



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
April 23, 2019 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
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
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County/Vice Chairman
Juan Whittington –Appointed Director, Amelia County

Piedmont SWCD Staff Present:

Deanna Fehrer- District Manager
Emily Gibbs – Residential Program Support

Others Present:

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 Tuesday, April 23, 2019. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed directors, staff, and partners and led the group in prayer. A quorum was present.

NRCS LOCAL WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION

Mr. Hancock, NRCS District Conservationist with the Farmville field office provided an update and opportunity for Board members to provide additional input about NRCS programs and services. Feedback is collected from stakeholders and provided to the State office to help shape programming for the next year. A questionnaire was emailed to District Board members. Several suggestions for programs to address the following resource concerns included: water quantity; rainwater harvesting practices; groundwater concerns. Mr. Hancock will include these comments as well as other feedback provided by District technical staff on the compiled survey. Mr. Hancock's report is included below with the Partner reports.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Powers seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the March 26, 2019 minutes as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the March 2019 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION REPORT**DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Application Approvals**

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following septic applications:

Flat Creek, et al.

Michelle Gholson-Parsons (05-19-0084) Amelia County	RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out Estimated Cost \$ 300.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 210.00 (70% cost-share rate)
---	--

Sherry Hailey (05-19-0085) Amelia County	RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out Estimated Cost \$ 300.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 270.00 (90% cost-share rate)
--	--

Wallick Harding (05-19-0086) Amelia County	RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out Estimated Cost \$ 300.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 150.00 (50% cost-share rate)
--	--

Spring Creek, et al.

Lora Monahan (05-19-0080) Prince Edward County	RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out Estimated Cost \$ 300.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 210.00 (70% cost-share rate)
--	--

Anthony Miller (05-19-0087) Prince Edward County	RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out Estimated Cost \$ 300.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 150.00 (50% cost-share rate)
--	--

Ms. Gibbs reported she has submitted a request to DEQ for an extension to June 30, 2020 of the Flat Creek Residential Septic Grant. The staff is awaiting a response from DEQ. Currently the grant will end June 30, 2019. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the staff to follow the 'emergency approvals' procedures to approve interim applications.** The cutoff date for accepting applications is May 23, 2019.

Agricultural Conservation Plans

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following Agricultural Conservation Plan (1).

Prince Edward (1)

Daniel and Joaquina Longwell (Compliance)

DEQ informed the District that an 11.55 mile segment of Deep Creek in Amelia County has been removed from Virginia's impaired waterway list. DEQ will be producing a 'success story' about the water quality improvements, specifically the stream exclusion of livestock that have contributed to the delisting.

FINANCE

Ms. Fehrer reported that Districts are expected to receive a substantial increase in VACS funding. Preliminary reports indicate Piedmont SWCD might see an increase of up to four times the amount of funding received this year. The State Soil and Water Conservation Board will be meeting tomorrow to review draft grant agreements and allocations.

PLANNING

No report. The Board will review the Strategic Plan at the May Board meeting.

WATERSHED

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board approved the following small dam repair grant agreements:

SDR19008, Buffalo #2 \$45,000 (\$35,000 from December 2018 approvals and a rollover of \$10,000 from prior grant) – Training dike construction

SDR19009, Buffalo #9 \$40,000 (\$15,000 from December 2018 approvals and a rollover of \$25,000 from prior grant) – Downstream toe erosion repair

SDR19010, Bush #5 \$45,000 – Wave berm repair (identified by PE inspection)

SDR19011, Bush #7 \$30,000 – Storm damage repair

SDR19012, Bush #5 \$ 5,000 – Storm damage repair

SDR19013, Bush #2 \$20,000 – Storm damage repair

The storm damage repair amounts were submitted by Charles Wilson.

MOUs for the RFP for engineering services related to District watershed dams have been received by the Piedmont SWCD who will be serving as the Lead District for the RFP. The following Districts submitted the MOU to Piedmont: Blue Ridge, Hanover-Caroline, Mountain Castles, Peter Francisco, Robert E. Lee, Shenandoah Valley, Southside and Thomas Jefferson. These Districts will be included in the RFP documents and will be able to participate in the term engineering contract.

Mr. Wilson installed a trial remote monitoring station at Bush #4. Mr. Wilson and the Piedmont staff have been reviewing the data collected from the site and submitted via cell phone transmission, including precipitation and water levels. Mr. Wilson will be taking the station to several other District owned dams to continue testing the equipment, but as of now, the equipment is performing as needed. Challenges will be locating the equipment where it cannot be vandalized. After the Governor's budget is finalized, DCR will proceed with identifying and prioritizing dams to receive the monitoring equipment.

LEGISLATIVE

Ms. Fehrer reported the Piedmont SWCD has been asked by the VASWCD to provide a presentation and possible farm tour for the Secretary of Natural Resources, Secretary of Forestry, Secretary of Agriculture and DCR Director. The tour will be held on Wednesday, June 12 at the District offices.

Chairman Moyer reminded elected directors that the deadline to file for the November 2019 election ballot is June 11, 2019. Ms. Kerr has been unable to attend meetings in 2019. Ms.

Fehrer will reach out to her to see if she is planning on running again for the Amelia Director position.

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Dillard reported the committee reviewed staff evaluations and were complimentary about the staff and the accomplishments this program year. Mr. Dillard also reported that the Education Coordinator position has been offered and accepted by Kelly Atkinson, who is currently a teacher at Fuqua and their Envirothon coach. Ms. Atkinson will begin working in June and will be working a part-time schedule. Ms. Fehrer has been working a few additions to the Personnel Policy including a section on 'Sexual Harassment'. A draft copy will be sent to the Board prior to the May Board meeting.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION

.The Education Committee met prior to the Board meeting to finalize the selection of the Lindy Hamlett Scholarship applications. The current year budget included \$4,000 for scholarships. **On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following \$1,000 scholarships: Rebekah Cole (Nottoway), Laura Smith (Amelia), Maria Banilla-Olmos (Prince Edward), and Kelsey Wallace (Nottoway).** Ms. Wallace's application was submitted to the VASWCD in March.

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following Youth Conservation Camp applications: Katie Stang and Peyton Coleman, both of Amelia.

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the March 26, 2019 Education Committee minutes.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT *(See attached report)*

PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS:

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

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

Mr. Hancock provided a quarterly update on activity in the Nottoway and Prince Edward NRCS field office, which includes 4 EQIP pre-approvals (2 high tunnels, wildlife habitat and switchgrass establishment). The 'Conservation Stewardship Program' is now taking signups for a 5 year enrollment. Deadline for applications is May 10, 2019.

Mr. Adams reported the Amelia NRCS office has a new full time employee, Olivia Plant, who is a recent graduate of Virginia Tech and a participant in the USDA Pathway Internship Program.

Virginia Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Norton provided information about a new cost share program, Central Virginia Pasture, Crops & Livestock grant, funded by the Virginia Tobacco Commission. The grant will provide incentive payments of up to \$3,300 per producer for production equipment such as crop/feed storage, livestock management structures, cold storage and produce handling equipment, and

livestock watering systems (systems that are not eligible for district cost share programs). A series of educational meetings will be held across the eligible counties. More information may be found on the VCE website.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

ATTACHED REPORTS:

Conservation Report; 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