



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
June 27, 2023 11:00 a.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
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Mackenzie Gunn – Associate Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Allison Crews – Director, Amelia County
Erin Small – VCE Appointed Director, Prince Edward County (not for quorum)
Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County & LU Environmental Science Prof.

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
Beverly Moon, Farm Service County Executive Director, Amelia
Aaron Vardell, Intern, Farm Service Agency
Jordan Rabon, NRCS, Private Lands Biologist
Gregg Zody, Nottoway County Planner

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

A regular meeting of the Piedmont SWCD Board of Directors was held at Prince Edward County Natural Resources and Agriculture building on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present. Beverly Moon introduced herself and her intern, Aaron Vardell. Her report is found under ‘Partner Agency Reports’ section of these minutes.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the May 23, 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 May 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – Presented by Mr. Rash. The Committee met prior to the board meeting.

On a motion by the Conservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS practice corrections of \$732.20 in CB FY23 funds and one tax credit (most of the corrections were acreage adjustments):

Iron Gate Farms, LLC.	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (598ac)	
05-23-0026 (525040)	Estimated Cost	\$ 1,136.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,136.00
	*Additional cost share to approve	\$ 396.00

*Approved in April at 370 ac. Plan written to include additional ac totaling 598 ac

Green Bluff Farm	NM-3C Sidedress App of N on Corn (183ac)	
05-23-0009 (525949)	Estimated Cost	\$ 1,952.61
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,098.00
	*Additional cost share to approve	\$ 66.00

*Approved in April as 172 ac. Increased ac due to addition corn planting

David Benson	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (463ac)	
05-23-0010 (508578)	Estimated Cost	\$ 926.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 926.00
	*Additional cost share to approve	\$ 25.40

*Approved in April at 450.3 ac. Plan written to include additional ac totaling 463ac

Brian Crowder	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (463ac)	
05-23-0046 (522464)	Estimated Cost	\$ 412.60
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 412.60
	*Additional cost share to approve	\$ 9.60

*Approved in April at 201.5 ac. Plan written to include additional ac totaling 206.3ac

Pride Farm	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (141.1ac)	
05-23-0050 (516846)	Estimated Cost	\$ 282.20
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 282.20
	*Additional cost share to approve	\$ 31.20

*Approved in October at 125.5 ac. Plan written to include additional ac totaling 141.1ac

Hoot Owl Hollow Farm	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (620ac)	
05-23-0034 (525043)	Estimated Cost	\$ 1,240.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,240.00
	*Additional cost share to approve	\$ 140.00

*Approved in March at 550 ac. Plan written to include additional ac totaling 620ac

David B. Lewis

05-23-0014 (508571)

NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing (185ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 370.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 370.00

***Additional cost share to approve \$ 64.00**

*Approved in August at 153 ac. Plan written to include additional ac totaling 185ac

Poor House Dairy

05-23-0044(526279)

SL-1 Longterm Veg. Cover on Cropland (43.2ac) (5Yr)

Actual Cost \$ 18,282.00

Cost-Share \$ 11,804.40

Tax Credit \$ 1,619.40 (TAX CREDIT ONLY)

***Original Tax Credit Approval \$623.70 (Above Tax Credit based on producers out of pocket cost).**

On a motion by the Conservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS applications (CB \$115,994.41 and OCB \$8,123.25) and tax credits:

Prince Edward (CB)**Perry Farm, Glenn Cooper**

05-23-0083 (529460)

SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (5000')

Estimated Cost \$ 51,600.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 49,020.00 (95%)

Estimated Buffer Payment \$ 11,200.00

Total Estimated Cost Share \$ 60,220.00

Neubauer Farms LLC

05-23-0028 (529536)

NM-5N Precision Nut. Mgmt. (87.3ac)

Estimated Cost \$ 931.50

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 698.40

Valerie Ferguson

05-22-0077 (475769)

SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer -TAX CREDIT ONLY

Total Cost \$ 25,066.50

Total Cost-Share \$ 22,900.63

Tax Credit \$ 541.47

05-22-0077 (475950)

WP-2N Stream w/Narrow Buffer -TAX CREDIT ONLY

Total Cost \$ 1,710.00

Total Cost Share \$ 678.30

Tax Credit \$ 257.93

Prince Edward (OCB)**Bassett Hound Estates, LLC**

05-23-0084 (529532)

CCI-SL-6W Maintenance Practice (5100')

Total Cost \$ 8,125.00

Total Cost Share \$ 8,123.25

Nottoway (CB)**Lee D Vaughan**

05-23-0055 (528499)

CCI-SL-6W Maintenance Practice (7100')

Total Cost \$ 10,125.00

Total Cost Share \$ 10,125.00

Pine Creek Farms LLC	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (4300')	
05-23-0078 (524969)	Estimated Cost	\$ 40,138.75
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 38,131.81 (95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$ 4,400.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 42,531.81

CREP

(526508)	CP 22 (6.8ac) Estimated Cost Share	\$ 340.00
(526509)	CRFR-3 (6.8ac) Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 7,480.00
(524977)	CRSL-6 (3350') Estimated Cost Share	\$ 23,960.00

Shepherd Grain Farm NM-5N Precision Nut. Mgmt. (302.4ac)

05-23-0041 (529590)	Estimated Cost	\$ 3,226.61
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 2,419.20

Amelia (CB)

Dunn Right Meadows	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer -TAX CREDIT ONLY	
05-22-0060 (471073)	Total Cost	\$ 15,395.18
	Total Cost-Share	\$ 15,094.86
	Tax Credit	\$ 75.08

Dunn Right Meadows	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer -TAX CREDIT ONLY	
05-22-0060 (469423)	Total Cost	\$ 61,600.00
	Total Cost-Share	\$ 50,394.12
	Tax Credit	\$ 2,801.47

On a motion by the Conservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 319 Residential Septic contract:

Spring Creek #16969**Approval**

Curtis V. Moore	RB-1 Conventional Septic System Pump-out	
05-23-0085 (529596)	Estimated Cost	\$ 400.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$ 200.00

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

Perry Farm CP 5-23-0015

Pine Creek Farms CP 5-23-0012

On a motion by the Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following conservation plan with Mr. Moyer leaving the room:

Oakmulgee Dairy Farm CP 5-23-0007

On a motion by the Conservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the VACS FY24 Cost List as presented (attached).

On a motion by the Conservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the VACS carryover list as presented with the exception of Oakmulgee Dairy Farm. (attached)

On a motion by the Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved carryover contract 05-23-0007 (instances 525708 and 526277) for Oakmulgee Dairy Farm, with Mr. Moyer leaving the room.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

On a motion by the Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the May 23, 2023 Finance Committee meeting minutes as presented.

On a motion by the Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the return of FY23 Chesapeake Bay allocated funding in the amount of \$567,978.13 to meet the 90% allocation obligation requirement and the return of FY23 VACS Technical Assistance funding of \$51,615.10, which is the proportional amount to be returned.

On a motion by the Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved DCR FY24 Cost Share Grant Agreement 503CSTA-24-34-GF in the amounts of \$2,728,447 in Chesapeake Bay funding, \$227,991 in Outside Chesapeake Bay funding and \$357,457 for technical assistance funding.

On a motion by the Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved DCR FY24 Operations/Dam Grant Agreement 503OPS-24-34-GF in the amounts of \$216,888 for operations and \$63,000 for dam maintenance funds. Ms. Collins pointed out several changes in the grants including the deadline for returning VACS funding to meet 90% will be June 15, 2024; and that the voluntary transfer process now requires assigned CDC's signature to authorize the transfer.

On a motion by the Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the FY24 Operational Budget in the amount of \$3,519,195 as presented (attached and details on file with budget workpapers). The budget includes the amounts from the above grant agreements as well as level funding from the three localities, 319 septic grant administrative funds and estimated equipment income. VACS technical assistance for budgeting purposes was calculated based on the predicted reduction in VACS allocation of \$1.5M in CB VACS – the amounts were calculated as \$80,250 base amount of funding (does not have to be returned regardless of how much VACS funding is obligated) plus \$136,428 calculated addition, using the return of \$1.5M VACS funding.

The allocation of anticipated expenditures includes:

VACS funding at grant approved levels; Dam maintenance at grant approved funding levels

Equipment program costs and storage at estimated equipment rental income

Operations (including technical assistance funds) which includes:

- Staff compensation and benefits include cost of living increases across the board; Merit bonus (2-5%); retirement savings bonus (5% of salary); cell phone stipends; staff vehicle, travel and training expense

- Budgeted funds for a potential change from a current part-time employee to full -time and a part-time position for admin/urban program support
- Budget line items for Office operations, IT costs, rent, director travel, dues, vehicle costs, equipment, upgrades to IT resources, program outreach expenses and human resource consultant services; education programming, soils trailer & scholarships (funding from localities)

On a motion by the Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the FY25 Budget Template (Attachment D – a grant deliverable) in the amount of \$ 514,875 in base funding and \$635,225 for increased funding as presented (attached). DCR provides the funding amounts of VACS for SWCDs to use in preparing their budget forecast. The amounts for central operations, dam technical assistance and CREP will be utilized in preparing FY25 & FY26 Admin/Ops allocations. A “Peer Review” committee (Piedmont is a member representing Area 5), will review all 47 submissions before final numbers are compiled by DCR. DCR utilizes the Attachment D in preparing their budget submission to the Governor.

On a motion by the Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a master agreement for human resources consulting services with Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. and a contract with Charlotte Jensen, HR Consulting Manager with Gallagher HR & Compensation Consulting. The contract with Ms. Jensen includes an hourly rate of \$330 with an estimate of no more than five (5) billable hours to review personnel policies and job descriptions for FLSA exempt/non-exempt guidance. Any additional work will include a separate scope of work contract to be approved by the Board.

PLANNING

Mr. Moyer received an email from Ms. Eck sharing that she will be selling her property and moving out of Nottoway. She submitted her resignation and thanked Mr. Moyer for the opportunity to serve on the PSWCD board. Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work upcoming workload for July.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

The contractor has installed remote monitoring stations at Buffalo # 1 and Buffalo #2 and both are receiving good communication signals. Ms. Fehrer has received a report from Bander Smith regarding the gate evaluations and will provide information to the board in July.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Chair Dillard

No report.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Rash reported the Legislative Tour hosted by PSWCD on June 13 and attended by DCR leadership, Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources and several other decision makers was successful. He attended the June 21 VASWCD Board meeting and reported the Legislative Committee is working on the FY24 Legislative Agenda. Solar energy use and infrastructure will be an item on the agenda. NVSWCD Director, Scott Cameron, is helping craft language for the agenda item which will be related to HB206. Mr. Rash, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Lynn Graves and other VASWCD leadership will be meeting with Dominion Energy to

discuss industrial solar installations and impacts. Mr. Zody reported that Nottoway County Planning Commission recently approved their new comprehensive plan, which includes a statement on solar. There will be a public hearing on July 20, 2023 specifically focusing on solar language in the plan before the plan is submitted to the Nottoway Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Gunn shared that Virginia Tech has created a GIS resource named “VA Energy Land Use Navigation” that will help localities in their land use planning. It includes designations of prime farmland, current solar projects, easements and many other helpful land use layers.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION - Chair Powers

Ms. Atkinson reported on the following activities:

- Information on the scholarship winners and poster contest has been submitted to local newspapers.
- Youth Conservation Leadership Institute student, Marina Morris, completed her project on water quality in local ponds. Ms. Atkinson thanked Ms. Gunn for serving as Ms. Morris’ mentor.
- Ms. Atkinson completed Project WILD facilitator training and is planning a teacher training on September 27, 2023.
- Piedmont SWCD had a display at the Amelia County fair.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer reported staff have been busy completing end of year payments and reporting. The office has processed over 50 payments during the last two bill paying cycles. Mr. Smith completed an intense soils and nutrient management training and will sit for his certification exam in August.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights on her report including upcoming deadlines and trainings. PSWCD has completed most all of the end of year requirements. DCR will host a virtual FY24 tracking program training on July 19 and July 26. SWCDs have a new Attorney General representative, Darrell Kuntz.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans provided updates on programs and application status. His office has been on several joint field visits with PSWCD staff. A new hire for the soil conservationist position in Farmville will be forthcoming. Ms. Ciavarella reported she and Mr. Rivera attended a week-long pastureland ecology training that was very valuable. She provided an update on program and application status.

Farm Service Agency (Attached)

Ms. Moon announced that County Committee elections will be held in August and asked that any interested Amelia residents who were involved in the agriculture industry contact her office. Her office is working on CRP and acreage reports. The Farmville FSA office is interviewing for a technician position.

USDA-Private Lands Biologist

Mr. Rabon completed bird nesting monitoring. He is working with Department of Wildlife Resources on a turkey brood survey and distributed survey sheets to those who are interested in recording any turkey sightings.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

VACS cost list; VACS carryover report; Attachment D budget template; FY24 budget; Staff & partner reports

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

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