



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Farmville, Virginia  
January 26, 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  
Horace Adams- Associate Director, Prince Edward County  
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

**Board Members Absent:**

**SWCD Staff Present:**

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

**Board Members, Staff and Partners participating remotely:**

Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County  
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County  
Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County  
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  
Denney Collins – Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation

**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, January 26, 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. Ms. Fehrer shared a power point tribute to Dr. Wilkie Chaffin, longtime Piedmont SWCD Board member, who passed away in late November after a long illness. Dr. Chaffin was dedicated to conservation and districts across the Commonwealth. He will be sorely missed.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the November 24, 2020 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 November/December 2020 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.** A detailed report was provided to the Finance Committee. A contribution to the VASWCD Education Foundation in memory of Dr. Wilkie Chaffin was noted.

**CONSERVATION** - Reported by Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wootton

**On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the contract to be relieved of any maintenance requirements:**

**Nottoway County**

**Charles Borum**                      **SL-6T Stream Exclusion w/ Grazing Land Management (1120')**

05-13-0067                      Total Cost Share                      \$ 4,300.00

Pro-rated Payback                      \$ 1,254.00

\*Participant is deceased, widow is in assisted living and had to sell farm. She is requesting forgiveness of maintenance requirement. Lifespan ends 12/31/2023.

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following five contracts:**

Chesapeake Bay

**AMELIA**

**Whitaker Farms**

05-21-0021 (422778)

**SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (35'/10yr) (2800')**

Estimated Cost                      \$ 15,416.00

Estimated Cost-Share                      \$ 13,103.60

Estimated Buffer Payment                      \$ 1,440.00

Total Estimated Cost Share                      \$ 14,543.60

Total Estimated Tax Credit                      \$ 218.10

**David A. Ashman**

05-21-0017 (423079)

**NM-1 Nut. Mgmt. Plan Writing and Revision -Manure (182.5 ac)**

Estimated Cost                      \$ 730.00

Estimated Cost-Share                      \$ 730.00

**Vaughan Cattle Co.**

05-21-0012 (423078)

**NM-1 Nutrient Mgmt. Plan Writing and Revision (524.9 ac)**

Estimated Cost                      \$ 1,049.80

Estimated Cost-Share                      \$ 1,049.80

**Brian T. Crowder**

05-21-0031(423077)

**NM-1 Nutrient Mgmt. Plan Writing and Revision (157 ac)**

Estimated Cost                      \$ 314.00

Estimated Cost-Share                      \$ 314.00

**Pride Farm of Amelia LLC**

05-21-0034 (423076)

**NM-1 Nutrient Mgmt. Plan Writing and Revision (58.9 ac)**

Estimated Cost                      \$ 117.80

Estimated Cost-Share                      \$ 117.80

**On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following two contracts with three practices:**

**PRINCE EDWARD**

**Christopher G. Ranson**

05-21-0046 (422654)

**SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (35'/10yr) (900')**

Estimated Cost                      \$ 16,492.00

Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 14,018.20
Estimated Buffer Payment	\$ 6,000.00
Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 20,018.20

05-21-0046 (422653)

**CCI-SE-1 Stream Exclusion - Maintenance (800')**

Estimated Incentive \$ 400.00

**AMELIA****Timothy P. Elliott****CCI-WP-2 Stream Protection Wide Buffer- Maintenance (7678')**

05-21-0049 (423013)

Estimated Incentive \$ 8,678.00

**VACS Cost-Share Approvals Chesapeake Bay FY21 \$ 45,851.40****VACS Tax Credit Approvals CB FY21 \$ 218.10****Agriculture Conservation Plans**

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

**Amelia, Whitaker Farms CP05-21-00096 for BMP**

**DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Contracts****Flat/Nibbs Creek #16970 (Approved by staff under emergency policy)**

**On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board acknowledged acceptance of emergency approvals for the following residential septic contracts:**

**Eva Bourne (Nottoway)****05-21-0047****RB-4 Residential Septic Replacement****Estimated Cost \$7,925.00****Estimated Cost-Share 7,133.00 (90%)****Rochelle Evans (Nottoway)****05-21-0048****RB-1 Residential Septic Pumpout****Estimated Cost \$ 350.00****Estimated Cost Share \$ 298.00 (85%)****AG BMP Survey**

VCE, along with many agricultural partners including VASWCD, developed a survey aimed at gathering information from agricultural producers located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed who voluntarily implemented water quality BMPs. The survey has been distributed through various email list-serves such as VA Farm Bureau and VCE and is designed to be submitted in an on-line format. Paper copies are available at local VCE offices for producers who do not have internet capabilities. It is a detailed survey and SWCDs have been asked to help distribute and be a point of contact. Ms. Norton will send out the survey link to the Piedmont Board.

**FINANCE:****No-till drill**

Last month the Board approved to purchase two (2) new 10' Haybuster drills (one with a warm season grass attachment) utilizing the DEQ funding assistance program and to dispose of the two oldest drills. The staff received updated quotes from local equipment dealers, including values for a trade-in allowance. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to purchase a standard Haybuster 107 10' drill**

**from James River Equipment in the amount of \$29,500 and to purchase another Haybuster 107 10' drill with warm season grass attachment from Crewe Tractor in the amount of \$34,250 less a trade-in allowance of both #2 & #4 drills valued at \$25,400.**

Ms. Fehrer reported DEQ is in the process of finalizing funding agreements and they could be distributed as soon as the first week in February. **On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved for the Mr. Arnason, Piedmont SWCD Treasurer, to sign the agreements on behalf of the Board.**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash, and carried by unanimous vote, the Board instructed Ms. Fehrer to write-off a past due equipment invoice from Fred Ray in the amount of \$126.36.** Attempts to collect were unsuccessful. Staff will notify adjacent SWCDs of the action taken and caution them to consider before renting their equipment to this individual.

### **PLANNING:**

Due to the recent death of Dr. Wilkie Chaffin, the Piedmont SWCD has a vacancy on the Board. Mr. Adams, Associate Director from Prince Edward County, will consider serving the remaining term of Dr. Chaffin. A decision will be finalized at the February meeting.

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash, and carried by unanimous vote, the Board renewed the annual terms of the following Associate Directors: Gary Dillard (Amelia), Sarah Eck (Nottoway) and Horace Adams (Prince Edward).**

The Board reviewed the Annual Plan of Work January – June. Several events have been canceled or postponed due to Covid pandemic.

During the VASWCD Annual Meeting (held virtually in December), Mr. Larkin Moyer was recognized for his 25 years of service as a Piedmont SWCD Director. The Board, staff and partners offered their congratulations.

Ms. Fehrer reminded everyone that any changes in committee assignments and to directory information need to be submitted to her. Piedmont SWCD will host the Area V Spring Meeting being held virtually on Wednesday, March 3. Ideas for a speaker were discussed.

### **WATERSHED**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a one- year extension to the Term Engineering Contract and MOU with A. Morton & Thomas Engineering, Inc, dated January 28, 2020.** The District requested and received positive feedback from the participating SWCDs who utilized the services of AMT during the year.

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved a one-year contract with Mr. Barry Mason for construction inspection services of repair projects at watershed dams.**

Mr. Wootton reported the training dike and outfall pool repair projects were completed in December. He provided a power point of pictures before, during and after construction. The

contractor and Mr. Mason have been paid and the project reimbursement from DCR will be included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter disbursement.

### **PERSONNEL**

Ms. Fehrer reported the USDA offices in Farmville began operating on a COVID phase zero action plan effective January 25 because of the increase in COVID cases in Prince Edward County. No changes to the district office operations are anticipated. District staff continue to limit the number of district staff in the office at one time and rotate as much as possible.

### **LEGISLATIVE**

Mr. Rash reported Secretary of Natural Resources, Matt Strickler, spoke against HB1837, which is attempting to clarify the process of nominations to the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The General Assembly is conducting a short session with crossover happening shortly. Don Wells, VASWCD Legislative Co-Chair, continues to send out weekly updates on legislative activity.

### **COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION**

Ms. Atkinson reported she distributed scholarship information to past recipients, schools, partners and to local newspapers. Applications are due back to the Piedmont office by April 1, 2021. She also sent out information regarding the poster contest with the theme of “Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities”. Entries are due back April 13. Piedmont has two Envirothon teams – Amelia County High School and Fuqua School. All Envirothon activities are being conducted virtually. The District received a \$150 Envirothon grant and those funds along with leftover funds from last year will provide stipends for the coaches. The staff will compete in a mock Envirothon on February 19. Ms. Atkinson reported a local trucking company might be willing to paint our logo on one of their haul trucks. The Board agreed for her to make an inquiry.

### **DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS**

Staff reports (Attached)

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reported she received the second quarter reports and she will be preparing the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter disbursements. She reminded everyone about several upcoming deadlines.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans reviewed his report and mentioned that the guidelines for the ranking process for FY21 EQIP applications has not been finalized. Currently the Farmville office has received six EQIP applications. A team of contractors has been assigned to the Farmville office for the purposes of scanning NRCS and FSA files.

Ms. Berry reported similar information regarding EQIP applications and submitted a detailed report.

### **VCE**

Ms. Norton reported that Bailey Anderson has been hired as a part-time ANR agent in the Prince Edward VCE office. Pesticide recertification is being offered virtually.

**ROUNDTABLE:**

Ms. Crews mentioned she is continuing to participate in the VA Soil Health Coalition and is a board member for the Virginia Food Works, which is a partner with the Prince Edward cannery.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

**ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:**

Staff, DCR & NRCS reports;

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deanna Fehrer, Piedmont SWCD Staff

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Powers, Director / Secretary