



Meeting Minutes
Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Farmville, Virginia
February 23, 2010

Board Members Present:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County/Vice Chairman
Chad Gunn - Director, Nottoway County / Secretary
Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County
Juan Whittington –Director, Amelia County
Don Maxey –Director, Prince Edward County
Chuck Arnason – Associate Director, Nottoway County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County

Board Members Absent:

Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer
Bill Powers – Associate Director, Prince Edward County
Charles Dodson –Associate Director, Amelia County

Piedmont SWCD Staff Present:

Deanna Fehrer – District Manager
Robin Buckalew – Administrative and Public Information Specialist
Kevin Dunn – BMP Conservation Technician
Paula Totten – TMDL Conservation Specialist
Charlie Wootton –TMDL Conservation Specialist

Others Present:

Dennis Jones –NRCS District Conservationist for Prince Ed. and Nottoway Counties
Horace Adams–NRCS BMP Technician for Amelia, Goochland & Powhatan Counties
Carrie Hagin – DCR Conservation District Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Piedmont SWCD was held in the conference room of the Prince Edward County Natural Resources and Agricultural building February 23, 2010. Chairman Moyer called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

WELCOME:

Mr. Moyer welcomed directors, staff and guests and lead the group in prayer. Mr. Moyer formally welcomed Mr. Maxey as a voting member of the Board.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

On motion by Mr. Whittington and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved the January 2010 minutes as mailed/mailed.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

On motion by Mr. Gunn and carried by a vote of 5-0, the Board accepted the January 2010 Treasurer’s Report as presented to be filed for audit.

COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved sending \$150.00 contribution to Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District in support of their sponsorship of the National Boy Scout Jamboree, Conservation Badge project.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Mr. Dunn reported (*See attached report*)

Cost Share Applications

Amelia County:

Dexter Jones, LE-1T Livestock Exclusion (1000' Stream Bank Excluded) (TMDL)

David E. Smith, FR-1 Reforestation of Erodible Crop and Pastureland (8.1 ac. 15yr)(BMP- Base)

Prince Edward County:

Lindy Hamlett, SL-6 Grazing Land Protection (1500' Stream bank excluded) (BMP-Priority)

Twil-Do Farm Inc., WP-4C Composting Facilities (Bay-Base)

Twil-Do Farm Inc., LE-1T Livestock Exclusion (4300' Stream Bank Excluded) (TMDL)

John M. Fisher, FR-1 Reforestation of Erodible Crop and Pastureland (1.3 ac. 15yr) (BMP- Base)

On motion by Mr. Rash and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved the recommendation of the Conservation Committee to approve the six Cost-Share practices as presented.

Tax Credits

Dewitt Goin, FR-1 Reforestation of Erodible Crop and Pastureland (1 ac.) (Non-BMP Funded)

Dewitt Goin, SL-6 Grazing Land Protection (Non-BMP Funded)

Dewitt Goin, WP-2B Stream Crossing & Harden Access (Non-BMP Funded)

John M. Boswell, SL-6 Stream Exclusion Fencing (Non-BMP Funded)

On motion by Mr. Rash and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved the recommendation of the Conservation Committee to approve the four tax credits as presented.

Conservation Plans

On motion by Mr. Whittington and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved the recommendation of the Conservation Committee to accept the 51 Conservation Plans as presented.

Town of Farmville Request

Ms. Fehrer reported that the Town of Farmville is seeking funding from the Tobacco Indemnification Fund in their effort to remodel an existing, un-used building into a multi-purpose community building, including a site for a permanent Farmer's Market. **On motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved sending a letter of support to the Town of Farmville in support of the Farmville Area Farmer's Market project.**

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Mr. Dillard reported

The Personnel Committee will review travel, vehicle use and personnel policies for any needed revisions, and will report back at the March or April Board meeting.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE:

Ms. Fehrer noted that DCR accepted the Piedmont SWCD's Septic Pump Out Program request for a March 31st grant extension. Due to weather contingencies, another extension might be requested.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Mr. Rash reported

Even people on the VASWCD Legislative Committee, who have personally met with lawmakers and discussed the budget with DCR and other district representatives from the beginning of the budgeting process, are finding it difficult to project the cost-share and technical assistance funding for the next program year.

Maintaining the human infrastructure of 180 SWCD staff members statewide is of paramount importance to those familiar with conservation districts. It is considered doubtful that trained staff would be able weather an extended period of inactivity without a serious loss of talent to other organizations. Mr. Rash encouraged board members to contact their trade organizations to convey the message that without trained staff to implement the program, conservation goals will not be met, regardless of the amount of money budgeted for cost-share.

ON a positive note, Senate Bill 346, put forward by Senator Hanger, would require the Sec. of Natural Resources to develop a strategy to develop a comprehensive database of all acreage using BMPs. Collecting solid data could effectively improve the accuracy of the computer models and thereby lower the percentage of pollution reduction required by agricultural lands. Technical staff would be needed to gather and input the data, so again the need to maintain adequate staffing.

Concerns that under the current program year the possibility exists that approved or pending approval contracts with producers might not be honored should a \$6,000,000 "draw down" be put into effect. This discussion resulted in an agreement that Mr. Rash would draft a letter for Mr. Moyer to sign and send to the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources asking for guidance and clarification on this issue. Delegates and Senators from the three counties will be carbon copied, as will Mr. Russell Baxter, Acting Director of DCR and Mr. Jack Frye, Director of the DCR Division of Soil and Water.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Area V meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. March 3 at Ernie's Restaurant in South Boston. Dam inundation issues and stormwater regulation updates are on the agenda as well as other topics of interest. No pre-registration required.

WATERSHED COMMITTEE: Mr. Arnason reportedResponse to letters to DCR on DBIS

A letter was sent to DCR about inaccuracies found on Dam Break Inundation Studies (DBIS) conducted by Williamsburg Environmental, Inc., asking for a statement supporting the integrity of their data. Williamsburg Inc. replied to the letter with apologies and offered to meet with the Board Committee members to informally discuss the study. Mr. Maxey suggested that the firm commit in writing that the meeting will not generate additional costs to any party.

DCR replied to the letter sent by Peter Francisco, Southside, and Piedmont SWCDs

concerning anomalies in the DBISs. The letter will be studied and a coordinated strategy between the three districts will continue. The Dam Break Inundation Study process will continue.

Dam Inspections

Inspection of two dams that come up for renewal at the end on the month will be made following today's meeting. Other dams will be inspected on March 24th.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT: Ms. Fehrer reported (*Please see attached report*)

The Stormwater Management Seminar was cancelled due to inclement weather and will be rescheduled.

The Farmer's Partner meeting were a big success, resulting in increased interest in many cost-share programs

NRCS computer reductions are being considered. Each district needs to evaluate computer needs.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Natural Resources Conservation Services: (*Please see attached reports*)

ODRC&D:

Mr. Arnason and Ms. Fehrer attended an informative training session that touched on the possibility of future multi-county projects.

Department of Conservation and Recreation: Mrs. Hagin reported (*Please see attached report*)

The Middle James Roundtable annual meeting is scheduled for March 25th At Holiday Lake 4H Center. The meeting's theme is Stormwater, What's Coming Down the Pipe? For registration info. visit www.mjrt.org

ROUNDTABLE:

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned 12:00 p.m.

ATTACHED REPORTS:

Conservation Committee Report

District Manager & Staff Report

DCR CDC Report

NRCS Reports

REPORTS ON FILE: Conservation Committee Report including tract numbers

Submitted By: _____ *Date:* 3-2-2010

Robin Buckalew, Administrative Secretary

Approved By: _____ *Date:* _____

Chad Gunn, Director / Secretary