



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
July 27, 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- Director, Prince Edward County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

Board Members, Staff & Partners Absent:

Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia County

SWCD Staff Present:

Kelly Atkinson – PSWCD Education Specialist
Kevin Dunn – BMP Conservation Specialist
Deanna Fehrer - District Manager
Shirley Tinker - Program Assistant
Charlie Wootton – Senior Conservation Specialist

Partners Present:

Denney Collins, Conservation District Coordinator, Dept. Conservation & Recreation

Board Members, Staff and Partners participating remotely:

Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County
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, July 27, 2021. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was physically present. The agenda was adopted by group consensus. Ms. Haley Norton, the VCE appointed agent to the Piedmont SWCD Board, has resigned from VCE leaving a vacancy on the Board. Currently there is no replacement agent, so the required quorum of the Board has been reduced to four until the position is filled.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the June 22, 2021 minutes as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT

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

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE - Reported by Mr. Rash, Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wootton
 The Conservation Committee met at 9:30 a.m. prior to the regular Board meeting. Mr. Rash explained several changes to the attached FY22 VACS Cost List, including several new components (Provision of Power, Bore under Road, Waste Storage Facility, Roofs & Covers, and Frost Proof Hydrant) and several cost increases. Due to increases in the costs of materials and supplies, the list reflects an approximate 30% increase in several of the practice components. Cover Crop practices are recommended to utilize a \$200/acre cost because of the new DCR VACS policy of how tax credits are estimated and approved. **On a recommendation by the Conservation Committee and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the FY22 VACS Cost List as presented.**

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following corrections: These instances were listed as cancelled but should have been on the first year carry over list last month.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Creamfield Farm 05-21-0011 | Instances: 409680 NM-5P Estimated Cost Share | \$ 982.40 |
| John Shepherd 05-21-0027 | Instances: 417934 NM-5P Estimated Cost Share | \$ 6,324.80 |

The RMP Technical Review Committee met on July 8, 2021 to review several Resource Management Plans. **On a recommendation by the RMP Technical Review Committee, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following Resource Management Plans: RMP 05-21-0001, 05-21-0002, 05-21-0003.**

DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Contracts

On a recommendation by the Conservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following septic applications totaling \$6,175.00 (Flat Creek #16970 grant) and \$175.00 (Spring Creek #16969).

Flat Creek, etc. Grant #16970

Amelia

| | | |
|--|--|--------------|
| Catherine S. Dail 05-22-0003 (442058) | RB-4 Conventional Septic System Installation/Replacement Estimated Cost | \$ 10,749.00 |
| | Practice Cap | \$ 8,000.00 |
| | Estimated Cost Share (75%) | \$ 6,000.00 |

Nottoway

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Arvind Persaud 05-22-0001 (437191) | RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pumpout Estimated Cost | \$ 350.00 |
| | Estimated Cost Share (50%) | \$ 175.00 |

Spring Creek, etc. #16969 Prince Edward

| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| Anthony Ellington, Sr. 05-22-0002 (440281) | RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pumpout Estimated Cost | \$ 350.00 |
| | Estimated Cost Share (50%) | \$ 175.00 |

Conservation Plans

On a recommendation of the Conservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following conservation plans (9) signed by staff for FSA:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Wilkie Chaffin-Heirs (5) | Transfer |
| Tola Morgan Estate | Transfer |
| Deborah Borum | Transfer |
| Mary K. Simpson | Transfer |
| Iris Gilliam | Transfer |

FY20 & FY21 Contracts

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved FY20 and FY21 VACS active contracts for structural practices to utilize the FY22 cost list which would then allow those contracts to be eligible for an updated estimated cost share. Changes to the VACS program are allowing this one-time adjustment for all current FY20 and FY21 contracts for eligible practices.

Mr. Wootton reviewed several new changes to the VACS program including new caps, cover crop planting dates, portable fencing practice and changes to the tax credit program.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the FY21 funding carryovers in the amount of \$1,357,960.28. The carryovers include obligated VACS and septic contracts, operation and technical assistance reserve, employee leave payouts, IT equipment purchases, vehicle replacement, and dam maintenance not covered under the SDR fund. A detailed line-item report is on file in the office. Mr. Dillard reminded the Board that staff are researching a replacement vehicle for the Ford Explorer. Ms. Fehrer reported she could not find any SUV type vehicles on current state contracts. Ms. Fehrer shared an updated inventory report which is also on file in the office.

PLANNING

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the FY21 summary of accomplishments of the District as well as the review of the Strategic Plan.

WATERSHED

Mr. Arnason reported the beaver debris and beavers have been removed from Bush #5 dam. Tree-of-Heaven, an invasive tree species, is growing on the slopes of the emergency spillway at Bush #2 and Bush #7 dams that needs to be removed. The slopes are too steep for regular mowing. The District's maintenance contractor will be providing a quote for removal using recommendations from the Department of Forestry. Ms. Tinker has been in contact with researchers at Virginia Tech about a fungus that is being used to eradicate the invasive tree species. Staff are awaiting more information from VT about the two areas being test sites for the fungus application.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Rash reported the VASWCD Legislative Committee will be meeting on August 19 at the VASWCD offices. There are several topics they have been asked to discuss including conversion of turf grass to native species; invasive species; and compensation to district directors.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Dillard reported the office received several job applications and resumes for the Conservation BMP Technician and Equipment Manager positions. **On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the Personnel Committee to interview and hire the Equipment Manager position.**

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION

Ms. Atkinson reported she finalized a video about soil layers narrated by Mr. Wootton. The video can be found on the website. She is also working on the layout of the annual report. Ms. Atkinson shared an updated education program brochure and Family Farm Day flyer. Other local events that will feature a PSWCD exhibit include the Amelia County Fair and Southern Piedmont Agriculture and Research Center’s annual field day.

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer thanked Ms. Tinker for her service to the PSWCD and wished her well with future endeavors.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins highlighted some important dates and other information from her attached report.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Ms. Berry reported her office is finalizing EQIP preapprovals of applications and a new Soil Conservationist, Mr. Elwood Vega-Rivera, will be joining the Amelia team.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Staff & DCR reports.

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

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