



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
April 26, 2022 11:00 a.m.**

Board Members Present:

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County / Secretary
Charles “Chuck” Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Treasurer
Allison Crews – Director, Amelia County
Horace Adams- Director, Prince Edward County
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist
Kevin Dunn – BMP Conservation Specialist
Tyler Smith - Conservation Technician
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist

SWCD Staff Present:

Deanna Fehrer - District Manager

Partners Present:

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Telicia Berry, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia office
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Farmville office
Patrick Murphy, Department of Forestry, Prince Edward County
Mike Foreman, Consultant

Guest Present: Nia Davis, Prince Edward County High School student enrolled in Youth Conservation Leadership Institute

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 26, 2022. Vice-Chairman Rash called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Arnason opened the meeting with a prayer. A quorum was present and the agenda with one addition of OCB funding was adopted by group consensus.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the March 22, 2022 minutes as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the March 2022 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit. A detailed report was provided to the Treasurer.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - Reported by Mr. Rash**FY22 VACS**

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, (with Mr. Whittington leaving the room) the Board approved the following three additions totaling \$2,556.10 in CB VACS22 funding as presented:

Amelia- Ches. Bay

<u>Featherstone Farm</u>	NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (1,568.1ac)	
05-22-0052 (464747)	Estimated Cost	\$ 3,136.20
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$ 3,136.20

*Additional 476.8 ac and \$953.60 C-S needed for approval

<u>Featherstone Farm</u>	NM-4 Split App. Of N on Small Grains (573.9ac)	
05-22-0052 (464748)	Estimated Cost	\$ 3,443.40
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$ 2,582.55

*Additional 128.2 ac and \$576.90 C-S needed for approval

<u>Featherstone Farm</u>	NM-5P Variable rate P (1,568.1ac)	
05-22-0052 (464747)	Estimated Cost	\$ 16,726.40
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$ 12,544.80

*Additional 476.8 ac and \$1,025.60 C-S needed for approval

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 10 practices of CB VACS22 contracts totaling \$48,904.88 as presented:

Amelia

<u>Reamford Farms LLC</u>	NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (347.3 ac)	
05-22-0055 (475595)	Estimated Cost	\$ 2,778.40
.	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 2,083.80

<u>Reamford Farms LLC</u>	NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (475.6ac)	
05-22-0055 (475607)	Estimated Cost	\$ 951.20
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$ 951.20

<u>Blanton Farms LC</u>	NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (124 ac) (11 Tests)	
05-22-0033 (475613)	Estimated Cost	\$ 1,080.00
.	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 832.00

<u>Blanton Farms LC</u>	NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (104ac)	
05-22-0033 (475612)	Estimated Cost	\$ 208.00
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$ 208.00

<u>Green Bluff Farm</u>	NM-6 Manure Injection (123.4 ac)	
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Karla Tisdale	RB-4 Conventional Septic System Repair/Replacement
05-22-0072 (475453)	Estimated Cost \$ 9,500.00 (waiver for cap)
approved by DEQ)	Estimated Cost Share (90%) \$ 8,550.00
Sherron Walton	RB-4 Conventional Septic System Repair/Replacement
05-22-0071 (475154)	Estimated Cost \$ 4,325.00
	Estimated Cost Share (90%) \$ 3,892.50

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved acceptance of Outside the Chesapeake Bay VACS funding of approximately \$75,000 pending approval by DCR (final amount will be recorded in future minutes).

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION

Mr. Rash introduced Ms. Nia Davis, a student at Prince Edward County High School who is a participant in the VASWCD Youth Conservation Leadership Institute. Ms. Davis shared information about her conservation project involving trees and educating students about the importance of trees and conservation of forest habitat. Ms. Davis accompanied Mr. Murphy, Mr. Evans and Ms. Atkinson on several field visits to see forestry management practices.

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved applications from Nia Davis (Prince Edward County) and Olivia Lorenzo (Prince Edward County) to receive a scholarship (valued at \$550 ea.) to attend Youth Conservation Camp, July 10-16.

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following four applications for the Lindy Hamlett Education Scholarship: Brooke Coleman (Prince Edward), Chelsey Oveda San Juan (Amelia), Caleb O'Brien (Amelia) and Tyler Harris (Prince Edward). On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to forward the scholarship application from Chelsey Oveda San Juan to the VASWCD for an opportunity to receive a VASWCD scholarship. Members of the Education Committee reviewed and scored 5 applications.

Ms. Fehrer reported the District received 374 posters from grades K-12 at Amelia County Schools, Prince Edward County Schools and Fuqua School. Ms. Rachel Ivers, Director of the Longwood Center for Visual Arts, judged the posters. The Grand Winner is Aurelia Midkiff, a 6th grader from Fuqua School, and Judges Choice Winner is Caleb Eason, a 4th grader from Fuqua School. The winning posters will be on display during May and June at local art studio, Red Door 104, in Farmville.

WATERSHED

Mr. Arnason reported DCR Dam Safety has accepted and will be reviewing a PMP study for Buffalo #3 dam.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Dillard reported that the Personnel Committee met prior to the Board meeting to review personnel evaluations. All evaluations were favorable. The evaluations are on file in the office.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Rash reported the General Assembly was called back into session but a budget was not finalized for the Governor to approve and another legislative session will need to be held. Both the House and the Senate versions of the budget include significant funding for the VACS and VCAP programs and also for increased operational funding for Districts. DCR has released some preliminary figures for districts to help draft tentative budgets, but the final budget figures may not be known until the end of June. The Soil and Water Conservation Board will be unable to approve any FY23 grant agreements until a budget has been approved and it is likely they will not meet until June.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The At-Large Appointed Director positions will expire December 31, 2022. Mr. Whittington will be deciding if he is interested in continuing in this role. The deadline for districts to submit their selection will be August 2022.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS**Piedmont Staff Report (Attached)**

Ms. Fehrer reported that all staff and several partners are at educational events today (Area V Envirothon and 3rd grade Ag Awareness days). Mr. Smith has been completed all on-line conservation trainings and is receiving on-the-job training from Mr. Wootton and Mr. Dunn. He is enrolled in all conservation trainings that are being offered by DCR. Conservation staff are busy working with producers to finalize cover crop practices, SL6 practices and several other agronomic practices. They are hopeful to allocate some additional funding before the end of June. Ms. Atkinson had a successful Area V Envirothon workshop and has been coordinating several educational events and assisting with other educational programs (gardening program, Area V Envirothon competition, Poster Contest, ARKS for Parks)

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).

Ms. Collins highlighted some important dates and other information from her attached report. 4th quarter disbursements will be available mid- May and tillage survey funds will be disbursed at a later date. During the recently completed district audits, it was found that several districts did not have the appropriate signatures on part 3 of the VACS contract. DCR has implemented a policy that if the part 3 contract is found not to be complete during a DCR spot check or audit, then the district will have to payback the cost share funds to DCR.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (no report)**USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)**

Ms. Berry reviewed her report. Her office has 8 EQIP pre-approvals and they are working to get into contracts.

Mr. Evans reviewed his report and mentioned several deadlines. His office has 4 EQIP pre-approvals which are mostly high tunnel applications. He and the Area Engineer conducted a site

visit in the Town of Farmville concerning erosion issues. Assistant State Conservationist, Kilby Majette, has asked for copies of district minutes.

Virginia Department of Forestry

Mr. Murphy reported he is managing programs in several counties including Appomattox, Buckingham, Cumberland and Prince Edward. This past fire season has been the largest in 14 years and local fire departments have been critical in assisting in fire controls. Reforestation practices have been successful in Prince Edward county and the agency is taking applications for FY23 funding. Several DOF training events are being planned for this spring and early summer including the Fire Academy.

Following a short break, the meeting resumed with discussion and review of a draft strategic plan. Mr. Mike Foreman facilitated the discussion and will incorporate suggestions into the draft plan for the Board to review in May.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

Staff & partner reports;

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

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
Bill Powers, Director / Secretary