

**2014 VARC&D Draft Spring Meeting Minutes  
May 1 & 2 2014**

**Roll Call**

**Black Diamond**

*Jerry Ingle  
Lisa Cope  
Roger Blackstone  
Carolyn Baker*

**Eastern Shore**

*Edwin Long  
Josephine Mooney*

**New River-Highlands**

*Jack Asbury  
Chuck Shorter  
Steve Hermansen  
Gary Boring*

**Old Dominion**

*Carlyle Wimbish  
Randy Slayton*

**South Centre `Corridors**

*Deborah Davis*

**Tidewater**

*Carol Steel  
Jerry Walker  
Mo Lynch*

**Valley Conservation Council**

*Joan Comanor  
Jim Boland  
Ben Craig*

**Upper James**

**Guests**

*Kathy Holmes, NRCS    David Kriz, NRCS    Molly Ward, Secretary of Natural Resources  
Laurette Tucker, Rural Development    Andrew Gordon, NARC&D via telephone*

**Call to Order**

*Joan Comanor, Chair called the meeting to order.*

**Agenda**

*Edwin Long made a motion to accept the agenda;  
Chuck Shorter seconded the motion, motion passed.*

**Minutes**

*Jim Boland made a motion to accept the minutes as presented;  
Jack Asbury seconded the motion; motion passed.*

**Treasurer's Report**

*Edwin Long made a motion to accept the treasurer's report;  
Jack Asbury seconded the motion; Council voted to file report for audit.*

**Term of Officers**

*Joan explained that since South Hampton Roads was folding as an RC&D Council that Judy Lyttle had resigned as Vice Chair of the VARC&D. Carlyle Wimbish made a motion to move Chuck Shorter to Vice Chair, combine Secretary/Treasurer duties to Bob Martin; Jerry Ingle seconded the motion; motion carried.*

**VARC&D Annual Report**

*A discussion on the VARC&D Annual Report was led by Gary Boring. Gary passed out hard copies of Annual Report as well as a digital disk the councils could use to produce copies of the report as needed.*

### **NRCS Update: David Kriz**

*David discussed soil health and the Farm Bill highlights and some of funding available through CIG Grants.*

### **VARC&D Website**

*Gary Boring led a discussion on how to improve the website. Suggestions were a slideshow, budget information, art, contact info which could be password protected.*

### **Project Adoption Procedures and Reporting**

*A discussion was held on council procedures for adopting projects and project reporting. Valley Conservation Council shared a handout of their process. Black Diamond and New River-Highlands shared their processes of how projects were developed and funded.*

### **Andrew Gordon, NARC&D**

*Andrew Gordon advised the councils of the benefits of belonging to the NARC&D such as legal assistance, website, email addresses, training, Legislative program which is still being reorganized and is working on an energy audits grant. Andrew requested that the councils let the National Association know what they are doing and gave out his contact information: [email-Aqordon@NARCD.org](mailto:Aqordon@NARCD.org) and cell phone-404-353-1939.*

### **Council Updates**

***Black Diamond**-Lisa Cope advised that the council is working on a ATV Trail Project*

***Eastern Shore**-Edwin Long introduced their new coordinator, Joshphine Mooney. He also advised the council was working on a new 5 year plan.*

***New River-Highlands**-Jack Asbury discussed several of the council projects*

***Old Dominion**-Carlyle Wimbish discussed the council projects and asked what to do with funds if the council dissolved.*

***South Center 'Corridors**-Deborah Davis discussed council projects*

***Upper James**-Sent a report which was presented by Joan Comanor*

***Valley Conservation Council**-Jim Boland advised on the councils projects*

***Tidewater**-Mo Lynch reported that the council will meet on September 17, 2014 to determine if the Tidewater RC&D Program will continue.*

### **Fall Meeting**

*Location was set at the DOF Building in Charlottesville with a date of November 7, 2014.*

### **Land Trust & Easement Discussion**

*A brief discussion was held on Land Trust and Easements. All were favorable to this being a future training topic for the VARC&D.*

### **Keynote Speaker: Molly Ward, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources**

*Molly discussed water quality being the 1<sup>st</sup> priority to Virginia Natural Resources. She gave out her contact information to the councils. [molly.ward@governor.org](mailto:molly.ward@governor.org).*

### **USDA REAP Program-Laurette Tucker**

*Laurette discussed REAP (Rural Energy for America Program) passed out a handout as an aid to her PowerPoint presentation. She advised that Rural Development has three divisions, Housing, Development and Utilities. Laurette also discussed the Value-Added Producer Grant Program and passed out a handout for the council to review. Laurette left her contact information for the councils. [Email-Laurette.tucker@va.usda.gov](mailto:Email-Laurette.tucker@va.usda.gov) and her phone numbers 434-392-4906 and 804-287-1606*

**Discussion & Closing**

*A discussion was held on the budget and topics for the fall meeting and on how to continue to exist. Carlyle Wimbish made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jim Boland seconded the motion. Joan Comanor adjourned the meeting.*

**Minutes submitted by**

*Bob Martin, VARC&D Secretary*

DRAFT