



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia
June 25, 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
Juan Whittington – Appointed At-Large Director, Amelia County

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Mackenzie Gunn – Appointed VCE Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Farmville/Nottoway

PSWCD Staff Present:

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

Partners Present:

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Tara Ciavarella, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia
Cristy Cook, FSA Director, Farmville/Nottoway
Steve Bowen, Nottoway County Administrator
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, June 25, 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 Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the May 28, 2024 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT

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

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wootton presented the conservation report.

At the May 28, 2024 Board of Directors meeting, the Board authorized Mr. Rash to approve VACS contracts before the deadline of June 15 (date the final VACS funding had to be reported to DCR). A copy of the approval email is attached.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted Mr. Rash’s approval of VACS applications as follows:

05-24-0036	Vaughan Cattle Co.	NM-1A 789.1 acres	\$1,578.20
	(Instance 588589)		
	(Instance 588590)	NM-3C 355 acres	\$2,130.00
05-24-0059	Collin Tyler Wolfe	NM-1A 22.3acres (additional)	\$ 44.60
	(Instance 571613)		
05-24-0051	Hoot Owl Hollow Farm	NM-1A 49.90 acres (additional)	\$ 99.80
	(Instance 571519)		
05-24-0077	Boot Hill Dairy LLC	NM-1A 131.10 acres (additional)	\$ 524.40
05-24-0026	Neubauer Farms LLC	NM-1A 13.7 acres (additional)	\$ 27.40
05-24-0068	Easter Design	NM3C 269 acres	\$ 1614.00
05-24-0067	Ameva	NM1A 301.8 acres	\$ 1207.20
05-24-0021	John Ashman	NM1A 146.8 acres	\$ 293.60

Total CB VACS24 Approvals: \$7,519.20

On a motion by Mr. Arnason seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted Mr. Rash’s approval of VACS cancelations (CB \$66,074.70) as follows with Mr. Whittington leaving the room:

Ashman	John	05-24-0021	570532	SL-8B	25.1	Acres	\$1,757.00
Austin, Jr.	James	05-24-0081	579146	NM-1A	68	Acres	\$136.00
Ford	William	05-24-0048	571420	NM-1A	80.1	Acres	\$160.20
Garnett, Jr.	James	05-24-0039	570661	NM-1A	117	Acres	\$233.20
Geesaman	Jason	05-24-0080	579144	NM-1A	82.8	Acres	\$331.20
Jones	Dexter	05-24-0042	570748	NM-1A	250	Acres	\$500.60
Jones	Dexter	05-24-0042	570746	SL-8B	250	Acres	\$22,527.00
Martin	Robert	05-24-0073	578280	NM-1A	111	Acres	\$221.00
Ranck	Jon	05-24-0057	571605	NM-1A	308	Acres	\$615.40
Toth	George	05-24-0064	571721	NM-1A	293	Acres	\$586.40
Kerr	Jimmy	05-24-0067	577261	SL-8B	34.3	Acres	\$2,401.00
Featherstone Farm		05-24-0060	571617	NM-1A	1559	Acres	\$3,117.20
Featherstone Farm		05-24-0060	571618	NM-4	356	Acres	\$1,602.90

Hooley	David	05-24-0025	559836	NM-6	185	Acres	\$8,320.50
Hooley	David	05-24-0025	559835	SL-8H	185	Acres	\$3,698.00
Neubauer	James	05-24-0026	559837	SL-8B	87.3	Acres	\$7,857.00
Poor House Dairy		05-24-0079	579138	NM-1A	357	Acres	\$1,429.60
Poor House Dairy		05-24-0079	579132	SL-8H	4.1	Acres	\$82.00
Reamford		05-24-0050	571464	SL-8H	42.9	Acres	\$858.00
Richlands Dairy		05-24-0076	578981	NM-6	47.9	Acres	\$2,155.50
Triple RRR		05-24-0054	571556	SL-8H	31.2	Acres	\$0.00(Tax credit Only - OCB)
Charles	Glascoock	05-24-0090	581906	SL8	59	Acres	\$2,360.00
Joseph	Taylor	05-24-0091	581939	CCI SL6	4100	Feet	\$5,125.00

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

Flat Creek, etc. #16970

William Eddy	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out		
05-24-0118 (588315)	Estimated Cost	\$	400.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$	200.00

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the VACS cost list for FY25 (attached).

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the VACS and septic contracts carryover report, with Mr. Moyer and Mr. Whittington leaving the room (attached).

The conservation staff reported that \$2.09M was obligated this year to agriculture producers – a record amount of funding and practices installed. Ms. Fehrer and the Board congratulated the conservation staff on a job well done.

Ms. Fehrer shared with the Board, a report from DEQ that delists a 5.47-mile segment of Spring Creek located in Prince Edward County from the Clean Water Act 303 (d) impaired waters list. (attached). Actual water sampling and scientific data support the removal of waterways from the impaired list. The report credits the District and their partners for implementing programs that make a difference in water quality.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported that the Virginia Soil and Water Board (VSWB) will be approving district operational and VACS grant agreements at tomorrow's meeting including final funding amounts. Based on instructions from DCR, the District prepared a draft budget that used last year's operational funding and VACS funding amounts that were previously approved by the VSWB. A final FY25 budget will be approved at the District's July Board meeting. Any changes to employee compensation will be approved in July and will be retroactive to July 1, 2024.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a draft FY25 operational budget as presented (see below).

Source FUNDING	Budgeted Income	Budgeted Expense	
VACS Income	\$ 3,940,197.00		CB \$3,694,690; OCB \$245,507
DCR Dam Maint.	\$ 63,000.00		Dams (\$4500/dam)
PE Dam Maint.	\$ 5,000.00		Level funding PE Co.
Technical Assist.	\$ 336,646.00		\$80,520 Base + \$256,126 addition (TA budget based on return \$1.97M CS and related TA)
DCR Admin& Oper Local	\$ 216,888.00		DCR Operations
Government Equipment Program	\$ 28,240.00		Level funding
	\$ 18,500.00		Projected
Total Funding	\$ 4,608,471.00		
EXPENDITURES			
VACS Cost			
Share Exp		\$ 3,940,197.00	CB \$3,694,690; OCB \$245,507
Dam Expense		\$ 68,000.00	Regular maintenance; remote monitoring
			Support of VACS program
Technical Assist. Operational Expense		\$ 336,646.00	
Equipment Program		\$ 245,128.00	Operations
		\$ 18,500.00	Equipment Program expense
TOTALS	\$ 4,608,471.00	\$ 4,608,471.00	

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board authorized Chairman Moyer to sign upon receipt the FY25 DCR grant agreements for operations and VACS program.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the DEQ Septic Grant #16969 modification 2 (Prince Edward watersheds) that includes an additional \$107,750 and extended the end of the grant to December 31, 2025.

PLANNING

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work for July. Upcoming workload will include year-end reporting and outreach for the new VACS program year.

Ms. Fehrer also reviewed the District’s Strategic Plan including metrics on how the District is working toward meeting their goals.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported that spring mowing has been completed. The staff will be issuing a Request for Bids for small dam repairs at Bush #2 and Bush #5 dams. Ms. Fehrer

and Mr. Thompson have been finalizing the emergency action plans and will be meeting with Prince Edward County emergency services staff to finalize. Contractor Bander Smith is on-site this week working on gate valve repairs on dams Bush #2, #5, #6 and #7.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Chair Dillard

Ms. Fehrer reported that she received a summary report along with many resources from Charlotte Jensen, our human resource consultant. The Personnel Committee will work on updating several items in the Personnel Policy. There were no deficiencies or concerns noted by Ms. Jensen. Ms. Fehrer introduced Nora Dunn, the District's intern, who has been busy working with Ms. Atkinson on planning several education programs. Ms. Fehrer also congratulated Mr. Smith on receiving his DCR Conservation Planner Certification.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Rash reported highlights from his Legislative Report to the VASWCD Board. The Governor approved the following in his budget: an additional \$3M in Admin/Ops funding; \$1M in small dam repair funding; 3 new positions at DCR Nutrient Management Planning division; and retained for districts, the free services of the Office of the Attorney General. More information can be found on the VASWCD website.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION – Chair Gunn

Ms. Atkinson thanked the Board for their support, prayers and concerns during her daughter's recent surgery and reported her daughter is recovering very well. She provided an update on several education/outreach workload including: setting up a District exhibit at the Amelia County Fair; creating 'Conservation Matters' cards and information to share with local schools and libraries; providing a watershed/water cycle program to the Town of Farmville recreation summer camp; and she is gearing up for the Chesapeake Bay Trust grant teacher workshop. The winning poster in the District's poster contest is on display at the Red Door Studio in Farmville and the other 5 top posters were submitted to the VASWCD state contest.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

District Manager & Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer once again thanked the conservation staff for their great work this program year. Most of the highlights were covered earlier. Her workload will focus on finalizing a budget and preparing year-end reports.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights on her report including upcoming deadlines and trainings. End of year reports are due July 15.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Gunn was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Fehrer reported in her absence about several upcoming programs in the VCE Amelia office: Plant Camp for kids in July and a July 23 Beef Finishing and Marketing program. Ms. Gunn will be traveling to Texas in mid-July to attend the National Ag Agent Association conference where she will present a

poster on the ‘Cattle and Equipment WISE’ programs she has been assisting with over the past couple of years.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved \$200 to support the VCE Amelia ‘Crops Field Day’ for producers to be held in August/September.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Ms. Ciavarella shared her report that was included in the Board packet. Their office has 18 preapprovals for funding to complete. Amelia, Powhatan and Goochland offices have had their compliance reviews with no violations noted. She pointed out several upcoming deadlines and reminded everyone of the Local Working Group (NRCS and partners) meeting after the July 23 PSWCD Board meeting. She will be attending a Prescribed Burning Training in Texas in July. The James River Association interns and Earth Team volunteer, Marina Morris, have been active in the field and office. Claire Helmek is the recently hired Private Lands biologist who will be working out of the Farmville office.

USDA-Farm Service Agency

Ms. Cook reported her office is in the middle of crop reporting and is encouraging producers to submit their information soon. The ‘working grasslands’ program signup is due June 28, 2024. The County Committee is accepting nominations for the Blendon/Belmont region of Nottoway.

Mr. Bowen reported he was glad he could attend the meeting and said it was informative.

Mr. Stanley reported on the following: Prince Edward County will be having a third work session on their Comprehensive Plan development with the goal of having a public comment period at the beginning of 2025; Two solar projects in the Moran area have been approved (5 and 8 mega- watts); Kinex has almost completed the installation of broadband fiber optic lines in Prince Edward County; PSWCD’s request of \$11,840 for operations/dam funding assistance was approved; and the County’s website is being updated/revamped.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Treasurer report; Staff & partner reports

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

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