



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Farmville, Virginia  
March 28, 2023 11:00 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman  
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 & LU Environmental Science Prof.

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

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman  
Charles “Chuck” Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Treasurer

**SWCD Staff Present:**

Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist  
Kevin Dunn – Conservation Specialist  
Deanna Fehrer - District Manager  
Tyler Smith – 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  
Gregg Zody, Nottoway County Planner  
Douglas Stanley, Prince Edward County Administrator

**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, March 28, 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 Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the February 28, 2023 minutes as presented.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the February 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.**

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

**On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practice correction (CB VACS funding of \$4,382.00):**

Hard Acres Farm	<b>SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (312.1) ac.</b>
05-23-0031 (515035)	Estimated Cost \$62,420.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$21,847.00
	<b>*Additional cost share to approve \$4,382.00</b>

\*Approved in October at 249.5 ac. Should have been approved as 312.1 ac

**On a motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practices totaling \$ 50,260.90 in CB VACS funding:**

**Amelia (CB)**

<b>Windy Springs Farm LLC</b>	<b>NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (77.7ac)</b>
05-23-0066 (522462)	Estimated Cost \$ 155.40
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 155.40

<b>Fox Den Farms LLC</b>	<b>NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (17.2ac)</b>
05-23-0067 (522461)	Estimated Cost \$ 34.40
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 34.40

<b>Brian Crowder</b>	<b>NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (161.5ac)</b>
05-23-0046 (522464)	Estimated Cost \$ 323.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 323.00

<b>Blanton Farms</b>	<b>NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (309ac)</b>
05-23-0033 (522466)	Estimated Cost \$ 618.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 618.00

<b>Hard Acres Farm</b>	<b>CCI SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (19,980')</b>
05-23-0031 (524625)	Estimated Cost \$ 27,475.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 27,475.00

<b>Hard Acres Farm</b>	<b>NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (424.8ac)</b>
05-23-0031 (525039)	Estimated Cost \$ 849.60
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 849.60

<b>Brenda Walker</b>	<b>SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (71.4ac)</b>
05-23-0056 (525036)	Estimated Cost \$ 1,428.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,428.00

<b>Iron Gate Farms</b>	<b>NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (370.0ac)</b>
05-23-0026 (525040)	Estimated Cost \$ 740.00
	Estimated Cost-Share \$ 740.00

**Hoot Owl Hollow Farm Inc.**  
05-23-0034 (525043)

**NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (550.0ac)**

Estimated Cost \$ 1,100.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,100.00

**Prince Edward (CB)**

**CCW Texas Outfit, LLC**

05-23-0077 (524126)

**CCI SL-6W Stream Exclusion Maintenance (12,830')**

Estimated Cost \$ 17,537.50

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 17,537.50

**On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Ms. Small and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 319 Residential Septic contract totaling \$ 400.00:**

**Spring Creek #16969**

**Approval**

James Moore, Jr.

05-23-00

RB-1 Conventional Septic System Pump out (2)

Estimated Cost \$ 800.00

Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 400.00

Ms. Fehrer reported she is still waiting on the grant agreement from DEQ that will provide an additional \$379,000 of funding for the Flat Creek septic grant.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Chair Arnason

**On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a donation of \$250 to VCE Prince Edward for sponsorship of the April 21 Farm Pond Workshop.** Mr. Wootton and Mr. Smith will be presenting information at the workshop.

**On a motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Small and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a small dam repair fund grant #SDR23005 in the amount of \$241,270 for repairs at Bush #2 dam including wave berm, storm damage and gate valve repair. (Attached)**

**PLANNING** - Chair Eck

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

**WATERSHED** - Chair Arnason

Ms. Fehrer reported Mr. Thompson has completed 14 owner dam inspections and accompanied Prince Edward County staff on the inspection at Sandy River Reservoir dam. She reported upcoming work includes installing the remote monitoring systems and spring mowing. Contractor, Bander Smith, is tentatively schedule to be at several dam sites the week of April 17 for gate valve inspections, but the work is weather dependent. Mr. Wootton reported the fence relocation at Buffalo #8 dam has been completed.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** - Chair Dillard

A Personnel Committee was scheduled for 9:30 prior to the Board meeting, but only 2 members were in attendance, so an official meeting was not held. Mr. Dillard reported that all employee evaluations have been completed and copies are available in the office for Directors to review.

He reported that customer satisfaction survey cards will be sent to drill users, new VACS clients and septic program clients. The cards are mailed directly to Chairman Moyer from the recipient.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** - Chair Rash

No updates on legislative activity.

**COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION** - Chair Powers

Mr. Powers reported the Education Committee met prior to the Board meeting to review scholarship application scoring sheets and applications, but he was unable to attend. Mr. Powers, Ms. Small and Ms. Fehrer submitted their scoring sheets prior to the meeting. There were five applications. He asked Ms. Atkinson to report on behalf of the committee.

**On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved 4 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to the following students Brooke Coleman, Tyler Harris, Cameron Moon and Leila Jones; and approved forwarding Ms. Jones' scholarship application to the VASWCD scholarship program.**

Ms. Atkinson gave an update on the following programs:

The District was asked to join (by a local non-profit) a social media platform called "Alignable", which appears to be an opportunity for small local businesses to connect. Ms. Atkinson reviewed the platform and then setup the District profile. Ms. Atkinson will monitor any requests and inquiries.

Ms. Atkinson and Mr. Smith finalized a program using the iSeek app for a scavenger hunt for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at PEMS and Fuqua School. The scavenger hunt program will run through May 5. Ms. Atkinson has begun her weekly garden classes at Sunrise School. She will be working with Envirothon teams and several upcoming classroom programs at PECHS agriculture classes.

**DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS**

**Staff reports (Attached)**

Ms. Fehrer shared the staff report. She reported she has worked on personnel evaluations and issues this month as well as preparing a draft 'Continuity of Operations' guidance which will provide instructions on the continuing of operations in the event the office building is damaged and operations will need to continue in another location.

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

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights on her report including upcoming deadlines and trainings.

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

Ms. Ciavarella reviewed her report. Under the EQIP funding, her office has one forest management application that is now under contract and one livestock/waterer application that has been pre-approved. Her office is conducting status reviews. NRCS recently reported that the CSP program now allows the planting of Loblolly pine tree species.

Mr. Evans reviewed his report including workload and upcoming deadlines. Mr. Smith has accompanied NRCS on several farm visits. The Inflation Reduction Act funding (IRA) is being rolled out and the office has received 15 applications.

#### Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

Ms. Gunn reported on several upcoming programs: Plant and Seed Swap, April 8; Pasture Walk on April 4 at the Vaughan farm in Burkeville; Pond Management workshops, April 11 in Goochland and May 2 in Amelia; Piedmont Jr. Livestock show. She reported the Amelia VCE office has approved 5 applications for Tobacco Commission Grant funding for Amelia producers and that there are three openings available for Nottoway producers. Applications are being taken on a first come first serve basis until funding is depleted.

Ms. Small reported the PE VCE office also has 3 openings for the Tobacco Commission Grant funding. She thanked the District for helping to sponsor the Farm Pond Workshop on April 21. There is a Farm Transition workshop on March 29 at the VCE office. Ms. Small shared photos and highlights from the PE Producer tour at VT. PSWCD was a sponsor. The producers toured state of the art facilities including meat processing, green houses, swine, dairy and brewing; and the soil testing lab.

#### Prince Edward County

Mr. Stanley reported that on April 3, there will be a regional county administrators meeting that will discuss the impacts and possible solutions to the local communities from the closure of the Tyson processing plant in Glen Allen, VA and the 75 growers in this region. Mr. Stanley asked for any data that might be helpful to the discussion. The County has been working on their social media platforms, specifically Facebook, and will share any posts from the District that highlight upcoming programs and events. The County is looking forward to the opening of a local meat processing plant that will also have counter sales to the public.

#### Nottoway County

Mr. Zody echoed the effects of the closure of Tyson growers in Nottoway County. According to the 2017 Ag Census, 86% of agriculture income in Nottoway was from the poultry industry. He also mentioned that Fort Pickett has been renamed Fort Barfoot, in honor of a WWII Medal of Honor recipient. The official renaming ceremony was held on March 24.

#### **ROUNDTABLE**

Ms. Crews announced she will not seek re-election for her Director seat. She also mentioned that North Carolina is testing new water monitoring technology at landfills.

Dr. Gee shared an upcoming workshop sponsored by Chesapeake Bay Scientific and Technology Advisory Committee (STAC) that will bring science based information about BMPS that can be installed to minimize the environmental impacts on the landscape from solar installations. The seminar will be offered in-person at George Mason University and also via zoom.

Mr. Whittington shared some other thoughts about the ramifications of the Tyson plant and grower closures. Corn growers will be impacted as the corn is used for poultry feed. Farm

equipment and materials for infrastructure may be impacted. There will be less applications of poultry litter that may be good for water quality, but may require changes in farmer's nutrient management plans. In summary, the effects in our District will be felt in many sectors of the community.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

**ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:**

Staff & partner reports;

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

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