kelly stated that the target audience is those who draft easements including the Clarke County Easement Authority. The workshop's focus will be on Shenandoah and Clarke Counties. October 28 and 29 is when the workshops are set to be held. All present in favor of approving this project. The RC&D's share will be \$2,000 to come out of the Agua Fund.

An Alternative Approach to Addressing Sustainable Ag Amendment

Joan Comanor reported on this project. This is an amendment to the original project that was approved in July 2008. It was a success and the farming community would like bring Todd Erling back to follow up on the progress made and reenergize partners. The Executive Committee met about this project because of a deadline for getting dates and times set up for Todd Erling to visit. Executive Committee and the Sustainable Ag Committee have met and recommended this project. Joan Comanor recused herself from the Ag Committee discussion. Sessions have been proposed for BRCC (Augusta/Rockingham) and Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit (Warren/Clarke/Fredrick/Shenandoah). All of the Farm Bureaus in the area will promote to their members. The RC&D's share will be \$7,500 to come out of the Agua Fund—\$2,500 for direct costs related to Todd Erling's travel, speaking fee, etc.; then \$5,000 after other partners raise at least \$20,000 in private funds that would go toward a regional ag director salary. Joan Comanor made a motion to accept this project. Rick Shiflet seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

Biological Control: Invasive Species Land Reclamation and Management

Joan Comanor reported on this project. This project will be to use African Boer Goats to control invasive species at the Frontier Culture Museum. The Sustainable Ag Committee met about this project and recommended that the

project go forward. They recommended approving \$5,000 for the project instead of the \$6,000 requested. There was much discussion about this project. Before he fell ill, Jim Nichols reported that he went out to the Trainum's farm and saw the goats in action. He reported that this looked like a very good project for the RC&D. Many Council members had questions. Some of the questions were answered, however because Jim Nichols was not at the meeting, due to health issues, and the Trainums were not notified and invited because Mr. Nichols was supposed to be there, Council decided to defer voting. A decision will be made after Council gets more information about outreach, etc. Bobby Clark made a motion to defer voting. It was seconded by Bill Latham and unanimously approved.

Cultivating Sustainability and Strategic Directions for Scaling Up the SV Regional Food System

Joan Comanor reported on this project. Eric Bendfeldt put the proposal forward. This project goes hand-in-hand with the Buy Fresh/Buy Local campaign and getting more local foods into institutions by providing a workshop on Three Food Systems. The Executive Committee met about this project because of a deadline for committing funding to the workshop in a short timeframe. Executive Committee decided this project be funded at the \$2,000 level, the request was for \$6,800. This report was for information only. Sessions have been proposed for Washington & Lee University on September 30. This money will come from the Agua Fund.

It was noted that the number of pages on this proposal exceeded two pages. This is a reminder to Council to remind those who send proposals that they should be limited to two pages.

Upper South River Funding Network

Kathy reported on this because Carl Luebben could not attend. This project is just for technical assistance for grant opportunities. The Natural Resources Committee gave a positive recommendation for this. Joan Comanor asked Kathy if the workload expectation was too overwhelming. Kathy stated that it could be reconsidered over the next year if too much time is required. A motion was made by Rick Shiflet to accept this as a project. It was seconded by Bill Latham; and was unanimously approved.

MOU Roller Crimper Extension

Shenandoah RC&D, NRCS, SVSWCD, and VCE have two separate MOUs for the Roller Crimper. The MOU with NRCS is only good for one year; the MOU between the RC&D, VCE and SVSWCD is good for two years. There have been discussions with Cory Guilliams and Mike Phillips, NRCS. They still feel like there is a need. People still want to use it in the Valley. It was recommended by the Natural Resources Committee to extend the MOU for one more year. A motion was made by Rick Shiflet to sign and renew the MOU with NRCS for another year. It was seconded by Jim Boland; and was unanimously approved.

Project updates/status changes

Completed Projects

Shenandoah Valley Food, Farm, and Community

The summary of this project was distributed. This project for education and outreach, starting a local foods steering committee and a Buy Fresh/Buy Local chapter in the Shenandoah Valley were successful. A motion was made to declare this project complete by Bill Latham. It was seconded by Rick Shiflet; and unanimously approved.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

Updates

Agua Funds

Excel spreadsheets of how the grant expenditures were disbursed was distributed. There is a small amount of money left on the 2007/08 Agua Fund. The projects that were accepted today will be taken out of the 2008/09 Agua Fund. The WSF-II project is about to come to a conclusion. A no-cost extension was filed to keep Becky's position until October 31. The Council is on Year 3 of the Chesapeake Bay Livestock Exclusion project. The CBFN may fund a renewed project and modify/expand the project to the Lord Fairfax District and Page County, which would cover all three Districts. VARC&DC gave a grant of \$4,000 for an energy related project.

WSF-II

Becky Barlow-Buse' reported on this project. Becky has been trying to finalize information on litter transfers. She went to Richmond to try to look at broker records. She was unable to connect all the dots. There will be holes in her information on the final report.

Joan thanked Becky for her work with the Shenandoah RC&D, since she will not be with the Council after October 31. She gave her a certificate of appreciation from the Council and a small gift.

Rapid Watershed Assessment of the Main Stem of the Shenandoah River

Kathy reported on this. Public comments were summarized and data was collected. The draft is ready for review. A draft was sent to some Council members. Kathy stated that she has one copy left if anyone is interested in reviewing and making comments. Comments should be forwarded to Wade Biddix. The final is due the end of October.

National RC&D Week

A draft letter entitled “2009 Conservation Challenges” in the Shenandoah Valley was distributed. This was drafted by Executive Committee in connection with the Shenandoah RC&D’s Annual Plan of Work. It was recommended that Council members reach out to local papers with an edited version of this letter. It was recommended that members coordinate efforts so that more than one copy not be sent to each paper. An electronic copy will be sent to Council as well.

GUEST PRESENTATION:**Kelly Watkinson, Land Protection****Potomac Conservancy**

Kelly distributed a one-page description of their program. The Potomac Conservancy is a non-profit restoration organization and a land trust. They do land protection, policy and restoration. They have refined their mission and organization strategy over the past few years. Two components are Land and Policy. Everything they do revolves around water quality and scenic values. The Potomac Watershed is very large, so they have targeted some priority areas.

Pat Felling, Policy Management

He is working on policy that encourages land conservation. The policy side is also narrow in focus. It focuses on policies in Virginia and West Virginia. He works on local policies and also does some statewide policy work. He is encouraging PDR/TDR programs locally. Frederick County is currently pursuing a TDR program. Shenandoah County wants to make it more difficult for development in the rural areas. The statewide policies he is working on are stormwater management, easement programs, and agriculture cost-share programs. Results from public input on water quality will be put forward this week on Thursday, September 17; there will be a formal meeting on October 6. For more information: www.townhall.virginia.gov

Ellen Pearson**Ethics, USDA**

Ellen Pearson is shadowing Kathy Holm, Coordinator, for a few days. Ellen stated that she is here as an observer. She stated that she is trying to learn what everyone does and how they interact and work together.

Updates to Director’s Notebooks

There are some updates that are available on-line at www.shenandoahrcd.org/directorsnotebook.htm

Field Day at Bob Threewitts

This will be held on October 21. A flyer was distributed.

Todd Erling Visit

This will be held on October 21 and 22. A flyer was distributed.

Cultivating Sustainability Conference

This will be held on September 30 at Washington & Lee. A flyer was distributed.

Draft Council Annual Report

The draft of this was distributed. Council was asked to look over and check for accuracy and give any suggestion or corrections as soon as possible.

Announcements

The CBFN may do a similar livestock exclusion program in Pennsylvania. She distributed some information about what they may do in PA.

Circle of Diamonds

A plaque that was received from NARC&DC Circle of Diamonds was shown to Council. The Executive Committee decided that the Shenandoah RC&D should apply for the next level of the Circle of Diamonds.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Coordinator's report was distributed for information only.

The next Shenandoah RC&D Council meeting will be at 10 a.m., Monday, November 9, 2009 at the Augusta County Government Center, Verona, in the Smith's Transfer East room.

A motion was made by Bill Latham that the meeting be adjourned at Adjourned 12:00. Rick Shiflet seconded the motion; and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine M. Cormier
Administrative Assistant

Approved: Chair

Date

UPCOMING EVENTS

Food Systems Conference

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

9:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia

Field Day at Bob Threewitts

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Strengthening Ag Conference (Choose a date)

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit

Conference Room

Kernstown, Virginia

Thursday, October 22, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Blue Ridge Community College

Plecker Center Auditorium

Weyers Cave, Virginia

Shenandoah RC&D Council Meeting

November 9, 2009

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Augusta County Government Center

Smith's Transfer Room - East

Verona, Virginia

Shenandoah RC&D Council Meeting

January 11, 2010

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Rockingham County Government Center

Parks and Recreation Room D

Harrisonburg, Virginia

