



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia
September 26, 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
Horace Adams- Director, Prince Edward County
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County & LU Environmental Science Prof.

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Charles “Chuck” Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Treasurer
Erin Small – VCE Appointed Director, Prince Edward County
Mackenzie Gunn – Associate Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent
Tara Ciavarella, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia

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
Cristy Cook, Farm Service Agency County Executive Director, Nottoway/Prince Edward
A.J. Austin, Farm Service Agency Technician, Nottoway/Prince Edward
Doug Stanley, Prince Edward County Administrator

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, September 26, 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 August 29, 2023 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the August 2023 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following tax credit:

Blendon Farm, Inc.	Total Actual Cost	\$45,110.50
05-23-0080 (525717)	Total Cost Share	\$38,462.20
	Tax Credit Basis	\$ 6,648.30
	Tax Credit	\$ 1,662.08

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY24 VACS applications: (CB \$769,130.25); (OCB \$ 227,379.00); Tax Credit (OCB \$1,560.00):

Participant	Contract Number	BMP_ID	Practice Code	Extent Authorized	Total Estimated Cost	Est. Cost Share Payment
John C Ashman	05-24-0021	568951	WQ-4	140.1 Acres	\$6,304.50	\$6,304.50
John C Ashman	05-24-0021	570532	SL-8B	25.1 Acres	\$1,757.00	\$1,757.00
Soap Stone Ridge LLC, Andrew O Jordan	05-24-0029	571610	SL-6W	2100 Lin Ft	\$28,400.00	\$26,980.00
R. M. Watkins & Sons, Inc.	05-24-0030	570355	NM-6	337.5 Acres	\$15,187.50	\$15,187.50
R. M. Watkins & Sons, Inc.	05-24-0030	570357	SL-8H	366.3 Acres	\$7,326.00	\$7,326.00
R. M. Watkins & Sons, Inc.	05-24-0030	570390	SL-8B	153.7 Acres	\$80,759.00	\$80,759.00
R. M. Watkins & Sons, Inc.	05-24-0030	570411	WQ-4	134.4 Acres	\$6,048.00	\$6,048.00
James M Schenck	05-24-0033	568952	SL-8B	248.3 Acres	\$17,381.00	\$17,381.00
Linda Poore	05-24-0034	568954	SL-8B	133.1 Acres	\$11,979.00	\$11,979.00
Vaughan Cattle Co, LLC	05-24-0036	570471	SL-8H	198.8 Acres	\$3,976.00	\$3,976.00
Vaughan Cattle Co, LLC	05-24-0036	570478	SL-8B	180.2 Acres	\$12,614.00	\$12,614.00
Vaughan Cattle Co, LLC	05-24-0036	570482	WQ-4	397.6 Acres	\$17,892.00	\$17,892.00
David B Lewis	05-24-0037	570647	SL-8B	189.6 Acres	\$13,272.00	\$13,272.00
David B Lewis	05-24-0037	570649	NM-1A	189.6 Acres	\$379.20	\$379.20
Anthony Lewis	05-24-0038	570650	SL-8B	171 Acres	\$11,970.00	\$11,970.00
Anthony Lewis	05-24-0038	570651	NM-1A	171 Acres	\$342.00	\$342.00
James W Garnett, Jr.	05-24-0039	570657	SL-8B	116.6 Acres	\$8,162.00	\$8,162.00
James W Garnett, Jr.	05-24-0039	570661	NM-1A	116.6 Acres	\$233.20	\$233.20
Pride Farm of Amelia LLC	05-24-0040	570701	SL-8B	144.7 Acres	\$13,023.00	\$13,023.00
Pride Farm of Amelia LLC	05-24-0040	570703	NM-1A	144.7 Acres	\$289.40	\$289.40
Brian T Crowder	05-24-0041	570710	SL-8B	77.4 Acres	\$5,418.00	\$5,418.00
Brian T Crowder	05-24-0041	570734	WQ-4	126.9 Acres	\$5,710.50	\$5,710.50
Brian T Crowder	05-24-0041	570744	NM-1A	204.3 Acres	\$408.60	\$408.60
Dexter Jones	05-24-0042	570746	SL-8B	250.3 Acres	\$22,527.00	\$22,527.00
Dexter Jones	05-24-0042	570748	NM-1A	250.3 Acres	\$500.60	\$500.60
David B Benson	05-24-0043	570803	SL-8B	424 Acres	\$29,680.00	\$29,680.00
David B Benson	05-24-0043	570805	SL-8H	16.8 Acres	\$336.00	\$336.00
David B Benson	05-24-0043	570806	NM-1A	440.8 Acres	\$881.60	\$881.60
Henrico Farms Inc.	05-24-0044	570809	SL-8B	203.7 Acres	\$14,259.00	\$14,259.00
Henrico Farms Inc.	05-24-0044	570810	NM-1A	203.7 Acres	\$407.40	\$407.40
Whitaker Farms Inc.	05-24-0045	570856	SL-8B	92.6 Acres	\$6,482.00	\$6,482.00
Whitaker Farms Inc.	05-24-0045	570858	SL-8H	37.9 Acres	\$758.00	\$758.00
Blanton Farms LC	05-24-0047	571235	SL-8B	119.5 Acres	\$8,365.00	\$8,365.00
Blanton Farms LC	05-24-0047	571272	SL-8H	37.4 Acres	\$748.00	\$748.00
Blanton Farms LC	05-24-0047	571276	NM-1A	156.9 Acres	\$313.80	\$313.80
William B Ford	05-24-0048	571420	NM-1A	80.1 Acres	\$160.20	\$160.20
William B Ford	05-24-0048	571389	SL-8B	80.1 Acres	\$5,607.00	\$5,607.00
Reamford Farms LLC	05-24-0050	571463	SL-8B	275.7 Acres	\$24,813.00	\$24,813.00
Reamford Farms LLC	05-24-0050	571464	SL-8H	42.9 Acres	\$858.00	\$858.00
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm, Inc	05-24-0051	571517	SL-8H	311.1 Acres	\$6,222.00	\$6,222.00
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm, Inc	05-24-0051	571518	SL-8B	140.5 Acres	\$9,835.00	\$9,835.00
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm, Inc	05-24-0051	571519	NM-1A	451.6 Acres	\$903.20	\$903.20
Nicholas Moody	05-24-0053	571555	SL-8B	207.2 Acres	\$14,504.00	\$14,504.00
Triple R Dairy, LLC.	05-24-0054	571558	SL-8B	59.4 Acres	\$4,158.00	\$4,158.00
Triple R Dairy, LLC.	05-24-0054	571559	SL-8H	353.6 Acres	\$7,072.00	\$7,072.00
Shepherd Grain Farms L.L.C, John P Shep	05-24-0055	571598	SL-8B	959.8 Acres	\$86,382.00	\$86,382.00
Shepherd Grain Farms L.L.C, John P Shep	05-24-0055	571599	NM-1A	959.8 Acres	\$1,919.60	\$1,919.60
Isaac Grissom	05-24-0056	571601	SL-8B	292.8 Acres	\$26,352.00	\$26,352.00
Isaac Grissom	05-24-0056	571602	NM-1A	292.8 Acres	\$585.60	\$585.60
Jon Ranck	05-24-0057	571603	SL-8B	108.8 Acres	\$9,792.00	\$9,792.00
Jon Ranck	05-24-0057	571604	SL-8H	198.9 Acres	\$3,978.00	\$3,978.00
Jon Ranck	05-24-0057	571605	NM-1A	307.7 Acres	\$615.40	\$615.40
Dwayne D Moore	05-24-0058	571606	SL-8B	300.8 Acres	\$21,056.00	\$21,056.00
Dwayne D Moore	05-24-0058	571607	SL-8H	53 Acres	\$1,060.00	\$1,060.00
Dwayne D Moore	05-24-0058	571608	NM-1A	353.8 Acres	\$707.60	\$707.60
Collin Tyler Wolfe	05-24-0059	571611	SL-8B	147 Acres	\$13,230.00	\$13,230.00
Collin Tyler Wolfe	05-24-0059	571612	SL-8H	108.7 Acres	\$2,174.00	\$2,174.00
Collin Tyler Wolfe	05-24-0059	571613	NM-1A	255.7 Acres	\$511.40	\$511.40

Ameva Farm	05-24-0067	572412	NM-6	84.1	Acres	\$3,784.50	\$3,784.50
Ameva Farm	05-24-0067	572392	SL-8B	188.4	Acres	\$13,188.00	\$13,188.00
Ameva Farm	05-24-0067	572409	SL-8H	84.1	Acres	\$1,682.00	\$1,682.00
George Toth	05-24-0064	571721	NM-1A	293.2	Acres	\$586.40	\$586.40
George Toth	05-24-0064	571716	SL-8B	227.7	Acres	\$15,939.00	\$15,939.00
George Toth	05-24-0064	571718	SL-8H	65.5	Acres	\$1,310.00	\$1,310.00
Easter Design	05-24-0068	572676	NM-1A	2013.9	Acres	\$4,027.80	\$4,027.80
Easter Design	05-24-0068	572673	SL-8B	938.1	Acres	\$84,429.00	\$84,429.00
Easter Design	05-24-0068	572674	SL-8B	499.4	Acres	\$34,958.00	\$34,958.00
Easter Design	05-24-0068	572675	SL-8H	576.4	Acres	\$11,528.00	\$11,528.00
Jimmy Gates	05-24-0065	572389	FR-1	9	Acres	\$1,575.00	\$2,531.25

OCB VACS 2024							
John C Bledsoe	05-24-0049	571427	SL-6W			\$42,700.00	\$44,565.00
John C Bledsoe	05-24-0049	571552	SL-8B	147.4	Acres	\$13,266.00	\$13,266.00
Harrison Moody	05-24-0052	571553	SL-8B	296.5	Acres	\$20,755.00	\$20,755.00
Nicholas Moody	05-24-0053	571554	SL-8B	27	Acres	\$1,890.00	\$1,890.00
Triple R Dairy, LLC.	05-24-0054	571557	SL-8B	159.5	Acres	\$11,165.00	\$11,165.00
Shepherd Grain Farms L.L.C, John P Shep	05-24-0055	571597	SL-8B	1508.2	Acres	\$135,738.00	\$135,738.00
Triple R Dairy, LLC.	05-24-0054	571556	SL-8H	31.2	Acres	\$6,240.00	\$0.00

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS application (CB24 \$84,067.60) with Mr. Whittington leaving the room:

Featherstone Farm	05-24-0060	571614	SL-8B	514.8	Acres	\$36,036.00	\$36,036.00
Featherstone Farm	05-24-0060	571615	SL-8H	169.7	Acres	\$3,394.00	\$3,394.00
Featherstone Farm	05-24-0060	571616	WQ-4	517.9	Acres	\$23,305.50	\$23,305.50
Featherstone Farm	05-24-0060	571617	NM-1A	1558.6	Acres	\$3,117.20	\$3,117.20
Featherstone Farm	05-24-0060	571618	NM-4	356.2	Acres	\$1,602.90	\$1,602.90
Featherstone Farm	05-24-0060	571619	NM-5P	1558.6	Acres	\$12,468.80	\$12,468.80
Featherstone Farm	05-24-0060	571620	NM-5N	517.9	Acres	\$4,143.20	\$4,143.20

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

NRCS (1) Amelia CRP
Signed by Staff (1) Amelia CRP

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following 319 Septic Application for Grant #16970 Flat Creek, etc. watersheds:

Benjamin Perry RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out
05-24-0035 (570117) Estimated Cost \$ 400.00
Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 200.00

On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved submitting Glenn View Farms/Daniel Glenn, Jr. as the DCR Clean Water Farm Award.

On a motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved awarding Roger Pinholster with the Conservation Educator award.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved Charles Arnason, Richard Rash and Deanna Fehrer as signatures on a new Certificate of Deposit savings account.

PLANNING

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the resignation of Erin Small, PE VCE agent who is transferring to the

VCE office in Goochland County. Ms. Gunn is contacting her supervisors at VCE to get approval to serve as the appointed VCE agent for PSWCD board.

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work accomplishments for September and upcoming workload for October. The draft schedule for the VASWCD Annual Meeting was passed around and Ms. Fehrer will complete the registration for those who want to attend. Early bird registration is due by October 13, 2023.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Chair Dillard

Mr. Dillard reported the human resources consultant has completed the review of the District's personnel policy and job descriptions and Ms. Fehrer will be working on a draft of changes for the board to approve.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

Ms. Fehrer reported the trapping contractor has trapped 10 beavers at Bush #2 and will begin trapping at Bush #5 & #6 dams. The fall mowing will be delayed because of the rain this past weekend.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Rash reported the following:

- District admin/ops funding was fully funded for only one year and that the budget template submissions for funding requests increased significantly.
- Surplus state funding was deposited into the WQIF and will provide an additional \$76M of VACS for FY24 with the remainder available in FY25.
- The VASWCD Board will meet tomorrow.
- The VA Clean Energy Act supports more solar energy installations and there are conversations that the General Assembly may act upon legislation that would limit locality authority in planning for solar land use.
- Nottoway County will be hiring a new county administrator. Philip Vannoorbeeck, the Blackstone Town Manager, is currently the acting administrator.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION - Chair Powers

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved \$150 for the sponsorship of a small ruminant program being organized by Amelia VCE to be held on November 30 at SPAREC.

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved \$500 for support of an outdoor classroom/garden at Amelia Academy. Amelia Academy has a new science teacher who submitted a letter of request after she learned about the previous outdoor classroom grants that PSWCD provided to local schools over the past couple of years.

Ms. Atkinson invited everyone to participate in "The Crunch Heard Around the Commonwealth" on October 5, by taking a bite out of a locally grown apple. The 'Project Wild' workshop that will be held on September 27 has 21 registered attendees and Ms. Atkinson is partnering with Amelia 4H agent, LK Mondrey, and Roger Pinholster to facilitate the workshop. The Ward Burton Foundation will be bringing their wildlife trailer to the workshop. Ms. Atkinson will be meeting with Amelia Elementary third grade teacher team about resources the District can provide and she will kick-off the Envirothon season soon.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Staff reports (Attached)

Most items were covered under committee reports. Additionally, she reported the conservation staff completed 41 ‘end of lifespan’ verifications. Mr. Smith is completing several final training sessions which includes: Grazing Plans; RUSLE2; Conservation Planning and Introduction to Conservation Engineering.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights on her report including upcoming deadlines and trainings. 1099 forms are now required to be filed electronically and DCR is working to modify the tracking program to accommodate the IRS requirement and will also provide training on the process.

Farm Service Agency (Attached)

Ms. Cook introduced Mr. Austin who has been hired as a Program Technician working in the Farmville office. There has been no official word on a possible federal government shutdown. The office has been finalizing end of year work.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans shared his report. His office has obligated all general CSP contracts. His office has been participating in several outreach events.

Prince Edward County

Mr. Stanley reported that the DEQ withdrawal permit for Sandy River Reservoir is being finalized. Trees on the slopes of the emergency spillway at Sandy River Reservoir have been removed. The County is beginning to work on their comprehensive plan and will be soliciting input from the District in regards to agriculture and environmental issues. There has been significant interest in solar installations on properties in the county. Plans for a meat processing facility have been finalized and they hope to break ground soon. Several potential commercial operations located near PE Agriculture building are moving through the approval process, and these include Wawa, a carwash and Harbor Freight.

Longwood University

Dr. Kathy Gee reported her students have completed the first round of rain water harvesting water testing and will complete the second round in December. The data will be shared after it is finalized.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Treasurer report; VCE Resignation letter; CWFA; Staff & partner reports

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

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