



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
July 25, 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
Juan Whittington –Appointed Director, Amelia County
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Horace Adams- Associate Director, Prince Edward County

Board Members Absent:

Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County

Piedmont SWCD Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Derek Hancock- NRCS, Farmville
Blair Gordon- CDC, DCR

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 July 25, 2017. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed directors, and staff, and led the group in prayer. A quorum was present. A RMP-TRC meeting was held prior to the Board meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Several additions to the agenda will be addressed during the appropriate committee report.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

On motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the June 27, 2017 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

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

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: (See attached Conservation Report)

BMP Cost-Share Approval:

Amelia

Vaughan Cattle Co	SL-6 Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Mgt. (2,800')	
CB SL-6 Retirement	Estimated Cost	\$ 26,338.00
(05-15-0010)	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 26,338.00

* Funded using 16 VACS funds returned due to cancelation that were moved back to 15 VACS.

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the Ag Cost-Share application as presented.

Practice Transfer Agreement:

Contract #05-16-0034- SL-6 and CREP practices installed by James R Womack in P.E. County are being assumed and transferred to Jacob L. Kanagy for the duration of the contract ending December 31, 2025.

On motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the practice transfer agreement as presented.

Resource Management Plan-Technical Review Committee (RMP-TRC) Update:

Mr. Dillard reported the committee met prior to the Board meeting to review plans submitted by the RMP developer. The RMP program provides a voluntary way to promote the use of conservation practices that improve farming operations and water quality. The plans are designed to encourage producers to use BMPs that reduce runoff. In return for full implementation, the plan holder can be assured that he or she is in compliance with any new state nutrient, sediment and water quality standards related to the Chesapeake Bay and TMDLs. The certificate of safe harbor is valid for nine years provided the farmer continues to implement the RMP. Participation in the program is completely voluntary.

RMP Approvals:

<u>Nottoway</u>	RMP-Resource Management Plans
Contract #	05-17-0001- 456.39 Ac
	05-17-0002- 602.22 Ac
	05-17-0003- 390.79 Ac
	05-17-0004- 316.94 Ac

On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the recommendation from the RMP-TRC Committee to approve the Resource Management Plans as reviewed.

Conservation Plans – (11):

- Prince Edward (1)
 - Jacob Kanagy
- Nottoway (6)
 - James Bossie Beverly Jr
 - Kevin Trent

Amelia(4)

Dwayne Moore
John L Roberts
Paul Cary

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

Informational Items:

PSWCD BMP PY-17 Program Funding

Chesapeake Bay VACS-18	\$ 208,817.00
Outside Chesapeake Bay VACS-18	\$ 11,285.00
Chesapeake Bay VACS-17	\$ 64,502.21
Outside Chesapeake Bay VACS-17	\$ 2,357.02
Chesapeake Bay VACS-15	\$ 28,152.54
SL-6 CB Earmark	\$ 2,482.00
SL-6 Supplemental VRNCF	\$ 11,438.40
319 Septic Grant – Flat/Nibbs Creek	\$ 154,842.25
319 Septic Grant – PE County TMDL	\$ 226,736.00

Mr. Wootton stated the district has two current contracts on separate properties that have recently transferred owners. Practice Transfer Agreements have not been signed. Staff will be in contact with the responsible parties.

DEQ 319 Septic Grant Update:

Ms. Gibbs reported DEQ released the FY18 BMP cost-share manual, effective July 1, 2017. Changes to note are as follows: cost-share rates have increased; grantees can apply for the ability to administer increased cost-share (up to 90%) based on fiscal stress ratings from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development; a new RB-3R practice has been introduced (Conventional Onsite Sewage System Full Inspection and Non-permitted Repair); and inspection forms, to be completed by the sewage hauler, are required for RB-1 and RB-3R practices before projects can be paid.

Two out of the three counties, Nottoway and Prince Edward, are classified as having above average fiscal stress. Although Amelia is categorized as having below average fiscal stress, DEQ allows grantees to make the case for using one fiscal stress rating for grants covering multiple localities, such as the Flat and Nibbs Creek septic grant covering Amelia and Nottoway Counties. Most of the participants in the Flat and Nibbs Creek grant have qualified for and received more than the base cost-share of 50%.

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to include both DEQ 319(h) grants under the fiscal stress cost-share category.

FINANCE: Ms. Fehrer reported:

Dedicated Funds:

A copy of the Dedicated Carryover Funds was presented to the board and discussed. A signed copy will be submitted to DCR and a copy is on file with the FY18 budget.

On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the Dedicated Funds as presented.

PLANNING:

Mr. Moyer reminded the board of August's meeting date change to Tuesday, August 29, 2017. Staff will be attending a summer training session at Graves's Mountain on the regular scheduled BOD meeting day

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the updated district COIA/FOIA Guidance document. Changes to note are as follows; FOIA fees for producing records; and new legal counsel, Robert N. Drewry, Assistant Attorney General.

WATERSHED: Mr. Arnason reported:

Mr. Arnason and Ms. Fehrer held a teleconference with DCR Dam Safety Engineer, Charles Wilson about addressing some questions and concerns about raising the training berm on Buffalo #2.

Ms. Fehrer reported that Mat Lyons, NRCS State Engineer, conducted a follow-up visit at Buffalo #1 to continue evaluating the draining issues. Mr. Lyons, along with Charlie Wotton and Dennis Thompson (NRCS), performed several borings. His site visit report is on file at the office, but in summary he recommends moving soil from the drainage trenches, filling in with rock and adding top soil to establish vegetation. He felt the soil that was used to fill the trenches when the drain lines were installed got compacted and water is not able to infiltrate into the trenches. He recommends waiting until next summer to perform the work. Staff will advertise a bid for contract at the beginning of 2018.

LEGISLATIVE: Dr. Chaffin reported:

Dr. Chaffin stated we are still waiting to hear from the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board for the newly appointed Chairman of Area V.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Fehrer reported:

Mr. Wootton has been appointed as the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District representative to NRCS's new advisory committee that's focusing on the new NRCS conservation planning certification program and how to move forward with partners.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION: Ms. Hancock reported:

A thank you note from Nazario Giles, a student from Amelia County HS who attended Youth Conservation Camp was shared with the board. The district sponsored the camper to attend the week-long camp.

A thank you note from Erin Amiss, a student from Amelia County who was selected as one of the 2017 Lindy Hamlett Education Scholarship recipients was shared with the board.

Directors and staff were encouraged to be thinking about conservation award nominations for the district's award banquet.

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

Ms. Gibbs has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the VCAP Steering Committee.

All 7 “Entering Piedmont SWCD” road signs have been installed.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Department of Conservation and Recreation: *(See attached report)*

Natural Resources Conservation Service: *(See attached report)*

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ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

ATTACHED REPORTS:

- Conservation Report
- Carryover Report
- Piedmont SWCD FY18 Budget
- District Manager Report
- DCR CDC Report
- NRCS Report

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

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