



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
August 29, 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
Erin Small – VCE Appointed Director, Prince Edward County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County & LU Environmental Science Prof.

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Mackenzie Gunn – Associate Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent

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
Brandy Harris, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Nottoway/Farmville
Tara Ciavarella, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia
Cristy Cook, Farm Service Agency County Executive Director, Nottoway/Prince Edward
Michele Terrell, Farm Service Agency Trainee
Doug Audley, Department of Forestry, Amelia

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, August 29, 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. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the July 25, 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 July 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS applications (CB \$197,116.85):

Participant	Contract	Nur BMP_ID	Practice	CoExt.	Authc	Unit	Total Est.	Costal Est.	Cost Share
Jean G Fowlkes	05-24-0014	544772	CCI-SL-6W	1250		Lin. Feet	\$3,062.50	\$3,062.50	
Alton B. Fowlkes	05-24-0015	544928	CCI-SL-6W	9000		Lin. Feet	\$14,500.00	\$14,500.00	
Triple Ridge Farm LLC	05-24-0020	559533	SL-8H	12.3		Acres	\$246.00	\$246.00	
Triple Ridge Farm LLC	05-24-0020	559534	SL-8B	148.2		Acres	\$11,768.00	\$11,768.00	
Green Bluff Farm, David Hooley	05-24-0025	559835	SL-8H	184.9		Acres	\$3,698.00	\$3,698.00	
Green Bluff Farm, David Hooley	05-24-0025	559836	NM-6	184.9		Acres	\$8,320.50	\$8,320.50	
Neubauer Farms LLC, James E Neubauer	05-24-0026	559837	SL-8B Rye	87.3		Acres	\$7,857.00	\$7,857.00	
Neubauer Farms LLC, James E Neubauer	05-24-0026	559838	NM-1A	87.3		Acres	\$174.60	\$174.60	
Iron Gate Farms, LLC	05-24-0027	559839	SL-8B Rye	370		Acres	\$33,300.00	\$33,300.00	
Jesse W Yeatts	05-24-0013	559840	CCI-WP-4	1		Count	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00	
Soap Stone Ridge LLC, Andrew O Jordan	05-24-0029	559841	CCI-SL-6W	5119		Lin. Feet	\$7,648.75	\$7,648.75	
David A Ashman	05-24-0022	559093	SL-8B	6		Acres	\$1,200.00	\$420.00	
David A Ashman	05-24-0022	559097	SL-8H	34.8		Acres	\$6,960.00	\$696.00	
John C Ashman	05-24-0021	559107	SL-8B	497.7		Acres	\$34,839.00	\$34,839.00	
John C Ashman	05-24-0021	559957	SL-8H	56.5		Acres	\$1,130.00	\$1,130.00	
Hard Acres Farm	05-24-0023	559477	SL-8B	230.6		Acres	\$16,142.00	\$16,142.00	
R.M. Watkins & Sons Inc.	05-24-0030	559928	NM-6	416.7		Acres	\$18,751.50	\$18,751.50	
Frank Clowdis	05-24-0032	560027	SL-8B Rye	68.2		Acres	\$6,138.00	\$6,138.00	
Andy Clowdis	05-24-0031	559975	SL-8B Rye	211.1		Acres	\$18,999.00	\$18,999.00	
Frank Anderson	05-24-0019	556148	FR-3	1.2		Acres	\$3,480.00	\$3,426.00	
Frank Anderson	05-24-0019	556187	CCI-SE-1	800		Acres	\$400.00	\$400.00	

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS application 05-24-0011 (CB \$51,302.00) with Mr. Moyer leaving the room:

Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	538423	SL-8B	437.6	Acres	\$30,632.00	\$30,632.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	538424	WQ-4	200	Acres	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	538425	NM-6	200	Acres	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	538427	SL-8H	133.5	Acres	\$2,670.00	\$2,670.00

The following FSA conservation plans were signed by staff:
Douglas Farley and Bettie Foster

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 319 Septic Applications (\$7,040.00) for Grant #16969 Spring Creek/PE watersheds:

Frank Derrenbacker	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out		
05-24-0018 (555842)	Estimated Cost	\$	400.00
	Estimated Cost Share (90%)	\$	360.00
William Hodge	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out		
05-24-0012 (542065)	Estimated Cost	\$	400.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$	200.00
Jesse Beiler	RB-4P Conventional Onsite Septic System Repair/Replace w/ Pump		
05-24-0017 (550095)	Estimated Cost	\$	12,000.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$	6,000.00
Jesse Yeatts	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out		
05-24-0013 (542078)	Estimated Cost	\$	400.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$	200.00
John Smith	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out		
05-24-0024 (557603)	Estimated Cost	\$	400.00
	Estimated Cost Share (70%)	\$	280.00

Conservation staff recommended submitting a Clean Water Farm Award application for Glenn View Farm in Prince Edward County. The Board unanimously supported. The completed application will be submitted for official approval in September.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the dedicated funding amounts and designated uses to be carried forward into FY24. (See attached)

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the contract with Gropen, LLC in the amount of \$19,4550 for completion of the final designs and construction of the mobile education trailer.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the contract (pending certificates of insurance) with Dwayne Shores for beaver management for one year at a rate of \$150 setup fee/dam and \$100 charge for each beaver trapped, with work orders being issued during each trapping cycle.

An updated inventory list of PSWCD equipment, furniture and other property was reviewed and is on file at the office.

PLANNING

Ms. Collins reviewed the DCR FY23 grant assessments for both operations and VACS. PSWCD scored “A’s” on all grant deliverables. (attached)

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work accomplishments for August and upcoming workload for September.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported Charles Wilson, DCR Dam Engineer for districts, accompanied Mr. Thompson on site visits to assist with some technical issues on a couple of remote monitoring units. A sensor needs to be replaced on one of the units.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Chair Dillard

No report.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Rash reported the VASWCD Legislative Committee will meet September 5, 2023 at 1:00pm to prepare the 2024 Legislative Agenda. Last month after the board meeting, he met with Dominion Energy management and other VASWCD members to discuss solar projects, VA's Clean Economy Act, and solar impacts to natural resources and changing land use. Southside VA has numerous acres of land that solar companies are eyeing and the area could be considered the epicenter of the industry. Many factors would need to be considered including installation of infrastructure to transmit energy, changes in land use, mitigate tactics, and much more. There was also discussion of the General Assembly possibly limiting localities' ordinances and local control over land use for solar projects.

Mr. Rash also reported there may be future charges of a retainer fee per SWCD for services of the Office of Attorney General, due to the overload of requests coming from a small group of districts.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION - Chair Powers

Ms. Atkinson gave out a new PSWCD sticker for everyone and the newly printed VACS brochure. She shared a thank you note from Julia King, a student who attended Youth Conservation Camp. The annual report is at the printers. Ms. Atkinson highlighted her "Conservation Matters" themed cards for teachers that she is distributing at upcoming meetings with teachers. She will be advertising the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute program and is beginning to schedule/plan programming with the Farmville Library and Sunrise Learning Center. Mr. Moyer thanked Ms. Atkinson for all her work in education.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer reported that the conservation staff will accompany DCR on BMP spot checks next week and that the staff is working on 'end of lifespan' verifications. Staff had a successful training at Graves Mtn employee training last week.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights on her report including upcoming deadlines and trainings. FY24 1st quarter disbursements will be deposited in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Collins reminded directors of their COIA training requirement and that it will be offered at the Annual Meeting this year.

Farm Service Agency (Attached)

Ms. Cook introduced Ms. Terrell who is enrolled in the FSA Executive Director training program and is working in the Farmville office on a regular schedule. Ms. Terrell provided the report for the Nottoway/Farmville office. Current workload includes file management, preparing year end reporting and planning for the beginning of the new program year. The office will get a new employee, A.J. Austin, who will begin September 11. Several local upcoming outreach events are being planned in partnership with other agencies.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans shared his report and introduced Brandy Harris, recently hired Soil Conservationist in the Farmville office. Mr. Evans is enrolled in the Virginia Natural Resource Leadership Institute program. He and Mr. Smith attended the VCE “Fireside Chat” with farmers in Prince Edward county.

Ms. Ciaverella reviewed her report. She has received final signatures on three CRP contracts.

Department of Forestry, Amelia

Mr. Audley reported that DOF is working with landowners on their annual spraying program. He announced he will be working a limited schedule until the end of the year and is planning for upcoming retirement.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Small reported she has been busy with many projects including “Fireside Chat with a Farmer”, pond weed training, blackberry research, cut flower research and assisting with several upcoming VCE programs. She will begin a weekly ‘animal science’ spotlight with radio station WFLO. Upcoming programs include VCE/VT Fall Forestry and Wildlife field tour on October 12 in Mecklenburg; Dairy Day on September 30; Better Together program on October 7; Family Farm Day, September 9; Cattlewise Program for Women in December at Graves Mtn. She has been working with Prince Edward County High School to bring in speakers for the Ag/Hort classes and has arranged a field trip for Hampden Sydney College students at a local farm.

Several programs with VCE in Amelia include: Estate planning/LLC workshop September 7; Field Days of the Past September 15; Pesticide Collection September 27; Pond Management workshop October 4.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Treasurer report; Contracts; Dedicated Funds; Inventory List; FY23 Grant Assessments; Staff & partner reports

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

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