



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III  
Chairperson

1401 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 482-5818  
Fax: (804) 786-2940

*Agenda item # 3*

#### RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**June 18, 2024**

#### MOTION

**Made By:** Mr. Fowlkes, **Seconded By:** Mr. Stant

**Action:** Motion carried, unanimously.

#### **Title: Bridge Naming: “Rocky S. Wood Memorial Bridge”**

**WHEREAS**, in accord with § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, Robert W. Farrell, State Forester of the Virginia Department of Forestry, has requested, by letter dated May 8, 2024, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) name the bridge on State Routes 80/83, Dickenson Highway, over Russell Prater Creek, Town of Haysi, after veteran Department of Forestry official Rocky S. Wood, to honor the life, service to the Commonwealth and his community, and ultimate sacrifice of Rocky S. Wood; and

**WHEREAS**, § 33.2-213 provides that any naming for a state official killed during the performance of his official duties shall require a letter or resolution from the head of the state agency by which the state official was employed requesting such naming; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors, on March 26, 2024, and the Haysi Town Council, on April 18, 2024, have also passed resolutions requesting this naming; and

**WHEREAS**, § 33.2-213 provides that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) shall place and maintain appropriate signs indicating the names of highways, bridges, interchanges, and other transportation facilities named by the CTB; and

**WHEREAS**, § 33.2-213 provides that for any state highway, bridge, interchange or other transportation facility named after a state official killed during the performance of his official duties, the costs of producing, placing and maintaining those signs shall be paid from Commonwealth Transportation Funds.

Resolution of the Board  
Bridge Naming: "Rocky S. Wood Memorial Bridge"  
June 18, 2024  
Page 2 of 2

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, pursuant to § 33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB hereby names the bridge on State Routes 80/83, Dickenson Highway, over Russell Prater Creek, Town of Haysi, as the "Rocky S. Wood Memorial Bridge".

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that VDOT is directed to produce, place, and maintain the signs calling attention to this naming using Commonwealth Transportation Funds to cover the costs thereof as required by law.

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## CTB Decision Brief

### Bridge Naming: “Rocky S. Wood Memorial Bridge”

**Issue:** Commemorative naming of the bridge on State Routes 80/83, Dickenson Highway, over Russell Prater Creek, Town of Haysi, as the “Rocky S. Wood Memorial Bridge”.

**Facts:** Pursuant to §33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, no name shall be given to any state highway, bridge, interchange, or other transportation facility by the Board unless and until the Board receives (i) for a naming after a state official, a letter or resolution from the head of the state agency by which the state official was employed requesting such naming or (ii) for a naming other than after a state official, a resolution from the governing body of the locality within which a portion of the facility to be named is located requesting such naming. Further, pursuant to this section, for a highway, bridge, interchange, or other transportation facility named after a state official killed during the performance of his official duties, the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining these signs shall be paid from Commonwealth Transportation Funds. For purposes of §33.2-213, "state official" includes [but is not limited to] law-enforcement officers employed by the Department of State Police and state highway transportation workers.

Pursuant to the rules of statutory construction set out in Title 1, Article 2 of the Code of Virginia, § 1-218 defines "Includes" to mean "includes, but not limited to".

In accord with §33.2-213, Robert W. Farrell, State Forester of the Department of Forestry, on May 8, 2024, submitted a letter requesting the CTB to name the bridge on State Routes 80/83, Dickenson Highway, over Russell Prater Creek in the Town of Haysi for veteran Department of Forestry official Rocky S. Wood, who lost his life in the line of duty with the Department of Forestry.

According to that letter, on March 9, 2023, while scouting an active wildfire and attempting to determine how to employ a bulldozer for fire suppression, Mr. Wood was involved in a fatal all-terrain vehicle accident.

The Dickenson County Board of Supervisors, on March 26, 2024, and the Haysi Town Council, on April 18, 2024, passed resolutions in support of this naming.

Mr. Wood was a veteran wildland firefighter who had responded to hundreds of fires across the Commonwealth during a 20-plus year career as first a part-time firefighter and then a full-time employee of the Virginia Department of Forestry. In addition to his wildland firefighting work, Mr. Wood was an active member of the local community, having served as a volunteer structural firefighter, chief of the local fire department and as Vice Mayor of the Town of Haysi.

**Recommendations:** The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recommends this request be approved.

**Action Required by CTB:** The *Code of Virginia* requires a majority of the CTB members to approve a resolution naming a highway or bridge, as appropriate. A resolution will be provided for the Board’s consideration.

**Result if Approved:** The bridge on State Routes 80/83, Dickenson Highway, over Russell Prater Creek, Town of Haysi, will be known as the “Rocky S. Wood Memorial Bridge”. In accordance with §33.2-213, for any state highway, bridge, interchange or other transportation facility named after a state official killed during the performance of his official duties, the costs of producing, placing and maintaining those signs shall be paid from Commonwealth Transportation Funds. Therefore VDOT will utilize Commonwealth Transportation Funds to pay for the costs of producing, placing, and maintaining the signs calling attention to this naming.

**Options:** Approve, Deny, or Defer.

**Public Comments/Reactions:** VDOT has not received any public comments on this proposal.



## DICKENSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SHELBY WILLIS, Chair  
Kenady District

RICHARD THACKER  
Sandlick District

CHRIS HALL  
Willis District

County Administrator  
LARRY K. BARTON

PEGGY KISER, Vice Chair  
Ervinton District

RHONDA SLUSS  
Clintwood District

County Attorney  
WILLIAM J. STURGILL

### RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Rocky Wood lived a life of service to Dickenson County; and

**WHEREAS**, Rocky Wood served as Vice Mayor to the Town of Haysi, Chairman of the Building Code Committee of Dickenson County and Chief of the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Rocky Wood gave his life in the line of duty with the Virginia Department of Forestry on March 9, 2023.


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, to commemorate and honor the life of Rocky Wood, the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation formally designate the bridge on Route 80 that is over Prater Creek, at the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department, as the "Rocky Wood Memorial Bridge".

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County of Dickenson, Virginia will assume the costs for the fabrication, installation, and maintenance of signs for this naming.


ADOPTED this 26th day of March, 2024.

DICKENSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By:

  
Shelby Willis, Chairwoman

Attest:

  
Teresa Lyall, Clerk



# Proposed Bridge Naming

Rocky Wood Memorial Bridge

GPS: 37.121599, -82.172942

Route 80 - Sandlick Road

Structure No.: 1040

Over: Prater Creek

## Legend

-  Haysi Volunteer Fire Department
-  Proposed Bridge Naming



Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus

300 ft









# TOWN OF HAYSI

## Mayor

Larry D. Yates



## Council Members

Wm. "Billy" Counts  
Michael Harris  
Tim Wallace  
Carter Branham  
Debbie Wood  
Susan Tiller

## Resolution for Rocky S. Wood Memorial Bridge

The governing body of the Town of Haysi, consisting of six members, in a duly called meeting held on the eighteenth day of April, two-thousand and twenty-four, at which a quorum was present RESOLVED as follows:

WHEREAS, Rocky S. Wood served the Town of Haysi as Vice Mayor and Town Council Member for many years and;

WHEREAS, Rocky S. Wood served the Town of Haysi, the Haysi area, Dickenson County and all of Southwest Virginia as a Volunteer Firefighter and;

WHEREAS, Rocky S. Wood served many years as Chief of Haysi's Volunteer Fire Department and;

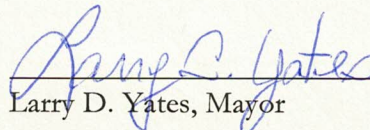
WHEREAS, Rocky S. Wood gave his life in the line of duty with the Virginia Department of Forestry on March 9, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that to commemorate and honor this life of service and the life of Rocky S. Wood, the Town Council of the Town of Haysi, Virginia does respectfully express profound gratitude toward the memory of Rocky S. Wood and respectfully requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation to formally designate the bridge on State Route 80/83 which crosses over Russell Prater Creek in the Town of Haysi near the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department, as the "Rocky S. Wood Memorial Bridge."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Dickenson in Virginia will assume the costs for the fabrication, installation, and maintenance of signs for this naming.

ADOPTED this 18th day of April, 2024. This resolution is hereby entered into the permanent minutes of the meeting of the Haysi Town Council.

Town of Haysi

  
Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

  
Clerk



CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the Town of Haysi, at a duly assembled meeting on the eighteenth day of April, two-thousand and twenty-four.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda Perigan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Clerk

Rob Farrell  
State Forester



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Forestry

900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800 • Charlottesville, Virginia 22903  
(434) 977-6555 • Fax: (434) 296-2369 • [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)

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May 8, 2024

W. Sheppard Miller, III, Chairman  
Commonwealth Transportation Board  
1401 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Chairman Miller:

In accordance with §33.2-213 of the *Code of Virginia*, I write to the Commonwealth Transportation Board on behalf of the family of Special Forest Warden Rocky S. Wood, The Town of Haysi, Virginia, and Dickenson County, Virginia, who jointly request that the bridge on State Route 80/83 which crosses over Russell Prater Creek in the Town of Haysi near the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department be named in honor of Virginia Department of Forestry Forest Technician Rocky S. Wood.

On March 9, 2023, while scouting an active wildfire and attempting to determine how to employ a bulldozer for fire suppression, Mr. Wood was involved in a fatal all-terrain vehicle accident. Mr. Wood was a veteran wildland firefighter who had responded to hundreds of fires across the Commonwealth during a 20+ year career as first a part-time firefighter and then a full-time employee of the Virginia Department of Forestry.

In addition to his wildland firefighting work, Mr. Wood was an active member of the local community, having served as a volunteer structural firefighter and chief of the local fire department and as Vice Mayor of the Town of Haysi.

On Behalf of the Virginia Department of Forestry, I fully support naming this bridge in honor of Forest Technician Wood's many years of dedicated service to the citizens of Virginia.

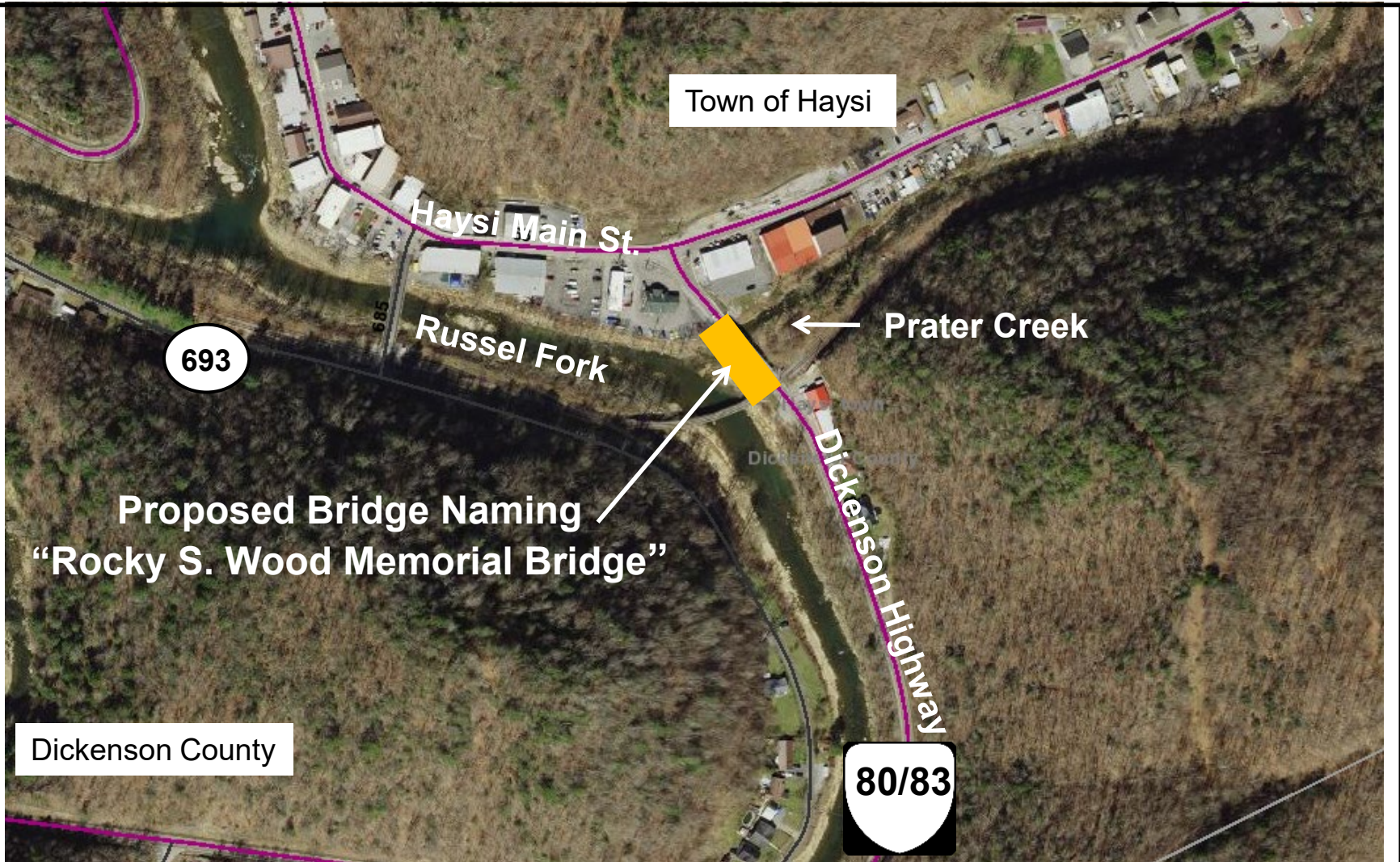
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Farrell".

Robert W. Farrell  
State Forester

cc: File Copy





Town of Haysi

Haysi Main St.

Prater Creek

Russel Fork

693

Proposed Bridge Naming  
"Rocky S. Wood Memorial Bridge"

Dickenson County

80/83



Virginia Department of Transportation  
Maintenance Division

CTB MEETING: June 18, 2024

Town of Haysi

Proposed Bridge Naming:  
"Rocky S. Wood Memorial Bridge"

