



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

Board Members Present:

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman
Charles “Chuck” Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Treasurer
Allison Crews – Director, Amelia County
Horace Adams- Director, Prince Edward County
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County
Erin Small – VCE Appointed Director, Prince Edward County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Mackenzie Gunn – Associate Director, Amelia County & VCE agent
Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County (via Zoom)
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County / Secretary
Tyler Smith – PSWCD BMP Conservation Technician

SWCD Staff Present:

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

Partners Present:

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Nottoway/Farmville
Cristy Cook, County Director, Farm Service Agency
Jordan Rabon, Private Lands Biologist, Quail Forever

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

A regular meeting of the Piedmont SWCD Board of Directors was held at the Prince Edward County Natural Resources and Agriculture Building in Farmville on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. Vice-Chairman Rash called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Arnason opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was physically present.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the September 27, 2022 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the September 2022 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.

Ms. Fehrer mentioned there is not an equipment billing report this month, as all invoices have been paid and new billings had not been invoiced at the time the report was run. A detailed financial report was provided to the Treasurer.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – Presented by Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wootton
On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practices (including additions and reductions) totaling \$224,905.33 in CB VACS:

Amelia (CB)

R. M. Watkins & Sons, Inc.	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (760.8 ac)
05-23-0035 (515279)	Estimated Cost \$152,160.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 53,256.00
	• Additional 311.1 Ac- Cost-Share \$21,777.00
	WQ-4 Legume Cover Crop (379.7ac)
05-23-0035 (515280)	Estimated Cost \$ 75,940.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 17,086.50
	• Decrease of 241.6 ac -Cost-Share- \$10,872.00
	SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (392.4ac)
05-23-0035 (515281)	Estimated Cost \$ 78,480.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 7,848.00
	• Decrease of 105.6 ac - Cost-Share- \$2,112.00
Hard Acres Farm	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (249.5ac)
05-23-0031 (515035)	Estimated Cost \$ 49,900.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 17,465.00
	• Additional 63.3 ac Early - \$4,431.00
Whitaker Farms	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (328.3ac)
05-23-0019 (508589)	Estimated Cost \$ 65,660.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 22,981.00
	• Additional 72.5 ac early- \$8,873.00
05-23-0019 (518226)	SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (51.6ac)
	Estimated Cost \$ 10,320.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,032.00
Reamford Farms LLC	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (297.2ac)
05-23-0058 (518001)	Estimated Cost \$ 59,440.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 20,804.00
	SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (26.3ac)
05-23-0058 (518000)	Estimated Cost \$ 5,260.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 526.00
Brenda G Walker	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (277.4ac)
05-23-0056 (517990)	Estimated Cost \$ 554.80
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 554.80

	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (277.4ac)
05-23-0056 (517956)	Estimated Cost \$ 55,480.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 24,966.00
Triple Ridge Farm	SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (7ac)
05-23-0052 (516909)	Estimated Cost \$ 280.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 140.00
	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (175.2ac)
05-23-0052 (516908)	Estimated Cost \$ 35,040.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 15,442.00
	WQ-4 Legume Cover Crop (52ac)
05-23-0052 (516907)	Estimated Cost \$ 10,400.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 2,340.00
James M. Schenck	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (245.3ac)
05-23-0057 (517991)	Estimated Cost \$ 49,060.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 22,077.00
	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (245.3ac)
05-23-0057 (517977)	Estimated Cost \$ 490.60
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 490.60
Pride Farm of Amelia	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (125.5ac)
05-23-0050 (516845)	Estimated Cost \$ 25,100.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 8,785.00
	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (125.5ac)
05-23-0050 (516846)	Estimated Cost \$ 251.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 251.00
Charles Y Glasscock	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (66.6ac)
05-23-0053 (516936)	Estimated Cost \$ 6,600.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 2,664.00
Smith's Tobacco Farm	SL-8 Protective Cover for Specialty Crops (201.7ac)
05-23-0051 (516854)	Estimated Cost \$ 40,340.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 8,068.00
Easter Design Inc.	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (625.9ac)
05-23-0059 (518060)	Estimated Cost \$ 125,180.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 56,331.00
	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (625.9ac)
05-23-0059 (518063)	Estimated Cost \$ 1,251.80
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,251.80

Nottoway (CB)

Lee D Vaughan
05-23-0055 (517881)

SL-6W Stream Exclusion (50'/10yr) (2,600)	
Estimated Cost	\$ 35,247.50
Estimated Cost Share	\$ 33,485.13 (95%)
Estimated Buffer Payment	\$ 3,600.00
Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 37,085.13

On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practices totaling \$2,250.00 in additional CB funding, with Mr. Whittington leaving the room:

Amelia (CB)

Featherstone Farm
05-23-0037 (515315)

SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (793ac)	
Estimated Cost	\$158,600.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 55,510.00
• Additional 90 Ac- Cost-Share \$6,300.00	

05-23-0037 (515316)

WQ-4 Legume Cover Crop (133.5ac)	
Estimated Cost	\$ 26,700.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 6,007.50
Decrease of 90 ac - Cost-Share- \$4,050.00	

Mr. Dunn shared a VACS spreadsheet of applications approved to date. \$1.2M in funding has been allocated since July; 18,688.50 acres of cover crop practices have been approved; 5,648.8 acres of nutrient management practices have been approved; and applications from 8 new producers have been approved. The Board congratulated the staff on their hard work! Mr. Dunn said he anticipates several applications for CCI (re-enrollment) for manure storage structures and spring NM6 practices. There were several questions about the CCI practices and their impact on the Chesapeake Bay Model and water quality.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following conservation plans to be included in the minutes:

Sylvan Knolls LLC BMP

Signed by staff for Amelia FSA	Hard Acres Farm	CRP
	David Smith	CRP
	Windy Springs Farm	CRP

Ms. Fehrer reported she was informed by DEQ on October 12, 2022 that new program guidelines for FY23 were been issued effective July 1, 2022. These guidelines included an increase in the cap to \$400.00 (prior \$350.00) for the RB1Residential Septic Pump Out. All other practice caps remain the same.

On a motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 319 Residential Septic Contracts:

Flat Creek #16970

Amelia

Horace Bowlin
05-23-0049 (516508; 516509)

RB-1 Conventional Septic System Pump out	
Estimated Cost	\$ 800.00 (2 pump outs)

Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$	400.00
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Spring Creek #16969**Prince Edward**

Courtney Vogel
05-23-0054 (517053)

RB-4 Conventional Septic Replacement	
Estimated Cost	\$ 7,900.00
Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$	3,950.00

Ms. Fehrer also reported that DEQ has allocated an additional funding for the 319 Flat Creek Grant #16970 in the amounts of \$50,000 (to be spent by 6/30/23) and \$157,000 (extended to 9/30/25). Grant agreements will be forthcoming. She also reported some changes in the personnel at local health departments: Amelia County has hired Jordan Rosales and Paul Freed, longtime health department inspector for Prince Edward County, will be transferring to Cumberland County.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Last month Ms. Fehrer reported about an opportunity for the District to purchase a trailer to be turned into a mobile education resource. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved up to \$25,000 to build a mobile education trailer (includes \$4,000 to purchase the used trailer from Roger Pinholster).** Mr. Pinholster, who provides education programs to Twin Lakes State Park, has requested the use of the completed education trailer for summer programs. An MOU with those details will be forthcoming. Ms. Fehrer reported the staff have been in conversations with Longwood University Art Department and several other SWCDs who have a mobile education trailer about the project. She will continue to keep the Board updated on the proposed design and procurement processes.

Erin Small, VCE Agent for Prince Edward County, submitted a request for \$150 to support a March tour to Virginia Tech for Prince Edward agriculture producers to experience the resources and research facilities the University has to offer, including greenhouses, animal science research, horticulture facilities and other agriculture support. The funds will be used for travel expenses. Other local organizations such as Farm Credit and Farm Bureau have been contacted. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved \$150 for support of the March 2023 VCE sponsored tour to VT for Prince Edward producers.**

WATERSHED

Mr. Wootton reported the contractor began the fall mowing of dams, but had an equipment breakdown and is awaiting parts. Bush #7 repair project has been completed and Rebecca Evans from NRCS is completing the final survey for completion of the as-built plans. Ms. Fehrer reported the Landowner meeting held on September 29 was attended by several landowners, DCR Engineer, Charles Wilson and Prince Edward County Emergency Services staff. The program gave an overview of the dams, district roles and responsibilities and state regulations.

PLANNING

Ms. Fehrer reminded the Board that last month there was discussion about hosting a ‘thank you’ event by inviting all producers who participated in our programs last year and this year. This will be in lieu of the conservation award banquet. Featherstone Farm has graciously offered to host the Spring 2023 event. The District submitted a Clean Water Farm Award application for the Chowan Basin.

On November 1st at 4:00pm, the District is hosting a meeting at the Amelia library, for agricultural producers to meet their local ag and resource professionals. The program is targeting producers who may not be aware of assistance available. Representatives from FSA, NRCS, VCE, DOF and James River Association will attend. Invitations were sent to VSU Small Farm Outreach Program Coordinators, but they are unable to attend due to schedule conflicts.

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work for October – December 2022. Directors were reminded to attend a local Board of Supervisor meeting to express appreciation for the locality’s continued support. The District was informed their financial audit will take place on December 13. Robinson, Farmer and Cox, CPA’s will conduct the audit.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Rash reported that the VASWCD is finalizing it’s FY24 Legislative Agenda and will present at the VASWCD Annual Meeting in December. He also reported that there might be a proposal from Area 6 requesting a ‘composting’ policy be considered for inclusion in the VASWCD Policy Book. Mr. Rash explained that when the VASWCD approves a ‘policy’ it allows the VASWCD and Directors to speak on the topic, but does not provide a position on the topic. Details about what type of composting (farm, food waste, consumer, etc.) has not been made clear.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – no report**COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION**

Ms. Atkinson reported the following:

- The District application for “Conservation Educator of the Year” was awarded to Margaret Jones, long time teacher at Amelia County High School. Ms. Jones, her husband and Amelia HS principal, Mr. Ringstaff, will attend the VASWCD Awards Luncheon during the annual meeting.
- Marina Morris, Amelia County resident and Fuqua student, has been accepted into the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute and is working with staff and several Amelia partners to determine her conservation project.
- Upcoming Girl Scout Patch Program will focus on watersheds.
- She has conducted several education programs including soils tunnel at Twin Lakes State Park Fall Fest, Enviroscape and Water Cycle at Fuqua School and gardening series at Sunrise Learning Center. More information is listed on the staff report.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer gave another BIG thank you to Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wootten for the hard work in preparing the many VACS applications that have been approved and for the great progress in allocated the VACS funding. The Fall drill season has been busy. Mr. Fore reported to her, that

the front wheel fork/shaft of Drill #2 was damaged with a recent rental. Mr. Fore documented the damage, contacted the renter and took the damaged part to a local machine shop for an estimate to repair. The renter will be invoiced for the repair. She thanked Ms. Crews for taking care of setting up/removal of exhibit board for the 5 County Fair. Ms. Fehrer reminded folks who want to attend the VASWCD Annual Meeting that reservation forms need to be submitted to her before October 31. There is a good contingent of PSWCD representatives planning on attending the conference.

USDA-FSA (Prince Edward/Nottoway attached)

Ms. Cook highlighted several items on her report. She reported their budget has not been finalized and they are working under a continuing resolution until December 16, 2022. The office is finalizing the year end and changing over to the new program year. The Inflation Reduction Act is being handled by the Farm Loan Program staff. It provides some flexibility in payments and loan modifications.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).

Ms. Collins highlighted some important dates and other information from her attached report. Several VACS and tracking changes of bid process component cost threshold and nutrient management plan writer information as detailed on the attached report are effective immediately. Ms. Collins has reviewed and approved the PSWCD Attachment E quarterly report. She also reported DCR is investigating the possibility of transferring unused CB VACS funds to OCB.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans reviewed his report and reminded folks of upcoming program deadlines. He also reported Dr. Edwin Martinez, the NRCS State Conservationist, has been visiting NRCS field offices across the state and will visit the Nottoway/Prince Edward office on Thursday, October 27. Partners, PSWCD staff and Directors are invited to a ‘meet and greet’ that morning following a tour of the local cannery in Prince Edward. Mr. Evans reported Barbara Bowen, Marketing Specialist at the state office, has accepted a similar position with Rural Development.

Mr. Rabon, Private Lands Biologist, reported last month he works for Quail Forever organization, but partners with NRCS and Department of Wildlife Resources. He has been in this position for one month and is getting to know local landowners.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

Ms. Small reported the Dairy Day program was a success with many participants and delicious dairy treats. She attended a “Cattle and Equipment WISE” program in Blackstone, which provided to women, hands-on instruction for safe cattle handling techniques and operation and maintenance of common farm equipment. She is working with Longwood University and Hampden Sydney College on the identification of the invasive Spotted Lanternfly insect. She reported she will be teaching a ‘google’ skills training on Thursday, October 27 and is working with other local agents to host a regional “Women in Agriculture” program in Prince Edward County at Willoughby Event Farm.

Ms. Gunn reported she held a Youth Rain barrel Workshop in Amelia that was well attended. She is organizing a Pasture Walk at the end of November and asked the PSWCD staff to assist.

She is attending a soil health workshop (same one Ty is attending today) and will be attending the VASWCD Annual Meeting in December.

ROUNDTABLE:

Ms. Crews provided an update on the District investing in local “Friends Of” groups with a membership. She reported DCR State Parks Division held a ceremony marking the building of the Camp Paradise Visitor Center at High Bridge Trail State Park, which is scheduled to open in August 2023. A similar facility is being planned for Twin Lakes State Park. She would like to help Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward counties if they are interested in a coordinated effort to identify locations of biosolid applications.

Dr. Kathy Gee mentioned she has been doing some research for one of her environmental science classes and several articles have reported that the biggest threat to Virginia forests at this time is the increase in building of solar farms and wondered if the SWCDs have been in any discussions at state agency levels. Mr. Rash indicated that the VASWCD is working on a solar policy for inclusion to the VASWCD policy book.

Mr. Evans reported that Todd Robinson, Amelia County Board of Supervisor member, has requested assistance from the NRCS state office on using the type of soil as a determination of prime farmland. NRCS provided the web soil survey.

Mr. Whittington reported the Amelia Planning Commission is reviewing the County’s ordinances in regards to solar land use and has been doing much research into solar energy production/use, including the stormwater runoff concerns.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Staff & partner reports;

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

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