



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

**Board Members Present:**

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman  
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

**Board Members Absent**

Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County / Secretary  
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

**SWCD Staff Present:**

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

**Partners Present:**

Bailey Anderson, Part Time VCE ANR agent Prince Edward County

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

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County /Vice Chairman  
Juan Whittington – Appointed Director, Amelia 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, March 23, 2021. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was physically present. **On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved remote participation by a voting member due to health concerns.** Additional board members, partners and staff as listed above participated remotely. The agenda was adopted by group consensus.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the February 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.** A detailed report was provided to the Finance Committee. Mr. Arnason mentioned that if the two past due invoices for equipment rental have not been paid by the April board meeting, the board may need to discuss sending to the Attorney General's office for possible collection efforts.

**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 three contracts (3 practices) totaling \$8,407.00 in Chesapeake Bay VACS funding:**

**AMELIA**

<b>Wilford Poore</b>	<b>NM-5N Precision Nut. Mgmt. – Nitrogen (194ac)</b>		
05-21-0018 (427611)	Estimated Cost	\$	2,328.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	1,552.00
	Estimated Sample Incentive	\$	232.00
	Total Cost-Share	\$	1,784.00

<b>Wilford Poore</b>	<b>NM-5P Precision Nut. Mgmt. – Phosphorus(406ac)</b>		
05-21-0018 (427593)	Estimated Cost	\$	4,872.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	3,248.00

**PRINCE EDWARD**

<b>Robert Jones-Poor House Dairy</b>	<b>NM-5N Precision Nut. Mgmt. – Phosphorus(406ac)</b>		
05-21-0033 (427694)	Estimated Cost	\$	3,375.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$	3,375.00

**Agriculture Conservation Plans**

**On a motion by Ms. Crews seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following agriculture conservation plan as presented:**

**Prince Edward**

Glenview Farm, Daniel Glenn

CP05-21-0010BMP

**DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic Contracts**

**On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following (2) septic applications totaling \$490.00 as presented:**

**FLAT CREEK, ETC GRANT #16970**

<b>James Bridgeforth</b>	<b>RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pumpout</b>		
05-21-0056 (426837)	Estimated Cost	\$	350.00
	Estimated Cost Share (50%)	\$	175.00

<b>Shirley M Jackson</b>	<b>RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pumpout</b>		
05-21-0058 (427672)	Estimated Cost	\$	350.00

Estimated Cost Share (90%) \$ 315.00

**The following septic applications were approved by PSWCD staff using the emergency approval procedures and are included in the minutes as accepted by the Board:**

**FLAT CREEK #16970**

**Nottoway**

Jackie Green-August 05-21-0055 (426953)	RB-4 Conventional Onsite Septic System Replacement Estimated Cost \$ 5,655.00 Estimated Cost Share (90%) \$ 5,089.50
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John Gregory 05-21-0052 (426837)	RB-4 Conventional Onsite Septic System Replacement Estimated Cost \$ 7,225.00 Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 3,612.50
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**Total approvals \$ 8,702.00**

**SPRING CREEK, Etc. #16969**

**Prince Edward**

Linda Gilliam 05-21-0054 (426589)	RB-1 Conventional Onsite Septic System Pumpout Estimated Cost \$ 350.00 Estimated Cost Share (90%) \$ 315.00
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Benjamin Sears 05-21-0053 (426542)	RB-4 Conventional Onsite Septic System Replacement Estimated Cost \$ 5,625.00 Estimated Cost Share (50%) \$ 2,813.00
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**Total approvals \$ 3,128.00**

Ms. Fehrer mentioned that an ad advertising the septic program recently ran in three local newspapers that resulted in over 25 requests for assistance. Only 8 of those inquires were not located in the eligible watersheds. The majority of the requests were from Amelia. Staff have been busy sending out applications.

**NO-TILL DRILL**

Mr. Burke reported the new drill is operational and being rented. We expect the other drill with the warm season grass box to be delivered soon. Ms. Fehrer reported that she will be following up with DEQ regarding the long-promised funding agreements for the equipment.

**FINANCE:**

Mr. Arnason reported the exit interview with the auditors last month was conducted and no findings were discussed. A final audit report will be forthcoming. Mr. Arnason and Ms. Fehrer will be making a presentation to the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors today in support of PSWCD's FY22 budget request.

**PLANNING:**

Ms. Fehrer reviewed a template Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between USDA-NRCS and SWCDs in Virginia. Piedmont SWCD was one of four districts asked to assist in preparing a

template for Virginia SWCDs. The current MOA dates back to the 1990s and there is a national effort to have updated MOAs with all SWCDs. Directors and staff were asked to submit any suggestions for changes to Ms. Fehrer by April 1 and comments will be forwarded to the NRCS state office. The goal for NRCS is to have final documents to sign by July 2021.

Mr. Moyer congratulated Horace Adams on the recent approval by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board of his appointment as director to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Chaffin. Mr. Adams will be taking the oath of office and will then be eligible to vote.

### **WATERSHED**

Mr. Arnason thanked Mr. Wootton and Mr. Dunn for installing a new tube gate at the entrance of Buffalo #2 dam. The staff will be holding a pre-construction meeting with Handley Excavating next week for the upcoming repair at Buffalo #9, weather permitting.

### **PERSONNEL**

Ms. Fehrer thanked the staff for submitting their annual work accomplishments and will be preparing written evaluations for the Personnel Committee to review in April.

### **LEGISLATIVE**

Mr. Rash reported the General Assembly has adjourned and budget amendments for SWCD funding were successful and are included in the Governor budget.

### **COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION**

Ms. Atkinson reported Envirothon plans are moving along and that the Area 4/5 virtual workshop was held March 12, with attendance mostly of SWCD staff and coaches. Plans are continuing for the Area 4/5 competition. Scholarship applications are due April 1 and as of today, no applications have been received at the District office. The Girl Scout patch program has been postponed to Fall. Richlands Dairy asked the District to participate in several educational events in June and throughout the Fall. Ms. Atkinson will be working on an exhibit and information to share. This year Youth Conservation Camp (renamed this year "Virginia Academy of Natural Resources") will be a virtual event partnering with the Department of Forestry. The week of virtual camp will feature morning presentations on various natural resource topics and then a take home activity or exploration in the afternoon. There is a \$25 registration fee. The District had budgeted \$1,100 for Youth Conservation Camp. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved supporting the \$25 registration fee up the \$1,100 budget line item.** There is unlimited registration.

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

Staff reports (Attached)

Ms. Fehrer thanked Ms. Crews for securing the speaker for the Area V Spring meeting. Ms. Katharine Wilson, Director of VA Foods Works, gave a great overview of the services her organization provides to agricultural producers who process their products at the Prince Edward Cannery. Ms. Fehrer presented Mr. Moyer with his 25-year service award pin.

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached).

Ms. Collins reminded Directors of the required COIA training and shared a link for the training. The training needs to be completed between July and December. Piedmont SWCD has four random verifications to conduct this year (formerly called BMP spot checks) and Ms. Collins will be scheduling with staff. She reminded everyone about several upcoming deadlines as listed on her report.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)

Mr. Evans reported his office is continuing to assess and rank first signup of EQIP applications. Ms. Berry reported her office is also assessing and ranking EQIP applications. The Amelia office has received 3 CSP renewals.

VCE

Ms. Norton reported VT and VSU are conducting a survey with the agricultural industry on the effects the COVID pandemic has had on their operations. She also mentioned that participation in the Chesapeake Bay BMP survey conducted in partnership with Farm Bureau, did not garner levels that would provide meaningful data. Ms. Anderson reported she is working with Ms. Atkinson and 4H agent, Mr. Morgan, on a “Youth Gardening 101” class using the demonstration garden at the VCE office. Prince Edward VCE office is also offering a well water testing clinic. A fruit tree workshop targeted toward homeowners is being conducted April 8. More information can be found on the VCE website.

ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Crews mentioned that a Facebook post from a student of Ms. Kathy Gee (PSWCD Conservation Educator award in 2019) mentioned the research the student was conducting regarding rain water harvesting systems and mosquitos and the impact Ms. Gee had on her education and future career.

Mr. Whittington reported due to the COVID restrictions of meetings and space, that his farm has been the site for meetings of the VA Soybean Checkoff Board.

**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