

DIRECTORS:

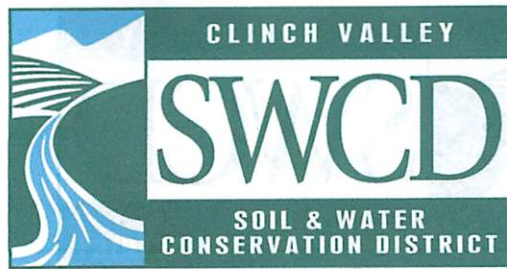
Andy Smith, Chairman
Kelly Gilmer, Vice-Chairman
Jason Bush, Treasurer
Scott Jessee, VT Coop Extension
Zac Ketron

DIRECTOR EMERITUS:

Mike Altizer

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

Gary Breeding
Bill Worrell



**Clinch Valley Soil and Water
Conservation District**

131 Highland Drive, Suite B Lebanon,
VA 24266

Phone: (276) 883-5987

www.cvsxcd.org

We work with the people who work the land.

**Clinch Valley Soil and Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2025; Lebanon Community Center, Lebanon 4:00 PM**

BOARD MEMBERS

Andy Smith, Chair
Kelly Gilmer, Vice Chair
Jason Bush, Treasurer
Zac Ketron, Director - absent
Scott Jessee, VT Coop Ext
Bill Worrell, Associate Director - absent
Gary Breeding, Associate Director - absent
Mike Altizer, Emeritus Director

STAFF

Brandon Blevins, Conservation Specialist
Jeff Mutter, Conservation Specialist
Siobhan Nishida, District Manager
Ali Reilly, Education Specialist

AGENCY PERSONNEL

Lorie Stevens, DCR
Emerson Kirby, NRCS
Bill Miller, VDOF
Angela Ball, DCR

ATTENDANCE FROM THE PUBLIC:

None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Andy Smith called the February 12, 2025, Clinch Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Directors meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Siobhan Nishida requested to add to unfinished business a review of the 2Qt Attachment E.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF January 9th BOD and January 23rd Education Committee MINUTES

The *January 9, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes* were presented for review and approval. Scott Jessee made a motion to approve the *January 9, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes* as presented. Jason Bush seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The *January 23, 2025, Education Committee Meeting Minutes* were presented for review and

DIRECTORS:

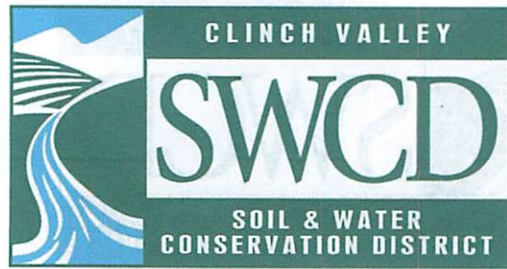
Andy Smith, Chairman
Kelly Gilmer, Vice-Chairman
Jason Bush, Treasurer
Scott Jessee, VT Coop Extension
Zac Ketron

DIRECTOR EMERITUS:

Mike Altizer

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

Gary Breeding
Bill Worrell



Clinch Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

131 Highland Drive, Suite B Lebanon, VA 24266

Phone: (276) 883-5987

www.cvsxcd.org

We work with the people who work the land.

approval. Jason Bush made a motion to approve the *January 23, 2025, Education Committee Meeting Minutes* as presented. Kelly Gilmer seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

REVIEW, RECEIVE, AND FILE THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The *Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2024*, was presented to the board for review. A motion was made by Jason Bush to receive and file the *as of December 31, 2024, Treasurer's Report*. The motion was seconded by Scott Jessee and the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review of Attachment E was completed January 9, 2025 and reviewed again during the February 12, 2025 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Federal Grant Funding Freeze/Hold on Approving Projects: Siobhan Nishida informed the BOD of the status of district grants that use federal funding, to include NASDA, DEQ 319, NRCS Piggyback Projects and NFWF. While the federal funding remains frozen, projects that would use this funding will be delayed in the approval status.

Education Committee Report: Ali Reilly presented the BOD with a summary from the Education Committee meeting on January 23, 2025.

eVA Status for Clinch Valley SWCD: Siobhan Nishida updated the BOD on the eVA training that Siobhan Nishida, Jeff Mutter, and Brandon Blevins completed to allow the district to accept bids on contracted work.

Hillside Trail and Urban Forest: Siobhan Nishida and Jeff Mutter presented the BOD with an update on the Hillside Trail and Urban Forest project. This grant is considered federal funding as a passthrough grant and staff is seeking information on the status of the accessibility of those funds. Siobhan Nishida asked for the board's input on whether to accept bids on the clearing of the hillside while the status of federal funding is unknown. The BOD suggested proceeding with advertising the job and accepting bids.

Area IV Spring Meeting Registration: Lorie Stevens informed the district and BOD about the forthcoming details for the registration of the Area IV Spring Meeting on March 12, 2025.

Location of March BOD Meeting: Siobhan Nishida asked the BOD for their input on when and where to schedule the March BOD Meeting. It was decided that the meeting would occur at its regularly scheduled time, on Thursday, March 13th, 2025 at 12:30 PM at the Jefferson Board Room in the Russell County Government Center.

Letter of Request for Funds to RC County Board of Supervisors: Siobhan Nishida presented the BOD with a draft Letter of Request for Funds to the Russell County Board of Supervisors, requesting an increase of \$5,000. The BOD suggested edits, and Siobhan Nishida reported that she would edit, have Chairman sign it and send it before the next County Board of Supervisor meeting.

Required Small Farm Agriculture Community Outreach Event: Siobhan Nishida shared that the DCR Small Farm Agriculture Community Outreach Event would immediately follow this BOD meeting.

DIRECTORS:

Andy Smith, Chairman
Kelly Gilmer, Vice-Chairman
Jason Bush, Treasurer
Scott Jessee, VT Coop Extension
Zac Ketron

DIRECTOR EMERITUS:

Mike Altizer

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

Gary Breeding
Bill Worrell



**Clinch Valley Soil and Water
Conservation District**

131 Highland Drive, Suite B Lebanon,
VA 24266

Phone: (276) 883-5987

www.cvsxcd.org

We work with the people who work the land.

REPORTS FROM COOPERATING AGENCIES:

DCR: BOD and staff reviewed the February 2025 DCR- DSWC CDC Report. See attachment A.

NRCS: The staff reviewed the Lebanon Service Center Report. See attachment B.

Clinch Valley Staff, Siobhan Nishida, Brandon Blevins, Jeff Mutter, and Ali Reilly: The Clinch Valley SWCD staff reviewed the February 2025 CVSXCD Staff Report with the Board. See attachment B.

Virginia Coop Extension Service: Scott Jessee discussed the Russell County Cattleman's Association Meeting on February 27th at 6:30 PM. He asked the district to attend and table the event.

VDOF, Bill Miller: Bill Miller informed the staff and BOD of current VDOF funding programs for residents, to include the Virginia Trees for Clean Water Program and Riparian Forests for Landowners program. He also reminded that the 4:00 PM Burn Restriction Law starts this month.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Presidents Day, Office Closed February 17, 2025

Area IV Spring Meeting, March 12, 2025.

Next Board Meeting, March 13, 2025

Envirothon Competition – New River Valley Fairground, Pulaski, VA – April 24, 2025

ADJOURN:

Andy Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM due to no further business. Kelly Gilmer made a motion to adjourn. Scott Jessee seconded the motion to adjourn, and the motion carried. The Next Board of Directors meeting was scheduled to take place on March 13th, 2025 and will be held in the Jefferson Room in the Russell County Government Center at 12:30 PM.



Director