



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia
April 22, 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
Mackenzie Gunn – Appointed VCE Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent
Erin Small – Associate Director, VCE ANR Agent Prince Edward County

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Dennis Thompson – Dam Program Manager
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman
Dr. Kathy Gee - Associate Director, Nottoway County

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
Cristy Cook - Farm Service Agency, County Executive Director
A.J. Austin – Farm Service Agency, Program Tech (CED trainee)
Patrick Murphy - Virginia Department of Forestry

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, April 22, 2025. Chairman Moyer welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:05. 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 March 25, 2025, 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 March 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 Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following conservation plans:

Conservation Plans: (1)

VACS

Lee D Vaughan (CP-5-25-0016)

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY25 VACS applications (CB \$37,121.68) and OCB (\$1,393.60):

Agronomic

Participant	Contract #	BMP_ID	Practice	Ext		Est Cost	Est C-S	Funding
Neubauer Farms LLC	05-25-0019	601601	NM-1A	101	Ac	\$202.00	\$202.00	CB VACS
						Additional	\$10.80	
Ameva Farm, Jimmy Kerr	05-25-0059	656508	NM-3C	173	Ac	\$1,038.00	\$1,038.00	CB VACS
Ameva Farm, Jimmy Kerr	05-25-0059	656509	NM-5N	120	Ac	\$1,116.00	\$1,116.00	CB VACS
Whitaker Farms Inc.	05-25-0012	656510	NM-1A	578.3	Ac	\$1,156.60	\$1,156.60	CB VACS
Whitaker Farms Inc.	05-25-0012	656511	NM-3C	54.3	Ac	\$325.80	\$325.80	CB VACS
John C Ashman	05-25-0041	656512	NM-3C	450	Ac	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	CB VACS
Brian T Crowder	05-25-0085	656513	NM-5N	79.6	Ac	\$636.80	\$636.80	CB VACS
Blanton Farms LC	05-25-0038	656514	NM-3C	58	Ac	\$408.00	\$408.00	CB VACS
Blanton Farms LC	05-25-0038	656539	NM-1A	299.6	Ac	\$599.20	\$599.20	CB VACS
David B Benson	05-25-0044	656515	NM-5P	280	Ac	\$2,240.00	\$2,240.00	CB VACS
David B Benson	05-25-0044	656516	NM-5N	140	Ac	\$1,120.00	\$1,120.00	CB VACS
Windy Springs Farm LLC	05-25-0083	656517	NM-3C	77	Ac	\$462.00	\$462.00	CB VACS
Frog Enterprises LLC	05-25-0048	656518	NM-3C	58	Ac	\$348.00	\$348.00	CB VACS
Anthony Lewis	05-25-0047	656519	NM-3C	58	Ac	\$348.00	\$348.00	CB VACS
Richard Goode	05-25-0036	656520	NM-1A	297.1	Ac	\$594.20	\$594.20	CB VACS
Richard Goode	05-25-0036	656521	NM-3C	68	Ac	\$408.00	\$408.00	CB VACS
Green Bluff Farm	05-25-0071	656522	NM-5N	180.1	Ac	\$1,560.80	\$1,560.80	CB VACS
Hard Acres Farm	05-25-0072	656523	NM-1A	501.2	Ac	\$1,002.40	\$1,002.40	CB VACS
Hard Acres Farm	05-25-0072	656524	NM-3C	160	Ac	\$960.00	\$960.00	CB VACS
Iron Gate Farms, LLC	05-25-0020	656525	NM-1A	501.2	Ac	\$1,137.20	\$1,137.20	CB VACS
Iron Gate Farms, LLC	05-25-0020	656527	NM-3C	273	Ac	\$1,638.00	\$1,638.00	CB VACS
William D Little	05-25-0111	656528	NM-3C	34	Ac	\$204.00	\$204.00	CB VACS
Harrison Moody	05-25-0010	656529	NM-1A	405.8	Ac	\$811.60	\$811.60	OCB VACS
Harrison Moody	05-25-0010	656530	NM-3C	97	Ac	\$582.00	\$582.00	OCB VACS
Vaughan Cattle Co, LLC	05-25-0081	656531	NM-3C	430	Ac	\$2,580.00	\$2,580.00	CB VACS
Dean M Smith	05-25-0039	656532	NM-1A	83.5	Ac	\$167.00	\$167.00	CB VACS
Armistead Taylor Harvie	05-25-0084	656533	NM-1A	187	Ac	\$374.00	\$374.00	CB VACS

Structural – C. B.**Patrick Burke**

05-25-0110 (656460)

SL-7 Extension of Watering System Grazing Land Mgmt. (11ac. 75%)

Estimated Cost	\$	7,362.50
Estimated Cost-Share	\$	5,521.88
Estimated Tax Credit	\$	TBD

Nottoway County**Lee D Vaughan**

05-25-0115(652252)

SL-7 Extension of Watering System Grazing Land Mgmt. (45ac. 75%)

Estimated Cost	\$	3,520.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$	2,640.00
Estimated Tax Credit	\$	TBD

05-25-0115(652267)

SL-7 Extension of Watering System Grazing Land Mgmt. (60.52ac, 50%)

Estimated Cost	\$	11,650.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$	5,825.00
Estimated Tax Credit	\$	TBD

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following septic applications totaling \$1,845.00 Grant #16969 as presented:

Septic Approvals**Prince Edward Grant #16969****Deoniesa Bailey**

05-25-0113 (652070)

RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out

Estimated Cost	\$	450.00
Estimated Cost Share (90%)	\$	405.00

Lora Monahan

05-25-0114 (652225)

RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out

Estimated Cost	\$	450.00
Estimated Cost Share (70%)	\$	315.00

John Nixon

05-25-0113 (651950)

RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out

Estimated Cost	\$	450.00
Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$	225.00

Michael Dowler

05-25-0116 (655509)

RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out

Estimated Cost	\$	450.00
Estimated Cost Share (75%)	\$	337.50

Michael Dowler

05-25-0116 (655511)

RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out

Estimated Cost	\$	450.00
Estimated Cost Share (75%)	\$	337.50

Justin Wargofcak

05-25-0117 (655527)

RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out

Estimated Cost	\$	450.00
Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$	225.00

Ms. Fehrer reported that the District was researching a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant opportunity to pay incentives for manure injection acres to dairy farmers who purchase manure injection equipment. She stated that she and Mr. Dunn were meeting with Sustainable Chesapeake to discuss the possibility of writing the grant. Ms. Fehrer asked if there were any questions or concerns about moving forward with researching and possibly applying for the grant. After a brief discussion, the Board saw no issues with moving forward.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: - Chair Morris

Ms. Morris reported that the Personnel Committee meet before the Board meeting to review personnel evaluations. She stated that the District was lucky to have such a great staff. Mr. Moyer agreed with Ms. Morris and stated that the District has exceptional employees and the Board appreciates all they do.

Ms. Fehrer reported that she and Ms. Totten had reviewed the personnel policies and made changes based on the review completed by Gallagher Consulting and other changes to clarify current policies. She stated that she would email the proposed changes to the Board for review with discussion at the May board meeting and approval at the June board meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason stated that the Finance Committee would meet in May to discuss FY26 Budget. Mr. Arnason reported that based on the discussion at the quarterly VASWCD board meeting, certain deliverable requirements had been removed from the grant agreement for FY26. Mr. Arnason reminded the Board that these documents were still required in the Code of VA and are considered best management practices that districts should continue to utilize. He stated that VASWCD would develop a checklist for districts to reference. Mr. Arnason stated that it is not the job of the VASWCD or DCR to police these practices, but it should be left to the board of each district to ensure these best management practices are being followed.

PLANNING

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

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported that the contract for the HOBOLink remote monitoring systems needed to be renewed. He reported that some of the systems were not functioning due to lack of cell signal so there was no need to renew the contracts for those units for another year.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason and seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to renew the HOBOLink remote monitoring system contracts for Buffalo 1,3,4,7,9 and Bush 2 and 7 at \$300 per unit for 1 year.

Ms. Fehrer stated there was no way of knowing when the new satellite monitoring systems would be installed. She stated that the installer planned to do the entire state of Virginia at one time instead of jumping back and forth from state to state.

Ms. Fehrer reported that the repair at Bush #2 has started and should be completed in 2 weeks. 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. She stated she was still trying to coordinate with Prince Edward County for the Tabletop exercise and that if Prince Edward County did not participate, then the District and Mr. Wilson, from DCR, would have the Tabletop exercise at the Prince Edward County agriculture building on May 21st as planned.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Arnason reported there would be an 11% increase in VACS cost share across the state for FY26.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION – Chair Gunn

Ms. Atkinson stated that she would be attending the Fuqua award program in May to present the scholarship to Ms. Morris. She stated that she was working to get on the schedule for the Prince Edward awards ceremony but was waiting to hear back from faculty. Ms. Atkinson reported that she had over 400 posters for the poster contest and that she had the winning posters on the side table for the Board to view along with bookmarks from NACD on the table if anyone wanted one.

Ms. Atkinson reported that there were 3 applications for Youth Conservation Camp, 2 from Amelia and 1 from Nottoway. She asked that all three applications be paid for by the District. Ms. Fehrer stated that the District had the funds available and that there was space available for all three campers.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to pay for the 3 Youth Conservation Camp Applications at \$550 each.

Ms. Atkinson reported that the Area V Envirothon was next week and hoped the Fuqua team would do well.

Ms. Fehrer reported that the office took the soil trailer to 3rd Grade Ag Days in Blackstone. Mr. Wootton ran soil runoff boxes station.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

District Manager & Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Totten reported April had been a busy month for Mr. Dunn for nutrient management practices and for Ms. Atkinson with several educational events. She also noted that Mr. Smith taught a Pollinator presentation at Amelia Middle School.

Ms. Totten also reported that the staff had participated in 3rd grade Ag days at Southern Piedmont Area Research Center in Blackstone. Ms. Totten stated that she was continuing to train with Ms. Fehrer.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans reported that Soil Conservationist will not be asked to act in field offices that lost staff. These offices will be covered by neighboring District Conservationist. Mr. Evans stated he would not be acting in any other offices.

Ms. Ciavarella reported that Mr. Vega-Rivera would be in Halifax until May to help with workload. Ms. Ciavarella shared a list of Area 3 NRCS staff that have left or will be leaving. She reported that NRCS remains in a hiring freeze and Earth Team volunteers will not be accepted at this time.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins stated she had received the District's 3rd quarter report. She reported that the Minutes Training from March 17th was available online. She reported there would be a Director & SWCD Admin/ Manager Training on June 6th from 9:30am to 3pm at Randolph Macon College which will include training on Attachment D and E and in the afternoon a grant specialist will speak on writing grants. She reminded the Board of the requirements and deadlines for carryover BMPs especially 4th year carryovers due to DCR by May 15th.

Farm Service Agency – Farmville (Attached)

Ms. Cook reported that August 15th is the deadline for the Emergency Commodities Assistance Program. She stated that the only contracts left to complete had issues or hadn't reported acreages previously. She reported that she has not heard any information from the State Office about staffing changes past or present or future. She stated that her staff are continuing with business as usual, which is to focus serving their agricultural producers.

Quail Forever (Attached)

Ms. Helmke stated that she had submitted her quarterly report for January through March. She reported that she worked on ranking 13 applications and was pleased that out of those, 9 were preapproved. She reported that she has 4 new landowner field visits planned for establishing wildlife habitat. Ms. Helmke has been busy with outreach events including Youth Conservation Day in Halifax, Lone Pine Day in Front Royal, and Area V Envirothon. She stated that the Virginia Gray Fox survey will begin in May and run through September.

Virginia Cooperative Extension – Amelia & Prince Edward

Ms. Gunn reported that she had been busy with AC Heifer Sale and the Women in Ag gathering with 80 participants for two days to learn about agribusiness, vegetable production and livestock. She stated that she held a training course for equine pasture management. She mentioned upcoming events she would be participating in including an area livestock show in Blackstone, Amelia Day in May and a poultry workshop in June.

Ms. Gunn mentioned that she had received a large kit of soil health educational tools and that there would be training at SPAREC in May to learn to use them if anyone what interested in going. She also stated she would share the kit with the District for educational programs.

Ms. Small reported that she had a Master Gardener training lab and an Enrichment program at Prince Edward High school. She reported upcoming programs for Wildflowers, Ticks and Ponds. Ms. Small requested funding in the amount of \$150 to help with the cost of lunch for the Pond Workshop.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board Approved to sponsor the lunch for the VCE Pond program for \$150.

Department of Forestry

Mr. Murphy stated that DOF is on year-round reporting. He reported that tree planting in Prince Edward County had been completed, three riparian planting for a total of 18 acres. Mr. Murphy reported that DOF still had money for hardwood restoration available. Mr. Murphy stated that the last week of May the Fire Academy would be training in Farmville again this year.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Treasurer report; Staff & partner reports

Submitted By _____
Paula Totten, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Date: _____

Approved By _____
Horace Adams, Director / Secretary

Date: _____