



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia
October 28, 2025, 11:00 a.m.**

Board Members Present:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Charles “Chuck” Arnason –Director, Nottoway County / Treasurer
Horace Adams –Director, Prince Edward County / Secretary
Jennifer Morris – Director, Amelia County
Dr. James Gates, Jr.- Director, Prince Edward County
Mackenzie Gunn – Appointed VCE Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent
Haley Norton – Associate Director, Conservation Specialist, Fort Pickett
Erin Small – Associate Director, VCE ANR Agent Prince Edward County

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman
Juan Whittington – Appointed At-Large Director, Amelia County
Dr. Kathy Gee - Associate Director, Nottoway County
Tara Ciavarella - NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia
Jeremy Evans - NRCS District Conservationist, Nottoway/Farmville
Claire Helmke – Farm Bill Biologist, Quail Forever

PSWCD Staff Present:

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

Partners Present:

Denney Collins - Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Cristy Cook – Farm Service Agency, CED
Patrick Murphy, Virginia Department of Forestry
Royce Coleman, Amelia County, Environmental Manager
Tabitha Bugg, Virginia State University, Regional Program Assistant
Robert Dvorak, Town of Farmville, Town Planner
Ashley Austin, Town of Farmville, Director of Community Planner

Visitors Present:

Rodger Epperson
Ginna De Jesus
Darryl Seay

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, October 28, 2025. Chairman Moyer welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:02 am. A quorum was present. No additions to the agenda were recorded.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the September 23, 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 September 2025 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY26 VACS conservation plan:

Whitaker Farms Inc CP 05-26-0008 BMP

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY26 contracts (CB \$1,011,924.80):

C.B.

Participant	Contract Number	BMP_ID	Practice Code	Total Estimated Cost Share Payment
C.B.				
Brian T Crowder	05-26-0047	726413	WQ-4	\$4,761.00
Brian T Crowder	05-26-0047	726406	SL-8B	\$5,572.00
Fox Den Farms LLC, John L Roberts, Jr.	05-26-0048	726421	SL-8H	\$164.00
Windy Springs Farm LLC	05-26-0004	726428	SL-8H	\$1,168.00
Windy Springs Farm LLC	05-26-0004	726431	SL-8B	\$5,376.00
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-26-0049	726447	SL-8B	\$20,265.00
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-26-0049	726451	SL-8M	\$2,155.50
Poor House Dairy LLC	05-26-0049	726452	NM-6	\$2,155.50
Charles A Allen	05-26-0063	727970	SL-8B	\$4,298.00
Charles A Allen	05-26-0063	727971	SL-8H	\$288.00
CT Wolfe Maintenance	05-26-0064	727972	SL-8H	\$276.00
CT Wolfe Maintenance	05-26-0064	727973	SL-8B	\$46,233.00
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-26-0050	726570	SL-8H	\$1,956.00
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-26-0050	726571	SL-8B	\$36,883.00
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-26-0050	726572	SL-8M	\$9,450.00
Whitaker Farms Inc.	05-26-0051	726636	SL-1	\$1,462.50
Richard Goode	05-26-0052	726732	SL-8B	\$18,510.00
John C Ashman	05-26-0053	726733	SL-8B	\$12,299.00
George G Toth	05-26-0045	726736	SL-8H	\$1,218.00
George G Toth	05-26-0045	726737	SL-8B	\$36,780.00
James W Garnett, Jr.	05-26-0054	726820	SL-8B	\$4,662.00
Kevin T Trent	05-26-0059	727863	SL-8B	\$10,542.00
Dexter Jones	05-26-0060	727872	SL-8B	\$29,691.00
Blanton Farms LC	05-26-0061	727893	SL-8B	\$21,553.00
Jon Ranck	05-26-0062	727934	SL-8B	\$30,660.00
Boot Hill Dairy LLC	05-26-0050	726625	NM-6	\$9,450.00
Whitaker Farms Inc.	05-26-0051	726628	SL-8B	\$31,458.00
Whitaker Farms Inc.	05-26-0051	726633	SL-8H	\$518.00
John C Ashman	05-26-0053	728058	SL-8H	\$978.00

Charles Y Glasscock	05-26-0066	728072	SL-8	\$2,428.00
John F. Phillips	05-26-0067	728073	SL-8B	\$3,423.00
Featherstone Farm	05-26-0080	728237	SL-8B	\$18,263.00
Featherstone Farm	05-26-0080	728240	SL-8B	\$48,293.00
Featherstone Farm	05-26-0080	728241	SL-8H	\$11,348.00
Featherstone Farm	05-26-0080	728243	WQ-4	\$26,419.50
John P. Shepherd	05-26-0081	728502	SL-8B	\$62,271.00
John P. Shepherd	05-26-0081	728530	NM-1A	\$1,383.80
Warehouse Crop & Cattle	05-26-0082	728757	SL-8B	\$12,874.00
Warehouse Crop & Cattle	05-26-0082	728758	SL-8H	\$1,576.00
Darrell E. Roach	05-26-0083	728762	SL-8B	\$7,819.00
David B Benson	05-26-0046	725859	SL-8B	\$30,856.00
James R Fleming	05-26-0055	726903	SL-8B	\$2,912.00
James R Fleming	05-26-0055	726904	SL-8H	\$976.00
Richlands Dairy Farm	05-26-0057	727389	SL-8H	\$958.00
Richlands Dairy Farm	05-26-0057	727391	SL-8B	\$17,724.00
Hard Acres Farm	05-26-0029	728079	SL-8B	\$16,247.00
Vaughan Cattle Co, LLC	05-26-0069	728084	SL-8H	\$486.00
Vaughan Cattle Co, LLC	05-26-0069	728085	SL-8B	\$75,740.00
Armistead Taylor Harvie	05-26-0071	728110	SL-8H	\$714.00
Armistead Taylor Harvie	05-26-0071	728111	SL-8B	\$12,244.00
William D Little	05-26-0072	728113	SL-8H	\$1,582.00
Easter Design Inc.	05-26-0073	728170	SL-8B	\$157,293.00
Easter Design Inc.	05-26-0073	728171	SL-8B	\$40,417.00
Smith Tobacco Farms LLC	05-26-0075	728172	SL-8	\$10,104.00
Smith Tobacco Farms LLC	05-26-0075	728173	SL-8B	\$20,279.00
Flippin & Sons Farms	05-26-0076	728174	SL-8B	\$36,589.00
Linda Poore	05-26-0078	728180	SL-8B	\$7,931.00
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm, Inc	05-26-0079	728181	SL-8H	\$5,406.00
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm, Inc	05-26-0079	728182	WQ-4	\$23,715.00
Smith Tobacco Farms LLC	05-26-0075	728186	SL-8	\$596.00
Smith Tobacco Farms LLC	05-26-0075	728188	SL-8B	\$2,275.00

On a motion by Ms. Morris, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, with Mr. Moyer leaving the room the Board approved the following FY26 VACS contracts (CB \$43,953):

Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	05-26-0077	728175	SL-8B	\$19,138.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	05-26-0077	728176	SL-8M	\$6,750.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	05-26-0077	728177	SL-8H	\$2,918.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	05-26-0077	728178	WQ-4	\$8,397.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm	05-26-0077	728179	NM-6	\$6,750.00

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Adams and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY26 VACS contracts (OCB \$19,208.00):

Warehouse Crop & Cattle	05-26-0082	728755	SL-8B	\$10,850.00
William S. Bridgforth	05-26-0058	727848	SL-8B	\$8,358.00

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following FY26 VACS contracts (WFA \$211,619.25):

John P. Shepherd	05-26-0081	728547	WFA-CC	\$12,257.60
John P. Shepherd	05-26-0081	728551	WFA-NM	\$782.40
John P. Shepherd	05-26-0081	728553	WFA-CC	\$155,250.40
John P. Shepherd	05-26-0081	728555	WFA-NM	\$9,909.60
Harrison Moody	05-26-0035	728030	WFA-CC	\$24,570.00
Harrison Moody	05-26-0035	728033	WFA-NM	\$6,142.50
Southside Ag Enterprises LLC, Nicholas F Moody	05-26-0026	728038	WFA-CC	\$2,192.40
Southside Ag Enterprises LLC, Nicholas F Moody	05-26-0026	728041	WFA-NM	\$514.35

Mr. Wootton reminded the Board that he had been given authorization by the Board to sign conservation plans for FSA in between meetings due to short deadlines for programs. Since Mr. Wootton is part-time, he asked that the Board to consider giving authority to all the conservation staff to sign the on behalf of the Board.

On a motion by Dr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the authorization of certified conservation staff to sign conservation plans for FSA and NRCS on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Arnason reported that the Farm Tour was a great event. He commended Mr. Vaughan on the practices installed and stated that Mr. Vaughan had several types of fencing for participants to see.

PLANNING - Chair Gunn

Ms. Gunn reported that she had talked with Ms. Fehrer and Ms. Totten about options for revising the Strategic Plan. She stated that she had training in facilitation and would help with the process. Ms. Gunn reviewed a proposed schedule that would focus on a different topic over the next 8 months, allowing 15- 30 minutes at each board meeting to discuss each topic. Ms. Gunn and the staff would compile the findings and present the final plan at the end of June. Mr. Moyer liked the idea of spreading the process out over several months to allow time to collect valuable data. Mr. Arnason asked that the Board be given the information prior the board meeting to allow time to review and process the information. Ms. Gunn confirmed that the information would be sent out prior to the board meeting.

Ms. Fehrer stated that now is good time for directors to visit a Board of Supervisors meeting to thank them for their support. She stated that there would be a snapshot card for each county to take to the board meetings.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason stated there was nothing to report this month.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: - Chair Morris

Ms. Morris reported that with the absence of Mr. Thompson, Dam Program Manager, and the need for additional program support, the personnel committee felt there is a need for temporary full-time position to cover that workload for dams as well as with program support. She stated that there were funds available in the budget allocated to positions.

On a motion by Ms. Morris and seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the development of a position description for a temporary full-time position for assist with dam workload and program support.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Dunn stated that any items for consideration for the Annual Meeting in December would be sent out in November for review prior to the business meeting.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION – Chair Gunn

Ms. Atkinson reported that the Nottoway Middle School after school program adopted a cow, she was a mystery reader for Amelia Academy and took her worms. She stated that the Envirothon club at Fuqua School has started back. Ms. Atkinson reported that she has several upcoming programs at Holiday Lake State Park, Nottoway Middle school, and Amelia County Middle School.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported that the EAPs have been updated, and as the chairman of the watershed committee, he had received his folder of information for dam emergencies. The EAPs will be signed by Prince Edward County and distributed to DCR, Prince Edward County, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and others as needed.

Ms. Fehrer delivered training on the 14 watershed dams in Prince Edward County for the Board.

Mr. Moyer stated that funding to maintain the 14 dams comes from Prince Edward County as well as the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Dr. Gates thanked Deanna for the presentation and found it very informative.

Mr. Moyer introduced Ms. Tabitha Bugg. Ms. Bugg stated she was the Regional Program Assistant for Virginia State University, and her region included Amelia and Nottoway Counties. She thanked Ms. Fehrer for her presentation on watershed dams.

Mr. Wootton introduced Ms. Dejesus as a producer from Nottoway County that was a participant in NRCS and District programs.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS**District Manager & Staff reports**

Ms. Totten shared that the staff worked on the Farm Tour, program signups, and EAPs. She stated that the Federal partners had been missed and the District was trying to be available for assistance as needed.

Ms. Fehrer shared information on the VCAP practices available to landowners.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (See attached)

Ms. Collins highlighted the update to VACS definition of applicant. She reported the change was approved as a mid-year amendment in the September 16 Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting. She stated the revised definition of 'applicant' now included the following: "Any individual, landowner, agent, operator of record, or business entity who is determined to have knowingly misrepresented its compliance status with the VACS Program to a District or District Representative may, upon a determination of a Board of District Directors, not be considered an "applicant" for a period of time of at least 5 years. In rendering such determination, the Board of District Directors shall evaluate all available evidence in a public meeting, and any related resolutions must be passed by a majority vote of a quorum of District Directors."

Virginia Cooperative Extension – Amelia and Prince Edward**Amelia**

Ms. Gunn reported she had a pasture management program and track system program for horse owners. She also had a canning program for apples in October and a tomato canning program scheduled for November. Ms. Gunn stated she has a Well Water Clinic coming up in November along with the Small Ruminant Program, and WISE program for cattle and equipment.

Prince Edward (See attached)

Ms. Small reported that she is applying for a grant to purchase mobile cattle handling facility and mobile scales. She asked if the Board would write a letter in support of the project.

Department of Forestry

Mr. Murphy reported that DOF had money available for hardwood planting and there was a wait list for pine planting. He reported that DOF was collaborating with VCE to investigate pine beetle damage in pine stands. Mr. Murphy stated they were using a drone to fly over pine stands to identify areas of concern. He stated they are looking for red or orange crowns in 6 or more trees. He directed people to call their county forester if they had concerns. Mr. Murphy stated that fire season is here and due to the lack of rain everything was extremely dry.

Farm Service Agency – Farmville

Ms. Cook reported that she and Ms. Ripley were back at work and on a regular 8:00 am to 4:30 pm work schedule. She stated that they were limited to certain programs they could work on at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 pm.

Submitted By _____
Paula Totten, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Date: _____

Approved By _____
Horace Adams, Director / Secretary

Date: _____