



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia  
October 24, 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  
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County & Longwood University Faculty  
Mackenzie Gunn – Associate Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent

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

Tyler Smith – PSWCD Conservation Technician  
Cristy Cook, Farm Service Agency County Executive Director, Nottoway/Prince Edward

**PSWCD Staff Present:**

Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist  
Kevin Dunn – Conservation Specialist  
Deanna Fehrer - District Manager  
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  
Doug Stanley, Prince Edward County Administrator

**Guests:**

Dr. James Gates  
Walter Brown

**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 on Tuesday, October 24, 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. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the September 26, 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 September 2023 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.**

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following tax credits:**

**Tax Credits**

Timothy Mark Orr	Total Actual Cost	\$31,247.24
05-22-0065 (469742 SL-6)	Total Cost Share	\$22,213.28
	Tax Credit Basis	\$ 9,033.96
	Tax Credit	\$ 2,258.49

	Total Actual Cost	\$ 7,024.16
05-22-0065 (469743 SL-7)	Total Cost Share	\$ 5,191.43
	Tax Credit Basis	\$ 1,832.73
	Tax Credit	\$ 458.18

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY24 VACS applications (CB \$244,159.65)**

Participant	Contract #	Instance	Practice	Extent Requested		Total Est. Cost	Est Cost Share	
Ameva Farm, Jimmy Kerr	05-24-0067	578509	CCI-SL-6W	29650	Lin. Feet	\$39,812.50	\$39,812.50	
Ameva Farm, Jimmy Kerr	05-24-0067	578517	SL-6W	2000	Lin. Feet	\$12,675.00	\$12,373.75	
Ameva Farm, Jimmy Kerr	05-24-0067	577261	SL-8B	34.3	Acres	\$2,401.00	\$2,401.00	
Anthony Lewis	05-24-0038	570650	SL-8B	18	Acres	\$5,040.00	\$5,040.00	Add. Ac+ Rye
Anthony Lewis	05-24-0038	570651	NM-1A	18	Acres	\$36.00	\$36.00	Additional Ac
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-24-0077	579107	SL-8H	104.9	Acres	\$2,098.00	\$2,098.00	
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-24-0077	579108	SL-8B	83.9	Acres	\$5,873.00	\$5,873.00	
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-24-0077	579113	WQ-4	634.1	Acres	\$28,534.50	\$28,534.50	
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-24-0077	579115	NM-6	334	Acres	\$15,030.00	\$15,030.00	
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-24-0077	579116	NM-6	408.7	Acres	\$18,391.50	\$18,391.50	
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-24-0077	579140	NM-1A	822.9	Acres	\$3,291.60	\$3,291.60	
Brian T Crowder	05-24-0041	578267	SL-8B	17	Acres	\$1,190.00	\$1,190.00	
David B Lewis	05-24-0037	570647	SL-8B	18	Acres	\$5,412.00	\$5,412.00	Add. Ac+ Rye
David B Lewis	05-24-0037	570649	NM-1A	18	Acres	\$60.60	\$60.60	Additional Ac
David Waldrop	05-24-0070	576195	SL-8B	12.3	Acres	\$1,107.00	\$1,107.00	
Fox Den Farms LLC, John L Roberts, Jr.	05-24-0074	578570	SL-8H	35.8	Acres	\$716.00	\$716.00	
Fox Den Farms LLC, John L Roberts, Jr.	05-24-0074	578571	NM-1A	35.8	Acres	\$71.60	\$71.60	
Francis L Farmer	05-24-0071	577361	FR-1	12	Acres	\$2,100.00	\$3,375.00	
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm, Inc	05-24-0051	571518	SL-8B	31.6	Acres	\$2,212.00	\$2,212.00	Additional Ac
James R. Austin, Jr.	05-24-0081	579145	SL-8B	68	Acres	\$4,760.00	\$4,760.00	
James R. Austin, Jr.	05-24-0081	579146	NM-1A	68	Acres	\$136.00	\$136.00	
Jason Geesaman	05-24-0080	579141	SL-8H	21.3	Acres	\$426.00	\$426.00	
Jason Geesaman	05-24-0080	579143	SL-8B	11.4	Acres	\$798.00	\$798.00	
Jason Geesaman	05-24-0080	579144	NM-1A	82.8	Acres	\$331.20	\$331.20	

Muddy Boots Family Farm LLC, Sara Moyer	05-24-0069	576032	CCI-SL-6W	3180	Lin. Feet	\$5,225.00	\$5,225.00	
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-24-0079	579132	SL-8H	4.1	Acres	\$82.00	\$82.00	
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-24-0079	579134	SL-8B	131.4	Acres	\$9,198.00	\$9,198.00	
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-24-0079	579135	WQ-4	221.9	Acres	\$9,985.50	\$9,985.50	
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-24-0079	579136	NM-6	62	Acres	\$2,790.00	\$2,790.00	
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-24-0079	579137	NM-6	164	Acres	\$7,380.00	\$7,380.00	
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-24-0079	579138	NM-1A	357.4	Acres	\$1,429.60	\$1,429.60	
Richard Goode	05-24-0072	578276	SL-8B	195.4	Acres	\$15,040.00	\$15,040.00	
Richard Goode	05-24-0072	578278	SL-8H	28	Acres	\$560.00	\$560.00	
Richard Goode	05-24-0072	578580	NM-1A	223.4	Acres	\$446.80	\$446.80	
Richlands Dairy Farm	05-24-0076	578980	SL-8B	103.5	Acres	\$7,245.00	\$7,245.00	
Richlands Dairy Farm	05-24-0076	578981	NM-6	47.9	Acres	\$2,155.50	\$2,155.50	
Robert F. Martin	05-24-0073	578279	SL-8B	110.5	Acres	\$9,945.00	\$9,945.00	
Robert F. Martin	05-24-0073	578280	NM-1A	110.5	Acres	\$221.00	\$221.00	
Whitaker Farms Inc.	05-24-0045	578977	SL-8B	183	Acres	\$7,320.00	\$7,320.00	
Whitaker Farms Inc.	05-24-0045	570856	SL-8B	86.6	Acres	\$6,062.00	\$6,062.00	Additional Ac
Windy Springs Farm LLC	05-24-0075	578574	SL-8H	51.5	Acres	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00	
Windy Springs Farm LLC	05-24-0075	578576	SL-8B	62	Acres	\$4,340.00	\$4,340.00	
Windy Springs Farm LLC	05-24-0075	578577	NM-1A	113.5	Acres	\$227.00	\$227.00	

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

**Nottoway**

Robert Morris BMP, CP-5-24-0002

**Amelia**

AMEVA Farms BMP, CP05-24-0067

Mr. Wootton reported the VACS contract 05-24-0003, instance 537987, approved in July 2024, had the first well dug and it was dry. There is enough funding in the original approval to cover the costs of a dry well. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the inclusion of the dry well costs in the project.**

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following cancellation for 319 Septic Grant #16969 Spring Creek, etc. due to the applicant is now deceased and the home was destroyed in a recent fire:**

<b>Frank Derrenbacker</b>	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out		
05-24-0018 (555842)	Estimated Cost	\$	400.00
	Estimated Cost Share (90%)	\$	360.00

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Chair Arnason

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board authorized the Finance Committee to purchase a vehicle through either the state vehicle contracts or local car dealerships, whichever is most economical.** Ms. Fehrer reported the vehicle will replace the 2007 Ford Explorer which has over 160,000 miles. Currently our insurance policy will only cover \$1,000 if there is a claim. The new vehicle will need to have 4WD and a factory installed towing package. Ms. Fehrer also reported that she and Mr. Arnason received information

regarding the state's Risk Management Program and they are researching insurance policies to ensure that if the District enrolls in that program there will be adequate coverage.

### **PLANNING**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved Ms. Gunn to serve as the appointed VCE agent for the PSWCD Board.** Ms. Gunn will submit the paperwork that will be forwarded to DCR for formal approval at the State Soil & Water Conservation Board meeting in December.

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work upcoming workload for November and December.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** - Chair Dillard

Mr. Dillard reported Ms. Fehrer will send out draft changes to the Personnel Policy and Job Descriptions for board action in November.

### **WATERSHED** - Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported Bander Smith provided estimates for the gate repairs that they had previously inspected. The estimates ranged from \$40,000 - \$60,000 per dam. Ms. Fehrer has submitted a funding request to DCR for all four repairs. Bander Smith may be the sole source contractor for the repair. As funding gets approved, the staff will proceed with contract procurement.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** - Chair Rash

Mr. Rash reported the draft VASWCD Legislative Agenda (attached) is basically similar to past years, with requests for additional funding for district operations, dams and cost share. There may be an addition to the agenda to include the issue of solar siting and locality authority.

### **COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION** - Chair Powers

Ms. Atkinson reported she has been busy with schools, especially in Amelia. She has met with several teacher teams at the elementary and middle schools to plan programming. She represented the District at Amelia Academy Dairy Day, where she demonstrated water runoff and BMPs to reduce. The ARKS for Parks backpacks were on display. Mr. Roger Pinholster, who spearheads ARKS for Parks, is also working with the library in Powhatan to loan out the backpacks, which are full of outdoor nature activities. The Envirothon kick-off will be held October 25, 2023. Ms. Atkinson will be assisted Robert E Lee SWCD at Holiday Lake 4H center with activities for Rustburg schools. See staff report for more details on education activities.

### **DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS**

#### **Staff reports (Attached)**

Most items were covered under committee reports. Ms. Fehrer also reported the conservation staff will have their Engineering Job Approval review by Ms. Amanda Pennington, DCR Engineer next week. Mr. Smith is at training this week and will complete several additional training sessions during the next few weeks, after which he will receive his Conservation Planning certification. The DCR Technical Advisory Committee will meet next week and Ms. Fehrer will serve as Mr. Rash's proxy and Mr. Dunn will represent Peter Francisco SWCD. Several VACS projects are in the final phases and will be paid out shortly. Ms. Fehrer reported she completed all the quarterly reports, assisted with two VCAP site visits and other administrative work as reported on the staff report.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights on her report including upcoming deadlines and trainings. Districts should be receiving their second quarter disbursements shortly.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Gunn reported on several upcoming programs: Small Ruminant Field Day; Youth Livestock Clinic; Women in Ag Cattlewise Program; Private Pesticide Re-certification; and Artificial Insemination Clinic.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans shared his report. His office is processing CSP23 payments and staff have been participating in several outreach events.

Ms. Ciavarella reviewed her report. Her office is working on CSP payments and renewals. NRCS has a new program rollout with details forthcoming. There is currently no funding from Farm Service Agency for new CRP and CREP contracts. Clarimer Hernandez has been hired as the new State Resource Conservationist.

Prince Edward County

Mr. Stanley had several updates: the public comment period for the Sandy River Reservoir permit application has closed; contractors are making repairs to gate valves on the dam. 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 and a possible data center site on Persimmon Tree road.

**Roundtable**

Mr. Moyer recognized Bill Powers for his years of service as an elected director on the PSWCD Board. Mr. Powers is not running for re-election. Allison Crews, resigned director from Amelia and Horace Adams, current director from Prince Edward were also recognized for their service.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

**ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:**

Treasurer report; Legislative agenda; Staff & partner reports

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

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