



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
July 24, 2018 11:00 a.m.**

Board Members Present:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County/Vice Chairman
Chuck Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Secretary
Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County
Juan Whittington –Appointed Director, Amelia County
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County
Horace Adams- Associate Director, Prince Edward County

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

Piedmont SWCD Staff Present:

Deanna Fehrer- District Manager
Charlie Wootton- Senior Conservation Specialist
Kevin Dunn – Ag BMP Conservationist
Emily Gibbs- Urban & Program Support

Others Present:

Blair Gordon, DCR CDC
Derek Hancock, NRCS District Conservationist

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

A regular meeting of the Piedmont SWCD Board of Directors was held at the Prince Edward Natural Resources and Agriculture Building in Farmville on July 24, 2018. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed directors, staff, partners, and led the group in prayer. A quorum was present.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Kerr and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the June 18, 2018 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Kerr and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the June 2018 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE *(See attached Conservation Report)***DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Cost-Share Cancellations**

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Kerr and carried by unanimous vote, the Board canceled the following DEQ 319(h) Residential Cost-Share applications as presented:

Flat Creek, et al.

Shirley Baptist (05-17-0040) Amelia County	RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$300.00 \$150.00
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Maxine Baptist (05-17-0043) Amelia County	RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$300.00 \$150.00
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DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Cost-Share Approvals

On a motion by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following DEQ 319(h) Residential Cost-Share application as presented:

Flat Creek, et al.

Melissa Hawkes (05-19-0004) Nottoway County	RB-4 Conventional Onsite Sewage System Replacement Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$4,700.00 \$4,230.00 (90% cost-share rate)
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Ag Conservation Plans

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following Agricultural Conservation Plans as presented:

Prince Edward

Andrew Cloudis	Compliance
Steven Hochstetler	Compliance
Wilkie Chaffin	CREP
Wilkie Chaffin/	
Carolyn McLemore	CREP

VACS19 Program Changes

Mr. Wootton reviewed several of the major changes in the VACS19 program, which include the requirement of a nutrient management plan for all agronomic practices other than SL8 and a new transfer form which is utilized in the event the ownership of the farm changes prior to the practice being completed.

WIP III Goals

Mr. Wootton reported he and Mr. Dunn are working on completing the Ag BMP goals for the WIP III submittal due July 30, 2018. Technical staff requested clarification of some of the data sets, but DCR and DEQ could not provide an explanation. They are utilizing the data sets as

provided and also including their knowledge of agricultural operations, producers and acreages to determine realistic agricultural BMP implementation goals by 2025. New BMPs will be considered if the cost/benefit ratio is economically viable.

FINANCE

FY19 DCR Grant Agreements

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Kerr and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the DCR FY19 Administration and Operations Grant #503OPS-19-34-GF in the amount of \$211,880 (\$169,880 in operations and \$42,000 watershed dam funding).

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Kerr and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the DCR FY19 Cost Share and Technical Assistance Grant #503CSTA-19-34-GF in the amount of \$432,023 (\$361,309 CB Cost Share, \$19,484 OCB Cost Share and \$51,230 in technical assistance funding).

Ms. Fehrer and Ms. Gordon highlighted a few changes to the grant agreements (changes were also reviewed during the June meeting) which include new training requirements for staff and directors, and reallocation of unobligated cost share funds which will occur June 30, 2019. Districts that have not obligated at least 90% of their cost share allocation will be required to return a portion of their technical assistance funds along with unobligated funds.

Other Fiscal Matters

The Finance Committee will present dedicated fund balances at the August meeting. Ms. Fehrer reported that unobligated cost share funds as of June 30, 2018 from CREP and RCPP funding sources will be returned to DCR.

PLANNING

Mr. Moyer reported that the At-Large Director Appointment will expire December 31, 2018. Mr. Whittington will need to submit his nomination form to the Board before November 1, 2018, if he wishes to continue to serve in this capacity.

Mr. Wootton reported that District, VCE and NRCS staff met to plan a series of Fall/Winter farmer breakfast meetings. The four meetings will be held in October, November, January and February. A variety of topics will be presented. More information will be forthcoming.

WATERSHED

Mr. Arnason reported there has been beaver activity and damage at Bush #5 dam. The riser tower is full of mud and beaver sticks and the beavers have damaged the wave berm. An estimate to clean out the riser is \$1,000. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Kerr and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the current mowing contractor to remove the beaver debris from the riser at a cost of \$1,000.** One of the land users has been contacted about removing the beavers.

LEGISLATIVE (No report)

PERSONNEL

Ms. Fehrer distributed a summary of program and district accomplishments for FY17/18 and thanked the staff and directors for their work in meeting the District's goals. The information will be included in the Annual Report and given to local Boards of Supervisors.

Ms. Fehrer reported that DCR has finalized the Conservation Planning Certification Program and district employees are beginning to complete the requirements. District technical staff who were previously certified under the NRCS Conservation Planning Program will be grandfathered in to the DCR program and official certification will occur after staff submit a conservation plan for review.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION

Ms. Fehrer reminded the Board that staff will begin to work on nominations for conservation awards and to submit any names they feel are worthy of recognition. A flyer for Farm and Family Day (September 8) was distributed.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Fehrer emailed the June and July staff activity reports. She thanked the staff for assisting in the office while she has been out on family sick leave.

PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS:

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

Many of the items in Ms. Gordon's report were already addressed during the meeting. She reminded the Board of the deadline for Clean Water Farm Awards and several upcoming meetings. Ms. Gordon announced that a new Ag Engineer has been hired and will be working out of the Christiansburg office and that her replacement as CDC has been filled by Ms. Denney Turner, a current DCR employee, who has been assisting with grant agreements, VACS program data and other SWCD related documents. She will attend her first Piedmont SWCD Board meeting in August along with Ms. Gordon.

Virginia Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Norton passed out the Central VCE Ag report prepared by the Lunenburg VCE office and an upcoming Master Gardener training schedule.

Natural Resources Conservation Service: *(See attached reports from Derek Hancock and Rachel Loveday)*

Mr. Hancock reported his office has been completing CREP and CRP renewals from FSA. He is processing several CSP applications. Mr. Hancock reminded everyone about the Earth Team Program and asked to pass along information to persons who might be interested in volunteering in the NRCS office and assisting in the field.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

ATTACHED REPORTS:

Conservation Report; PSWCD Program Year Summary; DCR CDC Report; NRCS Amelia and Farmville Service Center Reports.

Submitted By _____ Date: _____
Deanna Fehrer, Piedmont SWCD Staff

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