



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Farmville, Virginia  
November 22, 2022 11:00 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman  
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman  
Charles “Chuck” Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Treasurer  
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County / Secretary  
Allison Crews – Director, Amelia County  
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County  
Erin Small – VCE Appointed Director, Prince Edward County  
Mackenzie Gunn – Associate Director, Amelia County & VCE agent  
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County

**Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:**

Horace Adams- Director, Prince Edward County  
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County  
Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County

**SWCD Staff Present:**

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

**Partners Present:**

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation  
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Nottoway/Farmville  
Tara Ciavarella, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia  
Jordan Rabon, Private Lands Biologist, Quail Forever  
Gregg Zody, Planning and Economic Development Director, Nottoway County

**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, November 22, 2022. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was physically present.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the October 25, 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 October 2022 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.**

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE** – Presented by Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wootton

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practices totaling \$263,103.42 in CB VACS and \$101.06 in CB VACS tax credit:**

Pride Farm of Amelia LLC	<b>SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (125.5) ac.</b>
05-23-0050 (516845)	Estimated Cost \$25,100.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$11,295.00

\*Approved in October at \$8,785.00. Should have been approved with Rye incentive.

**\*Additional cost share to approve (\$20/ac rye incentive) \$2,510.00**

**Amelia (CB)**

<b>Windy Springs Farm LLC</b>	<b>SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (29.1ac)</b>
05-23-0066 (519947)	Estimated Cost \$ 5,820.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 2,037.00

05-23-0066 (519946)	<b>SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (11.6ac)</b>
	Estimated Cost \$ 2,320.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 232.00

<b>Fox Den Farms LLC</b>	<b>SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (17.20ac)</b>
05-23-0067 (519948)	Estimated Cost \$ 3,440.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 344.00

<b>R.M. Watkins &amp; Sons Inc</b>	<b>NM-6 Manure Injection (379.7ac)</b>
05-23-0035 (519795)	Estimated Cost \$ 17,086.50
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 17,086.50

<b>Laurel Hill Farm LLC</b>	<b>CCI SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (12,380')</b>
05-23-0065 (519807)	Estimated Cost \$ 15,475.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 15,475.00

05-23-0065 (519936)	<b>CCI SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (18,180')</b>
	Estimated Cost \$ 25,475.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 25,475.00

05-23-0065 (519937)	<b>CCI SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (24,320')</b>
	Estimated Cost \$ 32,900.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 32,900.00

<b>Robert N. Mottley</b>	<b>FR-1 Afforestation of Pastureland (106ac)</b>
05-23-0062 (518991)	Estimated Cost \$16,960.00
	Estimated Cost Share \$12,720.00 (75%)
	Estimated Incentive \$15,900.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share \$28,620.00

**Smith Tobacco**

05-23-0051 (519959)

**NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (114.2ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 228.40

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 228.40

05-23-0051 (519954)

**SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (114.2ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 22,840.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 4,568.00

**Green Bluff Farm****AU)**

05-23-0009 (519964)

**CCI WP-4 Animal Waste Control Maint. (1 Struct./168**

Estimated Cost \$ 9,200.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 9,200.00

**Nottoway (CB)****Robert B Morris**

05-23-0060 (518630)

**SL-6W Stream Exclusion (50'/10yr) (2,800)**

Estimated Cost \$ 58,589.50

Estimated Cost Share \$ 55,660.02 (95%)

Estimated Buffer Payment \$ 8,000.00

Total Estimated Cost Share \$ 63,660.02

**+Triple R Dairy LLC**

05-23-0016 (519943)

**CCI SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (3,050')**

Estimated Cost \$ 5,562.50

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 5,562.50

05-23-0016 (519944)

**CCI SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (6,665')**

Estimated Cost \$ 10,331.25

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 10,331.25

**AU)**

05-23-0016 (519939)

**CCI WP-4 Animal Waste Control Maint. (1 Struct./360**

Estimated Cost \$ 5,540.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 5,540.00

05-23-0016 (519945)

**SL-1 Permanent Vegetative Cover (7 ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 2,317.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,912.75

Estimated Tax Credit \$ 101.06

**Prince Edward (CB)****Jessica W Fariss**

05-23-0061 (518863)

**CCI SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (7,800')**

Estimated Cost \$12,500.00

Estimated Incentive \$12,500.00

**Boot Hill Dairy LLC**

05-23-0045 (519949)

**NM-6 Manure Injection (299ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 13,455.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 13,455.00

**Poorhouse Dairy LLC**

05-23-0044 (519950)

**NM-6 Manure Injection (254.8ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 11,466.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 11,466.00

**On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practice totaling \$8,900.00 CB funding, with Mr. Moyer leaving the room:**

Amelia (CB)

**Oakmulgee Dairy  
AU)**

**CCI WP-4 Animal Waste Control Maint. (1 Struct./156**

05-23-0007 (519968)

Estimated Cost \$ 8,900.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 8,900.00

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

Amelia (1)

Hillview Farm LLC

BMP

**On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 319 Residential Septic Contracts PE Grant #16969 totaling \$900.00:**

**Spring Creek #16969**

**Approval**

John Ford

RB-1 Conventional Septic System Pump out

05-23-0063 (519314)

Estimated Cost \$ 400.00

Estimated Cost Share (75%) \$ 300.00

Charlotte Green

RB-1 Conventional Septic System Pump out (2)

05-23-0064 (519319 & 519320)

Estimated Cost \$ 800.00

Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 400.00

Jesse Yeatts

RB-1 Conventional Septic System Pump out (rental)

05-23-0068 (519992)

Estimated Cost \$ 400.00

Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 200.00

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the delegation of VACS application and tax credit approval authority to be given to the Conservation Committee for VACS applications received through December 31, 2022.**

Mr. Rash reported he will visit agriculture producer R.L. Dunn this week to discuss his project.

Ms. Fehrer reported that DCR awarded John Shepherd Grain Farms, the Clean Water Farm Grand Basin award for the Chowan watershed. Mr. Shepherd will attend the VASWCD annual meeting awards luncheon. Ms. Fehrer also reported that Drill #2 was damaged by Watkins Nursery and the part has been backordered for 3 weeks. It has caused a backup of drill rentals.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

No report.

**WATERSHED**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the renewal of the term engineering contract between AMT Engineering Inc. and Piedmont SWCD.** The contract includes MOUs with 9 other SWCDs, which allows the SWCDs to utilize AMT for dam engineering services without going through the procurement process.

Mr. Arnason reported the fall mowing was completed. Ms. Fehrer shared photos of the completed Bush #7 small dam repair project and is working with Mr. Charles Wilson to close out the project, including submitting project reimbursement forms.

**PLANNING**

**On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the current officers to continue their duties in 2023. On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved Ms. Fehrer to serve as the FOIA and Record Retention Officer for 2023.**

Ms. Fehrer passed around a committee list. Mr. Moyer asked for a volunteer to serve as the chair for the Planning Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Rash reported that the VASWCD sent out the solar policy that will be reviewed 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.

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

**On a motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the MOU between Piedmont SWCD and Roger Pinholster (Arks for Parks) regarding the use of the mobile education exhibit (attached).** The Board approved the purchase of the trailer from Mr. Pinholster at the October meeting.

Ms. Fehrer highlighted the education programs that Ms. Atkinson presented over the past month, including a Girl Scouts patch workshop and a soils lab in partnership with Ms. Small. Ms. Atkinson is working with Area V districts to plan the Area V Envirothon workshop which will be held in February at the Longwood University Environmental Education Center. She is also helping the student from Amelia who is enrolled in the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute program. Ms. Atkinson and Mr. Smith are working on preparing an interactive naturalist exhibit using the SEEK app for the VASWCD annual meeting. Several photo canvases, which feature nature photos taken by Mr. Smith, will be included in the VASWCD annual auction.

**DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS****Staff reports (Attached)**

Ms. Fehrer shared the staff report. The partner meeting scheduled for November 1, 2022 was canceled due to lack of registrations. The staff may try and reschedule in January or February

2023. Mr. Wootton and Mr. Dunn met with the FSA State Director at Triple R Farms. Conservation staff and Ms. Fehrer met with NRCS State Conservationist during his visit with the NRCS area and field staff offices. Ms. Fehrer mentioned that VASWCD VCAP staff are proposing a pilot up front payment program for VCAP applicants. The program is modeled after the pilot DCR up front payment program for VACS applicants.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).

Ms. Collins highlighted some important dates and other information from her attached report. There are 2 additional webinars for the required elected official FOIA training. Katherine Kulbok is the new OAG representative for SWCDs. Ms. Collins reminded staff of the November 30 deadline for the DCR Security Training online course and needs copies of the certificates.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans reviewed his report. Dr. Edwin Martinez, the NRCS State Conservationist, visited Farmville and Mr. Evans thanked the District and VCE staff for attending the meeting. Mr. Evans has been asked to serve on the NRCS State Tribal Committee. The office has received 7 applications for EQIP, an increase from last year.

Ms. Ciavarella reviewed her report. Her office is working with Amelia producer, R.L.Dunn, on a rotational grazing plan. She has been working on CSP renewals and reaching out to producers who had prior contracts with NRCS.

Mr. Rabon, Private Lands Biologist, shared his report. He has been visiting several landowners who are interested in establishing quail habitat. He completed a conservation plan for an EQIP application in Nottoway County.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

Ms. Gunn reported she is organizing a Pasture Walk at the end of November. She is planning the annual pesticide recertification program in December.

Ms. Small mentioned an upcoming program focusing on mental health for agriculture producers. She is continuing to locate pond sites for the water chestnut research.

**ROUNDTABLE:**

Ms. Crews attended the Amelia Board of Supervisors meeting and distributed the Annual Report. She also reported the signage for the Saylor's Creek bridge crossing on Rt. 307 has been installed.

Dr. Kathy Gee will be teaching an environmental decision-making course during the spring semester and asked for recommendations for local groups/agencies that utilize and/or develop policies/guidance on environmental issues so that students could shadow employees of those organizations. Mr. Evans suggested NRCS and their use of the CPA-52 environmental impact form in evaluating conservation applications.

Mr. Zody reported Nottoway County is working on their solar use comprehensive plan. The county will also be updating their comprehensive plan and would like input from the ag community.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.

**ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:**

MOU trailer; Staff & partner reports;

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

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