



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
January 24, 2017 10:30 a.m.**

Board Members Present:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County/Vice Chairman
Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer
Chuck Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Secretary
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County
Juan Whittington –Appointed Director, Amelia County
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

Board Members Absent:

Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County

Piedmont SWCD Staff Present:

Deanna Fehrer- District Manager
Charlie Wootton- Senior Conservation Specialist
Amanda Hancock – Admin & Education Coordinator
Kevin Dunn- BMP Conservation Technician
Robin Buckalew- Communications
Emily Gibbs- Urban & Program Support

Others Present:

Rachel Loveday, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia
Doug Audley, DOF

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:

A regular meeting of the Piedmont SWCD Board of Directors was held in the conference room of the Prince Edward County Natural Resources and Agricultural building on January 24, 2017. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed directors and staff, and led the group in prayer. A quorum was present.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

On motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the November 22, 2016 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

On motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the November and December 2016 Treasurer’s Report to be filed as presented for audit.

Ms. Fehrer mentioned the reports included receipts of several grant funds and donations including, \$2,500 from the Titmous Foundation to assist with the Septic Program, \$1,000 from the VASWCD Education Foundation to assist with Envirothon and a \$200 donation to the Youth Education Program from the Amelia Ruritans.

Outstanding Invoice for use of no-till drill:

On motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to write off past due equipment rental for invoice # 119 in the amount of \$243.24. The individual has filed for bankruptcy and there will be no chance to collect.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Dunn reported (See attached Conservation Report)
Cost-Share and Tax Credit Modification:

Prince Edward

(*Original Practice)

<u>Ronald W. Reames</u>	SL-6 Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Mgt. (10,600')	
(C.B. V.A.C.S)	Estimated Cost	\$ 56,809.00
05-17-0036	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 45,447.20
BMP	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 2,840.45

*Original Practice approved 9-27-16. Practice was funded entirely by VACS Funding. At this time the participant has been approved for CREP on part of the farm and the following shows the current VACS needs.

(**Modified Practice)

<u>Ronald W. Reames</u>	SL-6 Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Mgt. (2,600')	
(C.B. V.A.C.S)	Estimated Cost	\$ 12,726.00
05-17-0036	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 10,180.00
BMP	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 636.30

**The difference between 9-27-16 approval and 1-24-17 approval is \$35,267.20. These funds will be returned to 2017 C.B. VACS

On motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the cost-share and tax credit modification as presented.

Cost-Share & Tax Credit Approval:Nottoway

Frances P. Harris Trust	SL-6 Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Mgt. (5,100')	
(C.B. V.A.C.S)	Estimated Cost	\$ 21,986.00
05-17-0054	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 17,588.00
BMP	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 1,099.30

On motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the cost-share and tax credit as presented.

CREP Practice Approved by DCR:Prince Edward

1. #05-17-0056 Gayle B. Harris -\$26,727.00

Nottoway

1. #05-17-0054- Frances P. Harris Trust -\$14,787.00

DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Cost-Share: Ms. Gibbs reported
Prince Edward

Vincent Marsh, Sr.
(05-17-0051)

RB-4 Septic System Replacement

Estimated Cost \$ 4,150.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 3,112.50

Eligible for 75% cost-share based on income eligibility guidelines.

Casie L. Giles
(05-17-0053)

RB-4 Septic System Replacement

Estimated Cost \$ 4,400.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 3,300.00

Eligible for 75% cost-share based on income eligibility guidelines.

Pre-Approvals by Conservation Committee during Interim:

Prince Edward

William M. Duker
(05-17-0052)

RB-4 Septic System Replacement

Estimated Cost \$ 2,200.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,650.00

Eligible for 75% cost-share based on income eligibility guidelines.

Jesse W. Yeatts
(05-17-0055)

RB-1 Septic Tank Pumpout (2)

Estimated Cost \$ 600.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 300.00

Amelia

Sunshine B. Allen
(05-16-0095)

RB-4 Septic System Replacement

Estimated Cost \$ 3,750.00

Titmus Foundation Grant Pmt. \$ 937.50

Approved 6/28/16 for 75% cost-share using DEQ 319(h) funds.

Janet P. Cousin
(05-17-0003)

RB-4 Septic System Replacement

Estimated Cost \$ 3,550.00

Titmus Foundation Grant Pmt. \$ 887.50

Approved 9/27/16 for 75% cost-share using DEQ 319(h) funds.

On motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Cost-Share applications as presented.

Conservation Plans – (2):

Signed for FSA

Nottoway

Francis P Harris Trust

Prince Edward

Emert Enterprises

On motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the Conservation Plans as presented.

Informational Items: Mr. Dunn reported

PSWCD BMP PY-17 Program Funding

Chesapeake Bay	\$ 18,776.03
Outside Chesapeake Bay	\$ 85.02
SL-6 CB Pending retirement	\$ 62,495.00
319 Septic Grant – Flat/Nibbs Creek	\$ 152,217.25
319 Septic Grant – PE County TMDL	\$ 256,973.50

Mr. Dunn stated DEQ recently reported having a grant available that would offer 75% of cost-share to producers with a SL-6 100% pending funding application who are in specific TMDL watersheds. The district has a producer who qualifies and is currently listed under pending funding. Technical staff will meet with him to discuss if he would like to participate in this grant or wait for future allocation of DCR funds.

Ms. Fehrer updated the board on the DEQ 319 Septic Program and plans for a workshop in the spring.

Mr. Wootton stated that the Resource Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee had met and are waiting to receive four plans that were previously reviewed but needed revisions. The plans were sent back to the plan writer at his request and the committee will meet after plans are received.

No-till Drill Analysis:

Ms. Fehrer reviewed a drill analysis from 2014-2016 and discussed upcoming drill maintenance needs, usage and rental charges.

On motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Powers and passed by majority vote with one dissention from Dr. Chaffin, the Board approved to increase no-till drill rental rates to a fee of \$12/acre for both 7 and 10 foot drills.

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to charge a flat fee of \$120 for those who rent the no-till drills for 10 acres or less.

On motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to replace drill # 3 by purchasing a new 10 foot no-till drill upon receiving three estimates.

FINANCE:

No Report

PLANNING:Annual Plan of Work:

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the 2016-2017 Annual Plan of Work for January, February, March and April 2017.

Renewal of Associate Director Terms:

On motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the 2017 renewal of associate director term for Gary Dillard.

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the board committee assignments for 2017.

Strategic Planning:

Ms. Norton led a discussion on strategic planning and reviewed the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threat Analysis (SWOT) that directors, staff and partners participated in. Input from stakeholders, in the form of surveys, will be sent out via email, mailing and handouts. A possible facilitated meeting with stakeholders will be held in the spring depending on the response received. The board and staff will develop a draft Strategic Plan by the May 2017 board meeting.

WATERSHED: Mr. Arnason reported:

One bid was received for the mowing and maintenance of the 14 District watershed structures. The bid and subsequent contract with Mr. Neal Saunders, includes a price of \$10,500 for semi-annual mowing and maintenance of dams (per contract scope of work) and a price of \$2,500 annually for the mowing of Sandy River Reservoir. The Sandy River Reservoir mowing will be reimbursed by Prince Edward County.

On motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the mowing contract as presented.

LEGISLATIVE: Dr. Chaffin reported:

Legislative day was held on January 12, 2017. Members were able to get state sponsors for bills that pertain to soil and water districts.

Mark Peake won the senate seat for District 22 in a special election to fill the vacancy of Tom Garrett who was elected as US Congress House of Representatives for the 5th District.

The VASWCD has a new Education Coordinator, Bonnie Mahl. Bonnie will serve as the point of contact for the many Foundation activities including Youth Conservation Camp, Youth Leadership Institute, and more.

PERSONNEL: Mr. Dillard reported

Updated and revised District Personnel, IT and Office Policies. The policies had been reviewed by the Personnel Committee and were submitted to the board in November for final review.

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the Personnel, Office and IT Policies as written.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION: Ms. Hancock reported:

Educational Scholarship:

The newly named Lindy Hamlett Education Scholarship Fund will award three scholarships of \$1,000 to students from Amelia, Nottoway or Prince Edward counties enrolled in and majoring in or showing a strong desire to major in a course curriculum related to natural resource conservation or environmental studies and who demonstrates an active interest in conservation. Deadline to apply is March 1, 2017.

Youth Conservation Camp:

The District will sponsor scholarships valued at \$550 for two students to attend camp at Virginia Tech July 9-15. Students must be enrolled in grades 9-12 during the 2016-2017 academic year and residing in Amelia, Nottoway or Prince Edward Counties. Applications are due April 18, 2017.

Mr. Moyer displayed a plaque award that was presented to the District from DCR at the VASWCD Annual Meeting in December for assisting with farm tours for the EPA and VA Department of Planning and Budget.

The February Board meeting in conjunction with the annual awards banquet will be held Tuesday, February 28 at Amelia Baptist Church in Amelia, VA.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT: Ms. Fehrer reported (See attached report)

AGENCY REPORTS:

Department of Conservation and Recreation: (See attached report)

Natural Resources Conservation Service: (See attached report)

Ms. Loveday stated the Conservation Stewardship Program Application deadline is February 3, 2017.

Virginia Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Norton reported a list of upcoming workshops. More information on them can be found on their website.

The family of the late Lindy Hamlett was invited after the meeting to view a series of videos of him that Ms. Buckalew prepared. The Hamlett family was presented with a resolution naming the District's Education Scholarship Fund in memory of Lindy Hamlett.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

ATTACHED REPORTS:

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

Submitted By _____ Date: _____
Amanda Hancock, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
Charles Arnason, Director / Secretary