



Meeting Minutes
Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Farmville, Virginia
January 26, 2010

Board Members Present:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer
Chad Gunn - Director, Nottoway County / Secretary
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County
Chuck Arnason – Associate Director, Nottoway County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Don Maxey – Associate Director, Prince Edward County
Bill Powers – Associate Director, Prince Edward County

Board Members Absent:

Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County
Charles Dodson –Associate Director, Amelia County

Piedmont SWCD Staff Present:

Deanna Fehrer – District Manager
Robin Buckalew – Administrative and Public Information Specialist
Kevin Dunn – BMP Conservation Technician
Paula Totten – TMDL Conservation Specialist
Charlie Wootton –TMDL Conservation Specialist

Others Present:

Dennis Jones –NRCS District Conservationist for Prince Ed. and Nottoway Counties
Brian Loadholt–NRCS Conservation Specialist Amelia, Goochland & Powhatan Counties
Carrie Hagin – DCR Conservation District Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Piedmont SWCD was held in the conference room of the Prince Edward County Natural Resources and Agricultural building January 26, 2010. Associate Director Gary Dillard called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

WELCOME:

Mr. Dillard welcomed directors, staff, and guests and invited Mr. Moyer to lead the group in prayer.

OFFICER ELECTIONS:

Mr. Dillard opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board. **Mr. Gunn nominated Mr. Moyer for Chairman of the Board: Mr. Rash seconded. Mr. Gunn moved to close the nominations: Mr. Rash seconded. The nominations being closed, Mr. Dillard called for a vote. Mr. Moyer was unanimously voted Chairman for 2010.**

Chairman Moyer opened the floor for nominations for the Office of Vice-Chair. Mr. Gunn nominated Mr. Rash and, hearing no further nominations, on motion by Mr. Rash to accept by acclamation, the Board voted Mr. Rash Vice-Chairman. Mr. Moyer opened the nominations for the Office of Secretary. Mr. Rash nominated Mr. Gunn and, hearing no further nominations, on motion by Mr. Rash to accept by acclamation, the Board voted Mr. Gunn Secretary. Mr. Moyer opened the nominations for the Office of Treasurer. Mr. Gunn nominated Dr. Chaffin and, hearing no further nominations, on motion by Mr. Rash to accept by acclamation, the Board voted Dr. Chaffin Treasurer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried 5-0, the Board approved the November 2009 minutes as mailed/emailed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried by a vote of 5-0, the Board accepted the November and December 2009 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.

COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Buckalew reported on a Stormwater Management Seminar for planners that the Piedmont SWCD District is hosting, scheduled for Feb. 9th in Blackstone, Virginia.

Mrs. Fehrer reported that funds are budgeted and available to send two campers to Youth Conservation Camp. **On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried 5-0, the Board approved supporting up to two campers, at \$550.00 per camper, to attend Youth Conservation Camp in 2010.**

Mrs. Fehrer stated that the \$1,000 Education Scholarship Fund applications would be distributed to district High Schools in the coming months.

Mrs. Fehrer indicated that there would be two VASWCD Director Training opportunities, one February 23-24 in Williamsburg, and one in March 9-10 in Rocky Mount. Dr. Chaffin will make presentations at both meetings, and due to this conflict, will not be in attendance at the February Board meeting.

Mr. Whittington reported that the Amelia Ruritan Club donated \$200 in support of the District's Youth Conservation Education Fund.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Mr. Rash reported (*See attached Report*)

Cost Share & Tax Credit Approvals:

Amelia County

Jack Bulls- LE-1T Livestock Exclusion (1080' Stream bank excluded) TMDL

Prince Edward County

Walter Glascock - LE-1T Livestock Exclusion (7500' Stream bank excluded) (TMDL)

Sunny Slope Orchard - FR-1 Reforestation of Erodible Crop and Pasture Land (Bay-Base)

On motion by Mr. Rash and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved the recommendation of the Conservation Committee to approve the three Cost-Share practices as presented.

TMDL staff clarified that the LE-1T practice is the same as the SL-6 practices in every way except that the LE-1T offers an 85% cost-share (SL-6 offers %75) as further incentive to participate in the TMDL program.

Conservation Plans

Amelia: John Ashman (1)

Prince Edward: Bassett Hound Haven Estates (2), and John Chernault (1)

On motion by Mr. Rash and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved the recommendation of the Conservation Committee to accept the 4 Conservation Plans as presented.

Cost-Share Correction

At the September 22, 2009 meeting, Tim Alexander's SI-8B Cost-Share was listed at \$1605.00. His actual cost-share was \$1650.00.

Conservation Updates

Mr. Rash commented on the success of the TMDL program, noting that the Piedmont District TMDL Conservation Specialists help put \$1,000,000 worth of conservation practices in place over the last three years. By partnering with the Federal CREP program, the TMDL staff leveraged the best incentive payments available, while putting the greatest amount of conservation on the ground.

Mrs. Totten reported that 21 producers attended their Partner's Breakfast Meetings at the Blackstone Research Station. 37 producers have signed up for the Partner's Dinner Meeting January 28, many of whom have no former experience with the District, but have heard from various sources that the Bay TMDL program is ratcheting up.

Mrs. Totten stated that a report submitted Wednesday, January 27 to DCR indicates that Piedmont SWCD TMDL staff have 28 projects either approved, in the process of being approved, or have the potential to be approved.

Mrs. Fehrer reported that Mr. Hamlett and Mr. Dunn would begin drill maintenance during the month of February.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: No report

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: Dr. Chaffin reported

Locality Budget Request:

A budget request was submitted to Amelia County, and Nottoway and Prince Edward County budget requests will be submitted at the time allotted. Dr. Chaffin noted that the staff did a good job outlining the District's contributions to the Counties in the request letter, especially regarding flood inundation zone study cost savings in Prince Edward County.

NRCS Lease Agreement

On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried 5-0, the Board approved a new lease agreement between NRCS and the District, including a change to a quarterly payment schedule. The lease amounts remain unchanged.

Check Signature:

Mr. Powers agreed to be part of a two-member finance over-site team and perform bi-monthly check review. Mr. Dillard agreed to act as backup.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Dr. Chaffin reported

The VASWCD recommendations to address the agricultural exemption “loop hole” have been withdrawn due to possible conflict with forestry laws. (For other cost-share funding information updates, see Conservation District Coordinator report attached)

Dr. Chaffin mentioned that he had the opportunity to met and speak with the newly appointed Secretary of Natural Resources and the Deputy Secretary, and both indicated a sincere interest in Conservation District activities.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Committee Appointments

On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried 5-0, the Board approved keeping the committees appointments as they stand, with the openings created by Mr. Gantt’s departure from the Board filled by directors indicating an interest to serve.

Associate Director Term Renewals

On motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried 5-0, the Board approved renewing Associate Director terms for Mr. Dillard, Mr. Dodson, Mr. Arnason, and Mr. Powers.

ODRC&D Representation

On motion by Mr. Gunn, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried 5-0, the Board appointed Mr. Arnason to represent the Piedmont SWCD with Old Dominion Resource Conservation and Development. Mrs. Fehrer will act as the alternate.

Strategic Plan and Annual Plan of Work Review

Mrs. Fehrer recommended changing the scheduled time to review the Strategic Plan from January to June, the end of the program year. The Board agreed and the review will be rescheduled for June.

WATERSHED COMMITTEE: Mr. Arnason reported

Letter to DCR on Inundation Study

Five different engineering firms created Piedmont, Southside and Peter Francisco SWCD Inundation Break Studies completed thus far. Each firm has a different report format making it difficult to explain hazard classification changes to affected parties. The three Districts met and prepared a letter to DCR requesting more detailed explanation of studies, easier to use maps and assistance with explaining the information to localities.

Southside and Peter Francisco board members already signed the letter. **On motion to accept the Watershed Committee recommendation, the Board voted 5-0 to authorized Mr. Moyer to sign the letter to DCR.**

New Inundation Studies Received

Inundation Studies were received for Buffalo #3, #4, #8 and #9. Staff will begin reviewing and comments will be sent to DCR.

Mrs. Fehrer reported receiving a call from a landowner concerned that a road to the top of dam Buff #4 has rutted out. Mrs. Fehrer, Mr. Arnason and Mr. Jones will make an inspection.

District Manager Report: Ms. Fehrer reported (*Please see attached report*)

The District will be participating in a Poultry House Rainwater Harvesting project financed by a grant written by the Center for Watershed Protection and funded by Altria. The District will assist with outreach activities and will be sent an MOU to sign.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Department of Conservation and Recreation: Mrs. Hagin reported (*Please see attached report*)

With the departure of Mr. Joe Maroon, Mr. Russ Baxter is the interim director for DCR.

Natural Resources Conservation Services: (*Please see attached reports*)

Mr. Jones reported that some producers have asked about how well the livestock waterers have worked in the extreme cold this year. The waterers seem to work best if they are kept active. If not used by the cattle they can collect a layer of ice or snow on top, and then can accidentally be broken when attempting to break through the ice or snow accumulation.

Mr. Loadholt reemphasized his appreciation for the great partnership between the District and NRCS.

Roundtable:

Mrs. Fehrer noted that VCE would be hosting a Pond Maintenance Class and a Small Ruminant class. For details, see VCE website. For other Conservation Workshop information, see District Manager Report, or visit Piedmont District Website at <http://piedmontswcd.org>.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned 1:00 p.m.

Attached Reports:

- Conservation Committee Report
- District Manager & Staff Report
- DCR CDC Report
- NRCS Reports

Reports on File: Conservation Committee Report including tract numbers

Submitted By: _____ *Date:* 1-27-2010

Robin Buckalew, Administrative Secretary

Approved By: _____ *Date:* _____

Chad Gunn, Director / Secretary