



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Farmville, Virginia  
January 24, 2023 11:00 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman  
Charles “Chuck” Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Treasurer  
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County / Secretary  
Horace Adams- Director, Prince Edward County  
Allison Crews – Director, Amelia County  
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County  
Erin Small – VCE Appointed Director, Prince Edward County  
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County  
Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County  
Mackenzie Gunn – Associate Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent  
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County & Longwood University

Environmental Science Professor

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

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman  
Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation  
Jordan Rabon, Private Lands Biologist, Quail Forever  
Gregg Zody, Planning and Economic Development Director, Nottoway County

**SWCD Staff Present:**

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

**Partners Present:**

Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Nottoway/Farmville  
Tara Ciavarella, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia  
Reed Blackwell, Nottoway County VCE ANR Agent

**Guests Present:**

Doug Stanley, Prince Edward County Administrator  
Kate Stevens, Botetourt County Teacher

**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, January 24, 2023. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was physically present. Ms. Small introduced her guest, Kate Stevens, a high

school agriculture teacher who is shadowing Ms. Small and is exploring career options in agriculture. An addition to the agenda was a report on the R.L. Dunn VACS project.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the November 22, 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 November/December 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. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practice correction totaling \$2,254.00 in CB VACS funding:**

Andy Clowdis

05-23-0042 (515651)

**SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (211.1) ac.**

Estimated Cost \$42,220.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$14,777.00

**\*Additional cost share to approve \$2,254.00**

\*Approved in October at 178.9 ac. Should have been approved as 211.1 ac.

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practices totaling \$108,019.21 in CB VACS funding and \$102.51 in VACS tax credit:**

#### **Amelia (CB)**

**Tyler Piper**

05-23-0074 (521765)

**SL-7 Extension of Watering System (10 ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 5,995.00

Estimated Cost Share \$ 4,496.25

**Dewayne Moore**

05-23-0030 (521642)

**SL-1 Permanent Vegetative Cover (7.1 ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 2,350.11

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,940.08

Estimated Tax Credit \$ 102.51

**Holt Morris**

05-23-0073 (521723)

**CCI WP-2W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (27,250')**

Estimated Cost \$ 27,250.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 27,250.00

**Holt Morris**

05-23-0073 (521725)

**CCI WP-2N Stream Exclusion Maintenance (2,400')**

Estimated Cost \$ 1,800.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,800.00

**AMEVA**

**AU)**

05-23-0023 (521706)

**CCI WP-4 Animal Waste Control Maint. (1 Struct./30**

Estimated Cost \$ 5,750.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 5,750.00

**Harrison Moody**  
05-23-0038 (472850)

**SL-6W Stream Exclusion (35'/10yr) (7,550')**  
Estimated Cost \$ 54,347.50  
Estimated Cost Share \$ 46,195.38 (85%)  
Estimated Buffer Payment \$ 5,200.00  
Total Estimated Cost Share \$ 51,395.38

**Nottoway (CB)**  
**Roger Reynolds**  
**AU)**

05-23-0071 (521676)

**CCI WP-4 Animal Waste Control Maint. (1 Struct./723**  
Estimated Cost \$ 6,084.50  
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 6,084.50

**Triple R Dairy LLC**  
05-23-0016 (521650)

**CCI WP-2W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (6525')**  
Estimated Cost \$ 6,525.00  
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 6,525.00

**Prince Edward (CB)**  
**Boot Hill Dairy LLC**  
05-23-0045 (521672)

**NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (694.5ac) Manure**  
Estimated Cost \$ 2,778.00  
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 2,778.00

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS tax credit totaling \$25,000.00:**

John Shepherd  
05-23-0041 (515436)

**SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (1,052.5) ac.**  
Estimated Cost \$210,500.00  
Estimated Tax Credit \$ 25,000.00Max

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

**Amelia (5)**

Frank Anderson, Dewayne Moore, Tyler Piper, Ameva (2)

BMP

**Nottoway (2)**

Triple R Dairy, Harrison Moody

BMP

**On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 319 Residential Septic contracts Grant #16969 totaling \$5,800.00 and Grant #16970 \$1,080.00:**

Joseph Bettis  
05-23-0069 (520710)

**RB-1 Conventional Septic System Pump out**  
Estimated Cost \$ 400.00  
Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 200.00

Kelsey Wallace  
05-23-0072 (521682)

**RB-4 Conventional Septic System Repair**  
Estimated Cost \$ 8,000.00 (capped)  
Estimated Cost Share (70%) \$ 5,600.00

**Flat, Nibbs, Deep, etc. #16970**

Frances Seal

05-23-0070 (521307, 309, 310)

RB-1 Conventional Septic System Pump out

Estimated Cost \$ 1,200.00 (3 pump outs)

Estimated Cost Share (90%) \$ 1,080.00

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the resignation of Piedmont SWCD from the VCAP Steering Committee.** Mr. Arnason and Ms. Fehrer reminded the Board that since 2009, Ms. Fehrer and other staff have been involved with the Steering Committee, from the very beginnings of piloting an urban cost share program to the current formal VASWCD program currently funded at \$2M this program year. Piedmont SWCD agrees it is time for other SWCDs who participate in VCAP much more, to serve on the Steering Committee in place of Piedmont. Ms. Fehrer thanked the Board for supporting staff and this program over the many years. Staff will continue to promote VCAP and assist homeowners with stormwater runoff concerns.

Mr. Wootton reported he will be making a field visit this week with staff from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to address an Ag Stewardship complaint in Nottoway County.

Mr. Arnason reported that communication recently received from R.L. Dunn in Amelia that was sent to Mr. Kevin Dunn and Mr. Rash regarding his ongoing VACS projects, was concerning and included a request that Mr. Kevin Dunn not set foot on his property unless he is invited or accompanied by someone else. Mr. Rash had visited Mr. R.L. Dunn in November to address his concerns, but Mr. Dunn did not sign the June 22, 2022 letter from the PSWCD Board regarding the project and the additional cost share approved for the project. An email dated January 11, 2023 from Mr. Kevin Dunn to Mr. R.L. Dunn asking to schedule a time to meet about the project, resulted in a threatening email response from Mr. R.L. Dunn dated January 16, 2023. Mr. Arnason and Mr. Rash contacted DCR to inquire as to what are the rights of the SWCD during the construction phase of the project. DCR offered to send their staff to verify project is being installed per planned design and specifications. Mr. Kevin Dunn gave an update on the project as far as he has knowledge of: all water systems have been installed, including wells and pipeline and that the exclusion and cross fencing on the north side of the project needs to be completed. The office has not received the signed letter (see above) as directed by the Board. Mr. Arnason and Mr. Rash will contact Mr. R.L. Dunn to setup an appointment with all parties including Mr. Kevin Dunn, to meet and finalize the project.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Chair Arnason

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following correction for the FY23 budget: Increase budget line item “IRA Senior Conservation Specialist” by \$582.50 and decrease budget line item “BMP Implementation Expense Technical Program Support” by the same amount. The**

**IRA payment calculation should have included a full-time salary versus a prorated salary of that employee.**

Mr. Arnason reported the financial audit for FY21 and FY22 conducted by Robinson, Farmer and Cox resulted in no findings. Mr. Arnason, Ms. Collins and Ms. Fehrer attended an exit interview with the auditors and a formal report will be forthcoming.

**PLANNING** Chair Eck

**On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board renewed the annual terms of the following Associate Directors: Gary Dillard, Sarah Eck, Dr. Kathy Gee and Mackenzie Gunn.** Mr. Moyer thanked them for their past and continuing service and contributions to the Board.

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work January through June and highlighted several events and deadlines. Mr. Moyer thanked Ms. Eck for agreeing to chair the Planning Committee. Registration for March 1, 2023 Area V meeting was requested and a new SWCD Directory information sheet was passed around for edits/updates. Ms. Fehrer reported that Kevin Dunn was elected as Area V chair, as a Director from Peter Francisco SWCD.

**WATERSHED:** Chair Arnason

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a contract with Bander Smith, Inc. to perform gate valve and riser inspections on Bush #2, Bush #6 and Bush #7 dams for a total of \$15,500.00.** A copy of the quote is on file in the office. Mr. Arnason reported Bander Smith, Inc. located out of Richmond, VA, is the only contractor licensed in the state to perform this type of work and has performed inspections on other SWCD dams. Ms. Fehrer is hoping the inspection at Bush #2 can be coordinated with the repair work on the wave berm.

Mr. Arnason reported that Mr. Charles Wilson, DCR Dam Engineer, requested that a fence at Buffalo #8 dam be moved from the emergency spillway to the top of the training dike. The office received a quote of \$2,000 from the current mowing/maintenance contractor to move and install 75' of fence. The Board requested the staff contact fencing contractors on our VACS list and get at least two additional quotes.

Ms. Fehrer received a request for public comment from DEQ regarding the Prince Edward County's Sandy River Reservoir application for withdrawal permit. The permit is a renewal of a 2006 permit which expired in 2021 but includes additional information for potential water supply customers. Ms. Fehrer sent the details of the application to Prince Edward and Nottoway County Directors (potential water supply is with clients in Nottoway County). She did not have any comments about the application. She asked Mr. Stanley if the former "Sandy River Overlay Ordinance" was going to be revisited in the event the water supply development moves forward. The PSWCD was involved in developing a draft water protection ordinance in the watershed 10-15 years ago. Mr. Stanley replied the County will revisit the information and understands the importance of continuing good water quality practices. The County is working with the Department of General Services and 3 state facilities in Nottoway to potentially supply drinking water as well as potential long-term usage to the Towns of Burkeville and Crewe. The County is working to keep the economic impacts and resource usage at a local level.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** Chair Dillard

Mr. Dillard congratulated Ms. Atkinson and Mr. Smith for their “Best Exhibit” award at the VASWCD Annual Meeting with an interactive ‘Seek Naturalist’ challenge. He also congratulated Mr. Rash who received his 25-year service pin, Mr. Whittington who received his 15-year service pin, and Ms. Fehrer who was recognized for 20 years of service.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** Chair Rash

Ms. Fehrer reported the General Assembly convened last week and Mr. Don Wells, VASWCD Director, has begun sending his weekly all district emails reporting on the status of bills and funding.

**COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION** Chair Powers

Mr. Powers reported he attended the December Prince Edward Board of Supervisors meeting where he distributed the Annual Report and highlighted several programs. He was happy to report that one of last year’s scholarship recipients, Ms. Brook Coleman, is ranked #1 in her freshman class of 4,000 at NC State.

Ms. Atkinson gave an update on the following programs:

Scholarship information has been mailed to 42 teachers/schools and past scholarship winners, has been posted on Facebook and website and distributed to local homeschool groups. The deadline is March 8.

Poster Contest information including resource materials have been mailed to the local art teachers in all three counties. The theme is “One Water” which can encompass all aspects of water, watersheds and water cycle. The Longwood Center for Visual Arts (LCVA) is assisting PSWCD by promoting the contest and possibly hosting a workshop for homeschool students at the Farmville Library. They are also serving as a drop off location for posters. Deadline is April 12.

The Youth Conservation Leadership Institute student, Marina Morris, an Amelia County resident, will be mentored by Mackenzie Gunn and will focus her project on pond health. She will attend a PSWCD Board meeting later this year. Ms. Atkinson assisted in finding a mentor and providing background information to Ms. Morris.

Youth Conservation Camp information from the VASWCD has not been distributed to districts. The District took possession of the trailer (Board approved purchase in November) in December for a mobile education resource. Ms. Atkinson, Ms. Fehrer and Ms. Crews met with the Longwood University Design Lab and are awaiting preliminary sketches. Information about soil, watersheds and other natural resources including information about natural resource trailers across the country were shared with the Design Lab students to help communicate key concepts the District will be teaching with the trailer.

Ms. Atkinson has prepared and posted several Facebook “Spotlights” of Board members and will continue to feature all of PSWCD Directors and Associate Directors. She reported that Margaret Jones, Amelia High School Ag teacher, attended the VASWCD Annual Meeting awards

luncheon where she was presented the Educator of the Year award. Ms. Atkinson will recognize Ms. Jones at an Amelia High School faculty meeting on February 6.

Ms. Crews shared a power point about her attendance at the annual Virginia Association for Biological Farming earlier this month. The VABF has been in existence for 23 years and supports organic farming methods and diversity in agriculture. She shared highlights from the conference including information from several of the sessions and speakers.

### **DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS**

#### **Staff reports (Attached)**

Ms. Fehrer shared the staff report. In addition to Mr. Powers, she also thanked Mr. Rash and Ms. Crews for attending their respective Board of Supervisor meetings and sharing PSWCD annual reports. All three localities Board of Supervisor meetings were visited by a Director. The District received a \$200 donation for the Youth Conservation Education Program from the Amelia Ruritans. She reported the acreage on the drills in 2022 was 1,621 acres, which was a tad higher than 2021. A replacement of the front fork and tire rim was completed and the lessee was invoiced for the cost of the parts. Ms. Fehrer shared the program handout from VASWCD awards luncheon that in addition to Ms. Jones as Educator of the Year it also featured John Shepherd, Nottoway Ag producer, as Grand Basin Conservation Farmer for the Chowan Basin. Mr. Shepherd and his wife attended the luncheon.

#### **Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).**

Ms. Collins report was shared.

#### **USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)**

Ms. Ciavarella reviewed her report. She highlighted several deadlines for EQIP applications and stated that offices are working toward standardizing deadlines.

Mr. Evans reviewed his report. He has a large workload in FY23 with 30 CSP renewals. He and Mr. Smith have completed two site visits with landowners for program interest and technical assistance. He provided an update on several positions at the State Office. Mr. Evans received a request from Gregg Zody, Nottoway County Planner, about obtaining a map that includes prime farmland and soils information for Nottoway County. He reported his GIS software abilities are limited but suggested a workshop for locality staff on using the USDA Web Soil Survey might be beneficial. Dr. Gee reported she is teaching an introductory level GIS class and that the soils mapping for Nottoway might be a possible project for an intern.

A quarterly report from Mr. Rabon, Private Lands Biologist was shared.

#### **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)**

Mr. Blackwell reported his office is offering a rain barrel making workshop on February 15 with a cost of \$60.

Ms. Gunn reported that the Amelia office is helping support several upcoming programs including a 'Farm Transition' series of workshops, Women in Ag conference and a March 3 Commercial Pesticide recertification program. She is organizing a series of agritourism

workshops in the area and is leading an Equine Discussion Group along with the ANR agent in Powhatan.

Ms. Small attended a Southeast Fruit and Vegetable conference/trade show in Savannah, GA. She will be attending a VFGC (SPAREC) and a Beef Health Conference in Blacksburg. She has received an avian flu alert and reminded folks to practice biosecurity when traveling to poultry operations. She has several upcoming workshops including: Floral Design on February 24; Producer Tours to VT in March (5 spots left for PE producers); Farm Transition workshop (one with David Wise and one at SPAREC); and a Farm Pond Management workshop in the spring. Ms. Small is beginning her cut flower research with NC State which will happen on the Hampden Sydney campus/greenhouses and she is working with a professor at Longwood University on the Spotted Lantern Fly research/tracking. She has 4 vacancies for participants in the Tobacco Grant (Amelia has 2 and Nottoway 3).

**ROUNDTABLE:**

Dr. Kathy Gee has received a \$180,000 federal grant to conduct research on rain water harvesting systems and the presence of *Legionella*, a pathogen. She asked everyone to send her any known locations of rain water systems, from small 55-gallon containers to large scale systems. She will begin testing in early April.

Ms. Crews volunteered to distribute BMP signage to local farmers who have participated in our programs.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.

**ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:**

Staff & partner reports;

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

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