



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
May 24, 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:

Deanna Fehrer - District Manager
Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist
Kevin Dunn – Conservation Specialist (via Zoom)
Tyler Smith - Conservation Technician
Dennis Thompson – Dam Program Manager
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist

Partners Present:

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Farmville office
MacKenzie Gunn, Amelia County Extension Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension

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, May 24, 2022. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and offered a prayer. A quorum was present and the agenda (with addition of VACS Dunn request) was adopted by group consensus.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the April 26, 2022 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT

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

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - Reported by Mr. Wootton

FY22 VACS

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 6 practices of CB VACS22 contracts totaling \$100,891.25 and 1 tax credit CB VACS \$110.75 as presented:

Amelia

<u>Gary Wayne Keener</u>	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (12,390')		
05-22-0074 (475514)	Estimated Cost	\$	61,675.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	58,591.25 (95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$	8,000.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$	66,591.25

Nottoway

<u>George P. Kite, III</u>	FR-3 Woodland Buffer Filter Area (1.5 ac) (Tax Credit Only)		
05-20-0058 (382250)	Actual Cost	\$	2,873.00
	Total Cost-Share	\$	2,430.00
	Tax Credit	\$	110.75

Barbara H Gregory

(C. Bay)	CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (8000')		
05-22-0081 (476811)	Estimated Cost	\$	13,000.00
	Estimated Incentive	\$	13,000.00

Prince Edward

<u>Raymond L. Chernault</u>	CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (4250')		
(C. Bay)	Estimated Cost	\$	8,062.50
05-22-0079 (476668)	Estimated Incentive	\$	8,062.50

James W. Garnett

(C. Bay)	CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (1810')		
05-22-0044 (476659)	Estimated Cost	\$	3,762.50
	Estimated Incentive	\$	3,762.50

Twil-Do Farm

(C. Bay)	CCI-SL-6N Stream Exclusion Maintenance (1700')		
05-22-0078 (476604)	Estimated Cost	\$	3,025.00
	Estimated Incentive	\$	3,025.00

Twil-Do Farm

(C. Bay)	CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (3560')		
05-22-0078 (476603)	Estimated Cost	\$	6,450.00
	Estimated Incentive	\$	6,450.00

DEQ 319 Residential Septic Contracts

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following septic applications (\$12,000.00 Flat Creek & \$5,600.00 Spring Creek grants) as presented:

Spring Creek, etc. #16969

Nottoway			
Deborah Bailey	RB-4 Conventional Onsite Septic System Repair/Replac.		
05-22-0080 (476739)	Estimated Cost	\$	9,700.00 (capped at \$8,000)

Estimated Cost Share (70%)	\$	5,600.00
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Flat Creek, etc. #16970

Nottoway

Carla Hayes

05-22-0082 (476948)

RB-5 Alternative Onsite Septic System

Estimated Cost	\$	29,000.00 (capped at \$24,000)
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Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$	12,000.00
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VACS Conservation Plans

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

Gary Wayne Keener	BMP (Amelia)
Tyler M. Piper	BMP (Amelia)

VACS FY23 Secondary Considerations

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the FY23 VACS secondary considerations as presented, which have been approved by DCR. (attached)

Mr. Rash brought forth an inquiry from R. L. Dunn, an Amelia County participant in the VACS program regarding escalated costs of his current ongoing project on contract 05-22-0060.

Kevin Dunn (PSWCD Conservation Specialist and no relation to Mr. R.L.Dunn) has been working with Mr. Dunn over several months regarding his large scale livestock exclusion projects. Several months ago, it was brought to the Board's attention that Mr. Dunn had hired an engineering firm to conduct a geotechnical survey because he was experiencing what he thought were low water flow rates from his existing water wells. Mr. Dunn had asked Kevin Dunn for the district to pay for the geotechnical survey, which was not part of the original cost estimate approved by the Board, and which was completed before Kevin Dunn was notified. At that time the Board agreed to review the expense upon receipt of cost information for similar services. On May 2, Mr. Dunn contacted Mr. Rash to explain his current situation with water flows and the request to pay for the geotechnical survey as well as the additional water well that was dug. Mr. Rash requested supporting documentation from Mr. Dunn to be sent to him within two weeks. Some of the supporting information was supplied by Friday, May 20, but Mr. Rash did not receive the remaining documentation/invoices in time to schedule a public meeting of the Conservation Committee. Mr. Rash will convene a Conservation Committee meeting prior to the June 21 regular Board meeting to discuss,

Mr. Smith reported he and Mr. Dennis Jones completed the DCR tillage/residue survey and reported over 1,000 survey points (423 required survey points) with an average of 30-60% residue across the three counties in the CB drainage area.

FINANCE

Mr. Arnason met with Ms. Fehrer prior to the meeting to review preliminary FY23 budget figures. A final District budget cannot be approved until a state budget has been approved by the Governor. A draft budget will require District Board approval before June 30, 2022 and then any final adjustments can be made in July.

WATERSHED

Mr. Arnason reported the office has received several inquiries from developers regarding the District's easements associated with the watershed dams. The staff reviewed all the easements for the dams and found that the language in the easements is basically the same, which gives the District ingress/egress over the land and defines the limits of the easement as to the land that would be covered by water when water reached the top of the dam. At the quarterly dam workgroup meeting, this topic was discussed and Mr. Charles Wilson, DCR Dam Engineer, felt the language was straightforward. Spring mowing of the dams will occur in mid-late June.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the Personnel Committee meeting minutes dated April 26, 2022 as presented.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Rash reported the State Budget Committee will be meeting June 1, 2022 to work towards finalizing a FY23 State budget. The Soil and Water Conservation Board will meet June 24, 2022 to approve grant agreements.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION

Ms. Atkinson shared a flyer about the June 2 breakfast meeting for farmers to meet local agriculture and natural resource professionals. Notification about the meeting has been shared on various email list serves, Facebook, websites and newspaper community calendars.

The Lindy Hamlett Education Scholarship awarded to Chelsey Oveda- San Juan in April, was forwarded to the VASWCD where Ms. Oveda-San Juan was awarded an additional \$1,000 scholarship. Ms. Atkinson thanked Ms. Crews for presenting the scholarship at the Amelia Awards Program and to Mr. Powers for presenting the scholarship to Brooke Coleman.

Ms. Atkinson has visited all the outdoor classroom mini-grant recipients with the exception of Full Circle Nature School and Prince Edward High School. Full Circle Nature School will not be able to install their outdoor classroom project due to several issues regarding their campus, but the District has recommended they use the funds to purchase resources to help with outdoor explorations in the soil and water. Ms. Atkinson will follow-up with Prince Edward High School and if they have not begun their project, the District will ask for the return of the funds.

Last month the Board awarded two Youth Conservation Camp scholarships and one of the recipients, Olivia Lorenzo, has since decided not to attend. Another student who was on the waiting list, Marian Morris, will be attending in place of Ms. Lorenzo.

Ms. Atkinson will be presenting the two Poster Contest winners at Fuqua School's award program. The winning posters are on display at Red Door Studio located in downtown Farmville.

A full report of education activities is listed on the staff report as well as several upcoming programs.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ms. Fehrer reviewed a revised draft Strategic Plan that included feedback from the April Board meeting. Discussion resulted in several additional edits. A final draft plan will be put forth for approval at the June Board meeting.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Piedmont Staff Report (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer introduced Mr. Dennis Thompson, the recently hired Dam Program Manager. Mr. Thompson is a retired NRCS Engineering Technician who has over 30 years of experience with District dams.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).

Ms. Collins highlighted some important dates and other information from her attached report. She reported Sarah Bottenfield has been hired as the new DCR VACS Program Manager. There will be a delay in entering FY23 data in the VACS tracking program system. The following dates have been set for FY23 program trainings: VACS updates (6/6 or 6/14) and Tracking program updates (7/19 or 7/28).

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Gunn reported there is an upcoming Agritourism program in Amelia County.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans reviewed his report and mentioned several deadlines. The FSA State Director will be visiting the Farmville office on June 15, 2022 and plans to visit a minority owned farm. Board and staff members are invited to attend. Watershed Dam owners have been asked to submit current NRCS Watershed Dam Operation and Maintenance agreements to NRCS for review.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm. The June Board meeting will be Tuesday, June 21, 2022 (a change from the regular meeting schedule).

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

Staff & partner reports;

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

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