



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia
April 23, 2024 11:00 a.m.**

Board Members Present:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman
Horace Adams –Director, Prince Edward County / Secretary
Charles “Chuck” Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Treasurer
Jennifer Morris – Director, Amelia County
Dr. James Gates, Jr.- Director, Prince Edward County
Mackenzie Gunn – Appointed VCE Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent
Juan Whittington – Appointed At-Large Director, Amelia County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County & Longwood University Faculty

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

PSWCD Staff Present:

Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist
Kevin Dunn – Senior Conservation Specialist
Deanna Fehrer - District Manager
Tyler Smith – Conservation Technician
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist

Partners Present:

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Farmville/Nottoway
Brandy Harris, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Farmville/Nottoway
Tara Ciavarella, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia
Cristy Cook, FSA Director, Farmville/Nottoway
Doug Stanley, Prince Edward County Administrator

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

A regular meeting of the Piedmont SWCD Board of Directors was held at the Prince Edward County Agriculture building on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. Chairman Moyer welcomed everyone, opened the meeting with prayer and called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the March 26, 2024 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the March 2024 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Mr. Dunn presented the conservation report.

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY24 VACS tax credit (\$2,478.98):

Soap Stone Ridge LLC 05-24-0029 (571610)	SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer Total Actual Cost \$32,052.04 Total Cost Share \$22136.14 Tax Credit Basis \$ 9,915.90 Tax Credit \$ 2,478.98
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On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY24 VACS structural applications (CB \$81,262.50):

Prince Edward

Boot Hill Dairy LLC 05-24-0077(586912)	CCI-WP-4 Waste Storage Facility Maint. (5 Structures- 3 Pits, 2 Packs)(547AU) Estimated Cost \$ 38,675.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 38,675.00
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Poor House Dairy LLC 05-24-0079(586914)	CCI-WP-4 Waste Storage Facility Maint. (2 Structures- 1 Pits, 1 Packs)(226AU) Estimated Cost \$ 15,650.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 15,650.00
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Nottoway

James T Rice 05-24-0111(586047)	CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer Maint. (19,950’) Estimated Cost \$ 26,937.50 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 26,937.50
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On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY24 VACS agronomic applications (CB \$4,744.00) with Mr. Moyer leaving the room:

Client	Contract	Instance #	Practice	Acres	Soil Samples	Approval Amount
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm		05-24-0011	586889	NM-3C	160 0	\$960.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm		05-24-0011	538428	NM-5N	440 22	\$3,784.00

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY24 VACS agronomic applications (CB \$41,953.50):

Amelia						
Client	Contract	Instance #	Practice	Acres	Soil Samples	Approval Amount
Ashman, John	05-24-0021	586865	NM-3C	382.5	0	\$ 2,295.00
Benson, David	05-24-0043	586891	NM-3C	140.7	0	\$ 844.20
Blanton Farms LLC	05-24-0047	586899	NM-3C	50	4	\$ 348.00
Clowdis, Frank	05-24-0032	586894	NM-3C	68.2	0	\$ 409.20
Crowder, Brian	05-24-0041	586892	NM-3C	126.9	0	\$ 761.40
Fox Den Farms LLC	05-24-0074	586890	NM-3C	47	0	\$ 282.00
Goode, Richard	05-24-0072	586888	NM-3C	30	3	\$ 216.00
Hard Acres Farm	05-24-0023	586900	NM-3C	209.3	0	\$ 1,255.80
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm LLC	05-24-0051	586907	NM-3C	267.8	0	\$ 1,606.80
Iron Gate Farms LLC	05-24-0027	586906	NM-3C	230	0	\$ 1,380.00
Lewis, Anthony	05-24-0038	586905	NM-3C	35.3	0	\$ 211.80
Lewis, David	05-24-0037	586904	NM-3C	35.3	0	\$ 211.80
Moore, Dwayne	05-24-0058	586854	NM-3C	70	0	\$ 420.00
R.M. Watkin & Sons, Inc.	05-24-0030	586884	NM-3C	1088.8	0	\$ 6,532.80
Schenck, James	05-24-0033	586897	NM-3C	31.5	0	\$ 189.00
Ameva Farms	05-24-0067	586851	NM-5N	244.4	15	\$ 2,135.00
R.M. Watkin & Sons, Inc.	05-24-0030	586883	NM-5N	565.6	30	\$ 4,884.80
Ranck, John	05-24-0057	586875	NM-5N	108.8	0	\$ 870.00
Ameva Farms	05-24-0067	572412	NM-6	84.1	0	\$ 3,784.50
Triple Ridge Farm LLC	05-24-0020	586869	NM-5N	50	5	\$ 460.00
Total:						\$ 29,098.10

Prince Edward						
Client	Contract	Instance #	Practice	Acres	Soil Samples	Approval Amount
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-24-0077	586881	NM-3C	437	0	\$ 2,622.00
Poor House Dairy	05-24-0079	586878	NM-3C	131.4	0	\$ 788.40
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-24-0077	586882	NM-5N	334	17	\$ 2,876.00
Poor House Dairy	05-24-0079	586879	NM-5N	221.9	11	\$ 1,907.20
Wolfe, Collin	05-24-0059	586898	NM-5N	35	4	\$ 328.00
Total:						\$ 8,521.60

Nottoway						
Client	Contract	Instance #	Practice	Acres	Soil Samples	Approval Amount
Richlands Dairy Farm	05-24-0076	586895	NM-3C	103.5	0	\$ 621.00
Shepard Grain Farms LLC	05-24-0055	586908	NM-3C	302.7	0	\$ 1,816.20
Toth, George	05-24-0064	586887	NM-3C	152.9	0	\$ 917.40
Moody, Nicholas	05-24-0053	586903	NM-5P	122.4	0	\$ 979.20
Total:						\$ 4,333.80

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following cancelation:

Franklin C. Anderson	FR-3- Riparian Buffer Planting	
05-24-0019 (556148)	Total Actual Cost	\$3,480.00
	Total Cost Share	\$3,426.00

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY24 septic applications:

Spring Creek, etc. #16969

James Allen	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out		
05-24-0110 (586008)	Estimated Cost	\$	400.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$	200.00
<u>Flat Creek, etc. #16970</u>			
Sharron McComas	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out		
05-24-0114 (586803)	Estimated Cost	\$	400.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$	200.00
Nichole Henderson	RB-4 Residential Septic Repair/Replacement		
05-24-0113 (586802)	Estimated Cost	\$	8,000.00
	Estimated Cost Share (90%)	\$	7,200.00

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY25 VACS Secondary Considerations (previously approved by DCR):

1. Participation -First time applicants in the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program will be given high priority, first time applicant for a specific practice who have participated previously in a different practice will be given medium priority and repeat applicants in the same practice, who have installed practices in a timely fashion and maintained the practices per the cost share agreement will be given low priority. Point values are listed in the ranking sheet.
2. Practices that are in conjunction with an approved partnering agency project will receive higher priority. Point values are listed in the ranking sheet. *Utilization of partner agency funding maximizes the amount of conservation per BMP Cost-Share dollar.*
3. Practices that are in *voluntary* response to an Ag Stewardship Act referral will receive higher priority. Point values are listed in the ranking sheet.
4. Sheet & Rill Erosion reduction –A calculation, using the NRCS RUSLE program, to determine the soil loss due to sheet and rill erosion. The ranking sheet will assign a point value based on the expected soil loss reduction.
5. Gross Erosion Reduction – A calculation indicating the soil loss due to gross erosion. The ranking sheet will assign a point value based on the soil loss reduction.
6. Livestock Concentration – The ranking sheet will assign a point value based on the number of animal unit equivalents. *Not applicable for agronomic practices.*
7. Conservation Efficiency Factor- This is a computer-generated factor used to compare similar BMP's and is used as part of the ranking process. Point values are listed in the ranking sheet. *The lower the CEF the more efficient the BMP, thus higher priority*

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the PSWCD to participate in DCR's Whole Farm Approach Program. Last month the program details were discussed. Districts can participate but are not penalized if they do not have any applicants. The program provides additional incentives and funding for producers that sign up for cover crop and nutrient management practices. There is not a separate grant agreement or deliverables.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved submitting the following recommendations to the DCR Technical Advisory Committee for FY26:

1. SL-7- Remove 528 from #11 NRCS Standards. Replace section B #3 language to read
“A written Grazing Management Plan and Operation and Maintenance plan that includes all acres in the grazing system must be prepared, implemented and followed using VA GRAZE. Factors to be addressed should include water sources, environmental impact, soil fertility, maintenance, access lanes, fencing needs, wetlands, minimum cover or grazing heights, carrying capacity of the land, and rotational schedules. Districts will monitor for compliance.”
2. SL-10- Add language that specifies that a producer is required to implement soil test recommendations and provide receipts before payment. Also add language that allows a producer to participate in the SL-7 and SL-10 concurrently or in subsequent years with the removal of the 528 from the SL-7, but still requiring a 528 Rotational Grazing plan with the SL-10.
3. Contract Part I- Applicant Self-Certification- Language change or clarification.
“ I certify that the practices for which I am requesting cost-share funding or tax credit are not, and will not, be used in a mitigation bank, nutrient trading program, or to comply with any state or federal law, regulation, or permit. “
-Would a producers permit through DEQ for poultry, dairy or other livestock be considered a “permit” with which a Manure Storage Practice would help them “comply”? Secondly, would a Practice Standard (SL-8B) be considered a “state regulation”? If the SL-8B Standard requires you to obtain a NMP can cost-share be received, by the producer, for the writing of the NMP to “comply” with the requirements of the practice? Finally, would this language have any bearing on producers working with VDACS under the Ag Stewardship Act?
4. FR-3- “The entire flood plain is eligible for planting, not to exceed 100 feet.”
Remove the “not to exceed 100 feet.”, if a producer is willing to plant an entire flood plain it should be eligible for cost-share no matter the width as long as trees are being planted in a legitimate flood plain. The Buffer Payment could remain the same but cost-share and incentive would be issued to all acres.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved an additional \$2,187.00 payable to Gropen, LLC for additional design work on the mobile education trailer. The additional design work was due to several file incompatibility issues from Longwood University Design Lab. Ms. Fehrer and Ms. Atkinson presented the design concepts and shared information about how the trailer can be used. The District will need to purchase ramps to allow wheelchair access.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the purchase of two \$30.00 gift cards at Walmart to be presented to the Grand Prize winners of the Poster Contest. Ms. Atkinson will be working with Rachel Ivers, Director of the Longwood Center for Visual Arts, to judge the posters. The District received 603 posters.

PLANNING

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work for May and June. Upcoming workload will focus on completing year end tasks.

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved Mackenzie Gunn as the VCE appointment for FY25-29.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved renewing the annual monitoring contract with Onset Hobo for a total of \$3,887.00 covering remote monitoring stations at thirteen dams.

Mr. Arnason reported that the trapper caught six beavers at Bush #7 dam. The trapping should be completed shortly. Spring mowing of the dams will begin in mid-June.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Chair Dillard

On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the March 26, 2024 Personnel Committee minutes.

Ms. Fehrer reported that Charlotte Jensen, our human resource consultant, will be at the office on Wednesday, May 1 to review the District's personnel management program. She will provide verbal and written feedback.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Rash reported the Governor provided many amendments to the budget approved by the General Assembly and that the conference committees will be working to vote on a new budget on May 13. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board has scheduled their meeting the last week in June to hopefully approve grant agreements for the districts.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION – Chair Gunn

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the March 26, 2024 Education Committee minutes.

Ms. Atkinson reported that the scholarship awardees that were approved last month have been notified. She asked for board members who might be interested in presenting the awards at Amelia High School and Prince Edward High School to let her know.

The Area V Envirothon was held last week on the campus of Ferrum College. There were 4 teams. Ms. Atkinson and Mr. Smith assisted at a MWEE (Meaningful Watershed Education Experience) field day at Holiday Lake 4H Center for sixth graders at Prince Edward Middle School.

Ms. Atkinson, Ms. Fehrer, Mr. Smith, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Wootton and Ms. Harris (NRCS) assisted at the two soils station at third grade Ag Awareness Days held at SPAREC. SPAREC has been organizing and hosting the third grade Ag Awareness Days for sixteen years and provided the Piedmont SWCD a 'Team Excellence Award' for the District's partnership both in

the planning of the event and the education presentations over the past sixteen years. Mr. Wootton presented the award to the District on behalf of SPAREC.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

District Manager & Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer provided the staff report in the board packet. Mr. Smith and Ms. Fehrer completed two field visits regarding runoff on residential properties. Mr. Wootton, Mr. Smith and NRCS conservation staff, Mr. Evans and Mr. Hazlegrove, conducted a site visit at Nottoway County CH regarding severe erosion and runoff affecting downstream properties. A letter of the findings was provided to Nottoway County Administrator, Steve Bowen.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights on her report including upcoming deadlines and trainings. Letters regarding the district audits were sent to districts. Director training, 'Phase 1' will occur for new PSWCD directors following this board meeting.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans reported their office has the following:

- 2 high tunnels for pre-approvals (EQIP funding)
- 1 ACT NOW pre-approval for forestry
- Mr. Evans is part of a state office work group focusing on American Indians. The state office will host a state tribal summit later this year.
- Ms. Harris has been completing several trainings.

Ms. Ciavarella reviewed her report and provided an update on several volunteers in the Amelia office this summer.

USDA-Farm Service Agency (Attached)

Ms. Cook reported her office is working on shipping out old producer files and updating producer's assigned local administrative areas.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Gunn reported she attended the Women in Ag conference(4/19-4/20 in Blacksburg) and a Statewide Ag Summit organized by VCE. She is wrapping up Commercial Pesticide Re-certification trainings and will assist with the Piedmont Area Jr. Livestock show this weekend. Ms. Gunn has been assisting 4H agent, L.K. Mondrey, with several youth education programs.

Prince Edward County

Mr. Stanley updated the Board on several items:

- A public hearing on the withdrawal permit for Sandy River Reservoir will be held April 24 at 7:00pm at the Prince Edward High School.
- Construction will begin soon for the Wawa and Harbor Freight stores.
- The County will begin the process for renovating the PE Elementary School.
- Construction will begin on 50 single family housing unit located on Fairground Road.
- A public hearing on two solar sites will be held May 14 (Rice and Meherrin areas).

- The county is taking comments on the environment section of the county’s draft comprehensive plan. Mr. Stanley will email the section to Ms. Fehrer so she can distribute to Board members.

ROUNDTABLE:

Mr. Rash reported his class has been assisting an Eagle Scout on getting his merit badge. The scout installed rain barrels and a double composting bin at the school’s green house.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Treasurer report; Staff & partner reports

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

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
Horace Adams, Director / Secretary