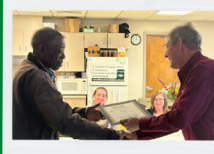


Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District

Serving Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties

Annual Report - July 2023 - June 2024



Greetings From the Chairman Larkin Moyer



In November, the citizens of Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties elected representatives to serve on the Piedmont Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors. The PSWCD Board is the local voice for conservation and allocates funding and resources to address water quality issues in our communities. New directors on our Board include Jennifer Morris, Amelia; Horace Adams, Prince Edward; and Dr. James Gates, Prince Edward. Directors and board members volunteer their time to oversee the staff, programs and finances of the District. In addition to new directors, we had another record year for conservation – over \$2.15M in funding was provided to farmers, landowners and homeowners to install conservation practices. All our accomplishments would not be possible without the support of our farmers, partners, citizens, educators, and staff – Thank you! Please enjoy our annual report and check out the highlights of our successful year!

Conservation Awards



PSWCD and the Department of Conservation & Recreation awarded Danny Glenn of Glenn View Farm with the Clean Water Farm Award. Mr. Glenn, a lifelong farmer from Prince Edward County, along with his son and family, have installed conservation practices to exclude cattle from 4.25 miles of streams, planted 53 acres of riparian buffers and have 1,000 acres of land in conservation easements.

This year's Conservation Educator of the year was Roger Pinholster. Roger started ARKS for Parks (now Family Learning Adventures). Roger also works closely with the District on the education programs.

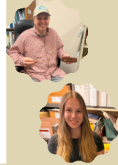


Nottoway Director Charles 'Chuck' Arnason was awarded the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation District's Watershed Connections Achievement Award. Mr. Arnason has served on the PSWCD Board for 15 years and has been an advocate of conservation his entire life. He is active with many soil and water committees, including having served as the Chair of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board.



Celebrations and Farewells

Kevin Dunn celebrated 15 years working for PSWCD. Kevin is a Senior Conservation Specialist and handles most of the district's agronomic program BMPs.



Elinora 'Nora' Dunn completed a summer internship at the District where she learned about conservation and education programming. Nora will attend VCU this fall. Thank you Nora!

Bill Powers has been a loyal board member for 15 years. He led the Communication and Education committee, and served as the District Secretary. We will miss you Bill and wish you enjoyment on your next life ventures.



Agricultural Conservation

PSWCD administers state grant funds to agricultural producers who install, implement and maintain best management practices (BMPs) to improve soil and water quality. Certified and trained staff provide technical assistance free of charge regardless of a farmer's participation in our programs.

VACS (Virginia Agriculture Cost Share)

207
Agricultural
Best Management
Practices Installed
(BMP's)

\$2,133,690.00
cost share paid

17,679
acres of
cover crops planted

1,006 acres of buffer protected



37,794' of stream bank protected

21,072 acres of nutrient management practices implemented

1,220 acres planted with PSWCD's no-till drills



Residential Conservation

PSWCD provides state grant funding to homeowners for septic system pump outs, repairs and replacements and funding for correcting erosion problems. Call the office to find out if your home is located in an eligible watershed and learn how to add native plants to your landscape!

Septic Assistance

- **\$25,814** paid to homeowners to fix septic problems
- Completed: 18 septic pump outs, 3 repairs and 1 alternative septic installation

[Thank you to our Health Department Partners!](#)



Erosion & Native Plants

- Assisted 15 clients with erosion problems
- Provided native planting recommendations to homeowners
- Check out our website to view our new "Native Plants for Landscaping" brochure.



Watersheds

Watershed Dams

Piedmont SWCD is responsible for complying with Virginia's Dam Safety Regulations for 14 flood control structures in Prince Edward County. These dams were designed for watershed and flood protection and have been in operation since the 1960's.

- Conducted 49 site visits
- Performed 14 inspections
- Maintained 9 remote monitoring stations
- Repaired 4 underwater gate valves
- Addressed rodent issues at 4 dams
- Attended 4 dam owner workgroup meetings.



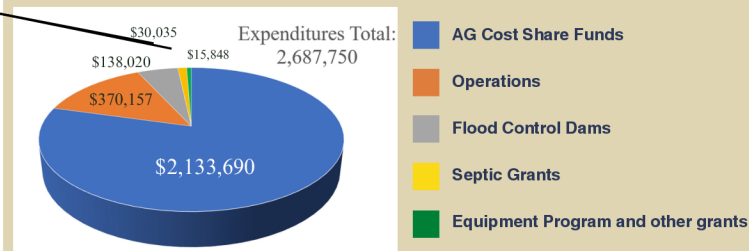
State Waters Improved



A 5.47-mile segment of Spring Creek located in Prince Edward County has been removed from the Department of Environmental Quality's impaired water list for E.coli. The programs that PSWCD administers along with other federal agencies helped install best management practices such as livestock stream exclusion fencing, riparian buffers and residential septic repairs which resulted in water quality improvements.

Financial Overview

PSWCD operates primarily on a grant basis with funds from state and local governments. Our equipment rental program invests earnings back into the program. Our education programming is supported through small grants, local contributions and private donations. Successful independent financial audits are conducted every two years.



The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Piedmont Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR).

Education Recognitions

Education is an important aspect to our vision of a productive community committed to the stewardship of our natural resources. This year we reached approximately 1,820 youth and adults through our education programs, exhibits at public events, media releases, social media, field days and workshops.

Academic Scholarships

The Lindy Hamlett Education Scholarship provides financial support to students majoring in, or showing a strong desire to study, a course curriculum related to natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies.



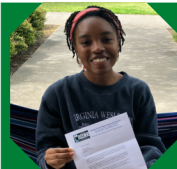
Abigail Reamer
Attending
Longwood University



Thomas Hamilton
Attending
Alfred University



TJ Penny
Attending
North Carolina State



Laila Jones
Attending
Virginia Wesleyan
University

Participated in Envirothon

Since 1995, PSWCD has supported the Envirothon program by providing training materials, events and funding. This year we sponsored the Fuqua School team who traveled to Ferrum College for the Area V competition.

Participants learn about Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and this years special topic Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future.



(L-R) Coach Nicholas Davis, Aiden Kelly, Marina Morris, Rudee Atkinson, Hayden Hodges, Aiden Clements, Nathan Davis



Envirothon is a natural resources competition for high school students. Teams study and prepare to compete. They also present solutions to a specific environmental issue.

Meaningful Watershed Education Experience ✓

Prince Edward County 7th graders traveled to Holiday Lake State Park for a day long Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE). Participants conducted chemical water tests, built a "living watershed" and learned about ways to determine water quality & health.



Education Fun

Education for youth and adults is a key initiative for Piedmont SWCD. Youth education includes classroom programs, Envirothon program, poster contest, interactive displays, learning journeys, family events and scholarships to continue higher education. Adult education consists of exhibits at public events, newspaper releases, social media outreach, field days and workshops.

Girl Scout Patch Workshop



Local Girl Scouts spent a Saturday morning learning about soil. Participants went home with a Soils Expert certificate and patch.

Enriched 3rd Graders

Third graders from Amelia County Elementary School participated in an enrichment program where they learned about their Watershed, the Water Cycle and Soils.



Conservation Poster Contest

This year's theme of "May the Forest Be With You Always" inspired **603 area artists** from Amelia Academy, Amelia County High School, Fuqua School & Prince Edward County Elementary School to create a poster. We are grateful to get support from the teachers, the Longwood Center for Visual Arts and Red Door 104.



Prince Edward County Elementary students showing their place ribbons with art teachers Jean Martin and Joy Utzinger



Genevieve Hayghe **Grand winning poster** - Amelia Academy



Thank you to LCVA Director Rachel Ivers, for judging.



Thank you Red Door 104 for displaying the Grand Winning poster

Partnering for Education



Brought soil education to Southern Piedmont Agriculture Research & Education Center's **Family & Farm Day & 3rd Grade Ag Days**
Worked with Amelia 4H & Family Learning Adventures to host a **Project Wild Educators Workshop**

Brought the incredible water cycle journey and the Enviroscape experience to the Town of Farmville Recreation Department's **Summer Camp**



Welcome Our Newly Elected Directors

We welcomed 4 new directors to the board this year:

[Mrs. Jennifer Morris, Mr. Horace Adams, Dr. Jimmy Gates, and Mrs. Mackenzie Gunn.](#)



Jennifer Morris is a resident of Amelia County where she owns and operates a beef cattle operation with her husband. She is a leader in the Amelia Area Cattlemen's group, has received awards for her farm's conservation work and is a lifetime horse owner.

Horace Adams is a Prince Edward County resident and a beef cattle farmer. He had a life-long career with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as a soil technician. Mr. Adams grew up farming tobacco and has implemented many conservation practices on his farm.

Dr. James (Jimmy) Gates is a Prince Edward County resident and retired veterinarian. Dr. Gates grew up on a farm and is a life-long supporter of conservation. He has participated in many mission trips to Africa to share his veterinarian expertise and conservation principles.

Ms. Gunn is a resident of Amelia County and is the Virginia Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resource agent for Amelia. Ms. Gunn has a background in water quality and pond management and owns a menagerie of animals.

Valued Partnerships

STATE & FEDERAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

- USDA Farm Service Agency-Amelia and Farmville offices
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service-Amelia and Farmville offices
- VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation
- VA Dept. of Environmental Quality
- VA Dept. of Forestry
- VA Cooperative Extension - Erin Small, Mackenzie Gunn, Jake Morgan, LK Mondrey, Shelda Daniels, Lyle Currin
- VA Dept. of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- VA Forage & Grasslands Council
- VA Association of Environmental Education
- Virginia State Small Farm Outreach Program

YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION

- Family Learning Adventures
- Girl Scouts
- Amelia Academy
- Amelia County High School
- Fuqua School
- Prince Edward Elementary
- Prince Edward High School
- Longwood University Design Lab
- Twin Lakes State Park
- Farmville Prince Edward Library
- Crewe Library

POSTER CONTEST

- Jean Martin, Joy Utzinger at PECES
- Rachel Graber at Amelia Academy
- Caroline Stargardt at ACHS
- Mrs. Frank at Fuqua School
- Longwood Center for Visual Arts

MEDIA SUPPORT

- Amelia Bulletin-Monitor
- Farmville Herald
- Blackstone Courier Record
- WFL0
- WWHL

LOCAL PARTNERS

Amelia, Nottoway, and Prince Edward County:

- Board of Supervisors
- Local Gov't-Administrative staff
- Farm Bureau Agencies
- Health Department staff
- Heart of VA Master Gardeners
- Central Piedmont Master Naturalists
- Middle James Roundtable
- Southern Piedmont Agriculture Research Extension Center
- James River Association

Vision Statement
The Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District envisions Amelia, Nottoway & Prince Edward Counties as areas committed to stewardship of its soil health & water quality.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mission Statement

To identify and provide technical, educational, and financial resources to the citizens of Amelia, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties in order to promote the wise use and conservation of soil, water, and related resources.

BULK RATE
11 S. Orange Pkwy
Farmville, VA
23901
Permit No. 71



Directors: (L-R)

Larkin Moyer, Chairman - Amelia County
Jennifer Morris - Amelia County
Horace Adams, Secretary - Prince Edward County
Dr. Jimmy Gates - Prince Edward County
Chuck Arnason, Treasurer - Nottoway County
Ricky Rash, Vice Chair - Nottoway County
Juan Whittington, At Large Appointed-Amelia Co.
Mackenzie Gunn, VCE Appointed - Amelia County

Associate Directors:

Gary Dillard - Amelia County (front right)
Not pictured:
Dr. Kathy Gee - Nottoway County
Erin Small, VCE - Prince Edward County



District Staff: (L-R)

Ty Smith, Conservation Technician, Kevin Dunn, Senior Conservation Specialist, Deanna Fehrler, District Manager, Charlie Wootton, Senior Conservation Specialist, Dennis Thompson, Watershed Dam Manager, Kelly Atkinson, Education Coordinator



Office: (434) 392-3782
Website: www.piedmontswcd.org
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Serving Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties