

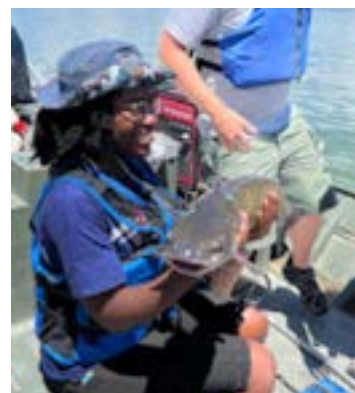
# Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District



July 2021 –  
June 2022

## A Year in Review

Serving Amelia,  
Nottoway and  
Prince Edward  
Counties





# Greetings From the Chairman

## Larkin Moyer

This year the Piedmont SWCD received the largest amount of Virginia Agricultural Cost Share funding in its history and we allocated over \$1.2M of funding to our farmers - an unprecedented year of assistance. This year we also updated our Strategic Plan with input from our stakeholders. The plan will guide our operations for the next four years and is reflective of voluntary water quality improvement programs including cost share funding, technical assistance and educational programs for all residents of PSWCD. Changes in our agricultural program guidelines provide flexibility and options for different farm operations. Our seven employees work on a daily basis to help the community and provide services to our farmers and homeowners. Our Board consists of six elected directors, two appointed directors and two associate directors. We work with our many partners to provide assistance or referrals to best meet your needs. As COVID has become more manageable, we have been able to offer more in-person educational events and programs and we are planning to increase those opportunities. Our mission remains the same: "To identify and provide technical, educational and financial resources to the citizens of Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward counties, in order to promote the wise use and conservation of soil, water and related resources". I hope you will enjoy reading about our accomplishments this past year! Thanks to all who participate and support our programs and the District! Give us a call and let us know how we can help!

**Thank you!!!**

## Welcome New Staff



**Ty Smith**

In February, Tyler "Ty" Smith joined the PSWCD staff as a Conservation Technician. Ty was raised on a beef cattle farm in Lunenburg County. He is a Virginia Master Naturalist with over 1,000 volunteer hours, and is very active in the field of herpetology (study of reptiles and amphibians). He also enjoys birding, fishing, tending to his chickens and quail, and almost everything else outside.



**Chuck Fore**

In November, we welcomed Charles "Chuck" Fore as our part-time Equipment Manager. Chuck oversees the maintenance and rental of our 4 no-till drills. Chuck is a native of Prince Edward County. He is a licensed certified commercial pesticide applicator and is the owner of a local pesticide company. In his spare time, Chuck likes the outdoors and is an avid fisherman and hunter.



**Dennis  
Thompson**

Dennis Thompson was hired in March to assist with our Watershed Dam Program. He recently retired with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service where he served over 36 years as a Conservation Engineering Technician. Dennis manages a beef cattle and sheep farm in Lunenburg County.



# Agricultural Conservation

PSWCD administers state grant funds to agricultural producers who install, implement and maintain best management practices (BMPs) to improve soil and water quality. Certified and trained staff provide technical assistance free of charge regardless of a farmer's participation in our programs.



**\$1,260,300 cost share funds approved**

**16 miles  
of stream  
bank  
protected**

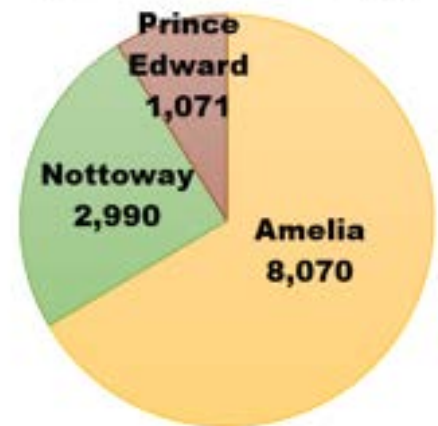
**22,032 acres  
nutrient  
management  
practices  
implemented**

## VACS (Virginia Agriculture Cost Share)

✓ **146 Agricultural  
Best Management  
Practices Installed  
(BMP's)**

✓ **386 Client Assist**

## Acres of Cover Crops



**709 acres  
of buffer  
protected**

**1,607 acres  
planted with  
PSWCD's  
no-till drill**

**12,131 acres  
cover crops  
planted**



# Residential Conservation

PSWCD provides state grant funding to homeowners for septic system pump outs, repairs and replacements. Call the office to find out if your home is located in an eligible watershed.

## Septic Assistance

- **\$106,382 paid to homeowners** to fix septic problems
- Completed: 13 septic pump outs, 9 repairs, 2 replacements and 2 connections to municipal systems



## Erosion & Runoff

- Conducted 12 site visits for erosion and runoff assistance
- Served as advisors on state wide Virginia Conservation Assistance Program Steering Committee
- Provided native planting recommendations to homeowners

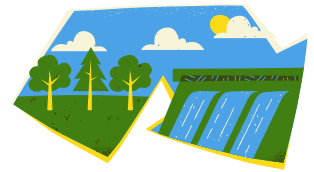


**Thank you to our Health  
Department Partners!**

# Watershed Dams

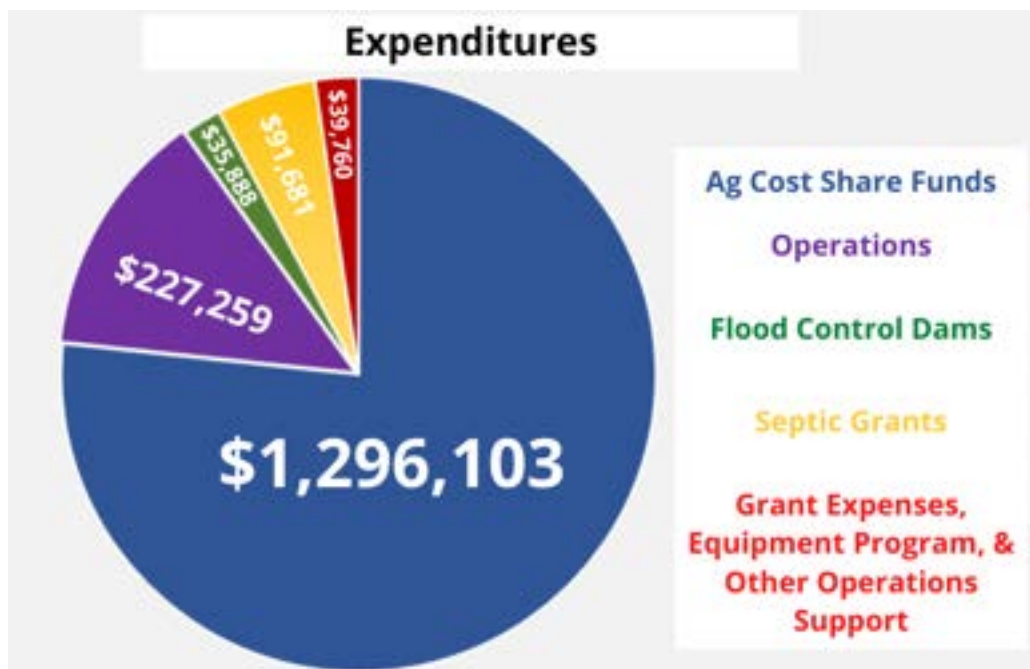
Piedmont SWCD is responsible for complying with Virginia's Dam Safety Regulations for 14 flood control structures in Prince Edward County. These dams were designed for watershed and flood protection.

- Conducted 45 site visits
- Performed 28 inspections
- Maintained 4 remote monitoring stations
- Performed 2 repairs - Training dike and erosion repair
- Finalized 10 engineering designs for future repairs
- Awarded 2 contracts for maintenance and repair projects



## Financial Overview

PSWCD operates primarily on a grant basis with funds from state and local governments. Our equipment rental program invests earnings back into the program. Our education programming is supported through small grants, local contributions and private donations. An independent financial audit is conducted every two years.



# Education Outreach & Partnerships

Education for youth and adults is a key initiative for Piedmont SWCD. Youth education includes classroom programs, Envirothon program, camps, poster contest, interactive displays, and scholarships to continue higher education. Adult education consists of exhibits at public events, newspaper releases, social media outreach, field days and workshops.

## Outdoor Classroom

### Mini-Grants

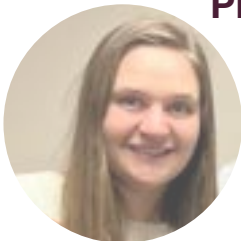
For the 2nd year PSWCD awarded grants to schools to create and upgrade Outdoor Learning Spaces on campuses. The grants (totalling \$2750) supported the following projects:

- Amelia HS: ***Courtyard Garden at the Middle School***
- Full Circle: ***Learning resources***
- Fuqua LS / MS: ***Pollinator Garden & Waterscape***
- Nottoway HS: ***A Classroom without Walls***
- Prince Edward County ES: ***Pond Ecosystem***
- Kenston Forest School: ***Outdoor Seating***
- Sunrise Learning Center: ***Gardening Supplies***



## Academic Scholarships

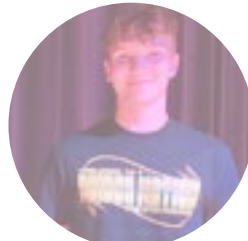
Provided four (4) \$1,000 college scholarships



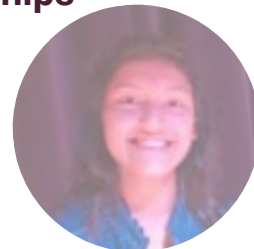
Brooke Coleman (PE)  
Attending North  
Carolina State



Tyler Harris (PE)  
Attending Coastal  
Carolina University



Caleb O'Brien  
(Amelia) Attending  
VCU



Chelsey Ojeda-San Juan  
(Amelia) Attending UVA

Education with partners allowed us to reach over 1,000 people!





# Education & Outreach



## POSTER CONTEST 375 STUDENT ENTRIES



Prince Edward County Elementary School Art Teachers Mrs. Jean Martin and Mrs. Joy Utzinger with winning artists.



LCVA (Longwood Center for Visual Arts) director Rachel Ivers judging posters



Grand Winning Poster by Fuqua School 6th grader Aurelia Midkiff

## Essay Contest:

Imagine A Day Without Water

winners pictured below:



Journey Boxes contain complete lessons and supplies available to local educators!



Caroline Martin & Collins Easter (Fuqua School), Marielle Smith (Amelia Academy)



Hosted Area V workshop and competition.

Five teams competed at Holiday Lake State Park.

PSWCD sponsored and provided support to Amelia High School & Fuqua School teams.



# What are all those ABCs?!

## Common acronyms that Soil & Water Conservation Districts use:

*BMP* - Best Management Practice  
*SWCD* - Soil and Water Conservation District  
*VACS* - Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program  
*CB* - Chesapeake Bay  
*OCB* - Outside the Chesapeake Bay  
*FSA* - Farm Service Agency  
*USDA* - United States Department of Agriculture  
*NRCS* - Natural Resources Conservation Service  
*VCE* - Virginia Cooperative Extension

## Valued Partnerships



### STATE & FEDERAL

#### CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

- USDA Farm Service Agency
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service- Jeremy Evans, Robert Hazlegrove, Telicia Berry, Olivia Plant
- VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation
- VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
- VA Dept. of Forestry-Doug Audley, Patrick Murphy, Cody Noblitt
- VA Cooperative Extension - Erin Small, Mackenzie Gunn, Jake Morgan, Shelda Daniels
- VA Dept. of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- VA Forage & Grasslands Council
- VA Association of Environmental Education
- Virginia State Small Farm Outreach Program

#### YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION

- Amelia County High School
- Full Circle School
- Fuqua School
- Prince Edward Elementary
- Kenston Forest School
- Longwood University
- Nottoway High School
- Sunrise Learning Center
- Farmville Prince Edward Library

#### POSTER CONTEST

- Jean Martin, Joy Utzinger-PECES
- Brooke Eamigh-ACES
- Dawn Schmidt-Fuqua School
- Caroline Stargardt-AHS
- Audrey Sullivan-Fuqua School
- Longwood Center for Visual Arts

#### MEDIA SUPPORT

- Amelia Bulletin-Monitor
- Farmville Herald
- Blackstone Courier Record
- WVHL

#### LOCAL PARTNERS

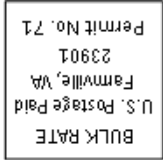
Amelia, Nottoway, and Prince Edward County:

- Board of Supervisors
- Local Gov't-Administrative staff
- Farm Bureau Agencies
- Health Department staff
- Heart of VA Master Gardeners
- Central Piedmont Master Naturalists
- Middle James Roundtable
- Richlands Dairy Farm
- Southern Piedmont Agriculture Research Extension Center

### Vision Statement

**The Piedmont Soil & Water Conservation District envisions Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward counties as areas committed to the stewardship of its soil health and water quality.**

**Thank you to the many partners who participated in and supported Piedmont SWCD programs this year. We look forward to expanding our partnerships in the coming year!**



### Directors:

Larkin Moyer, Chairman - Amelia Co.  
Ricky Rash, Vice Chair - Nottoway Co.  
Bill Powers, Secretary - Prince Edward Co.  
Chuck Arnason, Treasurer - Nottoway Co.  
Allison Crews - Amelia Co.  
Horace Adams - Prince Edward Co.  
Juan Whittington, At Large Appointed-Amelia Co.  
Erin Small, VCE Appointed - Prince Edward Co.

### Associate Directors:

Gary Dillard - Amelia Co.  
Sarah Eck - Nottoway Co.



### District Staff:

- Deanna Fehrer, District Manager ext. 108
- Charlie Wootton, Senior Conservation Specialist ext. 128
- Kevin Dunn, BMP Conservation Specialist ext. 116
- Ty Smith, Conservation Specialist ext. 131
- Chuck Fore, Equipment Program Manager
- Kelly Atkinson, Education Coordinator ext. 132
- Dennis Thompson, Watershed Dam Manager ext. 116

Office: (434) 392-3782

Website: [www.piedmontswcd.org](http://www.piedmontswcd.org)



Follow us on Facebook



**Serving Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward  
Counties**