



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
March 27, 2017 11:00 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
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Horace Adams- Associate Director, Prince Edward County

Board Members Absent:

Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County
Juan Whittington –Appointed 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
Derek Hancock, NRCS District Conservationist, Farmville
Katy Overby, VCE, Prince Edward County
Mike Foreman, Strategic Planning Facilitator

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 March 27, 2017. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed directors, staff, guests and led the group in prayer. A quorum was present.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the February 28, 2017 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

On motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the February 2017 Treasurer’s Report to be filed as presented for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: (See attached Conservation Report)DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Cost-Share: Ms. Gibbs reported
Prince Edward

Jesse W. Yeatts (05-17-0055)	RB-1 Septic Tank Pumpout		
	Estimated Cost	\$	300.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	150.00
Tom Crouse (05-17-0058)	RB-3 Septic System Repair		
	Estimated Cost	\$	2,200.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	1,100.00
Betty Shanks (05-17-0060)	RB-3 Septic System Repair		
	Estimated Cost	\$	1,800.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	900.00

On motion by Mr. Rash, 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 – (94): Mr. Dunn reported:

Amelia (47)

Reamford Farms LLC (7)
Vaughan Cattle Co. (1)
Blanton Farms Lc. (9)
Hoot Owl Hollow Inc. (8)
Lloyd Family Farms (4)
Ameva Farms Inc. (7)
Tim Alexander (2)

Nottoway (18)

John Shepherd (10)
George Toth(8)

Prince Edward (29)

Poorhouse Dairy (18)
Boot Hill Dairy (8)
Horace Adams (3)

Signe By Staff for FSA (5)

Gean Fowlkes Farm LLC
Emert Enterprises
Shirley Barksdale
Robert Bryant

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the conservation plans as presented with the exception of Oakmulgee Dairy.

Conservation Plans continued:

Amelia

Oakmulgee Dairy (9)

On motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the conservation plans as presented with Mr. Moyer absent from the room during discussion and voting.

Informational Items:

PSWCD BMP PY-17 Program Funding

Chesapeake Bay	\$ 14,312.35
Outside Chesapeake Bay	\$ 85.02
SL-6 CB Pending retirement	\$ 2,482.00
319 Septic Grant – Flat/Nibbs Creek	\$ 152,217.25
319 Septic Grant – PE County TMDL	\$ 252,623.50

Mr. Dunn stated at the end of the first year of the District's 2-year grant cycle for the Ag Cost-Share grant, any unobligated funds will not revert back to DCR and may be used in Program Year 2018 without affecting regular PY 2018 funds from DCR. The PY 2018 allocations from DCR will be reduced and this will allow the District to have more funds to allocate on priority practices in PY 2018 instead of allocating funds to less priority practices at the end of program year. Mr. Dunn suggested that the Board consider deferring cost-share application sign-ups until the start of PY 2018.

On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to defer Ag Cost-share application sign-ups until the start of Program Year 2018.

VCAP Update:

Ms. Fehrer reported she has met with Walk to Campus about run-off issues on their properties in Farmville. They are interested in submitting applications for 6 VCAP practices totaling approximately \$85,000 of cost-share. Maxey and Associates are preparing the engineering designs and would be the technical certification if the applications are approved. Ms. Fehrer is planning to bring the applications to the April BOD meeting for review.

No-till drill update:

Ms. Fehrer reported a new 10 foot drill was purchased to replace drill # 2. Equipment Manager, Stephen Reames stated the drill is already being used in the field.

FINANCE:

Ms. Fehrer stated the District will soon need to purchase another truck to pull the no-till drills. Ms. Fehrer and Dr. Chaffin looked at three government trucks in Farmville for sale to purchase and will submit bids when GSA bidding is open.

Ms. Fehrer reported she received a letter from DCR stating the District's audit was complete and no problems were found. A copy of the full audit report can be found in the District's office.

Dr. Chaffin reported the VASWCD Education Foundation will hold a golf tournament on May 3, 2017 at The Hollows Golf Course located in Montpelier, Virginia. By being a hole sponsor for

\$100, the District will contribute towards education programs such as Envirothon, Youth Conservation Camp, scholarships, teacher workshops, district training opportunities and classroom outreach.

On motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved supporting the VASWCD's Education Foundation's golf tournament with a hole sponsor for \$100.

WATERSHED: Mr. Arnason reported:

Seven owner dam inspections were completed. Ms. Fehrer has regular dam inspections this week with DCR Dam Engineer, Charles Wilson.

Ms. Fehrer stated several dams will need to replace and replenish rock at the outflow basin. She will be working on a bid proposal for this issue. The projects have been approved for funding through from DCR's small dam repair fund, with an official notification after the Soil and Water Board meeting.

LEGISLATIVE:

No report.

PERSONNEL: Mr. Dillard reported

Staff evaluations have been completed. Mr. Dillard will meet with Ms. Fehrer next month to finish her evaluation.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION: Mr. Powers reported:

Lindy Hamlett Education Scholarship:

(Mr. Rash left the room for discussion and voting)

Eight applications for the Education Scholarships were received. The Education Committee met to review the applications.

On motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by a unanimous vote, the Board agreed to award four \$1,000 scholarships to Erin Amiss of Amelia County, Mary Rash of Nottoway County, Dillon Dunn of Nottoway County and Kenneth Townsend of Prince Edward County. Erin Amiss' application will be forwarded to compete at the VASWCD level.

Envirothon Update:

Ms. Hancock stated the District hosted an Envirothon Workshop on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at Sunny Slope Orchard. Fuqua School, Buckingham High School, Franklin County High School and two teachers and assistant principal from Prince Edward Schools attended the workshop. Fuqua School will represent the District at the Area V Envirothon Competition on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at Sweet Briar College. Special thanks to judges and station leaders Kelly Snoddy, Elise Corbin, Louise Jacques, Mark Puckett, Dr. Jimmy Gates, Heather Dowling, Derek Hancock, Bonnie Thompson, Deanna Fehrer, Charlie Wootton, Kevin Dunn and Emily Gibbs for their help with the event.

Youth Conservation Camp:

Applications are due April 18, 2017.

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

Ms. Gibbs met Prince Edward BOS's, Odessa Pride and Bob Timmons and was invited to speak at their upcoming town hall meeting about the District's septic program. Ms. Fehrer thanked Ms. Hancock for her work organizing the Envirothon program and to Ms. Buckalew for a well written newsletter.

Chairman Moyer presented Ms. Buckalew with a special thank you for her years of service to the District. Ms. Buckalew will be retiring at the end of March. Mr. Moyer commented on Ms. Buckalew's creativity and enthusiasm in developing exhibits and communications throughout her tenure.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Department of Conservation and Recreation: (See attached report)

Natural Resources Conservation Service: (See attached report)

Virginia Cooperative Extension:

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

PLANNING:

Strategic Planning:

Mike Foreman was invited to lead a facilitated discussion on strategic planning and reviewed the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threat Analysis (SWOT) that directors, staff and partners participated in and reviewed input from stakeholders. Directors, partners and staff worked together to review the District's current seven goals listed in the Strategic Plan and suggested ideas of improvement so that our new goals fit the District's mission appropriately. The board and staff will develop a draft Strategic Plan by the May 2017 board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 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