



# Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District

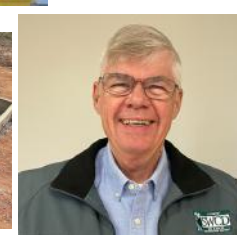
Serving Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties



## A Successful Year!

### Annual Report

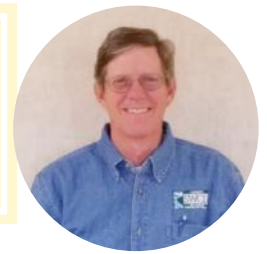
July 2022 - June 2023





# Greetings From the Chairman

## Larkin Moyer



Another record year for conservation! Our District approved over \$1.9M in agriculture cost share funding and completed over \$1.6M in projects. Read more in the report for how the funding helped soil health and water quality in our communities. Our staff continues to provide top notch service to our landowners, citizens and educators. Other water quality programs also had an impact - we provided \$58,000 to 18 homeowners to assist with septic pump outs and repairs, and our staff assisted 15 homeowners with recommendations to reduce erosion and encourage native plantings. Our District's mission is supported by our eight volunteer board members, four associate board members, seven employees, numerous partners, but most importantly - YOU - our citizens who participate in our programs and who advocate for improved water quality. Thanks to the cooperation of our farmers and citizens, and the hard work of our field staff, we continue to make successful progress toward water quality goals in Virginia. We hope you feel inspired after reading the highlights from our successful year.

## Conservation Awards



At the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual meeting, we were honored to recognize two citizens for their conservation work. John Shepherd of Nottoway County, was recognized as the Clean Water Farm Award for the Chowan Watershed. John has implemented numerous conservation practices on 3,200 acres of productive farm land.

Margaret Jones of Amelia County received the state wide Conservation Educator of the Year award. Ms. Jones has been teaching students about the importance of agriculture and conservation for over 42 years.



Juan Whittington and his family, owners of Featherstone Farm in Amelia County, were recognized for their contributions to agricultural conservation. Mr. Whittington was one of the first agricultural producers in Virginia to adopt no-till conservation.

## Now That's Dedication



Ricky Rash, Nottoway County elected director, received his 25 year service award pin.



Deanna Fehr, District Manager, received her 20 year service award.

## 2021 Milestones - Late but not Forgotten



Larkin Moyer, long-time PSWCD chairman, was recognized for 25 years of volunteer service with the District!



Charlie Wootton, Senior Conservation Specialist, completed his 15 years of conservation work at PSWCD!

*Collectively PSWCD Directors and Associate Directors bring over 140 years of experience and expertise to the District!*

# Agricultural Conservation

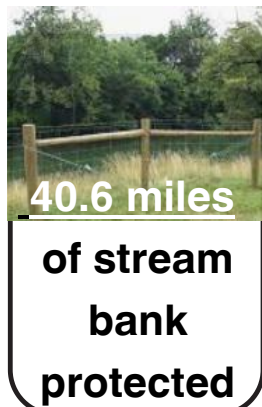
PSWCD administers state grant funds to agricultural producers who install, implement and maintain best management practices (BMPs) to improve soil and water quality. Certified and trained staff provide technical assistance free of charge regardless of a farmer's participation in our programs.

**\$1,912,707 cost share funds approved**

**164** Agricultural  
Best Management  
Practices Installed  
(BMP's)



## VACS (Virginia Agriculture Cost Share)



**505**  
Client Assists



## Residential Conservation

PSWCD provides state grant funding to homeowners for septic system pump outs, repairs and replacements and funding for correcting erosion problems. Call the office to find out if your home is located in an eligible watershed and learn how to add native plants to your landscape!

### Septic Assistance

- **\$59,220 paid to homeowners** to fix septic problems
- Completed: 18 septic pump outs, 8 replacements and 1 alternative septic installation



### Erosion & Native Plants

- Assisted 15 clients with erosion problems
- Provided native planting recommendations to homeowners
- Served as advisors on statewide Virginia Conservation Assistance Program Steering Committee



Thank you to our Health Department Partners!



# Watershed Dams

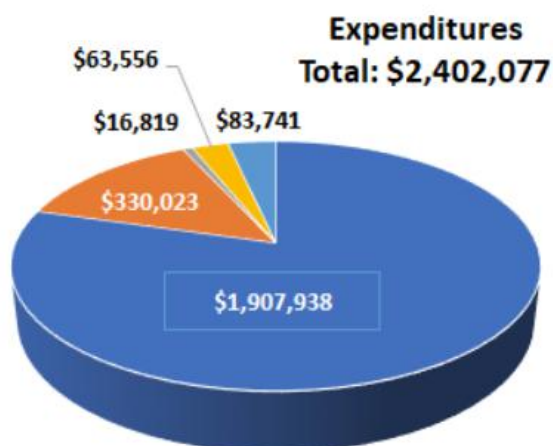
Piedmont SWCD is responsible for complying with Virginia's Dam Safety Regulations for 14 flood control structures in Prince Edward County. These dams were designed for watershed and flood protection.

- Conducted 43 site visits
- Performed 14 inspections
- Maintained 4 remote monitoring stations
- Completed 2 erosion and emergency spillway repairs
- Performed underwater inspection of 4 gate valves
- Held meeting for landowners



## Financial Overview

PSWCD operates primarily on a grant basis with funds from state and local governments. Our equipment rental program invests earnings back into the program. Our education programming is supported through small grants, local contributions and private donations. A successful independent financial audit was conducted.



**AG Cost Share Funds**

**Operations**

**Flood Control Dams**

**Septic Grants**

**Equipment Program and other grants**

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Piedmont Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR).

# Education Outreach, Partnerships & Traditions

Education is an important aspect to our vision of a productive community committed to the stewardship of our natural resources. This year we reached approximately **1,920** youth and adults through our various programs, exhibits at public events, media releases, social media, field days and workshops.

## Grew Knowledge

Weekly visits to Sunrise Learning Center brought Gardening 101 activities and lessons to the students



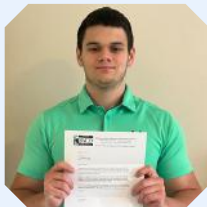
Square foot gardening

## Provided Academic Scholarships

**Awarded four (4) \$1,000 college scholarships**



Brooke Coleman (PE)  
Attending  
North Carolina State



Tyler Harris (PE)  
Attending Coastal  
Carolina University



Laila Jones (PE)  
Attending  
Virginia Wesleyan  
University



Camron Moon (Amelia)  
Attending Virginia Tech

## Inspired



## Participated in Envirothon

Since 1995, PSWCD has supported the Envirothon program by providing training materials, events and funding. This year we sponsored two teams:

Amelia County High School and Fuqua School.



L-R: AJ Walsh, Austin Stargardt, Courtney Georgopoulos, Lauren Easter, TJ Penny



L-R: Lars Andrews, Nathan Davis, Marina Morris, Rudee Atkinson, Nicholas Davis (coach), James Royal, Hayden Hodges (up top)

Envirothon is a natural resources competition for high school students.

Teams study and prepare to compete.

They also present solutions to a specific environmental issue.



# Education Traditions Continue

Education for youth and adults is a key initiative for Piedmont SWCD. Youth education includes classroom programs, the Envirothon program, camps, the poster contest, interactive displays, and scholarships to continue higher education. Adult education consists of exhibits at public events, newspaper releases, social media outreach, field days and workshops.

## Enhanced Field Trips



Prince Edward County MS 7th graders enjoyed "The Blue River" watershed activity at Bear Creek Lake SP



Youth learned about soil at 3rd grade Ag Days hosted by SPAREC

## Participated in Family Events



Vermicompost Workshop  
(pictured: Bryah & Braylon Holland)



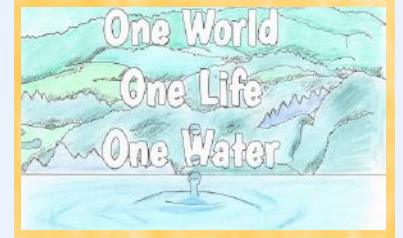
SPAREC Family & Farm Day

## Inspired Creativity

We received **460** Conservation Poster Contest entries!



Thank you to judge  
Rachel Ivers,  
LCVA Director



Grand winning poster  
drawn by Amelia HS 10th grader  
Ethan Russell



Prince Edward County Elementary School Winners:  
Back row L-R: Mrs. Jean Martin, Joseph Owenby Jr.,  
Cassidy Warbington, Eli Frederick, Addison Zirkle,  
Mrs. Joy Utzinger

Middle L-R: Daniel Sankar, Dalton Labosier, Scarlett Gaffney, Adeline Davino

Front row L-R: Piper Hennings, Emilia Pope,  
Kaidence Hatcher, Adalynn Mills



Fuqua School Winners: Back row L-R: Owen Baird,  
McKinley Towler, Lydia Hazlegrove, Jack Eggleston,  
Tucker Frank, Brady Shaver  
Front row L-R: Connor Amos, Wyatt Houston,  
Russell Clark, Chase Frank, Jaime Fifield,  
Charlotte Freitag

# Welcome A-Board

We welcomed two new Associate board members this year, Dr. Kathy Gee and Mackenzie Gunn.

Dr. Gee is a professor of Environmental Science at Longwood University and a resident of Nottoway County. She brings a wealth of stormwater education and experience to the Board.

Ms. Gunn is a resident of Amelia County and is the Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent for Virginia Cooperative Extension. Ms. Gunn has a background in plant sciences and pathology.



# Legislative Tour

We hosted a conservation tour for 15 State Legislators and DCR leaders. They visited a local farm that has been implementing conservation best management practices for decades and toured one of the District's managed watershed dams.



## Valued Partnerships

### STATE & FEDERAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

- USDA Farm Service Agency- Amelia and Farmville offices
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service-Amelia and Farmville offices
- VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation
- VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
- VA Dept. of Forestry
- VA Cooperative Extension - Erin Small, Mackenzie Gunn, Jake Morgan, LK Mondrey, Shelda Daniels
- VA Dept. of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- VA Forage & Grasslands Council
- VA Association of Environmental Education
- Virginia State Small Farm Outreach Program

### Vision Statement

The Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District envisions Amelia, Nottoway & Prince Edward Counties as areas committed to stewardship of its soil health & water quality.

### YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION

- ARKS for Parks
- Girl Scouts
- Amelia County High School
- Fuqua School
- Prince Edward Elementary
- Prince Edward High School
- Kenston Forest School
- Longwood University Design Lab
- Sunrise Learning Center
- Twin Lakes State Park
- Farmville Prince Edward Library
- Crewe Library

### POSTER CONTEST

- Jean Martin, Joy Utzinger-PECES
- Dawn Schmidt-Fuqua School
- Caroline Stargardt-AHS
- Audrey Sullivan-Fuqua School
- Longwood Center for Visual Arts

### MEDIA SUPPORT

- Amelia Bulletin-Monitor
- Farmville Herald
- Blackstone Courier Record
- WFLO
- WVHL

### LOCAL PARTNERS

Amelia, Nottoway, and Prince Edward County:

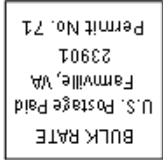
- Board of Supervisors
- Local Gov't-Administrative staff
- Farm Bureau Agencies
- Health Department staff
- Heart of VA Master Gardeners
- Central Piedmont Master Naturalists
- Middle James Roundtable
- Southern Piedmont Agriculture Research Extension Center

### Mission Statement

To identify and provide technical, educational, and financial resources to the citizens of Amelia, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties in order to promote the wise use and conservation of soil, water, and related resources.


**Thank you for your continued support.**





#### District Staff: (L-R)

**Ty Smith, Conservation Technician , Kevin Dunn, Conservation Specialist, Deanna Fehrer, District Manager, Charlie Wootton, Senior Conservation Specialist, Dennis Thompson, Watershed Dam Manager, Kelly Atkinson, Education Coordinator**  
**(not pictured: Chuck Fore, Equipment Program Manager)**

Office: (434) 392-3782  
Website: [www.piedmontswcd.org](http://www.piedmontswcd.org)  
Follow us on Facebook   
and  
 Instagram



#### Directors: (L-R)

Larkin Moyer, Chairman - Amelia County  
Allison Crews - Amelia County  
Bill Powers, Secretary - Prince Edward County  
Horace Adams - Prince Edward County  
Chuck Arnason, Treasurer - Nottoway County  
Ricky Rash, Vice Chair - Nottoway County  
Not pictured:  
Juan Whittington, At Large Appointed-Amelia Co.  
Erin Small, VCE Appointed - Prince Edward County

#### Associate Directors:

Gary Dillard - Amelia County (back right)  
Not pictured:  
Sarah Eck - Nottoway County  
Dr. Kathy Gee - Nottoway County  
Mackenzie Gunn, VCE - Amelia County