Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Farmville, Virginia
June 23, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman
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
Horace Adams –Director, Prince Edward County / Secretary
Haley Norton – Associate Director, Conservation Specialist, Fort Pickett
Dr. Kathy Gee - Associate Director, Nottoway County
Deanna Fehrer – Finance and Records Manager
Erin Small – Associate Director, VCE ANR Agent Prince Edward County
Jeremy Evans - NRCS District Conservationist, Nottoway/Farmville

PSWCD Staff Present:

Kelly Atkinson – Education Specialist
Kevin Dunn – Senior Conservation Specialist
Claire Helmke, Program Support Specialist
Tyler Smith – Conservation Technician
Paula Totten – District Manager
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist

Partners Present:

Denney Collins - Dept. Conservation & Recreation - Conservation District Coordinator
Tara Ciavarella - NRCS District Conservationist, Amelia
Royce Coleman, Amelia County, Environmental Specialist
Jessica Showalter, Department of Forestry, Amelia
Devin Straub, Department of Wildlife Resources

Visitors Present:

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, June 23, 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 Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the May 26, 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 May 2026 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – Mr. Dunn presented

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following practices for FY26 VACS approved by Mr. Rash on June 12, 2026 (CB $78,172.60 OCB $1,664.40):

VACS: Agronomic Approvals								
Contract	**Instance**	**Client**	**Practice**	**Date Approved**	**Acres**		**Estimated Cost**	**Approved**
CB								
05-26-0064	738940	CT Wolfe Maintenance	NM-3C	6/12/2026	134	Acres	$804.00	$804.00
05-26-0043	738942	R. M. Watkins & Sons, Inc.	NM-3C	6/12/2026	1186	Acres	$7,117.80	$7,117.80
05-26-0043	738943	R. M. Watkins & Sons, Inc.	NM-5N	6/12/2026	488	Acres	$4,204.00	$4,204.00
05-26-0036	738961	Triple Ridge Farm LLC	NM-3C	6/12/2026	135.2	Acres	$811.20	$811.20
05-26-0032	739010	Isaac Grissom	NM-3C	6/12/2026	33.8	Acres	$202.80	$202.80
05-26-0047	739011	Brian Crowder	NM-3C	6/12/2026	105.8	Acres	$634.80	$634.80
05-26-0047	739129	Brian Crowder	NM-1A	6/12/2026	222.1	Acres	$444.20	$444.20
05-26-0050	739015	Boot Hill Dairy LLC	NM-3C	6/12/2026	300	Acres	$1,800.00	$1,800.00
05-26-0050	739020	Boot Hill Dairy LLC	NM-1A	6/12/2026	954	Acres	$3,816.00	$3,816.00
05-26-0037	739022	Dwayne Moore	NM-3C	6/12/2026	61	Acres	$366.00	$366.00
05-26-0053	739026	John Ashman	NM-1A	6/12/2026	21	Acres	$42.00	$42.00
05-26-0028	739028	David Ashman	NM-1A	6/12/2026	183.7	Acres	$734.80	$734.80
05-26-0031	739044	James Schenck	NM-1A	6/12/2026	267.2	Acres	$534.40	$534.40
05-26-0031	739046	James Schenck	NM-3C	6/12/2026	81.6	Acres	$489.60	$489.60
05-26-0080	739060	Featherstone Farm	NM-5N	6/12/2026	885	Acres	$7,080.00	$7,080.00
05-26-0080	739061	Featherstone Farm	NM-4	6/12/2026	260	Acres	$1,560.00	$1,560.00
05-26-0080	739062	Featherstone Farm	NM-5P	6/12/2026	1741	Acres	$13,927.20	$13,927.20
05-26-0080	739063	Featherstone Farm	NM-6	6/12/2026	390	Acres	$17,550.00	$17,550.00
05-26-0045	739130	George Toth	NM-3C	6/12/2026	210	Acres	$1,260.00	$1,260.00
05-26-0081	739134	John Shepherd	NM-3C	6/12/2026	173.7	Acres	$1,042.20	$1,042.20
05-26-0049	739136	Poor House Dairy	NM-1A	6/12/2026	394.3	Acres	$1,577.20	$1,577.20
05-26-0057	739145	Richlands Dairy	NM-3C	6/12/2026	215.1	Acres	$1,290.60	$1,290.60
05-26-0069	739082	Vaughan Cattle Co	NM-5P	6/12/2026	749.3	Acres	$5,994.40	$5,994.40
05-26-0073	739146	Easter Design	NM-3C	6/12/2026	564.9	Acres	$3,389.40	$3,389.40
05-26-0082	739152	Warehouse Crop and Cattle	NM-3C	6/12/2026	250	Acres	$1,500.00	$1,500.00
OCB								

05-26-0081	739135	John Shepherd	NM-3C	6/12/2026	277.4	Acres	$1,664.40	$1,664.40

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following septic applications totaling $450.00 approved by Mr. Rash on June 12, 2026:

Septic Approvals -- Other Watersheds Practices approved June 12, 2026, by Mr. Rash							
Contract	**Instance**	**Client**	**Practice**	**Date Approved**	**% Cost Share**	**Estimated Cost**	**Approved**
05-26-0118	738941	Gary Page	RB-1	6/12/2026	50%	$450.00	$225.00
05-26-0119	738944	Denise Manry	RB-1	6/12/2026	50%	$450.00	$225.00

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following tax credit increase totaling $394.24.00 approved by Mr. Rash on June 12, 2026:

Tax Credit		Approved 6/14/2026 by Mr. Rash					
Contract	**Instance**	**Client**	**Practice**	**Date Approved**	**Original Tax Credi**	**Increase**	**New Tax Credit**
05-26-0044	738944	Timothy Mark Orr	SL-1	6/14/2026	$241.87	$394.24	$636.11

On a motion by Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following septic applications totaling $9,183.75 Grant #16969 as presented:

IV. New Septic Approvals - Spring Creek Grant #16969							
Contract	**Instance**	**Client**	**Practice**	**Date Approved**	**% Cost Share**	**Estimated Cost**	**Approved**
05-26-0120	739222	Anthony Brown	RB-1	6/17/2026	85%	$450.00	$382.50
05-26-0121	739223	Edith Haskins	RB-4	6/17/2026	85%	$10,800.25	$8,801.25

On a motion by Ms. Morris, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the cancelation of the following septic applications as presented:

Septic Cancelations							
Contract	**Instance**	**Client**	**Practice**	**Date Approved**	**% Cost Share**	**Estimated Cost**	**Approved**
Flat Creek Grant #16969							
05-26-0108	736873	Brent Shildt	RB-1	3/31/2026	50%	$450.00	$225.00
Spring Creek Grant #16970							
05-25-0123	657420	Geraloos Walton	RB-1	6/27/2025	70%	$450.00	$315.00

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the cancelation of the following FY26 VACS application as presented:

VACS Cancelations							
Contract	**Instance**	**Client**	**Practice**	**Date Approved**	**% Cost Share**	**Estimated Cos**	**Approved**
05-24-0067	578517	AMEVA Farms Inc	SL-6W	10/24/2023	85%	$12,675.00	$12,373.75

Mr. Dunn reported that $2.19M was obligated this year to agriculture producers.

On a motion by Ms. Morris, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the VACS and septic carryover report (CB 255,358.13, OCB $58,212.65 and WFA OCB $17,998.65) (attached).

Mr. Wootton presented the Cost List for FY27. He stated that the practices with cost increase were in red in addition to a revised statement that "*District staff will research and determine the appropriate cost for practices not listed*".

On a motion by Ms. Morris, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the VACS FY27 Cost List as presented.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported the request was sent to DCR for reimbursement of small dam repair project at Buffalo #1. He stated there may be one more disbursement for VACS cost share and TA in June.

Mr. Arnason reported that the DCR Grant agreements would not be finalized until a budget was approved by the Governor. He stated that the Grant agreements and District budget would hopefully be approved at the July board meeting. He stated that the Finance Committee needed to meet prior to the July board meeting, He suggested July 15 to review grant agreements, draft budget and DCR desktop guide/policies, per grant agreements. Mr. Arnason stated he would be sending out an email to confirm a date for the Finance Committee meeting.

PLANNING – Chair Gunn

Ms. Gunn stated that District staff made the final updates to the Strategic Plan during their June staff meeting and a copy was sent to the Board prior to the meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Morris, seconded by Dr. Gates and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the Strategic Plan 27-30.

Ms. Totten reported that the District created their FY27 Annual Plan of Work based on the Strategic Plan. She stated that the annual plan of work had been updated to reflect the changes in the Strategic Plan 27-30.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Morris and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the FY27 Annual Plan of Work.

Ms. Totten reviewed the FY27 Annual Plan of Work for July. She stated that the staff would be working on preparing for the FY27 program year by advertising the new signup year and working on end of year and 4th quarter reports.

Ms. Totten reminded the Board that a nomination for the At-Large position would need to be approved by August to be sent to DCR. Ms. Collins confirmed that the At-Large nomination needed to be sent to DCR by September 1.

WATERSHED - Chair Arnason

Mr. Arnason reported that spring mowing had been completed on the dams and inspections were almost complete. He stated that he and Mr. Wootton would be going out Wednesday to complete the last few.

Mr. Wootton presented a PowerPoint presentation to the board on the filter drain, wave berm, emergency spillway and gate stem repairs completed at Buffalo #1. He stated that prior to any work being performed at the dams, the landowners around the lake are always notified in writing.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: - Chair Morris

Ms. Morris welcomed Ms. Helmke to the District. Ms. Totten stated that Ms. Helmke has been moving along with her training and doing a great job.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Rash

Mr. Rash reported that there was still not budget, but that funding looked favorable for districts. Ms. Collins stated there would be a VASWCD meeting in July to approve their budget after the state budget is approved.

Mr. Rash asked staff if they were aware of the changes to the FY27 VCAP contracts. Ms. Helmke stated that she and Mr. Smith attended the training last week and had seen the modified contract.

Mr. Rash reminded the board and staff that Buck Tharpe Jr. was the Area V Chair for the VASWB and if anyone had any concern or issues to please pass them on to him.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION – Chair Gunn

Ms. Atkinson reported that it was National Soil Health Day. She thanked Ms. Helmke for the reminder and noted that Ms. Helmke created a social post for each day of the week to promote National Soil Health Week. Ms. Atkinson shared a crayfish chimney that was found during Fuqua Nature Camp. She stated that shortly after the camp, students were on an outing and found a crayfish chimney and were able to identify it and sent her a picture. She stated that it was full circle moment for her. Ms. Atkinson stated that she attended the Project Wild training at Twin Lakes State Park. She reported the following upcoming events; Summer Enrichment Program at the Juvenile Detention Center, Amelia County Fair on Aug 15th 12-10 pm with the Soil & Water Connect Trailer and planning for the coming school year.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

District Manager & Staff reports

Ms. Totten reported that all the staff were busy with end of year task, wrapping up practices, entering data in the tracking program. She stated that Mr. Wootton was working on dam inspection and entering data in DSIS, Ms. Helmke was completing training, and Ms. Atkinson was preparing for a few final education programs and then would be in planning mode. Ms. Totten reported that she and Ms. Fehrer have been working on training for financial duties.

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Ms. Collins reported that all QA/QC report issues needed to be resolved by July 15th. CP QA/QC issues to be resolved by June 30th for when Carl and Vanessa begin pulling plans for end of year Grant deliverable review.

USDA-NRCS – Amelia (see attached)

Ms. Ciavarella reported that the Amelia office had received 6 EQIP and 3 CSP re-approvals. She stated that starting July 15, Mr. Evans, District Conservationist for the Farmville office would be the acting EQIP Program Manager for 120 days. Mr. Evan will be able to come back one day a pay period to help in the Farmville office.

Virginia Cooperative Extension - Amelia

Ms. Gunn reported that she will have a Pesticide recertification program at Featherstone on the evening of August 6 and a well water and septic program on August 26 and would like to partner with the District again this year. Ms. Gunn reported that she received a $10,000 grant for educational program on horse pasture management if the District was interested in sponsorship or setting up an information table.

Ms. Totten thanks Ms. Gunn with her assistance with updating the Strategic Planning.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Submitted By Paula E Totten Date: 7-28-2026

Paula Totten, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Approved By Date: 7-28-2026

Horace Adams, Director / Secretary