



Meeting Minutes
Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Farmville, Virginia
October 27, 2009

Board Members Present:

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

Board members absent:

Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County
Charles Dodson –Associate Director, Amelia County
Bill Powers – Associate Director, Prince Edward County

Piedmont SWCD Staff Present

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

Others Present:

Carrie Hagin – DCR Conservation District Coordinator
Dennis Jones –NRCS District Conservationist for Prince Ed. and Nottoway Counties
Horace Adams –NRCS Conservation Technician Amelia, Goochland & Powhatan Counties

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 October 27, 2009. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

Welcome:

Chairman Moyer welcomed directors, staff, and guests and led the group in prayer.

Secretary's Report:

On motion by Mr. Gantt, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board approved the September 2009 minutes as mailed/mailed.

Treasurer's Report:

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board accepted the September 2009 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.

Committee & Staff Reports:

Education / Communication Committee:Conservation Awards and Open House

Ms. Fehrer noted that the award presentation at the Amelia Farm Bureau Banquet was much appreciated by all involved, and the Open house in Prince Edward County was well attended including Board of Supervisors and teachers.

Posting Minutes

Mr. Gantt noticed that Piedmont SWCD minutes are not posted on the Prince Edward County website, and asked that staff request the minutes be available on the county website, or a link made to the district website where the minutes are posted. Staff will also check if directors are listed as elected officials and if the district website link is available in all three county websites.

Resolution

On motion by Mr. Gantt, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by vote of 5-0, with one director abstaining, the board approved, after one change, presenting a resolution thanking the Sandy River Reservoir Protection Overlay District Committee for their volunteer service to the Planning Commission. Mr. Chaffin noted that the process to hammer out the future of Sandy River Reservoir has inspired many citizens to get more active in the general proceedings coming before the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors.

Conservation Programs Committee: Mr. Rash reported (*Please see attached report*)Cost Share and Tax Credits

The conservation committee met at 10:00 a.m. and reviewed cost share and conservation plans submitted for approval. **On motion by Mr. Rash and carried by vote of 6-0, the Board accepted the Conservation Committee's recommendation to approve the report as presented:**

3 cost share practices in Amelia County:

- Two (2) SL-8, Cover Crop Specialty Cropland
- One (1)- SL-1, Permanent Vegetative Cover on Cropland

2 practices in Prince Edward County:

- One (1) - SL-1, Permanent Veg. Cover on Cropland
- One (1) - SL-6, Grazing Land Protection

Conservation Plans

On motion by Mr. Rash and carried 6-0, the Board accepted the Conservation Committee's recommendation to accept the conservation plans as presented:

- Seven (7) in Amelia County
- Three (3) in Nottoway County
- Five (5) in Prince Edward County

Practice Cancellation

- One (1) FR-1, Cancelled – funding allocation adjusted
- Two (2) SL-8B, Early planting date not met – funding allocation adjusted

Personnel Committee: No reportFinancial Committee: Dr. Chaffin reportedBudget Cuts

The 2009 – 2010 DCR Operating Revenue Budget Reduction of 10% (\$7,494.) will be reflected in reductions in the following line items of the Piedmont SWCD budget: DCR Operating Income, Travel Expense, Office Expense, Rent Expense, Education Expense and Promotion Expense.

On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried by vote of 6-0, the Board approved 2009- 2010 budget reduction allocation recommendations made by Dr. Chaffin and Ms. Fehrler.

Use of NRCS Vehicles

After research, it is understood that Farmville NRCS vehicles would be available to Piedmont staff if a farm visit is necessary and the Piedmont SWCD vehicles are unavailable. The district would need to purchase a “designated insured endorsement” to add to our current policy, costing approximately \$30.00 annually through Farm Bureau.

On motion by Mr. Gantt, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by vote of 6-0, the Board authorized Ms. Fehrler to make any needed changes to the insurance policy that will enable staff to use NRCS vehicles when necessary. Mr. Arnason asked how fuel cost reimbursement would be negotiated. Mr. Jones and Mr. Wootton both expressed their confidence that the overall excellent working relationship between the two partners will insure a fair division of costs without the necessity of a formal arrangement.

Activity Summary Document

Ms. Fehrler compiled a summary of Piedmont SWCD projects, achievements, and local funding expenditures for each locality. Copies of the summary will be distributed to the Board of Supervisors at each locality at their monthly meeting.

Planning Committee: Mr. Gunn reported

The VASWCD Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 6-8 in Richmond, VA and Dr. Chaffin again encouraged any and all directors to attend. **On motion by Dr. Chaffin, and seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried by vote of 6-0, the Board approved five (5) staff members to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting.**

Legislative: Dr. Chaffin reported

The Agricultural and Environmental Coalition partners continue to work together, and with DCR, to finalize funding requests to present to the Virginia General Assembly next year. Also, Dr. Chaffin noted that he is planning on representing the Virginia Association of Conservation Districts at the National Association annual meeting in Beltsville, Maryland.

Ms. Hagin reported on EPA’s October 1st TMDL 101 informational meeting. In summary, the Chesapeake Bay TMDL will strive for greater accountability within two-year milestones. EPA will set the basin reductions. She stressed that the district, local government and other partners will need to work together to find ways to meet the nutrient load reductions within the allocated time limit. Mr. Rash pointed out that the final nutrient reduction diet for this area will depend a good deal on what date when they begin including data. For instance, if they begin using data from 1985, all of the strides made by agriculture to reduce nutrient loading to the watershed from that time to present will be included. If they begin in 2005, then our area might have a more difficult time showing the degree of nutrient load reduction called for in this agreement.

Planning: Mr. Gunn reported

Board officers including Chairman, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary will be voted on during the January Board meeting. Any board member interested in serving as an officer should contact Mr. Gunn before the November board meeting, as there is no December meeting.

Watershed Committee: Mr. Gantt reported

Flood inundation zone mapping is completed for Buffalo #1 & #2 watershed dams. Staff and committee members will familiarize themselves with the document and be prepared to discuss them in the coming months. Hazard classification has changed for both dams due to secondary road flooding in all four of the possible flood scenarios used for mapping, and people who live in the affected areas as well as realtors, local government officials, and emergency personnel will be made aware of the change in classification. The change in classification will not result in changes to dam height or spillway design. There is a three week comment period for the district to help verify structures below the dam etc, and then the document will be reviewed by local planners, and then DCR, Dam Safety and finally to the Virginia Soil and Water Board for approval.

New stormwater regulations

Ms. Hagin reported that the new Stormwater Regulations were approved, but will not go into effect until further input on grandfathering language is completed, with an estimated effective date of July 1, 2010. DCR is eager to help any party who might be impacted by the new Erosion and Sediment Control laws by making staff available to speak at workshops or planning sessions.

Dam maintenance

Ms. Fehrer reported that all dams have been bush-hogged and all maintenance completed, with the exception of Bush #7 gate opening, and a final report will be sent to Matt Lyons, NRCS State Engineer.

Sandy River Reservoir maintenance

Mr. Jones reported that inspections on Sandy River Reservoir and dam are current, but recommended maintenance has not been performed on the reservoir at this time due to budget limitations in Prince Edward County.

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

The Piedmont SWCD is a co-signer with the Middle James Roundtable on a Chesapeake Bay License Plate Fund grant to finance the re-printing of table coasters and brochures, and the design and printing of children's table mats, with a total cost of \$10,000.00.

Nottoway County Schools is requesting a letter of support for their efforts to establish a recycling program in the schools, and Prince Edward County is requesting a letter of support for a Tobacco Commission grant to support the local food movement and an upgrade for the local cannery. Letters for both will be prepared by staff and sent to Mr. Moyer for signature.

Agency Reports:

Department of Conservation and Recreation: Carrie Hagin reported (Please see attached report)

Program Year 2009-2010 Virginia Agriculture Cost-Share monies will be available in the next few weeks.

Natural Resources Conservation Services: (Please see attached reports)

Mr. Adams reported on the seven (7) conservation plans found in the Conservation Committee report.

Roundtable

Ms. Fehrer reported that there is an Equine Nutrition Workshop on Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 7:45 am to 12:30 pm at the Prince Edward Extension Office in Farmville. To register, call 804-492-4390. Dr. Randy Sparrow will be the special guest. Learn about what weeds are poisonous, about grazing practices and hay quality.

Piedmont SWCD Conservation Technician Kevin Dunn and his wife Rachael delivered a healthy baby boy named Grayson Earl on October 19th.

District intern Emily Jones begins a new full-time job in Norfolk, Virginia.

Ms. Fehrer attended Old Dominion Resource Conservation and Development social with director Chuck Arnason where they learned about current projects and completed projects. Ms. Fehrer noted that Prince Edward County has three projects currently through Old Dominion.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned 12:10 p.m.

Attached Reports:

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

Reports on File: Conservation Committee Report including tract numbers

Submitted By: _____ *Date:* 11-2-2009

Robin Buckalew, Administrative Secretary

Approved By: _____ *Date:* _____

Chad Gunn, Director / Secretary