

2022-2023

Annual Report

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District

<http://www.culpeperswcd.org>

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Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties, member localities of the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District, provide annual financial support for district operations, district staffing, technical assistance and engineering assistance.

The Soil and Water Conservation District seeks out many project-based grants from the Commonwealth of Virginia-Department of Environmental Quality, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration BWET Program, the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Virginia Resource Use Education Council and others, to support program development and staffing.

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia General Assembly, Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Board of Directors

Culpeper County

Thomas O'Halloran, Treasurer
Dennis Verhoff
Bob Williamson, Associate Director

Madison County

Lynn Graves, Chair
Stephen Hill
L. Brad Jarvis, Associate Director

Greene County

Philip Morris, Vice-Chair
Robert Runkle
Steve Morris, At-Large Director
Sarah W. Sharpe, Ext. Agent At-Large

Orange County

Robert Bradford
J. Robert Brame III
Warren Lee, Associate Director

Rappahannock County

Mike Biniek
Mike Sands

District Staff

Greg Wichelns, District Manager
Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary
Richard Jacobs III, Conservation Specialist III
W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist II
David Massie, Conservation Specialist III
Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist II
Amanda McCullen, Conservation Specialist III
Kendall Dellinger, Conservation Specialist II
Brandy Harris, Conservation Specialist II
Lily Smith, Conservation Specialist I
Stephanie DeNicola, Information/Education Coordinator

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rex Rexrode, District Conservationist
Ashleigh Cason, Soil Conservationist
Courtney Kidwell, Soil Conservationist
Corey Bray, Soil Conservation Technician

John Jeffries, National Experienced Workforce Solutions

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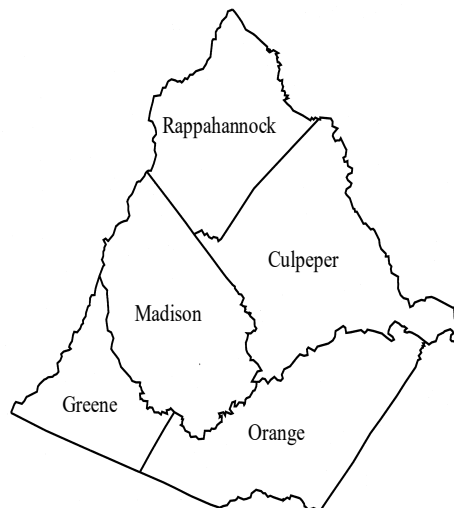
About Us

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Geographically, it includes the counties of Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock. Founded in 1939 by citizens concerned about soil and water conservation, the CSWCD is the largest of forty-seven conservation districts within Virginia and serves an area covering 1,445 square miles with about 133,000 constituents (according to US Census 2021 estimates).

The staff consists of a District Manager, eight Conservation Specialists, an Administrative Secretary and an Information/Education Coordinator.

A 12-member Board of Directors governs the District. Each of the five counties within the District elects two members in the general election, one member is appointed at large and a Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent from one of the member counties is appointed by Virginia Tech. Directors are not paid, but are locally elected officials who direct both the functioning of the district and the district staff as they work in partnership with the state and federal conservation staff. Directors are expected to attend monthly board meetings, participate on District Committees and work groups, represent the citizens of their county in regard to conservation issues and be willing to stay abreast of local conservation issues. They are also required to participate in policy and program development, as well as provide financial direction for proper expenditure and management of funds within the District. The Board also appoints Associate Directors as needed. Associate Directors are non-voting members. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10am and rotates meeting locations among the five counties.

All citizens of the District may have a voice in resource and conservation planning by attending monthly board meetings, communicating their concerns to directors or staff and by participating in District programs. The CSWCD develops a wide range of programs to encourage community participation in conserving and protecting soil, water and related natural resources, with particular focus on the impact of land disturbance and management of the Chesapeake Bay. District programs are funded by local, state and federal support and by District sponsored grants. Technical support is received from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).



Our Relationships

Member Counties

The CSWCD signs a Memorandum of Understanding with each member county, a document that outlines responsibilities and is the foundation for an enduring cooperative working relationship. Such cooperation allows a joint effort in the solution of problems relating to the planning and development of soil, water, and related natural resource issues. Through our relationship with our member counties, CSWCD provides input for each county's comprehensive plan, reviews case files for input to planning commission meetings and reviews site plans for four counties and two towns.

Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The CSWCD is a member of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD). The mission of the VASWCD is to serve and strengthen member SWCDs in natural resource protection. The VASWCD also provides cohesive representation to legislative bodies on natural resource issues.

National Association of Conservation Districts

The CSWCD is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). The NACD provides a national voice to America's 3,000+ conservation districts on conservation issues. Along with membership in the NACD comes membership in the National Watershed Coalition, an association of organizations that advocates resource management from the small watershed perspective.

Department of Conservation and Recreation

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is one of the lead state agencies for the control of nonpoint source pollution in Virginia; its soil and water conservation programs are delivered within the counties of Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock by the CSWCD. Funding for program delivery and implementation is provided by the state legislature and administered by DCR. The DCR Conservation District Coordinator (CDC) serves as the liaison between the District and DCR. The CDC also provides administrative assistance for the state's conservation program, assures that there is compliance with DCR requirements and interacts routinely with district staff and directors.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The CSWCD works closely with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). A Memorandum of Understanding with NRCS outlines this cooperative effort. NRCS provides the services of qualified personnel for resource planning and technical assistance. The CSWCD annually reviews and provides comment on the agreement between the two agencies.

Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board

The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board (VSWCB) was established by the General Assembly to help guide the delivery of soil & water conservation services to citizens of the Commonwealth. The board's responsibilities include oversight and support of Virginia's soil & water conservation districts as well as oversight and enforcement of dam safety and floodplain management programs and regulations. District Directors interact with members of the Board on a myriad of topics.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

VCE brings the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the Commonwealth. Local Extension Agents help design, implement and evaluate needs-driven programs such as pesticide collection, household water testing, farmers' markets and producer-targeted workshops. The District has a strong relationship with VCE agents.

Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)

DOF provides technical assistance to private landowners to assist them in managing their forest land for forest products, water quality, protection of threatened and endangered species, historic resources and wildlife habitat. DOF also provides marketing and utilization assistance to forest industry and provides technical assistance in managing state owned lands of other agencies. This includes technical assistance and resource management plans, forest renewal, cost-share incentives, harvesting assistance and community grant assistance. District staff interact with DOF foresters on landowner assistance.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ administers state and federal laws and regulations for air quality, water quality, water supply and land protection. In addition, DEQ offers other programs that cover a variety of environmental activities, such as improving the ability of businesses and local governments to protect the environment, and offering technical and financial assistance for air and water quality improvements. The District interacts with many voluntary grant programs administered by DEQ.

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)

DWR is responsible for the management of inland fisheries, wildlife and recreational boating for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Private Land Biologists advise landowners in the Culpeper District about practices that enhance or reestablish wildlife habitat.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

FSA serves all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective and efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. District staff rely on FSA assistance to effectively provide services to agricultural producers.

Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF)

VOF is Virginia's leader in land conservation, protecting more than 750,000 acres in 106 counties and independent cities. VOF is a public organization, created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1966 under [Virginia Code § 10.1-1800](#). The District co-holds conservation easements with VOF.

Virginia Resource Use Education Council (VRUEC)

The VRUEC is an inter-agency council that coordinates environmental education events and policies in the Commonwealth. The Culpeper SWCD holds one of the two seats on the Council reserved for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This role on the VRUEC allows Culpeper staff to participate in a NOAA Education grant and have a role in statewide environmental education policies.

Accomplishments of Committees

1. Technical

- Allocated over **\$6,544,612.25** in agricultural cost share funds to needed projects across the 5 County District and **\$88,072.41** in state tax credits.
- Allocated **\$190,975** in residential cost share funding to **134** needed projects in the Upper Hazel, Upper Rapidan, Robinson River and Upper York TMDL watersheds in the District.
- Inspected, maintained & repaired 11 watershed flood control dams in Culpeper & Madison Counties.
- Committee Chair & staff provided input on programmatic improvements as a member of the State Agricultural Best Management Practices Advisory Committee & BMP Sub Committee.
- Reviewed **93** site plans across five counties and the Town of Culpeper for Erosion & Sediment Control & Stormwater Management Engineering.
- Participated in quarterly dam safety trainings for conservation districts.

2. Operations

- Reviewed monthly functions of all aspects of District business.
- Coordinated preparation of the annual budget & annual plan of work.
- Oversaw expenditures and provided guidance for organizational growth.
- Sought to increase funding from the Commonwealth.
- Sought out additional funding grants and project grants.

3. Education/Public Relations

- Delivered programs to **7,901** students **1,316** adults.
- Presented annual conservation award presentations at District's Annual Awards banquet.
- Provided year long training to two Envirothon teams, coordinated one State-wide virtual Envirothon training for coaches and students and organized the Area Envirothon competition.
- Coordinated NOAA B-WET grant for MWEs and assisted with water testing clinics.
- Sold **31** rain barrels and **8,500** tree seedlings.
- Coordinated training for Board members on topics such as Cost Share Program Changes, Education Programs, TMDL updates and Virginia Conservation Assistance Program
- Published 4 editions of the District newsletter & articles for newspapers & other publications.
- Recognized **5** local students with college scholarships.

4. Legislative

- Participated in discussions with legislators.
- Drafted CSWCD positions on conservation & land use issues & provided opinions to VASWCD.
- Informed District Board on all legislative issues relating to conservation & funding affecting Districts.

5. Personnel

- Provided employee performance reviews & training guidance.
- Provided workload analysis & staffing level reviews.
- Guided policy development on all personnel matters.

6. Finance

- Reviewed monthly bank reconciliations & quarterly reports to DCR.
- Provided monthly review of treasurer's reports & input to annual budgeting.
- Provided oversight for longer term financial planning.

How We Operate

Annual Budget

The 2022—2023 operating budget (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) for the CSWCD was \$1,448,217.

Operating Funding Sources

Funding included \$439,153 in general operating funds and \$652,634 in agricultural and septic technical assistance funding from the Commonwealth; \$201,610 from member counties; \$117,500 in watershed maintenance and repair funds from the Commonwealth; and \$37,320 in other grant projects.

• Culpeper	\$62,360
• Greene	\$13,266
• Madison	\$15,667
• Orange	\$71,296
• Rappahannock	\$39,021

Our Mission

To promote the stewardship of soil and water and the conservation of our natural resources by educating and providing technical assistance to manage, protect and enhance the land and water for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties

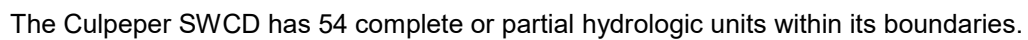
Technical Accomplishments

Cost-Share Program

The Culpeper SWCD locally administers the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost-Share Program. Funded with state funds, this incentive program is designed to improve the quality of state streams, rivers and other water bodies through the implementation of BMPs. BMPs are designed to prevent soil erosion, minimize the introduction of nutrients, sediments and toxins into water bodies and enhance management opportunities. Sign-up for the program is on a continuous basis and eligible applicants, once approved, may receive up to 60-100 percent of the BMP installation cost up to \$300,000 per applicant per year. Watershed areas or hydrologic units within the district are prioritized for funding based on statewide prioritization and local concerns (see chart below). Hydrologic units (see map on following page) are determined and designated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and can be a drainage basin, aquifer, soil zone, lake, reservoir or irrigation project.

Priority Hydrologic Units in the Culpeper District for 2022-2023

Water Body	Hydrologic Unit	County or Counties
Rappahannock River — Ruffans Run	RA18	Culpeper
Jonas Run	RA20	Culpeper
Mountain Run — Flat Run	RA21	Culpeper
Rappahannock River — Deep Run	RA23	Culpeper
Rapidan River — Marsh Run	RA27	Madison, Orange
Beautiful Run	RA29	Madison
Rapidan River — Poplar Run	RA30	Madison, Orange
Robinson River — Great Run	RA36	Madison
Rapidan River — Rapidan	RA37	Culpeper, Orange
Cedar Run	RA38	Culpeper
Rapidan River — Potato Run	RA39	Culpeper, Orange
Mountain Run — Mill Run	RA40	Culpeper, Orange
Rapidan River — Wilderness Run	RA43	Orange, Spotsylvania



- Culpeper: \$1,828,396.93
- Greene: \$173,362.76
- Madison: \$1,840,594.53
- Orange: \$1,824,251.06
- Rappahannock: \$878,006.97

Tax Credit Program

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the voluntary installation of Best Management Practices that address the state's nonpoint source pollution water-quality objectives. Agricultural producers with an approved conservation plan may take a credit against state income tax of 25% for eligible BMP expenses. The tax credit taken cannot exceed \$17,500 or the total state income tax obligation for the given tax year, but any excess can be carried over for up to five years. Tax credits granted by the District during the program year totaled **\$88,072.41** and were distributed as shown in the list below.

- **Culpeper** **\$24,544.89 (14 landowners)**
- **Greene** **\$211.53 (1 landowner)**
- **Madison** **\$26,487.10 (11 landowners)**
- **Orange** **\$12,086.15 (7 landowners)**
- **Rappahannock** **\$24,742.74 (13 landowners)**

Our Vision

To achieve clear, clean surface and ground water, and improved soil conditions that enhance the intrinsic value of Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties.

Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Control and Stormwater Management Programs

The Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program, adopted as state law in 1973, established minimum standards and guidelines to be followed when nonagricultural lands are disturbed. The state program is implemented primarily through local program adoption. The CSWCD is contracted with four of five member counties (Culpeper, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock) to provide plan review service for their Erosion and Sediment Control Programs and provides assistance to Greene County as requested. The Town of Culpeper also contracts with CSWCD for services. District responsibility as the reviewing authority involves reviewing site plans for developments and to review rezoning requests, special-use permit applications and preliminary subdivision plans upon request by the County.

There were 93 plans reviewed during the 2022-2023: 27 in Culpeper, 19 in Town of Culpeper, 5 in Greene, 2 in Madison, 23 in Orange and 17 in Rappahannock. These site plans include single family homes and private driveways that disturb greater than one acre.

Site Plans Reviewed by Culpeper SWCD			
County	Reviewed	Approved	Stormwater Management Facilities Approved
Culpeper	27	19	23 practices
Town of Culpeper	19	14	9 practices
Greene	5	4	11 practices
Madison	2	1	3 practices
Orange	23	17	4 practices
Rappahannock	17	15	7 practices



Figure 1: Active Erosion Control: Slope Remediation and Sediment Basin

The CSWCD relays complaints and observations regarding construction site activities to the appropriate county official. In addition, technical and educational assistance for E&S is provided to contractors, landowners and educators as requested.

The CSWCD has developed and provides several checklists for Erosion and Sediment Control Plans and Stormwater Management Plans. These checklists are guidance material for assisting contractors, engineers and developers in the planning and design of their land disturbing site plan. The Counties are encouraged to require the checklist as a prerequisite to site plan submission to ensure the quality of the site plan.

Land-disturbance activities not regulated under the Erosion and Sediment Control Program continue to cause problems for County development and the community. These activities include private agricultural and recreational pond construction, disturbance of wetlands, improper streambank alterations without appropriate permitting review and land clearing activities that lack an adequate plan for stabilization due to lack of clear intentions for future use of the land.

Within all reviews, the CSWCD consistently promotes the design and implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) design strategies. We have developed an updated Environmental Site Design (ESD) checklist to aid in the implementation of LID.

Best management practices have been inventoried from approved site plans within all five counties. There are a total of 435 stormwater management facilities within the five counties and Town of Culpeper. The following table depicts the aggregated amount of acreage served by these stormwater management facilities as of the field-verified September 2015 assessment grant through the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality.

Watershed	Stormwater Control Measures and Stormwater Treatment Practices	Runoff Reduction Practices
James	Detention Basin (28.36 acres); Underground Detention (5 ac); Wet Pond (1014.69 ac); Ext. Detention (12.81 ac); Manufactured Filters (1.69 ac)	Bioretention (78.37 ac); Infiltration (4.09 acre)
Rappahannock	Detention Basin (2,014.98 ac); Ext. Detention (1,044.26 ac); Underground Detention (34.23 ac.); Wet Pond (1684.65 ac); Manufactured Filters (24.13 ac.)	Infiltration (64.13 ac); Bioretention (78.69 ac); Wetland (0.33 ac); Riparian Buffer (5,735 LF); Green Roof (9 ac); Permeable Pave (5.31 ac); Dry Swale (11.76 ac); Level spreader (4.46 ac)
York	Detention Basin (380.87 ac); Ext.; Underground Detention (2.56 ac); Detention (15.03 ac.); Wet Pond (45 ac)	Infiltration (2.19 ac); Bioretention (0.36 ac.); Permeable Pave (0.1 ac.); Level spreaders (1.26 ac)



Figure 2: Bioretention Basin at Farm Credit in Culpeper County (2014 left; 2022 right)

Small Watershed Dams (PL-566 Structures)

The Watershed Protection & Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83-566 usually referred to as PL-566) was established more than 50 years ago to help control the extensive damage caused by flooding and sedimentation. This law gave the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) the authority to work cooperatively with local governing bodies to construct and maintain dams throughout the country.

In the 1960s, the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) constructed fourteen dams on both private and public lands within the District—five in Culpeper County and nine in Madison County. The District assumed local sponsorship of these dams and with this came the responsibility to uphold the operation and maintenance of these dams. The District continues to hold responsibility for eleven of the dam structures. Operation and maintenance of White Oak Dam in Madison County was transferred to the Rapidan Service Authority. Mountain Run Lake Dam and Lake Pelham Dam are operated by the Town of Culpeper. Lake Pelham in Culpeper County and White Oak Reservoir in Madison County also serve as water supply reservoirs. Lake Pelham and Mountain Run Lake were completely rehabilitated during Fiscal Years 2017-2020.

The Culpeper SWCD spent **\$117,500** during the 2022-2023 fiscal year for restoring embankment shorelines, installing filter drains, video inspection of all internal pipes, mowing, weed control, fertilizer application, liming and fencing. Maintenance contracts are offered annually and are awarded by sealed bid. The District coordinates efforts to secure maintenance and repair funding from the Virginia General Assembly with the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Operation and maintenance is crucial to dam safety. Responsibilities of the CSWCD include:

- Annual inspections.
- Hiring contractors for routine mowing and maintenance and access road maintenance.
- Critical period inspections and monitoring (for example, during unusually heavy rainfall).
- Keeping spillways clear of debris.
- Preventing trees or bushes from growing on the dams.
- Eliminating burrowing animals from dam embankments.
- Maintaining a healthy stand of grass on the dam and spillways to prevent erosion.
- Inspecting for seepage on the dam face and around all metal and concrete parts.
- Inspecting closely for signs of deterioration
- Replacing and rebuilding internal drains and embankment shorelines



Above : “ Principal spillway slip line operations November 2021

PL-566 Dams Within the CSWCD

Dam ID	Watershed	County	Normal Surface Area (Acres)	Drainage Area (miles²)
8A	Mountain Run	Culpeper	22	5
11	Mountain Run	Culpeper	75	5.86
13	Mountain Run	Culpeper	15	3.22
18	Mountain Run	Culpeper	46	3.99
50	Mountain Run	Culpeper	254	23.9
1B	Beautiful Run	Madison	13.5	2.31
2A	Beautiful Run	Madison	8.7	3.61
4	Beautiful Run	Madison	3.9	0.48
5	Beautiful Run	Madison	3.2	0.55
6	Beautiful Run	Madison	6.1	1.14
7	Beautiful Run	Madison	5.3	0.75
10	Beautiful Run	Madison	3.2	0.55
11	Beautiful Run	Madison	9.3	1.44
White Oak Dam	White Oak Run	Madison	46	5.05

Agricultural Stewardship Act

The **Agricultural Stewardship Act (ASA)** was passed into Virginia law in 1996 and enables the mechanism by which a complaint can be filed with the State Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services claiming that a particular agricultural operation is or will be polluting water. If the complaint is found to be justified, the producer is required by state law to remedy the situation. The CSWCD provides technical assistance to any producer who has been identified by an ASA complaint. By identifying new management options and utilizing the BMP cost-share program and other incentive-

based programs prior to mandated enforcement, the district can assist producers with remedial actions.

There was one ASA complaint which occurred in the Culpeper District in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The complaint was verified as founded and a remedial conservation plan was developed and implemented.

USDA Farm Bill Programs

The 2018 Farm Bill was enacted on December 20, 2018. The Farm Bill continues its strong support for conservation efforts of America's farmers and ranchers through reauthorization and expanded flexibility of NRCS conservation programs.

NRCS offers financial and technical assistance through conservation practices, activities and enhancements to help agricultural producers make and maintain improvements on their land. Producers with active contracts under the 2014 Farm Bill may continue completing practices as scheduled. Sign-up information for the Farm Bill 2018 will be announced as it becomes available.

Environmental Quality Enhancement Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) helps agricultural producers manage financial risk through diversification, marketing or natural resource conservation practices. NRCS administers the conservation provisions while the Agricultural Marketing Service and Risk Management Agency implement the production diversification and marketing provisions.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) helps landowners restore, enhance and protect forestland resources on private and tribal lands through easements and financial assistance. Through HFRP, landowners promote the recovery of endangered or threatened species, improve plant and animal biodiversity and enhance carbon sequestration.

Programs administered by FSA

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands. This program is administered by **USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)**.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) encourages farmers to convert highly sensitive cropland to vegetative cover, reducing erosion and runoff and providing wildlife habitats. Rent is paid per acre of land enrolled for a 10 to 15-year period. Cost share is available for BMPs to establish the conservation cover of trees or herbaceous vegetation. Offers are accepted and processed during fixed sign-up periods. (There is also a CRP continuous sign up program.)

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is an enhancement of the existing CRP Continuous sign-up program. CREP provides significant financial incentives to encourage stream bank and wetland protection as well as restoration of streamside forests. Pasture and cropland adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams, seeps, springs, ponds and sinkholes are eligible to be enrolled. CREP provides a yearly rental per acre for 10 to 15 years (amounting to twice that offered by CRP), pays for fencing to exclude livestock from riparian buffers, alternative water source development, and hardwood tree planting. A flat rate incentive payment is also offered for placing a permanent riparian easement on the enrolled area.

2022-2023 USDA Conservation Incentive Programs

- NRCS obligated six new EQIP contracts one in Culpeper County, three in Madison County and two in Orange County. NRCS obligated six new EQIP IRA contracts, four in Culpeper County, one in Orange County, and one in Rappahannock County.
- NRCS obligated two new CSP contracts, both involving forestry in Rappahannock County. In addition, staff completed one CSP renewal contract in Orange County.
- Two ALE easements were approved, one in Orange County and one in Greene County. The easements will protect a total of 1,058 Acres of agricultural land in the two counties.
- Six expiring CREP contracts were re-enrolled in the program.
- The office is currently administering ninety-four active contracts over all programs.

NRCS developed thirteen farm conservation plans during the year as follows:

- Culpeper 1 (44.3 acres)
- Greene 2 (196.9 acres)
- Madison 14 (1,128.3 acres)
- Orange 6 (954.3 acres)
- Rappahannock 1 (130.8 acres)



Left: Grazing Management
Right: Water Trough

TMDL and WQIF Implementation

The District regularly seeks out grants from both state and federal sources to assist landowners with the implementation costs for projects that both protect and improve local stream health. The District actively pursues implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects and options available from federal nonpoint source 319 grant programs in the five member counties. As required under both state and federal laws, TMDLs establish water quality improvement thresholds for selected pollutants which have been identified through stream water sampling as exceeding state water quality standards for designated uses. Typically the TMDLs rely on federal funding from the Environmental Protection Agency directed through the Department of Environmental Quality. Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) state grants provide similar opportunities.

In addressing individually the TMDL Implementation Plans for the Upper Hazel River watershed in Rappahannock, Madison and Culpeper Counties, the Upper York watershed in Orange County, the Robinson River watershed in Madison County and the Upper Rapidan River watershed in Greene, Madison and Orange Counties, the Department of Environmental Quality provided grants awarded on a competitive basis. At this time, due to very significant increases in State agricultural funding, the TMDL funding has been focused exclusively on septic system assistance. There has been expanded outreach in all areas through signs, meetings and mailings. The results of all 4 of these grant projects are tabulated on the following pages by both project and by county.

During FY 2023 the District also secured a fifth TMDL Implementation Grant, Mountain Run and Muddy Run in Culpeper County. Beyond that, two additional implementation plan development projects are expected to commence in 2023-2024.



Allocated Projects Listed by Grant Project		
Upper Hazel River TMDL		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic pump out (RB1)	3	\$720
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3M)	10	\$15,400
Septic replacement with pump (RB4P)	1	\$6,000
Total	14	\$22,120
Upper Rapidan River TMDL		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic pump out (RB1)	11	\$2,480
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3M)	9	\$11,400
Septic Engineered (RB5)	1	\$19,200
Total	21	\$33,080
Robinson River TMDL		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic pump out (RB1)	32	\$7,155
Septic repair (RB3)	2	\$6,500
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3M)	23	\$31,600
Septic replacement (RB4)	4	\$18,000
Total	61	\$63,255
Upper York River TMDL		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic pump out (RB1)	19	\$4,320
Septic repair (RB3)	1	\$2,500
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3M)	10	\$15,300
Septic replacement (RB4)	6	\$32,400
Septic replacement (RB4P)	1	\$6,000
Septic Engineered (RB5)	1	\$12,000
Total	38	\$72,520

Allocated Projects Listed by County		
Culpeper County		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic pump out (RB1)	2	\$375
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3M)	4	\$5,600
Septic replacement (RB4)	2	\$8,000
Total	8	\$13,975
Greene County		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3M)	1	\$1,000
Madison County		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic pump out (RB1)	33	\$7,380
Septic repair (RB3)	2	\$6,500
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3M)	21	\$28,600
Septic replacement (RB4)	2	\$10,000
Total	58	\$52,480
Orange County		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic pump out (RB1)	28	\$6,400
Septic repair (RB3)	1	\$2,500
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3M)	17	\$24,100
Septic replacement (RB4)	6	\$32,400
Septic replacement (RB4P)	1	\$6,000
Septic replacement Engineered (RB5)	2	\$31,200
Total	55	\$102,600
Rappahannock County		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic pump out (RB1)	2	\$520
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3M)	9	\$14,400
Septic replacement (RB4P)	1	\$6,000
Total	12	\$20,920

Education

Youth Education Programs

The District sponsored or participated in the following events:

2022-2023 Envirothon

The District trained and sponsored two Envirothon teams at Eastern View High School in Culpeper County. The District organized Area II Dominion Energy Envirothon competition in April 2023 at Lenn Park in Culpeper. The District also coordinated one State-wide Envirothon training held at Graves Mountain Lodge in November 2022. Over 150 students and coaches attended the training.

Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE)

MWEEs returned with in-person programming. NOAA-funded Environmental Literacy in the Piedmont occurred at all middle schools in the District: Culpeper County Middle School, Floyd T. Binns Middle School, William Monroe Middle School, William Wetsel Middle School, Locust Grove Middle School, Prospect Heights Middle School and Rappahannock County Elementary School. A total of **1,578** students participated in the program in 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. The goal of the NOAA grant is to provide MWEEs to all 6th grade students in the District which will be sustained beyond the life of the grant.

Presentations at Local Schools

In addition to the NOAA-funded MWEE programs, SOL-based activities were coordinated with a number of local schools to discuss conservation topics throughout the District including AG Richardson Elementary School, Eastern View High School, Farmington Elementary School, Locust Grove Elementary School, Nathaniel Greene Elementary School, Pearl Sample Elementary School and Waverly Yowell Elementary School. Over **1,425** students within the District participated in a classroom activity with District staff.



The impact of vegetation is shown at the 3rd grade Field Day in Madison



Sixth grade students show a macroinvertebrate caught at the biological monitoring station at the Rose River MWEE

Culpeper SWCD Continues Federal Grant for Educational Programs

In 2018, the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District was selected as a Bay Watershed Education and Training (BWET) grantee by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This three year grant brought \$250,000 into the District specifically to develop and deliver Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) for all sixth grade students in the District.

The initial year of the grant began with teacher professional development in June 2018, with follow-up training throughout the grant.

In Fall 2019 the program was delivered to students in Madison, Greene and Rappahannock Counties. Planned events in Spring 2020 were cancelled.

For the 2020-2021 school year the grant was not delivered due to coronavirus.

MWEEs returned with a blend on Zoom and in-person programming in Spring 2022. NOAA-funded Environmental Literacy in the Piedmont occurred at Prospect Heights and Locust Grove Middle Schools in Orange County and William Wetsel Middle School in Madison. A total of 461 students participated in the program in Spring 2022.

In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, MWEEs occurred at all middle schools in the District: Culpeper County Middle School, Floyd T. Binns Middle School, Locust Grove Middle School, Prospect Heights Middle School, Rappahannock County Elementary School, William Monroe Middle School and William Wetsel Middle School. A total of **1,578** students participated in the program in 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. The grant has been extended through January 31, 2024. Afterwards, the District will absorb costs.

The Culpeper District was acknowledged as the first Soil and Water Conservation District on the East Coast to be selected for this grant.

Top left: Students at William Monroe pose with their new copies of Carl Haaissen books

Top right: Peter Schoderbek teaches students how to identify trees using a guide

Bottom left: Kathryn Thomas demonstrates the importance of cover to reduce soil erosion

Bottom right: Elise Corbin guides students through chemical testing of the Rose River



Adult Education

CSWCD staff made presentations to adults throughout the five-county area. Many of these events were held virtually. The District sponsored or participated in the following events:

- Virginia Forage and Grasslands Winter Conference
- Woods and Wildlife Conference
- Orange County Annual Farm Bureau Meeting
- Central Virginia Cattlemen's Association Meeting
- Virginia Master Cattlemen's Workshop
- VANTAGE No-Till Conference
- VA Forage and Grassland Council Grazing School
- Greene County Farm Show
- Orange County Annual Farm Bureau Meeting
- Women in Ag Event
- FSA Farm Safety Day

The District, along with regional and Agency partners, held the 1st Annual New Landowners' Workshop in September 2022. The agenda for the program is on the next page. Participants received a binder of publications and presentations from the day. The 2nd Annual workshop is scheduled for September 15, 2023.

The District also submitted regular articles to Culpeper Quarterly, a newsletter that is sent to every address in Culpeper County, and Orange Insight, which goes to Orange County residents and businesses.

The District sent postcards to targeted landowners for septic system maintenance cost share and increased cover crop payments.

The District sent two targeted mailings to all recipients of land use taxation about District programs.

The District continued its free lawn soil testing program for local landowners.

Three VCAP Contractor Workshop (Culpeper/Orange/Greene) were hosted in the early spring with about 50 attendees total.

AGENDA

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District's
Second Annual Landowner Conservation Services Workshop
At Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, VA
September 15, 2022 | 9:00 – 2:00

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District

9:30 – 10:00 USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service

10:00 – 10:20 Virginia Department of Forestry

10:20 – 10:40 BREAK

10:40 – 11:00 Virginia Cooperative Extension

11:00 – 11:20 Virginia State University, Small Farm Outreach Program

11:20 – 11:45 Virginia Outdoors Foundation

11:45 – 12:30 LUNCH

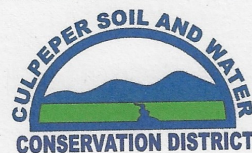
12:30 – 12:50 Piedmont Environmental Council

12:50 – 1:10 Smithsonian - Virginia Working Landscapes

1:10 – 1:20 Quail Forever

1:20 – 1:40 Ponds and More

1:40 – 2:00 Q&A, Evaluation, Feedback, Networking



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



Virginia Tech • Virginia State University



Smithsonian
National Zoological Park
Conservation Biology Institute



Thank you to our Sponsors!



Staff Professional Development

Continuing staff education is a priority at the Culpeper SWCD. This year the staff participated in training in the following areas:

Greg Wichelns, District Manager:

- DCR IT Security Awareness Training

Stevie Ross, Administrative Assistant

- DCR IT Security Awareness Training

Richard Jacobs III, Conservation Specialist

- DCR IT Security Awareness Training
- CBLP VCAP Certificate Training – VCAP/CBLP
- 2-day Soil Morphology Training – VASS
- Invasive Species Winter Management – Blue Ridge Prism
- Urban Nutrient Management Planning Update – DCR

Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Communications Specialist

- DCR IT Security Awareness Training
- Woods and Wildlife conference

David Massie, Conservation Specialist

- DCR IT Security Awareness Training
- Graves Mountain Lodge Annual Training
- New Landowner Workshop
- Soil Health Dig and Demo Field Training
- VFGC Winter Conference
- VANTAGE Winter Conference
- Farm Transition Workshop
- New Landowner Workshop
- Pesticide Applicator Training
- JED Stream Crossing Training
- 2020 Program Year Updates
- Emergency Action Plan Dam Meeting (Madison)
- 2024 Program Year Updates

W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist

- DCR IT Security Awareness Training
- Virginia Forage and Grasslands Winter Conference
- Central Virginia Cattlemen's Association Meeting
- VANTAGE No-Till Conference
- Mentor for VA Forage and Grassland Council Grazing School
- Conservation Planner recertification
- Ag. BMP Training
- Graves Mountain Training
- VASWCD Annual Meeting

Staff Professional Development

Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist

- DCR IT Security Awareness Training
- Erosion Program Overview
- Armoring Inspection Reports
- Dealing with Difficult Site Dilemmas
- Minimizing Erosion
- Minimal Erosion Standards
- Stormwater Construction Inspections
- Administering Stormwater Programs
- Erodibility, Sedimentation and Sediment Basin Design
- Forest Open Space Soil Restoration & Vegetation Restoration
- Five Easy Rules for Erosion and Sediment Control
- Seeding Demystified
- Is Soil Compaction Really That Bad?
- Plants for Bioretention
- Vermin Control in Stormwater BMPs
- Chesapeake Bay Landscape Program
- Managing Open Space

Amanda McCullen, Conservation Specialist

- DCR IT Security Awareness Training
- VACS Updates Webinar
- DCR Tracking Updates Webinar

Kendall Dellinger, Conservation Specialist

- DCR IT Security Awareness Training
- DCR Conservation Planning Training
- Farm Transition Planning- Greene County
- A Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop
- Graves Mountain Lodge Annual Training
- New Landowner Workshop
- Soil Health Dig and Demo Field Training
- VFGC Winter Conference
- VANTAGE Winter Conference
- New Landowner Workshop
- JED Stream Crossing Training
- 2024 Program Year Updates

Staff Professional Development

Brandy Harris, Conservation Specialist

- DCR IT Security Awareness Training
- DCR Water Quality Resource Assessment
- DCR Water Bodies
- DCR Water Management
- DEQ Virginia Water Concerns
- DCR Nitrogen Management and Concerns
- DCR Phosphorous Management and Concerns
- DCR Sediment Management
- DCR Pest Management and Water Quality Implications
- DCR Pesticides Quiz
- Virginia Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Protection
- Virginia Cultural and Historic Resources Protection
- Virginia Agriculture BMP and Cost Share Program
- Soil Science, Soil Fertility, and Crop Production School
- Nutrient Management Training School
- JED Erosion & RUSLE2 Field Training
- JED Portable Watering systems and Pasture Condition Score Training
- Best Management Practices for Drill-Interseeding Cover Crops into Corn
- Perennial Stream Determination Workshop
- Conservation Selling Skills

Lily Smith, Conservation Specialist

- DCR IT Security Awareness Training
- Overview of Water Quality Resource Assessment
- Nitrogen Management and Concerns
- Phosphorus Management and Concerns
- Sediment Management
- Water Bodies
- Pest Management and Water Quality Implications
- Water Management
- Pesticide Management Orientation
- Virginia Water Concerns
- DCR Nutrient Management Soil Science, Soil Fertility and Crop Production School
- Perennial Stream Identification
- Virginia Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Protection
- Virginia Cultural and Historic Resources Protection
- Conservation Selling Skills
- Virginia Agricultural BMP and Cost-Share Program
- VACS Updates Webinar
- Soil Health Dig & Demo Training
- VFGC Winter Conference
- VANTAGE Winter Conference
- Cover Crop Field Day in Orange
- Farm Pond Management Workshop
- Virtual Logi Reports Training
- Stream Crossing JED

Community Outreach

CSWCD staff focused outreach efforts throughout the five-county area. Outreach activities included:

- **Internet Home Page:** The Culpeper SWCD maintains and regularly updates a web site with information about the District, our programs and educational activities plus links to other informative and educational websites at www.culpeperswcd.org.
- **Quarterly Newsletter:** The quarterly 16-page newsletter is sent to all landowners in our member counties that receive land use tax benefits and others.
- **Newspaper Articles:** The District routinely submits articles to local newspapers on educational events, conservation news and various BMP programs available throughout the District.
- **Display Booth:** The Culpeper SWCD maintains a mobile display of District programs and accomplishments. We take these exhibits to agriculture-expo events, educational conferences and annual meetings. Conservation publications are offered to the public free-of-charge.
- **Community Events:** District staff attend community events ranging from farm tours, farmer education programs, STEM/STEAM nights at local schools and other events when requested.

College Scholarships: This year, Madisyn Corron was chosen to receive the annual John H. Bolidridge Memorial Scholarship and Abby Lynn Johnson was chosen to receive the first annual Laura Campbell Memorial Scholarship.

- Madisyn Jean Corron graduated from Eastern View High School. She will attend University of Mary Washington, where she will major in Agriculture (\$2,000 award).
- Abby Lynn Johnson graduated from Madison County High School. She will attend Virginia Tech, where she will major in Agribusiness (\$2,000 award).
- Lindsey Breeden graduated from Orange County High School. She will attend George Mason University, where she will major in Environmental Science (\$2,000 award).
- Bryant Chiles graduated from Orange County High School. He will attend Christopher Newport University, where he will major in Environmental Science (\$2,000 award).
- Blane Jennings graduated from Orange County High School. He will attend the Germanna Community College, where he will major in Environmental Science (\$2,000 award).

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is honored to recognize these students for their achievements and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Summer Camps: Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District supported two students to attend Camp Woods and Wildlife held June 19-23 at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox, Virginia. The students representing the District were:

- Lincoln Stuart (Culpeper)
- Hannah Tolson (Culpeper)

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District also supported two students to attend Youth Conservation Camp held July 9-15 at Virginia Tech. The students representing the District were:

- Grace Faulk (Rappahannock)
- Will Lillard (Madison)

Local Projects Funded through the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)

In 2022, for a two year period, the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program or VCAP received substantial state funding to implement stormwater and landscaping practices on non-agricultural lands. Funding was secured from the Virginia Natural Resource Commitment Fund from Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the grant was administered by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The District helped nine landowners secure \$59,323.33 of funding assistance to treat 14,858 square feet of impervious surfaces with Rainwater Harvesting, Rain Gardens, Conservation Landscaping, Dry Swale and Permeable Pavement . These landowners were from Orange and Culpeper Counties.

Below left: Six 300-gallon cisterns were installed on this Orange County residence.

Below right: The residents of this small lot in Lake of the Woods had ponding in their driveway. A Raised Rain Garden bed was installed to capture and slow down runoff.



Below left: 800 square foot permeable pavers.

Below right: 100 Linear foot Dry Swale



2023 Conservation Awards

Each year, the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District holds an annual banquet to honor residents who have demonstrated leadership in the stewardship of local soil and water resources.

The **Clean Water Farm Awards** are given to one farm in each county of the Soil and Water Conservation District that is exemplary in its protection of the state's soil and water quality, with particular emphasis on nutrient management. The recipients of the Clean Water Farm Awards (CWFA) were:

- Culpeper County, John Paul & Mollie Visosky, *Locust Dale Cattle Company* (#1)
- Greene County, Brian Farinholt & Caitlin Morse, *Far-Mor Family Farm* (#5)
- Madison County, Jacob & Jennifer Gilley, *Heaven's Hollow Farm* (#2)
- Orange County, Monte Ginery, *Somerset Plantation* (#4)
- Rappahannock County, Meredith Bolton & Daniel Brecht, *Brecht's Farm* (#8)

The **Conservationist of the Year Award** is given to an individual or individuals who demonstrate out-standing leadership, hard work and investment in conservation practices that protect the quality of soil and water in the Culpeper District and exhibit strong advocacy to others for conservation. This year's award was presented to **The Engh family of Lakota Ranch** for exemplary conservation practices in **Culpeper** County and for support to District outreach efforts. (#3)

The 2022 **Forestry Award** was given to **Carolyn Smith** of **Madison** County. (#7)

The 2022 **Educator of the Year** was presented to **Sarah Moore**, of **Rappahannock** County. (#6)

The 2022 **Wildlife Habitat Award** was given to **Blue Ridge School** of **Greene** County. (#9)

Culpeper SWCD employee Henny Calloway was recognized with the Chairman's Award for exemplary service. Culpeper SWCD Directors were also recognized for years of service on the District Board: Robert Bradford (25 years); Lynn Graves (15 years); Tom O'Halloran (15 years); and Robert Runkle (25 years).

#1



#2



Additional pictures on page 30

#3



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Right #5



Left: #6

Right #7



Left: #6

Right #7

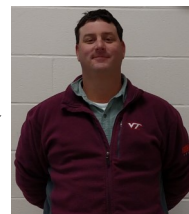


Board of Directors

Soil & Water Conservation District directors are the local, legislatively mandated protectors & managers of natural resources. They are not public employees & receive no salary. Elected every four years in the general election, they work as volunteers to identify local conservation needs, represent local citizens in conservation issues, educate others about conservation issues & programs & work with local, state & federal agencies to resolve conservation problems. In the course of their work with the District, directors develop a working knowledge of the environmental sciences, agriculture, engineering & local state & national legislative processes. They also find it useful to develop skills such as leadership, personnel management, public speaking, negotiation & fiscal management.

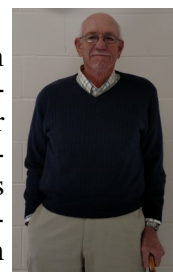
Lynn Graves, Chair

Lynn Graves has been a Director representing Madison County since 2005. Mr. Graves graduated from Virginia Tech in 1995 and was a member of the National Agricultural Fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho. He has been a member of the Virginia Apple Growers Association Board and the Virginia State Apple Board. He also is serving on the Virginia Agribusiness Council Board and was the chairman in 2016. He also serves as President of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Mr. Graves and his family own and operate Graves Mountain Lodge and Farm, which is located on the Rose River. The Lodge consists of 55 motel rooms and 17 cabins, and the farm consists of crop fields, pasture for 100 head of cattle and 30 acres of apple orchards. Also a cannery is operated by the Graves family which produces jams and jellies, and apple cider, along with the favorite apple butter. The Graves Mountain hosts numerous festivals during the year, Music Festival, Apple Festival, Heritage Day (Fishing for kids) and more. The Farm does school tours for 7,000 school children annually to promote agriculture. For the past 16 years the Farm has also run aquatic programs that teach children about watersheds, rivers and ponds. Mr. Graves and his wife, Tricia have 2 children, Amelia and Cole. The Graves family have been living in the Syria area for over 5 generations.



Philip Morris, Vice Chair

Philip Morris was elected as a Greene County Director in November 2015 & began his term on January 1, 2016. He has been married to Sandra since 2006. He graduated from West Virginia University in 1964 with a degree in Civil Engineering. After serving in the US Navy, he joined the Navy Oceanographic Service conducting hydrographic surveys of shorelines in locations around the Pacific & Atlantic Oceans for military operations. He also served as civil engineer with USDA Soil Conservation Service for three years building large earthen dams under Public Law 566. In 1970 he became manager of the Great Lakes Water Measurement Program & the National Tidal Network at NOAA. After several positions & 21 years of service, Mr. Morris retired from NOAA in 1997. He has gained great insight into the agriculture world by visiting his wife's family, who farm 1500 acres in central Ohio.



Thomas O'Halloran, Treasurer

Mr. O'Halloran was born & raised in Culpeper & graduated from Culpeper County High School in 1963. He received a degree in engineering from Virginia Tech and owns Glengary Tree Farm in Rixeyville. The farm was originally a cow/calf operation but, under the advice of his father, he started planting Christmas trees in 1978. Mr. & Mrs. O'Halloran have a son & a daughter plus 4 grandchildren & a great grandchild. His hobbies include motorcycle riding & reading. He is chairman of the Ag/Forestal Advisory Committee & is a member of the Culpeper County Economic Advisory



Committee. He is on the Extension Leadership Council & is a past director of the Virginia Farm Direct Marketing Association, past president of the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association & past director of the National Christmas Tree Growers Association. In 2002, the State Capitol Christmas tree at the Governor's mansion was from Glengary. In 2011, Mr. O'Halloran was appointed to represent conservation districts on the Rappahannock River Basin Commission & in 2016 was appointed to its Executive Council.

Mike Biniek

Mike Biniek & Susan Hoffman left their urban life to fulfill their dream of creating a model community for sustainable living. Belle Meade has grown into what it is today because of their flexible, nurturing patience as they developed the different components of their holistic vision. Mike, B.S. in Biology, is a lifelong student of nature & wildlife. He practices his ideology of creating a more sustainable, healthy planet as he cares for the animals, plants & community of Belle Meade.



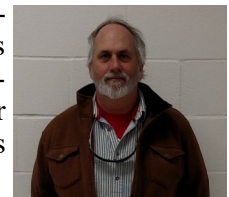
J. Robert Brame III

Bob Brame grew up on a working farm in Western Kentucky, but like many farm youths he was lured to the city. After almost 50 years practicing law in Richmond, Washington and Charlottesville, he retired in 2014 and swapped Kentucky farmland for a small cattle farm near Gordonsville. He has worked closely with Culpeper SWCD staff and NRCS to implement and expand on the conservation vision he inherited from his Father. These conservation practices, including rotational grazing, eradication of invasives, replacement of KY 31 fescue with novel endophyte fescue and restoring native warm season grasses. He heard the first Bobwhite call and is still looking for dung beetles and listening for whip-poor-wills. He remains hopeful that his grandchildren will see the return of native species. Bob was elected a Greene County director in 2007 and 2011 and an Orange Director in 2015 and 2019.



Robert Bradford

Mr. Bradford was elected as a Director in 1996 after serving as an Associate Director for three years. He lives in Orange County with his wife Virginia & his daughter Stella. He owns and operates a beef cattle operation & has been a building contractor specializing in renovations. He is very supportive of BMPs & water quality & has an active roof water collection system on his farm. Mr. Bradford's activity as Director includes Technical Committee Chair.



Dr. Stephen R. Hill

Dr. Stephen R. Hill was elected as a Director representing Madison County in 2015 and re-elected in 2019. He previously served as Associate Director for Madison County. On his Madison County cow/calf operation he established clean water and forest best management practices to support his goal of year-round grazing. He is the tenth continuous generation of farmers in America since his Great (x7)-Grandfather emigrated from the Duchy of Wurttemberg (in modern Germany) in 1700. He is a certified Virginia Master Cattleman and a certified Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) producer. In 2021, he was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. Dr. Hill earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Michigan and a PhD from the University of Maryland.



L. Brad Jarvis

Brad Jarvis is the Agriculture Extension Agent for Virginia Cooperative Extension in Madison County. He received his degrees in Animal Science & Extension Education from Virginia Tech in

1987. Over his 30 year Extension career, he has worked with farmers, agribusiness & community leaders to disseminate researched based information & developed educational programs in agricultural production & sustainability with an emphasis on nutrient management planning, cover crops, integrated pest management, commercial fruit production, forage production, local food systems & community strategic planning. Mr. Jarvis is an Associate Director of the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District Board, Madison Young Farmers, Madison Farm Bureau Board, Virginia Forage & Grassland Council, Central Virginia Cattlemen Association & National Association of County Agriculture Agents.



Warren Lee

Mr. Lee was appointed an Associate Director representing Orange County in 2002. He grew up on a wheat & cattle ranch in Montana. He earned his degree in agricultural engineering at Montana State University in Bozeman & spent his entire career in the field of resource conservation, holding NRCS positions in Montana, Washington State, Colorado & Hawaii. In 1993 Lee moved to Washington, D.C. to become the Director of the Conservation Operations Division. In the mid 90's he was appointed to head a team to develop wetlands policy. The Wetland team was later combined with the Watershed Division, which Lee directed for three years. When Congress passed the National Drought Policy Act, Lee traded his flood-fighting responsibilities to become the National Drought Policy Coordinator & the Director of the Resource Inventory Division. Lee retired in 2001 & lives with his wife Barbara in the Lake of the Woods community in Orange County. He enjoys spending time with the grandchildren & on the golf course with his golfing buddies.



Steve Morris

Mr. Morris was appointed as an Associate Director in 2006 & became an appointed At-Large Director in December 2013. He was born & raised in Greene County & graduated from William Monroe High School in 1966. From 1974-1990 he worked in quality control on the construction of nuclear power plants. From 1991-2009 he raised beef cattle on 165 acres. All of the streams on the farm are fenced out from livestock & some acres are in CREP. He received the 2000 Bay Friendly Farm Award from CSWCD. His farm is now used for hay production. Mr. Morris & his wife, Sharon, have one daughter. In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, golf & muscle car restoration. Steve's farm is protected by a conservation easement. Mr. Morris was appointed to represent CSWCD on the Rivanna River Basin Commission.



Robert Runkle

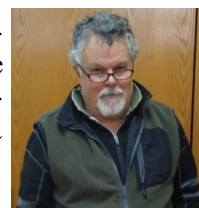
Robert Runkle was elected Director representing Greene County in 2001. His Greene County Century Farm has been family owned for over 200 years. He graduated from James Madison University with a degree in Social Studies Education and was a teacher for 31 years. He was on the committee that prepared the original Greene County Comprehensive Plan. He also served as a member of the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. He is a member of the Greene County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He is a past recipient of a CSWCD conservation award and has implemented numerous conservation practices over the years. He, and his wife, Janet, have two daughters. His hobbies include travel and reading. He serves as Chair of the Personnel Committee.



Mike Sands

Mike Sands was elected as a Director for Rappahannock County in 2019. Michael is the District's Vice-Chairperson and serves on the Technical Committee. Mike and his wife are the owner/operators of Bean Hollow Grassfed, a pasture-based sheep and cattle farm in Flint Hill, VA. The

farm practices include a number of BMPs including rotational grazing of a combined “flerd” of cattle and sheep, riparian area exclusion, and warm season native grasses. Mike was the Founding Executive Director of the Liberty Prairie Foundation in Grayslake, IL. He is now a Senior Associate with Dietel and Partners, a philanthropic consulting company.



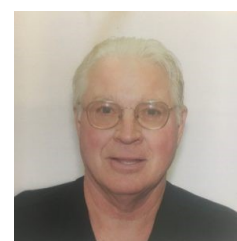
Sarah Weaver Sharpe

Sarah Weaver Sharpe joined the CSWCD Board as an Associate Director in July 2016 & assumed the role of the Appointed Extension Agent Board member in January 2017. She currently serves as the Greene County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent with a focus in local foods & horticulture. Sarah grew up in Madison County on her family's pork, beef, hay & row crop farm. She is very passionate about helping producers start businesses & break into the local foods movement as well as helping to educate consumers about how food is grown & the production methods utilized. Sarah lives in Louisa County with her husband, two daughters & two dogs.



Dennis Verhoff

Dennis Verhoff joined the CSWCD Board as an elected Director from Culpeper County in January 2020. Dennis grew up on a diversified farm in northwestern Ohio that included dairy, hogs, poultry (chickens and ducks), sheep, tomatoes, corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, alfalfa and, in the early 1950s, sugar beets. He is a graduate of the University of Dayton, the University of Pennsylvania and the Ohio State University with degrees in French, Middle Eastern Studies, Arabic and international relations. Among many other endeavors, he was an English teacher in Tunisian public schools as a member of the US Peace Corps. This was a life-changing event in so many ways. After his return to the US, in addition to continuing his education, he taught school in New Jersey, worked as a Senate aide, analyzed and developed international policy in several Washington, DC organizations and owned his own construction business. In 1995, he began an organic vegetable operation in Culpeper County and marketed his produce at farmers' markets in Charlottesville, Culpeper and the Washington, DC area. In retirement, his travels have taken him to Germany, Italy, China, South Korea, India, Morocco and Iran among other countries.



Bob Williamson

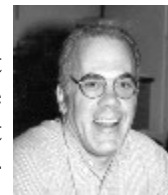
Bob Williamson was appointed as an Associate Director from Culpeper County in January 2020. Bob was born and raised on a beef cattle and burley tobacco farm near Abingdon, VA. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science, where he was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. He is married to Julie Gentleman Williamson. They have two children, Clifford and Lindsey, who are both Virginia Tech graduates. Bob and Julie are owners and operators of Step at a Time Farm, a horse boarding, breaking and training barn in Reva. Bob is retired from the USDA Farm Service Agency. He is an active 4-H volunteer and adult leader and past member of the Virginia State Extension Leadership Council. He is also an active Farm Bureau member as a Virginia State and American Farm Bureau Convention Delegate and past member of Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Political Action Committee Board of Directors.



Staff

Greg Wichelns

District Manager Greg Wichelns joined the District in January 1998 as the District Manager. He earned a BS in Ecological Agriculture from Evergreen State College & an MS in Horticulture at Washington State University. Previous to employment with the CSWCD he served as Greenhouse Facilities Manager & Staff Horticulturist for the Institute of Biological Chemistry at Washington State University.



Stevie Ross

Stevie joined the District in February 2021 as an Administrative Secretary. She grew up in Rappahannock County and studied Accounting in college. She has one daughter and together they enjoy soccer, gardening and travel.



Richard Jacobs III, P.E.

Conservation Specialist Richard Jacobs joined the Culpeper SWCD in January of 2005 as a Conservation Specialist. He attended Virginia Tech & graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Systems Engineering. He is a licensed professional engineer & certified stream monitor with Save Our Streams. He has a wonderful wife & three beautiful daughters. He is an Eagle Scout & enjoys camping, hiking & caving with his family.



Stephanie DeNicola-Turner

Education & Information Coordinator Stephanie Rose DeNicola joined the Culpeper SWCD in January 2005. She was born & raised in Queens, NY & moved to the area in 2000 to serve as an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow in Washington, DC. Stephanie earned a B.A. in English from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. Stephanie has worked at local non profit organizations that address volunteering, homelessness & domestic violence. In June 2011 Stephanie was recognized as a Certified Watershed Educator by the Virginia Departments of Education & Environmental Quality. Stephanie lives in Albemarle County with her husband & daughter.



W. Spencer Yager

Spencer Yager joined the District in September 2005 as a Conservation Specialist. Spencer was raised on his family's dairy farm. He graduated from Orange County High School, where he was very active in FFA & served as the regional vice president. He worked at Orange Madison Co-op & on the family farm while in high school & college. He graduated from North Carolina State University with an Associate's Degree in General Agriculture. Spencer worked on the family dairy & for a lumber company prior to working at the District. Spencer, his wife & their three children live in Somerset on a part of his old family farm. In his spare time, Spencer enjoys camping, hunting, fishing & watching Virginia Tech games.



David Massie

David joined the District in October 2006 as a Conservation Specialist. David was raised on his family's beef cattle farm. He was born in Charlottesville & raised in Rappahannock County. He graduated from Rappahannock County High School, where he was a 4-H All Star & an Eagle Scout. He graduated from Roanoke College in May 2006 with an Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Policy. David has worked on the family farm since he was 13. The farm is a 5th generation commercial operation that has in-



stalled CREP & various Best Management Practices. While in college, David interned at Piedmont Environmental Council & Mill Mountain Educational Park in Roanoke. In his spare time, David enjoys fishing, canoeing & working on the family farm.

Henny Calloway

Henny joined the District in April 2012 as a Conservation Specialist. She graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science. She has worked on the family horse, cattle & crop farm for many years. When she is not performing District tasks, she enjoys working on the farm or with her animals.



Amanda McCullen

Amanda McCullen joined the District in September 2016 as a Conservation Specialist. She grew up in Fauquier County on her family's farm & enjoyed participating in 4-H while growing up. She graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Christopher Newport University, with minors in Chemistry & Psychology. After college she volunteered at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, where she worked with cheetahs, black-footed ferrets & several species of endangered birds. Amanda joined Culpeper SWCD with 2 years of experience working for the Lord Fairfax SWCD in the Shenandoah Valley. She is an amateur birder, who enjoys hiking, skiing and time with friends and family.



Kendall Dellinger

Kendall Dellinger joined the District in May of 2018 as a Conservation Specialist. She grew up on her family's beef cattle farm, and was an active member and officer in both 4-H and FFA clubs. She was active in the agriculture community showing cattle, and participating in local and state livestock judging events. She was invited to participate in Governor's School for Agriculture, where her focus was Natural Resources. Kendall attended Virginia Tech where she was an active member of the Block and Bridle club, serving on the membership committee, and participated on the Virginia Tech Livestock judging team. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 2005 with an Animal Agriculture degree. Kendall and her husband live on a farm in Orange County. In her spare time she enjoys farming and spending time with her family.



Brandy Harris

Brandy Harris joined the District in August 2021 as a Conservation Specialist. She lives on a cattle and crop farm on Lake Anna that has participated in various Best Management Practices with the Culpeper and Tri-County Districts. She achieved an Applied Agricultural Management Degree from Virginia Tech in 2018 and an Agribusiness Degree with a concentration in Farm and Ranch Management from the University of Tennessee in 2022. Brandy plays an active role in Orange County Young Farmers and is a member of various Cattle Associations. She enjoys spending time on the farm, participating in water sports on Lake Anna, and traveling. Brandy is working on Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost Share program in all our member counties.



Lily Smith

Lily joined the District in September 2022 as a Conservation Specialist. She grew up in Madison County on a small farm where she showed goats in the Madison Fair, played the banjo in a bluegrass band, and participated on various sports teams. Lily attended Eastern Mennonite University where she was a member of the women's soccer team. In 2022, she received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a minor in Biology. Lily now lives in Madison with her husband, Kyle, and their dog and cat, Skye and Hickory. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, friends, animals, and time outdoors.

