



Meeting Minutes
Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Farmville, Virginia
May 25, 2010

Board Members Present:

Larkin Moyer –Director, Amelia County / Chairman
Ricky Rash – Director, Nottoway County/Vice Chairman
Wilkie Chaffin –Director, Prince Edward County / Treasurer
Donna Kerr – Director, Amelia County
Don Maxey –Director, Prince Edward County
Juan Whittington –Director, Amelia County
Charles Dodson –Associate Director, Amelia County
Gary Dillard – Associate Director, Amelia County
Bill Powers – Associate Director, Prince Edward County

Board Members Absent:

Chad Gunn - Director, Nottoway County / Secretary
Chuck Arnason – Associate Director, Nottoway County

Piedmont SWCD Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Brian Loadholt–NRCS District Conservationist for Amelia, Goochland & Powhatan
Carrie Hagin – DCR Conservation District Coordinator
Dustin Calhoun – Intern at NRCS Area Office

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 May 25, 2010. Mr. Moyer called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

WELCOME:

Mr. Moyer welcomed directors, staff and guests and led the group in prayer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

On motion by Dr. Chaffin and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved the April 2010 minutes as mailed/emailed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

On motion by Mr. Whittington and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board accepted the April 2010 Treasurer's Report to be filed for audit.

COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Ms. Fehrer reported

Envirothon: The Nottoway team representing Piedmont SWCD placed 9th at the State Envirothon. Jamestown High School placed first and will compete at the national competition.

Youth Conservation Camp: Only one camper from the district applied for Youth Conservation Camp thus far. If another camper applies within the time limit, that application will also be sent to Richmond for consideration.

Stormwater Seminar: Ms. Buckalew reported that 25 participants learned about stormwater management issues and training opportunities at the May 5th seminar in Nottoway County co-hosted by the Piedmont SWCD and Nottoway County Planning Department. Three Piedmont SWCD directors participated in the seminar.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Mr. Rash reported
(Please see attached report)

Cost Share Applications:

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

(All in combination with CREP)

<u>James Farley Sr.</u>	SL-6 Grazingland Protection (7000' Stream bank excluded)		
(BMP-Chesapeake Bay Priority)		Estimated Total Cost	\$ 35,145.45
05-10-0063	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 26,359.09	
	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 2,196.59	
<u>Ronald Reames.</u>	SL-6 Grazingland Protection (600' Stream bank excluded)		
(BMP-Chesapeake Bay Priority)		Estimated Total Cost	\$ 7,876.00
05-10-0062	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 5,907.00	
	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 492.25	
<u>Rita Reynolds</u>	SL-6 Grazingland Protection (1400' Stream bank excluded)		
(BMP-Chesapeake Bay Priority)		Estimated Total Cost	\$ 8,174.00
05-10-0064	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 6,130.50	
	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 510.88	

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms Kerr and carried by vote of 5-0, the board approved the three cost-share applications as presented.

Tax Credits (All BMP)

- David Brian Lewis, SL-8B (Small Grain Cover-crop for Nutrient Management) 51.6 ac.
- Vaughn Cattle Co., SL-8B (31.4 ac.)
- Reamford Farms, SL-8B (130.7ac.)
- Wilford Poore, SL-8B (48.7 ac.)
- Wilford Poore, WQ-4 (Legume Cover Crop) 51.3 ac.
- Ameva Farm Inc., WQ-4 (150 ac.)
- Oakmulgee Dairy Farm, WQ-4 (285 ac.)
- Whitaker Farms Inc., WQ-4 (150 ac.)

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by vote of 5-0, the board approved the 8 Tax Credits as presented.

Cancellation

Vaughn Cattle Co. LLC to cancel their LE-1T (Livestock Exclusion), cost-share total \$44,349.90 (TMDL), to concentrate on installing the SL6 practice approved at the March board meeting.

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Kerr and carried by vote of 5-0, the board accepted the cancellation as presented.

Conservation Plans (10)

Amelia: (1)

David B. Lewis

Prince Edward: (8)

James Farley Sr. Jimmy Garnett (2)

Gary Lewis

Rita Reynolds Phyllis Ward

Ronald Reames Richard Hilbers

Nottoway (1)

Robert Zava

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried 5-0, the Board accepted the 10 Conservation Plans as presented.

Conservation Plan Signature: Mr. Wootton reported

Farm Service Agency CRP and CREP program applicants are required to have their conservation plans signed by NRCS and SWCD before their application can be submitted for approval. In some cases, the SWCD board might not meet in time to accept a conservation plan within a time frame conducive to implementing the practice. FSA requests that the board authorize someone to sign a conservation plan prior to the regularly scheduled board meeting, so that the application can be processed in a timely manner. Mr. Loadholt commented that in his experience an employee was often given authority to sign conservation plans prior to a board meeting should the need arise. Plans signed prior to a board meeting will be entered in the minutes of the next board meeting.

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried 5-0, the board authorized any available elected or appointed director, or technical staff with a level 2 or higher conservation planner certification, to sign a CRP or CREP conservation plan prior to a regularly scheduled board meeting.

Secondary Considerations: Mr. Rash reported

The Conservation Committee met earlier to discuss Secondary Considerations. Due to a reduction in BMP funding and increased participation in the program this year, the Conservation Committee worked hard to fine tune their ranking system to encourage broad participation and inflict the least amount of hardship on any one aspect of the program. Sign-up for the program will begin June 1, 2010 and end July 31, 2010. The total available SWCD allocation for 2010-2011 is \$128,142, with \$106,004 going toward Chesapeake Bay (Base allocation \$20,091, Priority BMP allocation \$80,364, and Contractual BMP allocation \$5,549) and \$22,138 for Southern Rivers (Base \$4,265, Priority \$17,062, and Contractual \$881). A cap of \$8,000 per applicant was agreed upon. The approved Secondary Considerations will be forwarded to DCR for final approval.

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by vote of 5-0, the board accepted the Conservation Committee's recommendation to approve the 2010-2011 Secondary Considerations as presented.

Mr. Dunn stated that all past program participants would receive a flyer and/or a phone call encouraging them to sign up within the stated time frame, with the understanding that there is a limited amount of funding for BMPs this year. Mr. Loadholt pointed out that applicants should be encouraged to sign up for every program that they are eligible for, or even interested in, as the tracking program will register their interest and possibly lead to increased funding by the General Assembly in the coming year.

Drill Damage:

One of the district's no-till drills was damaged while in the possession of a producer from Prince Edward County. The producer has agreed to pay for the cost to repair the damage. Total cost of repair is \$1,300.

BMP Cost-Share Grant Agreement:

Ms. Fehrer studied the 2010-2011 BMP Cost-Share Grant Agreement between the Piedmont SWCD and DCR and found no new requirements or changes from the previous year's agreement. **On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried 5-0, the Board approved the 2010-2011 BMP Cost-Share Agreement with DCR.**

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Mr. Dillard reported

Personnel Policy:

After receiving director and staff input, the Personnel Committee revised the Piedmont SWCD's Personnel Policy. Revisions include references to state policy of Family & Medical Leave Act, Harassment & Civil Duty, and Electronic Communications.

On recommendation by the Personnel Committee, and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board adopted the amended Personnel Policy as presented.

Internship Position:

Ms. Sarah Robinson, who is a college student majoring in Environmental Science, will begin an internship with Piedmont SWCD on June 1st, splitting her time between Peter Francisco and Piedmont SWCDs.

TMDL Position:

Four applications have been filed at time of the board meeting. Application deadline is May 28, 2010.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: Dr. Chaffin reported

2010-2011 Budget

The budget is still being worked on and will be available in draft form to be voted on at the June meeting.

2010-2011 Operational Agreement with DCR

The total Operational Agreement budget is \$67,498, the lowest since 2000. Additions to this year's deliverables include support of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the VA

Healthy Waters Initiative. Dr. Chaffin pointed out that non-funded, voluntarily installed BMP practices need to be accounted for in the total figures used by the General Assembly and others when attempting to manage pollution. Ms. Hagin mentioned three practices through DRC Continuing Conservation Initiative that focus on continued maintenance of completed projects.

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Ms. Kerr and carried by vote of 5-0, the board approved signing the 2010-2011 Operational Agreement with DCR.

The 2010-2011 Computer Support Agreement with NRCS was signed by the chairman and includes the details on computer use by the district and computer support by NRCS.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Dr. Chaffin reported

A meeting with the Governor of Virginia to discuss the state association's conservation goals will be necessary at some point because, although previous meetings with the Secretary of Natural Resources were fruitful, the governor himself will want to hear from the conservation districts about how they think it best to allocate conservation dollars in the future.

The Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation voted to request that the General Assembly provide \$120,000 Operational Funding per district, plus travel for directors, for 2011-2012. For some districts, this amount would cover increased computer costs. Many districts with dams are also considering requesting additional operational funding support for staff time related to dams.

Ms. Hagin reported that Mr. David Johnson is the new DCR Director, and Jeb Wilkinson is the new Deputy Director.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Ms. Fehrer reported

Strategic Plan and Annual Plan of Work Review

The Planning Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan and the Annual Plan of Work, updating as needed and distributing to board members via mail/email for review.

On motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Mr. Rash and carried by vote of 5-0, the board approved the 2010-2011 Annual Plan of Work.

At-Large Director Appointment

Mr. Whittington's term as appointed director expires in December 2010. The district will notify localities of the potential vacancy of the position, and of Mr. Whittington's desire to serve again. Official action will be taken at the June meeting so that the necessary paperwork can be submitted to the Soil and Water Board before their September meeting.

WATERSHED COMMITTEE: No report

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

The Septic Grant entered into with the Nottoway Health Department reached completion after helping many people repair or replace faulty septic systems and educating many others on correct septic system maintenance. Mr. Rash noted that this successful partnership between the district and the health department did not go unnoticed by local government officials during their budgeting process.

The June Board of Directors Meeting will be June 29, the fifth Tuesday of the month, due to a conflict with the Environmental Day Camp. The newspapers will be appraised of the change.

AGENCY REPORTS:

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

Technical Assistance funding amounts are still being finalized and will be announced at the earliest date possible.

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

Mr. Loadholt reported that in the 2010-2011 program year there will be considerable NRCS money available for cost-share, but that there are also a record number of producers signing up for practices. He encourages anyone who even has a vague interest to sign up and to sign up early. Even if their request is not granted, the process of making the request is an important part of making sure that enough money will be available in the future.

Dustin Calhoun, a recent Business Management graduate of Longwood University, will be working with Mr. Dennis Jones in the Farmville office two days a week.

ODRC&D: No report

ROUNDTABLE:

Mr. Whittington emphasized the importance of encouraging producers to think about participating in agricultural conservation, be it through the cost-share program or as a non-funded participant. Every bit of conservation on the ground will help. All practices should be recorded and entered into the final numbers so that accurate figures can be used during any natural resource management deliberations.

Ms. Fehrer reported that Mr. Wootton will give a presentation at the June 17th TMDL meeting in Charlottesville on ways the district has worked effectively in partnership with NRCS and FSA to move the CREP and EQIP programs forward.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned 12:00 p.m.

ATTACHED REPORTS:

- Conservation Committee Report
- District Manager & Staff Report
- DCR CDC Report
- NRCS Report

REPORTS ON FILE: Conservation Committee Report including tract numbers

Submitted By: _____ *Date:* 5-27-2010

Robin Buckalew, Administrative Secretary

Approved By: _____ *Date:* _____

Chad Gunn, Director / Secretary