

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Meeting Agenda and Materials

Tuesday, July 12, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

**Richmond Public Library
101 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia**



Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, July 12, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

Richmond Public Library
101 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

1. Call to Order, Introduction of Secretary, Members, Opening Remarks
Travis Voyles, Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources
2. Introduction of Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) staff and Interagency Task Force members
Suzan Bulbulkaya, Land Conservation Manager, DCR

Business and Financial Matters

3. Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2021 Board Meeting (page 3)
Travis Voyles, Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources
4. Brief Introduction to FOIA
Michael Fletcher, FOIA Officer, Board and Constituent Services Liaison, DCR
5. Resolution to Disclaim Interest in Certain Real Property in Shenandoah County (page 28)
Suzan Bulbulkaya, Land Conservation Manager, DCR
6. Virginia Land Conservation Fund Financial Update
Sharon Partee, Director of Finance, DCR
7. Resolution to Authorize the Expenditure of Interest from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, pursuant to § 10.1-1020 of the Code of Virginia (page 29)
Suzan Bulbulkaya, Land Conservation Manager, DCR

VLCF Grant Program

8. Review of Closed VLCF Grant Projects (page 30)
Larry Mikkelsen, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR
9. Discussion and Approval of the VLCF FY23 Grant Round:
Suzan Bulbulkaya, Land Conservation Manager, DCR
 - a. Proposed Grant Fiscal Expenditure Plan (page 36)
 - b. Proposed Timeline for Applications and Awards (page 37)
 - c. Proposed Grant Manual and Application (page 38)
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. Board Discussion and Adoption of FY23 Grant Round Documents
10. Public Comment
11. Adjourn

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees

Chairman: The Honorable Travis Voyles, Interim Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Vice Chair: Mary-Carson Stiff

Member Ex Officio: The Honorable Matthew Lohr, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Woodie Walker

Samantha Vargas Poppe

Jay C. Ford

Krystina E. White

Susan E. Donner

The Honorable David W. Marsden

Bruce Vlck

The Honorable Richard H. Stuart

Dr. James F. Casey

Elizabeth Andrews

Kat Imhoff

Leslie Cockburn

Glenda C. Booth

Andrew C. Jennison

Lisa Kestner Quigley

Sonya Powell

Executive Secretary: Matthew Wells, Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, October 27, 2021
West Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building, Richmond, VA**

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees convened at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 in the West Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building in Richmond, Virginia.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Ann Jennings, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, Chair

Vice Chair: Mary-Carson Stiff, Vice Chair

The Honorable Bettina Ring, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Ex Officio

Albert C. Pollard, Jr.

The Honorable David W. Marsden

Bruce Vlk

The Honorable Richard H. Stuart

Kat Imhoff

Elizabeth Andrews

Glenda C. Booth

Executive Secretary: Clyde E. Cristman, Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Jay C. Ford

James W. Beamer

Susan E. Donner

Andrew C. Jennison

Dr. James F. Casey

Sonya Powell

Robert Lazaro, Jr.

Russell Vern Presley, II

John Paul Woodley, Jr.

STATE AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Josh Sacks, SNR

Brian Fuller, DCR

Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR

Charles Marston, DCR

Jason Bulluck, DCR

Kristal McKelvey, DCR

S. Buttrick, VOF

Larry Mikkelsen, DCR

Gina DiCicco, DCR

Jen Perkins, VDACS

Karl Didier, VDOF

Karri Richardson, DHR

Larry Durbin VTAX

Kellie Seaton, DCR

Rob Evans, DCR

Tom Smith, DCR

Michael Fletcher, DCR

OTHERS PRESENT

India Adams-Jacobs, Town of Colonial Beach

Parker Agelasto, CRLC

REVISED: 11/15/2021 11:23 AM

VLCF Board of Trustees Meeting

July 12, 2022

3

Paul Gilbert, NOVA Parks
Tom Gilmore, American Battlefield Trust
J.C. LaRiviere, Town of Colonial Beach
Victoria Luna, Town of Colonial Beach
Heather Richards, The Conservation Fund
Robin Schick, Town of Colonial Beach
Ellen Shepard, Virginia United Land Trusts
Kyle Shreve, Virginia Agribusiness
Caryn Self Sullivan, Town of Colonial Beach
Zachary Sheldon, The Nature Conservancy

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

With ten (10) members of the Board present, a quorum was declared.

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Jennings called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. She advised that former Secretary Matt Strickler had taken a position with the Biden Administration. She noted that this was the first in-person meeting of the Board since November 2019. She thanked members and staff for attending.

Secretary Jennings called for the introductions of Board members.

Secretary Jennings asked Mr. Tom Smith, DCR Director of Operations to stand for recognition. She advised that Mr. Smith will be retiring from DCR after 31 years with the agency. Mr. Smith came to Virginia after working in Tennessee and Pennsylvania. He was appointed the Director of the DCR Division of Natural Heritage in 1990.

Secretary Jennings commented that Mr. Smith's impact on the Natural Heritage programs is beyond compare. She thanked him on behalf of the Board and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Director Cristman announced that Mr. Frank Stovall will assume the role of Deputy Director of Operations and will begin with the agency on November 15, 2021. Mr. Stovall is currently with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 10, 2021

BOARD ACTION

Ms. Imhoff moved that the minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees be approved as submitted by staff. Senator Stuart seconded and the motion carried.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FUND APA AUDIT – *Clyde E. Cristman, Director, DCR*

Director Cristman reported that the DCR audit had just been completed. There were zero audit points but two areas of management concern already addressed by the agency. In a separate audit, the VLCF fund received a clean audit. He thanked the Board for their support and oversight of this process.

LAND PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Update from Department of Taxation – Larry Durbin, Assistant Tax Commissioner, Department of Taxation

Mr. Durbin's presentation was delayed until later in the meeting.

LPTC Program Transfer Fee Revenues and Approval of distribution of the 2021 VLCF Stewardship Fund, pursuant to § 58.1-513 – Gina DiCicco, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR

Ms. DiCicco presented the update regarding the 2021 VLCF Stewardship Fund.

Ms. DiCicco advised that for the last eleven years the Stewardship Fund has collected a two percent fee on tax credits. These funds are made available to agencies and organizations who have received donations. She noted that federal agencies are not eligible to receive these funds.

There were forty-two organizations or agencies holding easements or making acquisitions.

2021 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Stewardship Fund				
	AGENCY NAME	NUMBER OF DONATIONS	% OF TOTAL DONATIONS	AMOUNT OF FUNDS
1	American Battlefield Trust (formerly Civil War Trust)	4	0.80%	\$14,971.33
2	Blue Ridge Land Conservancy	29	5.82%	\$108,542.14
3	Broad Water Innovations	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
4	Capital Region Land Conservancy Inc	6	1.20%	\$22,456.99
5	City of Charlottesville	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
6	City of Hampton	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
7	City of Harrisonburg	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
8	City of Staunton	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
9	County of Albemarle	24	4.81%	\$89,827.98
10	County of Clarke	6	1.20%	\$22,456.99

11	County of Fauquier	24	4.81%	\$89,827.98
12	County of Loudoun	0.5	0.10%	\$1,871.42
13	County of Stafford	1.5	0.30%	\$5,614.25
14	County of Warren	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
15	Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District	0.5	0.10%	\$1,871.42
16	Enrichmond Foundation	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
17	Ever Green Team	54	10.83%	\$202,112.95
18	Friends of Dragon Run	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
19	Friends of the Rappahannock	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
20	Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District	0.5	0.10%	\$1,871.42
21	Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc.	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
22	Historic Green Springs Inc.	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
23	Historic Virginia Land Conservancy	16	3.21%	\$59,885.32
24	Land Trust of Virginia	41.5	8.32%	\$155,327.55
25	New River Land Trust	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
26	Northern Neck Land Conservancy	19	3.81%	\$71,113.82
27	Northern Virginia Conservation Trust	7.5	1.50%	\$28,071.24
28	Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
29	Old Dominion Land Conservancy, Inc.	39	7.82%	\$145,970.47
30	Outdoors Preservation Foundation	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
31	Piedmont Environmental Council	3.5	0.70%	\$13,099.91
32	Potomac Conservancy	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
33	Rockbridge Area Conservation Council	1	0.20%	\$3,742.83
34	Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
35	The 500-Year Forest Foundation	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
36	The Conservation Fund	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
37	The Nature Conservancy	3	0.60%	\$11,228.50
38	Valley Conservation Council	12	2.41%	\$44,913.99
39	Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation	2	0.40%	\$7,485.66
40	Virginia Department of Forestry	23	4.61%	\$86,085.15
41	Virginia Department of Historic Resources	3	0.60%	\$11,228.50
42	Virginia Outdoors Foundation	154	30.89%	\$576,396.20
	TOTALS	498.5	100.00%	\$1,865,802.00

RECENTLY COMPLETED VLCF GRANT PROJECTS – *Larry Mikkelson, Land Conservation Specialist, DCR*

Mr. Mikkelson provided the following update regarding grant projects.

The following three VLCF grants have successfully closed since the June 10, 2021 VLCF Board meeting. One of the grants is from restricted funds for the Dominion Surry-Skiffes Creek grant round.

1. American Battlefield Trust – Cedar Run Tract at the Cedar Mountain Battlefield (FY2020)

The American Battlefield Trust utilized a VLCF grant to preserve the 86-acre Cedar Run Tract at the Cedar Mountain Battlefield in Culpeper County. This project protects the rural character of the Cedar Mountain Battlefield (a Priority I.2, Class B battlefield), scenic James Madison Highway, and associated farmland, all of which are prioritized in ConserveVirginia's Cultural & Historic Preservation, Agriculture & Forestry, and Scenic Preservation categories. In addition, the project preserves 52 acres of open and agricultural fields, 34 acres of forest lands, 2,600 feet of streams (including frontage on Cedar Run), over two acres of wetlands, and a half-acre pond. The Trust recorded an open-space easement on the property held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources, and will work cooperatively with the Friends of Cedar Mountain to steward the property.

Grant Award: \$412,500. Payment Amount: \$412,500. Match: \$441,005.

2. The Nature Conservancy – Piney Grove Vernal Pools Project (FY2020)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) acquired 330 acres in Sussex County utilizing a VLCF grant and placed a DCR Natural Heritage Deed of Dedication over the property. The project includes preservation of an additional 116 acres of adjacent TNC-owned land. Together, the Piney Grove Sandhills Natural Area Preserve is one of the largest blocks of fire-maintained southern pine savanna in Virginia, which supports one of just two breeding populations of the federally endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker in the state. TNC, DCR, and other state conservation agency partners will restore pine savanna habitat to facilitate growth of the woodpecker population and ensure protection of four vernal pools that support populations of several state rare amphibian species. Establishing a DCR Natural Heritage presence at the site will facilitate more comprehensive and collaborative management of heritage trust resources among TNC and other state agency partners in the nearly 10,000-acre Piney Grove/Big Woods conservation area. ConserveVirginia categories include: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Protected Landscapes Resilience.

Grant Award: \$367,000. Payment Amount: \$367,000. Match: \$436,705.

3. American Battlefield Trust – Colonial Williamsburg Tract at Williamsburg Battlefield (Dominion Surry-Skiffes Creek)

A VLCF restricted-funds grant helped the American Battlefield Trust purchase the fee-simple acquisition of the 28-acre Colonial Williamsburg Tract, located in the City of Williamsburg and James City County. The property is within the core area of 1862 Battle of Williamsburg and is permanently protected under an open-space easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The Trust will provide an additional public access point and install interpretive signage on the property related to

the battle and the importance of protecting natural and cultural resources within the James River Watershed. The property is within the Cultural and Historic layer of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$100,000. Payment Amount: \$100,000. Match: \$2,639,138.

Mr. Mikkelson provided a summary of open VLCF grants.

There are currently 13 open grants from the FY20 VLCF grant round. Five have closed and one was previously withdrawn. The remaining projects are moving forward and most are expected to close by the end of 2021.

There are eleven open grants from the first FY21 grant round. Twelve grants were awarded, but one was withdrawn. None of these grants, issued in February 2021, have closed yet.

All of the 22 grants from the FY21 Round II grant round awarded in June are open and active.

FY22 GRANT ROUND

VLCF FY22 Grant Round Overview – Suzan Bulbulkaya, Land Conservation Manager, DCR

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented an overview of the FY22 Grant Round.

Ms. Bulbulkaya advised that she would present an overview of the funds available. She noted that a representative from the interagency team would present the projects in each category.

FY22 Grant Round

- \$10M was appropriated for FY22 Grant Round
 - As required by Code, 25% goes to VOF's Preservation Trust Fund: \$2.5M
 - \$7.5M balance available for grants
- The FY22 Round was open from June 10 through August 9, 2021
- Announcements were emailed to localities, land trusts, interest groups, conservation organizations & agencies
- Virtual grant workshop was held on June 30 and posted on our website

FY22 Grant Applications

- 34 applications received:
 - 3 in Farmland Preservation
 - 5 in Forest Preservation
 - 8 in Historic Areas

- 9 in Natural Areas
- 9 in Open Spaces & Parks
- Total requested funding: \$10.5M, with total project costs exceeding \$58.9 M
- If all projects could be funded, they would protect 8,345 acres

IAT Grant Round Recommendations

- 30 Projects are recommended for funding:
 - 3 in Farmland Preservation
 - 5 in Forest Preservation
 - 5 in Historic Areas
 - 9 in Natural Areas
 - 8 in Open Spaces & Parks
- The total acreage of the recommended projects: 7,977 acres
- Of the recommended projects, 97% (29) are within ConserveVirginia

FY22 Grant Round Requirements

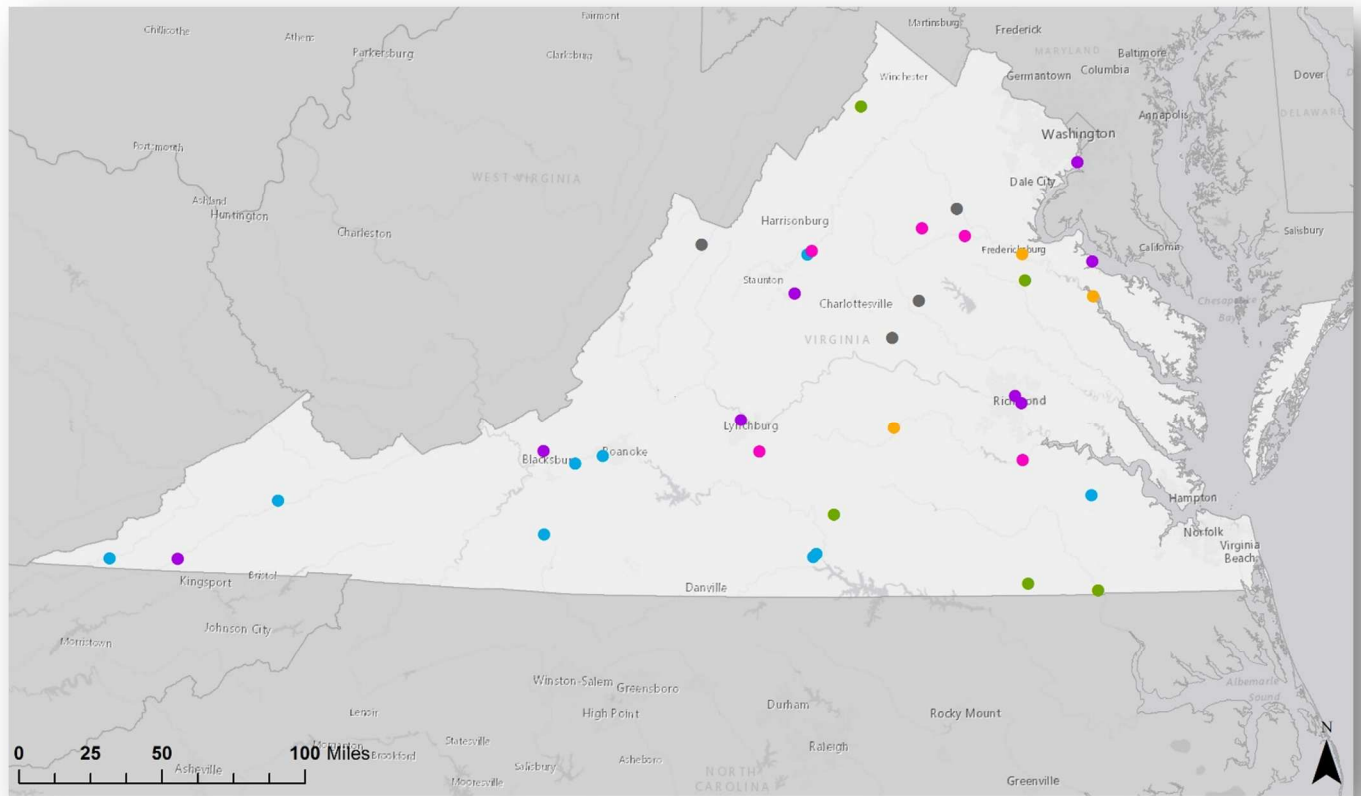
VLCF Grant requirements:

- Budget requires at least 50% of grant funds be used for projects that provide public access; and
- Code requires at least one third of grant funds to be used for projects that secure easements to be held or co-held by a public body.

The recommended projects:

- 22 (61% of total funding) will provide public access.
- 18 (73% of total funding) will have open-space easements.

Locations of FY22 VLCF Applications



Before moving on to the recommended project descriptions, Secretary Jennings called on Mr. Durbin to present an update.

Update from Department of Taxation – Larry Durbin, Assistant Tax Commissioner, Department of Taxation

Mr. Durbin gave the update for the Department of Taxation. He noted that VTAX has been processing the tax credits and providing oversight since the inception of the program.

Donations History Data

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u># of Credits</u>	<u># of Acres</u>	<u>Credit Amt Issued</u>
2000-2008	2,035	414,574	\$939,125,062
2009-2014	1,296	312,618	\$504,623,179
2015	182	42,362	\$48,625,672
2016	162	30,981	\$59,968,175
2017	200	49,127	\$75,000,000
2018	165	35,384	\$50,533,208
2019	193	34,677	\$75,000,000
2020	156	37,975	\$75,000,000
2021	118	29,571	\$44,258,330
Grand Total	4,507	987,269	\$1,872,133,626

Mr. Durbin noted that in the beginning of the program there was no statewide cap. The cap was imposed in 2007 and in 2017 was reduced to \$75 million.

Code of Virginia §58.1-512 (D)(4):

a. No credit shall be allowed for any land or interest in land conveyed unless (i) for a conveyance made before January 1, 2020, a complete application for tax credit with regard to the conveyance has been filed with the Department by December 31 of the third year following the calendar year of the conveyance or (ii) for a conveyance made on or after January 1, 2020, a complete application for tax credit with regard to the conveyance has been filed with the Department by December 31 of the second year following the calendar year of the conveyance.

c. Beginning with calendar year 2015, the maximum amount of credits that may be issued in a calendar year shall not exceed \$75 million. In no case shall the Department issue any tax credit for a donation from any allocation or pool of tax credits attributable to a calendar year prior to the year in which the complete tax credit application for the donation was filed.

Land Preservation Transfer Fees

Revenue	FY 2021	FY 2020
Revenue Collected - CARS 1671 - fund 0216 RSC 02740	3,349,609	3,613,632

Less: Transfer to GF, Chapter 2, Item 3-101 paragraph T	-466,600	-466,600
Net Revenue	2,883,009	3,147,032
Expenses		
Less: DCR Expenses	483,276	477,650
Less: TAX Expenses	533,931	543,484
Total Expenses	1,017,207	1,021,134
Revenue Less Expenses	1,865,802	2,125,898
Transfer Amount	1,865,802	2,125,898

Department of Taxation Expenses

Description	Amount
Staff Salary and Benefits	343,949
Office of the Attorney General-Salary and Benefits	143,801
Non-personal Services (Appraisals etc.)	46,181
Total	533,931

Litigation

Circuit Court for the City of Richmond

James C. Justice Companies, Inc. v. Virginia Department of Taxation, Case No. CL20-2648

- ▶ The taxpayer donated a conservation easement to the Albemarle County Conservation Authority on 4,500 acres located in Albemarle County referred to as "Presidential Estates".
- ▶ The taxpayer's appraiser determined that the highest and best use of the property would be for residential development with a potential of 460 lots.
- ▶ The taxpayer's appraiser estimated the fair market value of the land before application of the conservation easement at \$67,000,000 and \$15,750,000 after application of the easement.
- ▶ The fair market value of the conservation easement was estimated at \$51,250,000.

- ▶ On September 3, 2019, the taxpayer submitted Form LPC-1 to the Virginia Tax to apply for \$20,500,000 in Land Preservation credits.
- ▶ Prior to issuing tax credits, Virginia Tax secured it's own appraisal of the conservation easement.
- ▶ The tax appraisal determined that the highest and best use of the property would be to hold it for future development.
- ▶ The appraiser estimated the fair market value before application of the conservation easement at \$18,000,000 and \$8,100,000 after application of the easement.
- ▶ The fair market value of the conservation easement was estimated at \$9,900,000.
- ▶ Virginia Tax issued credits of \$3,960,000 based on the fair market value of \$9,900,000.
- ▶ The matter is scheduled for trial April 19-22, 2022.
- ▶ No other litigation is pending.

PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR AUTHORIZATION

Farmland Preservation: Jen Perkins, Coordinator, Office of Farmland Preservation, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Ms. Perkins presented the recommended projects for the Farmland Preservation category.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Forkland Dairy

This project will protect one of the last two dairies in Cumberland County by placing a VOF-held conservation easement on the 900-acre Forkland Dairy farm, a multi-generational Century farm in the family since 1848. The farm lies along the Appomattox River for 0.8 miles, and has been awarded the Clean Water Farm award and the Forage and Grassland Council's award. Three generations are actively involved in the operation of the 300-head dairy, with plans for future expansion. Best management practices have been installed including Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, cover crops, tree planting in buffer areas and the Precision Phosphorus Feeding Program through VA Tech. The property intersects the Agricultural and Forestry, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$2,041,000. **Match:** VOF Preservation Trust Fund grant and landowner donation. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$500,000 (FY21 Round II). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$813,800. **Recommended amount:** \$500,000.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Thomas Neck Family Farm

Virginia Outdoors Foundation is working with Thomas Neck Family Farm to conserve 840 acres of working farmland, including 90 acres of high conservation value forest located within the Occupacia-Rappahannock Rural Historic District in Essex County. A VOF conservation easement will ensure the protection of: water quality within the Chesapeake Bay watershed; flood and coastal resilience; and natural habitat for wildlife and plants. The property has been farmed by the same family for more than 50 years, presently in accordance with a nutrient management plan for crops such as wheat, soybeans

and corn. The farm is located within: the Lower Rappahannock River Audubon Important Bird Area; the federally designated boundary of the Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge; and the Agriculture & Forestry, Cultural & Historic Preservation, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$3,246,500. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$1,623,250. **Recommended amount:** \$879,750.

Stafford County – **Kevin Jones Farm (Phase II)**

Stafford County is seeking to conserve the Kevin Jones Farm, which intersects both the Cultural & Historic Preservation and the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity categories of ConserveVirginia. The 70-acre farm produces crops and livestock and is located along Forest Land Road, a scenic, rural road. The conservation easement will be held by the county under its Purchase of Development Rights Program and will protect 36 acres of prime farm soils and soils of statewide importance; 15 acres of forestland; and environmental features including 2,430 feet of a forested perennial stream and five acres of high quality wetlands. The easement will also protect a DCR ecological core and an element occurrence of a threatened and endangered species, as well as historic Civil War trenches. The property is adjacent to other conserved lands.

Total Project Cost: \$333,000. **Match:** Stafford County. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$46,250 (FY21 Round II). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$120,250. **Recommended amount:** \$120,250.

Forestland Preservation: Karl Didier, Forestland Conservation Program Manager, Department of Forestry

Mr. Didier presented the recommended projects for the Forestland Preservation category.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation – **Pierces Lowgrounds – Meherrin River Conservation Easement**

Pierces Lowgrounds consists of 2,860 acres of multigenerational family-owned and operated forest and farmland along the Meherrin River in Greenville County. The property contains high conservation value forest with bottomlands, buffers and sloughs in and along the Meherrin River. The open grounds consist of approximately 450 acres of Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Additionally, an outstanding ecological core blankets the tract from the river to the road. A VOF open-space easement will protect the sensitive bottomlands, buffers and wildlife habitat along on the Meherrin River, and ensure that future generations may continue to own and manage its forests in perpetuity. The property is within four categories of ConserveVirginia: Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement.

Total Project Cost: \$2,863,000. **Match:** NAWCA grant funds and landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$350,000. **Recommended amount:** \$350,000.

The Conservation Fund – Roanoke River Working Forest

The Virginia Department of Forestry is proposing to hold a conservation easement on 932 acres of working forestland adjacent to the newly created State Forest in Charlotte County, also funded in part through a VLCF grant (FY20). The Conservation Fund is working in partnership with DOF to permanently protect a critical wildlife corridor and important habitat for threatened and endangered species; maintain sustainable working forests; and safeguard clean drinking water. These efforts will contribute to a larger protected landscape, increasing habitat connectivity and resilience and supporting a sustainable timber supply for one of the Commonwealth's largest industries. The project is within five layers of ConserveVirginia: Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement.

Total Project Cost: \$1,160,000. **Match:** Anticipating a Forest Legacy grant. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$464,000. **Recommended amount:** \$464,000.

Virginia Department of Forestry – Over the River and Point Beach

Two properties along the State Scenic Nottoway River under the same family ownership for almost 100 years are proposed to be placed under easement with the Department of Forestry. Over the River consists of approximately 300 acres, including 25 acres of Cypress bottomlands and high bluffs overlooking 3,200 feet of river. The property is contiguous to the General Vaughn Wildlife Management Area and contains the historic Smith Ferry landing and roadbed. Remnants of the original ferry crossing dock and road site remain in place today. Point Beach is a 20-acre peninsula of Cypress bottomland with more than one mile of frontage on the Nottoway River. It contains the ruins of an historic fish camp. Scenic values along the Nottoway River will be protected and the cypress stands will be managed to encourage the long-term health of the cypress stands and to improve wildlife habitat. The two properties intersect five layers of ConserveVirginia: Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Scenic Preservation, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement.

Total Project Cost: \$580,500. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$250,000. **Recommended amount:** \$225,000.

Virginia Department of Forestry – Poplar Hollow

The Poplar Hollow property is a 611-acre property in Shenandoah County with 568 acres of High Conservation Value Forest adjacent to Devil's Backbone State Forest. The Department of Forestry is seeking to place a conservation easement on Poplar Hollow, which is part of an ecological core and is almost entirely within the Cedar Creek Stream Conservation Unit and the Natural Land Network. A DOF easement will ensure permanent conservation of the high quality forest canopy protecting habitat for state-threatened species, provide water quality protections to more than 4,000 feet of perennial streams and maintain an undeveloped buffer for the state forest. Buffering reduces ecological edge effects, in particular helping protect core forests from invasive species, and helping to maintain large

blocks of continuous habitat for wildlife species. This project lies within the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$611,500. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$300,000.

Recommended amount: \$300,000.

Meadowview Biological Research Station, Inc. – Caroline Diamonds – The Oak Barrens and Barrel Springs

The Meadowview Biological Research Station seeks to acquire and protect 96 acres of a globally rare gravel bog (G1S1) and surrounding oak barren uplands in Caroline County by adding it to the adjacent existing 17-acre preserve. This property contains the northern-most native purple pitcher plant population in Virginia and one state threatened plant (*Juncus caesariensis* Coville). The preserve is managed and restored through mechanical clearing and prescribed fire to enhance indigenous rare plants found on the property. The site is used for guided tours, research, educational and recreational purposes. The existing conservation easement co-held by Caroline County on the preserve would be expanded to include the new acreage. This project intersects the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$800,400. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$400,200.

Recommended amount: \$161,000.

Ms. Booth asked staff to elaborate on the meaning of globally rare.

Mr. Bulluck advised that the term globally is based on the ranking system that is part of the Natural Heritage methodology. The term means that there are ten or fewer known locations of a species on the planet.

Ms. Stiff asked why such an outstanding project was only being funded partially.

Mr. Didier replied that this project ranked the lowest of the five. It is a small property with not much forestland. He noted that it might have ranked higher in a different category.

Historic Areas Preservation: Karri Richardson, Easement Program Specialist, Department of Historic Resources

Ms. Richardson presented the recommended projects in the Historic Areas Preservation category.

The Germanna Foundation – Siegen Forest

The Siegen Forest project will advance the preservation of important archaeological artifacts and assist in preserving undeveloped park lands in Orange County. The Siegen Forest easement encompasses 170 acres of both floodplain and upland mature forest that borders the Rapidan River for 1.4 miles.

Significant archaeological artifacts found on the property include remains of an early 19th century mill, along with the mill race, rifle pits from the Civil War, a cemetery and a 1920s navigational marker. The property was part of the advance/retreat portion of the Wilderness Battlefield and includes seven miles of walking trails, along with a Visitor Center telling the story of the diverse people who lived and worked this land from the 18th and 19th centuries. The Germanna Foundation is working in partnership with the American Battlefield Trust, Department of Historic Resources and the Piedmont Environmental Council to make this project possible. The property is located within the Cultural & Historic Preservation, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$1,294,740. **Match:** anticipating ABPP grant funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$647,370. **Recommended amount:** \$647,370.

Capital Region Land Conservancy – Campbell’s Bridge Mills

Capital Region Land Conservancy, in partnership with Chesterfield County and Friends of Lower Appomattox River, is seeking to acquire the site of the Ettrick Mill, Northside Mill, Campbell’s Mill, Powhatan Mill, Eanes Mill and their associated mill races. The 29.6 acres of land and islands are located in Ettrick in Chesterfield County along the Appomattox River, an area that falls within the Cultural & Historic Preservation and Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia. For this grant request, CLRC is seeking to acquire and protect five of the acres with the greatest intact historic resources at Campbell’s Bridge. CLRC intends to place a conservation easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources on the property and provide public access and implement the Appomattox River Trail and Ettrick VSU Special Area Plan.

Total Project Cost: \$2,225,000. **Match:** Chesterfield County will apply for LWCF and VOF Preservation Trust Fund. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$750,000. **Recommended amount:** \$375,000.

Campbell County Training School Complex, Inc. – CCTSC Restoration Project

The Campbell County Training School Complex (CCTSC) Restoration Project (a Historic Rosenwald School) is located in Rustburg (Campbell County). VLCF funding is requested to help protect this historic nine-acre property with an easement, held by the Board of Historic Resources. The complex consists of four original one-story buildings listed on Virginia and the National Historic Registries, including the original two-room classroom building. A larger community effort is in place to restore and develop the CCTSC property. Efforts include structure restoration, as well as development of outside spaces to encourage outdoor recreational activities, community gatherings, walking trails, outdoor classes, archaeological digs and more. This site intersects the Cultural & Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$138,150. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$69,075. **Recommended amount:** \$69,075.

American Battlefield Trust – Pegrams Battery Tract at Cedar Mountain

The American Battlefield Trust seeks to preserve the 44-acre Pegram's Battery Tract, located in Culpeper County, via a fee acquisition and a conservation easement held by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. The tract is entirely within the Core Area of the Cedar Mountain Battlefield, a Priority II.2 (Class B) Battlefield, according to the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report. The property is currently used for agriculture and falls within the Cultural & Historic Preservation and Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia. The Trust intends to steward the tract and incorporate it into its existing Cedar Mountain Park, which is open to the public year-round for educational purposes.

Total Project Cost: \$514,152. **Match:** ABPP grant expected and ABT Trust funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$249,876. **Recommended amount:** \$249,876.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – Edwards

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation seeks funding to protect the 107-acre Edwards property located in Rockingham County, which intersects the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and the Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia. This property is part of the "The Coaling," made famous by the role this commanding landscape feature played during the Battle of Port Republic during the Civil War. It was control of this high ground that determined not only the victor in the Battle of Port Republic, but also the fate of the 1862 Valley campaign. Today, nine acres of The Coaling are owned by SVBF but the vast majority of the site is still unprotected. The Edwards property makes up most of that unpreserved land, which has been subdivided into 12 parcels. This project will preserve the remaining, unsold, 10 parcels and open them as parkland with trails and historic interpretive markers.

Total Project Cost: \$1,634,136. **Match:** ABPP grant. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$29,550 (FY21 Round II). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$370,450. **Recommended amount:** \$158,679.

Secretary Jennings asked if, on the American Battlefield Trust Project, DCR would work with the landowner to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Ms. Bulbalkaya responded that the use of BMPs is required for all VLCF projects.

Natural Area Protection: Jason Bulluck, Director, Virginia Natural Heritage Program, DCR

Mr. Bulluck presented the recommended projects in the Natural Area Protection category.

Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage Program – Difficult Creek South Addition

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage Division requests funding to support a two-acre addition to the 819-acre Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve (DCNAP) in Halifax County near Scottsburg. This "south addition" parcel will expand connectivity between DCNAP and the soon to be acquired Southside Virginia Conservation and Recreation Complex. Taken together, these

areas provide of one of the largest landscape-scale projects in the Piedmont region (from Maryland to Alabama). Situated on one of the Virginia's rarest geologic types, this small tract also supports intact hardwood forest that likely represents a significantly rare community type. The property intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and the Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$30,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$30,000. **Recommended amount:** \$30,000.

Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage– **Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve Addition**

The DCR Natural Heritage Program seeks funds to purchase 156 acres adjoining the Pedlar Hills Glades Natural Area Preserve in Montgomery County. The property will become the latest addition to the preserve, which currently totals 1,177 acres. The property lies within the Pedlar Hills Conservation Site, which has a biodiversity rank of B1 – the highest rank possible – due to a suite of highly viable rare species habitats and rare woodland natural communities. Acquisition of this property will help close a gap of the preserve, protect a sub-population of a federally endangered plant and a large swath of forest and improve access to the preserve. The Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia intersect the proposed acquisition.

Total Project Cost: \$515,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$515,000. **Recommended amount:** \$515,000.

Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage– **Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve Land Donation**

The Natural Heritage Division seeks funds to complete the due diligence necessary to accept the fee simple donation of a one-acre parcel adjoining the 905-acre Deep Run Ponds Natural Area Preserve in Rockingham County. The property lies within the priority Deep Run – Madison Run Pond Conservation Site. Acquisition of the tract will expand the preserve and remove the possibility of incompatible development. The property intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience and Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$20,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$20,000. **Recommended amount:** \$20,000.

Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage– **Dendron Swamp Natural Area Preserve Addition**

The Dendron Swamp Natural Area Preserve Addition project, proposed by DCR's Natural Heritage Division, is seeking funds to acquire 102 acres in Sussex County adjoining the 636-acre preserve, which contains one of Virginia's original natural areas, the Steirley Heron Rookery. The property lies within the Dendron Swamp Conservation Site and supports an unprotected portion of an outstanding occurrence of a Bald Cypress – Water Tupelo Brownwater Swamp community. The tract would provide road frontage and forest road access into the preserve, and falls within the Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains & Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvements layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$300,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$300,000. **Recommended amount:** \$300,000.

Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve – Northeast Addition

DCR's Natural Heritage Division seeks to acquire 77 acres to improve the resiliency of Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve in Roanoke County. Partial funding was awarded during the last VLCF round. These acres, which support intact forest in a mapped ecological core, a headwater stream/tributary of the Roanoke River, a drinking water spring used for several generations, and a viewshed observed from Salem and southwest Roanoke and users of the Appalachian Trail, are highly vulnerable to development. The existing pine-oak heath habitat is prone to high-intensity natural fires that are difficult to control, so minimizing wildland-urban interface here will provide multiple benefits to people and natural resources. The tract supports a globally imperiled species known as Pirate Bush (*Buckleya distichophylla*) and facilitates protection of the world's largest population of this rare species. In addition, the tract provides significant buffer and creates a management boundary along a portion of the preserve. The ConserveVirginia Protected Landscapes Resilience and Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity layers overlap the property.

Total Project Cost: \$346,000. **Match:** \$0. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$109,153 (FY21 Round II). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$236,847. **Recommended amount:** \$236,847.

Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – Chestnut Creek Wetlands Natural Area Preserve Addition

The DCR Natural Heritage Program seeks to purchase 11 acres in Floyd County that adjoin the 244-acre Chestnut Creek Wetlands Natural Area Preserve. The acquisition will support three rare animal species – two of which are endangered – and a globally rare plant. The property lies within the priority Chestnut Creek Wetlands Conservation Site and intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers of ConserveVirginia. Natural Heritage will restore the farmstead area to native vegetation on the edge of the wetlands and remove incompatible development from the edge of the preserve.

Total Project Cost: \$165,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$165,000. **Recommended amount:** \$165,000.

Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – Difficult Creek North Addition – Life Estate

The Natural Heritage Division seeks to acquire a 1.5-acre inholding within the Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve in Halifax County near Scottsburg. The parcel is within the Protected Landscapes Resilience and Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity ConserveVirginia layers. The preserve supports a high number of significant natural heritage resources, many of which are fire-adapted. Acquisition of this inholding will improve the ability to implement prescribed fires that are necessary to adequately manage and restore the vegetation and natural heritage resources. DCR will acquire the property with the current owners/residents retaining a life estate.

Total Project Cost: \$50,153. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$50,153. **Recommended amount:** \$50,153.

Virginia DCR – Natural Heritage – The Cedars Natural Area Preserve Powell River Addition

DCR's Natural Heritage Division seeks VLCF funds to match a federal grant for the acquisition of 205 acres in Lee County as an addition to the Cedars Natural Area Preserve. The property lies within the Powell Ford Woodlands Conservation Site and borders the Powell River for approximately two miles on a section designated as the Powell River – Wallen Creek to Sewell Bridge Stream Conservation Unit. Acquisition of the tract will protect newly discovered populations of four significantly rare plant species, the headwaters and outflow of a natural spring with an unnamed (possibly new to science) isopod, and remove cattle grazing from the extensive riparian zone along the Powell River where a suite of rare mussels, fish and other aquatic species are known to occur. The property intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and the Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$474,242. **Match:** Federal grant. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$50,000. **Recommended amount:** \$50,000.

The Nature Conservancy – Pinnacle State Natural Area Expansion – Weaver Creek

The Nature Conservancy is requesting a grant for the fee simple purchase of 92 acres including a large riparian corridor along Weaver Creek, a significant tributary to the Clinch River, in Russell County. This acquisition will protect the viewshed of the new Clinch River State Park and potentially provide hiking opportunities for visitors. Protection of this forested acreage will also complement both the Pinnacle and Cleveland Barrens State Natural Area Preserves, increasing the Commonwealth's conservation footprint in a biologically critical section of the Clinch River, including the "Clinch River — Little River Stream Conservation Unit" designated as having "outstanding biological significance" by DCR's Division of Natural Heritage. The property is within ConserveVirginia's Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and Floodplains & Flooding Resilience layers. Partners include the Department of Wildlife Resources, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Clinch River Valley Initiative.

Total Project Cost: \$266,000. **Match:** TNC private funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$133,000. **Recommended amount:** \$133,000.

Secretary Jennings asked Mr. Bulluck to clarify the Life Estate on the Difficult Creek project.

Mr. Bulluck advised that the couple who live on the property support the work of Natural Heritage but are not yet in a position to sell and move away. They ultimately want the property to become part of the Difficult Creek NAP. Natural Heritage will manage the property while they still live there.

Ms. Shankles advised that DCR plans to acquire the fee simple interest in the property and lease it back to the family.

Ms. Stiff asked if the structure would eventually be demolished.

Mr. Bulluck replied that when the property is vacated the structures would be demolished and removed.

Senator Marsden asked if the projects were evaluated with the current appraisal.

Mr. Evans advised that the projects do include an appraisal and the purchase price, but that the funding also covers due diligence for the appraisal, the survey, and the environmental review.

Open Spaces and Parks: Kristal McKelvey, Recreation Grants Manager, Planning & Recreation Resources Division

Ms. McKelvey presented the recommendations in the Open Spaces and Parks category.

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources – Copper Creek Initiative

The Department of Wildlife Resources seeks to acquire and conserve an eight-acre parcel located at the confluence of Copper Creek and the Clinch River in Scott County. The shoreline along the Clinch River will provide a new fishing and boating access for the public. Companion public boating access sites are located 2.5 miles upstream and 9.5 miles downstream. The site is easily accessible, located 0.6 miles from a four-lane highway. DWR will protect the shorelines of Copper Creek that transect the property, removing threats of sedimentation and nutrient-loading. Many rare and endangered fish are known near the mouth of Copper Creek, including several Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Copper Creek has been a refuge for many species during, and as a source of replenishment after, pollution events in the Clinch River. Twenty-eight mussel species, including 19 federally endangered, have been reported from Copper Creek, which is by far the most of any tributary on the Virginia side of the Clinch River. This parcel is within three categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Scenic Preservation.

Total Project Cost: \$100,000. **Match:** \$0. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$100,000. **Recommended amount:** \$100,000.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Camp Kum Ba Yah

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation is seeking additional grant funds to secure a conservation easement with Camp Kum-Ba-Yah (CKBY) on a 47-acre urban forest located in Lynchburg. CKBY has facilitated outdoor nature programming for more than 70 years. CKBY entered into a contract to purchase the property in the fall of 2021. The land has connections to the civil rights movement – the only space in the city to offer a meal to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on his 1962 visit – and the first pools in Lynchburg to welcome African American families to swim alongside their white neighbors. Generations of children have had formative nature experiences in the woods, which includes a fishing pond, walking trails, low-impact day camp sites, a ropes course and community garden. Today, KBY offers scholarships to nearly half its campers, fulfilling a core value that no child is denied the gift of camp due to financial need. It

continues to expand its year-round programming to school groups, families and partner organizations. The property is not within ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$1,007,500. **Match:** VOF Preservation Trust Fund and landowner donation. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$201,134 (FY20), \$79,807 (FY21 Round II). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$251,330. **Recommended amount:** \$250,000.

Town of Colonial Beach – Eleanor Park Conservation Easement

The Eleanor Park Conservation Easement project seeks to protect in perpetuity 1.9 acres of waterfront property from sale and development. The land is owned by the Town of Colonial Beach and is adjacent to the Potomac River. This parcel is the last undeveloped and publicly-owned waterfront greenspace in town, making it a unique space for townspeople and wildlife alike. Eleanor Park is home to large, native, mature hardwood trees, which provide a sanctuary for osprey, eagles and other wildlife. The space has been used as a park on and off for more than 130 years, and is currently a passive recreation space. Without a conservation easement, this unique natural resource will remain in jeopardy of being sold, subdivided and developed for residential housing. The town seeks to protect the park and to increase its scenic, cultural/historic, flood resilient and water quality conservation values. The property is in the Cultural & Historic Preservation, Scenic Preservation, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$1,127,000. **Match:** Landowner donation. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$463,500. **Recommended amount:** \$387,416.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation – The Green at the Science Museum of Virginia

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond propose an innovative partnership to allow the museum to convert a surface parking lot at its historic Broad Street Station into an urban park that will be protected in perpetuity as open space providing recreational and environmental benefits. The proposed 5.2-acre project will incorporate and demonstrate science-based, natural solutions to the effects of climate change while addressing the growing need for open green space in an area under intense development pressure. Transferring control of the parcel to VOF protects it from the threat of future development and provides necessary capital for its transformation into a high-quality public park and sustainable landscape. It will serve museum visitors, public transit passengers and a growing number of residents and workers within a 10-minute walk, bike, or bus ride. This site is highly accessible with the promise of becoming a signature park for both the City of Richmond and the Commonwealth. The property intersects the Cultural & Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$21,540,000. **Match:** LWCF and landowner donation. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$90,000 (FY21 Round II). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$250,000. **Recommended amount:** \$250,000.

Capital Region Land Conservancy – Brander Street

Capital Region Land Conservancy, in partnership with the City of Richmond, is seeking to acquire six acres located along the south bank of the James River adjacent to Ancarrow's Landing within the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia. The property is across the river from Great Shiplock Park and is currently owned by Norfolk Southern and zoned for industrial use. The Richmond Riverfront Plan and James River Park Master Plan call for this property to become part of the city's James River Park, as the path of the Richmond Slave Trail crosses the extent of it.

Total Project Cost: \$300,000. **Match:** Expected VOF Preservation Trust Fund and private donations. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$150,000. **Recommended amount:** \$150,000.

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – River Farm

River Farm is a public garden and event venue consisting of 24 acres on the Potomac River in Fairfax County, threatened by sale. To secure the property for continued public access and resource preservation, NOVA Parks is working with Fairfax County, elected officials and Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. NOVA Parks is seeking additional VLCF support to help purchase the property. River Farm holds community significance for gatherings, nature walks and its history of ownership by George Washington. It offers scenic and water quality conservation values, too. River Farm fills a local need for public open space with river access. District 44 is one of the few districts in Fairfax County classified as "moderate social vulnerability." The property is within the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$13,065,750. **Match:** VOF Preservation Trust Fund, LWCF, Virginia General Fund, and private donations. **Prior VLCF Grant Award:** \$150,000 (FY21 Round I). **VLCF Grant Request:** \$500,000. **Recommended amount:** \$0.

City of Waynesboro – Basic Park Natural Area

The City of Waynesboro seeks to acquire 44 acres adjacent to Basic Park and South River. The project will create a natural area for the public to enjoy nature and wildlife. The forested parcels offer numerous trails for hiking, wildlife viewing and river access for fishing, paddling and bank swimming in the South River. The project would protect vegetative buffers along 1,100 feet of the South River's banks, safeguarding the viewshed from this Virginia Scenic River. Steele Run also passes through this property and approximately 2,500 linear feet of riparian buffer would be protected from development. Numerous opportunities exist to educate visitors on native and invasive plants, trees, the importance of urban forests, birds and river systems, including oxbows and wetlands, with interpretive signage on a self-guided hike through the trail system in this project. The tract is within the Scenic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$175,000. **Match:** City of Waynesboro. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$87,500. **Recommended amount:** \$87,500.

Town of Blacksburg – Brush Mountain Park – Edison Property Expansion

The Town of Blacksburg is seeking to protect 207-acres of richly biodiverse forest habitat used as a recreational resource in Montgomery County. The property represents a priority viewshed along the southeastern face of Brush Mountain. Once acquired, the property will be integrated into the Brush Mountain Park system serving as a bridge between the Poverty Creek Trail System in the Jefferson National Forest, and ultimately to the Huckleberry Trail. There is urgency to complete a deal, as an option to buy contract with the landowner expires in December 2021. Immediately adjacent to the property is a large-lot subdivision, demonstrating the development pressure. Partnerships among the town, New River Land Trust and a diverse set of community stakeholders ensure the long-term success of this project. This property is within the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity layer of ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$550,000. **Match:** Appalachian Trail Conservancy grant, Town of Blacksburg, and New River Land Trust funds. **VLCF Grant Request:** \$220,000. **Recommended amount:** \$210,000.

9. Tadpole Land and Trail Conservancy – Ballenger Creek Nature Preserve

In July 2021, TLTC purchased 76 acres along Ballenger Creek in Fluvanna County to create Ballenger Creek Nature Preserve. The land is covered in forest and recovering forest, with a diversity of hardwood trees, shrubs, wildflowers and ferns and contains several attractive cliffs covered with mountain laurel. TLTC plans to place 73 acres of this property in a conservation easement with Virginia Outdoors Foundation to conserve the land, prohibit timber harvesting, and provide public access and trails. TLTC plans to build trails, parking lots, information kiosks, and plant and habitat interpretive signs. The property is not within ConserveVirginia.

Total Project Cost: \$312,324. Match: Private donations. VLCF Grant Request: \$65,084. Recommended amount: \$65,084.

Director Cristman advised that the project for River Farm was withdrawn because of a change in management. The applicant is not quite ready to move ahead. They hope to come back for the next grant round.

Secretary Jennings ask if there were comments from any of the grant applicants. There were none.

BOARD ACTION

Ms. Booth moved that the applications for the VLCF FY22 Grant Round be approved as submitted by staff. Senator Marsden seconded.

Ms. Imhoff advised that she would have to abstain from voting on the Siegen Forest project.

Secretary Jennings called for the vote. The motion carried with Ms. Imhoff abstaining from action regarding the Siegen Forest project.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF VLCF REQUEST FOR PRE-PROPOSALS: PRE-PROPOSAL GRANT MANUAL AND RANKING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY – *Suzan Bulbulkaya and Larry Mikkelsen*

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented the draft of the Pre-Proposal Grant Manual. She noted that pre-application is not required to receive an actual grant for funding. She advised that the Pre-Proposal Grant Manual is consistent with the Grant Manual for the actual grant rounds.

The purpose of the pre-proposal is to solicit possible projects for the report to the General Assembly due on December 15. The intent is that the proposal will help show the need for land conservation funding.

BOARD ACTION

Senator Stuart moved that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees approve the Pre-Proposal Grant Manual as presented by staff. Ms. Imhoff seconded and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Secretary Jennings opened up the meeting for public comment.

Ms. Imhoff asked if there was a legislative update.

Director Cristman advised that the Governor would release his budget on December 16. Until that time. He noted that there was ten million in funding in the biennial budget but noted that he could not reply further.

Heather Richards from the Conservation Fund thanked the Board for approving the grant for Roanoke River. She commented that the \$10.5 million requested in this grant round does not actually capture the need for conservation funding. She advised that her hope was the Board understood that the applications don't represent the actual needs.

Mr. Sheldon from The Nature Conservancy thanked the Board for approving their grant. He advised that he is working with a coalition to recommend funding be increased for the VLCF.

There was no further public comment.

ADJOURN

There was no further public comment and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION

Adopted July 12, 2022

WHEREAS, Andrew Thomas Ogle (“Ogle”) devised three parcels of land located in Shenandoah County to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (“VLCF”) in his last will and testament (“Will”);

WHEREAS, the three parcels are described as (i) Bryce Mountain Lot 83, Section 9, (ii) Bryce Mountain Lot 201, Section 9, and (iii) Bryce Mountain Lot 127, Section 12 (collectively, the “Property”), all located in the Sky Bryce Association, a homeowner’s association;

WHEREAS, Ogle died in May 18, 2020 and the executor of his estate probated the Will in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of Shenandoah County on November 16, 2020;

WHEREAS, VLCF never received notice of the devise of the Property nor was aware of the devise of the Property until it received a real estate tax bill from the Shenandoah County Treasurer, and a homeowner’s association assessments invoice from the Sky Bryce Association, Inc.;

WHEREAS, the Property does not further the objectives of VLCF nor does VLCF desire to take ownership of the Property;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby officially rejects acceptance of the Property as indicated in the recitals;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (“DCR”), and the Land Conservation Manager of DCR, either whom may act individually, are authorized, in the name and on behalf of the Board and VLCF to make, execute and deliver or cause to be made, executed and delivered, all actions necessary to disclaim any interest VLCF has in the Property and shall work in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General to disclaim the same.

Travis A. Voyles
Chairman, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

July 12, 2022

Resolution: Request for Administrative Funding for FY 2023

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board approves the request from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to expend up to \$190,000 in FY 2023 for use consistent with the legislative authority on the use of interest generated by the Fund, *Code of Virginia* § 10.1-1020.G.

FY 2023 \$200,000

Address existing administrative, web service and database-related expenses incurred by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in support of Virginia Land Conservation Foundation related activities. Specifically, the funding will be used in support of staff working to assist with grant management, tracking and stewardship to include site inspections of VLCF projects, development and management of ConserveVirginia and related data, land conservation database support of the Foundation's mission, and fulfillment of reporting requirements.

Completed (and Withdrawn) VLCF Grant Projects

July 12, 2022

The following seven VLCF grants and one Dominion Surry-Skiffes Creek grant have successfully closed since the October 27, 2021 VLCF Board meeting.

1. Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority – Smithfield Farm (FY2020)

The Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority utilized a VLCF grant to acquire an open-space easement over the Smithfield Farm, a certified Century Farm located adjacent to the West Virginia state line in Clarke County consisting of 195 acres. The farm, located within the Cultural and Historic Preservation and Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia, is primarily used for grazing, livestock, poultry and hay production. The permanent open-space easement on the farm, held by the County and its Easement Authority, protects 73 acres of prime soils, 1.2 acres of unique farmland, and 121 acres of important farmland. In addition, the easement protects half a mile of riparian area along Long Marsh Run, an EPA designated impaired waterway. The property provides public views along a state designated Virginia Scenic Byway, Wickliffe Road (State Route 603), and contains structures listed on the Virginia and National Register of Historic Places, with several structures listed as contributing in the Long Marsh Rural Historic District.

Grant Award: \$121,875. **Payment Amount:** \$121,875. **Match:** \$477,789.

2. The Conservation Fund – Stanley Land and Lumber (FY2020)

Located at the confluence of Roanoke and Wards Ford Creeks, the Stanley Land and Lumber project now protects 5,004 acres of unparalleled forest habitat in Charlotte County through the creation of a new State Forest. The Conservation Fund previously acquired the property and held it until various sources of federal funding and the VLCF grant in the amount of \$300,000 were used by the Department of Forestry to purchase the land for long-term stewardship and management as Virginia's 26th sustainably managed state forest. The property is within the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity; Floodplains and Flooding Resilience; Protected Landscapes Resilience; and Scenic Preservation layers of ConserveVirginia. It also provides a unique snapshot of Virginia forest types including loblolly pine plantings, significant mature hardwood stands, and native mixed-pine stands with Virginia pine and shortleaf pine, as well as over 900 acres of forested wetlands that provide waterfowl habitat.

Grant Award: \$300,000. **Payment Amount:** \$300,000. **Match:** \$12,335,000.

3. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Gateway to Cape Charles - Public Access Project (FY2020)

DCR's Natural Heritage Division utilized this VLCF grant, and Federal funds under the Coastal Zone Management program, to acquire this 20-acre property as an addition to the Cape Charles Natural Area Preserve in the town of Cape Charles in Northampton County. The tract has existing improvements on site that provide permanent public access to a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk to the Preserve, as well as an existing parking area and entrance trail. These amenities had become a well-used visitor entrance, associated by the public with DCR, even though they were on private land. Now that the state has acquired the property, plans are in place to maintain and improve the existing infrastructure to allow for enhanced access to the preserve by the public.

Grant Award: \$237,888. **Payment Amount:** \$174,541. **Match:** \$677,102. **Remaining Funds:** \$63,347. **Note:** We will request that the Board re-allocate the remaining funds to the Natural Areas category.

4. Department of Conservation and Recreation – **Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve Addition (FY2020)**

DCR's Natural Heritage Program purchased a 41-acre property as an addition to Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve in Northumberland County, with a VLCF grant. The tract is included in ConserveVirginia under the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience categories. The property fills a critical biodiversity conservation need by protecting one of the top two highest quality examples of Bog Fern known in Virginia. The parcel lies directly upstream and shares a contiguous boundary with the preserve, providing a protected riparian buffer to the wetlands within the preserve and to the tidal wetlands of the Wicomico River.

Grant Award: \$130,500. **Payment Amount:** \$125,956. **Match:** \$0. **Remaining Funds:** \$4,544. **Note:** We will request that the Board re-allocate the remaining funds to the Natural Areas category.

5. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – **Camp Kum-Ba-Yah (FY2020; FY2021; FY2022)**

VLCF grants totaling \$530,941 helped to make possible the purchase of the 44-acre urban forest known as Camp Kum-Ba-Yah in the City of Lynchburg. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation placed an open-space easement over the property ensuring its use as a forested outdoor space that enhances the outdoor recreational and environmental programming the camp offers to thousands in Central Virginia. The funds received by the camp for protecting the property in perpetuity, helped in the purchase of the property, thwarting the pending sale and development. The camp is located in an area of the city identified as a park desert in the city's comprehensive plan. Camp Kum-Ba-Yah has a rich civil rights history from the 1960s, when Lynchburg closed its public pools to African-Americans the camp continued to welcome both black and white citizens to swim in its pools. Today, Camp Kum-Ba-Yah offers scholarships to nearly 50 percent of its campers, fulfilling its motto that no child will be denied the gift of camp due to financial need.

Grant Awards: \$201,134; \$79,807; \$250,000. **Payment Amount:** \$530,941. **Match:** \$529,732.

6. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation – **Brill (FY2021)**

A VLCF grant assisted in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation's (SVBF) acquisition of a 72-acre property in Warren County, which intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation, Protected Landscapes Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement categories of ConserveVirginia. The property is entirely within the core area of the Cedar Creek Battlefield, the boundary of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, and The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. The property is surrounded by 472 previously conserved acres, with trail access now across the entire conserved block, linking an existing trail to parts of the battlefield.

Grant Award: \$411,807. **Payment Amount:** \$411,807. **Match:** \$1,021,182.

7. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Forkland Dairy (FY2021 Round 2; FY2022)

Virginia Outdoors Foundation utilized two VLCF grants, totaling \$1,000,000, to protect one of the last two dairies in Cumberland County with an open-space easement on the 904-acre Forkland Dairy farm. The multi-generational Century farm, in the family since 1848, lies on the Appomattox River with an area along the river included in the Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity layer in ConserveVirginia. The farm has been awarded the Clean Water Farm award and the Forage and Grassland Council's award. The dairy is an active 300-head operation. Best management practices have been installed including CREP, cover crops, tree planting in buffer areas, and Precision Phosphorus Feeding Program. The property intersects the Agricultural and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Awards: \$500,000; \$500,000. **Payment Amount:** \$1,000,000. **Match:** \$850,247.

8. American Battlefield Trust – Egger Tract (Dominion Surry-Skiffes Creek)

A VLCF grant through the Dominion Surry-Skiffes Creek settlement agreement helped the American Battlefield Trust acquire the 251.17-acre Egger Tract in York County, with frontage along both the Colonial National Parkway and Interstate 64. The tract is located within the core area of the American Civil War Battle of Williamsburg. The tract was also associated with the Algonquian People in the era of the Powhatan Confederacy and is the location of Fouace's Quarter, one of the slave quarters connected with Carter's Grove Plantation in the late 18th century. The Board of Historic Resources holds an Open-Space easement on the property.

Grant Awards: \$300,000; \$519,999. **Payment Amount:** \$819,999. **Match:** \$2,639,138.

Withdrawn Projects

Nine grant projects have been withdrawn since the Board's last meeting.

1. Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation – Red Hill (FY2020)

The Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation received a grant to place an open-space easement on 596 acres at Red Hill Plantation located in Charlotte and Campbell Counties. The home of Patrick Henry, first Governor of the Commonwealth, is open to the public and is the site of an annual U.S. Naturalization ceremony held on Patrick Henry's birthday. The property contains prime farmland, hardwoods, many historic structures, and a cemetery of enslaved persons. Red Hill fronts on the State Scenic Staunton River, is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Historic Register, and was named a National Memorial in 1986.

Grant Award: \$600,000. **Payment Amount:** \$0. **Match:** Landowner bargain sale and payment of due diligence costs. **Note:** This project was withdrawn by the grant recipient because they were unable to reach agreement on the easement terms. We will request that the Board re-allocate these funds to the Historic Preservation category.

2. City of Suffolk Parks and Recreation – Blackwater River Park and South Quay Sandhills Natural Area Preserve (FY2020)

The City of Suffolk Department of Parks and Recreation proposed to acquire an undeveloped 338-acre property along the Blackwater River. Upon acquisition, the City intended to transfer 200 acres to DCR to expand the adjacent South Quay Sandhills Natural Area Preserve. Additionally, the City intended to develop the remaining 138 acres of property into a public park.

Grant Award: \$400,000. **Payment Amount:** \$0. **Match:** \$400,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. **Note:** The project was withdrawn because the owner sold the property to someone else. We will request that the Board re-allocate these funds to the Natural Areas category.

3. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Wilderness Road Connectivity Property (FY2020)

This grant to acquire a 242-acre addition to Wilderness Road State Park would have enhanced environmental education, outdoor recreation, wildlife viewing, hiking and natural and cultural history opportunities for visitors to the state park located in Lee County. This project would also have created connectivity with the Chadwell Gap Trail on the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.

Grant Award: \$500,000. **Payment Amount:** \$0. **Match:** Cash from additional funding sources. **Note:** Ongoing negotiations to purchase the property were unsuccessful. The landowner was unwilling to sell the property. We will request that the Board re-allocate these funds to the Open Spaces and Parks category.

4. Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – River Farm (FY2021)

River Farm is a public garden and event venue consisting of 24 acres on the Potomac River in Fairfax County owned by the American Horticultural Society. NOVA Parks worked with partners to secure grants to conserve this critical resource for public use. River Farm holds community significance for gatherings, nature walks, and its history of ownership by George Washington. It offers scenic and water quality conservation values with more than 1,150 feet of mostly forested shoreline along the Potomac River.

Grant Award: \$150,000. **Payment Amount:** \$0. **Match:** Fairfax County, NVCT Save River Farm initiative, LWCF, and VOF Preservation Trust Fund. **Note:** This project was withdrawn after the property was taken off the market. We will request that the Board re-allocate these funds to the Open Spaces and Parks category.

5. Department of Wildlife Resources – Eastern Shore Forest Conservation Initiative II (FY2021, Round 2)

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) requested funds to acquire, conserve and improve 749 acres of forestland in Accomack County, which complements another VLCF-funded initiative to purchase 8,800 acres on the Eastern Shore. This acquisition would have offered opportunities to facilitate natural marsh migration, support coastal resiliency, provide new public lands for wildlife-related recreation, and improve habitat for migratory birds and species of greatest conservation need in an area of hemispheric importance. This project intersected the

Forestry, Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, and Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$400,000. **Payment Amount:** \$0. **Match:** USFWS Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Grant; DWR Game Protection Fund; DWR Nongame Cash Fund; DWR Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Fund. **Note:** The landowner became unwilling to sell the property to DWR. We will request that the Board re-allocate these funds to the Forest Preservation category.

6. Department of Conservation and Recreation – Pickett’s Harbor Maritime Forest & Migratory Bird Protection (FY2021, Round 2)

DCR’s Division of Natural Heritage requested VLCF funding to purchase 4.5 acres, two bayside lots on the Eastern Shore in Northampton County. The property adjoins Pickett’s Harbor Natural Area Preserve and provides important protective buffer and management access to the existing Preserve. The property also intersects five categories of ConserveVirginia: Protected Landscapes Resilience, Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity, Floodplains and Flooding Resilience, Scenic Preservation and Water Quality Improvement.

Grant Award: \$255,549. **Payment Amount:** \$0. **Match:** Natural Area Preservation Fund, NOAA/CZM. **Note:** In the midst of negotiations with the landowners, they sold the property to another party. We will request that the Board re-allocate these funds to the Natural Areas category.

7. Department of Conservation and Recreation – The Cedars Natural Area Preserve - Northeast Addition (FY2021, Round 2)

DCR’s Natural Heritage Program sought funds for the acquisition of 63 acres as an addition to the Cedars Natural Area Preserve in Lee County. The tract supports several rare plants, caves, and groundwater quality of the Powell River. The tracts fell within two categories of ConserveVirginia: Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience.

Grant Award: \$164,000. **Payment Amount:** \$0. **Match:** \$0. **Note:** The owners sold the property to another buyer. We will request that the Board re-allocate these funds to the Natural Areas category.

8. Virginia Outdoors Foundation – The Green at the Science Museum of Virginia (FY2021, Round 2; FY2022)

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond proposed an innovative partnership that would have allowed the Museum to convert a surface parking lot at its historic Broad Street Station into an urban park. Transfer of control of the parcel to VOF under the Open Space Land Act was planned to protect it in perpetuity from the threat of future development. The property intersects the Cultural and Historic Preservation layer of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$90,000; \$250,000. **Payment Amount:** \$0. **Match:** LWCF and landowner donation. **Note:** The Board of the Science Museum of Virginia made the decision to continue to develop the space as perpetual green space for the benefit of the public, but withdrew its plan to transfer the property to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. We will request that the Board re-allocate these funds to the Open Spaces and Parks category.

9. Department of Conservation and Recreation – The Cedars Natural Area Preserve Powell River Addition (FY2022)

DCR's Natural Heritage Division requested VLCF funds to match a federal grant for the acquisition of 205 acres in Lee County as an addition to the Cedars Natural Area Preserve. The property borders the Powell River for two miles. Acquisition of the tract would have protected populations of four significantly rare plant species, the headwaters and outflow of a natural spring, and removed cattle grazing from the riparian zone along the river. The property intersects the Protected Landscapes Resilience, the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity, and the Water Quality Improvement layers of ConserveVirginia.

Grant Award: \$50,000. **Payment Amount:** \$0. **Match:** Federal grant. **Note:** The landowner decided not to sell. We will request that the Board re-allocate these funds to the Natural Areas category.

Summary of Open VLCF Grants

There are currently five open grants from the FY20 VLCF grant round. These remaining grants have been extended until January 1, 2023.

There are eight open grants from the FY21 grant round.

There are 17 grants that remain open from the FY21 Round II grant round.

For the FY22 grant round, 26 of the 30 grants awarded are active.

There are a total of 56 open grants.

VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
GRANT FUNDING PLAN FOR FY23
July 12, 2022

FUNDING CATEGORIES		FY23 Budget Bill Chapter 2, Item 375 A.1.	Unspent Grant Funds to be Approved & Reallocated	TOTAL Available for Grant Round
1.	I. VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund (25% per § 10.1-1020 C.)	\$4,000,000		
2.	II. Grant Program			
3.	(i) Farmland Preservation	\$2,400,000	0	\$2,400,000
4.	(ii) Forest Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$400,000	\$2,800,000
5.	(iii) Historic Area Preservation	\$2,400,000	\$600,000	\$3,000,000
6.	(iv) Natural Area Protection	\$2,400,000	\$937,440	\$ 3,337,440
7.	(v) Open Space and Parks	\$2,400,000	\$990,000	\$ 3,390,000
TOTAL		\$16,000,000	\$2,927,440	\$14,927,440
<i>Summary of Additional Unspent Grant Funds</i>				
Forest Preservation	\$400,000	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY20RII, Dept. Wildlife Resources, E. Shore Forest Conservation Initiative II \$400,000.		
Historic Area Preservation	\$600,000	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY20 Patrick Henry Mem. Foundation, Red Hill \$600,000.		
Natural Area Protection	\$937,440	<u>Unexpended Remainder:</u> FY20 DCR-DNH, Bush Mill Stream NAP Addition \$4,544 ; FY20 DCR-DNH, Gateway to Cape Charles NAP \$63,347. <u>Withdrawn:</u> FY20 Suffolk Parks and Rec., Blackwater R. Park & South Quay NAP Addition \$400,000 ; FY21RII DCR-DNH Pickett's Harbor Maritime Forest \$255,549 ; FY21RII DCR-DNH The Cedars NAP Northeast Addition \$164,000 ; FY22 DCR-DNH, The Cedars NAP Powell River Addition \$50,000.		
Open Space and Parks	\$990,000	<u>Withdrawn:</u> FY20 DCR-State Parks, Wilderness Rd. Connectivity Prop. \$500,000 ; FY21 NOVA Parks, River Farm \$150,000 ; FY21RII VOF, The Green at the Science Museum of VA \$90,000 ; FY22 VOF, The Green at the Science Museum of VA \$250,000.		

Item 375 of Chapter 2 of the 2022 Virginia Acts of Assembly Special Session I

A.1. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$16,000,000 the first year and \$16,000,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia. No less than 50 percent of the appropriations remaining after the transfer to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust fund has been satisfied are to be used for grants for fee simple acquisitions with public access or acquisitions of easements with public access. This appropriation shall be deemed sufficient to meet the provisions of § 2.2-1509.4, Code of Virginia. **[Grant Funds]**

2. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$1,500,000 the first year and \$1,500,000 the second year from nongeneral funds to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund to be distributed by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation pursuant to the provisions of § 58.1-513, Code of Virginia.

[Stewardship Funds]

**VIRGINIA LAND CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
GRANT SCHEDULE FOR FY23**

July 12, 2022

Proposed FY23 VLCF Grant Schedule	
July 12, 2022	VLCF Board meeting to approve grant manual and initiate the grant round request for proposals (RFP).
Week of July 12, 2022	Announce official opening of grant round (update website and send emails).
Week of August 1, 2022	Virtual Grant Workshop: orientation and program information for grant applicants. Continued outreach to underserved communities.
Tuesday, September 6, 2022	Deadline for application submittal.
Weeks of September 19 and 26, 2022	Interagency taskforce meetings to score projects - usually takes two meetings.
Early October 2022	SNR and Director's review of applications and recommendations of IAT.
Late October 2022	VLCF Board meeting. Approval of grant awards.
By end of November 2022	Grant agreements sent to grant recipients. Projects have two years to close.

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

June 2022 Grant Manual (FY23 Program Year)

Please note: grant applications will only be accepted electronically.

Adoption Date: *July 12, 2022*

Administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

I. GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (Foundation or VLCF) was established in 1999 under Va. Code §§ 10.1-1017 through 10.1-1026. A major function of the Foundation is to “establish, administer, manage, including the creation of reserves, and make expenditures and allocations from a special, nonreverting fund in the state treasury to be known as the Virginia Land Conservation Fund,” Va. Code § 10.1-1020 (Fund).

The Foundation administers the Fund for the purpose of providing grants to state agencies, other public bodies, and qualifying nonprofits to reimburse them for the costs associated with permanently conserving land throughout the Commonwealth, including the purchase of development rights. In 2022, state-recognized and federally recognized Virginia Indian Tribes were added as eligible entities to receive grants. VLCF grants are awarded only for acquiring interests in property that have not yet been permanently protected. The grant categories set out in Va. Code § 10.1-1020 (C)(2) are: farmlands and forest preservation; historic area preservation; natural area protection; and open spaces and parks.

The Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, serving as Administrative Secretary and assisted by an interagency task force, is charged with administering, reviewing, and making recommendations on grant applications to the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Foundation. Using specific criteria defined in each grant category, grants may be awarded for up to 50 percent of total project costs. The program can pay up to 100 percent of these costs for state agencies, Va. Code § 10.1-1020 (A)(2).

Guiding factors for distribution of VLCF funds are set out in Va. Code §§ 10.1-1020 and 1021.1, which specify that at least one third of the funds shall be used to secure open-space easements to be held or co-held by a public body, and that the Foundation shall seek to achieve a fair distribution of land protected throughout the Commonwealth. Additionally, Item 375 A.1. of the 2022 Budget Bill (Chapter 2 of the 2022 Virginia Acts of Assembly Special Session I) specifies that no less than 50 percent of the VLCF funds shall be used for projects that provide public access.

The scoring criteria continue to place emphasis on providing grants to underserved communities and areas that have not previously benefited from VLCF grants. The Foundation strives to provide a fair distribution of public access and recreational opportunities, and to preserve open space, natural landscapes, and working lands across the Commonwealth. Additionally, the scoring criteria give precedence to projects that are within *Conserve Virginia*, as those lands are identified as conservation priorities by our state agency partners and other collaborators. There are seven different overarching categories: (i) agriculture and forestry, (ii) natural habitat and ecosystem diversity, (iii) floodplains and flooding resilience, (iv) cultural and historic preservation, (v) scenic preservation, (vi) protected landscapes resilience, and (vii) water quality improvement.

Important Program Information

Note: We welcome Virginia’s state and federally-recognized tribes to apply for VLCF grants. As this presents a new paradigm in achieving perpetual land conservation in Virginia, we are contemplating what legal mechanisms are available to achieve our mutual goals. These may vary for tribal entities. As we work through this new phase, please contact staff to discuss your proposed project and planned means to conserve the land in perpetuity.

- Applications may be submitted by state agencies, localities, public bodies, state-recognized and federally recognized Virginia Indian Tribes and registered (tax-exempt) nonprofit organizations that qualify as a holder under Va. Code § 10.1-1009. Projects must protect land in perpetuity through acquisitions of property in fee simple, or recordation of a conservation easement and an open-space easement, or dedicated under the Open-Space Land Act.
- No application relying on eminent domain shall be considered, as Va. Code § 10.1-1023 prohibits the use of VLCF funds to acquire any property interest through eminent domain.
- Projects must be for a minimum of \$20,000 in total expense or a grant request of no less than \$10,000.
- Applicants must demonstrate that the landowners have been notified and are receptive to the proposed project. Applicants must submit, as part of their application, a signed letter from all of the landowners indicating their willingness to conserve the property.
- The proposed project must be for **specific property** that meets the criteria for one or more of the five grant categories listed below. Applications that are not site-specific will not be considered.
- If the applicant uses the landowner's surname in the name of the project, then they must first obtain the landowner's permission. VLCF will use the project name provided in the application in public reports to the Governor and the General Assembly and press releases.
- A nonprofit organization seeking to hold an easement must provide documentation in their application that they meet the holder requirements in the Virginia Conservation Easement Act, Va. Code §§ 10.1-1009 to 10.1-1017.
- All nonprofit organization projects, whether fee simple or easement, must be protected by an open-space easement in perpetuity that is held or co-held by a public body (e.g., a state agency or local governmental entity), pursuant to Va. Code § 10.1-1020 (A)(2). An acknowledgement letter from the public body stating that it is willing to consider holding the easement or owning the property in fee simple must be included as part of the application.
- Applications for the acquisition of easements on lands currently permanently protected for conservation purposes are not eligible for a VLCF grant unless the project proposes to further protect the property by a more restrictive easement.
- The VLCF program can reimburse up to 50% of the appraised value of the subject property and other eligible due diligence costs for transactions involving localities or qualified nonprofit organizations, or 100% of such costs by state agencies or state-recognized and federally recognized Virginia Indian Tribes, Va. Code § 10.1-1020 (A)(2). See Appendix A for eligible expenses.
- If the required 50% match is not determined at the time of the application, a letter confirming that the match will be met must be included with the application. See example letter in Appendix C.

- Possible sources of match funding include: (i) cash or pass-through dollars from other sources, e.g. grants awarded from sources other than VLCF; (ii) bargain sales, i.e., the monetary value of the donated portion of the property; or (iii) other conserved property acquired in fee or restricted by an easement within the previous two years, and not acquired with VLCF funds, so long as the match property is also restricted as approved by VLCF.
- When additional property is proposed as match in a grant application, the match property must be in the proximity of or ecologically connected to the property that is the subject of the grant. The match property must also be protected in the same manner as the grant property; information on the match property must be included in the application; all due diligence items are also required for the match property.
- Indirect costs cannot be reimbursed or considered as match. These ineligible costs include, without limitation, staff time, overhead, work provided pro bono, or maintenance/operating costs of lands and facilities.
- VLCF requires certain property protections to further statewide environmental conservation goals, including permanent vegetated riparian buffers on all funded projects with perennial water resources. These protections must be preserved in perpetuity by the deed associated with the project. See Appendix D for all of the required provisions and further information on riparian buffers.
- For projects awarded funding, the requisite public body holder shall include language in the fee-simple deed or in the easement deed that states that the property will be taken under the Open-Space Land Act, Va. Code §§ 10.1-1700 through 10.1-1705, and that the protection is perpetual in nature and not extinguishable except pursuant to the provisions of the Open-Space Land Act.
- Properties acquired in fee or made subject to an easement as a result of a VLCF grant may not be diverted or converted from the approved use for which the grant was made. If a conversion or diversion occurs or, in the case of an easement, an extinguishment of the easement occurs, the VLCF must be reimbursed for the proportionate amount of the then value of the property equal to the proportion of the value of the property on which the grant was based. As a condition of its grant, the VLCF will require that language be included in the deed of acquisition or the deed of easement to such effect.
- If a nonprofit organization is awarded a grant to acquire fee-simple property, it may be sold only if it remains under easement and the VLCF is reimbursed for the proportionate amount of the then fair market value of the property equal to the proportion of the value of the property on which the grant was based. The fair-market value of the property must be supported by a current appraisal. An exception may be granted if the property is transferred to a public agency and the recorded deed of transfer states the agency agrees to hold and manage the property for the purposes for which it was originally acquired.
- All projects awarded VLCF funds must submit the due diligence documents specified in Appendix A.
- Grant payments are made as a reimbursement and cannot exceed the amount actually expended by the grant recipient.

II. APPLYING TO THE GRANT PROGRAM

Applicants may apply to the program by submitting a grant application, available at: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia-land-conservation-foundation/>. The applicant should read through this entire grant manual to become familiar with program specifics and requirements. Please contact staff if you have questions as you work through all of the information. We recommend that applicants contact the respective category/agency representative found on pages 5-13 below, prior to submitting their application.

Application Information and Deadline

A complete application (50 page maximum) includes the required items listed in Appendix A as one searchable PDF document. DO NOT include the grant manual with the application. The complete application must be provided in electronic format to the Department of Conservation and Recreation by **no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, September 6, 2022.**

You may email the application if it is 20 MB or less to larry.mikkelson@dcr.virginia.gov. If the application file is larger than 20 MB, then notify Larry by **Monday, August 30, 2022**, to receive an email with instructions for uploading the digital application to the state's large file transfer platform.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the submission meets the application requirements and the deadline. Larry will confirm receipt of the application via email. Please inquire if you do not receive confirmation. Last minute submissions may have a delayed confirmation past the application deadline.

All applications require pictures of the project. See specific photo requirements on page 9 for applications in the Historic Area Preservation category.

Questions?

- General application inquiries: Larry Mikkelson at (804) 337-0046, larry.mikkelson@dcr.virginia.gov or Suzan Bulbulkaya at (804) 371-5218, suzan.bulbulkaya@dcr.virginia.gov
- Category-specific inquiries: See contact information listed under each category
- ConserveVirginia, GIS, or mapping questions: Gina Diccico at (804) 837-1819, gina.diccico@dcr.virginia.gov

Application Categories and Additional Scoring Criteria

1. Farmlands and Forest Preservation
2. Historic Area Preservation
3. Natural Area Preservation
4. Open Spaces and Parks
5. Additional Scoring Criteria

Applicants must select one primary category for their project. A secondary category may also be chosen to increase the possibility of receiving funds, but is not required. Multiple applications for the same project within the same grant round will not be accepted.

NOTE: The applicant is advised to review the program requirements below carefully as they prepare their application and to determine the best category for their project. See Appendix B for the scoring sheets for each category and the Additional Criteria for all categories. Score your application using the scoring sheet for your chosen category and the Additional Criteria. **Make sure your application addresses all of the applicable category criteria and the Additional Scoring Criteria to be awarded maximum points.**

Program Requirements by Category

1. Farmlands and Forest Preservation Category – Two funding scenarios are set out in subsections C and D of Va. Code § 10.1-1020, based on the amount of funds appropriated in the state budget for VLCF. If less than \$10 million is appropriated, then there are four grant categories with farmlands and forest preservation sharing one single category (1/4 of funds). If \$10 million or more is appropriated, then there are five grant categories with farmland preservation and forestland preservation being separately funded categories (each category gets 1/5 of funds). For both scenarios, separate scoring criteria have been developed for agricultural lands and for forestal lands. The applicant should use the set of criteria that is most appropriate for the project being submitted.

A. Farmland Preservation Criteria

Contact: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, (804) 786-1906
Jennifer Perkins, Program Coordinator, jennifer.perkins@vdacs.virginia.gov
<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/conservation-and-environmental-farmland-preservation.shtml>

Applications for the permanent protection of agricultural lands will be evaluated according to:

- ◆ Soil productivity. The parcel will be ranked based on the percentage that it contains of each of the following soils (as defined in § 3.2-205 of the Code of Virginia) which can be found at <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>:

“Prime farmland” is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, nursery, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, and without intolerable soil erosion. Prime farmland includes land that possesses the above characteristics but is being used currently to produce livestock and timber. It does not include land already in or committed to urban development or water storage.

“Unique farmland” is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, as determined by the United States Secretary of Agriculture. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

“Important farmland” other than prime or unique farmland is land that is of statewide or local importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, nursery, oilseed or other agricultural crops, as determined by the appropriate state agency or local government agency, either or both, and that the United States Secretary of Agriculture determines should be considered as farmland.

Please note, if these percentage numbers of soil productivity are not provided in the application it will be presumed that none of these soils exist on the property.

- ◆ Property acreage. The size of the parcel in relation to average agricultural parcel sizes in the locality will be used as a determining factor. More information can be found at www.agcensus.usda.gov.
- ◆ Current and historical use of property. Priority will be given to any property that is currently being farmed and/or is a designated Century Farm. Information about this program can be found at <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/conservation-and-environmental-virginia-century-farms.shtml>
- ◆ Adjacency to conserved lands. The degree to which the property is located adjacent to, or nearby, already conserved lands held in perpetuity. Larger blocks of unbroken forest and agricultural lands including forest potentially provide the greatest value and range of benefits from and protection of rural land uses.
- ◆ Development vulnerability rank. Using the Virginia ConservationVision Development Vulnerability model, parcels will be evaluated according to their vulnerability ranking. The Development Vulnerability model can be found at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvisvulnerable>.
- ◆ Best Management Practices. The existence of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and farm management plans that are currently being utilized as part of the normal operation of the farm, either implemented through state and federal conservation programs or voluntarily implemented without state or federal cost-sharing or technical assistance. Best management practices may include stream fencing, buffers, conservation tillage, cover crops, or animal waste management. Examples of the farm management plans could include, but are not limited to, a grazing management plan, a nutrient management plan, a conservation plan, or a resource management plan (which would include both the conservation plan and nutrient management plan).
- ◆ Locality support. The support for the project evidenced in local farmland protection policies, including, the comprehensive plan, agricultural zoning, agricultural and forestal districts, and use value taxation.
- ◆ ConserveVirginia (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/conservevirginia/>). The project will be evaluated based on the percentage of the total project area that is included in the ConserveVirginia Agriculture and Forestry category.

B. Forestland Preservation Criteria

Contact: Virginia Department of Forestry, (434) 459-8278
Karl Didier, Forestland Conservation Program Manager karl.didier@dof.virginia.gov
<http://www.dof.virginia.gov/conservation/index.htm>

Applications for the permanent protection of working forest lands will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- ◆ **Property Acreage.** Larger blocks of land under single ownership are more manageable, better protect ecological communities and biodiversity, and better sustain the flow of natural goods and services over time.
- ◆ **Acres of Forest on the proposed property.** Larger blocks of forest under single ownership are more easily managed, better protect the productivity and sustainable flow of natural goods and services from the forest, and better protect forest conservation values (e.g., have larger less-disturbed “core” areas, protect water quality, maintain habitat connectivity, etc.). To be considered for points under this criterion, land must be devoted to forestal use as defined by the State Land Evaluation and Advisory Council’s (SLEAC) technical standards for classification of real estate devoted to forestal use. Most critically, the proposed project’s acreage must qualify as “Productive Forest Land” or “Non-Productive Forest Land” as defined by SLEAC standards and contain at least 20 acres of forest.

Land devoted to forestal use that has been recently harvested of merchantable timber, is being regenerated into a new forest and not currently developed for nonforest use qualifies for points under this criterion. In addition, acreage that is under contract to be planted or afforested qualifies for points. Also, to qualify for points under this criterion, the proposed parcels must be under the same ownership (currently or anticipated after acquisition using VLCF funds), and must be “contiguous.” To be considered contiguous, the proposed parcels must either (a) directly border each other or (b) all border another block of property already owned by the proposed landowner. If multiple, non-contiguous parcels are proposed, only those that separately meet SLEAC standards will receive points.

- ◆ **Acres of forest with a “high” Forest Conservation Value (FCV)** based upon VDOF’s analysis and map (2020 version). See the Forest Conservation Values map on the [Natural Heritage Data Explorer](#) or download the [GIS data](#) from VDOF (see full link below). “High” values are those labeled on the map as “5: Outstanding” or “4: Very High”. The FCV analysis ranks the relative conservation value of forestland based on watershed integrity, size of forested blocks, forest management potential, proximity to other conserved lands, threat of conversion, and presence of diminished tree species or significant forest communities. The FCV GIS layer and associated description can be downloaded at: <https://vdof.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/embedGallery.html?displayapps=true&displayinline=true&group=f40da8804f7645de9f2298945c5d897d>
- ◆ **Length of intermittent and perennial watercourses** as identified by the USGS National Hydrography Dataset (<https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/>), as well as wetlands and water impoundments, present on or bordering the property. Forested watersheds and streamside forests provide considerable water quality, filtration, nutrient retention, and flood attenuation to downstream users.
- ◆ **Adjacency to Conserved Lands.** The degree to which the property is located adjacent to, or near, already conserved lands held in perpetuity. Larger blocks of unbroken forest and agricultural lands including forest potentially provide the greatest value and range of benefits from and protection of rural land uses.
- ◆ **Management of Multiple Resources.** The degree to which the property is managed according to a forest stewardship management plan (or equivalent) prepared by a professional forester. Applicant should provide a copy of a current forest resource management plan and demonstrate how recommendations are being followed to achieve forest management goals.
If plan is not provided with the application, it will be presumed that no plan exists.

- ◆ Preservation of forest acreage. The degree to which the applicant is willing to preserve a portion of forest acreage in perpetuity to protect the working forest land base. Land that is not currently forested but that the landowner will afforest and maintain as forest in perpetuity counts. **The draft deed or term sheet accompanying the application must include language reflecting this commitment; otherwise this acreage will be assumed to be zero.**
- ◆ ConserveVirginia (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/conservevirginia/>). The project will be evaluated based on the percentage of the total project area that is included in the ConserveVirginia Agriculture and Forestry category.

2. Historic Area Preservation Category

Contact: Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), (804) 482-6094
 Karri Richardson, Easement Program Specialist, Karri.Richardson@dhr.virginia.gov
<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/easements/easement-program-overview/>

Applications are encouraged for projects that conserve historic resources associated with underrepresented communities. Applications for the permanent protection of historic, archaeological, cultural or historic landscape resources will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- ◆ Historic Significance, strong proposals are likely to protect or preserve a resource that:
 - A. Is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR), found at <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/historic-registers/>, either individually or as a contributing resource in a listed historic district; or
 - B. Is a battlefield property identified with a priority rating in one of the following reports issued by the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program: “Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields” (1993, as amended), or “Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States,” (2007, as amended); contact Karri Richardson at karri.richardson@dhr.virginia.gov if you need a map to confirm the location of the property within identified battlefields; or
 - C. Has been formally determined to be eligible for listing on the VLR by DHR’s Virginia State Review Board within the previous ten calendar years and remains eligible for listing in the opinion of DHR. For assistance in determining whether a property has been determined eligible for the VLR, please contact DHR Archives at (804) 482-6102. **Note: listing on the VLR may be required** by project completion for properties awarded funding under this criterion in order to meet the Virginia Board of Historic Resources (VBHR) Easement Program eligibility requirements.
 - D. Integrity. The integrity of the historic resource to be protected or preserved shall be considered. Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historic significance through attributes such as location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.
 - E. ConserveVirginia (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/conservevirginia/>). The project will be evaluated based on the percentage of the total project area that is included in the ConserveVirginia Cultural and Historic Preservation category.

- ◆ Underrepresented Resources. The extent to which the application identifies and documents resources associated with Virginia's culturally diverse history, such as properties associated with people of color (circa 1619-Civil War), the Reconstruction Era (1861-1898), the Civil Rights Movement, LGBTQ, African-American, Asian-American, Latino, Hispanic, Native American and women's history.
- ◆ Threat. Threatened property is defined as property (i) documented to be currently or recently on the market (within the past calendar year); (ii) threatened by development, where plans/plats have been submitted to or approved by the locality's planning department within the last calendar year; (iii) in an estate that is currently being settled; (iv) adjacent to property currently on the market or sold within the previous calendar year; or (v) a property with built or other historic, archaeological, or cultural resources that are threatened by demolition, destruction, demolition by neglect, or development. Documentation supporting specific threats must be submitted with the application.
- ◆ Use and Treatment of Historic Resources on the Property. The extent to which plans for future uses of (e.g. historic site interpretation, rehabilitation of the battlefield landscape) or alterations to the property are consistent with historic resource stewardship and protection. All plans must be described in or submitted with the application and must meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (36 C.F.R. Part 68). Plans submitted as part of the application must be approved by DHR before the project receives final VLCF funding.
- ◆ Historic Resource Protection. The degree to which the applicant is willing to preserve all historic resources on the property in perpetuity in accordance with the DHR's current easement template. Applicants must attach a list or summary of proposed restrictions to be included in the easement based on DHR's current easement template (please do **not** attach a copy of the easement template to the grant application). Contact Karri Richardson at karri.richardson@dhr.virginia.gov if you need a copy of DHR's current easement template.
- ◆ Adjacency to Conserved Lands. The degree to which the property is located adjacent to, or near, already conserved lands held in perpetuity.
- ◆ Furthers Public Interests. The extent to which the project includes specific plans for programs that will further or promote public interests, such as education, research, community outreach, recreation, or heritage tourism promotion. Applications for projects that conserve historic resources associated with underrepresented communities and those that also provide public educational opportunities and share untold stories to advance social equity are particularly encouraged.
- ◆ Applicants for funds in this category must provide original digital images no greater than 800 x 800 pixels in dimension. In the case of built cultural or historic structures, these should include images that document the exterior of the primary historic structure and any secondary structures, significant interior spaces and features, and the setting and viewshed of the primary resource. For archaeological sites, applicants should include a general view or site plan and images documenting the condition of the site, stratigraphy (if applicable), and representative features showing the integrity of those features. For battlefields or other landscapes, images should document the overall site, its surroundings and viewshed, and all historic and non-historic structures, roads, and other features within the project.

- ◆ If funds are awarded under this category for the purpose of acquiring fee-simple title to or an easement on eligible historic properties, the property owner shall separately offer to convey to the VBHR a perpetual preservation easement on the property to be acquired with the VLCF funds (including any match property). The VBHR shall decide whether to accept the easement offer based on established criteria and existing policies and procedures governing the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Easement Program (Chapter 22, Title 10.1 of Virginia Code). DHR staff administers the easements on behalf of VBHR. The property must meet the Easement Program eligibility requirements (see www.dhr.virginia.gov/easement/easement.htm); if not, or if the VBHR declines acceptance of the easement offer, DHR may recommend an alternative easement holder.

All properties acquired with Historic Area Preservation funds shall be open for public access for a minimum of two days each calendar year. Public access shall not disturb any sensitive resources thereon, and may require approval by DHR to ensure that historic resources will not be affected.

3. Natural Areas Preservation Category

Contact: DCR Natural Heritage, (804) 371-6205
Rob Evans, Protection Manager, Virginia Natural Heritage Program,
Rob.Evans@dcr.virginia.gov
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/>

Applications in this category must include land that will contribute to biodiversity values and statewide conservation significance. Projects/Applicants must:

- 1) Address a protection need in the Virginia Natural Heritage Plan, by making a significant contribution to the permanent protection of one or more natural heritage resources, including habitats for rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species or state-significant natural communities;
- 2) qualify to be dedicated as a natural area preserve as provided in Va. Code § 10.1-213;
- 3) have been sufficiently evaluated by DCR-DNH staff (including site visit) for the extent, type, and viability of natural heritage resources present and their management requirements and constraints;
- 4) be recommended by, via a support letter from, DCR Natural Heritage based on specific criteria listed in Va. Code § 10.1-1022.1 (B);
- 5) have landowners who understand the requirements of their land being dedicated to the state natural area preserve system and who demonstrate commitment to the requirement for active and ongoing management activities for natural heritage resources on the property;
- 6) have been subject to adequate discussion between landowners and appropriate DCR-DNH representatives to develop confidence in the feasibility of carrying out necessary management requirements; and

- 7) ensure that the proposed area for acquisition and the applicant's ability to expend VLCF and matching funds can be conducted within two years of grant award.

Applications for Natural Areas Preservation funds will be evaluated based on specific scoring (Appendix B) that address these project attributes, including the percentage of the property that is included in the Conserve Virginia Natural Habitat and Biological Diversity category.

All properties acquired with VLCF funds in this category, or used as match, shall be dedicated as natural area preserves in accordance with Va. Code § 10.1-213. Properties shall be open for public access for a reasonable amount of time each year without disturbing the sensitive resources thereon, and shall be open for DCR Natural Heritage approved research, associated monitoring and necessary stewardship activities. Applicants shall provide a public access plan that addresses these issues and contains a minimum of one guided nature hike per year.

4. Open Spaces and Parks Category

Contact: DCR - Planning and Recreation Resources Division, (804) 786-4379
Kristal McKelvey, Program Planner, kristal.mckelvey@dcr.virginia.gov
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/>

Applications for the permanent protection and acquisition of public recreational lands or open-space lands will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- ◆ Acquires an interest in land that provides increased public access to state waters offering recreational potential.
- ◆ Acquires an interest in land that creates new outdoor recreational opportunities for underserved communities or expands existing park systems or other recreational resources to protect public conservation or recreational interests.
- ◆ Protects viewsheds or land important to the protection of (i) any federally designated Wild and Scenic River or American Heritage River in or adjacent to Virginia, (ii) Virginia's Scenic Rivers, (iii) designated Scenic Roads, (iv) Virginia Byways, or (v) nationally designated scenic lands or recreational trails, including state-wide connecting trails, greenways or blueways. See the VOP Mapper at:
<http://consapps.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/vop/vopmapper.htm>
- ◆ Supports local or regional plans for parks, open space, and outdoor recreational facilities, or contributes to the protection of a state, regionally, or locally identified conservation corridor.
- ◆ Addresses a need identified in the *Virginia Outdoors Plan* (VOP). The VOP may be accessed at www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/vop.
- ◆ Makes the grant-funded land available for public access and use, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, hiking, or wildlife watching.
- ◆ Provides an outdoor recreational resource to an underserved community. The Social Vulnerability Index created by the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences may be used to identify underserved areas of the state:

http://cmap2.vims.edu/SocialVulnerability/SocioVul_SS.html. Data from other sources may also be considered for this criterion if applicant provides the source reference.

- ◆ Recreation Access Need. The project will be evaluated based on the demonstrated recreation need of its location based on the DCR Nature-based Recreation Access Model(2021) and the Trust for Public Lands ParkServe Model. Projects offering land-based recreation opportunities will be scored on whichever model demonstrates a greater need. Projects offering water-based recreation opportunities will be scored on the Nature-based Recreation Access Model's water-based recreation need rating. Information on the Nature-based Recreation Access Model can be found at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvisrec>. ParkServe can be found at: <https://www.tpl.org/parkserve>.
- ◆ ConserveVirginia (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/conservevirginia/>). The project will be evaluated on the amount of the total project area that is included in any ConserveVirginia category so long as the project provides daily public access.

5. Additional Scoring Criteria

All applications are also scored on the following criteria. See Appendix B for a breakdown of potential points and be sure your application addresses these criteria.

- ◆ Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) Identified Need: Zero to three points will be awarded if a project satisfies resource conservation needs identified in the VOP or a local comp plan. Information can be found at: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/vop>.
- ◆ Nature Based Recreation Access Model Identified Need: Zero to three points will be given to a project that includes public access and is located in an area where there is at least a moderate need for recreation access identified in the Nature Based Recreation Access Model's terrestrial or aquatic layers. Information can be found at: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvisrec>.
- ◆ Water Quality Benefit: Zero to 11 points may be given for projects that protect water quality through the use of permanent vegetated riparian buffers exceeding the required 35-foot width. Points will also be awarded for forested buffers that maintain an evenly dispersed minimal 50% forested canopy. Because protecting water quality is a long-standing goal of the Commonwealth supported through many voluntary cost-share and tax-credit programs, these points are awarded to those projects that voluntarily provide greater water quality protections beyond the 35-foot riparian buffer in perpetuity.
- ◆ Protection of Cultural Resources: Zero to 10 points may be given for projects that identify and protect local cultural resources on the property and provide public educational opportunities. Provide with your application photos and documentation of the cultural resources found on site that will be protected by your project. Also, provide draft language to be used in the deed to protect the resources, and indicate whether there will be educational opportunities provided for the public. See page 23 for examples.
- ◆ ConserveVirginia Value-added (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/conservevirginia/>): Zero to 12 points may be awarded for those projects that demonstrably address more than one of the seven ConserveVirginia categories (listed on page 23). Two points may be awarded for each additional ConserveVirginia category identified by the applicant that is protected in perpetuity by the project, e.g., a farmland project that falls within the Agriculture and

Forestry category that also includes an historic building or site located within the Cultural and Historic Preservation category and is protected in the easement.

- ◆ Fish and Wildlife: Zero to 10 points may be given; with zero to three points for fish and wildlife habitat protection and management (one point for identifying wildlife, one point for protecting habitat, an added point for providing public access to view, hunt, or fish wildlife). An additional three points may be awarded for the identification of Department of Wildlife Resources Species of Greatest Conservation Need or a state or federal threatened or endangered species; with another four points awarded for protection of associated habitat. For more wildlife information, see: <http://vafwis.dgif.virginia.gov/WAP2/> or contact the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, (804) 593-2043.
- ◆ Public Access: Zero to 10 points may be given dependent upon the extent of public access provided. Full public access means the property is open for public visitation 365 days a year. Visual access means the applicant can demonstrate the scenic value of the property and that the project will protect the integrity of the public's scenic view.
- ◆ Underserved Communities: Up to 10 points may be given to projects that benefit underserved communities. The Social Vulnerability Index created by the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences may be used to identify underserved areas of the state: http://cmap2.vims.edu/SocialVulnerability/SocioVul_SS.html. Data from other sources will also be considered for this criterion if the applicant provides the source reference.
- ◆ Ratio of Match to Total Project Cost: The amount of match provided by the applicant can add up to three points. If the applicant claims 60 percent or more of matching funds, then a preliminary appraisal must be submitted with the application for verification to be awarded points.

III. APPLICATION REVIEW AND GRANT AWARDS

First Application Review

Applications will be received and reviewed by DCR for completeness. Complete applications will be forwarded to an interagency task force of subject-matter experts for review and scoring.

Second Application Review

The interagency task force will rank the projects and consider geographic distribution, percentage of projects with public access, and those being placed under easement.

Final Review, Grant Award, Notification

Highly ranked applications will be presented to the Foundation for consideration, action, and grant approval. After Board action to approve grants, successful grant recipients will be notified of the pending grant award via an email from VLCF staff.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

Grant Agreements

Within a few weeks of email notification of a grant award, a grant agreement will be emailed to the grant recipient to sign and return the document. After the Executive Secretary has signed the agreement, a scan of the fully-executed agreement will be provided to the grant recipient.

Grants are made for a two year period. Administrative extensions of up to one year may be granted upon extenuating circumstances being documented by the grant recipient.

Periodic Status Reporting

Grant recipients will report the status of the project twice per year.

Final Steps and Closing

Certain required documents must be provided to VLCF, and approved by VLCF, prior to grant funds being disbursed. These documents are listed in Appendix A.

Under no circumstances will VLCF funds be disbursed until all required documents have been provided, reviewed, and approved by VLCF, and all of the required deeds have been recorded.

If grant funding is provided to a closing agent, then a copy of the recorded deeds must be provided to VLCF within **two months** after closing.

V. APPENDICES

List of Appendices:

Appendix A	VLCF Grant Specifications
Appendix B	Score Sheets for each Category and Additional Scoring Criteria
Appendix C	Example Match Letter
Appendix D	Required Property Protections and Vegetated Riparian Buffer Information

Appendix A – VLCF Grant Specifications

I. Required Items in an Application (incomplete applications will not be considered):

1. A fully-completed application as one searchable PDF file that includes the items below.
2. Minimum of two maps of the project: Aerial map and Topo map (USGS USA Topo Map).
3. Minimum of three photographs of the project property, representing the conservation values being protected.
4. A signed letter from all landowners stating that they are willing participants in the proposed transaction.
5. A match letter if the required 50% match is not yet in hand (see Appendix C) or a governing body resolution.
6. For easement projects, a term sheet or draft easement indicating the proposed protections of the project's conservation values.
7. For nonprofit applicants:
 - a. an acknowledgement letter from the public body willing to: hold or co-hold an easement on the property; or hold the property in fee simple, and
 - b. evidence that the nonprofit meets the holder requirements found in Va. Code §§ 10.1-1009 to 10.1-1017.
8. For applications in the Historic Category, additional information and documents specified on pages 8 and 9.
9. For applicants claiming more than 60% match, a preliminary appraisal is required to get points.
10. Make sure the application has page numbers.
11. Include screenshots of your project in all intersecting layers of ConserveVirginia.

II. Additional Recommended Items:

1. Letters of support and resolutions from governmental bodies for the project.
2. Forestry plan or agriculture plan, if applicable.
3. Shapefile delineating the boundary of your project with your application (including match property, if applicable).

III. Eligible Expenses for the Grant Program:

1. The appraised value of the property or interest acquired.
2. Actual expenditures (written expense documentation is required) for:
 - Appraisal
 - Title search, binder, title insurance
 - Boundary survey
 - Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (fee acquisitions only)
 - Legal Fees; Recording Costs
 - Property Line Demarcation

IV. Documents and Due Diligence Items Required Prior to Closing:

1. A full appraisal report that meets USPAP Standards, or UASFLA Standards, performed within six months of closing.
2. Title insurance policy within 90 days prior to closing:
 - a. must confirm that the seller or donor owns marketable fee simple title
 - b. encumbrances of record must not impair conservation purposes
 - c. encumbrances of record must be acceptable to VLCF
3. Boundary survey by a Virginia Licensed Surveyor that meets Va. Administrative Code 18 VAC 10-20-370 Minimum Standards and Procedures for Land Boundary Survey Practice
4. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (fee acquisition only); prepared no more than six months prior to closing
 - a. report and findings must be acceptable to VLCF
 - b. issues revealed may require remedial action
5. The final version of the required deeds for final VLCF approval before closing
6. A copy of the settlement statement for the transaction

NOTE: VLCF funds will not be distributed until all due diligence documents have been provided, reviewed, and approved by staff and all required deeds have been recorded.

Appendix B – VLCF Category Scoring Sheets

Applicant: _____

Farmland Preservation Category

Criterion	Score
<u>Category I: Land Evaluation (40 points)</u> A. Soil Productivity (25 points) Calculate the percentage of project land in each soils class. Points are awarded based on the combined percentages of these three categories x 25 (e.g., 30% prime, 20% unique and 10% important = 0.60 x 25, which equals 15 points.) More information on these soil classes can be found in § 3.2-205 of the Code of Virginia. 1. Value the soils classified as “Prime farmland” 2. Value the soils classified “Unique farmland” 3. Value the soils classified as “Important farmland” B. Parcel Size (15 points) Using data from the most recent Census of Agriculture, score the size of the farm as it compares to the average sized farm in the locality. • Larger by 25% or more = 15 points • Larger by 0% - 24% = 10 points • Smaller by 1% - 24% = 7 points • Smaller by 25% or more = 5 points	
<u>Category II: Land Use (40 points)</u> A. Current use and status of the land (8 points) 1) Is the land currently being farmed? 4 points, if yes. 2) Is this a Century Farm? 4 points, if yes. B. Proximity to conserved lands (10 points) To what degree is the land adjacent to or in close proximity to other preserved lands, either in agriculture production or non-active in farming? • Parcel adjoins other preserved lands = 10 points • Parcel is within one-quarter mile but not adjoining other preserved lands = 7 points • Parcel is within one-half mile but further than one-quarter mile of other preserved lands = 5 points C. Development vulnerability (8 points) What is the vulnerability rank for this parcel as determined by the ConservationVision Development Vulnerability model (http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vaconvisvulnerable) • Each ranking from Class II to Class V is awarded 2 points (e.g., a property in Class IV = 6 points) D. Best Management Practices (BMPs) (10 points) Is a farm management plan that specifies BMPs or voluntary BMPs (e.g., stream fencing, buffers, conservation tillage, cover crops, animal waste management, etc.) being utilized as part of the normal operation of this farm? Does the property have either/both a conservation plan or a Nutrient Management Plan for all nutrient applications made to cropland, hayland, and/or pastureland? • Applicant has implemented applicable BMPs to protect water quality, either voluntarily or through a state or federal conservation program = 4 points • Applicant has a conservation plan developed by local conservation staff (Soil & Water Conservation District or Natural Resources Conservation Service) = 3 points • Applicant has a Nutrient Management Plan prepared by a DCR certified nutrient management planner = 3 points	

E. Local farmland policy (4 points) Is the project supported by local farmland protection policies? • One point each for: comprehensive plan; agricultural zoning; agricultural and forestal districts; and use value taxation.	
F. Category III: ConserveVirginia (20 points) Is the project included in ConserveVirginia? (https://vanhde.org/content/map) • Multiply the percent of the property included within the Agriculture and Forestry Category layer by 20 to calculate points. (e.g. 60% of the property is in the Ag and Forestry category; $.60 \times 20 = 12$ points)	

Total Maximum Score 100 points _____

Applicant: _____

Forestland Preservation Category

Criterion	Score
1) Property Acreage (10 points) Is the size of the tract adequate to protect and allow for management of forestal resources? Larger blocks of land under single ownership remain more manageable and functional over time. To calculate points for projects up to 999 acres, divide acreage by 1,000, then multiply by 8. For parcels larger than 999 acres, see points below. Score: 0-999 acres = Property Acreage / 1000 * 8 points 1000-4,999 = 8 points 5000-9999 = 9 points ≥10,000 acres = 10 points	
2) Acres of Forest (20 points) How many acres of the property are currently forested or devoted to forestal use? To be considered forested or devoted to forestal use, acreage must meet the State Land Evaluation and Advisory Council (SLEAC) technical standards for classification of real estate devoted to forestal use. See the grant manual for more detail on which land can qualify as “devoted to forestal use.” For up to 999 acre projects, divide the acreage by 1,000, then multiply by 18 to calculate points. For parcels larger than 999 acres, see points below. Score: 0-999 acres = Forested Acreage / 1000 * 18 points 1,000-4,999 = 18 points 5,000-9,999 = 19 points ≥10,000 acres = 20 points	
3) Acres of high forest conservation value (FCV 4 and 5) (15 points) Score is based upon VDOF’s analysis and Forest Conservation Values map that ranks relative conservation value of forestland based on water quality, site productivity, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, intactness, and threat to conversion attributes. Find the map here: https://vanhde.org/content/map. To calculate points for projects up to 999 acres, divide High FCV acreage by 1,000, then multiply by 13. For larger parcels, see below. Score: 0-999 acres = High FCV acreage / 1000 * 13 points 1,000-4,999 = 13 points 5,000-9999 = 14 points ≥10,000 acres = 15 points	
4) Water Quality (15 points) Streamside forests provide considerable water quality, filtration, nutrient retention, and flood attenuation to downstream users. Scored based on the total linear feet of intermittent or perennial streams or rivers (as identified on the USGS 7.5” quad) or wetland or impoundment shoreline that is on or bordering the property. To calculate points, divide total length of streams or shorelines (measured in feet) by 1,000. Score: 0 -15,000 feet = feet / 1,000 points ≥15,000 feet = 15 points	
5) Adjacency to Conserved Lands (5 points) Is the property is located adjacent to, or within five miles of, already conserved lands held in perpetuity? To calculate points, subtract the distance from already conserved land in miles from 5. Greater than 5 miles receives 0 points. Score: Within 5 miles = 5 – (miles away from conserved lands)	

6) Management of Multiple Resources (5 points) Does the landowner manage the property according to a forest stewardship management plan (or equivalent) prepared by a professional forester and follow plan recommendations to achieve the forest management goals? Score: Owner has an existing management plan, and with demonstrated plan implementation = 5 points Owner has management plan but no demonstrated plan implementation = 3 points	
7) Preservation of Forested Acreage (10 points) Landowner is willing to preserve a proportion of the property in a forested condition in perpetuity. Land that is not currently forested but that the landowner will afforest and maintain as forest in perpetuity counts. To calculate points, multiply percent forested by 10. Score: Percent of property that the landowner is willing to retain as forest * 10	
8) ConserveVirginia (20 points) Is the property included in ConserveVirginia? (https://vanhde.org/content/map) Score: To calculate points, multiply the percent of the property included within the Agriculture and Forestry Category by 20. (e.g. 60% of the property is in the Ag and Forestry category; $0.60 \times 20 = 12$ points)	

Total Maximum Score 100 points _____

Applicant: _____

Historic Area Preservation Category

Criterion	Score	Notes
1) Historic Significance Maximum score: 30 points 1. <u>Historic Resource/Property is:</u> - Individually listed on VLR or is a contributing resource in a listed historic district = 25, or - Determined by DHR to be eligible for listing on VLR = 20, or - Civil War, Revolutionary War, or War of 1812 site or battlefield designated as Priority I, II, III, or IV in the Battlefield Reports (see p. 8 of Grant manual) = 25 -AND- 2. <u>Integrity:</u> - Resources that retain a high degree of historic integrity = 5		
2) Underrepresented Communities & Resources Maximum score: 10 points - Property contains documented resources representing Virginia's culturally diverse history, such as places or sites associated with people of color (circa 1619-Civil War), the Reconstruction Era (1861-1898), the Civil Rights Movement, LGBTQ, African-American, Asian-American, Latino, Hispanic, Native American and women's history = 5 AND/OR - Property or area has special community significance related to its history, as explained in application, regardless of formal documentation = 5		
3) Threat Maximum score: 10 points - Currently on the market for sale, in an estate being settled, threatened by development, or in imminent danger of demolition = 10 - Recently on the market for sale or sold within the prior calendar year, resource is vacant/unoccupied, or resource is significantly deteriorated and in need of immediate preservation = 5 - No documentation of threat = 0		
4) Use & Treatment of Historic Resources & Property Max. score: 10 points - Plans for future use(s) (e.g. interpretation as a historic site, subdivision, timber harvest) of the property are appropriate and consistent with historic resource stewardship and protection = 5, and - Plans for treatment, alteration, and maintenance of historic resources on the property are appropriate and consistent with historic resource stewardship and protection = 5 - No documentation of plans for uses of property or treatment of historic resources = 0		
5) Historic Resource Protection Maximum score: 10 points - Proposed easement terms and restrictions provide comprehensive protection for historic resources and are specifically consistent with VBHR easement template = 10 - Proposed easement terms and protections for historic resources are acceptable, and generally consistent with VBHR easement template = 5 - No list of easement terms provided = 0		
6) Adjacency to Conserved Land Maximum score: 5 points - Adjacent to existing conserved land = 5 - In viewshed of, or in close physical proximity to significant historic resources, and/or existing conserved land = 3 - Not in viewshed of, or in close physical proximity to significant historic resources or conserved land, but represents a unique cultural resource within the geographical area = 1		

7) Further Public Interests • Project includes specific plans for programs that promote research, education, community outreach, or heritage tourism = 5 • Project includes general plans for programs to be developed that would promote research, education, community outreach, or heritage tourism = 3 • Project contains no plans that would further public interests = 0		
8) ConserveVirginia Is the property included in ConserveVirginia? (https://vanhde.org/content/map) To calculate points, multiply the percent of the property included within the Cultural and Historic Preservation Category by 20. (e.g. 60% of the property is in the Cultural and Historic Preservation category; $0.60 \times 20 = 12$ points)		

Total Maximum Score 100 points _____

Applicant: _____

Natural Area Preservation Category

Criterion	Score
I. Biodiversity Significance (35 points) 1. <u>Will the proposed project protect one or more of Virginia's highest quality examples of a natural heritage resource?</u> (parcel overlaid on conservation sites layer) Maximum score: 20 points - Located within Essential Conservation Site = 20 points; - Located within conservation site = 10 points; 2. <u>Parcel Significance:</u> What is the number of natural heritage elements present on the subject parcel, or associated with it? Maximum score: 10 points 1 point per viable, extant EO; 2 points per essential EO; 0.5 point per viable, extant EO outside parcel but within conservation site that also overlaps the proposed parcel for protection 3. <u>Does the project have global significance?</u> (biodiversity rank of conservation site) Proportion of parcel area (acres) within conservation sites, weighted by B-rank Maximum score: 5 points - B1 = 5 points x proportion within conservation site; - B2 = 4 x proportion within conservation site; - B3 = 3 x proportion within conservation site; - B4 = 2 x proportion within conservation site; - B5 = 1 x proportion within conservation site	
II. Ecological Integrity (20 points) 1. <u>Regional Landscape Integrity:</u> What percentage of parcel area (acres) is within one or more ecological cores, weighted by Ecological Integrity rank (i.e.C-rank)? Maximum score: 10 points (points may add up to more, but 10 points is the max) Parcel is located in a Core ranked: - C1=10 points x proportion within ecological core; - C2=8 x proportion within ecological core; - C3=6 x proportion within ecological core; - C4=3 x proportion within ecological core; - C5=1 x proportion within ecological core; AND Is any portion of the parcel within the Natural Land Network? - Parcel intersects with the Natural Land Network (1 point) 2. <u>Local/Parcel Integrity:</u> How much of the parcel is in natural vegetation? Maximum score: 5 points - Parcel supports natural community/natural vegetation: 75% or more of parcel area = 5 points, 50-74% = 4 points, 25-49% = 3 points, 1-25% = 2 points 3. <u>Connectivity with Conserved Lands:</u> Is the parcel adjacent to other conserved lands with Biodiversity Management Intent (BMI)? Maximum score: 5 points - Adjoins BMI 1 = 5 points; - Adjoins BMI 2 = 4 points; - Adjoins BMI 3 = 3 points; - Adjoins BMI 4 or 5 = 2 points; - Land not adjacent to conserved land = 0 points	

III. Management Needs, Likelihood of Success, and Threat (25 points) 1. <u>Management Needs</u>: What is the intensity of current and future management actions needed to successfully maintain/restore natural heritage resources? Maximum score: 10 points Parcel conditions require: • minimal natural heritage resources management = 10 points; • moderate management = 6 points; • intensive management/restoration = 3 points 2. <u>Management Capacity</u>: Does the applicant have proven experience and capacity in terms of staff resources and expertise to address management needs? Maximum score: 8 points Application provides: • a thorough description of both experience and staff capacity = 8 points; • a cursory description = 4 points; • not mentioned = 0 points 3. <u>Site visit & Owner contact</u>: NHP Staff have had timely opportunity to visit tract and discuss with landowner necessary conservation measures and implications of natural area preserve dedication. Maximum score: 5 points • Site visit & discussion = 5 points; • Site visit only = 3 points; • Discussion only = 2 points 4. <u>Threat</u>: Is there high development threat for the project area? Maximum score: 2 points • Tract threat is ranked Class IV or Class V in the ConservationVision Development Vulnerability Model = 2 points; ranked Class III = 1 point; otherwise = 0 points. Or Tract is on the market or in estate for settlement = 2 points.	
IV. ConserveVirginia (20 points) Is the property included in ConserveVirginia? (https://vanhde.org/content/map) • To calculate points, multiply the percent of the property included within the Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity Category by 20. (e.g. 60% of the property is in the category; 0.60 x 20 = 12 points)	

Total Maximum Score 100 points _____

Applicant: _____

Open Spaces & Parks Category

Criterion	Score
1) Public Access to State Waters (10 points) Does the project acquire land or an easement that provides increased public access to state waters offering recreational potential? - Public access to state waters that provides boating, fishing, <u>and</u> beach/bank swimming opportunities = 10 - Public access that provides <u>two</u> of those recreational opportunities = 8 - Public access that provides <u>one</u> of those recreational opportunities = 5 - Public access that provides opportunities to view water resources while recreating = 2	
2) Project Location (10 points) Does the project conserve and create a new outdoor recreational opportunity? Or is it located adjacent to an existing park, protected conservation area, or other recreational resources that expands and protects public conservation or recreational interests? - Conserves new stand-alone facility that is critically needed to provide or support recreational activities = 10 - Conserves an in-holding or addition that is critical to the recreational use of an existing site = 5	
3) Scenic Resources Protection (10 points) Does the project protect scenic viewsheds or land important to the protection of any federally designated Wild and Scenic River or American Heritage River in or adjacent to Virginia, Virginia's Scenic Rivers, designated Scenic Roads, and Virginia Byways, statewide connecting trails, or identified greenways or blueways? - Conserves land adjacent to, or in direct viewshed of one of the listed resources = 10 - Conserves land adjacent to, or in direct viewshed of, a potential resource or a proposed statewide connecting trail identified in VOP = 7 - Conserves land adjacent to, or in direct viewshed of, a recreational trail = 5	
4) Alignment with Local or Regional Plans (15 points) Does the project support local or regional plans for parks, open space, and recreational facilities, or contribute to the protection of a documented conservation corridor? Include the name and page # of plan cited. - If the project/acquisition is specifically mentioned by location AND purpose/features in a local or regional plan = 15 - If project purpose is mentioned in a local or regional plan or other documents or fulfills a specific need in a local or regional plan = 10 - If area of project has a general reference in local or regional plan or project meets a general goal identified in a plan = 5	
5) Virginia Outdoors Plan Need (10 points) Does the project addresses a need identified in the <i>Virginia Outdoors Plan</i> ? Applicant must specify VOP page #. Add all that apply: - Project provides public access to natural areas = 3 - Project provides public access to a developed park = 2 - Project provides trails for hiking or walking OR access to water trails = 2 - Project provides public access to historic areas = 1 - Project provides bicycle or equestrian trails = 1 - Project provides other need identified in VOP = 1	
6) Public Utilization (10 points) Availability of land for public use, may include, but are not limited to, hunting, fishing, hiking, or wildlife watching. Open for public utilization between 241 and 365 days per year = 10	

• Open between 181 and 240 days per year = 5 • Between 121 and 180 days per year = 3 • Between 61 and 120 days per year = 2 • Between 1 and 60 days per year = 1	
7) Benefit Underserved Community (15 points) Does the project provide a recreational resource to an underserved population? Use the VIMS Social Vulnerability Index (http://cmap2.vims.edu/socialvulnerability/socio vul SS.html) to determine if the project benefits an underserved community: • Very High Social Vulnerability = 15 • High Social Vulnerability = 10 • Moderate Social Vulnerability = 5 • Low or Very Low Social Vulnerability = 0 <i>Applicant must provide a reference source if not using the VIMS Social Vulnerability Index.</i>	
8) Recreation Need (10 points) I. Land-based Recreation Need (Maximum score: 7) Will the property provide land-based recreation and is it located in an area of land-based recreation need as identified by either the DCR Nature-based Recreation Access Model (2021) (https://vanhde.org/content/map) or the Trust for Public Land's ParkServe Model? (https://www.tpl.org/parkserve) (score will be higher of the two if data is available on both models) A. <i>DCR Nature-based Recreation Access Model Land-based Recreation Need:</i> • Very High: 7 • High: 5 • Moderate: 3 • Low: 1 • Very low need: 0, but other supporting evidence provided to show need: up to 3 points B. <i>ParkServe Park Need:</i> • Very High: 7 • High: 5 • Moderate: 3 • No need identified in the model, but other supporting documentation provided, such as evidence of no other parks within ½ mile walk: up to 3 points II. Water-based Recreation Need (Maximum Score: 3) Will the property provide water-based recreation and is it located in an area of water-based recreation need as identified by the DCR Nature-based Recreation Access Model (2021)? • Very High: 3 • High: 2 • Moderate: 1 • Low or very low need but other supporting evidence provided, such as new type of water recreation for area or documented overcrowding at existing nearby sites: 1	
9) ConserveVirginia (10 points) Is the property included in any category of ConserveVirginia and providing daily outdoor recreation access? (https://vanhde.org/content/map) • To calculate points, multiply the percent of the property included within any category of ConserveVirginia and providing daily access by 10. (e.g. 60% of the property is in the category; 0.60 x 10 = 6 points)	

Total Maximum Score 100 points _____

Additional Scoring Criteria

1. Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) Identified Need

Degree to which a project satisfies resource conservation needs as identified in the *Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP)* or in a local comprehensive plan.

Maximum 3 points

- Meets a resource conservation need identified in the VOP **and** in a local comprehensive plan = 3 points
- Meets a resource conservation need identified in the VOP **or** in a local comprehensive plan = 2 points
- Not identified in VOP or in a local comprehensive plan = 0 points

2. Virginia Nature Based Recreation Access Model Identified Need

If the project includes public access AND there is at least a moderate need for recreation access identified in the Nature Based Recreation Access Model, based on the terrestrial or aquatic layers, then up to 3 points may be awarded.

Maximum 3 points

- Demonstrated moderate, high, or very high need for terrestrial **and** aquatic recreational access = 3 points
- Demonstrated moderate, high, or very high need for terrestrial **or** aquatic recreational access = 2 points
- No demonstrated moderate, high, or very high need for terrestrial or aquatic recreational access = 0 points

3. Water Quality Benefit

Extent to which the project will protect water quality beyond the required 35'-wide vegetated buffers on perennial streams, rivers, shorelines, and waterbodies with perennial outflow.

Maximum 11 points

- 4 points if the buffer is forested (at least 50% forest canopy) and protected as such in perpetuity, PLUS
- Up to 1000' of water frontage that is buffered by a 50'-wide buffer = 2 points
- 1 point for every 1000' of water frontage that is buffered by a 50'-wide buffer, up to 3 points, OR
- Up to 1000' of water frontage that is buffered by a 100'-wide buffer = 3 points
- 1 point for every 1000' of water frontage that is buffered by a 100'-wide buffer, up to 4 points

4. Protection of Cultural Resources

Is there a local cultural resource on the property that will be protected by this project? Examples include remnants of prior settlements or burial sites of enslaved or indigenous people, former segregated schoolhouses, sites of early racial integration, historic roadbed or railbed systems, etc.

Maximum 10 points.

- Provide photographs and other documents to authenticate the resource = 8 points
- Provide educational opportunities for the public, signage, trails, etc. = 2 points

5. Additional ConserveVirginia Values

Does the application include information to support additional ConserveVirginia values? If the project includes conservation values other than the primary application category, then two points may be awarded for each additional identified category if the applicant demonstrates that the property is located within another ConserveVirginia category and the project also protects those respective resources in perpetuity.

Maximum 12 points

ConserveVirginia Categories:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Agriculture & Forestry = 2 points | • Natural Habitat & Ecosystem Diversity = 2 points |
| • Cultural & Historic Preservation = 2 points | • Protected Landscapes Resilience = 2 points |
| • Floodplains & Flooding Resilience = 2 points | • Scenic Preservation = 2 points |
| | • Water Quality Improvement = 2 points |

6. Fish and Wildlife Values

Degree to which the application includes information to demonstrate that the project benefits wildlife, habitat, and human/wildlife interaction.

Maximum 10 points

- Identify wildlife presence = 1 point; if Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) Species of Greatest Conservation Need or State or Federally listed threatened or endangered species is present = additional 3 points
- Protect wildlife habitat = 1 point; if DWR Species of Greatest Conservation Need or State or Federally listed threatened or endangered species habitat is protected = additional 4 points
- Provide public access for viewing or hunting wildlife, or for fishing = 1 point

7. Public Access

Degree to which the project provides public or visual access.

Maximum 10 points

- Full Public Access (365 days/year) = 10 points
- Restricted Public Access (180 to 364 days/year) = 5 points
- Limited Public Access (1 to 179 days per year) = 3 points
- Visual Access only = 2 points

8. Underserved Communities

Degree to which the community where the project is located is underserved/socially vulnerable.

Maximum 10 points

- Very high social vulnerability = 10
- High social vulnerability = 8
- Moderate Social Vulnerability = 5
- Low or Very Low Social Vulnerability = 0

9. Ratio of Match to Total Project Cost

If providing 60 percent or more match, to get points provide an appraisal or pre-appraisal with your application.

Maximum 3 points

- Eighty percent or more of total project cost is provided as match = 3 points
- Sixty to 79 percent of total project cost is provided as match = 2 points

Total Maximum Score for Additional Scoring Criteria: 72 points

Appendix C – Example Match Letter

[Date]

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation
C/o Matthew Wells, Executive Secretary
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: VLCF grant application from *[organization]* for *[project]*

Dear Mr. Wells:

In the grant application submitted by our organization for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation's FY22 grant round, our project budget included a total match amount of \$ _____. __, of which \$ _____. __ is to be obtained through grant funding that is not yet committed by any granting agency. We understand that VLCF will not grant funds for a project whose match is uncertain, and we agree that, if this project is funded through VLCF, we will commit our organization's resources to complete the project within the two-year time frame required by the VLCF program.

Sincerely,

[Organization representative]
[Job Title]

Appendix D – Required Property Protections and Vegetated Riparian Buffer Information

To safeguard water quality and the conservation value of land conservation projects, the following protections are to be included in all VLCF projects, whether fee simple or easement acquisitions:

1. Limitations on placement of utilities: Utilities that serve permitted structures on the subject property are allowed. Utilities that do not serve permitted structures on the subject property require the grantee's review and prior written determination that the construction and maintenance of such utilities will not impair the conservation value of the property.
2. Agricultural Conservation Plan: If the property contains five acres of land or more in agricultural production, then a written agricultural conservation plan shall be developed or in place that stipulates the use of best management practices for water quality protection (such as proper nutrient management, utilization of cover crops, and stabilization of highly erodible lands). This plan shall be developed in consultation with the local Soil and Water Conservation District or the Natural Resources Conservation Service and shall be implemented and periodically updated by the landowner as long as at least five acres of the property remains in agricultural production.
3. Forest Management Plans: If the property contains 20 acres or more of forest lands, then a current written forest management plan or Virginia Forest Stewardship Plan, and a Pre-Harvest Plan shall be in place prior to the commencement of timber harvesting or other significant forest management activities. Such a plan shall be developed by, or in consultation with, the Virginia Department of Forestry, or be consistent with Virginia's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Guide.
4. Vegetated Riparian Buffers: An area of land where natural vegetation shall be maintained at least 35-feet to 100-feet or more in width along a river, shoreline, perennial stream as depicted on the USGS National Hydrography Dataset (<https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/>), or body of water that has perennial outflow. Additional requirements for vegetated riparian buffers are:
 - Livestock shall be excluded from the buffers and associated watercourses and bodies of water.
 - Mowing shall be limited to three times per calendar year.
 - Earth-disturbing activities, plowing, and dumping are prohibited (however, tree planting; streambank restoration; forest management in accordance with Virginia's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Guide; archaeological investigations; and restoration, reconstruction, and maintenance of documented historic landscapes on historic properties are permissible).

The following structures, activities, and landscapes are allowed within the required vegetated riparian buffers on VLCF funded projects:

- a. Buildings, structures, roads or other impervious surfaces existing in the buffer prior to the grant award are permissible but cannot be enlarged within the buffer.
- b. A limited number and size of water dependent structures such as docks or boat launches.

- c. A limited number of stream crossings for livestock, pedestrians, or vehicles. Livestock crossings must be addressed in a written conservation plan that specifies the use of riparian buffers for water quality protection.
- d. Access points to reach the water and structures permitted in the buffer.
- e. Lawns (up to 50 feet of frontage) associated with a primary residence, if the site is not subject to severe erosion and the diminished buffer is offset by nearby buffers that are wider than 35-feet.
- f. Forest management including timber harvesting in accordance with a pre-harvest plan and compliance with Virginia's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Guide.

**Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Grant Program
Office of the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources
GRANT APPLICATION 2022 (FY2023)**

The maximum application length is 50 PAGES that includes:

- 1) The Application Information
 - 2) The Application Narrative Write Up
 - 3) Required Items (i.e. maps, photos, comprehensive plan pages, letters, and resolutions)
- * An optional Appendix may include other additional items (beyond the 50 page max. length)

PLEASE USE THE APPLICATION FORMAT WE HAVE PROVIDED

- For a list of items required in a complete application, see Appendix A of the grant manual.
- Be sure to refer to Appendix B of the grant manual to ensure your application addresses all of the scoring criteria for your chosen category and the Additional Scoring Criteria.

1. Applicant and Project Information

Applicant:

Contact Person:

Title:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Type of Applicant: ☐ Locality ☐ State agency ☐ Nonprofit ☐ State or Federally-recognized Tribe

For nonprofit entity, number of years office maintained in Virginia:

Project Name:

(Reminder: do not use landowner's name without their permission as a press release will be issued listing all projects by name)

Total acres to be protected:

Tax Parcel Number(s):

Project location (county/city/town):

Virginia House District #:

Virginia Senate District #:

Congressional District #:

Street address of the Project (No P.O. Box):

Current fee owner of the property:

Primary VLCF Application Category: *(choose one)*

- ☐ Farmland Preservation ☐ Forestland Preservation ☐ Historic Area Preservation
☐ Natural Area Preservation ☐ Open Spaces & Parks

Secondary Category: (if applicable, choose one and include a brief explanation of how the project meets the criteria of the secondary category in the Narrative Project Information section below.)

- ☐ Farmland Preservation ☐ Forestland Preservation ☐ Historic Area Preservation
☐ Natural Area Preservation ☐ Open Spaces & Parks

Project Specifics: (click to place an X in the box for **all** statements below that apply)

- ☐ Fee-simple acquisition by the grant applicant
☐ Fee-simple acquisition by entity other than the grant applicant
 Name of entity acquiring land:
☐ Easement to be held by the grant applicant
☐ Easement to be held by an entity other than the grant applicant
 Name of entity holding easement:
☐ Other (describe briefly here)(additional info can be provided later in the application):

Does the property fall within one or more layers of ConserveVirginia? (click all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity |
| ☐ Forestry | ☐ Floodplains and Flooding Resilience |
| ☐ Cultural and Historic | ☐ Scenic Preservation |
| ☐ Protected Landscapes Resilience | ☐ Water Quality |

Grant Request:

Total Grant Request: \$

2. Brief Project Description (200 words or less)

Please provide immediately below a brief summary of your proposed land conservation project. Include project name, grant category, locality, acreage, land use, conservation values, partners, etc. This summary will provide an introduction of your project to the interagency task force and the VLCF Board. *(Not to exceed 200 words. The opportunity for a more in-depth description of the project is provided later in the Narrative Project Information section.)*

3. General Project Information

A. Public Access:

- ☐ Public access will be allowed 365 days per year
☐ Public access will be allowed 180 to 364 days per year
☐ Public access will be allowed 1 to 179 days per year
☐ Property provides demonstrated visual access (e.g., adjacency to scenic rivers)
☐ No public access

If public access is provided, describe the Recreation Access Model Identified Need (aquatic and terrestrial layers) as requested in the Additional Scoring Criteria:

B. Has the landowner presented evidence of sufficient legal and physical access to the property adequate for the intended use of the property and for site monitoring?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe the access:

C. Is the project adjacent to other protected conservation lands, including land under conservation easement or publicly-owned land?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, show on the required aerial photo and topo map and identify the ownership or use of the adjacent land? (e.g. private property under easement, national forest, state or local park)

D. State below the length of all shorelines, rivers, perennial streams, and water bodies with perennial outflow that are present on or border the project. Indicate the planned width of the required vegetated riparian buffer on these water features. This buffer width will be required in the recorded legal instrument for the project.

Shoreline linear footage:

Perennial stream linear footage:

Wetlands:

Other:

Planned riparian buffer width (i.e. 35', 50', 100'):

Will the riparian buffer be forested? ☐ Yes ☐ No

E. Does the project meet a specific recreational or resource conservation need identified in the 2018 *Virginia Outdoors Plan*?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Recreational need?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, provide the *VOP* page number:

Resource conservation need?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, provide the *VOP* page number:

F. Does the project align with or contribute to a local or regional plan for parks, open space, and recreational facilities, or contribute to the protection of a documented conservation corridor?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, give the name of the plan:

Please include in the Required Letters and Documents section below, the relevant pages from the plan - *only the relevant pages, **not the entire plan.***

G. Does the project meet a specific goal in the local comprehensive plan?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, include in the Required Letters and Documents section below, the relevant pages from the plan only - **not the entire comprehensive plan.**

H. Does the project offer protection of a Local Cultural Resource? See page 28 of the grant manual for examples.

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, provide the name of the site, pictures, and describe the site and the resources to be protected in the Narrative Project Information section below.

I. Does the project intersect any ConserveVirginia layers in addition to the Primary VLCF Application Category for your project?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, is the landowner agreeable to permanently protect the associated resources by including language in the deed for each confirmed intersecting layer?

Yes ☐ No ☐

4. **Specific Category Questions for Farmlands, Forestlands, or Historic Area Preservation ONLY** (Others skip to Number 5)

Information for Farmlands Preservation projects only:

FA1. Does the property have, or has the owner begun the process of obtaining, a farm-management plan that specifies Best Management Practices (BMP) that will be implemented in the normal operation of this farm?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the type of farm management plans that will be followed (examples: conservation plan, nutrient management plan, resource management plan, etc.):

Attach either a summary of each management plan or a full copy of each management plan.

FA2. Have Best Management Practices (BMPs) been implemented on the farm?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe what practices are being utilized on the farm:

FA3. State the percentage of the property that contain the following soils:

Prime farmland:

Unique farmland:

Important farmland:

FA4. Is the property currently being farmed?

☐ Yes ☐ No

FA5. Is the property a designated Century Farm?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, what year was it certified?

FA6. Is the farm protected by any local farmland protection policies? (*check all that apply*)

☐ Ag zoning ☐ Ag/Forestal District ☐ Use value taxation

Information for Forestland Preservation projects only:

FO1. Forested acreage of the property:

FO2. State the percentage of the forested portion of the property the project will preserve in perpetuity. ____%

Note: The fee or easement deed for the property must include language requiring this percentage of the property to remain in forest use in perpetuity. If you will reforest a portion of the property and then maintain it in forest in perpetuity, you can include it in the percentage.

FO3. What is the length of intermittent streams on the property?

FO4. Is there a written forest stewardship management plan (or equivalent) for the property?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, attach a copy of the plan and describe how the recommendations of the plan are being implemented to achieve forest management goals.

Information for Historic Area Preservation projects only:

H1. Is the property listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register, either individually or as a contributing resource in a listed historic district? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, attach in the appendix the **first page only** of the applicable nomination form.

H2. Has the property been found eligible for listing by DHR on the Virginia Landmarks Register? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, attach in the appendix a copy of the Preliminary Information Form.

H3. Is the property a Virginia battlefield identified with a priority rating in one of the following reports issued by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program: "Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields" (1993, as amended), or "Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States," (2007, as amended)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, attach in the appendix a map showing the battlefield boundaries.

5. Project Budget Information

Expected Appraised Value of the fee or easement: \$

Expected Due Diligence Costs (itemize below):

Legal Fees:

Survey Cost:

Appraisal Cost:

Title Search and Title Insurance:

Recordation Costs:

Environmental Site Assessment Cost:
Other Costs (explain):
TOTAL Expected Due Diligence Costs: \$

TOTAL PROJECT COST (Appraised Value + Due Diligence Costs): \$

6. Description of Match

Has any match for the project already been determined (other grants, landowner donation, governmental resolution, etc)? Yes ☐ No ☐

Describe immediately below other sources of match that have been committed to the project, such as the expected value of any fee or easement donation by the landowner:

Please note that applicant must have grant match in hand or provide a letter of matching-funds commitment in the form letter provided in Appendix C of the grant manual.

7. Maps and ConserveVirginia

- A. Insert immediately below an aerial map to show the geographic location of the project. The map should show the shape of the planned project in relation to adjacent/nearby conserved lands.
- B. Insert immediately below a topographic map for the project. The map should show the shape of the planned project in relation to adjacent/nearby conserved lands. (DO NOT insert the entire topographic quad map available from the US Geological Survey. Instead, show your project area on the USA Topo Maps basemap found in the Natural Heritage Data Explorer located at <https://vanhde.org/>)
- C. Insert immediately below screenshots of ConserveVirginia layers that intersect your project.

8. Project Photos

Insert immediately below at least three photographs that highlight the conservation values being conserved by the project.

9. Required Letters/Documents

Insert each document under its heading below.

- A. Landowner Letter or notice of intent to sell
- B. Public Body Letter (for nonprofit applicants only)
- C. Required Match Letter (if required match is not confirmed)
- D. Letters and resolutions that confirm match amounts

- E. Relevant pages from local comprehensive plan and regional plans

10. Narrative Project Information

Provide more details of the project and fully describe how elements of the project meet the VLCF grant criteria for the chosen category and the Additional Scoring Criteria found in Appendix B of the grant manual. Keep in mind the 50-page maximum for the application.

- Provide a detailed description of how the project meets specific criteria of the chosen grant category (and secondary category, if applicable).
- Discuss any cultural resources found on the property that will be protected by the project, providing photographs or other documentation that authenticate the resources, and explain any planned education opportunities that will be made available for the public.
- Describe how the project will protect resources in perpetuity for any identified ConserveVirginia categories other than the primary application category.
- Provide information about how the project will benefit specific wildlife and their habitats, particularly Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan or State or Federally listed threatened or endangered species. Indicate if public access will be available for viewing or hunting wildlife, or for fishing.
- Describe the degree to which the community where the project is located is underserved or socially vulnerable.
- For easement projects (or fee-acquisition projects with an associated required easement), provide a term sheet or summary of the restrictions that will be included in the easement.
- HISTORIC APPLICATIONS - Applications submitted under the Historic Area Preservation Category must include the following three items: 1) description of future use(s) of the property; 2) description of the proposed treatment of the historic resources on the property; and 3) list or summary of proposed restrictions to be included in the easement based on DHR's easement template.

Make sure you have fully described how elements of your proposed project meet each of the grant criteria for the chosen category and the Additional Scoring Criteria found in Appendix B of the grant manual.

11. Appendix Items

Optional items for the Appendix (NOT included in the 50-page maximum):

- Farm management plan
- Forest management plan
- Appraisal or pre-appraisal
- Letters of support for the project, and
- Other documents to support the application