

**LOUDOUN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING  
750 Miller Drive, SE., Suite F-3, Leesburg, VA 20175**

**Friday, March 1, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairman James Christian. Attending: JAMES CHRISTIAN, CHAIRMAN; UZMA RASHEED, VICE CHAIR; JOHN FLANNERY, TREASURER (attending virtually); STUART VERMAAK, DIRECTOR; Derrick Clarke, Robin Bartok, Associate Directors; Suzanne Brown, Jay Frankenfield, Chris Van Vlack, Kay Powell, Jennifer Venable, Robert Wilbur, Fletcher Dilldine, Kris Dennen, STAFF; Beth Sastre, Extension Service; Mike Littman and Fred Farris, LIRA.

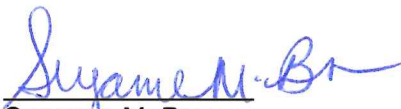
- Mike Littman with Loudoun Invasive Removal Alliance (LIRA) made a presentation about the LIRA initiative. LIRA currently consists of 34 HOAs, representing 200,000 Loudoun residents.
- In December 2023, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed \$250 K to support the LIRA initiative.
- At the state level, Delegate David Reid submitted \$2M budget amendment to provide positions at three agencies to support invasive removal.
- At the County level, LIRA is working with Joe Kroboth (Asst. County Administrator), Ernie Brown (General Services), Steve Torpy (Parks & Rec), Betsey Smith (B&D) and their teams to Design the Program.
- Letters of support have been received or in progress from Senator Subramanyam, Loudoun Farm Bureau, LWVA, PEC, Loudoun Wildlife, Blue Ridge Prism, Visit Loudoun, Nature Forward and David Reid.
- LIRA is working with local wineries, orchards, and farms on the Scrape the Grape Awareness Program. Due to the invasive Tree of Heaven, the also invasive spotted lanternfly then moves on to grapevines and fruit trees. An event is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> for volunteers to assist with removal of Spotted Lanternfly from wineries and orchards.

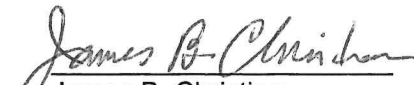
◆A motion was made to provide a letter of support for the LIRA initiative. Approved. (Rasheed-Vermaak, 3-0). The Board will discuss financial management and staff support of the initiative at the 3/20/24 District Board meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn at 10:26 a.m. Approved. (Rasheed-Vermaak, 3-0).

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

  
Suzanne M. Brown  
District Operations Manager

  
James B. Christian  
Chairman

March 20, 2024  
(Date)