

***AGRICULTURAL AND LAND CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
April 27, 2026***

The meeting of the Stafford County Ag/LC Committee for Monday, April 27, 2026 was called to order at 7:00 pm in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room B in the George L. Gordon Government Center by Jesse Adams.

| <b>Members</b>            | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Chad Young                | X              |               |
| Jeff Adams                | X              |               |
| Jesse Adams               | X              |               |
| Michael Bradshaw          |                | X             |
| Evangeline (Evie) Council | X              |               |

Staff Present: Nancy Kotting, Jennifer Himmelstein and Crissy Kendall

Guests:

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Jesse Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and confirmed there was a quorum present.

**2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA**

Ms. Council made a motion to modify item 5-New Business on the agenda to add B. Board Vacancies and C. Election of Vice Chair. Mr. Young seconded. Motion passed, 4/0.

Mr. Young made a motion to accept the modified agenda. Jeff Adams seconded. Motioned passed, 4/0.

**3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

None

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

March 23, 2026

Jeff Adams made a motion to approved the March 23, 2026 minutes. Mr. Young seconded. Motion passed, 4/0.

**5. STAFF UPDATES**

a. Introduction of Land Conservation Specialist

Ms. Kotting introduced Dr. Himmelstein as the new County Land Conservation Specialist.

b. PDR Projects Status Update

The Long property has been closed and the VLCF grant matching funds have been received. Dr. Himmelstein will be working with Community Engagement to announce the purchase. There are three more properties in the works from the 2022 application round. We have the funds available for all three properties from the Department of Forestry and VLCF funds. There are two resolutions on the May 5 BOS agenda to accept those grant funds and allocate the budget monies to match. The Bell property got an appraisal at the end of last year and is just waiting on the deed of easement. The other two properties, Schenemann and Pagnotta, still need to have the appraisals and deed of easements done.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### a. 2026 Work Plan Draft

The 2025 Work Plan was reviewed and needs a lot of updating. Jesse Adams would like to add language about growth management, evaluation and development placement, preservation efforts and the development of proposed legislation to enhance land conservation. Ms. Council would like to see metrics to show how the Board is being efficient/effective. She would like to see more technology used by the Board. The website needs a lot of updating. Board initiatives should be posted. The applications should be fillable (ex. Farmer's Market application). The maps should be more interactive. Dr. Himmelstein will work with GIS to create a PDR applications layer that shows applications submitted, in process and complete, number of acres and other pertinent information. Dr. Himmelstein will work on updating the plan with presented items and add this item to the next regular meeting agenda. She encouraged members to send her more changes/updated they wish to see. Jeff Adams requested a physical copy of the comp plan to review.

### b. Board Vacancies

Eric Lint will be coming onboard to represent the Falmouth District, if approved by the Board in the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. We now have a vacant spot for the Garrisonville District. Jesse Adams will reach out to the Garrisonville Supervisor to request a replacement.

### c. Election of Vice Chair

There was no interest in the vice chair position so this item will remain on the agenda until next month.

## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### a. Meeting Start Time Review

There is no interest in changing the start time of the meetings. This item will be removed from the next agenda.

### b. New PDR Round and Adjusting Financing Proposal

Dr. Himmelstein wanted to know if there were any thoughts or feedback on the expanded financing options or ideas on expanding land conservation beyond the slow PDR process. Jesse Adams mentions the serious erosion issues around county parks (specifically Boykins Landing in Crow's Nest and Widewater State Park). The county needs to get some living shoreline installation and some sort of programs to help homeowners with tidal facing properties. There also needs to be an

emphasis on pollinators, native plants and removal of invasives. There needs to be education and funding to help homeowners. Ideas include training HOAs to create pollinator gardens and plant native plants. A suggestion was made to work with Parks and Recs and Environmental (Wetlands Board) to create gardens and educational programs on county owned properties.

The timeline for the new PDR round depends on when the expanded budgeting options get on the Board agenda. The application and monitoring form will then need to be adjusted. Jeff Adams suggested reviewing the matrix as a group prior to opening the round. Jeff Adams made a motion to review the matrix. Mr. Young seconded. Motion passed, 4/0.

c. Farmers Market Updates

The Market Manager at the commuter lot is not renewing. VDOT needs to know by August if we wish to renew the contract. Dr. Himmelstein received an email today concerning a possible Farmer's Market application in Falmouth. Dr. Himmelstein will let the applicant know the location is available. She is also going to reach out to the previous manager to question why the market wasn't successful.

d. Comp Plan Review and Comments

Board members would like to have a work session focused on comp plan review. Members were asked to review the current comp plan and look for outdated language

Ms. Council made a motion to make the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting a work session starting at 6pm. Mr. Young seconded. Motioned passed, 4/0.

8. MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Ms. Council asked about work going on by the railroad tracks in Widewater. She will provide Dr. Himmelstein with an address and Dr. Himmelstein will investigate.

9. NEXT MEETING

- May 18, 2026

May 18 will be a work session starting at 6pm in the ABC.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Young made a motion to adjourn. Jeff Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed, 4/0. With no further business to discuss Chairman Jesse Adams adjourned the meeting at 8:26pm.