



**Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Farmville, Virginia
September 22, 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
Haley Norton- Appointed Director, VCE Nottoway County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Horace Adams- Associate Director, Prince Edward County

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer
Bill Powers –Director, Prince Edward County
Sarah Eck – Associate Director, Nottoway County

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
Kelly Atkinson – PSWCD Education Specialist
Emily Baynard – NRCS District Conservationist Acting Farmville

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, September 22, 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. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason 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. Atkinson and Ms. Baynard.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Arnason and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the August 25, 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 August 2020 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.

	SL-8B	81.80 ac	\$ 2,045.00	418751
	SL-1	9.4ac	\$ 135.71	418752
Charles Glasscock 05-21-0024	SL-8	65.4ac	\$ 1,962.00	415151
Smith Tobacco 05-21-0023	SL-8	165.6ac	\$ 4,968.00	415068
Pride Farm of Amelia 05-21-0034	SL-8B	58.9ac	\$ 2,945.00	418463
Brian Crowder 05-21-0031	SL-8B	157ac	\$ 7,850.00	418453
John C. Ashman 05-21-0025	SL-8H	53.5 ac	\$ 1,070.00	415173
	SL-8B	368 ac	\$ 18,400.00	415172
Blanton Farms LC 05-21-0022	SL-8H	40.7ac	\$ 814.00	415040
	SL-8B	104.4ac	\$ 5,220.00	415041
Reginald E Flippin 05-21-0040	NM-1	209.0 ac	\$ 418.00	418849
	SL-8B	209.0 ac	\$ 10,450.00	418847
Paul Whitaker 05-21-0021	NM-1	543.5 ac	\$ 2,174.00	415002
Reamford Farm 05-21-0028	SL-8B	132.1ac	\$ 6,605.00	417603
	SL-8H	23.8ac	\$ 476.00	417606
<u>Nottoway County</u>				
Triple R Dairy 05-21-0026	SL-H	435.6ac	\$ 8,712.00	415236
Richland Dairy 05-21-0037	SL-H	103.7ac	\$ 2,074.00	418732
George Toth 05-21-0032	SL-8H	60 ac	\$ 1,200.00	418456
	SL-8B	195.8c	\$ 9,790.00	418455
John Shepherd 05-21-0027	SL-8B	790.6ac	\$ 39,530.00	417932
	NM-1	790.6ac	\$ 1,581.20	417933
	NM-5P	790.6 ac	\$ 6,324.80	417934
<u>Prince Edward County</u>				
Poor House Dairy 05-21-0033	SL-8H	138.9ac	\$ 2,778.00	418459
	SL-8B	416.6ac	\$ 20,830.00	418458
Boot Hill Dairy 05-21-0039	SL-8H	344ac	\$ 6,880.00	418789
	SL-8B	448ac	\$ 22,400.00	418790
	WQ-4	186.9ac	\$ 5,607.00	418791

	NM-6 530.9ac	\$ 23,890.50	418792
James W. Garnett Jr 05-21-0036	SL-8B 64.8ac	\$ 3,240.00	418726
James B. Gates, Jr. 05-21-0020 Instance 414340	FR-1 Afforestation of Hay, Crop and Pasture Land (4.5 ac)	Estimated Cost \$ 675.00	
		Estimated Cost-Share \$ 1,181.25	

Outside Chesapeake Bay
Nottoway County

John C. Bledsoe 05-21-0030	SL-8 112.6 ac	\$ 3,378.00	417709
Harrison Moody 05-21-0029	SL-8B 28.5 ac	\$ 1,425.00	417619
	NM-5P 28.5 ac	\$ 228.00	417940
	NM-1 28.5ac	\$ 57.00	417939
	<u>Tax Credits Only:</u>		
	SL-8B 213.8 ac	\$ 5,345.00	417614
Reamford Farm 05-21-0028	<u>Tax Credit Only</u>		
	SL-8B 127.6ac	\$ 3,190.00	417600
John Shepherd 05-21-0027	SL-8B 247.1ac	\$ 13,939.00	417003
	SL-8B 62.7 ac	\$ 3,758.00	417004
	NM-1 247.1 ac	\$ 494.20	417935
	NM-5P 247.1 ac	\$ 1,976.80	417936
	<u>Tax Credits Only:</u>		
	SL-8B 958.7 ac	\$ 23,967.50	417937
	SL-8H 231.7ac	\$ 5,342.50	417938
Triple R Dairy 05-21-0026	SL-B 100.7ac	\$ 5,035.00	415235
	<u>Tax Credits Only:</u>		
	SL-H 33.9ac	\$ 847.50	415267

After the above transactions, the following funding remains:

Chesapeake Bay VACS-21	\$ 241,608.75
Outside Chesapeake Bay VACS-21	\$ 0.00

VACS Transfers

On a motion by Mr. Arnason seconded by Mr. Rash, and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following VACS contract transfers:

05-10-0005 (LE-1T, CREP)	Steven Swartz to Paul Ward, 364 Wingo Road, LLC
05-13-0005 (FR-1, CREP)	Adron D. Moore to Southall Fairview Farms (Trust)
05-15-0044 (SL-6)	Amy F. Alliston to Chris Kayton

DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic

On a motion by Mr. Rash seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board accepted the following cancelations in order to close the current grants:

Flat Creek Grant #16143

Elizabeth Irby	Instance 377756 RB-1	\$ 175.00
05-20-0048	Instance 377757 RB-1	\$ 175.00
	Septic Pump-out	

Mary Lewis	Instance 375625 RB-4	\$1,955.00
05-20-0045	Septic Repair	

Spring Creek Grant #16363

Catherine Jamerson	Instance 386997 RB-1	\$ 175.00
05-20-0071	Septic Pump-out	

Funds not expended in above Grants:

Flat Creek	\$29,598.50
Spring Creek	\$19,361.25

Approvals:

On a motion by Mr. Arnason seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following emergency septic application pending receipt of grant documents. The applicant will be notified work cannot begin until October 1, 2020:

Spring Creek Grant #16969 (New Grant \$187,215)

Laurie Foster	Instance 418651 RB-4	\$ 2,850.00
05-21-0035	Residential Septic Repair	

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 plans as presented:

Nottoway (1)

Charles Conner IV	CP- 05-20-0017BMP
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Amelia (6) From FSA

Larry Barden, Little H Bar J, Joyce Davis Pemberton	Re-enrollment in CRP
David Coleman, Fox Den Farms LLC and Vaughan Cattle	Re-enrollment in CREP

Ms. Fehrer reported that the transfer of drills between Stephen Reames and Brendan Burke was complete and Mr. Burke has been busy with scheduling, transporting and maintaining the drills. She also reported updates to the DEQ BMP Loan Program Guidelines (which will allow SWCDs the opportunity to participate in the program) are out for public comment. The State Water Control Board will meet in December to review/approve the guidelines. After approval districts would be eligible to purchase no-till drills through the loan program beginning February 1, 2021.

2020 Conservation Awards Program

In light of COVID-19 and the obstacles of in person events, the Board decided to cancel PSWCD's 2020 Conservation Awards.

Agriculture Stewardship Act Policy

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved Charles Wootton and Larkin Moyer as the point of contacts in the event of a notification of an agricultural stewardship complaint received by Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS).

Ms. Fehrer reported she received a letter from DCR notifying Piedmont SWCD of the 2020 and 2021 Ag BMP verifications that need to be inspected and verified by December 31 of each respective year. The verifications are for BMPS nearing the end of their lifespan so they can maintain nutrient reduction credits within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan. The letter also stated that there will be a conservation tillage survey and a cover crop survey both in the 2021 calendar year.

OPERATIONS

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved Mr. Arnason to serve as Acting Treasurer in the absence of Dr. Chaffin, who is ill and unable to perform the Treasurer duties.

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Norton and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the following signatures on the BB&T checking accounts: Chuck Arnason, Bill Powers, Deanna Fehrer and Charlie Wootton.

On a motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Norton, and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved adding Chuck Arnason to the signature card for the money market account at State Farm Bank.

A letter and a copy of the minutes will be provided to each bank.

PLANNING

On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board approved the nomination of Ms. Haley Norton to serve as the Virginia Cooperative Extension agent appointment beginning January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.

Ms. Norton reviewed the District's Annual Plan of Work October – December 2020.

WATERSHED

Ms. Fehrer reported the repair work for Buffalo #2 and Buffalo #9 is scheduled to begin Monday, September 28; fall mowing for the dams began yesterday and AMT Engineering is completing the designs for several additional repairs. Charles Wilson, DCR SWCD Dam engineer, has completed an incremental damage analysis on Buffalo #8 to confirm emergency spillway capacity. The results of the analysis show that Buffalo #8 has insufficient spillway capacity to pass a .50 PMF storm event, thus the dam will retain a conditional certification until the spillway is expanded (rehab project).

LEGISLATIVE

Mr. Rash reported the VASWCD Legislative Committee is finalizing their draft legislative agenda for the December VASWCD membership meeting. The agenda will focus on fewer

items than in past years, mostly due to the uncertainty of how the 2021 Session of the General Assembly and contact with representatives will be conducted due to COVID19. Current discussions include level operations funding, dam rehab funds and VACS funding of approximately \$34M. In addition, the Legislative Committee is recommending a few code/policy changes applicable to SWCD programs.

Mr. Rash also reported all the VASWCD Annual meeting and Area meetings will be virtual. The VASWCD is hosting a variety of virtual training events throughout the fall.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Dillard reported he and Ms. Fehrer conducted an exit interview with Stephen Reames and all went well. Ms. Fehrer reported that Terri Higgins, Associate Director at Henricopolis SWCD and Human Resources Director for Henrico County, presented training on Virginia Department of Labor COVID updates and changes to Virginia Employment laws. The Virginia Department of Labor is requiring all employers to conduct assessments of the workplace and for each employee to assess their possible risk of COVID exposure in the workplace. Ms. Higgins prepared extensive documents and materials to help SWCDs prepare the assessments, update their personnel policies and prepare information for their staff and directors. Ms. Fehrer will be conducting the assessments and updating staff requirements.

COMMUNICATION / EDUCATION

Ms. Atkinson reported she has received five “Outdoor Classroom” mini grants from area schools and she is visiting with each school to confirm locations and review the plans with each school to establish outdoor learning areas. She has received applications from Amelia High School, Nottoway High School, Kenston Forest, Fuqua School and Full Circle Nature School. **On a motion by Mr. Arnason, seconded by Ms. Crews and carried by unanimous vote, the Board authorized the Education Committee to review the applications and make the grant awards (last month the Board approved funds).**

DISTRICT MANAGER AND PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Department of Conservation and Recreation (Attached)

USDA-NRCS – Farmville: Ms. Baynard reported NRCS is working to obligate all contracts by the end of their program year of September 30, 2020. The permanent District Conservationist for Prince Edward and Nottoway counties will be announced this Thursday.

PSWCD Staff (Attached)

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Staff and DCR reports

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

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