



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia  
September 24, 2024 11:00 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / 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  
Erin Small – Associate Director, VCE ANR Agent Prince Edward County

**Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:**

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman  
Mackenzie Gunn – Appointed VCE Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent  
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County  
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Farmville/Nottoway  
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  
Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist

**Partners Present:**

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation  
Cristy Cook, FSA Director, Farmville/Nottoway

**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, September 24, 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 August 27, 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 August 2024 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.**

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

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

Robert Morris 5-25-0008 SL1 practice  
Signed by staff for FSA: Amelia (1) CREP

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS applications totaling \$731,188.15 and \$198.38 tax credit as presented:**

**Chesapeake Bay FY25**

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Contract #</b>	<b>Instance</b>	<b>Practice</b>	<b>Extent</b>		<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Est. Cost Share</b>
Ameva	05-25-0059	625790	NM-6	88.3	Acres	\$3,973.50	\$3,973.50
Ameva	05-25-0059	625788	SL-8B	180.7	Acres	\$12,649.00	\$12,649.00
Ameva	05-25-0059	625789	SL-8H	112.2	Acres	\$2,244.00	\$2,244.00
Anthony Lewis	05-25-0047	625252	SL-8B	192.6	Acres	\$17,334.00	\$17,334.00
Blanton Farms LC	05-25-0038	624709	SL-8B	282.9	Acres	\$19,803.00	\$19,803.00
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-25-0046	625160	SL-8M	382.2	Acres	\$17,199.00	\$17,199.00
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-25-0046	625211	SL-8B	234.6	Acres	\$16,422.00	\$16,422.00
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-25-0046	625214	SL-8H	139.7	Acres	\$2,794.00	\$2,794.00
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-25-0046	625219	NM-1A	756.5	Acres	\$3,026.00	\$3,026.00
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-25-0046	625216	NM-6	521.9	Acres	\$23,485.50	\$23,485.50
Creek View Farm	05-25-0049	625263	SL-8B	138	Acres	\$12,420.00	\$12,420.00
David A Ashman	05-25-0037	624617	SL-8B	6	Acres	\$420.00	\$420.00
David A Ashman	05-25-0037	624618	SL-8H	34.8	Acres	\$696.00	\$696.00
David B Benson	05-25-0044	625101	SL-8B	431.7	Acres	\$30,219.00	\$30,219.00
David B Benson	05-25-0044	625102	SL-8H	16.8	Acres	\$336.00	\$336.00
Dean M Smith	05-25-0039	625055	SL-8B	83.5	Acres	\$5,845.00	\$5,845.00
Dwayne D Moore	05-25-0050	625275	SL-8B	393.1	Acres	\$27,517.00	\$27,517.00
Dwayne D Moore	05-25-0050	625278	SL-8H	35.3	Acres	\$706.00	\$706.00
Ford Farm Enterprises LLC	05-25-0042	625078	SL-8B	80.1	Acres	\$5,607.00	\$5,607.00
Frog Enterprises LLC	05-25-0048	625258	SL-8B	211.2	Acres	\$19,008.00	\$19,008.00
George G Toth	05-25-0051	625285	SL-8B	297.2	Acres	\$20,804.00	\$20,804.00
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm, Kenny Barnard	05-25-0033	624137	SL-8H	302.6	Acres	\$6,052.00	\$6,052.00
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm, Kenny Barnard	05-25-0033	624146	SL-8B	297.1	Acres	\$20,797.00	\$20,797.00
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm, Kenny Barnard	05-25-0033	624150	WQ-4	257.2	Acres	\$11,574.00	\$11,574.00
Isaac Grissom	05-25-0058	625754	SL-8B	282.10	Acres	\$19,747.00	\$19,747.00
Isaac Grissom	05-25-0058	625756	SL-8H	24.5	Acres	\$490.00	\$490.00
James M Schenck	05-25-0052	625405	SL-8B	218.4	Acres	\$15,288.00	\$15,288.00
James M Schenck	05-25-0052	625406	SL-8H	30.3	Acres	\$606.00	\$606.00
James R Fleming	05-25-0043	625079	SL-8B	41.8	Acres	\$2,926.00	\$2,926.00
James R Fleming	05-25-0043	625080	SL-8H	39.9	Acres	\$798.00	\$798.00

James R. Austin, Jr.	05-25-0032	622901	SL-8B	193.3	Acres	\$13,531.00	\$13,531.00
John C Ashman	05-25-0041	625073	SL-8B	901.4	Acres	\$63,098.00	\$63,098.00
John C Ashman	05-25-0041	625074	SL-8H	46.2	Acres	\$924.00	\$924.00
John C Ashman	05-25-0041	625076	WQ-4	175.7	Acres	\$7,906.50	\$7,906.50
John P. Shepherd	05-25-0027	610806	SL-8B	859.9	Acres	\$77,391.00	\$77,391.00
John P. Shepherd	05-25-0027	610814	NM-1A	859.9	Acres	\$1,719.80	\$1,719.80
Nicholas Moody	05-25-0034	623732	SL-8B	201.5	Acres	\$14,105.00	\$14,105.00
Nicholas Moody	05-25-0034	623759	NM-1A	201.5	Acres	\$403.00	\$403.00
Nicholas Moody	05-25-0034	623768	NM-5P	201.54	Acres	\$1,612.00	\$1,612.00
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-25-0045	625114	SL-8B	135.5	Acres	\$9,485.00	\$9,485.00
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-25-0045	625136	SL-8M	212.6	Acres	\$9,567.00	\$9,567.00
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-25-0045	625138	NM-6	212.6	Acres	\$9,567.00	\$9,567.00
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-25-0045	625159	NM-1A	348.1	Acres	\$1,392.40	\$1,392.40
R. M. Watkins & Sons, Inc.	05-25-0022	624604	SL-8M	318.8	Acres	\$14,346.00	\$14,346.00
R. M. Watkins & Sons, Inc.	05-25-0022	624607	SL-8B	947.2	Acres	\$66,304.00	\$66,304.00
R. M. Watkins & Sons, Inc.	05-25-0022	624608	SL-8H	407.1	Acres	\$8,142.00	\$8,142.00
R. M. Watkins & Sons, Inc.	05-25-0022	624610	NM-6	318.8	Acres	\$14,346.00	\$14,346.00
Richard Goode	05-25-0036	624159	SL-8B	252.7	Acres	\$18,763.00	\$18,763.00
Richard Goode	05-25-0036	624164	SL-8H	33.7	Acres	\$674.00	\$674.00
Smith Tobacco Farms LLC	05-25-0053	625407	SL-8B	338.7	Acres	\$23,709.00	\$23,709.00
Smith Tobacco Farms LLC	05-25-0053	625408	SL-8	215.7	Acres	\$8,628.00	\$8,628.00
Triple Ridge Farm LLC	05-25-0040	625063	SL-8B	195.1	Acres	\$13,657.00	\$13,657.00
Triple Ridge Farm LLC	05-25-0040	625065	SL-8H	19.1	Acres	\$382.00	\$382.00
White Oak Farm - Brian Williams	05-25-0055	625409	SL-8B	131	Acres	\$11,790.00	\$11,790.00
Woodville Farm	05-25-0057	625721	SL-8B	135.1	Acres	\$9457.00	\$9457.00
Woodville Farm	05-25-0057	625734	NM1A	135.1	Acres	\$270.20	\$270.20
Moore, James	05-25-0056	625718	CCI-SL6W	3075	Feet	\$6093.75	\$6093.75
Morris, Robert	05-25-0060	625791	SL-1	11.6	Acres	\$4,350.00	\$3,552.50
Morris, Robert	05-25-0060	625791	SL-1				\$199.38 Tax CREDIT ONLY

**On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS applications totaling \$176,396.20 FY25 CB (with Mr. Moyer and Mr. Whittington leaving the room):**

						Est. Cost	Est. Cost Share
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	05-25-0023	622981	NM-1A	1094.6	Acres	\$4,378.40	\$4,378.40
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	05-25-0023	623932	SL-8B	30.8	Acres	\$2,156.00	\$2,156.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	05-25-0023	623937	SL-8H	110	Acres	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	05-25-0023	623943	WQ-4	496.3	Acres	\$22,333.50	\$22,333.50
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	05-25-0023	623945	NM-6	496.3	Acres	\$22,333.50	\$22,333.50
Featherstone Farm	05-25-0035	624154	WQ-4	573.6	Acres	\$25,812.00	\$25,812.00
Featherstone Farm	05-25-0035	624156	SL-8H	135	Acres	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
Featherstone Farm	05-25-0035	624161	SL-8B	1035.1	Acres	\$72,457.00	\$72,457.00

Featherstone Farm	05-25-0035	624174	NM-1A	1743.7	Acres	\$3,487.40	\$3,487.40
Featherstone Farm	05-25-0035	624176	NM-5P	1743.7	Acres	\$34,874.00	\$13,949.60
Featherstone Farm	05-25-0035	624177	NM-5N	573.6	Acres	\$6,118.40	\$4,588.80

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS \$2072.00 applications as presented:**  
**Outside the Bay FY25**

						Est. Cost	Est. Cost Share
Nicholas Moody	05-25-0034	623678	SL-8B	25.9	Acres	\$1,813.00	\$1,813.00
Nicholas Moody	05-25-0034	623717	NM-1A	25.9	Acres	\$51.80	\$51.80
Nicholas Moody	05-25-0034	623719	NM-5P	25.9	Acres	\$207.20	\$207.20

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS applications totaling \$187,960.00 as presented using set-aside 'Whole Farm Approach' funding from DCR:**

FY25 Whole Farm OCB						Est. Cost	Est. Cost Share
John P. Shepherd	05-25-0027	603536	WFA-CC	152.5	Acres	\$14,335.00	\$14,335.00
John P. Shepherd	05-25-0027	610791	WFA-CC	1727.1	Acres	\$162,347.40	\$162,347.40
John P. Shepherd	05-25-0027	607384	WFA-NM	152.5	Acres	\$915.00	\$915.00
John P. Shepherd	05-25-0027	610605	WFA-NM	1727.1	Acres	\$10,362.60	\$10,362.60

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following septic applications totaling \$2,615.00 as presented:**

PO16969 Septic Spring Creek Grant					Est. Cost	Estimated Cost Share
Demetria C. Johnson	05-25-0029	616204	RB-1		\$450.00	\$315.00
W. Delbert Southall, Jr.	05-25-0030	619364	RB-1		\$450.00	\$225.00
W. Delbert Southall, Jr.	05-25-0030	619448	RB-1		\$450.00	\$225.00
Thelma E Dews	05-25-0031	619458	RB-1		\$450.00	\$225.00
W. Delbert Southall, Jr.	05-25-0030	622996	RB-3M		\$3,250.00	\$1,625.00

Mr. Dunn answered several questions concerning some of the agronomic practices including a new SL-8M practice. He reported this was the majority of the agronomic workload for this program year, but there will be additional applications next month. The Board had previously approved participating in the Whole Farm Approach Pilot Program and that while it will be helpful in the Outside the Bay watershed, it will likely not be adopted by the dairies because payments cannot be made until all the practices have been implemented.

The Board did not make any changes to the current contacts (Mr. Moyer and Mr. Wootton) for the Ag Stewardship Act program.

Ms. Fehrer reported that application forms and guidelines have been completed for the \$5,000 budgeted funds for residential septic pump-outs OUTSIDE of the current TMDL 319 grants. The budgeted funds will only be used for 50% cost of septic pump-outs (using the current maximum of \$450), will only apply to the homeowner (no rental properties) and will utilize all specifications for the RB-1 practice. The numbers will be reported to DEQ, but not as part of the grants. Ms. Fehrer and Mr. Smith had a progress review with the 319 TMDL grant manager, Madison Whitehurst, and progress with

implementation of the grants including funding, outreach and installed practices are in-line with goals. Ms. Fehrer mentioned that the local health departments are not providing as many referrals as they had in the past, but the office is receiving referrals from septic contractors.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason**

Mr. Arnason reported that Kinex (currently District's IT provider) provided a quote for upgrades to the District's desktop and laptop computers. The upgrades include new operating software (Windows 11) and Microsoft Business 365 suite as well as upgrades in fiber optic capability and backup services. The monthly IT costs will increase to approximately \$330/month. Costs have been budgeted. Ms. Fehrer reported she also had another quote from a local company, but Kinex was the lowest.

Mr. Arnason reported finance charges on past due equipment rentals have been effective in more timely payments.

Ms. Fehrer reported the District's audit will take place on January 23, 2025 for their two-year audit by Robinson, Farmer and Cox.

### **PLANNING**

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work for October. Quarterly reports will be due and there are no recommendations for the Clean Water Farm Award.

Ms. Fehrer reported the VASWCD Annual Meeting will be held this year at the Hotel Roanoke December 8-10. Hotel reservations can be made now. Registration information will be forthcoming.

### **WATERSHED - Chair Arnason**

Mr. Arnason explained that upgrading the remote monitors on the District's dams to a satellite-based system (rather than cellular) would provide more reliable data and service. A satellite-based system is available through DCR and would be installed through a state contract. The annual monitoring fee is \$1,000 (cellular is \$300/year) and the additional features such as a camera and better data would warrant the cost. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the District to pursue satellite remote monitoring for 13 District dams (all except Bush #5).**

Ms. Fehrer reported that the mowing contract will need renewal next month and the fall mowing will begin when weather is favorable.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Chair Dillard**

Ms. Fehrer reported the Assistant District Manager position has been advertised through various list-serves of partners, posted on websites (including Prince Edward County) and other social media. She asked board members and partners to share the information with anyone who has expressed an interest or who might be a good candidate.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash**

Mr. Dunn reported the VASWCD has reviewed and refined the 2025 Draft Legislative Agenda. One new addition is the request to fund residential septic practices outside any TMDL 319 grant areas across the state.

### **COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION – Chair Gunn**

Ms. Atkinson reported on the following:

- Ms. Atkinson thanks Mr. Wootton and Mr. Dunn for setting up and running the soil tunnel at Farm & Family Day on September 14 at SPAREC;
- The Chesapeake Bay Trust grant will begin with a 2-day workshop tomorrow and Thursday at Twin Lakes State Park. The grant and workshop will work with several teachers and park staff on how to prepare and implement a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE);
- Partners include L.K. Mondrey, Amelia 4H agent; Roger Pinholster, local educator; and Angela Whittaker, former teacher and current employee of 'Humane Education' organization;
- Ms. Atkinson and Mr. Dunn will pick-up the new mobile education trailer this week and staff will work on getting ramps, steps and other items needed before it can be utilized. Ms. Atkinson is planning on showcasing the trailer on October 12 at the Twin Lakes State Park, Fall Fest;
- An Envirothon team has been formed at Fuqua School. Ms. Atkinson is working with Amelia County High School to establish a team;
- Ms. Atkinson will be attending a faculty meeting at Amelia Schools;
- She (along with Ms. Angela Whittaker) will be presenting a session at the VASWCD Annual Meeting.

### **DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS**

#### District Manager & Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the previously emailed report.

-Mr. Dunn had a very large workload the over the past several months as evidenced by the numerous applications that have been presented at the Board meetings;

- Mr. Wootton received his Conservation Planner re-certification from DCR;

- The District staff and directors have participated in quite a few outreach events and meetings in August and September with several more upcoming in October;

- Mr. Patterson is doing a good job with the drills The office has not received any phone calls or complaints. There will most likely be some extensive repairs to the drills this fall/winter season (replacing discs and bearings on at least 2 of the drills). Postcards notifying past drill users of the change in the drill manager were mailed;

- The FY23-34 Annual Reports were completed and mailed. Additional copies are available in the office;

- Dam emergency action plans have been completed however, they have not been submitted to Dam Safety for approval or upload into DSIS because of the upcoming change in the District's phone number. Once that occurs, the plans will be finalized and distributed to Prince Edward County, Dam Safety, DCR and other stakeholders including staff gauge observers;

- An October 1st zoom meeting is being held with the representative from the Office of Attorney General and she encouraged District directors and staff to attend.

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

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights on her report including upcoming deadlines and trainings. She reminded elected directors that any returning elected director (not newly elected) must complete the required FOIA training. Two on-line trainings are scheduled – November 13 and December 4. Directors should take a screen shot of the training to confirm they completed. Ms. Collins suggested that the district office maintain a list of the FOIA and COIA trainings requirement dates for each director.

#### Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Small reported the following:

- She represented VCE at the Amelia Field Days of the Past event;

- She has completed numerous flower design/growing programs across the region;
- On October 2, VCE and VFGC are coordinating a fencing/troubleshooting workshop at Miller Adams farm in Charlotte county;
- She will be attending the Prince Edward County Farm Bureau annual meeting in October;
- The Prince Edward VCE office will sponsor a water testing clinic. 10/9 is the pickup date for testing kits; 10/16 is drop off of water samples. Ms. Small will be scheduling a results review before the end of the calendar year. The cost of the test is \$70 and you do not need to be a resident of Prince Edward County to participate;
- Ms. Small reminded everyone about the program ‘Fireside Chat with a Veterinarian’ on Tuesday, September 24 at Three Roads Brewery;
- She is starting 4H Livestock Club for Prince Edward county youth ages 9-19 and asked folks to let her know of interested youth.

Ms. Gunn was unable to attend today’s meeting, but she submitted the following announcements about upcoming programs: Oct 21-22 an AI clinic at SPAREC (\$125/producer with 15 spots available); Oct 22 Estate/Heirs workshop in Amelia; Coop to Soup program ongoing (raising and processing pasture raised poultry.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans and Ms. Ciavarella were attending a NRCS training. There reports were included in the emailed board meeting packet.

USDA-Farm Service Agency (Attached)

Ms. Cook reviewed her report.

- Her office is working on completing year end work and FY24 PLC reviews;
- Her staff attended the Amelia Field Days of the Past event and were disappointed in the turnout and location of their booth;
- FSA is experiencing a reduction in the CREP re-enrollments and it is mostly due to low incentive rates to the producer;
- She and her staff have participated in several food gleaning and food distribution at the Amelia Food Pantry.
- She reminded everyone of the Organic Certification Cost Share program that FSA has available.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

**ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:**

Treasurer report; Staff & partner reports

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deanna Fehrer, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Horace Adams, Director / Secretary