



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

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Dennis Thompson – Dam Program Manager
Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist
Tyler Smith – Conservation Technician
Mackenzie Gunn – Appointed VCE Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent
Erin Small – Associate Director, VCE ANR Agent Prince Edward County

PSWCD Staff Present:

Kevin Dunn – Senior Conservation Specialist
Deanna Fehrer - District Manager
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
Doug Stanley, Prince Edward County Administrator
Gary Dillard, Retired Associate Director
Patrick Murphy, Virginia Department of Forestry

Guest:

Rick Conboy, Prince Edward County Citizen

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, March 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 February 25, 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 February 2025 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Mr. Dunn presented the conservation report.

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

Conservation Plans: (2)

VACS

- Big Meadows Farm LLC (CP-5-22-0002)- BMP
- Robert Browning (CP-5-25-0001)- BMP
- Patrick Burke (CP-5-25-0015)- BMP

Signed by Staff for FSA

1 (CREP Transfer)

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board cancelled the following VACS contract:

Big Meadows Farm LLC- 05-22-0018 (469677)- \$10,422.75(1300’ &1.4ac) CB Funding

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY25 VACS applications (CB \$110,581.10) and one tax credit (\$801.88):

VACS Program Approvals

C.B.

Amelia

Big Meadows Farm LLC	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50’/10yr) (1,800’ &4.4ac)	
05-25-0102 (651423)	Estimated Cost	\$ 15,350.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 14,582.50
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$ 3,520.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 18,102.50
Big Meadows Farm LLC	SL-7 Extension of Watering System Grazing Land Mgmt. (10yr) (25.6ac)	
05-25-0102 (651422)	Estimated Cost	\$ 6,600.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 4,950.00
	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 412.50

R.M. Watkins & Sons Inc. 05-25-0022 #651607	NM-6 Manure Injection (350ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 15,750.00 \$ 15,750.00
R.M. Watkins & Sons Inc. 05-25-0022 #651620	NM-6 Manure Injection (225ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 10,125.00 \$ 10,125.00
William D. Little 05-25-0111 #651606	NM-1Nutrient Management Plan Writing (132.1 ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 264.20 \$ 264.20
William D. Little 05-25-0111 #651604	SL-8B Cover Crop with Nut. Mgmt. (34.6 ac) Early Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 2,422.00 \$ 2,422.00
William D. Little 05-25-0111 #651599	SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop (15.9 ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 318.00 \$ 318.00
AMEVA Farm 05-25-0022 #651620	NM-6 Manure Injection (120ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 5,400.00 \$ 5,400.00
James Flemming 05-25-0043 #651464	NM-1Nutrient Management Plan Writing (64.6 ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 129.20 \$ 129.20
Isaac Grissom 05-25-0058 #651437	NM-1Nutrient Management Plan Writing (304.8 ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 609.60 \$ 609.60
Isaac Grissom 05-25-0058 #651437	NM-5P Variable Rate Application P (118.2 ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 945.60 \$ 945.60
Isaac Grissom 05-25-0058 #651439	NM-3C Split Application of N (78.9 ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 473.40 \$ 473.40
James M. Schenck 05-25-0052 #651440	NM-5P Variable Rate Application P (248.7 ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,989.60 \$ 1,989.60
Hoot Owl Hollow Inc 05-25-0033 #651442	NM-5P Variable Rate Application P (185.5 ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,484.00 \$ 1,484.00
Windy Springs Farm LLC 05-25-0083 #651453	NM-1Nutrient Management Plan Writing (243.5 ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 487.00 \$ 487.00

Patrick Burke	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (1,800' & 1.5 ac)	
05-25-0110 (651568)	Estimated Cost	\$ 41,720.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 39,634.00
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$ 1,200.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 40,834.00

Prince Edward County

Robert Browning	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (1450')	
05-25-0003 (589595)	Estimated Cost	\$ 19,960.00 21,670.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 18,962.00 20,586.50 (95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$ 1,360.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 20,322.00 21,946.50

(Increase of \$1,624.50 Revised to reflect Barbed Wire instead of HT Electric)

Robert Browning	SL-7 Extension of Watering System Grazing Land Mgmt. (10yr) (20 ac)	
05-25-0003 (651477)	Estimated Cost	\$ 6,230.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 4,672.50
	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 389.38

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY25 VACS applications (OCB \$380.00):

OCB**Nottoway County**

Joseph B McMillian	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (2500')	
05-25-0005 (589601)	Estimated Cost	\$ 21,290.00 21,690.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 20,225.50 20,605.50 (95%)
	Estimated Buffer Payment	\$ 2,560.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 22,785.50 23,165.50

(Increase of \$380.00 Revised to reflect 2025 trough estimated cost)

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following septic applications totaling \$611.75 Grant #16969 as presented:

Septic Approvals**Prince Edward Grant #16969**

Kelsey Prosis	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out	
05-25-0109 (651443)	Estimated Cost	\$ 450.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$ 225.00
Nancy Ford	RB-3M Residential Septic Pump-out & Repair (non-permitted)	
05-25-0106 (651188)	Estimated Cost	\$ 455.00
	Estimated Cost Share (85%)	\$ 386.75

Ms. Fehrer reported that at the VASWCD Area V Spring meeting districts were informed of an upcoming initiative to collect data from farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed who have voluntarily installed agriculture/water quality BMPs on their farms. It is similar to an initiative that was attempted several years ago. Virginia Cooperative Extension is again sponsoring the program and is encouraging

districts to help with identifying and informing the farmers of the opportunity. This updated initiative will include a shorter survey and an incentive (\$50 per eligible referral that submits a survey) to SWCDs. VCE agents will be required to “field verify” a small portion of the completed surveys. A formal MOU will be forthcoming.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: - Chair Morris

Ms. Morris stated to the board that Dennis Thompson had requested a leave of absence due to health issues. She noted that the staff are managing the workload right now.

Ms. Morris announced that there would be a personnel committee meeting to review personnel evaluations in April.

Ms. Fehrer reminded the Board that the VASWCD has contracted with Gallagher Consulting to provide human resource support to districts including 1 hour of free consulting time from Charlotte Jensen. The 1 hour can be used from now until the end of August and the hour does not need to be used in its entirety at one time. Ms. Fehrer is the point of contact for the 1-hour consulting time and if anyone needs to contact the consultant, they should coordinate with her.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to sponsor a hole for \$100 at the VASWCD Golf Tournament.

Ms. Fehrer thanked Dr. Gates and Mr. Arnason for providing budget presentations to Prince Edward County and Nottoway County Boards of Supervisors respectively.

PLANNING

Ms. Totten reviewed the Annual Plan of Work for April and May.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported that the DCR dam engineer inspections have been completed except for one due to down trees on the access road. He also reported that he had attended the pre-construction meeting for repairs at Bush #2. Mr. Arnason noted that some of the HOBOLink remote monitoring systems were not working due to poor cell signal. He reported that the system would be updated to satellite systems sometime in the future.

Ms. Fehrer informed the board that they would be requesting a bid for Buffalo #1 repairs this year also. She also reminded the Board about the Tabletop emergency planning exercise in May with Prince Edward County.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Rash reported that there have been no new updates since the Area V meeting. He reported that the Governor had not vetoed any proposed SWCD funding in the budget.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION – Chair Gunn

Ms. Fehrer reported the Education Committee met prior to the board meeting to review scholarship applications. She reported that the District received 6 scholarship applications, 2 high school and 4 college. The committee made a recommendation to award 4 scholarships: 2 high schoolers and 2 college students this year.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to award 4 scholarships. (\$2,000 each) to the following:

2 high school winners Marina Morris (Amelia), Ella Estes (Prince Edward), and 2 college winners Laila Jones (Prince Edward) and Caleb Kline (Amelia). She noted that Marina Morris would be submitted to the VASWCD to be considered for an additional scholarship.

Mr. Fehrer reported that this was a busy month for education for Ms. Atkinson. The soil trailer had its first big day with 101 students from the Amelia County Middle School. Ms. Fehrer also reported that Ms. Atkinson had attended the Amelia County School board meeting with LK Mondrey and Roger Pinholster to request funding to continue the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) teacher training and support. Ms. Atkinson and James River Association helped Amelia County 4th graders plant trees on campus that is part of the MWEE project.

Ms. Fehrer reported that the District did not receive the Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant that Ms. Atkinson applied for this year. She reported that Ms. Atkinson and Mr. Wootton demonstrated the runoff boxes for the Amelia High School AP Environmental Science class and planned to bring the Enviroscope to a local homeschool group at the end of the month and Amelia Middle School 8th grade in April.

Ms. Fehrer reminded the Board that applications for Youth Conservation Camp are due March 28.

Mr. Arnason reported that he had attended the Nottoway budget meeting. He reported that Nottoway County wanted to have the soil trailer at Crewe Day.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

District Manager & Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer highlighted that Mr. Dunn had been very busy checking out cover crops. She reported that she was in the process of completing staff evaluations and personnel training with Ms. Totten. Mr. Wootton has been assisting with some of the dam workload.

Ms. Fehrer also reported that Mr. Dunn, Ms. Totten and herself had attended the VASW CB Meeting at Twin Lakes State Park. She reported that there would be some changes to the requirements in the new DCR Grant Agreements.

Ms. Fehrer reported she and Mr. Smith had a meeting with DEQ for the Septic program to discuss projects and funding. She stated that she had not heard of any changes to the 319 grants at this time. She noted that 2022 funds needed to be allocated by June or funding may be decreased. She has asked DEQ to begin the paperwork to extend the Prince Edward County grant to December 2026.

Mr. Wootton reported there were going to be updates to the CAS program and he intended to stay on the updates committee to help with that process.

Prince Edward County

Mr. Stanley gave updates on the budget for Prince Edward County Elementary School project, Harbor Freight timeline, future Geodesic Domes for glamping, increased landfill fees, and more solar projects coming up for review. He reported that 5 Pillars Meats will be opening soon.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins noted that the Minutes Training was held on March 17th and was required for DCR grand deliverable. She mentioned the requirements and deadlines for carryover BMPs, and planner certification courses coming up. Ms. Collins mentioned the upcoming April VASWCD meeting at the Drury Hotel in Richmond.

Department of Forestry

Mr. Murphy reported that the fire season had been a busy one. He commended the media outlets for supporting their efforts to reduce wildfires. He reported that the number of wildfires was down, but the number of acres burned was up. Mr. Murphy stated that they were halfway through tree planting in Prince Edward. He indicated that snow and frozen ground had delayed planting this year. Mr. Murphy reported that DOF still had money for hardwood planting available. He mentioned that The US Forestry Service had lost their part-time employees which may require DOF to help with coverage. Mr. Murphy reported that DOF was now able to hold easements on working lands.

Quail Forever

Ms. Helmke reported that she had 30 homeowners participate in a zoom presentation she gave on Establishing Quail Habitat. She reported that while she worked at Pheasant Fest in Kansas City, she met 6 landowners from Virginia. Ms. Helmke stated she assisted with Envirothon presentation and is working on ranking applications for NRCS.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Ms. Ciavarella reported that funding had been reduced for their upcoming program sign-up. She stated that she wasn't sure how many of her 25 applications would be funded. She also stated that all travel and presentations needed to have prior approval from the State Office.

Ms. Ciavarella stated that the RCPP program manager left so the program is on hold for the time being.

Mr Evans added that there were no updates to program information since last month. He stated that in addition to no travel and presentations without prior approval, they were not able to order supplies at this time.

USDA-Farm Service Agency, Farmville (Attached)

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Treasurer report; Staff & partner reports

Submitted By _____
Paula Totten, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Date: _____

Approved By: _____
Horace Adams, Director / Secretary

Date: _____