



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
February 23, 2021 11:00 a.m.**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members, Staff and Partners participating remotely:

Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County
Kelly Atkinson – PSWCD Education Specialist
Brendan Burke – PSWCD Equipment Manager
Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist Nottoway/Prince Edward office
Denney Collins – Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation

Guests Present: Bailey Anderson, Part Time VCE ANR agent Prince Edward County

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, February 23, 2021. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was physically present. By consensus, the Board approved remote meeting participation via Zoom videoconference by a voting member due to health issues. Additional board members, partners and staff as listed above participated remotely. The agenda was adopted by group consensus. Mr. Moyer introduced Ms. Anderson, the part-time VCE Agriculture & Natural Resources agent from Prince Edward County. Ms. Anderson, a recent VT graduate, began this position in January and is looking forward to working with everyone.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the January 26, 2021 minutes as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CONSERVATION - Reported by Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wootton

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following five contracts (6 practices) totaling \$48,151.10 in Chesapeake Bay VACS funding:

Chesapeake Bay
AMELIA

John Ashman **NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing and Revision -Manure (498.4ac)**
05-21-0025 (424767) Estimated Cost \$ 996.80
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 996.80

AMEVA Farm **NM-6 Manure Injection (81.8 ac)**
05-21-0038 (423734) Estimated Cost \$ 3,681.00
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 3,681.00

Watkins & Son Inc. **NM-6 Manure Injection (284.1 ac)**
05-21-0019 (424943) Estimated Cost \$ 12,784.50
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 12,784.50

PRINCE EDWARD
Glen View Farm **SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (900')**
05-21-0051 (424494) Estimated Cost \$ 16,664.00
Estimated Cost-Share \$ 15,830.80
Estimated Buffer Payment \$ 1,600.00
Total Estimated Cost Share \$ 17,430.80

Billy R Thompson **CCI-WP-2W Stream Protection Wide Buffer- Maintenance (4758')**
05-21-0050 (424400) Estimated Cost \$ 4,758.00
Estimated Incentive \$ 4,758.00

05-21-0050 (424298) **CCI-SL-6W Stream Protection Wide Buffer- Maintenance (4800')**
Estimated Cost \$ 8,500.00
Estimated Incentive \$ 8,500.00

Agriculture Conservation Plans

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

Chris Ranson CP-05-21-0007 BMP

Mr. Rash commented that there may need to be additional time to conduct VACS BMP spot checks due to the widespread damage from the ice storms over the past two weeks. Spot checks

are not usually due until the end of October, but Ms. Collins took note of the concerns. Mr. Whittington also commented that the extreme winter weather has caused heavy erosion to occur on farm fields.

DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Contracts – None

DCR Tillage Survey

DCR has invited SWCDs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to participate in a tillage/residue survey on crop fields that will support CB model numbers of tillage practices and identify any areas in the state that need to concentrate on promoting no-till practices. SWCDs will drive a route through their districts with a assigned number of ‘stops’ to determine the amount of residue on agricultural fields, which in turn identifies the type of tillage used to plant the crop. Piedmont has been assigned 423 points or stops in .20 mile intervals covering all three counties. A financial incentive of \$2,380 is available to the PSWCD if they agree to participate. There were concerns of entering private property without consent. The Board, by consensus, agreed that PSWCD intends to participate to the best of the staff’s ability to conduct the survey. An MOU will be forthcoming and the survey will need to be completed by June 30, 2021.

FINANCE:

Mr. Arnason reported the auditors have finished the audit and will be conducting a virtual exit interview this afternoon with Mr. Arnason, Ms. Fehrer and Ms. Collins in attendance.

PLANNING:

Due to the recent death of Dr. Wilkie Chaffin, the Piedmont SWCD has a vacancy on the Board. Ms. Fehrer had notified the Prince Edward County Administrator of the vacancy and indicated that the Associate Director for Prince Edward County might be interested in filling the term. **On a motion by Ms. Norton, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved Horace Adams as the nominee to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Wilkie Chaffin, Prince Edward County elected director.** The nomination form will be submitted to Ms. Collins for inclusion at the March State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting.

WATERSHED

Mr. Wootton reported prior to last week’s icy storm events, the vegetation establishment at the recent Buffalo #2 project was growing as expected for this time of year. Staff will be visiting the site in the next few days. Water levels monitored with the remote monitoring equipment did not show any large increases during recent storm events. Ms. Fehrer reported the engineering design work being performed by AMT Engineering was at 90-95% complete. Final design comments from NRCS, DCR and Dam Safety will be finalized along with submission of the alteration permits. The work is expected to be finalized in the next few months. Annual owner inspections will be conducted in March, weather permitting.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Fehrer reported the USDA Service Center is still at COVID Phase Zero, but offices opened on February 11 after being closed for two weeks due to a possible COVID19 positive case.

LEGISLATIVE

Mr. Rash reported FY22 budget amendments put forth by the House have not yet been adopted by the Senate. In January an updated revenue report for the Commonwealth was released that showed an increase of \$740M in revenues, so that may impact changes to budget amendments.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION

Ms. Atkinson reported Envirothon activities are moving forward with teams from Amelia High School and Fuqua School. All staff participated in a ‘mock Envirothon’ competition. Due to the inclement weather and school closures the week of February 16, the mini grant outdoor classroom evaluations have been delayed. Ms. Atkinson is learning how to edit videos with the software ‘Filmora’ and will begin to shoot and edit videos for several upcoming training events. She also reported that she and Jake Morgan, PE 4H agent, are working on planning an upcoming gardening series for home school groups utilizing the demonstration garden at the VCE office. Ms. Atkinson is also preparing a monthly native plant post to the District’s Facebook page.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTSStaff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer reminded everyone that the Area V Spring meeting will be held Wednesday, March 3 via Zoom starting at 1:00pm. Katharine Wilson, Director of VA Foods Works, will be the guest speaker. A business meeting will follow.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reported the 3rd quarter disbursements letters have been distributed and direct deposits are forthcoming. She reminded everyone about several upcoming deadlines.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans reported his office is assessing the first signup of EQIP applications.

VCE

Ms. Norton reported after the meeting that she has completed an Ag Damage Assessment for Nottoway County that will be used along with reports from the other affected counties to show damages from the storms in a cumulative report to VDEM.

ROUNDTABLE – no comments**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Staff, DCR & NRCS reports;

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

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