



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia
February 25, 2025, 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
Dr. Kathy Gee, Associate Director, Nottoway County

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman
Mackenzie Gunn – Appointed VCE Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent
Erin Small – Associate Director, VCE ANR Agent Prince Edward County
Dennis Thompson – Dam Program Manager

PSWCD Staff Present:

Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist
Kevin Dunn – Senior Conservation Specialist
Deanna Fehrer - District Manager
Tyler Smith – Conservation Technician
Paula Totten – Assistant District Manager
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist

Partners Present:

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Nottoway/Farmville
Tara Ciavarella, NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia
Claire Helmke – Farm Bill Biologist, Quail Forever
Steve Bowen, Nottoway County Administrator
Doug Audley – Department of Forestry Amelia – Retired
LK Mondrey - VCE 4H Agent, Amelia County

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, February 25, 2025. Chairman Moyer welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. No additions to the agenda were recorded.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the January 28, 2025 minutes as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the January 2025 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Mr. Dunn 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:

Conservation Plans:

- A. VACS
Dustin Ashman (CP-5-25-0014)- BMP
- B. Signed by Staff for FSA
1 (CREP Transfer)

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY25 VACS applications revision (CB \$17,489.70) and one tax credit (\$440.00):

Prince Edward County

James W. Garnett, Jr. 05-25-0003 (589595)	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (100')		
	Estimated Cost	\$ 25,715.50	31,965.50
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 24,429.72	30,367.22
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$	320.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 24,749.72	30,687.22

(Revised to include additional well depth and provision of power: \$5,937.50 additional C/S)

Gary Hamby 05-25-0102 #649866	CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion w/Wide Buffer Maint. (1040')		
	Estimated Cost	\$	2,800.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	2,800.00

Nottoway

John F. Phillips 05-25-0093 #649901	NM-1Nutrient Management Plan Writing (49.3 ac)		
	Estimated Cost	\$	98.60
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	98.60
Anthony Lewis 05-25-0047 #650210	NM-1Nutrient Management Plan Writing (194.1 ac)		
	Estimated Cost	\$	388.20
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	388.20
Frog Enterprises LLC 05-25-0048 #650209	NM-1Nutrient Management Plan Writing (212.7 ac)		
	Estimated Cost	\$	425.40

	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 425.40
<u>Amelia</u>		
Dustin Ashman	SL-1 Permanent Vegetative Cover on Cropland (25.6)	
05-25-0103 #649896	Estimated Cost	\$ 9,600.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 7,840.00
	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 440.00

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following septic application totaling \$315.00 Grant #16969 as presented:

Prince Edward Grant #16969

Lisa Poff	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out	
05-25-0104 (649904)	Estimated Cost	\$ 450.00
	Estimated Cost Share (70%)	\$ 315.00

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

On a motion by Mr. Arnason and seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the purchase of 2 Walmart gift cards in the amount of \$30 each to be used as prizes for the Conservation Poster Contest.

Mr. Arnason reported that for many years the district has placed reserve funds in some type of savings account, either MM or CD. Those accounts are shown on our balance sheet and include accounts for Equipment, Dam Repair, Scholarship and Contingency Funds.

Recently we learned that Districts could participate in the Virginia Department of Treasury ‘Local Government Investment Pool’ funds and it is encouraged by DCR and supported by the auditors.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason and seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the addendum to PSWCD’s Financial Policy that will allow the establishment and use of the LGIP for reserve funds.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason and seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the establishment of the following separate LGIP accounts and amounts (reflected in the January 31, 2025 balance sheet): Equipment (\$60,146.11), Dam Repair (\$53,496.94), Scholarship (\$25,358.85), Contingency Funds (\$83,115.38).

On a motion by Mr. Arnason and seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to establish the following separate LGIP accounts: Operations, Technical Assistance, and VCAP/Misc Grants with the Treasurer and District Manager to review fund balances as shown on the DCR attachment E and determine the amount to transfer to the LGIP and report at the account balances at the March Board Meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason and seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved having Deanna Fehrer, Chuck Arnason, Paula Totten and Ricky Rash authorized as ‘callers’ to communicate and act on behalf of the PSWCD with the Virginia Department of the Treasury LGIP funds, noting that a

transfer will require two of the authorized callers to approve and to approve Larkin Moyer as an authority to obtain PSWCD's balances and interest.

PLANNING

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the Annual Plan of Work for March and April. Ms. Fehrer passed around a sign-up sheet with a list of possible topics for future training. Ms. Fehrer asked the board to mark topics of interest for future training.

On a motion by Mr. Whittington and seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the PSWCD By-Laws. (attached)

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the calendar of events coming up in March and April as well as the Area V meeting on March 5th in Spencer Virginia that staff and two directors would be attending.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

On a motion by Mr. Arnason and seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the contract with Bander Smith for the primary spillway and lower-level valve inspection for Bush #4B, Buffalo #1, Buffalo #2, Buffalo #3, and Buffalo #4 for \$5,750.00 per dam.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Ms. Collins reported that language has been added to the budget to reallocate unused cost share outside of basin.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION – Chair Gunn

Ms. Atkinson reported that the poster contest theme was “Home is Where Your Habitat Is”. Posters are due on April 7th in two categories: digital and hand drawn. She noted a time change to 10:30 am for the Education Committee meeting on March 24th.

Ms. Atkinson announced that applications for Youth Conservation Camp and the Lindy Hamlett Scholarship are available in the office or on the district website. The scholarship amount has been increased to \$2,000 per awardee. She encouraged the Board and partners to help promote these programs. Ms. Atkinson also announced that Fuqua had committed to having an Envirothon team this year. She has been working with the Amelia County schools to provide after school enrichment programs.

Ms. Atkinson reported that the Soils Trailer would be used for several events and volunteers were always welcome. She also mentioned she would be a guest lecturer at Longwood University for the Environmental Decision -Making Class. Ms. Atkinson reported that she would be attending the March 10th Amelia School Board Meeting to request continued support for the MMEE and Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant Program.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Nottoway County

Mr. Steve Bowen commended the District for its sound approach to fiscal management. He also reported that he has an upcoming meeting with State Senator Mulchi to discuss the counties concerns about solar fields and data centers.

District Manager & Staff reports (Attached)

The monthly workload for all the staff is included in the attached report. Ms. Fehrer stated that the office was closed for 3 days due to weather and 1 day for power outage during the past 2 weeks.

Ms. Fehrer highlighted that Ms. Atkinson and Mr. Smith had created a display for the Farmville Library.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reported that the BMP and Cost-Share training was rescheduled due to the weather to February 28th at 9am. She also reported that one person from each district was required to attend the Minutes Training on March 17th. She also stated that the training would be recorded if no one from the office was available to attend the live training. She noted there would be a webinar on May 7th that would be an overview of Nutrient Management.

Ms. Collins highlighted the four new videos developed by DCR's Public Communications & Marketing Outreach Staff to promote the VACS program. She said districts can include a link to the videos on their website.

Quail Forever

Ms. Helmke shared she had been busy with field visits in Henry and Franklin County and observed larger areas of Trifoliate Orange. She also attended the VA Grasslands and Bird Initiative meeting in Culpepper. She announced there would be a webinar for landowners on establishing Bobwhite Quail and what resources are available. Ms. Helmke reminded the board of the Gray Fox survey in Virginia if anyone was interested in participating.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans reported his office is working on 18 EQIP and 23 CSP applications that are being evaluated for eligibility. Mr. Evans shared that the March JED would feature topics on Urban Ag. Mr. Evans stated that all speaking event requests must have prior approved by the State Office. Mr. Evans reported that the Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations), Area III, Kilby Majette would be taking the buyout and would be leaving in April.

Ms. Ciavarella reported that her office was working on 31 applications on file for FY 2025 and completed obligations on 6 CSP Renewal pre-approved applications. Ms. Ciavarella mentioned that NRCS had announced that IRA payments on existing contracts had been authorized. She also mentioned that NRCS employees throughout the state that had taken the early retirement but there was not an official list. Ciavarella reported that Chris Lawrence, Cropland Agronomist, would be taking the buyout.

USDA-Farm Service Agency, Farmville

Ms. Cook reported that FSA had not received direct communication from Office of Personnel Management for the 'Fork In the Road' email. All information was coming through social media to everyone at the same time. She noted that they do not know who or how many people have taken the buyouts throughout the state. Ms. Cook expressed concern that the email requesting '5 accomplishments' came out on a Saturday evening to agencies and was due by midnight Monday. She reported that the Farmville office is working on ARCPLC for 2025 and is still on hold for new CRP Continuous and CREP

Ms. Cook also reported that they had just finished 2025 signup for all hay coverage.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Treasurer report; By-Laws; Gate Valve Inspection Contract; Staff & partner reports

Submitted By _____
Paula Totten, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Date: _____

Approved By: _____
Horace Adams, Director / Secretary

Date: _____