

Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Report 2017-2018



NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

LARKIN MOYER



Conservation Districts across the nation work every day to help keep soils healthy and productive and water clean. They educate citizens, governments, and businesses about the wise use of natural resources. Here in the Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District, we continue that same work. This year we worked with farmers, homeowners, community groups, and students to install conservation practices, repair residential septic systems, address erosion issues, and provide educational opportunities to our youth. We recognized our farmers and educators for their commitment to conservation on the land and through their work. With the support of our local government and diverse natural resource partners and community organizations, we were able to make conservation a success. Thank you for your continued interest in our programs, and we hope you will enjoy reading about our successes this past year!

Conservation Awards Banquet Recap

The District's annual conservation awards banquet honored four farmers, one educator, and one partner who have demonstrated their commitment to protecting the community's soil, water, and natural resources. Awardees, pictured below, include:

Conservation Partner: Prince Edward County
Health Department

(David Emert, County Supervisor, accepting on behalf)

Conservation Commitment Farmer: James
Garnett, Jr.

Conservation Educator: Dan Michaelson
(Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries)

Conservation Farmer: Gayle Harris

(pictured with her son, Harold, in back)

Young Conservation Farmer: Wes Reames

Forestry Farmer: Jay Hackleman

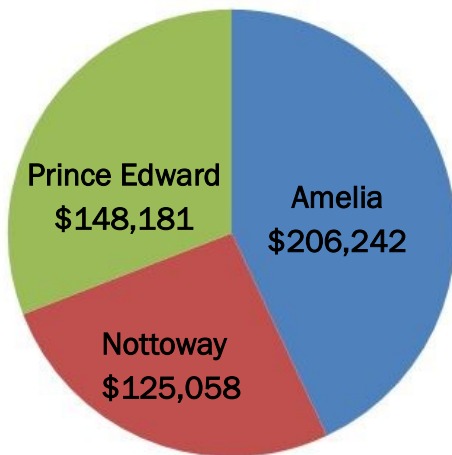


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District serves Amelia, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties. We operate primarily on a grant basis with funds from state and local governments. Some programs we administer are based on watershed location (such as grants only available for Chesapeake Bay residents), while other programs are available to applicants in all three counties that we serve. Every two years, an independent audit is performed.

OPERATING BUDGET	FISCAL YEAR 2018
Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation Funds	
Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost-Share Funds	\$295,285
Operations	\$169,880
Agricultural Technical Assistance	\$50,126
Flood control structure maintenance and repairs	\$47,000
Virginia DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic BMP Grants	\$52,681
Other grant-funded projects	\$47,171
Local funds (equipment rental, grants for special projects, locality appropriations, and sponsorships)	\$54,838

\$479,481 Cost-Share Funds Approved
(all programs)



104

Cost-share contracts
written



124

BMPs approved



1, 526

students and
citizens reached through educational
programs



671

Client
contacts

Keep reading to see the full summary of this year's accomplishments!

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

Piedmont SWCD administers a state grant-funded cost-share program to agricultural producers who install and implement best management practices to improve soil and water quality. Certified, trained staff assist producers with identifying natural resource concerns, providing conservation planning, and ensuring practices are installed and functioning correctly. Technical assistance is always free of charge and participation in the programs is voluntary.

447 farm and client visits

33 acres of streamside buffer planted

60 Best Management Practices approved

2,003 acres sowed with no-till drill rental

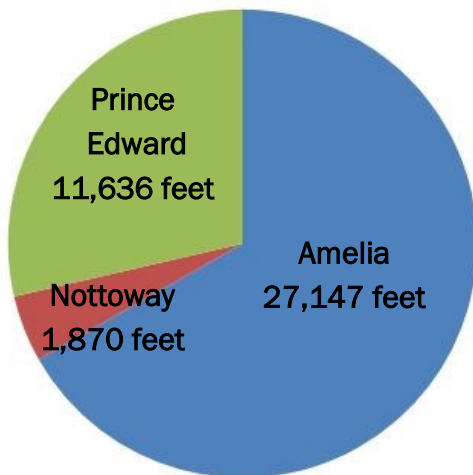
29 conservation and grazing plans developed

207 BMP field verifications

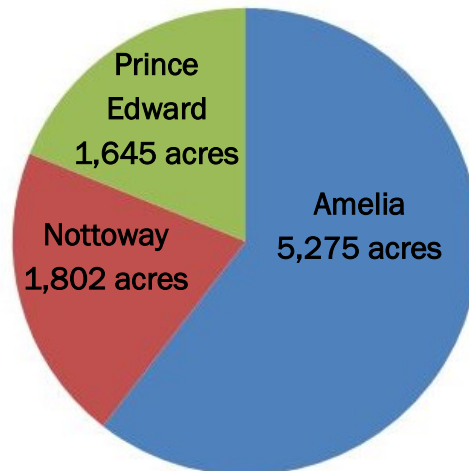
\$390,579 cost-share funds approved

5 new BMP program participants

40,653 Feet of Stream Exclusion Installed



8,722 Acres of Cover Crops Planted



Piedmont SWCD participated in the following local agricultural field days and shared information about SWCD conservation programs: Small Grain Field Day (Amelia); Amelia Dairy Conference; Nutrient Management CAFO workshop (Nottoway). The District's conservation staff led several farm tours for Longwood University environmental science classes and Fuqua School agriculture classes. The tours showcased soil and water conservation best management practices (BMPs) and provided students the opportunity to visit working farms.

Pictured are Fuqua School students visiting a local dairy farm, where they learned about conservation practices installed through cost-share programs offered by the Piedmont SWCD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION

Piedmont SWCD administers two grants from the Department of Environmental Quality to provide financial assistance to homeowners for a percentage of the costs of septic system pump outs, repairs, and replacements. The program also educates residents about proper septic system care and about the environmental and health impacts of failing septic systems. Applicants must live in the Flat, Nibbs, Deep, or West Creek watersheds in Nottoway and Amelia Counties, or the Spring Creek, Briery Creek, Sandy River, Bush River, or Saylers Creek watersheds in Prince Edward County.

47 site visits (PSWCD staff and local Health Department staff)

3 educational workshops

64 Best Management Practices approved:
44 pump outs, 20 repairs/replacements

\$88,902 approved cost-share funds

An electrical panel, distribution box, and header lines are a few components of an alternative septic system. An alternative system is installed when a conventional system is not suitable for a site due to poor soil infiltration or a small drainfield area.



Pollinator Gardens



Pollinator garden at the High Bridge Trail State Park in downtown Farmville.

Piedmont SWCD received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay License Plate Restoration Fund to establish six pollinator gardens at High Bridge Trail State Park, Twin Lakes State Park, Prince Edward County High School, Fuqua School, Full Circle Nature School, and Longwood University Environmental Education Center, all located in Prince Edward County. Perennials and shrubs that are native to Prince Edward County were planted in the gardens. The pollinator gardens will educate citizens about the importance of pollinators in the ecosystem and their role in growing crops for food, fiber, beverages, spices, and medicines. Schools will utilize the gardens in hands-on lessons about life cycles, agriculture, plant parts, habitat, gardening, soil, and other science topics. Master

Gardeners, State Park staff, and students prepared the beds for planting and installed the plants, and these groups of volunteers will perform routine maintenance. The native plants and the insects they attract will enhance the diversity of species in the area and will provide citizens and students the opportunity to learn more about pollinator species and the plants they utilize.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Education for youth and adults is a key initiative for Piedmont SWCD. Youth education includes classroom programs, Envirothon program, camps, poster contest, interactive displays, and scholarships to continue higher education. Adult education consists of exhibits at public events, newspaper and radio releases, social media outreach, and workshops.

- * Provided four (4) \$1,000 academic scholarships
- *Fuqua School Envirothon team placed 1st in Area Envirothon competition
- *Education in schools and community: Family & Farm Day, Ag Awareness Day (Nottoway 3rd graders), classroom programs, Girl Scout programs, farm tours
- *“Watersheds” poster contest: 350 student entries
- *Youth Conservation Camp: staff counselor



2018 Poster Contest

The Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District, which is part of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), celebrated NACD's Stewardship Week April 29 – May 6, 2018. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote natural resource

conservation. The theme, “Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home,” raised awareness about the importance of protecting water quality in our communities. Piedmont SWCD received 350 entries from local schools. The top photo features winners from Full Circle Nature School, and the photo to the left features winners from Prince Edward County Elementary School. Thank you to all the participants!



2018 Lindy Hamlett Educational Scholarship Recipients: Rebekah Cole (Amelia), Andrew Murphy (Prince Edward), Kenny Townsend (Prince Edward), Jessica Newcomb (Amelia; not pictured). Director Bill Powers presented the awards.

WATERSHED DAMS

Piedmont SWCD is responsible for maintaining and meeting the safety regulations of 14 flood control dams in Prince Edward County. These dams are designed for watershed protection and flood prevention. All dams have an approved Emergency Action Plan that is utilized during significant storm events.



Outfall pool repair project after completion

Conducted 67 inspections, which included:

storm event inspections

annual owner inspections

inspections of repair projects

inspections with a Professional Engineer from the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation

Performed routine mowing, debris removal, and other maintenance

Attended 2 dam owner workgroup seminars

Completed 4 outfall pool repair projects

VALUED PARTNERSHIPS

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

USDA Farm Service Agency

USDA NRCS-

Horace Adams, Derek Hancock,

Robert Hazlegrove, Rachel

Loveday, David Smith

VA Dept. of Forestry-

Doug Audley, Patrick Murphy, Kirby Woolfolk

VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation

VA Dept. of Environmental Quality

VA Cooperative Extension-

Haley Norton, Katy Overby, Laura Siegle

VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries

VA Forage & Grasslands Council

YOUTH EDUCATION

Billy & Barbara Thompson

Patty Jones— Girl Scouts

High Bridge Trail State Park

Twin Lakes State Park

Amelia Ruritans

Fuqua School

Prince Edward County High School

Full Circle Nature School

Longwood University

Appomattox River SWCD—Soil Trailer

POSTER CONTEST

Brooke Eamigh, Joy Utzinger-

Prince Edward County

Elementary School

Christy Keller, Angela Whittaker -

Full Circle Nature School

MEDIA SUPPORT

Amelia Bulletin-Monitor

Farmville Herald

Southside Messenger

Blackstone Courier Record

Crewe-Burkeville Journal

WFLO

LOCAL PARTNERS

Amelia, Nottoway, and Prince Edward County-

Board of Supervisors

Administrative staff

Farm Bureau Agencies

Health Department staff

Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Heart of VA Master Gardeners

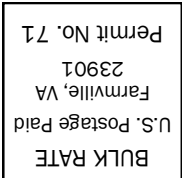
Middle James Roundtable

Southern Piedmont Agriculture

Research Extension Center

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Piedmont SWCD through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. All programs and services of the Piedmont SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, handicap or political affiliation.

PIEDMONT SOIL & WATER
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 100-B DOMINION DRIVE
 FARMVILLE, VA 23901



DIRECTORS

LARKIN MOYER
 Chairman - Amelia County
RICKY RASH
 Vice Chair - Nottoway County
WILKIE CHAFFIN
 Treasurer - Prince Edward Co.
CHUCK ARNASON
 Secretary - Nottoway County
DONNA KERR
 Amelia County
BILL POWERS
 Prince Edward County
JUAN WHITTINGTON
 Amelia County - Appointed
HALEY NORTON
 VCE Appointed

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

GARY DILLARD
 Amelia County
HORACE ADAMS
 Prince Edward County

DISTRICT STAFF

DEANNA FEHRER extension 108
 District Manager
CHARLIE WOOTTON ext. 128
 Senior Conservation Specialist
KEVIN DUNN ext. 116
 BMP Conservation Technician
STEPHEN REAMES
 Equipment Program Coordinator
EMILY GIBBS ext. 131
 Residential Conservation &
 Outreach Coordinator

DISTRICT STAFF



Left to right: Emily Gibbs, Deanna Fehrer, Charlie Wootton, Kevin Dunn
 (not pictured: Stephen Reames)

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