



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Farmville, Virginia  
October 23, 2018 11:00 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman  
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County/Vice Chairman  
Dr. Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer  
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County  
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County  
Horace Adams- Associate Director, Prince Edward County

**Board Members Absent:**

Chuck Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Secretary  
Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County  
Juan Whittington –Appointed Director, Amelia County  
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

**Piedmont SWCD Staff Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Denney Turner, DCR CDC  
Rachel Loveday, NRCS District Conservationist  
Derek Hancock, NRCS District Conservationist  
Kelly Snoddy, Peter Francisco SWCD Conservation Specialist

**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 Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed directors, staff, and partners and led the group in prayer. A quorum was present.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the September 25, 2018 minutes as presented.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the September 2018 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.**

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**VACS - Agricultural Cost-Share Applications**

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS applications:

**CREP**

<b>Daniel E. Glenn III</b>	Estimated Cost	\$26,077.50
<b>(05-19-0019)</b>	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 6,596.25
<b>P.E</b>	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 1,623.45

**CREP**

<b>Douglas R. Spencer</b>	Estimated Cost	\$44,330.50
<b>(05-19-0020)</b>	Estimated Cost-Share	\$10,404.00
<b>Nottoway</b>	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 2,578.00

**DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Cost-Share Approvals**

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

**Flat Creek, et al.**

<b>Beverly Waddell</b>	<b>RB-4 Conventional Onsite Sewage System Installation/Replacement</b>
<b>(05-19-0058)</b>	Estimated Cost \$ 4,800.00
Nottoway County	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 4,320.00 (90% cost-share rate)

**Dora Rowe**

<b>(05-19-0059)</b>	<b>RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out</b>
Nottoway County	Estimated Cost \$ 300.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 150.00 (50% cost-share rate)

**Spring Creek, et al.**

<b>Candy Rolle</b>	<b>RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out</b>
<b>(05-19-0056)</b>	Estimated Cost \$ 300.00
Prince Edward County	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 150.00 (50% cost-share rate)

**Jeannette Simmons**

<b>(05-19-0057)</b>	<b>RB-5 Alternative Waste Treatment System</b>
Prince Edward County	Estimated Cost \$ 17,800.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 12,460.00 (70% cost-share rate)

**Emergency Pre-Approval (Spring Creek, et.al.)**

<b>Judith Mosby</b>	<b>RB-5 Alternative Waste Treatment System</b>
<b>(05-19-0055)</b>	Estimated Cost \$ 16,300.00
Prince Edward County	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 12,225.00 (75% cost-share rate)

\*According to the health department, this was an emergency situation because the drainfield had failed and was not taking any water, so any water usage would have caused sewage to flow onto the ground once the septic tank filled up.\*

**Agricultural Conservation Plans**

**On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following Agricultural Conservation Plans (3) as presented:**

**Prince Edward(2)**

Danny E. Glenn, Jr

Larry Allen

**Amelia( 1)**

David Smith

**Extreme Act of Nature Exemption**

**On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board adopted the extension of planting dates to up to 14 days beyond the standard planting date or October 31, whichever is later for the following cover crop practices (SL8, SL8B, SL8H, WQ4).** DCR authorized the extension because of unusually high rainfall levels in 2018. Per the memo rainfall amount information is to be included in the minutes. Year to date rainfall from the National Weather Service recorded 52.50" of rain in the Richmond area since January 1<sup>st</sup>. Rainfall amounts in the District's jurisdiction (Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward counties) from the October 11 storm ranged from 5" – over 12". Rainfall data from NWS recorded 3.91" rain in the Richmond area since October 1<sup>st</sup>, which is considerably lower than cumulative amounts including the October 11 storm for our area, therefore year to date rainfall is considered to be over the 52.50". Year to date rainfall last year during this same timeframe was 33". The above Board action is a blanket approval for cover crop applications approved in August and September that meet the criteria. Documentation will be placed in each client file. Please refer to the DCR memo dated October 15, 2018.

**Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Mr. Rash reported this has been a complex year for the TAC. The retirement of two key DCR staff (Gary Moore and Stephanie Martin), receipt of numerous comments from districts (over 170), and establishment of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP III) goals have contributed to an increased task list with numerous TAC and sub-committee meetings. The TAC and sub-committees have a deadline of January 2019 to complete their work and submit to DCR. Dr. Chaffin thanked Mr. Rash for serving as Area V representative on the TAC and for staffers Charlie Wootton and Kevin Dunn for their participation on the sub-committees and TAC.

**FINANCE**

**On a motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following dedicated reserves: \$891,057.02 (obligated cost share contracts, 9 month operating reserves, employee leave payouts, equipment needs, IT equipment, dam maintenance reserves); \$208,752.38 (savings funds – equipment rental program, scholarship program, dam gate repair fund and contingency operational funds).**

Ms. Fehrer reminded the Board that this information is reported on the DCR Attachment E Quarterly report and includes state, federal and local/other sources. A detailed planned use of funds is on file at the office. The reserve amounts will be included in next month's budget report.

**PLANNING**

Ms. Fehrer reminded everyone registration for the VASWCD Annual Meeting (December 2-4) is due to the office by October 29. Hotel reservations have been made for those attending.

### **LEGISLATIVE**

Mr. Rash commented that after hearing about the damages to several district owned watershed dams in Area V, he would like to work with the District Dam Workgroup to prepare a proposal for funding of appropriate technology that would enable District Dam Owners the ability to safely and remotely monitor water levels at the dams during storm events. The technology could be utilized by local and state emergency services and provide an additional level of support to public safety.

### **PERSONNEL**

Ms. Fehrer reported she has received 2 applications to date for the part time education coordinator position.

### **COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION**

Staff identified two possible awardees (educator and young farmer) to recognize this year. Several conservation projects are in the works by local producers and would be worthy of recognition at a later awards program. By consensus, the Board decided to recognize those awardees at a 2020 banquet and not to hold an awards banquet in 2019. A posthumous recognition of a local Amelia producer will be given during an Amelia Board of Supervisors meeting in early 2019.

Dr. Chaffin thanked Ms. Gibbs for preparing an attractive and informative annual report.

Ms. Fehrer reminded the group of the Landowner Breakfast series on November 13. The October 9 meeting was canceled due to no registration. Newspaper ads will promote the November 13 program, along with flyers distributed to local establishments.

### **WATERSHED**

Ms. Fehrer and Mr. Wootton shared photos and commentary of the damages sustained by several of the District's watershed dams during the October 11, 2018 Tropical Storm Michael. Heavy rainfall amounts in several hours and high winds resulted in numerous road closures due to flooding, fallen trees and damaged power lines. Five auxiliary spillways activated (Bush #2, Bush #5, Bush #6, Bush #7 and Buffalo #8) with major damage suffered at four of those dams. Ms. Fehrer was in contact with Prince Edward County Emergency Services Coordinator during the storm event. Several dam landowners contacted the District following the storm to report the auxiliary spillway had activated. Staff inspected all dams following the storm, including inspection of the auxiliary spillway at Sandy River Reservoir, which also activated. A formal inspection report was provided to Charles Wilson, DCR-SWC District Dam Engineer and Prince Edward County Emergency Services Coordinator. Mr. Wilson will be visiting dams next week to assess the extent of repairs needed and to begin the process for repairs. The damages have been deemed an emergency repair and the District's procurement policy allows for hiring of contractors for the repairs without using the "Request for Bid" process. **On a motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved that Watershed Chairman, Chuck Arnason, Ms. Fehrer and Charles Wilson work to secure a contractor to perform the necessary repairs based on the scope of work determined by Mr. Wilson.** DCR has announced that they will assist with alteration permits, secure the services of

NRCS engineering staff and provide financial assistance through the small dam repair fund. The goal is to have repairs completed before winter. The formal inspection report is on file at the office.

Mowing on all the dams had been completed the week of October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Last month the Board discussed the need for a “Dam Operating Procedures in Storm Events”. Staff prepared a document that outlines the procedures and responsibilities of the District in preparing for a possible storm event, including the determination of opening gate valves. **On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the document as presented.** A copy is on file at the office.

**DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT** *(See attached report)*

**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 upcoming meetings. Ms. Turner reminded directors of the COIA training on December 4 at the VASWCD Annual Meeting and the requirement for all directors to take the training within 24 months.

Virginia Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Norton passed out several flyers of upcoming events including a vineyard development workshop. Ms. Norton also shared information about Johnson Grass, its use as a forage and its control.

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

Ms. Loveday reviewed her report with the Board and reminded the group that if producers experienced damages to fencing, culverts, crossings, etc. from the Michael storm, to document the damage with photos and contact their local Farm Service Agency office to request assistance from the “ECP – Emergency Conservation Program.”

Mr. Hancock reported that funding is in a state of limbo until the fate of the Farm Bill is decided. CREP funding is not available at this time. The first round of signups for EQIP is completed from the initiative fund. Mr. Hancock will email a written report.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

**ATTACHED REPORTS:**

Conservation Report; Storm Event Procedures for Dams; DCR CDC Report; Staff report; NRCS Amelia Service Center Report.

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deanna Fehrer, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Arnason, Director / Secretary