



**Meeting Minutes
Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors
Farmville, Virginia
June 29, 2010**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Donna Kerr – 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
Charlie Wootton –TMDL Conservation Specialist

Others Present:

Brian Loadholt–NRCS District Conservationist for Amelia, Goochland & Powhatan

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Piedmont SWCD Board of Directors was held in the conference room of the Prince Edward County Natural Resources and Agricultural building June 29, 2010. Mr. Moyer called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. A quorum was present.

WELCOME:

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

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved the May 2010 minutes as mailed/emailed.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

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

COMMUNICATION/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Ms. Fehrer reported that 22 campers, representing 5 counties, attended Environmental Day Camp. Pictures were circulated.

Local Working Group

Mr. Loadholt reported that NRCS Director Mr. Jack Bricker requests that the District host a meeting to give the public the opportunity to comment on the 2010 Farm Bill. The group, called the Local Working Group, should be composed of a wide variety of stakeholders. Ms. Fehrer noted the possibility of using the mailing list from the previous Local Working Group meeting. It was requested that the questionnaire to be discussed be mailed out to interested parties prior to the meeting.

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

Cost-Share

<u>R. M. Watkins & Son Inc.</u>	WP-3 Sod Waterway (.6ac)	
(BMP-Bay Base)	Estimated Total Cost	\$ 1,942.20
05-10-0039 (contract number)	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,456.65
Amelia County	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 121.39

<u>Hard Acers Farm</u>	WP-3 Sod Waterway (1.23.ac)	
(BMP-Bay Base)	Estimated Total Cost	\$ 3,981.51
05-10-0021	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 2,986.13
Amelia County	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 248.85

<u>Larry Allen</u>	SL-1 Permanent Vegetative Cover on Cropland (3.7 ac)	
(BMP-Bay Priority)	Estimated Total Cost	\$ 1,224.70
05-10-0065	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 1,011.03
Prince Edward Co.	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 53.42

<u>Jamie Hawley</u>	SL-6 Grazing Land Protection(1600ft Exclusion)	
(BMP-S. R. Priority)	Estimated Total Cost	\$ 5,114.00
05-10-0004	Estimated Cost-Share	\$ 3,835.50
Nottoway County	Estimated Tax Credit	\$ 319.63

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved the 4 cost-share applications as presented.

Tax Credits

Spraggins Farm -SL-8B small grain cover crop (1,14.2 ac.), BMP
 Paul Brenneman-WQ-4 Legume cover crop (70.9 ac.), BMP
 Hard Acers Farms-SL-8 (14 ac.), BMP
 R. M. Watkins & Son Inc.-SL-8B & WQ-4 (232.05ac.), BMP
 Robert Jenkins -SL-8B (261.00 ac.), BMP
 Timothy Alexander-SL-8B (33 ac.), BMP
 Bassett Hound Haven Est.-SL-8 protective cover for specialty cropland & SL8B (14.7 ac.), BMP

On motion by Mr. Whittington, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by vote of 4-0 with Mr. Rash abstaining, the Board approved the 7 Tax Credits as presented.

Conservation Plans

Amelia: (5) Charles Glasscock
 John C. Ashman (3)
 Dexter Jones

Signed by staff as per agreement with FSA: (2)
Spraggins Farm (2)

On motion by Dr. Chaffin, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried 4-0 with Mr. Rash abstaining, the Board accepted the 7 Conservation Plans as presented.

Carryover Reports

Conservation practices that are approved but not completed by the end of the fiscal year are considered carryovers.

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved the 2010 Carryovers for Priority funded cost-share (\$54,118.47 total - Chesapeake Bay and Southern Rivers), and Base funded Cost-Share (\$11,570.78 total - Chesapeake Bay).

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Mr. Gunn and carried 5-0, the Board approved the 2010 Carryovers for TMDL funded Cost-Share (\$234,859.33 total – Chesapeake Bay).

Cost List: Mr. Wootton reported

The District utilizes NRCS' Average Cost Estimates of Conservation Practices worksheet, called the cost-list, to prepare cost estimates for practices. The cost-list for fiscal year 2011 will remain the same as last year, except for the following:

- 1) Cost for 2 ball watering trough to increase from \$1,399 to \$1,425
- 2) Cost for 4 ball watering trough to increase from \$1,776 to \$1,825
- 3) A \$75.00 per acre installation cap for cover crops when applying for tax credits.

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved the FY 2011 cost list as presented.

Secondary Considerations: Mr. Rash reported

It was noticed during the recent secondary consideration discussions that DCR's approval policy does not appear particularly consistent throughout the state. It was felt that this concern, coupled with other constructive criticisms of the current secondary consideration approval process, should be articulated to DCR.

On motion by Mr. Rash, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board agreed to compose and send a letter to DCR to offer suggestions on ways to improve the FY 2012 BMP application process, including secondary consideration approvals.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Mr. Dillard reported

TMDL Conservation Technician Position

4 applicants for the TMDL Conservation Technician position are to be interviewed after the board meeting. The Personnel Committee asked to be given the authority to offer the position to a suitable applicant. The Committee brought up the fact that it is unknown if the potential employee will need to take advantage of the District's employee health benefit package.

On motion by Mr. Gunn, seconded by Mr. Maxey and carried 5-0, the Board authorized the Personnel Committee and the District Manager to conduct the

interviews and offer the position of TMDL Conservation Technician to a suitable candidate, staying within a \$40,000 limit that includes salary and benefits.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: Dr. Chaffin reported

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

The new budget was presented, and items discussed include:

- 1) \$1,200 annually to cover the cost of storing the no-till drills and other equipment
- 2) Recommended salary increases (approved salary increases will go on file at the district office)
- 3) \$3,127 for an additional NRCS computer

On motion by Mr. Gunn, seconded by Mr. Whittington and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board accepted the proposed 2010-2011 budget totaling \$283,790, not including cost-share funds.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Dr. Chaffin reported

Workgroups have been set up to discuss specific sectors to be affected by the TMDL process. Districts will be represented on the Urban Stormwater Workgroup by VASWCD First Vice President Ed Overton, and district manager from Henricopolis SWCD Barbara McGarry.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Mr. Gunn

At-Large Director Recommendation

Mr. Whittington's term as appointed at-large director will expire December 31, 2010. The 3 localities were notified of the potential vacancy of the position. Mr. Whittington indicated his desire to serve a four-year term beginning January 1, 2011.

On motion by Mr. Gunn, seconded by Dr. Chaffin and carried by vote of 5-0, the Board approved recommending Mr. Whittington for appointment of At-Large Director.

The appropriate forms will be mailed to DCR, who will then submit the nomination to the Va. Soil and Water Board for their September board meeting.

WATERSHED COMMITTEE: Mr. Arnason reported

Table-Top Exercises

Every 6 years the Emergency Action Plans for the District's dams are updated. This includes staging a tabletop disaster simulation exercise to see where improvements in emergency responses may best be made. The District will host such an exercise in September and will invite all stakeholders to participate.

Conditional Operation Classification Extension

The Conditional Operation Certificates for Buffalo Dams #1-9 and Bush Dams #2 & 7 are extended until November 2010.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT: *(Please see attached report)*

Agency Reports:

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

Mr. Loadholt reported that NRCS values the partnership between the various agencies, and works to constantly improve so that the various programs are not in competition or in conflict with each other. In the coming months there will be meeting to try to pinpoint where this might be happening, and then work to either more closely align, or more obviously separate, these programs.

ODRC&D: No report

ROUNDTABLE:

Mr. Rash reported that Mr. Wootton's presentation at the June 17th TMDL meeting in Charlottesville was very professional and of interest to a great many people.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned 12:30 p.m.

ATTACHED REPORTS:

- Conservation Committee Report
- DCR CDC Report
- NRCS Report

REPORTS ON FILE: Conservation Committee Report including tract numbers

Submitted By: _____ *Date:* 6-30-2010

Robin Buckalew, Administrative Secretary

Approved By: _____ *Date:* _____

Chad Gunn, Director / Secretary