



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia
August 27, 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
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Mackenzie Gunn – Appointed VCE Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County
Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist
Tara Ciavarella, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia

PSWCD Staff Present:

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

Partners Present:

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Farmville/Nottoway
Cristy Cook, FSA Director, Farmville/Nottoway
Lyle Currin, VCE ANR agent, Nottoway
Erin Small, VCE ANR agent, Prince Edward
Claire Helmke, Private Lands Biologist, Quail Forever

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, August 27, 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 Ms. Morris, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the July 23, 2024 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the July 2024 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit. Mr. Arnason pointed out that we will be implementing finance charges on past due equipment invoices. The equipment billing report included in the Treasurer’s report reflects current finance charges on past due invoices. Ms. Fehrer also reported she has returned VACS funding and along with associated technical assistance funds to DCR. The profit loss report reflects this transaction as an expense, but it is not technically an expense. She will ask the auditors the best way to record the transaction, but for now it is shown as an expense.

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

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the forgiving the following VACS contract due to the ‘death of participant’ clause in the VACS manual:

Billy L. Dempsey (Prince Edward)
05-14-0037 (171040) SL6-T expiration 12/31/2024
05-15-0036 (203390) SL6-T expiration 12/31/2025
Mr. Dempsey died 3/18/2022, no surviving spouse.

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

- Joseph B. McMillian (CP 05-25-0006) BMP
- Gina M. DeJesus (CP 05-25-0002) BMP
- Samuel F. Sanger Jr. (CP 05-25-0007) BMP
- Charles Garnett (CP 05-25-0005) BMP
- Nottoway County plan for CREP (1) FSA/NRCS

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

Chesapeake Bay
Prince Edward County

James C. Garnett 25-0007 (590175)	SL-7 Extension of Rotational Grazing and Water System (10yr) 05- Estimated Cost \$ 11,935.00 Total Estimated Cost-Share \$ 8,951.25 (75%)
James W. Garnett, Jr. 05-25-0006 (598585)	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (66.6) Early Estimated Cost \$ 4,662.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 4,662.00
Neubauer Farms LLC 05-25-0019 (601601)	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (95.6) Early/Late Kill -Rye Estimated Cost \$ 9,560.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 9,560.00
Neubauer Farms LLC 05-25-0019 (601602)	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan (95.6) ac. Estimated Cost \$ 191.20 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 191.20

Collin Wolfe 05-25-0013 (597680)	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (477.5) Early/Rye	Estimated Cost	\$ 42,975.00
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 42,975.00

Collin Wolfe 05-25-0013 (598438)	SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (13.8) ac.	Estimated Cost	\$ 276.00
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 276.00

Collin Wolfe 05-25-0013 (598474)	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan (491.3) ac.	Estimated Cost	\$ 982.60
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 982.60

Nottoway County

Steven E Oakes 05-25-0017 (600812)	CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer Maint. (1700')	Estimated Cost	\$ 3,625.00
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 3,625.00

Warehouse Crop & Cattle 05-25-0015 (598576)	SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (545.7) ac.	Estimated Cost	\$ 10,914.00
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 10,914.00

Amelia

Iron Gate Farms LLC 05-25-0020 (601603)	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (345.1) Early/Rye	Estimated Cost	\$ 34,510.00
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 34,510.00

Henrico Farms Inc. 05-25-0018 (601600)	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (203.7) Early /Rye	Estimated Cost	\$ 18,333.00
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 18,333.00

Henrico Farms Inc. 05-25-0018 (601598)	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan (203.7) ac.	Estimated Cost	\$ 407.40
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 407.40

Henrico Farms Inc. 05-25-0018 (601599)	NM-5N Precision Nit. App. (203.7) ac.	Estimated Cost	\$ 1,629.60
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,629.60

Whitaker Farm Inc. 05-25-0012 (597634)	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (453) Early	Estimated Cost	\$ 31,710.00
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 31,710.00

Whitaker Farms Inc. 05-25-0012 (597644)	SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (26.4) ac.	Estimated Cost	\$ 528.00
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 528.00

Pride Farms of Amelia LLC 05-25-0024 (603305)	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (164.8) Early	Estimated Cost	\$ 11,536.00
		Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 11,536.00

Pride Farms of Amelia LLC 05-25-0024 (603303)	NM-1A Nut. Mgmt. Plan (164.8) ac.	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 329.60
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 329.60

R.M. Watkins & sons Inc. 05-25-0022 (603265)	NM-6 Manure Injection (453.4) ac.	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 20,403.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 20,403.00

Outside CB (OCB)**Nottoway County**

Joseph B McMillian 05-25-0005 (590035)	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (2500')	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 21,290.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 20,225.50 (95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$ 2,560.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 22,785.50

Gina M. DeJesus 05-25-0001 (588790)	SL-1 Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland (45 ac.)	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 18,000.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 13,500.00 (75%)
	Estimated Incentive (5 year)	\$ 1,125.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 14,625.00

John C. Bledsoe 05-25-0011 (594485)	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (147.3) Early/Rye	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 13,257.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 13,257.00

Harrison Moody 05-25-0010 (594359)	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (286.1) Early	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 20,027.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 20,027.00

Warehouse Crop & Cattle 05-25-0015 (598573)	SL-8B Cover Crop for Nut. Mgmt. (215.2) Early	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 15,064.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 15,064.00

Warehouse Crop & Cattle 05-25-0015 (598525)	SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (21) ac.	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 420.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 420.00

Samuel F. Sanger 05-25-0014 (598484)	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (1980')	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 16,700.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 15,865.00 (95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$ 2,000.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 17,865.00

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS application (with Mr. Moyer leaving the room):

Oakmulgee Dairy Farm 05-25-0023 (603268)	NM-6 Manure Injection (109) ac.	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 4,905.00

Estimated Cost-Share \$ 4,905.00

Total CB VACS25 Approvals: \$ 206,428.65
Total OCB VACS 25 Approvals: \$ 104,043.50

This year there is an additional \$10 incentive payment for SL-8B practice that allows the cover crop to remain until after May 15 (late kill designation).

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

Spring Creek Grant #16969

George Dickhoff 05-25-0008 (590427)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out Estimated Cost Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$ 450.00 \$ 225.00
George Dickhoff 05-25-0008 (590442)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out Estimated Cost Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$ 450.00 \$ 225.00
Henery Allen 05-25-0016 (598640)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out Estimated Cost Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$ 450.00 \$ 225.00
Henery Allen 05-25-0016 (598642)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out Estimated Cost Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$ 450.00 \$ 225.00
Susan Lawman 05-25-0021 (603258)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out Estimated Cost Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$ 450.00 \$ 225.00
Susan Lawman 05-25-0021 (603260)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out Estimated Cost Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$ 450.00 \$ 225.00
Susan Lawman 05-25-0021 (603313)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out Estimated Cost Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$ 450.00 \$ 225.00
Patricia Bates 05-25-0026 (603330)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out Estimated Cost Estimated Cost Share (90%)	\$ 450.00 \$ 405.00
Melissa Stowe 05-25-0025 (603329)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out Estimated Cost Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$ 450.00 \$ 225.00
	Total Septic Cost Share Approvals	\$ 2,205.00

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote,

the Board accepted the following Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) application as presented to be forwarded to the VCAP Steering Committee for approval of funding:

Lafern Joseph	636 - Rainwater Harvesting (1,812 gallons)	
05-25-01	Estimated Cost	\$ 14,149.58
	Estimated Incentive Payment	\$ 7,248.00

Ms. Joseph’s application is for a RWH system at a hoop house. The system was designed by an engineer. The VCAP Steering Committee will notify the District of the status of the application. Upon approval the District will prepare an approval letter to the applicant. The practice is reimbursable and the Steering Committee approves the payment upon project completion.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the 2024 designated uses for carryover funds including \$5,000 out of local funds to be used for septic pump-outs for individuals outside of the two septic grant areas. Those individuals will use the same forms (contract numbers generated in-house), be limited to a maximum of 50% of the cost (capped at \$225), and applications taken on a first come, first serve basis. Report attached.

The District was informed by USDA that the phone service and number provided to the District was going to be discontinued by the end of the calendar year, due to USDA phones moving to a ‘Teams’ VOIP, which utilizes their internet system. Kinex is currently the District’s internet service provider and has already installed infrastructure for internet communication by the District. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a contract with Kinex Telecom in the amount of \$1,474.20 for new phones (7) and training. The contract also includes a monthly fee of \$123.13 for 3 concurrent calls and taxes.** The District’s new phone number will be (434) 392-7071. The phones will be installed later this year and at that time the process to update all correspondence, website, outreach materials will occur. A copy of the contract is attached.

Mr. Arnason reported that 2 bids were received for the Bush #2 and Bush #5 IFB repair projects (wave berms and storm damage repair). The bid also included an addendum for access road improvements, specific pre-cast culvert material and removal and installation of a remote monitoring station at Bush #2. The bid was evaluated on the total lump sum of all the components. The lowest bid came in at \$354,800. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved accepting the low bid with B & B Services, LLC and preparation of the contract.**

As part of the construction repairs at Bush #2 and Bush #5, there is a need for a construction inspector who will be on-site during the repairs to ensure the repairs meet the designs and engineering standards as well as to provide written and photo documentation of the repair activities that will assist with ‘as-built’ certification. During past repairs, the District has contracted with Barry Mason to provide these services. DCR Engineer, Charles Wilson, has agreed to accept Mr. Mason’s documentation to help with the certification and project close-out. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a contract with Mr. Barry Mason to provide these services at a rate of \$75/hour.** Attached is the contract.

PLANNING

Ms. Collins reviewed the FY24 assessments for Operations and Virginia Agriculture Cost Share grants. The District received 'A's' for all grant deliverables. Copies are attached with these minutes as well as filed in the office.

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work for September. There are several upcoming outreach events.

Ms. Fehrer reported the VASWCD Annual Meeting will be held this year at the Hotel Roanoke December 8-10. Reservations can be made now. Directors can make their own reservations and the District will reimburse (or charge the District credit card upon check-out) or Ms. Fehrer can make the reservations. Registration information will be forthcoming.

Ms. Fehrer shared information about the resurrected Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable, which is being led by Crater Planning District Commission. They will meet Friday, October 18 in Petersburg. The roundtable is a stakeholder and community driven initiative to address natural resource concerns within the watershed. SWCD programs can assist in meeting some of the goals. (Information attached)

On a motion by Ms. Morris, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved Mackenzie Gunn to be the VCE appointed agent on the board for 2025-2029. **Note – it was later discovered the Board had previously acted in April 2024 and approved Ms. Gunn to serve as the VCE agent for those years.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

Mr. Wootton reported that Tropical Storm Debby dropped about 7-9" of rain in the Prospect area. Several Buffalo dams had elevated water levels, but no emergency spillways were activated. The remote monitoring was very helpful in monitoring the water levels. Mr. Wootton and Mr. Smith checked several dams on the Friday after the storm, while Mr. Thompson checked all the Buffalo dams after water levels receded. There were no signs of erosion, debris or damage.

Ms. Fehrer prepared a 5-year maintenance plan of work for District dams. This includes reminders of inspections, table-top planning exercise, repair projects and other workload deadlines. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates, and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the 5-year maintenance plan as a working document to help with dam workload.** For the remainder of calendar year 2024, the District will submit a request for small dam repair funding for the next repair project at Buffalo #1 – wave berm and seepage repairs as well as gate valve inspections at Bush #4B, Buffalo #1-#4 dams.

Mr. Arnason reported the gate valve repairs at Bush #2, Bush #5, Bush #6 and Bush #7 have been completed. Ms. Fehrer has submitted the paperwork to DCR for contract reimbursement and project close-out.

Ms. Fehrer reported that she and Mr. Thompson have completed 90% of the updates to the Emergency Action Plans. Once completed, Ms. Fehrer will get signatures from the District and submit to Prince Edward County for their signatures. After that is completed, the documents will be submitted to the Dam Safety Inventory System and will be on-line for DCR, VDEM and other agencies to access. The EAPs help guide response and actions during an emergency at the dams. Each dam has an EAP specific to the dam and site.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Chair Dillard

Ms. Fehrer reported Billy Patterson was hired as the equipment manager and has begun delivering drills and performing maintenance. He will attend a board meeting sometime in the future to meet everyone.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Rash reported he and Mr. Dunn will be attending a VASWCD Legislative Committee call this afternoon. Several items up for discussion include supporting localities authority to make decisions regarding solar installations within the locality; drilling deeper wells for access to more water; consideration of changing the 60/40 split of funding between CB & OCB; the establishment of a non-reverting dam maintenance fund.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION – Chair Gunn

Ms. Fehrer passed around the Annual Report, which is at the printer. Distribution to stakeholders will begin in a couple of weeks. Ms. Fehrer also provided Directors with the recently printed ‘At a Glance’ postcards that summarize the District accomplishments for FY24. Mr. Rash reported he would be willing to represent the PSWCD at a fall festival at Mercy Fest in Blackston on Saturday September 21. **On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the District to pay the \$35 registration fee.**

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

District Manager & Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer thanked Mr. Wootton and Ms. Atkinson for their well-received and informative presentations at the Graves Mtn Employee training last week. Mr. Wootton along with fellow SWCD staff presented training on fencing standards and Ms. Atkinson presented a make and take session on Girl Scout watershed patch program. Technical staff had the opportunity to earn up to 9 hours of continuing education credits. Ms. Atkinson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Smith and Mr. Wootton all attended the 2-1/2- day training. Ms. Fehrer met with Kinex (current ISP) who will be providing a quote for updating operating systems and office software. Ms. Fehrer reported there have been a slew of events in the area sponsored by many of our partners. The District has had to choose which events to participate in based on the availability of staff resources and relevancy of the event to the District’s mission.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights on her report including upcoming deadlines and trainings. She will check into the status of the auditor contacting the District regarding the upcoming audit. Ms. Collins reminded staff not to delete any instances from the tracking program, but rather to contact her to make those changes. An October 1 zoom meeting is being held with the representative from the Office of Attorney General and she encouraged District directors and staff to attend.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Small reported she had a great turnout at Dairy Day held at the local dairy in Prince Edward county. She had over 200 people attend the event with 20+ vendors. The open house with 5 Pillar Meats will be held this Saturday 3pm-6pm. Agents will be attending an upcoming pesticide training. She is finishing her cut flower discussion groups and will be assisting Virginia

Tech with fecal bacteria count study in irrigation water. There is a fencing school on October 1 in partnership with VFGC. She passed around a flyer advertising a ‘Fireside Chat with a Veterinarian’ on Tuesday, September 24 at Three Roads Brewery.

Mr. Currin reported on several upcoming workshops: August 30, Optimizing Hay Feeding at SPAREC; September 12, South Central Pumpkin Field Day in Lunenburg county; September 12, Farm & Family Day at SPAREC; September 19 – Forage & Livestock Field Day at SPAREC (the District is a sponsor and will be attending).

Ms. Gunn was unable to attend today’s meeting, but wanted to thank the Board for their support of the Pioneer Field Day and Pesticide Recertification Day held at Featherstone Farm. Ms. Fehrer reported it was well attended and very well organized with many good speakers. Ms. Gunn also has several upcoming workshops: pastured poultry; equine discussion group; State Fair and VALOR program.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans shared highlights of his report including all 6 high tunnel applications under EQIP were funded. Application deadline for all programs is October 11 and moving forward the second Friday of October will be the deadline. State office personnel have been visiting the service center and speaking with NRCS and other partner staff. Ms. Fehrer spoke with their outreach folks earlier in the day.

USDA-Farm Service Agency (attached)

Ms. Cook reported she and AJ Austin recently attended a state training focusing on disaster programs. Her office is concentrating on end of year workload, including CREP re-enrollments. She highlighted several upcoming outreach events.

Quail Forever

Ms. Helmke reported she is still getting familiar with the area and is focusing on meeting clients. Her workload encompasses 15 counties. She will be attending several upcoming outreach events – VSU Ag Field Day on August 29 and Field Days of the Past in Amelia.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Treasurer report; DCR Grant assessments; FY24 designated funds; Kinex contract; Dam Inspector Contract; Southern Rivers Roundtable plan of work; 5 Year Maintenance Plan for Dams; Staff & partner reports

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

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