



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
April 27, 2021 11:00 a.m.**

Board Members Present:

Larkin Moyer – Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County / Vice Chairman
Charles “Chuck” Arnason – Director, Nottoway County / Treasurer
Bill Powers – Director, Prince Edward County / Secretary
Allison Crews – Director, Amelia County
Horace Adams- Director, Prince Edward County
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

Board Members Absent

Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County

SWCD Staff Present:

Kevin Dunn – BMP Conservation Specialist
Deanna Fehrer - District Manager
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist

Partners Present:

Denney Collins – Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation
Bailey Anderson, Part Time VCE ANR agent Prince Edward County

Board Members, Staff and Partners participating remotely:

Kelly Atkinson – PSWCD Education Specialist
Brendan Burke – PSWCD Equipment Manager
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist Nottoway/Prince Edward office
Telicia Berry, NRCS District Conservationist Amelia office

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

A regular meeting of the Piedmont SWCD Board of Directors was held at the Prince Edward Natural Resources and Agriculture Building in Farmville on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. Moyer welcomed everyone present, especially Mr. Whittington and Ms. Collins, who have been attending monthly meetings via virtual format since February 2020. A quorum was physically present. Mr. Moyer recognized Horace Adams as an official voting director. The agenda was adopted by group consensus.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the March 23, 2021 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the March 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit. A detailed written report was provided to the Finance Committee.

CONSERVATION - Reported by Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wootton

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following 4 cancelations:

Cancelations:

Chesapeake Bay Vacs-PY 21

Brian Lewis- 05-21-0014	SL-8 B -132.9ac- \$6,645.00 (409777)
Brian Lewis- 05-21-0014	NM-1- 132.9ac - \$265.80 (409779)

Chesapeake Bay Vacs-PY 20

Paul Brenneman- 05-20-0074	FR-3- 10ac- \$16,200.00 (387237)
Dunn Right Meadows LLC. 05-20-0089	SL-6W 1,100' - \$6,589.35 (394878)

* Funds from this instance will be transferred for approval to Instance # (395655) below.

Corrections:

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following correction to contract 05-20-0089 below totaling an additional \$5,618.50 in Chesapeake Bay PY20 VACS funding:

Dunn Right Meadows LLC. 05-20-0089(395655)	SL-6W Stream Exclusion/Wide Buffer (50') 8,500'	
	Estimated Cost	\$ 50,067.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 47,563.65
	Buffer Rent 10ac	\$ 8,000.00
	Total Cost-Share	\$ 55,563.65

***The original contract had 2 instances (35' & 50') with a total cost-share of \$49,945.15 that were approved on 7/21/20. All exclusion fence is being installed at 50' or greater so the 35' instance was canceled (above) and the funds will be transferred to the 50' instance. An additional \$5,618.50 is requested to fund an increase in cost-share percentage, exclusion fence footage, buffer acreage and a pumping plant for an existing well. Per DCR, the contract is eligible to approve FY20 additional cost share funds.**

Approvals:

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following contract totaling \$3,177.00 in Chesapeake Bay VACS funding:

PRINCE EDWARD

Robert Jones-

Poor House Dairy

05-21-0033 (429172)

NM-6 Manure Injection (70.6 acres)

Estimated Cost	\$ 3,177.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 3,177.00

Agriculture Conservation Plans

On a motion by Mr. Rash seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following agriculture conservation plans as presented:

Prince Edward

James B. Gates, Jr.	CP 05-21-0001	BMP
David Emert	CP 05-21-0005	BMP

On a motion by Mr. Arnason seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following agriculture conservation plans as signed by staff for FSA:

Mary Kay Simpson	Transfer
Southall Fairview Farm LLC	Transfer
Robert and Gordon Walker	Transfer

DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Contracts

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following septic applications totaling \$3,132.50 (Flat Creek #16970 grant), \$297.50 (Spring Creek #16969) and also a transfer agreement for contract 05-21-0052 as presented and listed below:

Flat Creek, etc Grant #16970**Amelia**

Shirley Baptist 05-21-0061 (427820)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 175.00
Rosa Bolden 05-21-0060 (427793)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (90%) \$ 315.00
Franklin Dagner 05-21-0062 (427821)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (90%) \$ 315.00
David Poe 05-21-0063 (427845)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 175.00
Sherry P. Hailey 05-21-0066 (428116)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (85%) \$ 297.50
Elizabeth A. Wallace 05-21-0068 (427820)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 175.00

Lucy L. Jackson 05-21-0070 (428370)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (90%) \$ 315.00
Catherine Booker 05-21-0069 (428369)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (65%) \$ 227.50
Bernice M. Johnson 05-21-0071 (428430)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (85%) \$ 297.50
Horace B. Bowlin 05-21-0065 (427934, 427937)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out (2) Estimated Cost \$ 700.00 Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 350.00
Roger Pinholster 05-21-0072 (429543)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 175.00
William N James, Jr. 05-21-0073 (430692)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (90%) \$ 315.00

Spring Creek, etc. #16969**Prince Edward**

Lucille Eppes 05-21-0064 (428261)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pump-out Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (85%) \$ 297.50
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TRANSFER:**Flat Creek #16970 – Nottoway:**

John A. Gregory III to Luis Serrano 05-21-0052 (426387)	RB-4 Conventional Onsite Septic Repair
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NO-TILL DRILL:

Ms. Fehrer reported Mr. Burke is working with Crewe Tractor to deliver the new drill with warm season grass attachment and the trade-in of the two old drills.

OTHER DCR INITIATIVES:

Ms. Collins reported the Piedmont SWCD has been selected to participate in the “Small Herd Initiative” program that will focus on VACS funding for producers with herds of 20-25 bovines within the CB watershed. Attached is an email with the details. On Tuesday, May 11 at 1:30

pm, DCR will host a webinar that will present the purpose, guidelines and other information. An MOU will be forthcoming.

Ms. Collins also reported on a recent action by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board to address the large increases in materials and labor due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and supply chain disruption. Only VACS contracts in FY20 and FY21 that have not been paid and will be going into 'carryover' status, will be eligible for specific practices. The new 'estimated cost' will need board approval for each contract AFTER the FY22 cost list has been approved. Attached is an email with more details.

FINANCE:

Mr. Arnason reported the funding assistance agreement with DEQ for the no-till drill program is being reviewed by DEQ Senior Management. Mr. Arnason reminded the Board that in January 2021, the Board authorized the PSWCD Treasurer to sign the funding agreements when they become available.

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following gift certificates for the Poster Contest:

\$30 – Walmart for the Grand Prize Winner

\$20 – Audrey Sullivan, Judge

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved \$100 contribution for the VASWCD Educational Foundation Golf Tournament to be held May 19, 2021.

PLANNING (No Report)

WATERSHED

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved an extension until December 31, 2021 of the current Dam Construction Inspector Contract for Mr. Barry Mason. Contract rates and requirements remain the same.

Mr. Arnason also reported the small dam repair at Buffalo #9 has been completed and Charles Wilson, DCR Dam Engineer, was pleased with the contractor's work.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Dillard reported the Personnel Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Dillard reported the personnel evaluations for the staff have been completed. Ms. Fehrer prepared evaluations for Ms. Atkinson, Mr. Burke, Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wootton, and Mr. Dillard prepared Ms. Fehrer's evaluation. All evaluations were favorable. A copy will be placed in the employee's personnel file.

On a motion from the Personnel Committee and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the hiring of Ms. Shirley Tinker as a temporary (90 days) full-time office assistance starting immediately at a pay rate of \$18.00/hour. The hire is to help provide office coverage during the end of the program year season.

LEGISLATIVE (No Report)**COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION**

Mr. Powers reported the Education Committee met prior to the Board meeting to review scholarship applications. **On a motion by the Education Committee and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved three \$1,000 higher education scholarships to the following applicants: Marlee Wallace (Nottoway), Catherine Gracie Coover (Nottoway) and Tyler Harris (Prince Edward).** Mr. Harris's application will be forwarded to the VASWCD Education Foundation for an opportunity to receive additional scholarship awards.

Ms. Atkinson reported the Area IV/V Envirothon virtual competition was held this past week. The two teams from Piedmont SWCD were unable to compete as well as teams from other Area V SWCDs. The virtual format was challenging for students, coaches and SWCD staff and affected participation. Two teams from PFSWCD will advance to the State Competition, which will also be held virtually on May 16. Ms. Atkinson also reported she is finalizing the Conservation Poster Contest and is expecting to receive approximately 200 posters. Ms. Atkinson completed filming and editing a video titled "Flora and Fauna of the James River Watershed" that is part of the VCE Wonder Watershed Wednesday series. The video was shown following the Board meeting and Ms. Atkinson was congratulated for her work.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS**Staff reports (Attached)**

Ms. Fehrer reported that staff have been busy as evidenced by the accomplishments on the workload reports. She also thanked Mr. Wootton for covering the office in her absence over the past several weeks due to family illness.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).

Ms. Collins reported she was glad to be back in-person at the Board meeting. She reviewed her report and highlighted the new Ag Tax Credits guidelines that were passed by the General Assembly in this session. More information will be forthcoming as districts move into PY22.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans, NRCS District Conservationist for Farmville office, reported his office has been completing the ranking of six EQIP applications. He and Ms. Berry will be holding a joint Local Working Group meeting within the next week to receive feedback on USDA programs. The meeting will likely be in a virtual format. Ms. Berry, NRCS District Conservationist for Amelia, also reported her office has been completing the ranking process for twenty EQIP applications.

VCE

Ms. Norton reported the results of the Chesapeake Bay Voluntary Agricultural Practices Survey. VCE received 700 surveys from the CB watershed covering 242,000 acres of agricultural land. Specific to PSWCD, 12 surveys were received from Amelia (8,160 acres), 7 surveys from Nottoway (2,054 acres) and 5 surveys from Prince Edward (1,095 acres). The data is in the process of being reviewed and analyzed for additional submissions to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL model.

ROUNDTABLE

Ms Crews reported that a local group is making plans to bring a USDA certified slaughterhouse to our area.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Staff, DCR & NRCS reports

Submitted By _____ Date: _____
Deanna Fehrer, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
Bill Powers, Director / Secretary