



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
October 27, 2020 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 / Secretary
Allison Crews – Director, Amelia County
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Horace Adams- Associate Director, Prince Edward County
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County

SWCD Staff Present:

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

Board Members, Staff and Partners participating remotely:

Juan Whittington –Appointed Director, Amelia County
Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County
Denney Collins – Dept. Conservation & Recreation, Conservation District Coordinator
Brendan Burke – PSWCD Equipment Manager

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, October 27, 2020. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer. A quorum was physically present. **Per the Piedmont SWCD Remote Participation Policy and on a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved remote participation via Zoom videoconference for Mr. Whittington, due to medical conditions that currently prevent him from attending in-person.** Additional participants included Ms. Eck, Ms. Collins and Mr. Burke.

Mr. Moyer welcomed Mr. Jeremy Evans, NRCS District Conservationist for Nottoway and Prince Edward counties. Mr. Evans introduced himself and is looking forward to working with the Piedmont SWCD staff and directors. He was formerly a soil conservationist in Halifax, NC. He reviewed his report and reminded everyone he is here to help and answer questions.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the September 22, 2020 minutes as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the September 2020 Treasurer's Report as presented to be filed for audit.

CONSERVATION - Reported by Mr. Wootton

VACS FY21 Approvals:

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Powers and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following VACS FY21 applications as presented below for a total of 3 applications and 4 practices totaling \$27,682.90 in Chesapeake Bay FY21 VACS funding and 1 tax credit for \$ 194.00 (CB):

Chesapeake Bay

Amelia County

John H. McCraw, Sr.

05-21-0042 (420509)

SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Buffer (50'/10yr) (200')

Estimated Cost	\$ 15,582.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 14,802.90
Estimated Buffer Payment	\$ 80.00
Total Estimated Cost Share	\$ 14,882.90
Total Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 194.00

05-21-0042 (420478)

CCI-WP-2WStream Protection Wide Buffer- Maintenance (2800')

Estimated Cost	\$ 2,100.00
Estimated Incentive	\$ 2,100.00

Jennifer Morris

05-21-0041 (420021)

CCI-SL-6W Stream Protection Wide Buffer- Maintenance (4000')

Estimated Cost	\$ 6,500.00
Estimated Incentive	\$ 6,500.00

Prince Edward County

Lewis H. Gillispie

05-21-0043 (420526)

FR-1 Afforestation of Hay, Crop and Pasture Land (16 ac)

Estimated Cost	\$ 2,400.00
Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 4,200.00

After the above transactions, the following funding remains:

Chesapeake Bay VACS-21	\$ 209,691.14
Outside Chesapeake Bay VACS-21	\$ 0.00

DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic

Approvals:

On a motion by Mr. Rash seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following septic applications:

Flat Creek Grant #16970 (New Grant \$148,750)

Betty Hartman (Amelia) RB-5 Alternative Residential Septic System

05-21-0044 (420707)	Estimated Cost	\$19,601.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$17,641.00 (90% cost share)

Spring Creek, Briery, Bush, Sandy, Savlers and Little Sandy Creek Grant #16969

Lynette Short (Prince Edward)	RB-4 Residential Septic Repair	
05-21-0045 (421054)	Estimated Cost	\$ 7,100.00
	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 3,550.00 (50% cost share)

Funding Remaining:

319 Septic Grant #16969 – Spring Creek, et al.	\$ 180,815.00
319 Septic Grant #16970 – Flat Creek, et al.	\$ 131,109.00

Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP):

On a motion by Ms. Crews seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved to forward to the VASWCD VCAP Steering Committee the following VCAP application as presented:

Kathy Gee (Nottoway)	RH – Rainwater Harvesting System (538 gallons storage from 1” storm over 900sq ft. impervious surface)
05-21-0001	Estimated Cost \$1,770.40
	Estimated Cost-Share \$1,066.00 (\$2/gallon of storage)

Agriculture Conservation Plans

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

Amelia

Dunn Right Meadows LLC	CP-05-21-0002	BMP
John McCraw, Sr	CP-05-21-0004	BMP

Prince Edward

Lewis H. Gillispie	CP-05-21-0003	BMP
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On a motion by Mr. Arnason seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote (with Mr. Moyer leaving the room), the Board approved the following agriculture conservation plan as presented:

Amelia

Oakmulgee Dairy	CP-05-20-0018	BMP
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On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following conservation plans signed by staff:

Nottoway

Florence Cummins	CRP
James S. Hawkes	CRP

Prince Edward

Elizabeth Lambert Johns	CRP
Eldridge & Elizabeth Bagley	CRP
D&J Land Investment,LLC	CRP
Hoyt B Alford	CRP
Frances E.W. Shirey	CRP

Soil Health Coalition

Ms. Crews reported she attended a zoom meeting with many partners such as USDA-NRCS, VCE, VASWCD, VABF and many others, that focused on providing education opportunities about the value of soil health and bringing awareness of soil health to others with an emphasis on using social media to communicate the message. There are four key principles of the message that are 1) keep it covered; 2) minimize disturbance; 3) maximize living roots; and 4) energize with diversity. Ms. Crews will be continuing to attend the coalition meetings and help spread the messages.

Final Septic Grant Reports

Ms. Fehrer reviewed the final reports for the two septic grants that ended September 30. The Flat Creek grant disbursed 80% of the funding. Septic BMP numbers installed by county are as follows: Amelia: 41 pump-outs, 3 repairs without permits, 10 complete repairs (new drain fields) and 2 alternative systems for a total of \$53,589 in cost share payments. Nottoway: 15 pump-outs, 3 repairs without permits, 10 complete repairs and 1 alternative system for a total of \$65,313 in cost share payments. Ms. Fehrer reminded everyone that the Flat Creek grant was the first grant of this type that the District applied for, and when preparing the budget used cost share caps. During implementation of the grant, the actual cost of repairs was much lower, thus leaving more funds that did not get expended. However, implementation results were good with 71% of the BMPs forecasted being installed.

The Spring Creek grant disbursed 90% of the funding and septic BMPs installed were as follows: 69 pump-outs, 8 repairs without permits, 27 complete permitted repairs (new drain fields) and 7 alternative systems for a total of \$174,724 in cost share payments over the grant period.

Ms. Fehrer also reported two practices in the current septic program that provide more flexibility for small repairs. RB3 (permitted repair for replacement of only part of a septic system) and RB3M (non-permitted more maintenance type repairs). Income eligibility thresholds also have been updated to reflect new HUD income levels.

PLANNING

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board elected to extend the current strategic plan until June 30, 2022.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION

On a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the October 6, 2020 minutes of the Education Committee.

Ms. Atkinson reported she mailed the Outdoor Classroom Conservation grant checks to the six schools and is looking forward to the completed projects. All Envirothon events will be virtual and Bonnie Mahl, VASWCD Education Coordinator, is working to finalize how competitions will operate. Area 4 and Area 5 will be meeting tomorrow to discuss a combined Area virtual competition. The District was invited to participate in a project spearheaded by VCE that is creating short videos of the James River watershed and will cover topics such as ecology of rivers, headwaters, tributaries, water testing, wetlands and many more. Our district will create a video on the flora and fauna of the Appomattox River. Partners located within the James River watershed, include SWCDs, James River Association, VCE offices and Lynchburg Water

Authority. Videos will be shared with schools and other interested groups or individuals. Ms. Atkinson also reported a former student, Grace Puckett, has submitted her application for the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute. Ms. Puckett will be working on a community-based project that involves environmental equity in rural communities.

WATERSHED

Mr. Wootton reported the contractors working on the repair at Buffalo #2 have experienced delays due to equipment scheduling and weather, but have cleared the site and have moved soil to begin the repair of the training dike area. He reported Mr. Saunders, our maintenance contractor, installed the posts and cabling for the remote monitoring stations. Mr. Wootton had to fabricate mounting plates for the units and the units will be installed and on-line within the next couple of weeks. Ms. Fehrer reported she submitted 7 small dam repair funding requests to DCR for the construction component of the engineering design projects being completed by AMT Engineering. The requests totaled \$824,000. DCR will be prioritizing the requests for review and approval by the State Soil & Water Conservation Board at their December meeting.

FINANCE

On a motion by Mr. Rash seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved Charles Arnason and Deanna Fehrer to be listed on the bank resolution at BB&T and State Farm Bank for all accounts held at the banks and for Charles Arnason to be the official custodian for the accounts at BB&T. A copy of the resolution is on file at the office. Dr. Wilkie Chaffin was removed from the accounts due to ill health and inability to carry out the responsibilities.

LEGISLATIVE

Mr. Rash reviewed the draft VASWCD legislative agenda. He reported the Dam rehabilitation funding ask has been reduced from \$15M to \$10M. The agenda item for Virginia Healthy Soils Program will be to amend the Code of Virginia to include a chapter relating to healthy soils and best management practices and provide the foundation for a State program. Mr. Rash reported the VASWCD is asking for reclarification of the Soil and Water Board appointment process. The VASWCD Education Foundation sent a request to districts to support their annual fundraising efforts with a raffle in lieu of the annual meeting auction. **On a motion by Ms. Crews, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the District to purchase 20 raffle tickets for \$100.** The Board will determine how to distribute the tickets at the November board meeting.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Fehrer reported she completed the required COVID employee and employer assessments and that a COVID response plan for the office has been developed. (On file at the office)

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

Ms. Collins reviewed her report and reminded everyone about the Clean Water Farm Award application deadline, purchasing of CWFA signs and the FOIA training requirement. She reported Stuart Blankenship has been hired as the Data Manager to replace Roland Owens.

USDA-NRCS – Farmville & Amelia (Attached)
PSWCD Staff (Attached)

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Grant reports, Education Committee minutes, Staff, DCR & NRCS reports

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

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
Charles Arnason, Director / Secretary