



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
June 21, 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
Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Dennis Thompson – Dam Program Manager

SWCD Staff Present:

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

Partners Present:

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Farmville office
Telicia Berry, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia office
MacKenzie Gunn, Amelia County Extension Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Cristy Cook, County Executive Director, Farm Service Agency (Farmville & Nottoway)

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, June 21, 2022. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and offered a prayer. A quorum was present and the agenda was adopted by group consensus.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the May 24, 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 May 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. The Conservation Committee met at 10:00 am today.

FY22 VACS

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 4 corrections of CB VACS22 contracts totaling \$ 2,869.20 as presented:

Amelia

Featherstone Farm
05-22-0052 (464744)

WQ-4 Legume Cover Crop (267.9ac)

Additional cost share to approve \$ 2,514.00 (83.3 acres)

Estimated Cost \$53,580.00

Total Estimated Cost-Share \$ 8,037.00

*This instance was previously approved as tax credit. Tax Credit is canceled and cost share approved for the instance.

Vaughan Cattle Co.
05-22-0041 (470419)

NM-1 Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (664.7ac)

Additional cost share to approve \$314.20 (157.1 acres)

Estimated Cost \$ 1,329.40

Total Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,329.40

Brian Lewis
05-22-0016 (456189)

NM-1 Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (192 ac)

Additional cost share to approve \$ 26.40 (13.2 acres)

Estimated Cost \$ 384.00

Total Estimated Cost-Share \$ 384.00

Hard AC Farm
05-22-0030 (471226)

NM-1 Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (295 ac)

Additional cost share to approve \$ 14.60 (7.3 acres)

Estimated Cost \$ 590.00

Total Estimated Cost-Share \$ 590.00

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 6 VACS22 Chesapeake Bay contracts totaling \$ 70,409.35 and one VACS22 Outside the Chesapeake Bay (OCB) contract totaling \$ 4,227.30 as presented:

Amelia

Featherstone Farm
(C. Bay)
05-22-0052 (478151)

CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (18,650')

Estimated Cost \$ 28,562.50

Estimated Incentive \$ 28,562.50

Nottoway

Richlands Dairy Farm
05-22-0045 (478144)

NM-6 Manure Injection (24 ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 1,080.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,080.00

Triple R Dairy
05-22-0049 (478147)

NM-1 Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (1,160.2ac Manure)

Estimated Cost \$ 4,640.80

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 4,640.80

Prince Edward**Boot Hill Dairy Farm**

05-22-0050 (456189)

NM-1 Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (661.2 ac Manure)

Estimated Cost \$ 2,644.80

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 2,644.80

CCW Texas Outfit LLC**(C. Bay)**

05-22-0062 (477997)

CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (10,385')

Estimated Cost \$ 15,231.25

Estimated Incentive \$ 15,231.25

James Farley Sr**(C. Bay)**

05-22-0086 (478162)

CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (13,000')

Estimated Cost \$ 18,250.00

Estimated Incentive \$ 18,250.00

Nottoway (OCB)**Bassett Hound Haven Est.**

05-22-0085 (478156)

CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (3,400')

Estimated Cost \$ 4,250.00

Estimated Incentive \$ 4,227.30

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 3 tax credits totaling \$ 6,075.33 as presented:

R. M. Watkins & Son Inc.

(Amelia)05-20-0051 (394439)

SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer(1,300' ac)

Actual Cost \$ 30,971.81

Cost-Share \$ 19,645.50

Tax Credit \$ 2,833.58**Tyler Piper (Amelia)**

05-21-0079 (432656)

SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer(7,800' ac)

Actual Cost \$ 54,244.81

Cost-Share \$ 44,475.34

Tax Credit \$ 2,442.37**Eddie L. Slagle IV (Nottoway) SL-7 Extension of Watering System (17.11 ac)**

05-22-0064 (469685)

Actual Cost \$ 9,490.00

Cost-Share \$ 6,290.50

Tax Credit \$ 799.38**VACS Conservation Plans**

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

Featherstone Farm	BMP – Tax Credit
John Shepherd	BMP – Tax Credit
Ameva Farm	BMP – Tax Credit
Triple R Dairy	BMP – Tax Credit

DEQ 319 Residential Septic Contracts

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

Flat Creek, etc. #16970

05-21-0065	Horace Bowlin	RB-1 Septic System Pump Out (2)	\$350.00
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Spring Creek, etc. #16969

05-22-0001	Arvind Persaud	RB-1 Septic System Pump Out	\$175.00
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On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following septic applications totaling \$8,968.75 as presented:

Spring Creek, etc. #16969

Prince Edward

Tina Trent

05-22-0083 (477423)

RB-4 Conventional Onsite Septic System Repair/Replace

Estimated Cost \$ 6,625.00

Estimated Cost Share (75%) \$ 4,968.75

Andrew Elder

05-22-0066 (470580)

RB-4 Conventional Onsite Septic System Repair/Replace

Estimated Cost \$ 10,100.00 (Capped at \$8,000)

Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 3,825.00*

*Cost Share less prior RB1 pump out payment \$175

Jesse Yeatts

05-22-0084 (477840)

RB-1 Septic System Pump Out (rental)

Estimated Cost \$ 350.00

Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 175.00

VACS Carryover Report (attached)

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the attached VACS carryovers as presented.

FY23 VACS Funding

Mr. Rash reported that although a state budget has not been finalized, the projected VACS figures for PSWCD FY23 will be \$2,590,092 cost share funding and \$235,375 in technical assistance. This will be a large increase from the current year allocation.

FY23 VACS Cost List

Staff are in the process of updating the FY23 VACS cost list and will present the information at the July board meeting. **On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the addition of component 'geotechnical survey' to the FY23 cost list with a cap of \$2,500.** This component is an allowable expense in several practices, but requires pre-approval of the request to be included in a practice estimate by the Board based on applicant need.

Contract 05-22-0060

Last month the board was informed of a request from Dunn Farm Meadows, LLC, an Amelia County participant in the VACS program, for additional funding due to escalated costs on the ongoing projects on contract 05-22-0060. Minutes from the Conservation Committee provide additional background information about the request. Original estimates of the project include one well on the North side (instance 468988) and one well on the South side (469423). The south side well did not provide the water flow needed to support the planned number of livestock, so

an additional well will need to be drilled. **On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved additional estimated costs of up to \$12,184 with a 95% cost share rate (based on original instances) for a maximum total of \$11,574.80 in additional VACS funds related to contract 05-22-0060 as follows:**

Instance 468988 - North side project and first functioning well - **\$923.40 for additional 54' of drilled well at \$18/ft** (cost list) at 95% cost share rate (\$972 total cost). 350' of well depth was estimated, but 404' was drilled to obtain water.

Instance 469423 – South side project and second well dug but is considered a ‘dry well’ – not producing enough water flow to support the livestock herd that was planned. **\$6,566.40 for 384' drilled well at \$18/ft at 95% cost share rate. (\$6,912 total cost).** Covering partial expense of ‘non-functioning’ or ‘dry’ well.

Instance 469423 – South side project and second functioning well that will need to be drilled - **\$1,710.00 for additional 100' of drilled well at \$18/ft at 95% cost share rate (\$1,800 total cost).** Additional depth estimated based on prior well depths (450' vs 350'). No additional ‘dry well’ funding is available.

Instance 469423 South side project - **\$2,375.00 estimated cost share for power hookup** for #2 functioning well if needed to install power to the pumping plant. (\$2,500 total estimated cost @ 95% cost share rate).

A letter will be prepared outlining the details of the additional funding and Mr. Dunn will be asked to sign acknowledgement of the letter.

A total of \$11,574.80 has been added to the VACS Carryover Report.

Contract Forgiveness

Due to the recent sudden death of Robert Jones, owner of Poor House Dairy in Prince Edward County, it was brought to the attention of the Board that three VACS contracts are still under lifespan. Mr. Jones had no surviving spouse to assume the contracts and his farm is being sold. The new owners do not have an interest in assuming the remainder of the contracts. A portion of the land where two of the contracts are installed is part of a potential wetland mitigation bank easement, which was underway before Mr. Jones' death. The easement will restore and protect up to 65 acres of wetlands, which will provide perpetual conservation benefits.

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the forgiveness of the following contracts:

05-13-0029 (164399) WP4B expiration 12/31/2023
05-13-0029 (159188) LE1T expiration 12/31/2024
05-13-0039 (337762) CCISE1 expiration 12/31/2024

FY22 Contracts designate authority

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the Treasurer, Chuck Arnason, to sign approvals of any FY22 VACS contracts until June 30, 2022 (CCI practices).

FINANCE

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the return of unobligated FY22 VACS Chesapeake Bay funding and the related technical assistance funding to meet 90% obligation. (Exact amounts will be reported in July).

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the Treasurer, Chuck Arnason, to sign FY23 DCR VACS and Operational funding grant agreements if received before the July 26, 2022 PSWCD Board meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the write-off of George Womack's past due equipment rental balance of \$100.56. Mr. Womack will be unable to rent the equipment from PSWCD in the future.

Ms. Fehrer reported that Prince Edward County High School returned \$200 for the outdoor classroom grant. The project was not started and the teacher has left the school.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the July 2022-June 2026 Strategic Plan. (attached)

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the FY23 Annual Plan of Work. (attached) Ms. Fehrer reviewed July-September activities and highlighted new action items that are the result of the updated strategic plan goals.

WATERSHED

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the attached "Construction Inspector" contract with Barry Mason at \$50/hour rate to oversee and document any small dam repairs.

Mr. Arnason reported a Request for Bid has been advertised for repairs to Bush #7 dam and that a Request for Bid to install the remaining remote monitoring devices will be advertised shortly. The spring mowing of the dams began this week.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – No report.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – No report.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION

Ms. Fehrer received an email this morning from Ben Atkins, a Lunenburg County resident who is a college student at Virginia Tech. Mr. Atkins will be representing the United States at an international soil judging competition in July to be held in Scotland and is requesting funds to help support his attendance at the competition and also at the World Congress of Soil Science which will follow the competition. Southside SWCD is supporting the student. **On a motion by**

Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved \$200 to help support Mr. Atkin's attendance and participation in the soil judging competition.

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

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Piedmont Staff Report (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer reported the Partner Breakfast held on June 2 had 16 attendees (not including agency representatives) and was targeted toward folks that had not participated in any agency programs or assistance. Almost all the participants were new to farming and had no knowledge of programs available to assist them. Ms. Fehrer thanked the 7 partners for providing great information and Mr. Wootton for emceeding the meeting.

Erin Small, Virginia Cooperative Extension PSWCD Board appointment, has taken her oath of office and is now a voting member of the PSWCD Board of Directors.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).

Ms. Collins highlighted some important dates and other information from her attached report including several year end deadlines.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Gunn reported there is an upcoming Agritourism program in Amelia County as well as opportunities for the Tobacco Commission grants which include cold storage, cattle handling facilities, hay storage and other infrastructure for Amelia agriculture producers.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Ms. Berry announced she has taken an outreach specialist position at the NRCS Richmond office and will begin July 5. Mr. Evans will be acting District Conservationist for Amelia. Mr. Evans reviewed his report. FSA will be taking the lead on the lease for the building and several security measures will be addressed.

USDA-Farm Service Agency

Ms. Cook reported on several program updates which include the following:

- General program signup – 3 offers were received and 2 have been accepted
- Grassland program signup – 2 offers were submitted to Washington DC office for ranking
- CREP – 7 Nottoway County and 15 Prince Edward County contracts expiring soon and may be eligible for re-enrollment.
- July 15, 2022 is acreage reporting deadline
- County Committee is accepting nominations for “LAA” position on the committee from the Prospect/Pamplin area. Elections via mail ballots will take place in November.
- Emergency Relief Program– a new program that helps offset crop losses due to natural disasters in 2020 and 2021. The first phase of the program deadline is July 2022 and approved applications will move forward to the second phase.

Ms. Fehrer thanked Ms. Cook for organizing a meeting with a security administrator from the USDA Washington DC office. All employees who work in this building were invited to voice

their concerns about security and other building issues. As a new lease is being contracted, several security items will be addressed and training for employees will be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

VACS Carryover reports; Staff & partner reports; Strategic Plan, APOW, Construction Inspector Contract

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

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