



Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Hybrid – McGuireWoods, Richmond, VA, and Via Zoom

Agenda

3:30 Welcome & Roll Call – Matt Wells

3:35 Approval of Minutes – Kyle Shreve

3:40 Approval of Financial Report – Kyle Shreve

3:45 Government Relations Discussion – Nikki Rovner, Ron Jefferson, Preston Bryant

- Crossover/Legislative Update
- Strategy Discussion
- Lobby Day Discussion

4:15 Strategic Plan Update – Matt Wells

4:25 Miscellaneous

4:30 Adjourn

VIRGINIA*forever*

Board of Directors Meeting, Executive & General Boards

December 16, 2021

DRAFT Minutes

Participants: Phil Abraham, Andrew Clark, Tee Clarkson, Allison Clock, Pat Coady, Corey Connors, Bob Dunn, Drew DuPuy, Johnny Finch, Ted Henifin, Lisa Kardell, Tim Kennell, Cristi Lawton, Joe McCauley, Mike Rolband, Nikki Rovner, Peggy Sanner, Ellen Shepard, Kyle Shreve, Ginny Snead, Bill Street, Dennis Treacy, Kendall Tyree, Carol Wampler, Matt Wells, Jenny West, Jason Williams, and Mark Williams.

By Phone: Elizabeth Andrews, Nissa Dean, Kristen Hughes Evans, Stewart Leeth, and Mamie Parker.

Guests: Jim Dillard

Staff: Travis Blankenship, Preston Bryant, Ali Gilbert, Mark Hubbard, and Daniel Whitehead.

1. Welcome: Matt Wells called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm. He welcomed and thanked everyone for joining for the first in-person meeting in a while. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes: Secretary/Treasurer, Kyle Shreve, shared the minutes from the September 15, 2021, Executive Board of Directors Meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Financial Report/2022 Budget: Kyle referred to the Treasurer's report in the board packet and presented the financials as of December 16, 2021. He gave a brief overview of the current financial status. A motion was made and seconded to approve the financials as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Kyle then presented the proposed 2022 annual budget, going over projected revenue and expenses. He discussed how the strategic plan could affect the budget but proposed to keep things in line where they are traditionally until further changes are required. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed 2022 annual budget. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Government Relations Discussion: Preston Bryant referred to the report in the packet and gave an update on the changing political landscape, an overview of the state's financial revenue, and the Governor's proposed budget. Nikki Rovner and Ellen Shepard gave updates on the land side of things, Kyle Shreve and Kendall Tyree discussed agriculture, Peggy Sanner went over water, and Tim Kennell covered state

parks. It was discussed that there was still uncertainty about lawmaker visits during session and that a lobby day could be schedule in-person but will determine that later. It was also discussed that the Governor's proposed budget would be detailed during the following Budget Briefing on Natural Resources.

5. Strategic Plan Update: Matt Wells presented the draft Strategic Plan for the next five years, which was provided to all attendees. He thanked all those that put hours of hard work into the plan and described it as a great road map on how to continue to grow and succeed. Matt discussed the executive summary and described the process of how the Plan came together. Each Strategic Plan workgroup presented their portion of the proposed strategic plan, including the leadership, membership, finance, communications, government relations, and programming workgroups, and members of the board provided additional thoughts on the Plan. After a full discussion, the Plan was considered adopted.

6. Election of Officers, Executive Board Members: On behalf of Kevin Finto, chair of the Nominating Committee, who was not present, Ted Henifin presented the slate of officers for the next two years. The slate was as follows:

For two-year terms (2022 -2023)

Chairman	Matt Wells
Vice-Chairman	Peggy Sanner
Secretary/Treasurer:	Kyle Shreve
<i>Executive Committee At-Large</i>	Jenny West
<i>Executive Committee At-Large</i>	Philip Abraham

A motion was made and seconded to approve the presented slate of officers for a 2-year term, from January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Ted then presented the slate of Executive Board members renewing for another 3-year term on the Executive Board, from January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024. The slate was as follows:

For Three-Year Terms (2022-2024):

- Virginia Association for Commercial Real Estate represented by **Phil Abraham**
- Tyson Foods represented by **Doug Baxter**
- The Potomac Conservancy represented by **Hedrick Belin**
- HRSD represented by **Jamie Mitchell**
- Appalachian Power Company represented by **Ron Jefferson**
- The Nature Conservancy represented by **Nikki Rovner**
- Huntington Ingalls Industries **Jim Thorton**
- Dominion Energy **Jason Williams**

- The Virginia Wildlife Federation **Jenny West**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed slate of Executive Board members renewing for a 3-year term. The motion pass unanimously.

Ted then presented the slate of Executive Board members renewing for a 1-year term on the Executive Board, from January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022. The slate was as follows:

For One-Year Terms (2022)

- Hunton Andrews Kurth represented by **Pete Johnson**
- ReedSmith represented by **Chrissy Noonan**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed slate of Executive Board members renewing for a 1-year term. The motion pass unanimously.

Ted then presented Board members rolling off to emeritus status. The proposed members rolling off to emeritus were as follows:

- **Kevin Finto**
- **Ted Henefin**
- **Dennis Treacy**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed list of members rolling off to emeritus status. The motion pass unanimously.

7. Bridge Builder Discussion: Kendall Tyree referred to the report in the packet and gave an overview of the 2021 Bridge Builder Celebration that was held virtually on October 28, 2021. She briefly went over the program and the contribution to the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNRLI) from the event proceeds. It was agreed it would be great to finally hold the event in person in 2022.

8. Committee Appointments & 2022 Board Calendar: Matt Wells went over the committee assignments and board calendar presented in the packet and discussed that everything was flexible. He discussed there was a current process of filling the vacancies in the Nominating Committee and Recruitment & Board Development Committee chairs with Kevin Finto and Ted Henifin going emeritus. He encouraged everyone to join a committee and to join the weekly GR Committee calls every other Friday.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:39 pm.

VIRGINIA*forever*
Financial Report
2/16/2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Revenues</u>		
Board/Members	\$7,625.00	\$89,000.00
New Members		\$2,500.00
Bridge Builder Event	\$5,000.00	\$75,000.00
Other contribution (2021 late dues)	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Budget Briefing		\$0.00
MM & Checking Interest	\$7.11	\$250.00
Total Revenues	\$17,632.11	\$166,750.00

<u>Expenses</u>		
MWC - Fee	\$19,837.50	\$119,025.00
MWC - New Member Share		\$625.00
MWC - Fundraising Share		\$4,000.00
MWC - Expenses		\$0.00
Bridge Builder Event		\$35,000.00
Bridge Builder Event (2021)		\$0.00
Event Sponsorships		\$600.00
Branding & Publicity		\$0.00
Insurance		\$3,000.00
Accounting Fee		\$2,350.00
Miscellaneous (domain; materials for secretary gifts)	\$72.35	\$300.00
Budget Briefing Reception	\$1,003.48	\$0.00
Lobby Day		\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$20,913.33	\$164,900.00

<u>Cash</u>		
Beginning Cash Position	\$242,329.76	\$242,329.76
Non-Cash Contribution	-	-
Revenues minus Expenses	-\$3,281.22	\$1,850.00
Cash Position	\$239,048.54	\$244,179.76

VIRGINIAforever
Board Meeting
Government Relations Report
February 16, 2022
Nikki Rovner and Ron Jefferson

Agenda / Discussion Items

- 2022 General Assembly in Full Swing
- Natural Resources Investments in HB 30, SB 30
- Legislation, Budget Action
- VIRGINIAforever Lobbying

Looking Back

- VIRGINIAforever – Budget Requests (to Governor Northam, October 2021)
 - Natural Resources – Reminder of What 2021 General Assembly Approved (Regular Session)
-

I. 2022 General Assembly in Full Swing

The 2022 General Assembly convened on January 12 for its 60-day session. It is considering 2,497 bills and resolutions and hundreds of budget amendments. Crossover is February 15. The General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn *sine die* on March 12. The Reconvened Session, to consider any amendments and vetoes the Governor proposes, is April 27.

II. Natural Resources Investments in HB 30, SB 30

Governor Northam's proposed budget (HB 30, SB 30) is before the General Assembly. The House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee are preparing to amend the introduced budget. Additionally, Governor Youngkin proposed nearly 60 budget amendments.

Governor Northam's budget proposal includes the most robust natural resources investments seen in many years, including:

- Water Quality Improvement Fund. – A deposit of \$313 million to support cost-share programs for point- and non-point source water quality projects.
- Virginia Agriculture BMP Cost-share Program. – A significant \$286 million to support farmers' implementation of key conservation practices.
- Combined Sewer Overflows. – A \$165 million investment in improvements to CSO systems in Alexandria, Lynchburg, and Richmond.

- Stormwater Local Assistance Fund. – A \$100 million investment in a state cost-share program with localities to plan and construct stormwater management infrastructure.
- Land Conservation. – A \$30 million investment in the Virginia Land Conservation Fund to support preservation of open-space lands, farmlands and forests, and historical lands and battlefields.
- State Parks. – More than \$68 million to address critical needs in our state parks.
- Multi-use Recreational Trails. – More than \$200 million to support development of major recreational trails, especially in the Shenandoah Valley, Central Virginia, and the Eastern Shore.

III. Legislation, Budget Action

VIRGINIA*forever* is supporting two key bills. Here is their status.

- SB 31 (Marsden). – Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and Fund. Directs the Governor to include a \$40 million recommended appropriation to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund in the budget bill or amendments thereto each year; also requires, among other things, a report on the resources needed to achieve certain natural resources protection goals for natural areas, open spaces and parks, farmland, historic and cultural sites, and underserved communities.

SB 31 was amended to remove the \$40 million appropriations requirement, leaving other parts of the legislation. SB 31 passed Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee (12-2); passed Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee (16-0). Very likely to pass the full Senate.

- SB 545 (Marsden). – Registration fees for motor vehicles; state park access fee. Imposes a \$5 state park access fee to be collected at the time other vehicle registration fees are paid and to be deposited into the State Park Conservation Resources Fund.

SB 545 failed to report in Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee (7-7-1). Generally, some were concerned about adding a new fee at a time when the State treasury is flush with cash, with the notion being General Funds should be appropriated for state parks operations.

Additionally, VIRGINIA*forever* is support a number of key budget amendments that have been proposed, including the following:

- Item 375 #14h (Krizek). – Provides an additional \$40 million, each year, for additional support to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund.
- Item 375 #1s (Marsden). – Provides additional funding to achieve an annual amount of \$40 million for the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (per SB 31).
- Item 440 #6s (Marsden). – Provides \$55 million (NGF) over the biennium from the State Park Access fee on vehicle registrations to be deposited into the State Park Conservation Resources Fund (per SB 545).
- There also are other House and Senate budget amendments supporting land conservation initiatives for certain tribal lands, battlefields, and other important lands, and we encourage your review and support.

IV. VIRGINIA*forever* Lobbying

Many VIRGINIA*forever* members blasted emails to House and Senate budget committee members beginning February 10, which was timed for when appropriators began turning attention in earnest to budget matters.

A number of VIRGINIA*forever* members – lobbyists for other organizations, who are in the Pocahontas Building on a daily basis – convened on February 10 to meet with key House and Senate budget writers, including Delegates Bloxom, Bulova, Fariss, Hodges, and Marshall, and Senators Hanger, Marsden, and Ruff. Each legislator was focused on agricultural BMPs, clean-water infrastructure, state parks, forestry, and trails – all central to VIRGINIA*forever*'s legislative and appropriations agenda.

Generally, each legislator recognized that HB 30 and SB 30 contain significant, even historic investments in natural resources – land conservation, clean water, forestry, parks, trails, and more.

Looking Back

V. VIRGINIA*forever* Budget Requests

VIRGINIA*forever* recognized that 2021 was and 2022 was destined to be robust revenue-generation years, especially with significant federal economic recovery funds flowing to Virginia and a rebounding economy with month-to-month revenues exceeding projections. As such, VIRGINIA*forever* made significant budget requests.

The following is a reminder of VIRGINIA*forever*'s budget requests in mid-October 2021 to Governor Northam. VIRGINIA*forever* did very well, given what is proposed in HB 30 and SB 30.

Water Quality

Wastewater Treatment Plants

FY23 \$50 M

FY24 \$50 M

Ag Cost-Share Programs

FY23 \$122 M Ag BMPs; \$16 M technical assistance

FY24 \$130 M Ag BMPs; \$17 M technical assistance

Stormwater Local Assistance Fund

FY 23 \$80 M

FY 24 \$80 M

Land Conservation

Virginia Land Conservation Fund

FY 23 \$40 M

FY 24 \$40 M

Multi-Use Recreational Trails

FY 23 \$41 M

FY 24 \$41 M

Environmental Agency Staff

FY 23 \$25 M

FY 24 \$25 M