



**The Virginia Soil Health Coalition
Quarterly Meeting
May 7, 2026
10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Agenda

10:00-10:20: Welcome from the Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry

- ❖ The Honorable Katie Frazier, Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry for Virginia

10:20-10:45: Virginia General Assembly Recap: Legislation Update and Budget Status

- ❖ Dr. Kendall Tyree, Executive Director, Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Dr. Kendall Tyree with the VASWCD will share legislation and budget updates relevant to soil health, agriculture, and conservation from this year's General Assembly Session.

10:45-11:15: Federal Policy Update:

- ❖ Samantha Levy, Senior Policy Manager for Conservation and Energy, American Farmland Trust

We will hear from Samantha Levy with American Farmland Trust about the status of the Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026 and federal congressional appropriations related to agriculture and conservation.

11:15-11:30: Clarifying the Relationship: 4 The Soil and the VSHC

- ❖ Ennis Carter, Founder & Director, Social Impact Studios
- ❖ Emily Scott, Senior Publicity Activator, Social Impact Studios

4 The Soil is an initiative collaboratively developed by the Virginia Soil Health Coalition and Virginia Cooperative Extension to raise awareness of soil as a critical natural resource for current and future generations. Campaign co-designers from Social Impact Studios will share the purpose and identity of the 4 The Soil Initiative, clarifying how it operates as a distinct initiative—separate from the Coalition's governance and leadership—while also highlighting the important role Coalition partners can play as stewards and champions of the campaign.

11:30--12:00: Agricultural Advisory Committee

- ❖ Jen Nelson, Owner, Resource Smart LLC; Coordinator, Agricultural Advisory Committee
- ❖ Robert Waring, Brandon Farms, Co-Chair, Agricultural Advisory Committee

We will be joined by the Coordinator and Co-Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Advisory Committee to learn more about the charge of the committee, their work to date and goals for the coming year, and specifically their prioritization of soil health and its intersection with water quality.