



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia  
May 28, 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:**

Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist

**PSWCD Staff Present:**

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  
Tara Ciavarella, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia  
Cristy Cook, FSA Director, Farmville/Nottoway  
Erin Small, VCE Agent, Prince Edward

**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, May 28, 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 April 23, 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 April 2024 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.**

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

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

Pamela P Perdue 05-20-0065 (383021)	<b>SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer</b> Total Actual Cost \$36,548.28 Total Cost Share (EQIP) \$23,969.96 Tax Credit Basis \$12,538.72 Total Tax Credit \$ 3,144.58 Previously approved \$ 738.40 Additional Tax Credit \$ 2,406.18
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**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY24 VACS structural applications (CB \$6,875.00; OCB \$1,600.00):**

**Prince Edward-Bay**

Robert A. Browning 05-24-0116 (587286)	<b>CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer Maint. (4100')</b> Estimated Cost \$ 6,875.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 6,875.00
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**Nottoway-OCB.**

John Bledsoe 05-24-0049 (571427)	<b>SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer</b> Original Approved Cost \$44,565.00 Additional 2 Buffer Acres \$ 1,600.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$46,165.00
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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 agronomic applications (CB \$17,240.10; OCB \$10,081.60)**

<b>Amelia- Bay</b>						
Client	Contract	Instance #	Practice	Acres	Additional AC	Approval Amount
Windy Springs	05-24-0075	578577	NM-1	144.3	30.8	\$ 61.60
Whitaker Farms	05-24-0045	587914	NM-1	543.5	0	\$ 1,087.00
Dewayne More	05-24-0058	571608	NM-1	563.1	209.3	\$ 418.60
Crowder, Brian	05-24-0041	570744	NM-1	222.1	17.8	\$ 35.60
Blanton	05-24-0047	571279	NM-1	197	40.1	\$ 80.20
Henrico Farms	05-24-0044	570810	NM-1	214.5	10.8	\$ 21.60
Hard Acres Farm	05-24-0023	587376	NM-1	507.8	0	\$ 1,012.50
Hard Acres Farm	05-24-0023	569477	SL-8B	344.1	134.8	\$ 9,436.00
Benson, David	05-24-0043	586919	NM-5N	140.7	0	\$ 1,125.00
Reamford Farms	05-24-0050	587915	NM-1	1126	0	\$ 2,252.00
<b>Total:</b>						<b>\$ 15,530.10</b>

<b>Nottoway-Bay</b>						
Client	Contract	Instance #	Practice	Acres	Additional AC	Approval Amount
Triple R Dairy	05-24-0076	587904	NM-5N	150	0	\$ 1,296.00
Moody, Nicholas	05-24-0053	587908	NM-1	207.2	0	\$ 414.00
<b>Total:</b>						<b>\$ 1,710.00</b>

<b>Nottoway OCB -Southern Rivers</b>						
<b>Client</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Instance #</b>	<b>Practice</b>	<b>Acres</b>		<b>Approval Amount</b>
Shepard Grain Farms LLC	05-24-0055	587906	NM-3C	572.5	0	\$ 3,435.00
Shepard Grain Farms LLC	05-24-0055	587934	NM-1	1378	0	\$ 2,756.00
Moody, Nicholas	05-24-0053	586902	NM-5N	27	0	\$ 216.00
Moody, Nicholas	05-24-0053	587907	NM-1	27	0	\$ 54.00
Moody, Nicholas	05-24-0053	587909	NM-5P	27	0	\$ 216.00
Moody, Harrison	05-24-0052	587911	NM-5N	28.9	0	\$ 231.00
Moody, Harrison	05-24-0052	587907	NM-1	400.8	0	\$ 801.60
Moody, Harrison	05-24-0052	587909	NM-5P	296.5	0	\$ 2,372.00
					<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 10,081.60</b>

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY24 VACS agronomic application with Mr. Moyer leaving the room:**

Oakmulgee Dairy	05-24-0011	587893	NM-6	72	\$	3,240.00
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**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following cancelation (FY24 VACS CB):**

Benson, David	05-24-0043	586891	NM-3C	140.7	\$	844.20
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**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following conservation plans with Dr. Gates leaving the room:**

Jimmy Gates	CP-5-24-06
Clarence Wenger	CP-5-24-07
NRCS	3 Plans

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

**Spring Creek, etc. #16969**

<b>William Sanderson</b>	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out
05-24-0117 (587402)	Estimated Cost \$ 400.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 200.00

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board appointed Mr. Rash the authority to approve any FY24 VACS contracts between May 29 and June 15 (deadline to have all VACS funding complete).**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board appointed Mr. Rash the authority to approve the VACS FY24 funding that will be returned to DCR at the end of the program year in order to meet the 90% obligation.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the updated PSWCD Inventory List as presented. (On file at the office)**

**PLANNING**

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

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the FY25 Annual Plan of Work.** Ms. Fehrer reminded everyone it is a working document and will be reviewed at monthly board meetings.

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the “Continuity of Operations” for the District as it was emailed in the board packet.** Ms. Fehrer shared that it is a guide that would be helpful in the event the District office space is impacted by a fire, natural disaster, terrorism or other unforeseen circumstances. A copy will be kept offsite.

**WATERSHED** - Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported that spring mowing will begin at the first of June. Remote monitoring service agreements are expiring at the end of the month, but they have been budgeted for annual renewals (\$299/dam). The staff will renew the agreements, but will research the satellite options DCR is now providing. Contractor Bander Smith is hoping to begin gate valve repairs on dams Bush #2, #5, #6 and #7. The contract was awarded in January 2024.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** - Chair Dillard

Mr. Dillard reported that Charlotte Jensen, our human resource consultant, visited the District on May 1. Mr. Dillard met Ms. Jensen at the District and Mr. Arnason was able to sit-in on some of the question/answer session. The office is awaiting her written formal report. Ms. Fehrer announced that Nora Dunn, the District’s intern, will begin work this afternoon and will work part-time through the middle of August.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** - Chair Rash**COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION** – Chair Gunn

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a \$550 scholarship award to Hunter Fowlkes to attend VASWCD Youth Conservation Camp at VT. Hunter is a student at Fuqua School and a Prince Edward County resident.**

**DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS****District Manager & Staff reports (Attached)**

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the staff report in the board packet. She reported that Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wootton presented information at the James River Consortium Buffer meeting, which was held at the Moton Museum in Farmville. The staff also helped arrange field visit sites. Director Arnason attended as well as several of the USDA partners.

**Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)**

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights on her report including upcoming deadlines and trainings. PSWCD’s disbursement letters have been mailed and funding should be received within 30 days. FY25 grant agreements will not be available at the June Board meeting, so it is suggested that the Board delegate authority to the Chairman to sign and approve the grant agreements. She

reviewed a few proposed VACS policy changes including removal of the requirement to meet 90% obligated VACS funding; funding disbursement schedule changes; and the requirement that all conservation plans will need to be approved by the Board prior to any VACS contract funding approvals.

#### Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Gunn reported on several upcoming extension programs that she is involved with planning and/or presenting:

- During the month of June there will be several 'heirs' property workshops across Virginia. Ms. Gunn will be teaching at the workshops. The organization, "National Farm Transition" will be facilitating the meetings.
- On May 31 there is a small ruminant workshop in Appomattox
- On June 18, Amber Taylor, VCE agent in Cumberland, will be leading a meeting for alternative uses for poultry houses.

Ms. Small recently transferred back to Prince Edward County after briefly working in the Goochland office. She reported she has committed to several programs in Goochland over the summer, and will begin to provide a monthly newsletter.

#### USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Ms. Ciavarella shared her report that was included in the Board packet. Updates include that her office has eight EQIP ACT NOW high tunnels. Summer interns working for James River Association will begin evaluating buffers that have been installed through various conservation programs. Marina Morris, a former Youth Conservation Leadership Institute participant, will be an Earth Team volunteer in the Amelia office this summer.

Mr. Evans reported on the progress of several programs. He also updated the Board on position changes within NRCS, including the transfer of Brandy Harris from Farmville to Charlotte Courthouse. Chris Hamilton has been hired as the NRCS State Engineer.

The Local Working Group (NRCS and partners) will be scheduling their annual meeting sometime in July. The state office recently released the questionnaire that will be distributed to Board members and staff to provide feedback on USDA programs.

#### USDA-Farm Service Agency (Attached)

Ms. Cook updated the Board on several upcoming deadlines, including the FY24 crop acreage reports. She also announced that USDA is updating their telephone technology and will be moving to a VOIP (voice over internet protocol) system by the end of the calendar year. This means significant changes to SWCDs who are co-located with USDA and share a phone system. PSWCD will be one of those SWCDs. The transition is happening across the nation. Ms. Cook will work with Ms. Fehrer during the transition.

#### **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