



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Farmville, Virginia  
March 22, 2022 10:00 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

**SWCD Staff Present:**

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

**Partners Present:**

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation  
Doug Audley, Department of Forestry, Amelia County  
Cody Noblitt, Department of Forestry, Nottoway County  
Telicia Berry, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia office  
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Farmville office  
MacKenzie Gunn, VCE Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, Amelia County  
Erin Small, VCE Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, Prince Edward County  
Mike Foreman, Consultant

**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, March 22, 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 was adopted by group consensus. Two new partners were introduced: MacKenzie Gunn, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent from Amelia County and Cody Noblitt, Nottoway County Forester with the VA Department of Forestry.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the February 2022 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.** Mr. Arnason reported the delinquent equipment invoice from Mr. Racanellio was paid in full. 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. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following additions/corrections totaling \$1,925.60 in CB VACS22 funding as presented:**

<b><u>Hard Ac Farm</u></b>	<b>SL-8B Cover Crop (121.8ac)</b>		
05-22-0030 (464309)	Estimated Cost	\$	34,480.00
	Estimated Cost Share	\$	8,620.00

**\*An additional 6.5 ac was left off the original contract-an additional \$325.00 to be approved.**

<b><u>Nicholas Moody</u></b>	<b>NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (163.6ac)</b>		
05-22-0046 (464656)	Estimated Cost	\$	327.20
	Estimated Cost Share	\$	327.20

**\*An additional 121.6ac was requested to be added to NMP- \$243.20**

<b><u>Nicholas Moody</u></b>	<b>NM-5P Variable Rate P Application (163.6ac)</b>		
05-22-0046 (464657)	Estimated Cost	\$	1,745.61
	Estimated Cost Share	\$	1,308.80

**\*An additional 121.6ac was requested to be added to NM-5P- \$972.80**

<b><u>George Toth</u></b>	<b>NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (279.3ac)</b>		
05-22-0034 (464404)	Estimated Cost	\$	568.60
	Estimated Cost Share	\$	568.60

**\*An additional 192.3ac was requested to be added to NMP- \$384.60**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY22 VACS contracts (CB \$33,801.14) as presented:**

**Amelia**

<b><u>R.M. Watkins &amp; Son Inc.</u></b>	<b>NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (1558.8 ac) (35 Tests)</b>		
05-22-0046 (473116)	Estimated Cost	\$	12,750.40
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	9,632.80

<b><u>Hoot Owl Hollow Farm Inc.</u></b>	<b>NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (744ac)</b>		
05-22-0017 (470416)	Estimated Cost	\$	1,488.00
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$	1,488.00

<b><u>Hoot Owl Hollow Farm Inc</u></b>	<b>NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (170ac)</b>		
05-22-0017 (470417)	Estimated Cost	\$	1,816.00
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$	1,362.00

<b><u>AMEVA Farm Inc.</u></b>	<b>NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn. (170ac)</b>		
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05-22-0031 (473145)	Estimated Cost	\$	1,440.00
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$	1,100.00

**John Rank****NM-5N 2X Split App. Of N. on Corn (300ac) (10 Tests)**

05-22-0039 (472914)	Estimated Cost	\$	3,280.00
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$	2,480.00

**Don Benson****NM-5N 2X Split App. Of N. on Corn (170ac)**

05-22-0012 (473118)	Estimated Cost	\$	1,813.33
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$	1,360.00

**John Ashman****NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (261.1ac)**

05-22-0048 (473114)	Estimated Cost	\$	2,088.80
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$	1,566.60

**John Ashman.****NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (626.9ac)**

05-22-0048 (473115)	Estimated Cost	\$	1,253.80
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$	1,253.80

**Green Bluff Farm****NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (177.4ac) (12 Tests)**

05-22-0040 (473191)	Estimated Cost	\$	1,515.20
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$	1,160.40

**Iron Gate Farms LLC****NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan (340ac)**

05-22-0019 (473119)	Estimated Cost	\$	680.00
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$	680.00

**Iron Gate Farms LLC****NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (100ac)**

05-22-0019 (473190)	Estimated Cost	\$	800.00
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$	600.00

**Oakmulgee Dairy Farm****NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (550ac) (30Tests)**

05-22-0015 (473198)	Estimated Cost	\$	4,640.00
.	Estimated Cost Share	\$	3,540.00

**Nottoway****Nicholas Moody****NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (177.4 ac) (10 Tests)**

05-22-0046 (473116)	Estimated Cost	\$	1,308.80
.	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	1,061.60

**Triple R Dairy****NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (300.4 ac) (15 Tests)**

05-22-0046 (473116)	Estimated Cost	\$	2,523.20
.	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	1,922.40

**George Toth****NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (212.3 ac)**

05-22-0034 (473123)	Estimated Cost	\$	1,698.40
.	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	1,273.80

**Prince Edward****Boot Hill Dairy****NM-3C Split Application of N on Corn (520 ac) (25 Tests)**

05-22-0034 (473123)	Estimated Cost	\$	4,360.00
.	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	3,320.00

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

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

**Flat, Nibbs, Deep, West Creek #16970**

Nottoway

Aurora Edmonds

05-22-0069 (472915)

RB-3 Conventional Onsite Septic System Repair

Estimated Cost \$ 6,800.00 (Capped at \$5,000)

Estimated Cost Share (70%) \$ 3,500.00

**Conservation Plans**

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

**Amelia**

Holt Morris CP 05-22-0013

**Prince Edward** (2)

James W. Garnett, Jr.

CP 05-22-0008

Mary H. Gallalee

CP 05-22-0011

**Nottoway****NRCS Plans**

John C. Bledsoe (4)

Compliance

**On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following conservation plans signed by staff as presented:**

**Signed by Staff for FSA**

G. Palmer West

Name Change

Jacqueline Elizabeth Simpson (2)

Name Change

Due to rising fuel costs, Mr. Rash asked the Board for guidance on including a fuel or delivery surcharge to clients renting the no-till drill. The consensus of the Board is to forego any additional charges at this time.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

DCR Tillage Survey

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the Tillage Survey Project MOU with DCR in the amount of \$2,380.00. A copy of the contract is attached.**

Mr. Arnason reported the Universal Fleet Card, our gas credit card company, has been slow in processing payments, which has resulted in late fees. Anthem Health insurance prefers the monthly premium be processed on-line. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved processing payments electronically for both the Universal Fleet Card and Anthem Health.** The payments will be listed on the check register that Mr. Powers reviews.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Dillard reported that he and Ms. Fehrer interviewed the applicant for the Dam Program Manager position and an offer was made and accepted. Mr. Dennis Thompson began his duties at the beginning of March and will be working approximately 30 hours/month.

**WATERSHED**

Mr. Arnason reported 13 dam inspections with DCR Dam Engineer, Charles Wilson, were completed with no major issues found that needed to be addressed. The staff completed 1 owner inspection. The remaining nine remote monitoring units were delivered and a RFB for the installation will be prepared this summer. Mr. Wilson will work with Dam Safety to secure the alteration permits needed for the installations. Ms. Fehrer and Mr. Thompson assisted Prince Edward County staff with the owner inspection at Sandy River Reservoir.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Rash reported the General Assembly adjourned without finalizing a budget to send to the Governor. 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. The final budget figures may not be known until the end of June. The State Soil & Water Board will meet tomorrow and the VASWCD Board will meet Thursday, March 24. Kevin Dunn will be representing Area V at the VASWCD meeting as a director from Peter Francisco.

**COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION**

Ms. Atkinson reminded the group about several upcoming programs and deadlines. On Thursday, March 24, Piedmont will host the Area V Envirothon workshop and there are six teams registered to attend. The office has received one application for Youth Conservation Camp. Ms. Atkinson thanked Jeremy Evans and Patrick Murphy for their time in leading the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute intern, Mia Davis, on several field visits to observe forestry and conservation practices.

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

Ms. Fehrer reported Mr. Smith has been completing several conservation trainings and is accompanying Mr. Wootton, Mr. Dunn and Mr. Evans on as many site visits as possible.

**Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)**

Ms. Collins highlighted some important dates and other information from her attached report. She reported that Matt Wells has been appointed as the new DCR Director.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension**

Ms. Small reported she has scheduled several programs for the community, including a Farm Pond Management program on April 15 (PSWCD is a sponsor) and a Tick Disease Workshop (Ty Smith is a speaker). She reminded everyone about the Tobacco Commission Grants. Ms. Small is revitalizing the vegetable and fruit demonstration garden at the Prince Edward VCE office and has erected a small chicken coop and will be using both in several upcoming educational programs and workshops. She is also continuing to meet local farmers and is attending several local conferences.

Ms. Gunn reported she is managing a precision agriculture grant and hosting a farm succession training. The application deadline for the VCE agent in Nottoway County has been extended.

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

Ms. Berry reviewed her report. The Amelia office received 2 EQIP application approvals, one for a high tunnel and one for a livestock practice. The CSP deadline is March 25, 2022.

Mr. Evans reported the Farmville office received 3 approvals for EQIP high tunnel applications. Upcoming trainings include a JED training for Pasture Conditioning Scoring and a Wildlife Habitat evaluation. Ms. Berry and Mr. Evans will lead the “Local Working Group” discussion following the April PSWCD Board meeting.

Virginia Department of Forestry

Mr. Audley introduced Mr. Noblitt. He reported tree planting is occurring and will probably continue through April.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Following a short recess, the Board, staff and partners participated in a strategic planning discussion including mission and vision statements, goals, and current community natural resource issues. Mr. Mike Foreman facilitated the discussion and based on feedback given, he will prepare a draft plan of goals and strategies.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

**ATTACHED DOCUMENTS**

Staff & partner reports; Tillage MOU

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

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