



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia
April 28, 2026, 11:00 a.m.**

Board Members Present:

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
Mackenzie Gunn – Appointed VCE Director, Amelia County & VCE ANR agent

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Juan Whittington – Appointed At-Large Director, Amelia County
Dr. Kathy Gee - Associate Director, Nottoway County
Erin Small – Associate Director, VCE ANR Agent Prince Edward County

PSWCD Staff Present:

Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist
Kevin Dunn – Senior Conservation Specialist
Deanna Fehrer – Finance and 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
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
L.K. Mondrey, VCE Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Royce Coleman, Amelia County, Environmental Specialist

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 28, 2026. Vice-Chairman Rash welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:02. 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 31, 2026, minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the March 2026 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.

05-26-0055 #737150	Estimated Cost	32,006.25
	Total Estimated Cost-Share	32,006.25
AMEVA Farm	NM-6 Manure Injection (166.2 ac)	
05-26-0025(737930)	Estimated Cost	\$7,479.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$7,479.00
Hard Ac Farm	NM-1A NMP Writing and Revision (560.5ac)	
05-26-0029(737934)	Estimated Cost	\$1,121.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$1,121.00
Hard Ac Farm	NM-3C Split Application of Nitrogen (208ac)	
05-26-0029(737935)	Estimated Cost	\$1,248.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$1,248.00
David D. Benson	NM-1A NMP Writing and Revision (641.3ac)	
05-26-0049(737932)	Estimated Cost	\$1,282.60
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$1,282.60
David D. Benson	NM-5N Precision Application of Nitrogen (99ac)	
05-26-0049(737933)	Estimated Cost	\$792.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$792.00
David Waldrop	NM-1A NMP Writing and Revision (25.2ac)	
05-26-0020(737943)	Estimated Cost	\$50.40
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$50.40
Pride Farm of Amelia	NM-1A NMP Writing and Revision (165.6ac)	
05-26-0030(737931)	Estimated Cost	\$331.20
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$331.20
Richard Goode	NM-1A NMP Writing and Revision (274.8ac)	
05-26-0052(737810)	Estimated Cost	\$549.60
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$549.60
Richard Goode	NM-3C Split Application of Nitrogen (59ac)	
05-26-0052(737811)	Estimated Cost	\$354.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$354.00
<u>Nottoway</u>		
Anthony Lewis	NM-1A NMP Writing and Revision (205.8ac)	
05-26-0015(737940)	Estimated Cost	\$411.60
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$411.60
Anthony Lewis	NM-3C Split Application of Nitrogen (73ac)	
05-26-0015(737941)	Estimated Cost	\$438.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$438.00

Name			Practice	Contract #	ID#	Ac	Cost-share
	Collin	Wolfe	NM-3C	05-25-0013	657627	180	\$1,080.00
Warehouse Crop & Cattle			NM-3C	05-25-0015	657637	260	\$1,620.00
Iron Gate Farms, LLC			NM-3C	05-25-0020	656527	273	\$1,638.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm			NM-3C	05-25-0023	657640	331	\$1,986.00
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm			NM-5N	05-25-0023	657641	322	\$2,768.00
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm	Kenny	Barnard	NM-5P	05-25-0033	651442	185.5	\$1,484.00
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm	Kenny	Barnard	NM-3C	05-25-0033	657633	318	\$1,908.00
Triple Ridge Farm LLC			NM-5N	05-25-0040	657623	80	\$736.00
	John	Ashman	NM-3C	05-25-0041	656512	450	\$2,700.00
Boot Hill Dairy LLC			NM-5N	05-25-0046	657635	50	\$460.00
Boot Hill Dairy LLC			NM-3C	05-25-0046	657636	143	\$858.00
	Anthony	Lewis	NM-3C	05-25-0047	656519	58	\$348.00
Frog Enterprises LLC			NM-3C	05-25-0048	656518	58	\$348.00
	George	Toth	NM-3C	05-25-0051	657647	115.8	\$694.80
	James	Schenck	NM-5P	05-25-0052	651440	248.7	\$1,989.60
	Isaac	Grissom	NM-5P	05-25-0058	651438	118.2	\$945.60
	Isaac	Grissom	NM-3C	05-25-0058	651439	78.9	\$473.40
Ameva Farm	Jimmy	Kerr	NM-3C	05-25-0059	656508	173	\$1,038.00
Ameva Farm	Jimmy	Kerr	NM-5N	05-25-0059	656509	120	\$1,116.00
Green Bluff Farm	David	Hooley	NM-5N	05-25-0071	656522	180.1	\$1,560.80
	Linda	Poore	NM-3C	05-25-0075	657643	45.5	\$273.00
Vaughan Cattle Co, LLC			NM-3C	05-25-0081	656531	430	\$2,580.00
Windy Springs Farm LLC			NM-3C	05-25-0083	656517	77	\$462.00
	Armistead	Harvie	NM-3C	05-25-0084	657628	69	\$414.00
	William	Little	NM-3C	05-25-0111	656528	34	\$204.00

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following septic applications totaling \$1,125.00 Grant #16969 and \$35,182.50 Grant #16970 as presented:

Spring Creek Grant #16969

Jesse Yeatts	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out	
05-26-0101 (736081)	Estimated Cost	\$ 450.00
	Estimated Cost-Share 50%	\$ 225.00
05-26-0101 (736082)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 450.00
	Estimated Cost-Share 50%	\$ 225.00
05-26-0101 (736083)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 450.00
	Estimated Cost-Share 50%	\$ 225.00
05-26-0101 (737604)	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 450.00
	Estimated Cost-Share 50%	\$ 225.00
Barbara Harris	RB-1 Residential Septic Pump-out	
05-26-0111 (737157)	Estimated Cost	\$ 450.00
	Estimated Cost-Share 50%	\$ 225.00

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

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported that he had attended the Buffalo #1 preconstruction meeting with DCR and staff. He stated that the toe drain repair at Buffalo #1 had been completed and that a spring was found in the emergency spillway during excavation of the existing drainpipes which led to a site visit with Mr. Charles Wilson, DCR Engineer, to revise the planned repairs for the emergency spillway. Ms. Fehrer reported there would need to be a change order for an additional drainpipe and stone to capture the water flow from the spring recommended by Mr. Wilson.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Rash reported that the General Assembly still did not have budget.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: - Chair Morris

Ms. Morris reported that the Personnel Committee meet before the Board meeting to review personnel evaluations and discussion moving forward with making an offer for the Program Support Specialist position.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to make an offer to the selected candidate for the Program Support Specialist position.

Vice Chair, Mr. Rash made a motion to accept the personnel evaluations prepared by staff and the personnel committee along with supporting documentation and proposed actions, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Fehrer stated that the staff evaluations were on file in the office if the board wanted to review them.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

District Manager & Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Totten reported that April had been a busy month for the conservation staff with end of the year coming up. Mr. Dunn had been working on payments, Mr. Wootton had picked up additional workload with the watershed dams due to the repair at Buffalo #1 and Mr. Smith had an increase in septic applications.

Ms. Totten also reported that she was training on financial responsibilities with Ms. Fehrer.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville (attached)& Amelia

Mr. Evans reported that Mr. Hazlegrove has been working on CRP re-enrollment. He stated that Dana Bayless was the acting Assistant State Conservationist. He also stated that the Local Working Group would meet after the regular meeting.

Ms. Ciavarella from the USDA-NRCS Amelia office reported that she has processed 5 high tunnel and 1 forestry applications using the Ag Now process.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reported that 3rd quarter reports were received and looked good. She stated that there would be two more disbursements before the end of the year with the next one being May 11. Ms. Collins stated that carryovers needed to be approved by June 15. She reminded staff that there were 2 different sessions for VACS program updates in June.

Quail Forever (Attached)

Ms. Helmke reported that she had been working to complete 10 wildlife management plans by April 30. She stated that her position would end on April 30 due to lack of funding. Ms. Helmke stated that Elizabeth Elloit was the only private land biologist for Virginia at this time.

Virginia Cooperative Extension - Amelia

Ms. Gunn reported that she went to Morocco in March for the VALOR Program and at the Women in Ag in Harrisonburg in April. She stated that she received a \$10,000 grant for equine pasture management programs at Oakdale Farm in Powhatan County. Ms. Gunn reported there would be a emergency drought