



Meeting Minutes
Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Farmville, Virginia
April 27, 2010

Board Members Present:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer
Chad Gunn - Director, Nottoway County / Secretary
Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County
Don Maxey –Director, Prince Edward County
Chuck Arnason – Associate Director, Nottoway County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Bill Powers – Associate Director, Prince Edward County

Board Members Absent:

Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County/Vice Chairman
Juan Whittington –Director, Amelia 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 Conservation Technician for Amelia, Goochland & Powhatan
Carrie Hagin – DCR Conservation District Coordinator
Julie Hawkins – NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Office Operations

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 April 27, 2010. Mr. Moyer called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

WELCOME:

Mr. Moyer welcomed directors, staff and guest Ms. Julie Hawkins, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist of Field Office Operations, and then led the group in prayer.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

On motion by Mr. Gunn, seconded by Mrs. Kerr and carried by vote of 4-0, the Board approved the March 2010 minutes as mailed/mailed.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

On motion by Dr. Chaffin, the Board accepted the March 2010 Treasurer’s Report to be filed for audit.

COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Ms. Kerr reported

Youth Conservation Camp

On recommendation by the Communication Committee, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried 4-0, the Board approved Douglas Fisher’s application to Youth Conservation Camp.

Poster Contest

540 students participated in the 2010 poster contest. The theme was:

Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats

Education Outreach

It was noted that the district staff and directors have been very busy this month with Youth Conservation Education activities, including 148 Chesterfield County Kindergarten students attending a Conservation Field Day at District Director Ms. Donna Kerr’s family farm. Mr. Wootton added that the success of the Nottoway and Lunenburg County Ag Day, held at the Blackstone Research Center for third graders, has insured that the field day will not be cancelled, even during extreme economic downturns affecting school field trips.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Mr. Arnason reported

(Please see attached report)

Cost Share Applications

Amelia County

Gary Dillard, LE-1T Livestock Exclusion (10,028’ Stream bank excluded) (TMDL)

Ms. Totten reported that the TMDL project for Mr. Dillard is on land rented by Mr. Dillard under a ten-year lease. Because of this, the project will involved creating limited access points for cattle to water in the stream instead of the usual well and trough watering systems recommended for TMDL sites. Mr. Dillard noted that the lease stipulates that the landowner will keep the practice in place for the full ten-year period, regardless of who is managing the property.

Prince Edward County

Thomas Martin, LE-1T Livestock Exclusion (2600’ Stream bank excluded) (TMDL)

On recommendation by the Conservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried 4-0, the Board approved the 2 Cost-Share practices as presented.

Tax Credits

Mike Clark, Tax Credit -SL-8B (119.9 ac) (BMP)

On recommendation by the Conservation Committee, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried by vote of 4-0, the board approved the Tax Credit as presented.

Conservation Plans (23)

Amelia: (8)

Mike Clark(2)

Gary Dillard

Mandy H Gravely

Tim S. Alexander

Otho Fraher

J&C Chicken Ranch

Hoot Owl Hollow Farms

Prince Edward:(11)

Joe Irving Jr.
Lindy Hamlett (2)
Joe Irving
Thomas Terry
Richard Hilbers

Jesse Yeatts
David Elder
Malcolm Cash
Thomas Martin

John Sheperd

Nottoway: (4)

Mike Clark (2)
Nottoway Dept. of Corrections
Robert Zava

On motion by Mr. Gunn, seconded by Ms. Kerr and carried by vote of 4-0, the Board approved the recommendation of the Conservation Committee to accept the 23 Conservation Plans as presented.

Secondary Considerations: Mr. Dunn reported Secondary Considerations will be reviewed and updated by staff and brought before the Board for approval at the May board meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Mr. Dillard reported

Staff Evaluations

The Personnel Committee reviewed and approved the staff work evaluations performed by District Manager Ms. Fehrer, and evaluated the district manager’s work performance. The completed work evaluations are on file in the office.

The Personnel Committee also worked to update the travel, vehicle use and personnel policies. The draft changes will be mailed/mailed to board members to be voted on at the May meeting.

Conservation Technician Position

Mr. Moyer regretfully reported that Conservation Specialist Totten tendered her resignation to the district to begin a career with NRCS in the Farmville Field office. Mr. Moyer wished her well in her new endeavors and added that she will be greatly missed.

On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried 4-0, the Board authorized staff to advertise for a Conservation Technician position (TMDL grant to be extended until June 2012).

Summer Intern Position

On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried by vote of 4-0, the board authorized the office staff to hire a summer intern for no more than 180 hours at \$10.00 an hour.

At this time Mr. Gunn was excused and left the meeting for another engagement.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: Dr. Chaffin reported

Septic Grant Extension

The Septic Grant shared with Nottoway County Public Health Department was given a second extension to May 31, 2010 by DCR due to unusually wet and frigid weather this winter. The grant extension will be signed by Mr. Moyer and forwarded to DCR.

Technical Assistance Funding

Ms. Fehrer will submit to DCR a request for technical assistance funding for program year 2010-2011 and projected TMDL cost-share needs through 2012.

Middle James Roundtable Grant -MJRT

The District, in partnership with the MJRT, was granted full funding (\$7,250) through the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee for an educational outreach campaign. Ms Fehrer was authorized to co-sign for the grant. The District will be responsible for managing the grant's financial accounts.

Ms. Fehrer reminded directors to turn in their expense reimbursement reports quarterly.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: No report

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Ms. Fehrer reported

The Annual Plan of Work was updated and the draft will be distributed to board members via mail/email for review to be voted on at the May Board meeting.

WATERSHED COMMITTEE: Mr. Arnason reported

Bush #6 Erosion

The left stream-bank before the outfall on Bush #6 has suffered significant erosion. NRCS Engineer Jerry Wright estimated that it will take approximately 90 cubic yards of stone to repair. Getting the stone to the correct location at the site will in itself be a considerable challenge. The Watershed Committee will create a job package and put it out to bid. Dr. Chaffin suggested the Board consider asking for donations of materials for the repair after the bid process (including selection of contractor) has been completed.

Dam Maintenance Contracts

The mowing contracts for all of the dams are ready to be signed by Chairman Moyer. This includes a contract with Prince Edward County for Sandy River Reservoir.

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

During the process of staff evaluations, Ms. Fehrer was again impressed with the staff's high level of purposeful, constructive participation on various conservation related boards, councils or roundtables.

AGENCY REPORTS:

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

There will be a BMP training on May 7th, that will include information helpful to districts as they work to fine tune their ranking policies for June 2010-June 2011 program year.

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

Mr. Jones reported that the Conservation Stewardship application deadline is May 10, 2010. Mr. Adams indicated that the Amelia NRCS office is busier than ever.

ODRC&D:

Dr. Chaffin reported that the Virginia RC&D meeting is scheduled for April 30 in Smithfield, Virginia.

ROUNDTABLE:

In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Chairman Moyer presented the NRCS Farmville and Amelia Field Office staff, as represented by Mr. Jones and Mr. Adams, with plaques that speak to the productive and harmonious working partnership between the District and NRCS throughout the years.

In honor of her exemplary work ethic and amiable personality, Chairman Moyer presented Ms. Totten with a Certificate of Appreciation and a small gift to commemorate her stint as TMDL Conservation Specialist with the District.

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:* 5-2-2010

Robin Buckalew, Administrative Secretary

Approved By: _____ *Date:* _____

Chad Gunn, Director / Secretary