



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Farmville, Virginia  
August 27, 2019 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  
Dr. Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer  
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County  
Juan Whittington –Appointed Director, Amelia County  
Horace Adams- Associate Director, Prince Edward County  
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

**Board Members Absent:**

Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County

**SWCD Staff Present:**

Kelly Atkinson – Education Coordinator  
Kevin Dunn – BMP Conservation Specialist  
Deanna Fehrer- District Manager  
Emily Gibbs – Residential Program Specialist  
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist

**Partners Present:**

Denney Collins – DCR CDC

**Guests Present:**

Allison Crews – Amelia Resident  
Sarah Eck – Nottoway Resident

**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, August 27, 2019.

Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed directors, staff, partners, and guests and led the group in prayer. A quorum was present. Additions to the agenda include a DEQ septic grant extension, NRCS MOU and COIA training requirements.

Mr. Dillard welcomed Kelly Atkinson, the new Education Coordinator. Ms. Atkinson provided some background about her education experience with over 16 years in the classroom. She is looking forward to working with area educators and has already participated in several education events and trainings.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the July 23, 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 July 2019 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.

**CONSERVATION REPORT****VACS Application Approvals**

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

**Chesapeake Bay – total approved \$59,752.00****Nottoway**

**John Shepherd** SL-8B Cover Crop for Nutrient and Residue Mgmt. (379 Ac)

05-20-0009 Estimated Cost \$ 37,900.00

(CB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 15,160.00

**John Shepherd** WQ-4 Legume Based Cover Crop (436.5 Ac)

05-20-0009 Estimated Cost \$ 43,650.00

(CB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 13,095.00

**John Shepherd** NM-1A Nutrient Mgmt. Plan Writing & Revision (815.5 Ac)

05-20-0009 Estimated Cost \$ 1,631.00

(CB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 1,631.00

**John Shepherd** NM-5N Precision Nutrient Mgmt.- Nitrogen Application (436.5 Ac)

05-20-0009 Estimated Cost \$ 4,556.00

(CB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 3,492.00

**John Shepherd** NM-5P Precision Nutrient Mgmt.- Phosphorus Application (815.5 Ac)

05-20-0009 Estimated Cost \$ 8,698.67

(CB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 6,524.00

**Triple R. Dairy** SL-8B Cover Crop for Nutrient and Residue Mgmt. (129.1 Ac)

05-20-00010 Estimated Cost \$ 12,910.00

(CB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 5,164.00

**Triple R. Dairy** SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (315.3 Ac)

05-20-0010 Estimated Cost \$ 31,530.00

(CB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 6,306.00

**Nicholas Moody** NM-1A Nutrient Mgmt. Plan Writing & Revision (183.2 Ac)

05-20-0012 Estimated Cost \$ 366.40

(CB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 366.40

**Nicholas Moody** SL-8B Cover Crop for Nutrient and Residue Mgmt. (163.7 Ac)

05-20-0012 Estimated Cost \$ 16,370.00

(CB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 6,548.00

**Nicholas Moody** NM-5P Precision Nutrient Mgmt.- Phosphorus Application (183.2 Ac)

05-20-0012 Estimated Cost \$ 2,264.80

(CB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 1,465.60

**Outside Chesapeake Bay (OCB) – Total Approved: \$25,599.50 & Approved Pending Funding \$61,137.70**  
 If the “Approved Pending Funding” practices do not receive funding from DCR, then tax credits will be approved at a later date. Practices are listed in ranking order.

NottowayJohn Shepherd

SL-8B Cover Crop for Nutrient and Residue Mgmt. (1,088.7 Ac)

05-20-0009 Estimated Cost \$108,870.00

(OCB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 45,871.20 \*

\* \$25,599.50 Will be allocated from our current cost-share funds and the remaining will be Pending Funding.

John Shepherd

NM-1A Nutrient Mgmt. Plan Writing &amp; Revision (1,345.3 Ac)

05-20-0009 Estimated Cost \$ 2,690.00

(OCB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 2,690.00

John Shepherd

NM-5N Precision Nutrient Mgmt.- Nitrogen Application (575.6Ac)

05-20-0009 Estimated Cost \$ 6,139.74

(OCB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 4,604.80

John Shepherd

NM-5P Precision Nutrient Mgmt.- Phosphorus Application (1,054.9 Ac)

05-20-0009 Estimated Cost \$ 11,252.27

(OCB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 8,439.20

Triple R. Dairy

SL-8B Cover Crop for Nutrient and Residue Mgmt. (94 Ac)

05-20-00010 Estimated Cost \$ 9,400.00

(OCB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 3,760.00

Harrison Moody

SL-8B Cover Crop for Nutrient and Residue Mgmt. (244.2 Ac)

05-20-00011 Estimated Cost \$ 24,442.00

(OCB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 9,768.00

Harrison Moody

NM-1A Nutrient Mgmt. Plan Writing &amp; Revision (325.6 Ac)

05-20-0011 Estimated Cost \$ 651.20

(OCB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 651.20

Harrison Moody

NM-5P Precision Nutrient Mgmt.- Phosphorus Application (325.6 Ac)

05-20-0011 Estimated Cost \$ 3,474.15

(OCB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 2,604.80

John Shepherd

WQ-4 Legume Based Cover Crop (256.6 Ac)

05-20-0009 Estimated Cost \$ 25,660.00

(OCB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 7,698.00

Triple R. Dairy

SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (32.5 Ac)

05-20-00010 Estimated Cost \$ 3,250.00

(OCB VACS) Estimated Incentive \$ 650.00

There were several questions regarding participant cap and participants applying in multiple districts. At this time the BMP tracking program does not alert districts if there are applications from participants in other districts. The VACS Contract Form 1 includes a self-certifying statement that the applicant signs agreeing not to accept funding over the participant cap and listing the other districts where the applicant

has applied. Our approval letter to the approved producer with an application over \$100,000 will include a reminder that even though the total approval was over \$100,000, they will not be eligible to receive a total state payment over \$100,000.

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

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

**Spring Creek, et al.**

<b>Stephen Keith</b> <b>(05-19-0027)</b> Prince Edward County	<b>RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out (Cancelation)</b> Estimated Cost \$ 300.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 150.00 (50% cost-share rate)
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<b>Terry Avent</b> <b>(05-20-0013)</b> Prince Edward County	<b>RB-1 Septic Tank Pump Out (Approval)</b> Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 175.00 (50% cost-share rate)
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Program year 2020 applications reflect new cost share caps.

**Conservation Plans**

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, with Dr. Chaffin absent from the room, the Board approved the following conservation plans:**

Prince Edward	R. Samuel Coleman	CSP
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**Signed by Staff**

Prince Edward	(all CRP) Wilkie Chaffin; Shirley Barksdale; Hoyt B Alford; D&J Land Investment ;Benjamin Eppes III
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Nottoway	Jamie S. Hawley	CRP
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**Equipment Purchase**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is offering an opportunity for SWCDs to purchase no-till drill equipment through a zero-interest loan program that includes a 50% loan forgiveness. The loan forgiveness is only offered to SWCDs when purchasing equipment. The loan program is also available to agricultural producers to help install BMPs and purchase conservation equipment. Ms. Fehrer provided an overview of the loan process and three quotes from equipment dealers. The process from application to loan finalization will be approximately 90 days. Discussion included the current state of the drills, including age, acres sowed, maintenance performed and number of landowners renting the drill. Staff have received calls from outside the District asking to rent the drills. Other discussion included purchasing more than one drill and perhaps a different manufacturer. **On a motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved moving forward with the loan application to purchase a new Haybuster Model 107C 10' no-till drill.** The District will continue to rent the oldest drill and re-evaluate the equipment at the end of the year.

Mr. Rash gave an overview of a Farm Bureau sponsored tour with Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger, who visited area farms and the SPAREC in Blackstone. Mr. Rash gave a

presentation similar to the one the District gave to the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources in June. Congresswoman Spanberger was engaged and interested in soil health, cover crops and remote monitoring of the dams.

### **FINANCE**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the June 30, 2019 dedicated funds balances with obligated uses as presented.**

**On a motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the disposition of old computers, monitors, printer, cell phones and cameras.** Ms. Fehrer said that the hard drives will be removed from the desktop computers and destroyed before sending to the local electronics recycling facility. Attached is listing of the specific equipment.

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a contract extension to March 31, 2020 for the DEQ 319 Grant Contract #16363 Prince Edward watersheds (Spring, Briery, Bush, Little Sandy and Saylers Creek).** Ms. Gibbs reported that DEQ might be asking for a return of grant funding from the 319 Flat Creek Contract. Ms. Gibbs explained that when the grant was written, the District did not have a good idea of the prices of septic repairs and the grant request included higher than actual costs of repairs. The grant has met its deliverables of the percent of practices installed, but did not spend all of the funding because most of the repairs came in under the estimated costs. Ms. Fehrer reported the District will be applying for new grant funds when the Request For Application is posted.

### **PLANNING**

Ms. Collins reviewed the DCR Assessment for FY19 operational and cost share grant deliverables. Piedmont SWCD received “A’s” or ‘fully satisfied’ for all of the grant performance deliverables. A copy of the assessments is attached.

Dr. Chaffin and Mr. Arnason reported that a memo from DCR recently was sent to directors advising them that as of July 1, 2019 all elected officials must complete a COIA training by December 31, 2019. The training must be provided by the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council and is available online and will also be given at the VASWCD annual meeting in December. Local clerks in the county offices are responsible for tracking and maintaining completion records. DCR will still provide COIA and FOIA training by the Attorney General’s offices at Area Spring Meetings, although this does not meet the requirement by the Ethics Advisory Council.

Ms. Fehrer reviewed a draft Memorandum of Understanding between USDA-NRCS and SWCDs that recently came before the VASWCD executive director. The current MOU was last signed in 2003. This is a national effort to update MOUs with districts. The VASWCD is collecting comments, questions and concerns to be discussed during the September 12, 2019 VASWCD Board meeting. Ms. Fehrer explained the history of the partnership and changes over the past several years. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

**WATERSHED**

Mr. Arnason reported the expiration of Operation and Maintenance agreements with NRCS for the following watershed dams: Buffalo #3, Buffalo #8 and Buffalo #9. All of the O&M agreements have expired on all of the Buffalo dams. This does not relieve the District of its obligations with applicable Federal, State and local regulations.

**LEGISLATIVE** (no report)**PERSONNEL** (no report)**COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION**

The staff have been working on nominations for the 2019/2020 conservation awards. Nominations have been suggested for the DCR Clean Water Farm award and PSWCD Outstanding Conservation, Young Farmer and Conservation Educator awards. The Board directed the staff to continue planning for a winter awards banquet and to complete the paperwork for the Clean Water Farm Award to be submitted to DCR by October 1, 2019. Action will be taken at the September Board meeting. Ms. Kerr will be invited to receive her 15year service pin.

Ms. Fehrer reported that the Virginia Envirothon team placed first at the National competition. Ms. Fehrer announced that September 5, 2019 will mark the 80<sup>th</sup> year for the Piedmont SWCD.

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

Ms. Fehrer recognized Ms. Gibbs for the marketing training session she led at the VACDE employee training last week and that Ms. Gibbs will be doing a similar exercise with the Piedmont Board.

**PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS:**

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

Ms. Collins reported most of the items on her report were covered during the board meeting.

Virginia Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Norton provided flyers (attached) advertising several upcoming events including: Family Farm Day and a pond workshop. More information can be found on the VCE website.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

**ATTACHED REPORTS:**

Conservation Report; DCR Assessments; DCR CDC Report; Staff report; VCE flyers.

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

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