



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Farmville, Virginia  
January 25, 2022 11:00 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman  
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County / Secretary  
Charles “Chuck” Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Treasurer  
Horace Adams- Director, Prince Edward County  
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County  
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

**Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:**

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman  
Allison Crews – Director, Amelia County  
Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County

**SWCD Staff Present:**

Kevin Dunn – BMP Conservation Specialist  
Deanna Fehrer - District Manager  
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist

**Partners Present:**

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation  
Erin Small, VCE Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, Prince Edward County

**Present via Zoom:**

Kelly Atkinson – PSWCD Education Specialist  
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, January 25, 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 Ms. Erin Small, the recently hired VCE Agriculture and Natural Resources agent for Prince Edward county.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the November 23, 2021 minutes as presented.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Whittington seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the December 2021 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 Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY22 VACS contracts (CB \$232,794.89) as presented:**

**Amelia**

<b>Big Meadows Farm LLC</b>	<b>FR-3 Woodland Buffer Planting (10yr) (2.5ac)</b>
05-22-0018 (469527)	Estimated Cost \$ 3,750.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 3,562.50 (95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment \$ 250.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share \$ 3,812.50
<b>Big Meadows Farm LLC</b>	<b>SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (1300')</b>
05-22-0018 (469677)	Estimated Cost \$ 7,925.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 7,528.75 (95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment \$ 2,400.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share \$ 9,928.75
<b>Dunn Right Meadows LLC</b>	<b>SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (5,800')</b>
05-22-0060 (468988)	Estimated Cost \$ 64,887.50
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 61,643.13 (95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment \$ 4,000.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share \$ 65,643.13
<b>Dunn Right Meadows LLC</b>	<b>SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (4,800')</b>
05-22-0060 (468423)	Estimated Cost \$ 54,587.50
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 51,858.13(95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment \$ 4,000.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share \$ 55,858.13
<b>Timothy Mark Orr</b>	<b>SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (1,200')</b>
05-22-0065 (469742)	Estimated Cost \$ 24,400.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 23,180.00(95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment \$ 1,200.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share \$ 24,380.00
05-22-0065 (469743)	<b>SL-7 Extension of Watering System (34 ac)</b>
	Estimated Cost \$ 8,250.00
	Estimated Cost Share \$ 6,187.50(75%)
<b>R.M. Watkins &amp; Sons Inc</b>	<b>NM-6 Manure Injection (837.6 ac)</b>
05-22-0051 (469690)	Estimated Cost \$ 37,692.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 37,692.00
<b>Ameva farm Inc</b>	<b>NM-6 Manure Injection (79.3)</b>
05-22-0031 (469731)	Estimated Cost \$ 3,568.50
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 3,568.50

**Nottoway****Eddie L. Slagle IV**

05-22-0064 (469685)

**SL-7 Extension of Water System (17.11 ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 8,950.00

Estimated Cost Share \$ 6,712.50(75%)

05-22-0084 (469686)

**CCI SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer (5330')**

Estimated Cost Share \$ 7,912.50

**Prince Edward****James W. Garnett, Jr.**

05-22-0044 (469399)

**FR-1 Afforestation of Cropland (12.39ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 1,858.50

Estimated Cost Share \$ 1,393.88

Estimated Incentive \$ 1,858.50

Total Estimated C/S \$ 3,252.38

**Donald J. Sura**

05-22-0063 (469519)

**CCI SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer (4900')**

Estimated Cost Share \$ 7,625.00

**CCW Texas Outfit, LLC**

05-22-0062 (469416)

**NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (111ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 222.00

Estimated Cost Share \$ 222.00

**On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS application as presented (with Mr. Moyer leaving the room:**

**Oakmulgee Dairy Farm**

05-22-0015 (4565153)

**NM-6 Manure Injection (466.3 ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 20,983.50

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 20,983.50

**Total approvals for VACS22 CB - \$253,778.39.**

**DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Contracts**

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

**FLAT CREEK #16970****Approval****Nottoway**

Jeffrey Daniel

05-22-0061 (469213)

**RB-4 Conventional Onsite Septic System Repair**

Estimated Cost \$ 8,000.00

Estimated Cost Share (70%) \$ 5,600.00

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

Jesse Yeatts

05-22-0024 (467112)

**RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pumpout**

Estimated Cost \$ 350.00

Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 175.00

Terry Avent	RB-2 Connection to Municipal Wastewater System		
05-22-0059 (468904)	Estimated Cost	\$	12,424.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$	5,395.00 (Capped at \$5,500 less deduction from prorated pumpout payment)

### **Conservation Plans**

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

**Amelia** (2)     Dunn Right Meadows LLC  
                           Big Meadows Farm LLC

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. During the last survey several years ago, the District contracted with a former NRCS District Conservationist to conduct the survey and Ms. Fehrer will contact him to see if he is interested and available to perform this survey, which will begin in late spring.

### **COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION** - reported by Ms. Atkinson

Ms. Atkinson shared the information from the ten outdoor classroom mini grant applications that were received for a total of \$3,450 in requests. She had reached out to several applicants where additional information about the project was needed and received the information from all except one school. **On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved nine applications totaling \$2,950 (attached summary of applications).** An application from Nottoway High School was not approved at this time. If Ms. Atkinson receives the information needed to review the application, then she will bring it back to the Board for action. Ms. Atkinson highlighted successful projects from last year including Amelia High School and Full Circle School.

Ms. Atkinson distributed 2022 Lindy Hamlett and VASWCD Scholarship information to local schools and advertised on the District’s website and Facebook. The applications are due April 1, 2022. There has been no decision about conducting an in-person Youth Conservation Camp at this time. VASWCD is awaiting information from Virginia Tech. The Department of Forestry is sponsoring “Camp Woods and Wildlife” (formerly Forestry Camp) for students ages 13-16 to be held at Holiday Lake 4H Center.

Ms. Atkinson distributed 2022 Conservation Poster contest information to local schools and other groups. This year the VASWCD is sponsoring a digital poster contest (in addition to the traditional paper contest) for students in grades 7-12. The theme for both contests is “Healthy Soils: Healthy Life”. Posters are due April 13, 2022.

Nia Davis, a sophomore at Prince Edward High School, has begun her project for the “Youth Conservation Leadership Institute” program. Her project will focus on forestry topics and she plans to attend one of PSWCD’s upcoming board meetings.

The Area V Envirothon workshop scheduled for January 11, 2022 was rescheduled to March 24, 2022 at the Longwood University Environmental Education Center. The current issue is “Waste to Resources”.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Arnason**

Ms. Fehrer will attempt to collect an outstanding equipment rental invoice. (Racanellio). Despite multiple attempts, there has been no response from the customer. Ms. Fehrer will contact the Southside SWCD to inquire if they are familiar with the customer and confirm contact information. Ms. Fehrer reported she will be preparing locality budget requests and was advised to request level funding.

#### **PLANNING**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board renewed the annual terms of Associate Directors, Gary Dillard and Sarah Eck, for the calendar year 2022.**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board renewed Deanna Fehrer to serve as the FOIA and Record Retention Officer for the PSWCD.**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board revised two monthly Board meeting dates to June 21, 2022 (formerly June 28) and August 30, 2022 (formerly August 23), due to conflicts.**

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the District’s Annual Plan of Work January – June 2022. Several programs such as the Conservation Awards program have been canceled for this program year.

Ms. Fehrer reported that Mike Foreman has begun the process of stakeholder interviews and will also be emailing and snail mailing additional surveys. He hopes to complete this process by the end of February. At the March 22, 2022 Board meeting, he will review the results and will lead the Board members, staff and partners in a strategic planning session. **On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved moving the March Board meeting and subsequent strategic planning ‘retreat’ to the Southern Piedmont Agriculture Research Education Center in Blackstone.** The time for the March Board meeting will be decided at the February Board meeting.

Ms. Fehrer passed around information for Directory Updates and Committee assignments.

#### **WATERSHED**

Mr. Arnason reported four contractors participated in the site visits for the mowing/maintenance contract. Bids are due February 4, 2022. Prince Edward County approved a plan for a potential solar farm project that is located off of Rice Creek Road, possibly near the Bush #2 watershed dam. Ms. Fehrer will ask the County for a map and information about the site.

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Dillard congratulated and presented Mr. Wootton with a service award for his fifteen years of exemplary service as the “Senior Conservation Specialist” for the PSWCD.

Mr. Dillard reported he, Ms. Fehrer and Mr. Wootton interviewed several candidates for the Conservation Technician position and the top candidate will accompany Mr. Wootton for a short field visit as part of the interview process.

Ms. Fehrer reported the “Watershed Dam Coordinator” position has been advertised and she has received one application.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

The 2022 General Assembly session has begun. The VASWCD will conduct its legislative outreach similar to last year. Governor Youngkin has made the following cabinet recommendations: Andrew Wheeler, Secretary of Natural Resources; and Mat Lohr, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. The proposed biennium budget includes a large amount of funding for the VACS program as well as VCAP for FY23.

### **DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS**

#### Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer announced the Department of Forestry has hired Cody Noblitt as the Nottoway County forester and that he will attend an upcoming board meeting. She also reported Kevin McLean, VASWCD VCAP Coordinator, has taken a position with the DEQ.

#### Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).

Ms. Collins highlighted some important dates and other information from her attached report. She reported that David Bryan, DCR VACS Program Manager, will be leaving his position for a new position at DCR State Parks. Quarterly disbursements should be going out by February 9, 2022. Ms. Collins requested district staff send her their completed DCR Security Training certificates.

#### Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Small reported she started her position with VCE three weeks ago and is visiting local agriculture producers. She is planning several programs including one with the VA Trappers Association, a well water testing program and a pond management day at Wilck’s Lake in Farmville.

#### USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Ms. Berry reviewed her report. The Amelia office received 34 EQIP applications and is working on completing the ranking process by February 18, 2022. The Amelia office is currently closed to visitors due to the rising rates of Covid-19 cases.

Mr. Evans reported the Farmville office is also ranking EQIP applications. The Farmville office is working at a 25% staff capacity and the office is closed to visitors.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

### **ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:**

Staff & partner reports.

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

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Powers, Director / Secretary