



Board Meeting Minutes October 4, 2011

Location: VHB/Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., Williamsburg, VA

Attendees: Kevin Du Bois (KD), Jim Cahoon (JC), J.C. Douglass (JCD), Tara Fisher (TF), and Robin Bedenbaugh (RB). Kris Dramby also joined the Board as proxy for Doug DeBerry.

The meeting was called to order at 1010

Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

1. *Treasurer's Report:* JML not present. KD provided a report for JML. The account balance after the subsidized annual meeting is \$8,799.16. The estimate for a new VAWP banner, once the logo is designed, is \$200-\$300.
2. *Program Committee:* TF reported on the Annual Meeting, in particular the success of the student research poster session.
 - a. *Winter Workshop.* Winter Botany was discussed, to be hosted either at VIMS or the Sandy Bottom Nature Preserve. Possibly taught by Doug DeBerry, will confirm details and timeframe. January 2012?
 - b. *Spring Workshop.* Common Threats to Virginia Streams & Wetlands Projects. Potential dates: May 11 or May 18, 2012. Location: Richmond.
 - i. Competition and Invasive species
 - ii. Animal Predation (USFWS?)
 - iii. Sea level rise in tidal wetlands
 - iv. Permitted impacts and current status of No Net Loss (VIMS?)
 - v. Water issues: withdrawals, design implications, water control structures
 - c. *Winter Social Activity*
 - i. Environmental Film Viewing and Discussion. Naro Cinema?
 - ii. Winter Wetland Delineation Field Trip?
3. *Newsletter:* No update. KD suggested distributing a bulleted version of the Board's meeting minutes for mass distribution, to garner participation from the membership. JCD will develop a draft for the Board's review.
4. *Web Site:* JC suggested the urgent need for a redesign of the VAWP website, particularly to bring the site up to date with graphics, links, accessibility, etc. Kris Dramby indicated a base cost could reach \$7,000 for a high quality website from scratch. The Board agreed that updating the technology is a priority. JCD to research some website redesign and hosting options for VAWP, besides the current company.
5. *Membership Committee:* The current membership is reported at 108, with several paid for 2012.



- a. KD will post information on the VIMS Wetland Forum to encourage local government wetland board participation in VAWP.
 - b. The Board discussed reaching out to the USACE to help renew the partnership and encourage participation in VAWP. KD will draft a letter to the Norfolk District requesting a meeting to discuss how VAWP can work together with USACE.
 - c. T-shirt design contest discussion was tabled for a future meeting.
6. *Certification Committee:* RB received feedback from several people at the Annual Meeting about their inability to test for the PWD certification due the expired PWD supervision exemption. The Board will poll the membership to get a good picture of how many individuals are impacted, with the intention of taking the discrimination issue to the legislature when enough evidence is compiled.
7. *Education Committee:* DD not present. The Board will attempt to identify other environmental educators in the state (i.e. U. of Mary Washington) and develop a distribution list for research poster sessions at future meetings.
8. *Virginia Stream Alliance:* Carolyn Keeler was nominated by B. Sullivan to serve as the VSA committee chair for the coming year. The Board approved the nomination. No update from VSA.
9. *Ways and Means:* TF mentioned an interest in ordering new VAWP polo shirts as we only have a few sizes and colors remaining. The Board approved the expenditure to order additional shirts, as needed.
10. *Archives:* No update.
11. *Open Discussion:*
- a. *Living Shoreline General Permit.* KD suggested we define VAWP's participation in the development of the new Living Shoreline General Permit by VMRC. JC volunteered to participate on the Technical Advisory Committee, on behalf of VAWP.
 - b. *Virginia TMDL Process.* KD suggested drafting a letter to Joan Salvati with VDCR to inquire about how best VAWP can participate in this process, possibly with a slant relating to wetland mitigation and nutrient exchange credits.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Submitted by: J.C. Douglass, October 6, 2011