



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
February 22, 2022 11:00 a.m.**

Board Members Present:

Larkin Moyer – Director, Amelia County / Chairman
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
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County

SWCD Staff Present:

Kevin Dunn – BMP Conservation Specialist
Deanna Fehrer - District Manager
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist
Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist
Tyler Smith - Conservation Technician

Partners Present:

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Erin Small, VCE Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, Prince Edward County
Telicia Berry, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia office
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Farmville office

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, February 22, 2022. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present. The agenda was adopted by group consensus. Mr. Moyer welcomed Ty Smith, the recently hired PSWCD Conservation Technician.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

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

TREASURER’S REPORT

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

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - Reported by Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wootton**FY22 VACS**

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following corrections to VACS contract 05-22-0028 as presented:

Dexter Jones**NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (312.2ac)**

***An additional 44.1ac was requested to be added to NMP- \$88.20**

Total of contract:

05-22-0028 (464304)	Estimated Cost	\$	624.60
	Estimated Cost Share	\$	624.60

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following changes to VACS contract 05-22-0060: The original instance (469423) was approved in January with a 50' buffer. The producer wants to use a 35 ft buffer in one of the fields, so that field was removed from instance 469423 and a new instance (471073) was added. This resulted in a decrease of cost-share by \$3,017.73.

Dunn Right Meadows LLC**SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (2,450')**

05-22-0060 (469423)*	Estimated Cost	\$	38,057.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	36,154.15(95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$	2,400.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$	38,554.15

Dunn Right Meadows LLC**SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (35'/10yr) (2,400')**

05-22-0060 (471073)	Estimated Cost	\$	14,925.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	12686.25(85%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$	1,600.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$	14,286.25

Mr. Kevin Dunn reported that the costs of a geotechnical study to locate a well can be included as an eligible component cost of SL-6 practices. **On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to postpone any decision regarding the costs of geotechnical studies until the staff provides additional information.**

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY22 VACS contracts (CB \$115,425.60) as presented:

Chesapeake Bay**Amelia****Holt M. Morris****SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (7600')**

05-22-0068 (471056)	Estimated Cost	\$	58,900.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	55,955.00(95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$	8,000.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$	63,955.00

Green Bluff Farm

05-22-0040 (470923)

NM-6 Manure Injection (177.4 ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 7,983.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 7,983.00

Brian T. Crowder

05-22-0047 (470411)

NM-3C Split App. Of N. (88.9ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 711.20

Estimated Cost Share \$ 533.40

David D. Benson

05-22-0012 (470922)

NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (469ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 938.00

Estimated Cost Share \$ 938.00

Dewayne Moore

05-22-0032 (470415)

NM-3C Split App. Of N. (81.4ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 651.20

Estimated Cost Share \$ 488.40

Dewayne Moore

05-22-0032 (470409)

NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (492.7ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 985.40

Estimated Cost Share \$ 985.40

Hard Ac. Farm

05-22-0030 (471227)

NM-3C Split App. Of N. (121.8ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 974.30

Estimated Cost Share \$ 730.80

Hard Ac Farm

05-22-0030 (471226)

NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (287.7ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 575.50

Estimated Cost Share \$ 575.50

Vaughan Cattle Co

05-22-0041 (470420)

NM-3C Split App. Of N. (387.5ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 3,100.00

Estimated Cost Share \$ 2,325.00

Vaughan Cattle Co

05-22-0041 (470419)

NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (507.6ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 1,015.20

Estimated Cost Share \$ 1,015.20

Whitaker Farms Inc.

05-22-0029 (470662)

NM-3C Split App. Of N. (140ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 1,120.00

Estimated Cost Share \$ 840.00

Whitaker Farms Inc.

05-22-0029 (470661)

NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (543.5ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 1,087.00

Estimated Cost Share \$ 1,087.00

Richard Goode

05-22-0043 (470414)

NM-3C Split App. Of N. (50ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 400.00

Estimated Cost Share \$ 300.00

Richard Goode

05-22-0043 (470413)

NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (132.5ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 265.00

Estimated Cost Share \$ 265.00

Prince Edward**Boot Hill Dairy**

05-22-0050 (470920)

NM-6 Manure Injection (530.9 ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 23,890.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 23,890.00

Mary Hunter Gallalee

05-22-0067 (470413)

FR-1 Afforestation of Land (15ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 2,250.00

Estimated Cost Share \$ 3,937.50

Nottoway**John Shepherd**

05-22-0056 (470414)

NM-5N Split App. Of N. (475.3ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 5,069.87

Estimated Cost Share \$ 3,802.40

Richlands Dairy Farm

05-22-0045 (471194)

NM-3C Split App. Of N. (290.4ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 2,323.20

Estimated Cost Share \$ 1,774.00

Total approvals for VACS22 CB including additional cost share of \$88.20 - \$ 115,513.80

DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Contracts

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following septic application as presented

SPRING CREEK, Etc. #16969**Prince Edward**

Andrew Elder

05-22-0066 (470580)

RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump out

Estimated Cost \$ 350.00

Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 175.00

Conservation Plans

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following conservation plans as presented:

Amelia

Timothy Mark Orr (Estranola Cattle Co.)

Nottoway

Eddie Slagle

Signed by Staff for FSA

G. Palmer West

Jacqualine Elizabeth Simpson (2)

Name Change

Name Change

DCR Tillage Survey

Ms. Fehrer reported that DCR will be sending out MOUs to districts to conduct "Tillage/Residue" surveys. These are similar to surveys the districts performed several years ago to collect data about no-till practices and the amount of crop residue that remains on agricultural fields. The surveys will require persons to verify fields and measure residue. In 2016, the District contracted with Dennis Jones to perform the survey.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a contract with Dennis Jones to conduct the survey at a rate of \$25/hour. A copy of the contract is attached.

Ms. Fehrer reported that the Board supported the District to rent the no-till seeder with the warm season grass box to a farmer in Brunswick County. The farmer is participating in a cost share program with USDA and has been working with NRCS State Forage Conservationist, J.B. Daniel, who is assisting with coordinating the use. Piedmont conservation staff and equipment manager will video and document the use of the drill and learn about the calibration for the warm season grass seed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Fehrer reported she has left messages for Wayne Racanellio, who has a past due equipment rental invoice, but has not received a reply. In addition, letters have been mailed including a signed certified delivery. Mr. Arnason will assist Ms. Fehrer with a request to the Attorney General office on how to proceed with collection. Mr. Adams asked if the Board would consider a security deposit that would, at the minimum, cover the cost of transporting the drill. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved that first time drill users will pay a deposit of \$150 before use and any additional acreage will be invoiced.**

PLANNING

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the nomination from Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) for Erin Small, VCE ANR agent in Prince Edward County, to serve as the VCE agent appointment on the Piedmont SWCD Board.

Ms. Fehrer reported that Mike Foreman is finalizing the process of stakeholder interviews and surveys. Mr. Foreman will present the information during the Strategic Planning session after the March Board meeting. The March 22, 2022 board meeting will start at 10:00am with the strategic planning session to follow. All board members, staff and partners are expected to attend. A working lunch will be provided. Chairman Moyer will be out of town and will not be in attendance.

WATERSHED

Mr. Arnason reported four contractors, who participated in the site visits for the mowing/maintenance contract, submitted bids. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the intent to award the dam mowing/maintenance contract to the lowest bidder, B & B Services, LLC, contingent upon receipt of appropriate certificates of insurances for contract and sub-contractors as well as licensures as stated in the bid.**

Prince Edward County provided Ms. Fehrer with a site map and plan for the proposed solar farm project located off of Rice Creek Road, near the Bush #2 watershed dam. Details about the erosion and sediment/stormwater plans will be forwarded to the District office for review. As-built plans for Bush #2 which document the flood pool elevation was provided to the County.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Dillard reported the “Watershed Dam Manager” position was advertised and the office received one application. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the Personnel Committee to proceed with the hiring process including interviews and any offers to include a pay range of \$22-\$28/hour with an average of 25-40 hours per month.** The final pay rate will be determined by the Personnel Chair and Treasurer.

Ms. Fehrer had notified the Personnel Committee about a virtual training opportunity being offered by Virginia Tech to learn about drones, their use and licensure requirements. Ms. Fehrer suggested that Mr. Smith be allowed to take the course that will help provide critical information needed about the potential use of drones during conservation work at the District. There were many opinions and comments about the use of drones. Mr. Arnason commented that Mr. Smith should concentrate on the conservation training in his training plan at this time and the Board can consider any future training opportunities.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Rash reported that FY23 budget amendments from both the House and Senate were made public this past weekend. All items that the VASWCD requested were included, but the VASWCD is waiting on the specific budget language. Currently the FY22 revenues for the Commonwealth is \$2 billion ahead of revenue forecasts, which might result in a large deposit into the Water Quality Improvement Fund. Governor Younkin’s recommendation of Andrew Wheeler for Secretary of Natural Resources was not approved. A DCR Director has not been named.

Mr. Rash reported there has been conversation in Nottoway County regarding water supply needs for several state run facilities. Several options are being discussed including annexation of these properties into the Towns of Burkeville and Crewe and the possible use of the Sandy River Reservoir in Prince Edward County.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION

Ms. Atkinson reported on several upcoming programs:

The VASWCD Youth Conservation Camp will happen as an in-person camp during the week of July 10-16 on the campus of Virginia Tech. Students who are currently enrolled in 9th-12th grades are eligible to apply. All students who will be attending will need to provide proof of a negative Covid19 test before attending. Other Covid19 precautions will be in place and can be found on the VASWCD website.

Camp Woods & Wildlife, hosted by the VA Department of Forestry, will be held June 19-26 at the Holiday Lake 4H Center. The camp is open to students ages 13-16. Piedmont will sponsor the camp as they have in the past with a financial donation.

The recently approved outdoor classroom mini grants have been distributed to the selected schools.

Ms. Atkinson will be conducting several weekly gardening programs for students at Sunrise Learning Center, a Pre-K – 1st grade education center in Farmville.

The Lindy Hamlett Scholarship applications are due April 1, 2022.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Piedmont Staff Report (Attached)

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).

Ms. Collins highlighted some important dates and other information from her attached report. She reported that Angie Ball, former DCR CDC in Western Virginia, has take the Western Regional Manager position formerly held by Jim Echols. Jackie Friedman, the Southeast CDC, has taken a position with the Department of Health. Vacant positions will be advertised soon.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Small reported she has scheduled several programs for the community, including a Farm Pond Management program on April 15. She is continuing to meet farmers. Amelia County recently hired a new VCE agent, Mackenzie Gunn.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Ms. Berry reviewed her report. The Amelia office finished ranking the 34 EQIP applications. The CSP deadline is February 25, 2022 and there are 7 CSPs up for renewal. Olivia Plant, Soil Conservationist in Amelia, has taken a position with NRCS in North Carolina. FSA in Amelia is hiring a full-time temporary technician. The Amelia office is now operating at 75% staff capacity.

Mr. Evans reported the Farmville office has also completed ranking EQIP applications. The office received four applications for high tunnels. The State office is promoting urban agriculture and is sponsoring a state tribal summit. FSA announced that Cristy Cook has been named the County Executive Director for the Farmville/Nottoway office. The Farmville office is also operating at 75% staff capacity.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Staff & partner reports.

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

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