



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
September 25, 2018 11:00 a.m.**

Board Members Present:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Chuck Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Secretary
Dr. Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer
Juan Whittington –Appointed Director, Amelia County
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Horace Adams- Associate Director, Prince Edward County

Board Members Absent:

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County/Vice Chairman
Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County

Piedmont SWCD Staff Present:

Deanna Fehrer- District Manager
Kevin Dunn – Ag BMP Conservationist
Emily Gibbs- Urban & Program Support

Others Present:

Denney Turner, DCR CDC
Rachel Loveday, NRCS District Conservationist
Charles Wilson, DCR SWCD Dam Engineer
Katy Overby, VCE Prince Edward County
Nicole Shuman, VCE Prince Edward County
Pattie Jones, Commonwealth Council Girl Scouts
Dennis Jones, Citizen

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 September 25, 2018. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed directors, staff, partners, guests, and led the group in prayer. A quorum was present. Ms. Overby introduced Nicole Shuman, VCE Community Food Systems Extension Agent for Prince Edward County. Ms. Schuman gave an overview of her education and work experience background and is looking forward to working with the District and local farmers. Ms. Fehrer introduced Charles Wilson, DCR District Dam Engineer, the engineer of record for conservation district and state park dams. Mr. Wilson provided commentary on several issues which is documented further in the minutes.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

-Discussion of dam preparations prior to storm events and leading an RFP for statewide engineering services.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the August 28, 2018 minutes as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the August 2018 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**Corrections & Changes**

On a motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following corrections:

1. Reamford Farms- 05-19-0021- SL-8B-Tax Credit for OCB practice was approved for \$ 1,897.50 but should have been \$ 2,535.00. **Additional \$637.50 in tax credit approval.**

2. Triple R Dairy- 05-19-0014- SL-8H-Tax Credit for OCB practice was approved for \$ 1,187.50 but should have been \$ 2,440.00. **Additional \$1,252.50 in tax credit approval.**

3. Tim Alexander- 05-19-0025. SL-1, SL-8B & SL-8H Practices were approved in **Avery's Branch Farms name but should have been approved as Tim Alexander.**

4. Hoot Owl Hollow Farms Inc.- 05-19-0032-
Original Approval SL-8H- 128.7 ac- \$2,574.00
Revised Requested SL-8H- 58.6 ac- \$ 1,172.00
Original Approval WQ-4- 86.4 ac- \$2,592.00
Revised Requested WQ-4 156.5 ac -\$4,695.00
***An increase of \$701.00 in Cost-Share is requested.**

5. Whitaker Farms Inc. -05-19-0024
Original Approval SL-8H- 88.9 ac- \$1,778.00
Revised Requested SL-8H -30.0 ac \$600.00
Original Approval WQ-4- 135.6 ac- \$4,068.00
Revised Requested WQ-4 90.8 ac- \$2,724.00
Original Approval SL-8B- 36.2 ac- \$1,448.00
Revised Requested SL-8B -139.9 ac \$5,596.00
***An increase of \$1,626.00 in Cost-Share is requested.**

VACS - Agricultural Cost-Share Applications

On a motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS applications:

Amelia

<u>Brian Crowder</u>	SL-8B Small Grain Cover Crop (85 acres) (RYE)	
(BMP-Bay)	Estimated Cost	\$ 8,500.00
(05-19-0049)	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 4,080.00

<u>Dwayne Moore</u>	NM-1A Nutrient Management Plan Writing (144ac) (Manure)	
(BMP-Bay)	Estimated Cost	\$ 576.00
(05-19-0054)	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 576.00

<u>Dexter Jones</u>	NM-1A Nutrient Management Plan Writing (86.4ac) (Manure)	
(BMP-Bay)	Estimated Cost	\$ 345.60
(05-19-0054)	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 345.60

VACS - AG BMP Tax Credits

On a motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS Tax Credits:

Nottoway

<u>John Shepherd</u>	SL-8B Small Grain Cover Crop (236.6 acres)	
(BMP-OCB)	Estimated Cost	\$ 23,660.00
(05-19-0008)	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 5,915.00

Prince Edward

<u>Richard Hilbers</u>	SL-1 Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland (47.7 ac)	
(BMP-Bay)	Estimated Cost	\$ 5,461.50
(05-19-0043)	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 4,508.63 Approved 8-28-18
	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 238.22

<u>Neubauer Farms LLC</u>	SL-8B Small Grain Cover Crop (120 acres)	
(BMP-Bay)	Estimated Cost	\$ 12,000.00
(05-19-0053)	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 3,000.00

<u>Rock House Farms LLC</u>	WP-4 Animal Waste Control Facility(1)	
(BMP-Bay)	Estimated Cost	\$ 163,680.00
(05-19-0051)	Estimated NRCS Cost-Share	\$ 147,313.00
	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 4,091.75

<u>Rock House Farms LLC</u>	SL-6 Stream Exclusion With Grazingland Mgmt. (2,000')	
(BMP-Bay)	Estimated Cost	\$ 6,120.00
(05-19-0051)	Estimated NRCS Cost-Share	\$ 4,700.00
	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 355.00

Amelia

<u>Tim Alexander</u>	SL-1 Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland (47.7 ac)	
(BMP-Bay)	Estimated Cost	\$ 15,788.70
(05-19-0025)	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 13,034.03 Approved 8-28-18
	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 688.67

<u>John C. Ashman</u>	SL-8B Small Grain Cover Crop (305.6 acres)	
(BMP-Bay)	Estimated Cost	\$ 30,560.00
(05-19-0035)	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 7,640.00

DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Cost-Share Approvals

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

Flat Creek, et al.

Kenneth Flynn	RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out
(05-19-0048)	Estimated Cost \$300.00
Nottoway County	Estimated Cost-Share \$225.00 (75% cost-share rate)

Spring Creek, et al.

Jesse Yeatts	RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out (4)
(05-19-0050)	Estimated Cost \$1,200.00
Prince Edward County	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 600.00 (50% cost-share rate)

Agricultural Conservation Plans

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following Agricultural Conservation Plans (39) as presented:

Nottoway(2)

George G. Toth III
Richlands Dairy Farm Inc.

Prince Edward(1)

Douglas R Spencer

Amelia(36)

Ameva Farm Inc.(10)
William Morton(2)
Jerry Poore(4)
Dexter Jones(1)
J & C Swiss Dixie II LC(2)
Pamela Perdue
Larry E Johnson
Amy J Thompson
David Ashman
Bobby O Stockner
Janet S Benson
Amir Saeed
William F Cole
Mary Ellen Moyer
Jack E Bulls (3)
Ferne O Hutchinson (2)
Reamford Farms LLC (2)
Reuben L Blanton Jr.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved 10 Agricultural Conservation Plans for Oakmulgee Dairy Farm, Inc. as presented. Mr. Moyer was absent from the room during the discussion and vote.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved 41 Agricultural Conservation Plans for Juan Whittington as presented. Mr. Whittington was absent from the room during the discussion and vote.

Other Conservation Items

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the August 28, 2018 Conservation Committee minutes as presented/mailed. The minutes are on file at the District office.

Ms. Gibbs reported she submitted a grant application with the Chesapeake Bay License Plate Restoration Fund for expansion of the residential septic program in areas not eligible for 319 cost share programs. Ms. Gibbs has received many inquiries about the program from homeowners not located within the 319 eligible watersheds. Grant applicants will be notified after the Governor's budget is approved in 2019.

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Soil and Water Conservation District Policy for handling Agricultural Stewardship Act Complaints. There were no changes to District contact persons (Charlie Wootton and Larkin Moyer).

Ms. Fehrer reported that Mr. Wootton is attending a sub-committee meeting of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Mr. Rash and Mr. Wootton represent Area V SWCDs and CB Districts (respectively) on the committee. The TAC received over 170 requests for changes to the VACS program and work has been delegated to various sub-committees. Several meetings will be required through December. Final recommendations will be submitted to the Soil and Water Board by March 2019.

Mr. Dunn reported that no problems were found with agricultural BMP's that were spot checked (with DCR staff) for compliance last month.

FINANCE

The Finance Committee will meet in October to finalize dedicated fund balances policy.

PLANNING

Ms. Norton reviewed the District's Annual Plan of Work for October through December and reminded directors that the working document can be updated and changed to reflect needs of the District and its mission.

WATERSHED

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved four Operation and Maintenance Applications (Buffalo #3, Buffalo #5, Buffalo #6 & Buffalo #7 watershed dams) in preparation for issuance of conditional certificates. The applications will be submitted to DCR Dam Safety as part of the requirements for operational certificates. Mr. Wilson explained the process and frequency of the certification program and the reason that some dams receive 'conditional' versus 'regular' certificates. Changes in the Probable Maximum Precipitation values have impacted the design of auxiliary spillways (emergency spillways) and with the new modeling many regulated dams no longer have an auxiliary spillway that can pass certain precipitation levels of storm events.

These dams will need to be rehabilitated. There is a long list of district owned dams across the Commonwealth that will need 'rehab' and these are ranked in order of priority based on hazard classification and downstream impacts. Piedmont's dams are further down the list and will continue to receive 'conditional' certificates until the dams go through the rehab process. Mr. Wilson stated a 'conditional' certificate related to PMP/auxiliary spillway design does not indicate the dam structure is unsafe, but only that it is not in compliance with current Dam Safety Regulations.

Mr. Wilson discussed the new Dam Safety Inventory System (DSIS) which houses all electronic records of regulated dams in the Commonwealth. Districts will be able to prepare inspection reports, update emergency action plans and review other pertinent information. The system will reduce paperwork and provide up to date information to Virginia Dam Safety and Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Mr. Arnason reported that the Prince Edward County Administrative Office requested the District Board discuss lowering water levels at District owned dams in preparation for large storm events. Ms. Fehrer explained that during preparations for the predicted Hurricane Florence and the large amounts of rain that were expected to fall, the County had asked about lowering the pool levels. Ms. Fehrer contacted Mr. Wilson for guidance. Mr. Wilson explained that the District owned dams were designed especially for flood control and have large amounts of storage. For example, looking at Buffalo Creek Dam #1 and Buffalo Creek Dam 4, lowering the lake by 3 feet is equivalent to 0.26" of rainfall over the drainage area. In summary, the amount of storage gained from lowering the lake was minimal and would not make a significant impact. In addition, Mr. Wilson explained that if the water levels were to be lowered, they needed to be lowered no more than 6" in a 24 hour period as to not affect the stability of the soils. Several other points were made including the workload of staff to carry out opening and monitoring the levels of 14 dams simultaneously. The District's maintenance contractor is familiar with opening and closing the gates and could perform the work, but a series of people to monitor would be needed. There were also concerns about opening the 9 dams in the Buffalo watershed and the flooding impacts on Buffalo Creek in the Town of Farmville (West Third Street area) where the Buffalo converges with the Appomattox River, which typically floods in fairly small storm events. The final concern was the safety of persons closing the gates once the storm begins. The gates require a boat to access and the operating mechanisms are located on a concrete tower up to 15' above the normal pool elevation. Public perception of storm preparation was also discussed. The District could decide to open one or two of the gates in the large impoundments to lower the water levels if there is enough time to safely allow for reducing the levels. The Board would like Ms. Fehrer and Mr. Wilson to work on an operating procedures document for Board approval, which will be shared with the Prince Edward County Administrator including an offer to present the information to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Fehrer informed the Board that the "Small Dam Repair Fund" approved by the General Assembly for small repairs to dams such as wave berm replacement, gate repairs, etc. has allocated funds to districts for engineering/design and construction costs. Traditionally NRCS or DCR provided engineering design assistance, but with the large number of projects across the state requiring engineering design, there is a need for additional engineering support. The Dam Workgroup, composed of district dam owners and DCR representatives, is proposing for a district to take the lead on preparing a RFP for engineering services. The RFP would be for all

District dam owners to utilize and districts would work out their individual projects with the selected firm(s). The contract with the selected firm(s) would be valid for 4-5 years with an annual renewal by the District Board. The Lead District's Board also has the ability to select the engineering firm and determine the renewal of the contract. Other districts would have a memorandum of understanding with the lead district. By consensus the Board agreed for Piedmont to serve as the lead district in RFP engineering procurement pending meeting with Mr. Wilson and refining roles and responsibilities. Mr. Wilson will be assisting the District in preparing the documents and guiding the process.

Mr. Wilson thanked the Board and the Watershed Committee for their interest and participation in the watershed dam program.

LEGISLATIVE

Dr. Chaffin asked the Board to review the draft VASWCD 2019 Legislative Agenda included in their packets and to provide feedback before the December VASWCD meeting where the agenda will be finalized. Dr. Chaffin attended the September VASWCD Board meeting and reported there was significant discussion on the funds for continuing education scholarships given by the VASWCD Educational Foundation. He also reported the VASWCD has resurrected an "Operations Committee" to be headed by Suzie Brown (Loudoun SWCD). The operations committee will be assisting districts with operational policies and issues.

Dr. Chaffin mentioned that J. B. Daniel, the NRCS Forage and Grazing Specialist who is housed in the Farmville office, is well known and respected by agriculture producers and natural resource professionals for his knowledge and assistance in grazing and forage management. His monthly articles in the Farmville Herald and Amelia Bulletin Monitor have provided in depth and relevant information. Mr. Daniel and Ms. Gibbs share the monthly columns.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Fehrer reported she will be advertising the part time education coordinator position.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION

Ms. Fehrer reported on behalf of the staff that they have identified three possible award recipients (conservation educator, young farmer and lifetime awards). Several producers will be completing entire farm conservation projects by next calendar year and would be eligible next year. Staff are awaiting input from the forestry and wildlife partners on possible awardees. A decision to hold an awards banquet will be determined at next month's board meeting.

Ms. Norton reminded folks about the upcoming Landowner Breakfast series to held Oct – January that features several interesting topics. Staff will be preparing breakfast and assisting with speakers.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT *(See attached report)*

Ms. Fehrer reported Ms. Gibbs and Mr. Wootton manned the soils tunnel display at Farm & Family Day and the event attracted a large turnout despite rainy weather. The PSWCD Annual Report will be distributed next week.

PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS:

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

Many of the items in Ms. Turner’s report were already addressed during the meeting. She reminded the Board of several deadlines and events.

Virginia Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Norton passed out several flyers of upcoming events. She reported the Pesticide Collection Program was rescheduled due to Hurricane Florence. New dates are October 15 at the Burkeville Southern States and October 17 at the Farmville Southern States. Ms. Overby reported on several upcoming workshops in Prince Edward County including “Patch to Pantry” October 22 and November 19; and “Farmville Grows”, October 8. The Prince Edward VCE office is currently preparing its five year needs assessment, which helps identify community needs and the VCE programs that can assist with addressing the needs. A community forum to receive input is planned for October 1st at the Farmville Train Station.

Natural Resources Conservation Service: *(See attached report from Rachel Loveday)*

Ms. Loveday reviewed her report with the Board.

PRESENTATION:

Pattie Jones, Unit Coordinator for the Girl Scouts Commonwealth Council, presented the District with the 2018 Girl Scout Community Award for the District’s support of the Girl Scout patch program including the soils and water patch program.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

ATTACHED REPORTS:

DCR CDC Report; Staff report; NRCS Amelia Service Center Reports.

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

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