



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
April 25, 2023 2:00 p.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
Horace Adams- Director, Prince Edward County
Allison Crews – Director, Amelia County
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

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 & LU Environmental Science Prof.
Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist
Tyler Smith – BMP Conservation Technician
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Nottoway/Farmville

SWCD Staff Present:

Kevin Dunn – Conservation Specialist
Deanna Fehrer - District Manager

Partners Present:

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Tara Ciavarella, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia
Cristy Cook, Farm Service County Executive Director, Nottoway and Prince Edward
Doug Audley, Department of Forestry, Amelia
Cody Noblitt, Department of Forestry, Nottoway
Jordan Rabon, NRCS, Private Lands Biologist

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

A regular meeting of the Piedmont SWCD Board of Directors was held at Featherstone Farm in Amelia County on Tuesday, April 25, 2023. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the March 28, 2023 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 March 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – Presented by Mr. Dunn

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practice corrections (CB VACS funding of \$2,671.60):

Hard Acres Farm	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (430.6ac)
05-23-0031 (525039)	Estimated Cost \$ 861.20
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 861.20
	*Additional cost share to approve \$ 11.60

*Approved in March at 424.2 ac. Should have been approved as 430.6 ac

Brian Crowder	SL-8B Cover Crop (124.7)
05-23-0046 (515649)	Estimated Cost \$ 24,940.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 8,729.00
Additional 38 ac added total	additional cost share to approve \$2,660.00

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practices totaling \$210,075.96 CB VACS funding:

Amelia (CB)

Windy Springs Farm LLC	NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (47.ac)
05-23-0066 (525931)	Estimated Cost \$ 282.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 282.00

Brian Crowder	NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (74.8ac)
05-23-0046 (525947)	Estimated Cost \$ 448.80
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 448.80

Blanton Farms	NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (105ac)(8 Tests)
05-23-0033 (526291)	Estimated Cost \$ 726.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 726.00

Hard Acres Farm	NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (130ac)
05-23-0031 (525928)	Estimated Cost \$ 780.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 780.00

Iron Gate Farms	NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (370.0ac)
05-23-0026 (525040)	Estimated Cost \$ 2,220.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 2,220.00

Hoot Owl Hollow Farm Inc.	NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (280.0ac)
05-23-0034 (525923)	Estimated Cost \$ 1,680.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,680.00

Whitaker Farms
05-23-0019 (508591)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (131.2ac)

Estimated Cost	\$ 787.20
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 787.20

Dexter Jones
05-23-0032 (525924)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (92.9ac)

Estimated Cost	\$ 557.40
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 557.40

Easter Design
05-23-0059 (525939)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (544.3ac)

Estimated Cost	\$ 3,265.80
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 3,265.80

Green Bluff Farm
05-23-0009 (525949)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (172ac)

Estimated Cost	\$ 1,032.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,032.00

05-23-0009 (525646)

NM-6 Manure injection (95 ac)

Estimated Cost	\$ 4,275.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 4,275.00

Vaughan Cattle Co.
05-23-0017 (508587)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (345ac)

Estimated Cost	\$ 2,070.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 2,070.00

AMEVA Farms
05-23-0023 (508605)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (170ac) (10 Tests)

Estimated Cost	\$ 1,140.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,140.00

05-23-0023 (523309)

NM-6 Manure injection (120ac)

Estimated Cost	\$ 5,400.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 5,400.00

Watkins and Son Inc.
05-23-0035 (525976)

NM-5N Precision Nut. Mgmt. (1,532.9ac) (75 Tests)

Estimated Cost	\$ 13,163.20
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 13,163.20

05-23-0035(525977)

NM-6 Manure injection (501.7ac)

Estimated Cost	\$ 22,576.50
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 22,576.50

Dewayne Moore
05-23-0030 (525952)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (85ac)

Estimated Cost	\$ 510.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 510.00

James Schenck
05-23-0057 (525958)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (125ac) (6 Tests)

Estimated Cost	\$ 822.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 822.00

John C. Ashman
05-23-0029 (525950)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (420ac) (21 Tests)

Estimated Cost \$ 2,772.00
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 2,772.00

Don Benson
05-23-0010 (526318)

NM-5N Precision Nut. Mgmt. (145ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 1,160.00
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,160.00

Reamford Farms
05-23-0058 (525965)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (400ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 2,400.00
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 2,400.00

05-23-0058 (526316)

NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (1,338.4ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 2,676.80
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 2,676.80

Nottoway (CB)

Triple R Dairy
05-23-0016 (525966)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (102ac) (5 Tests)

Estimated Cost \$ 672.00
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 672.00

Shepherd Grain Farms
05-23-0041 (526312)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (921.6ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 4,501.80
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 4,501.80

Richlands Dairy Farm
05-23-0036 (526273)

NM-5N Precision Nut. Mgmt. (274ac) (14 Tests)

Estimated Cost \$ 2,360.00
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 2,360.00

05-23-0036(526274)

NM-6 Manure injection (501.7ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 22,576.50
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 22,576.50

Blendon Farms
05-22-0080 (525717)

SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr/2,020')

Estimated Cost \$ 36,650.00
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 34,817.50(95%)
Estimated Buffer Payment \$ 4,000.00
Total Estimated Cost Share \$ 40,939.56

Prince Edward (CB)

Andy Clowdis
05-23-0042 (525969)

NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (211.1c)

Estimated Cost \$ 1,266.60
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,266.60

Boot Hill Dairy LLC.
05-23-0045 (525981)

NM-6 Manure injection (694.5ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 31,252.50
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 31,252.50

05-23-0045 (525980)	NM-5N Precision Nut. Mgmt. (729.6ac) (36 Tests)	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 6,268.80
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 6,268.80
05-23-0044 (525945)	Poor House Dairy LLC NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (207ac)	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 1,242.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,242.00
05-23-0044(525973)	NM-6 Manure injection (306.7ac)	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 13,801.50
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 13,801.50
05-23-0044(526279)	SL-1 Longterm Veg. Cover on Cropland (43.2ac) (5Yr)	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 14,299.20
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 11,804.40
	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 623.70
05-23-0044 (525946)	NM-5N Precision Nut. Mgmt. (306.7ac) (16 Tests)	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 2,645.60
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 2,645.60

On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practices totaling \$ 31,897.25 in CB VACS funding with Mr. Moyer and Mr. Whittington not present during the motion and vote:

05-23-0037 (526372)	Featherstone Farm NM-5N Precision Nut. Mgmt. (330ac) (17 Tests)	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 2,844.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 2,844.00
05-23-0007(526278)	Oakmulgee Dairy Farm NM-6 Manure injection (120ac)	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 5,400.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 5,400.00
05-23-0007(525708)	SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/ Wide Buffer (6,000'35',10yr)	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 18,425.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 15,661.25 85%
	Estimated Buffer	\$ 3,600.00
	Estimated Total Cost-Share	\$ 19,261.25
05-23-0007 (526277)	NM-5N Precision Nut. Mgmt. (510ac) (26 Tests)	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 4,392.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 4,392.00

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 319 Residential Septic contracts:

Flat Creek #16970

Approval

Julius Griles	RB-4 Conventional Septic System Repair
05-23-0081	Estimated Cost \$ 8,000.00
	Estimated Cost Share (70%) \$ 5,600.00

Spring Creek #16969

Approval

Jesse Yeatts	RB-1 Conventional Septic System Pump out
05-23-0068 (526414)	Estimated Cost \$ 400.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 200.00

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following conservation plans submitted by NRCS:

Nottoway (1)	Compliance_ No Till
Prince Edward (5)	Compliance_ No Till

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the FY24 VACS Secondary Considerations and ranking criteria to be submitted to DCR for final approval. (Attached)

Mr. Dunn asked if there were any suggestions for changes to the VACS program and reminded directors that April 28 is the deadline to submit to DCR. The Technical Advisory Committee will begin to review submitted suggestions and will begin meeting later in the year. Mr. Rash and Mr. Dunn agreed to continue to serve on the committee. Suggestions for new practices can be included, however, most of the considerations will focus on practices and data that can help support the Bay Model.

Ms. Collins reported that DCR is reviewing the question of approving VACS applications for CCI-WP4 and CCI-WP4C practices from poultry operations that are in the process of being terminated. Guidance will be issued soon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the modification to DEQ 319 grant #16970 that includes an additional \$207,399.85 in total funding and an extension date of September 30, 2026. (A copy is on file in the office). Ms. Fehrer stated the eligibility, BMPs, and application process remain the same.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a \$250 sponsorship for the upcoming VASWCD Educational Foundation Golf Tournament. The golf tournament raises funds to support the Youth Education program including VASWCD Scholarships and Youth Conservation Camp.

PLANNING - Chair Eck

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work noting items completed in April and upcoming workload for May.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported that contractor, Bander Smith, is on site this week conducting the gate valve inspections at Bush #2, #6 and #7. They are also inspecting and testing the gates at Sandy River Reservoir for Prince Edward County. Mr. Thompson is also on site to observe, provide as-builts and answer any questions.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Chair Dillard

No report.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Rash reported it is unlikely the State will approve a budget before the last week of June. There are quite a few legislators who will not be running for re-election and it will be necessary to begin educating new representatives on the importance of SWCD programs and funding needs. The VASWCD has asked Piedmont SWCD to host another legislative tour and it has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 13. Details will be forthcoming.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION - Chair Powers

Mr. Powers reported that PSWCD received one application for Youth Conservation Camp. **On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a scholarship/application to student Julia King, an Amelia County resident and student at Kenston Forest School, to attend Youth Conservation Camp in July.**

Ms. Fehrer reported Ms. Atkinson, Mr. Wootton and Mr. Smith are at the 3rd Grade Ag Awareness Days in Blackstone this afternoon and tomorrow. Mr. Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, is also assisting the District with the soils tunnel and erosion boxes. She reported the following:

The Area V Envirothon was held on April 18 and the top three teams of Halifax, Buckingham and Cumberland will advance to the State Competition on May 21-22 at Virginia State University.

The Poster Contest is complete and Ms. Atkinson is finalizing certificates and will have the list of winners at the May board meeting. The grand winner was a 10th grade student from Amelia County High School.

The Longwood University Design Lab students are finalizing the design package for the soils trailer. They will provide the District with the electronic files that can be submitted to a design/construction firm. The students along with Ms. Fehrer and Ms. Atkinson, met virtually with Gropen, a design/build firm in Charlottesville, who provided the students with feedback on the design and answered questions about materials. The next step will be to identify if there are any other local design/build firms and if PSWCD will need to put the project out for bid.

The office received a nice thank you note and photos from the VT Soil Judging Team that PSWCD sponsored to attend the National Soil Judging Competition in Oklahoma. The Virginia team placed 9th overall.

Ms. Fehrer shared the teacher newsletter that Ms. Atkinson recently distributed to her educator list serve.

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

Ms. Fehrer shared the staff report and mentioned several educational events where staff provided education programming including a Pasture Walk, Farm Pond Management Workshop, aquatics training for Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners, several Earth Day events and a program for Prince Edward County High School Ag classes.

Ms. Fehrer reported that next month she will be preparing a draft budget, Attachment D budget template and preparing for program year end.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights on her report including upcoming deadlines and trainings. She reminded directors to check with their local registrar for information regarding upcoming elections. Any return of VACS funds to meet 90% obligation will need Board action by the June Board meeting.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Ms. Ciavarella reported for Amelia and Farmville offices. Across the state, there has been over \$6.5M in funding requests for the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) program, but there is only \$1.5M to allocate. Offices are working on compliance reviews and she reminded everyone of upcoming ranking and signup deadlines. Offices have received guidance for holding the Local Working Group meetings and will schedule their meeting with local partners following the May PSWCD Board meeting.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

VCE agents, Ms. Small and Ms. Gunn, are assisting at the 3rd grade Ag Awareness Days this week.

Farm Service Agency

Ms. Cook reported April 7 ended general sign-up for existing contracts. Many agriculture producers are aging out and not renewing contracts. Her office has received several re-enrollments for tree practices and is working on a couple of new CREP contracts. The Grasslands program signup period is April 17-May 26 and they are seeing some interest. Paper files that were scanned during the Covid time period, have been shredded, resulting in over 7,150# of paper!

Virginia Department of Forestry

Mr. Audley introduced Mr. Noblitt and reported DOF had a successful planting season and they are preparing for a new program year.

USDA-Private Lands Biologist

Mr. Rabon shared his quarterly report. He has been conducting site visits in his territory as well as for several counties outside his area. Mr. Rabon has assisted with conservation planning, site visits, consultations and several outreach events. Two new private lands biologists were recently hired for Verona and Hanover territories, thus freeing up Mr. Rabon to concentrate on his territory. He will be conducting bird nesting monitoring during the month of June, focusing on land uses where there is prescribed burning and timber stand management practices.

ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Whittington announced that Ms. Crews will demonstrate her drone after the meeting and offered folks the opportunity to walk around his farm operation.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm. Following the meeting, a Customer Appreciation Event was held that recognized the conservation work of our farmers and several other recognitions including Featherstone Farm and the Whittington family Conservation Farm Award; Margaret Jones, Conservation Educator; John Shepherd, Clean Water Farm Award and Director Ricky Rash for 25 years of service on the PSWCD Board.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Staff & partner reports;

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

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