



Meeting Minutes
Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Farmville, Virginia
September 22, 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
Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County
Bill Powers – Associate Director, Prince Edward County

Board members absent:

Chuck Arnason – Associate Director, Nottoway County
Charles Dodson –Associate Director, Amelia County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Don Maxey – 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
Brian Loadholt–NRCS District Conservationist Amelia, Goochland & Powhatan Counties
Emily Jones - Piedmont SWCD Intern
Delbert Southall – NRCS Area III Resource Conservationist

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 September 22, 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. Mr. Southall introduced Mr. Brian Loadholt, the new District Conservationist in Amelia, Goochland and Powhatan Counties, replacing David Harris, noting that Mr. Loadholt has a broad range of experience and will bring a fresh perspective to conservation work in the area.

Secretary's Report:

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Gantt and carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board approved the August 2009 minutes as mailed/emailed.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Fehrer reported that the transfer of the matured CDs to a Money Market Fund in July are reflected on the August balance sheet. Also, we received the first quarter operating and position monies from DCR in September. **On motion by Mr. Gunn, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board accepted the August 2009 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.**

Committee & Staff Reports:Education / Communication Committee:Website

Ms. Jones showcased the district's new website that she created found at <http://PiedmontSWCD@moonstar.com>. Several good suggestions were made and all commended Ms. Jones on a very professional and easily accessible site. Directors will be contacted and asked to complete short biographical information sheets to be entered into the site. Excellent brochures were circulated including those created or updated by Ms. Jones during her summer internship, those created by Ms. Totten for the TMDL program, and a "how to" manual created by summer intern Keith Trent on making "root boxes".

Conservation Awards

Board members reviewed a Conservation Educator award nomination. **On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by vote of 7-0, the Board approved the Conservation Educator award nomination for Carly Woolfolk of Nottoway County.**

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 4-0, with Mr. Whittington, Ms. Kerr and Mr. Moyer abstaining due to conflict of interest (their farms are included in the cost share), the Board accepted the Conservation Committee's recommendation to accept the report as presented:**

15 cost share practices in Amelia County:

- Seven - SL- 8B- Small Grain Cover Crop
- One - LE-2T- Livestock Exclusion w/ reduced setback for TMDL
- Two - SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop
- Two - WQ-4 Legume Cover Crop
- Two - LT-CNT Long Term Continuous No-Till
- One - SL-8 Cover Crop Specialty Cropland

6 practices in Nottoway County:

- Two -SL-8H- Harvestable Cover Crop
- Two - SL-8B Small Grain Cover Crop
- One -_WQ-4 Legume Cover Crop
- One -_FR-1 Reforestation of Erodible Cropland and Pasture

4 practices in Prince Edward County:

- One -_SL-1 – Permanent Veg. Cover on Cropland
- Two - SL- 8B- Small Grain Cover Crop
- One - SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop

Conservation Plans

On motion by Mr. Rash, and carried 7-0, the Board accepted the Conservation Committee's recommendation to accept the conservation plans as presented:

Two in Amelia Co.

One in Prince Edward County

Change in Cover Crop

It was noted that a practice in Nottoway county, approved last month for a SL-8B Small grain cover crop, was downgraded (will cost less money) to a SL-8H, harvestable cover crop.

Eight new producers signed up for practices in September

Personnel Committee: Mr. Moyer reported

On motion by Mr. Gantt, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried 7-0, Ms. Emily Jones will continue as Piedmont SWCD Intern for an additional 250 hours at \$8.00 per hour.

Financial Committee: Dr. Chaffin reported

Budget Cuts

It is confirmed that there is a 10% cut to districts in operational funds coming from DCR. The district will hold off making revisions to their budget until getting specific recommendations from both DCR and the VASWCD about where to make the needed cuts. Mr. Gantt asked about the availability of rating systems based on demonstrating conservative and responsible fiscal behavior that could possibly protect the district from drastic cuts. Ms. Hagin noted that DCR rating systems are based solely on cost share spending. Mr. Rash noted that VASWCD has wrestled with this question in the past, and probably will do so in the future.

Joint Agreement for use of Computers

On motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by vote of 7-0, the Board approved extending the Joint Agreement between NRCS and Piedmont SWCD on the use of USDA computers, which includes the agreement to utilize tool kit to prepare plans, run background checks on all employees, and report practices in the NRCS system.

Planning Committee: Mr. Gunn reported

The VASWCD Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 6-8 in Richmond, VA and an outstanding lineup of speakers and workshops are lined up. All directors are encouraged to attend, especially directors who might not have participated in the past.

The Piedmont SWCD Open House is scheduled for October 13 in the conference room of the Natural Resources and Agricultural Building in Farmville. Invitations for the Open House will be included in the Piedmont SWCD Annual Report mailing.

Watershed Committee: Mr. Gantt reported

The *Sandy River Reservoir Overlay Zoning District* Planning Committee completed the public input portion of their recommendation. This committee was well represented by citizens from various land uses and backgrounds, working without compensation and sometimes under extreme scrutiny and criticism from the public. **On motion by Mr.**

Whittington, seconded by Mr. Gantt and carried 7-0, the Board authorized the Watershed Committee and staff to compose a Commendation for Service to be awarded to the members of the Sandy River Reservoir Overlay District Committee.

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

VASWCD is beginning their Strategic Planning process and will be sending out questionnaires.

JRA Executive Director Bill Street contacted Piedmont SWCD to discuss the possibility of working together on an upcoming grant opportunity to market priority BMP practices. The general consensus was to proceed with enthusiasm.

Agency Reports:

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

The Clarksville office will be closing soon, with the loss of one CDC position.

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

Mr. Loadhold reiterated that the Conservation Stewardship Program is a great opportunity to reward good stewards of the land with extra incentives. Information available at <http://www.usda.gov/farmland>

Roundtable

Ms. Fehrer noted that Old Dominion Resource Conservation and Development is hosting a Community Sustainability and Awareness Social September 30th at the Heartland Regional Authority Industrial Park in Keysville.

Mr. Loadholt mentioned that Monocan SWCD is hosting a Corn Variety Field Day September 29 in Goochland.

Mr. Whittington suggested that if the participation in the Open House by residents from Amelia County is low, perhaps an Open House could be scheduled in Amelia later in the year.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned 12:10 p.m.

Attached Reports:

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

Reports on File: Conservation Committee Report including tract numbers

Submitted By: _____ *Date:* 9-23-2009

Robin Buckalew, Administrative Secretary

Approved By: _____ *Date:* _____

Chad Gunn, Director / Secretary