



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia  
November 26, 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  
Mackenzie Gunn – Appointed VCE Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent  
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County  
Erin Small – Associate Director, VCE ANR Agent Prince Edward County

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

Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County  
Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist

**PSWCD Staff Present:**

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

**Partners Present:**

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation  
Cristy Cook, County Executive Director, Farm Service Agency  
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Farmville/Nottoway  
Tara Ciavarella, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia  
Claire Helmke, Farm Bill Biologist, Quail Forever  
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, November 26, 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. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved October 22, 2024, minutes as presented.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**On a motion by Ms. Morris, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the October 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. Rash, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following conservation plans as presented:**

- A. VACS
  - Dwayne Moore (CP-5-25-0012)- BMP
  - Jean W. Payne (CP-5-25-0013)- BMP
- B. **Signed by Staff for FSA**
  - 1 (Transfer)

The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and DCR Director authorized District Boards the opportunity to extend planting dates for certain cover crop practices based on the USDA drought disaster declaration for all counties in Virginia (see attached memorandum). **On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved an extension of up to 14 days beyond the standard planting dates for cover crop practices SL8, SL8A, SL8H, SL8M, NM7, WFACC and WQ4.**

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS applications totaling \$59,362.50 CB funding as presented:**

**Prince Edward County**

<b>Monica DeLand</b> 05-25-0088 #642434	<b>CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer Maint. (4900’)</b> Estimated Cost \$ 6,375.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 6,375.00
--	--

<b>Benjamin Dempsey</b> 05-25-0087 #642375	<b>CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer Maint. (3600’)</b> Estimated Cost \$ 6,000.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 6,000.00
---	--

<b>Pinehaven, Kevin Trent</b> 05-25-0094 #646120	<b>SL-8B Permanent Vegetative Cover on Cropland (153.3 ac)</b> Estimated Cost \$ 6,132.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 6,132.00
---	--

<b>Richard Wallace</b> 05-25-0097 #646507	<b>SL-8 Protective Cover for Specialty Crops (66.4 ac)</b> Estimated Cost \$ 2,656.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 2,656.00
--	--

<b>Charles Allen</b> 05-25-0099 #646592	<b>SL-8B Permanent Vegetative Cover on Cropland (40.5 ac)</b> Estimated Cost \$ 1,620.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,620.00
--	---

**SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (14.4 ac)**

05-25-0099 #646592	Estimated Cost	\$ 288.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 288.00

\*Up for approval only if Section II EAN is Approved

**Nottoway County****George Kite, Jr.**

05-25-0090 #643627

**CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer Maint. (4580')**

Estimated Cost	\$ 7,225.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 7,225.00

**Leslie W. Norton**

05-25-0092 #645989

**CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer Maint. (6200')**

Estimated Cost	\$ 9,500.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 9,500.00

**John F. Phillips**

05-25-0093 #645990

**SL-8B Permanent Vegetative Cover on Cropland (49.3 ac)**

Estimated Cost	\$ 3,451.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 3,451.00

**Amelia County****Bobby Stockner**

05-25-0089 #643177

**CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer Maint. (7000')**

Estimated Cost	\$ 8,750.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 8,750.00

#643175

**CCI-SL-6N Stream Exclusion w/Narrow Buffer Maint. (1880')**

Estimated Cost	\$ 1,410.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,410.00

**Charles Y. Glascock**

05-25-0091 #645576

**SL-8 Protective Cover for Specialty Crops (66.2 ac)**

Estimated Cost	\$ 2,648.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 2,648.00

**Dwayne D Moore**

05-25-0050 #643926

**SL-1 Permanent Vegetative Cover on Cropland**

Estimated Cost	\$ 4,050.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 3,307.50
Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 185.83

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS application totaling \$525.00 in CB funding as presented:**

**Contract Additions****Linda Poore**

05-25-0075 #640919

**SL-8B Cover Crop for Nutrient Management (143.5 ac(additional 7.5 ac))**

Estimated Cost	\$ 9,520.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 9,520.00

**\*Addition of 7.5 Ac of originally Approved Cover, Additional \$525.00 in Cost-Share**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS applications totaling \$12,657.05 in OCB funding**

as presented:

**OCB**  
**Nottoway**

<b>William S. Bridgeforth</b> 05-25-0095 #646220	<b>SL-8B Permanent Vegetative Cover on Cropland (187.6 ac)</b> Estimated Cost \$ 7,504.00 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 7,504.00
<b>William S. Bridgeforth</b> 05-25-0095 #646226	<b>NM-1Nutrient Management Plan Writing (223.4 ac)</b> Estimated Cost \$ 446.80 Estimated Cost-Share \$ 446.80
<b>Jean W. Payne</b> 05-25-0096 (646363)	<b>SL-7 Extension of Rotational Grazing and Watering Systems (10yr)</b> Estimated Cost \$ 6,275.00 Total Estimated Cost-Share \$ 4,706.25 (75%)

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following CREP application as presented:**

<b>Hoot Owl Hollow</b> 05-25-0033 (626209)	<b>CREP - CB</b> <b>CP 22 (.3ac)</b> Estimated Cost Share \$ 15.00
(626213)	<b>CRFR-3 (.3ac)</b> Estimated Cost-Share \$ 467.62
(626214)	<b>CRSL-6 (685')</b> Estimated Cost Share \$ 10,681.82
	<b>Total CREP CB \$ 11,164.44</b>

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following septic application totaling \$225.00 Grant #16970 as presented:**

<b>Carl Wilson</b> 05-25-0098 (646523)	<b>RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out</b> Estimated Cost \$ 450.00 Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 225.00
---	---

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board authorized Mr. Rash to approve any VACS tax credits, conservation plans and/or VACS applications during the month of December. (PSWCD Board does not meet in December).**

Mr. Dunn reported this month he had five producers who had not previously participated in VACS program who applied for and were approved for agronomic practices.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason**

No Report.

**PLANNING**

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work for December and January.

**On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote,**

**the Board approved the following officers to serve in 2025: Larkin Moyer, Chairman; Ricky Rash, Vice-Chairman; Horace Adams, Secretary; and Chuck Arnason, Treasurer.**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried out by unanimous vote, the Board approved Ms. Fehrer to be re-appointed as the District's FOIA and Record Retention officer for 2025.**

Ms. Fehrer reported that the ad-hoc bylaw committee has reviewed draft bylaws for the PSWCD. Once final edits are made, they will be presented at the January Board meeting.

#### **WATERSHED** - Chair Arnason

Mr. Thompson reported that the wave berm and storm damage repairs have been completed at Bush #5 dam. He provided some pictures of the construction work. DCR engineer, Dean Thomas, completed a final inspection and the report will be forthcoming. The contractor, B&B Services, LLC and construction inspector, Barry Mason, were commended for the excellent work that was completed.

Mr. Thompson and Dr. Gates attended a public meeting with CEP Solar, LLC concerning a potential solar project that will be located adjacent to Bush #2 watershed dam. Mr. Thompson and Dr. Gates expressed their concerns with the steep topography of the site and reviewed the proposed plans that included stormwater management practices. The proposed acreage for land disturbance is approximately 200 acres.

Ms. Fehrer reported she provided an overview of the PSWCD's watershed dam program to the 911 dispatchers with the Town of Farmville (who also serve as dispatchers for Prince Edward County).

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

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved October 22, 2024, Personnel Committee minutes as presented.**

Ms. Fehrer reported that Mr. Dillard, Ms. Morris, Mr. Arnason and herself will interview six candidates in early December for the Assistant District Manager position. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board authorized the Personnel Committee to hire for the position.**

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

Mr. Rash reported that Virginia has already lost 5,000 acres of forested land to solar development and it is predicted Virginia will lose another 5,000 acres before the expiration of the Chesapeake Bay WIP. This affects nutrient reduction goals in the WIP and the Virginia Conservation Network along with partners including VASWCD will be looking into legislative actions to help retain more forested land use.

The VASWCD Annual Meeting that is being held December 8-10 will approve the annual Legislative agenda.

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

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried out by unanimous vote,**

**the Board approved increasing the Lindy Hamlett Education Scholarship award from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per award with a potential of up to 4 awards.** Ms. Fehrer reported the PSWCD scholarship awards have been \$1,000 for at least twenty years and this brings in-line with most other SWCDs scholarship program.

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

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

The monthly workload for all the staff is included in the attached report. Ms. Fehrer reported that Mr. Smith received the second of his third Engineering Job Approval Authority review and there were no major concerns. She reported that Ms. Atkinson will be assisting with an education break-out session at the VASWCD annual meeting. All desktop computers have been replaced with Windows 11 and Microsoft 365 business software. Kinex spent 2 days transferring files and setting up the new systems. The new phone system is scheduled to be installed in the third week of December and the District's phone number will change. The staff are planning an Ag Producer meeting to be held on January 16 at SPAREC and the District's bi-annual audit will be conducted on January 23, 2025.

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

Ms. Collins reviewed several highlights in her report including upcoming deadlines. She reminded the elected directors of the upcoming FOIA training dates. She also highlighted a clarification regarding interest calculations on cost-share repayments. Ms. Collins asked staff to send her the certificate after they complete the annual security training.

#### Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ms. Gunn reported she is working on planning the annual WISE program that will be held in Chatham the second week of December. She will also be offering private applicator pesticide recertification.

Ms. Small reported she has been providing classroom programs to the Prince Edward County High School agriculture classes and is sponsoring a Livestock Club at Fuqua School. She has two upcoming programs: December 16, Animal Trapping with Chuck Wright at Hampden Sydney College and January 7 a program on bears given by the Department of Wildlife Resources. Ms. Small reported work has begun on the establishment of a community demonstration garden located here. Several local businesses have an opportunity to sponsor a raised bed with a theme and plants of their choice. Ms. Small asked if the PSWCD would be willing to sponsor a bed with a \$50 donation.

#### Quail Forever

Ms. Helmke reported she has been busy with landowner visits to 15 counties. She will be assisting NRCS with 27 contracts across those counties. Ms. Helmke has given several presentations to the local bird club, Halifax and PFSWCD producer meetings, and a Private Land Biologists meeting. She is also working with a high school in the Washington DC area who is partnering with Rock Creek Park to bring students to the park to study science and ecology concepts.

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

Ms. Ciavarella reported her office has received 48 applications for FY25. The program eligibility deadline is December 13 and all CSP renewals deadline is December 15. The partnership with

James River Association’s buffer maintenance program and summer interns was a success and the NRCS Amelia office will begin another season this coming spring that will provide free invasive species control and tree replanting to those producers whose buffers were inspected in 2024. The Amelia office has interviewed candidates for a summer soil conservationist internship through the USDA Agriculture Research Service.

Mr. Evans reported he and Ms. Ciavarella will be attending the VASWCD Annual meeting and he, along with Mr. Smith, will be participating in a panel discussion about Local Working Groups. His office has received 23 EQIP and 20 CSP applications that are being evaluated for eligibility. After some discussion about the need for a projector bulb for the NRCS projector in the conference room, the Board instructed Ms. Fehrer to purchase the bulb.

USDA-Farm Service Agency, Farmville

Ms. Cook reported her office has started a new program year and is finishing up FY24 workload. The USDA Disaster Declaration for drought in Virginia authorizes emergency loans through the FSA Farm Loan department. There is no Farm Bill, so currently there is no funding available for CREP and other programs. USDA is working under a continuing resolution that is set to expire December 20. Mr. Austin has been accepted into the CED program and will be working with various offices across the state as part of his training. Ms. Cook is in the process of hiring a temporary program assistant.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

**ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:**

Treasurer report; EAN Memo; Personnel Committee minutes; Staff & partner reports

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

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