



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia
May 26, 2026, 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
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:

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman
Dr. Kathy Gee - Associate Director, Nottoway County
Haley Norton – Associate Director, Conservation Specialist, Fort Pickett
Tara Ciavarella - NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia
Cristy Cook - Farm Service Agency, County Executive Director

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
Royce Coleman, Amelia County, Environmental Specialist
Doug Stanley, Prince Edward County Administrator

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, May 26, 2026. Chairman Moyer welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:03. Mr. Moyer stated that with the passing of the Board’s At-Large Director, Mr. Whittington, the number of voting directors was reduced to 7, requiring 4 directors for a quorum. A quorum was present. No additions to the agenda were recorded.

Mr. Moyers introduced Buck Tharpe, director for Southside SWCD and the VASWCD AREA V Chair and welcomed him to the meeting.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the April 28, 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 April 2026 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Mr. Dunn presented the conservation report.

On a motion by Ms. Morris, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following conservation plan:

Michael Borum	CP-5-26-0013
NRCS	22 (CRP)

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, with Mr. Moyer leaving the room, the Board approved the following FY26 VACS applications (CB \$26,666.20, OCB \$67,385.75, WFA \$433.20):

CB

AMEVA Farm 05-26-0025(738844)	NM-5N Precision NM Application Nit. (300 ac) 15 Test Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	 \$2,580.00 \$2,580.00
Green Bluff Farm 05-26-0027(738856)	NM-5N Precision NM Application Nit. (206ac) 12 Test Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	 \$1,792.00 \$1,792.00
Don Benson 05-26-0046(738146)	CCI-CNT Long Tern Cont. No-Till (406.8ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	 \$10,170.00 \$10,170.00
Blanton Farms LC 05-26-0061(738846)	NM-1A NMP Writing and Revision (236.5ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	 \$473.00 \$473.00
Blanton Farms LC 05-26-0061(738847)	NM-3C Split Application of Nitrogen (208ac) 5Tests Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	 \$426.00 \$426.00
White Oak Farm 05-26-0092(738859)	NM-3C Split Application of Nitrogen (131ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	 \$786.00 \$786.00
John Ashman 05-26-0053(738860)	NM-3C Split Application of Nitrogen (468ac) 25tests Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	 \$3,108.00 \$3,108.00
Iron Gate 05-26-0017(738858)	NM-3C Split Application of Nitrogen (263ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	 \$1,578.00 \$1,578.00
Hoot Owl Hollow Farm 05-26-0079(738848)	NM-1A NMP Writing and Revision (979.8ac) Estimated Cost Estimated Cost-Share	 \$1,959.60 \$1,959.60

Hoot Owl Hollow Farm	NM-3C Split Application of Nitrogen (179ac)		
05-26-0079(738849)	Estimated Cost		\$1,074.00
	Estimated Cost-Share		\$1,074.00
Whitaker Farms	NM-1A NMP Writing and Revision (578.3ac)		
05-26-0051(738854)	Estimated Cost		\$1,156.60
	Estimated Cost-Share		\$1,156.60
Whitaker Farms	NM-3C Split Application of Nitrogen (36ac)		
05-26-0051(738854)	Estimated Cost		\$216.00
	Estimated Cost-Share		\$216.00
Dexter Jones	NM-1A NMP Writing and Revision (340.5ac)		
05-26-0060(738845)	Estimated Cost		\$681.00
	Estimated Cost-Share		\$681.00
Dexter Jones	NM-3C Split Application of Nitrogen (111ac)		
05-26-0060(738845)	Estimated Cost		\$666.00
	Estimated Cost-Share		\$666.00
Michael Borum	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (35'/10yr) (100')		
OCB			
Michael Borum	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (35'/10yr) (100')		
05-26-0115 #738759	Estimated Cost		\$42,025.00
	Estimated Buffer Payment		\$80.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share		\$35,801.25
Nancy Ingram	SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (35'/15yr) (5,300')		
05-26-0116 #738779	* Piggybacking w/ NRCS		
	Estimated Cost		\$72,102.00
	Estimated Buffer Payment		\$18,000.00
	Total Estimated Cost Share		\$20,747.00
Charles Wootton	CCI-SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (6,870')		
05-26-0002 #738668	Estimated Cost		\$10,837.50
	Total Estimated Cost Share		\$10,837.50
Gina M DeJesus	(Tax Credit Only)-SL-1: Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland (8.5ac,5yrs)		
05-26-0005 #671367	Total Cost	\$3,008.79	\$3,008.79
	Total Cost Share	\$2,469.09	\$2,469.09
	Tax Credit	\$134.93	\$134.93

OCB Whole Farm Approach

Nottoway

Harrison Moody

05-26-0035(728033)

NM-1A NMP Writing and Revision (400.8ac)

Estimated Cost	\$	\$1,603.20
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Estimated Cost-Share	\$	\$1,603.20
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*Additional 108.3 ac -additional \$433.20 Cost-Share

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, with Mr. Moyer leaving the room, the Board approved the following FY26 VACS application for Oakmulgee Farm (CB \$3,440.00):

Oakmulgee Dairy

05-26-0077(738857)

NM-5N Precision NM Application Nit. (400ac) 20 Test

Estimated Cost	\$3,440.00
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Estimated Cost-Share	\$3,440.00
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On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following septic applications totaling \$2040.00 Grant #16970 as presented:

Billy Blankenship

05-26-0117 (738851)

RB-3M Conventional Septic System

Inspection/Maintenance

Estimated Cost	\$2,400.00
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Estimated Cost-Share 85%	\$2,040.00
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Mr. Wootton reported that the VACS secondary considerations and ranking sheet for PY2027 that was approved by the board in April had been approved by DCR. He stated that the conservation staff were working on the FY2027 cost list and hoped to have it ready for approval at the June board meeting.

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved Mr. Dunn for Stream Exclusion TAC with Mr. Rash as his proxy, Mr. Smith for Cover Crop & Nutrient Management TAC with Mr. Dunn as his proxy, Ms. Totten Programmatic TAC with Mr. Rash as her proxy and Ms. Totten on the full TAC with Mr. Rash as her proxy.

On a motion by Ms. Morris, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board appointed Mr. Rash the authority to approve any FY26 VACS contracts between May 27 and June 15 (deadline to have all VACS approvals complete).

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the updated language for the Equipment Rental contract as presented.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported that the current vehicle insurance with Farm Bureau had increased from \$4,720.61 to \$6,571.88 annually. He stated that Ms. Fehrer got a quote for vehicle coverage from CarCare through the Department of Treasury Division of Risk Management. He stated the cost would be approximately \$2,148.00 annually with comparable coverage. Mr. Arnason reported that coverage for the drills and equipment would remain with Farm Bureau.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the CarCare coverage for District vehicles.

PLANNING Chair Gunn

Ms. Gunn reviewed the draft 2027-2031 Strategic Plan. She stated there were minor changes made to the plan with one more date left to set for meeting for landowners around the watershed dams. She stated that the

if Board had any questions about the proposed changes to let her or Ms. Totten know. The final 2027-2031 will be presented in June for approval.

Mr. Moyer stated that the Annual Plan of Work for June was predominantly for end of the year items. Ms. Fehrer stated that staff would be working on the end of the year reports. She reported that approval of the FY 2027 budget and carryover reports will occur at the June board meeting.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the extension of the Construction Inspector Contract for Mr. Barry Mason for April 2026 to December 2026.

Mr. Arnason reported that during the Buffalo #1 EMSW repair, several seeps were identified during excavation of the existing drain lines. He stated that after a field inspection of the project, Mr. Charles Wilson recommended adding additional gravel to facilitate the draining of the wet areas into the existing drains.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the change order for Buffalo #1 EMSW Repair in the amount of \$13,520.00 for additional gravel.

Mr. Arnason reported that during the gate inspections completed last year by Blue Form Infrastructure (formerly Bander Smith), the condition of the stem and guides for the gate at Buffalo #1 made the gate inoperable and needed to be replaced. He stated that due to the lake already being drained for the scheduled wave berm repair, Blue Form Infrastructure would be able to access the gate for repairs without having to use underwater divers which reduced the cost of the repair by over \$13,000.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the contract with Blue Form infrastructure (previously Bander Smith) in the amount of \$26,948.75 for the replacement of the gate stem and guides for Buffalo #1 watershed dam.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Dunn reported that he did not anticipate there being a FY27 budget before the June Board Meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: - Chair Morris

On a motion by Ms. Morris, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the April 28, 2026, Joint Finance and Personnel Committee minutes as presented.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION – Chair Gunn

Ms. Atkinson reported that Ms. Totten had attended the award ceremonies at Fuqua and Kenston Forest to present the scholarship awards to Rudee Atkinson and Julia King. She stated there were 580 posters for the NACD poster contest this year. Ms. Atkinson reported the following upcoming education programs had been scheduled for June; Project Learning Tree training for educators, youth program at the Juvenile Detention Center in Prince Edward, and Fuqua Camp. Mr. Moyer thanked Ms. Atkinson for all her hard work with education. Ms. Atkinson stated she enjoyed the work and reached 3,300 students and adults this year.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

District Manager & Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Totten reported that staff worked on end of the year items. Mr. Dunn worked on completing nutrient management documentation for contract completion before June 15, Mr. Wootton picked up more dam workload with the repair project at Buffalo #1. She stated that Mr. Smith worked on VACS and Septic contracts and tracking down paperwork for septic repairs. Ms. Totten reported that she continued to work with Ms. Fehrer to learn the Finance responsibilities.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reported that disbursement letters would be sent out June 8. She stated there would be two upcoming sessions for PY27 VACS program updates and attendance was required per the grant agreement. Ms. Collins reported that DCR scheduled several upcoming Conservation Planner Certification Courses and they were included in her report.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville (attached)& Amelia (attached)

Mr. Evans, District Conservationist for the Farmville office, reviewed his written report.

Virginia Cooperative Extension - Amelia

Ms. Gunn reported the following upcoming workshops; pond workshop in Campbell County on May 29, Drought Webinar – Part 2 for pasture and forage June 3 at 7pm, and Estate Planning June 16 in Amelia. Ms. Gunn stated if anyone wanted more information please contact her.

Virginia Cooperative Extension - Farmville

Ms. Small reported the Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture grant program was still open to farmers. She announced Dairy Day was on June 6 at the Farmville Fairgrounds with 30 vendors and she had participated in the following programs Cut Flower Program, Flower Hour Podcast, Ag in the Classroom at Fuqua, Grazing School with NRCS. Ms. Small also reported that she was working with VA Tech and Prince Edward County to purchase ultrasound equipment for rental by cattle farmers to assist with preg-checking cattle. She stated there would be training on how to use the equipment and a small rental fee.

Prince Edward County

Mr. Stanley reported there was a landowner in Prince Edward working in the Appomattox River. The county issued a stop work order, DEQ was notified and is working with the landowner. He reported Prince Edward County re-codified the County Storm Water Regulations and all stormwater complaints within the town limits would go through the Town of Farmville. Mr. Stanley reported the county had approved a 5-megawatt solar project. He stated that there were now approximately ten 5-megawatts or smaller projects in Prince Edward County. Mr. Stanley reported that the Broadband installation project that covered Cumberland, Prince Edward and Charlotte counties with Planet Network was moving to the installation phase.

Ms. Fehrer asked Mr. Stanley how the closing of the STEPS recycling center would affect recycling within the county. Mr. Stanley stated that the county would be using Elite Recycling from Brookneal and residents could take their recycling to the convenience sites locations. He stated that the county hoped to add glass recycling in the future.

Roundtable/Public Comment

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, second by Ms. Gunn and carried by unanimous votes, the Board approved a donation of \$200.00 in the memory of Mr. Whittington to the Amelia Food Pantry.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Treasurer report; Staff & partner reports

Submitted By _____
Paula Totten, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Date: _____

Approved By _____
Horace Adams, Director / Secretary

Date: _____