

# **2014-2015**

# **Annual Report**

## **Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District**

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

## **Board of Directors**

### **Culpeper County**

Andrew Campbell  
Thomas O'Halloran, Treasurer  
Laura A. Campbell, Associate Director

### **Greene County**

Robert Brame III, Vice-Chair  
Robert Runkle  
Steve Morris, At-Large Director

### **Madison County**

Lynn Graves, Chair  
Bob Kane  
L. Brad Jarvis, Ext. Agent, At-Large  
James Byrne, Associate Director

### **Orange County**

Robert Bradford  
Alyson Sappington  
Warren Lee, Associate Director

### **Rappahannock County**

Evelyn Kerr  
Dr. Monira Rifaat  
Richard McNear, Associate Director

## **District Staff**

Greg Wichelns, District Manager  
JoAnn Neal, Administrative Secretary  
Richard Jacobs III, Conservation Specialist III  
W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist II  
David Massie, Conservation Specialist III  
Ashleigh Cason, Conservation Specialist II  
James Henshaw, District Representative  
Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist  
Stephanie DeNicola, Information/Education Coordinator

## **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Rex Rexrode, District Conservationist  
Nancy Utz, Soil Conservationist  
Geoff Moore, Area Civil Engineer Technician  
Melissa Allen, Soil Conservationist

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The Eastern View High School Envirothon team placed 2nd in the Local Envirothon, 2nd in the Area II Envirothon and 3rd in the Dominion Virginia Envirothon. From left to right: Junior Anders Blair; Senior Courtney Dalimonte, Junior Omar Elbulok; Sophomore Josie Txakeeyang; Junior Ben Ramey; Freshman Adora Txakeeyang and Sophomore Daryl Brown II. Not pictured: Coach Leslie Jones

## About Us

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) is a political subdivision 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 117,000 constituents. (according to US Census estimates)

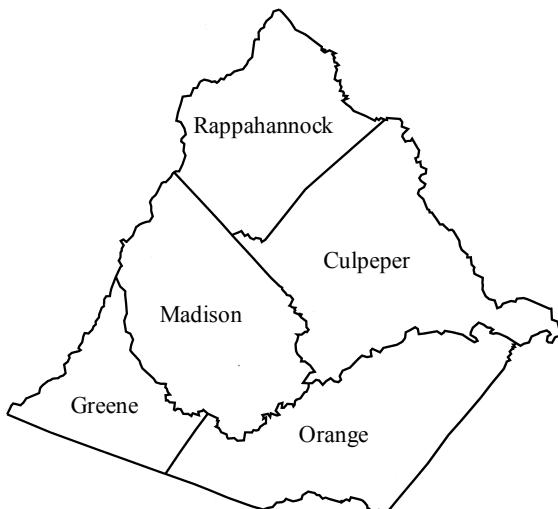
The staff consists of a District Manager, five Conservation Specialists, an Administrative Secretary, an Information/Education Coordinator and a part-time District outreach representative.

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 Cooperative Extension Agent is appointed from one of the member counties. Directors are not paid, but are locally elected officials

who help direct both the functioning of the district and the salaried district technicians who 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 9:30 AM 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 agencies with technical support 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 4 counties.

## **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 the lead state agency 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, Debbie Cross, serves as the liaison between the District and the Commonwealth. She also provides administrative assistance for the state's conservation programs and assures that there is compliance with state regulations. She 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.

## **Other Cooperating Agencies**

- Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

# **Strategic Plan**

During fiscal year 2004-2005, with the help of many local citizens and resource experts Culpeper SWCD developed its Strategic Plan for 2004 through 2008. The goals are listed below. An update to the plan commenced in 2009 and was completed in 2010. A new plan will be initiated in the coming year.

## **Goal 1: Become stronger advocates for the conservation of our natural resources at the local, state and national levels.**

1. Promote voluntary actions to minimize impacts of nonpoint source pollution.
2. Support conservation legislation that address natural resource issues of the District.
3. Inform and educate local, state and national elected representatives on conservation issues and priorities.
4. Develop regional strategies to provide protection of natural resources of the District.
5. Adopt a District plan based on common view of resource protection.

## **Goal 2: Maximize the efficiency of the District's time, talents and resources.**

1. Develop a "development plan" for the District for use in pursuing grants and private funding.
2. Educate local supervisors and clientele on the value of District services and programs.
3. Work with the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts to advocate for increased District funding.
4. Negotiate appropriate level of support for implementation of all programs.
5. Assure CSWCD personnel policies, procedures and pay schedules are in line and competitive with similar organizations.

## **Goal 3: Expand District's information and education efforts to reach the students, their parents, elected officials, land owners and operators, land developers and contractors.**

1. Work with educational institutions to include instruction on conservation of natural resources.
2. Developing on-going environmental awareness program targeting specific groups, i.e. new land owners, developers, contractors, etc.
3. Educate the public on local, state and federal policies and their interconnection.

## **Goal 4: Become more involved and proactive in addressing erosion, sedimentation and water quality issues arising from the development and management of land.**

1. Promote compliance with federal, state and local regulations.
2. Administer state programs and provide technical assistance in support of nonpoint source pollution reduction.
3. Manage and maintain small watershed dams.

## **Goal 5: Strengthen partnerships and coordinate efforts with other entities and organizations in the conservation and protection of the natural resources.**

1. Develop process to determine when and how the District gets involved in the county planning process.
2. Explore networking opportunities with non-governmental organizations.
3. Maintain and strengthen existing partnerships.

## **Accomplishments of Committees**

### **1. Technical**

- Allocated over \$2,578,506 in agricultural cost share funding to needed projects in 5 counties.
- Allocated \$38,477 in residential cost share funding to needed 85 projects in the Upper Hazel and Upper York TMDL watersheds.
- Inspected, maintained & repaired 11 watershed flood control dams in Culpeper & Madison Counties.
- Committee Chair provides input on programmatic improvements as a member of the State Agricultural Best Management Practices Advisory Committee and BMP Sub Committee.
- Reviewed 49 site plans in 5 counties and the Town of Culpeper for Erosion & Sediment Control & Stormwater Management.
- 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.
- Seeks out additional funding grants and project grants.

### **3. Education/Public Relations**

- Delivered five day-long outdoor Meaningful Watershed Experiences for over 600 students.
- Coordinated the annual awards banquet, held in November 2014.
- Trained 4 Envirothon teams year long, coordinated 3 State-wide Envirothon trainings for coaches and students and organized District-level and Area Envirothon competitions.
- Participated on the Envirothon Advisory Committee and assisted with the planning and execution of the Virginia Envirothon competition.
- Sold 25 rain barrels.
- Coordinated training for Board members on topics such as Cost Share Program Changes, Virginia Working Landscapes, Quail updates and Virginia Conservation Assistance Program
- Published 4 editions of the newsletter & 15 articles for newspapers & other newsletters.
- Recognized 5 local students with college scholarships and 4 local residents with summer camp scholarships

### **4. Legislative**

- Participated in Legislative Day in Richmond.
- Drafted CSWCD positions on conservation and 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 review and training guidance.
- Provided workload analysis and 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 2014—2015 operating budget (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) for the CSWCD was \$690,878.

### **Funding Sources**

Funding included \$178,025 in general operating funds and \$276,513 in agricultural and septic technical assistance funding from the Commonwealth; \$172,908 from member counties; \$129,397 in watershed maintenance and repair funds from the Commonwealth; and \$30,000 in other grant projects.

• Culpeper	\$55,009
• Greene	16,624
• Madison	34,397
• Orange	45,577
• Rappahannock	21,301

## **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*

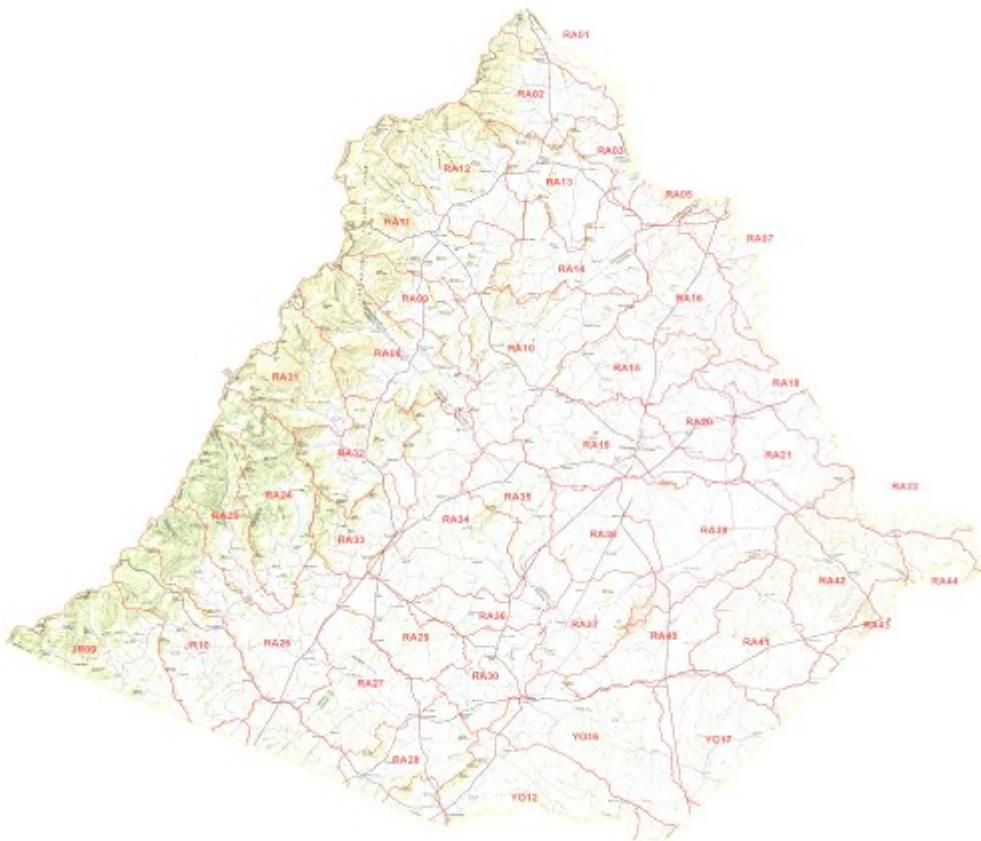
# **Technical Accomplishments**

## **Cost-Share Program**

The Culpeper SWCD locally administers the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost-Share Program. Funded with state and federal 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 and minimize the introduction of nutrients, sediments and toxins into water bodies. Sign-up for the program is on a continuous basis and eligible applicants, once approved, may receive up to 75 percent of the BMP installation cost up to \$70,000 (see next page for 100% cost share for stream exclusion projects). 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 2014-2015**

Water Body	Hydrologic Unit	County or Counties
Muddy Run	RA15	Culpeper
Hazel River ❁ Duncan Run ❁ Indian Run	RA16	Rappahannock, Culpeper
Mountain Run ❁ Hungry Run	RA19	Culpeper
Jonas Run	RA20	Culpeper
Rapidan River ❁ Garth Run	RA24	Greene
Conway River ❁ Entry Run ❁ Bull Yearling Run ❁ Henshaw Run ❁ Buckner Run ❁ South River	RA26	Greene
Beautiful Run	RA29	Madison
Rapidan River ❁ Laurel Run ❁ Poplar Run	RA30	Madison
Robinson River ❁ Shotwell Run ❁ Leathers Run ❁ Finks Run ❁ Mulatto Run ❁ Quaker Run	RA32	Madison
White Oak Run ❁ Beaver Run ❁ Glebe Run	RA33	Madison
Robinson River ❁ Deep Run	RA34	Madison
Rapidan River ❁ Great Run	RA36	Madison, Orange
Rapidan River	RA37	Culpeper, Orange
Cedar Run ❁ Buck Run ❁ Cabin Branch	RA38	Culpeper
Mountain Run ❁ Mill Run ❁ Walkers Branch	RA40	Orange



The Culpeper SWCD has 54 complete or partial hydrologic units within its boundaries.

Beginning in July 2013 the State Ag BMP program began offering 100% reimbursement on specific stream exclusion BMPs in an effort to accelerate sign up for this practice. This has resulted in nearly a four fold increase in this sign up within the District.

Cost share funds allocated for BMP installations through the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program during the 2014-2015 program year totaled \$2,578,506 (excluding the septic system cost share programs.) This included projects for 100% reimbursement. The numbers below represent the magnitude of projects waiting for funds as of June 30, 2015. This includes agriculture projects in the TMDL areas. (more information on the TMDL is on page 19).

## **2014-2015 Cost Share Funding**

- |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| • Culpeper     | \$1,627,246 (139 projects) |
| • Greene       | \$1,826,185 (35 practices) |
| • Madison      | \$1,108,102 (72 projects)  |
| • Orange       | \$2,054,783 (66 projects)  |
| • Rappahannock | \$227,778 (43 projects)    |

## **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 \$4,305.17 and were distributed as shown in the list below.

- Culpeper \$1,158.40
- Greene \$2,437.39
- Madison \$709.38

\* The District's 100% cost share for stream exclusion projects led to the reduced number of tax credits.

## **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 all five member counties (Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock) to provide plan review service for their Erosion and Sediment Control Programs. 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 49 plans reviewed during the 2014-2015: 10 in Culpeper, 10 in Town of Culpeper, 5 in Madison, 14 in Orange and 10 in Rappahannock. The complexity and scope of site plans continue to increase. These site plans include single family and private driveways over an acre plus Low Impact Development stormwater concept plans.

Site Plans Reviewed by Culpeper SWCD			
County	Reviewed	Approved	New Approved Best Management Practices
Culpeper	10	5	Bioretention (6.97 acres); Dry Swale (2.24 ac); Filter Strip (1.42 ac); Ext. Detention (5.71 ac.)
Town of Culpeper	10	4	None
Madison	5	5	None
Orange	14	11	Ext. Detention (26.2 ac.); MTD (1.53 ac.)
Rappahannock	10	9	None



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

The CSWCD relays complaints and observations regarding construction site activities to the appropriate county departments. In addition, technical and educational assistance for erosion and sediment control is provided to contractors, landowners and educators as requested.

During the fourth quarter of 2014, the District working with the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) and Thomas Jefferson Planning District to perform assessments to inventory historical stormwater management facilities in Culpeper, Greene, Madison, and Orange counties and the Town of Culpeper. The inventory is currently ongoing with a completion date of September 2015. The effort, funded by the Department of Environmental Quality, seeks to update information for Chesapeake Bay-TMDL modeling.

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.

Inventories of Best Management Practices have been taken within each of the five member counties and are compiled by major river basin. The following table depicts the amount of acreage served by each practice from January 1995 to June 2015:

<b>Watershed</b>	<b>Stormwater Control Measures and Stormwater Treatment Practices</b>	<b>Runoff Reduction Practices</b>
James	Detention Basin (127.8 acres); Wet Pond (946.1 ac); Ext. Detention (5.6 ac); Manufactured Filters (1.7 ac)	Bioretention (56.3 ac); Infiltration (153 acre)
Rappahannock	Detention Basin (1792.7 ac); Ext. Detention (679.7 ac); Wet Pond (980.4 ac); Manufactured Filters (12.83 ac.)	Infiltration (49.2 ac); Bioretention (75.6 ac); Wetland (38.2 ac); Filter Strip (43.5 ac); Green Roof (9 ac); Permeable Pave (2.4 ac); Grass Channel (21.9 ac.); Dry Swale (4.34 ac)
York	Detention Basin (258 ac); Ext. Detention (29 ac.); Wet Pond (106 ac); Sediment Basin (79.6 ac)	Infiltration (2.2 ac); Bioretention (3.3 ac.); Grass Channel (0.25 ac.); Porous Pave (0.1 ac.)



Figure 2: Bioretention Basin for the Farm Credit in Culpeper County

## **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 40 years ago to help control the extensive damage caused by flooding and sedimentation. This law gave the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) the power to work cooperatively with local governing bodies to construct and maintain dams throughout our country.

In the 1960s, the USDA and the 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 with inspection assistance from the District. Lake Pelham in Culpeper County and White Oak Reservoir in Madison County also serve as water supply reservoirs.

The Culpeper SWCD spent \$123,590 during the 2014—2015 fiscal year for restoring embankment shorelines, installing filter drains, mowing, weed control, fertilizer application, liming and fencing. Maintenance contracts are offered annually and are awarded by sealed bid.

Operation and maintenance are 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



Reconstruction of shoreline embankment at Caynor dam Culpeper County 2015

## **PL-566 Dams Within the CSWCD**

<b>Dam ID</b>	<b>Watershed</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Normal Surface Area (Acres)</b>	<b>Drainage Area (miles<sup>2</sup>)</b>
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	3.2	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 were 2 ASA complaints in fiscal year 2014-2015 in the District. One was unfounded. The founded complaint required the landowner to developed Agricultural Stewardship Plans that was approved.

## **USDA Farm Bill Programs**

Administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service, the following programs all provide financial incentives through multiple-year contracts to agricultural producers for the stewardship of natural resources. The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) also provide financial assistance.

**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.)

**CRP-Grasslands** is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land that is not farmed or ranched can have conservation benefits. Participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species to control soil erosion.

**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 streams, 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.

**EQIP** is available for farmers who face threats to soil, water and related natural resources. It offers 1 to 5-year contracts to landowners and farmers who are engaged in

livestock or agricultural production. Applications achieving the most environmental benefits are ranked higher and will be funded first. Cost share assistance and/or incentive payments are available.

**EQIP-RCPP** funds fencing projects similar to the SL-6 practice under the Virginia BMP Program.

**RT** encourages the development, management and protection of non-industrial private forest lands in the state through cost-share for site preparation and tree planting, and improvement of existing stands of trees. Practices are directed toward the production of soft and hard wood timber.

**ECP** shares with agricultural producers the cost of rehabilitating eligible farmlands damaged by natural disaster and provides emergency water assistance for livestock and existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards during severe drought.

**CSP** is a voluntary program that encourages producers to address resource concerns by undertaking additional conservation activities & improving & maintaining existing conservation systems. CSP provides financial & technical assistance to help land stewards conserve and enhance natural resources on their land.

**RCPP-Forestry** is offered in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Forestry and offers landowners an opportunity to help establish and maintain the forestlands that are fundamental to clean air and water, wildlife habitat and recreation/tourism.

## **2014-2015 USDA Conservation Incentive Programs**

NRCS developed 173 farm conservation plans during the year as follows:

- Culpeper 57
- Greene 31
- Madison 30
- Orange 32
- Rappahannock 23



Photo: Cover crop planting of tillage radish, a growing trend to improve soil porosity



Photo: Rotational grazing and stream protection to improve forage quality and herd health in addition to water quality

## **Cost Share Program Establishes Habitat for Quail**

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is partnering with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to work with landowners to establish habitat for the Northern Bobwhite Quail. The Culpeper District is one of six conservation Districts across the Commonwealth that were selected to be part of the Quail and Early Succession Wildlife Focus Areas. The Bobwhite Quail population has experienced severe long-term declines in Virginia over the past 50 years, primarily due to major land use changes and loss of early succession habitat. The bobwhite is a legacy species in Virginia and their decline has led to concerns about ecological and recreational impacts throughout rural Virginia. The goal of the Quail Action Plan is to identify areas to focus habitat management and cost-share funding in the District, with the ultimate goal of improving quail populations in our region. For more information, contact the District office at 540-825-8591.

The State Cost Share program ended June 30, 2015. Landowners now can receive technical assistance and cost share through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) from NRCS or from the Virginia Department of Forestry for forestry practices.

<b>Quail Habitat Cost Share Allocated 2010-2015</b>		
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Landowners</b>	<b>Value</b>
WL-1 (Field borders)	15	\$24,082.50
WL-2 (Idle land)	7	\$18,705.00
WL-3 (Fescue conversion)	20	\$150,210.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$192,997.50</b>



## **TMDL Implementation Continue in Two Watersheds**

In addressing the TMDL Implementation Plans for the Upper Hazel River watershed in Rappahan-nock, Madison and Culpeper Counties, and the Upper York watershed in Orange County, the De-partment of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Ag-ricultural Best Management Practices TMDL Cost Share Program continue to include both a higher cost share rate for stream practices and specification flexibility for exclusion of livestock from streams. Along with the 35 foot setback required under standard fencing specifications, producers in the TMDL area can receive 85% cost share or have 10 foot setback can be selected and producers receive 50% cost share. The 85% cost share practices are also eligible for the 100% reimbursements currently being offered through the regular state cost share program. In addition, the District also continued to offer 50-75% cost share for septic system inspections, pumpouts, repair and replace-ment. There has been expanded outreach in the TMDL area through signs, meetings and mailings. Agricultural cost share allocated in the Upper Hazel TMDL was reported on page 11.

<b>Upper Hazel River</b>		
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	28	\$4,180.00
Septic repair (RB3)	5	\$6,196.52
Septic replacement (RB4)	1	\$2,950.00
Septic replacement (RB4P)	1	\$4,500.00
Engineered system (RB5)	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>\$17,826.52</b>

<b>Upper York River</b>		
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	42	\$5,950
Septic repair (RB3)	5	\$3,450
Septic replacement (RB4)	2	\$6,750
Septic replacement (RB4P)	1	\$4,500
Engineered system (RB5)	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$20,650</b>

# **Education**

## **Youth Education Programs**

The District sponsored or participated in the following events:

### **2014-2015 Envirothon**

The District trained 3 Envirothon teams: 2 teams at Eastern View High School in Culpeper County and 1 at Wakefield Country Day School in Rappahannock County. Following a local competition, the Eastern View A and Wakefield earned spots to the Area II Envirothon, competing against students from 15 localities. The Eastern View Team A placed 2nd at the Area competition, which entitled them to a spot at the statewide Dominion Virginia Envirothon where the team placed 3rd overall. The District sponsored a local competition in Orange County and helped to organize and execute the Area and State competitions. The District also coordinated 3 State-wide Envirothon trainings — one at Eastern View High School and 2 at Graves Mountain Lodge. Over 300 students and coaches attended these trainings.

### **6th Grade Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE)**

Held on the banks of the Rose River at Graves Mountain Lodge in April 2015, 300 students from Greene County's William Monroe Middle School engaged in hands-on activities to learn about stream-bottom-dwelling macro-invertebrates, physical testing and chemical testing of water in the river and in a pond and plant identification. Personnel from Culpeper SWCD, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Natural Resources Conservation Service as well as volunteers from the Old Rag Master Naturalists (ORMN) worked together to facilitate a variety of activities. The District also coordinated a MWEE for 200 sixth grade students from Wetsel Middle School in Madison, 100 students from Rappahannock schools and 25 students from Grymes Memorial School in Orange.

### **Presentations at Local Schools**

Hands on, SOL-based activities were made at a number of local schools on conservation topics throughout the District including Culpeper Middle School, Eastern View High School, Orange Elementary School, Locust Grove Middle School, Yowell Elementary School, Pearl Sample Elementary School, Locust Grove Elementary School, Lightfoot Elementary School, Rappahannock County Elementary School, Nathaniel Greene Elementary School, Waverly Yowell Elementary School and Wakefield Country Day School. Over 3,500 students within the District participated in a classroom activity and/or field days with District staff.



The 2015 Eastern View High School Envirothon team at the State Competition



A 6th grade student from William Monroe MS shows a macroinvertebrate caught at the biological monitoring station at the Rapidan River MWEE

## **Professional Education**

CSWCD staff made presentations to adults throughout the five-county area. The District sponsored or participated in the following events:

- Orange & Madison Field Days
- Beef Conservation Field Day
- North Piedmont Research Station Field Day
- Central Virginia Beef Educational Field Day and Sale
- Orange-Madison Cooperative Field Day
- Virginia Forage and Grasslands Conference
- DCR Farm Tour and Basin Awards Presentation

**Virginia Master Naturalist Program:** District staff taught the water quality class for 25 new Master Naturalists. Master Naturalists are required to earn volunteer hours through conservation activities with certifying organizations such as the District.

**Professional Development for Teachers:** District staff held professional development sessions for local teachers from Culpeper, Orange and Rappahannock Counties. Twenty-five teachers received 2 credit hours each.

**Piedmont Dog & Pony Expo:** Culpeper SWCD had a display and talked to over 200 people about small acreage grazing practices for horse owners.

**Mountain to the Bay Watershed Academy:** Culpeper SWCD became a contractor on this NOAA-funded grant, which provides 80 hours of instruction over 4 weekends to interdisciplinary teams of teachers from the Rappahannock and York River watersheds. This grant focusses on school districts with 2 middle schools or less. To date, 35 teachers have completed the program. Thirty-two teachers are participating this school year.

## **Staff Continuing Education Programs**

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

Greg Wichelns, District Manager:

- Resource Management Plan training
- DEQ TMDL Grant Program Administration training
- VRS Administration
- Virginia Public Records Act Training

Joann Neal, Administrative Assistant

- 2015 Virginia Cost Share Programs training
- Record Retention
- Virginia Retirement System
- Virginia Local Disability Program
- Quick Books

Richard Jacobs III, Conservation Specialist

- DEQ BMP Refresher Course for Inspectors
- DEQ Review of Stormwater Management Plans using Part IIC
- DEQ Integration of the ESC and VSM programs
- CADD Microsystems Online AutoCAD 2015 Introduction
- VCE Turf Management Workshop
- VASWCDE Landscape for Life
- VASWCDE Stream Crossing & Water Systems
- DCR NMP training
- VCE Urban Nutrient Management Planner Update

Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Communications Specialist

- Landscape for Life
- Healthy Water, Healthy People
- National Science Teachers Association conference
- Woods and Wildlife conference
- Envirothon 2016: Introduction to Invasive Species

David Massie, Conservation Specialist

- Central VA Beef and Educational Field Day and Sale
- Graves Mountain Lodge Annual Training
- Rappahannock Farm Bureau Dinner
- CFC Beef Producers Chili Dinner
- SWCD Annual Meeting
- VFGC Winter Forage Conference
- 2016 Program Year Updates and Tracking Issues
- VFGC Summer Field Day

## **Staff Continuing Education Programs**

W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist

- Pasture Management
- Forage Conference
- RMP TRC training
- Hay Showcase
- VACS Training
- RMP Module
- Conservation Planning
- Graves VACDE Training
- VASWCD Annual Meeting

Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist

- Erosion and Sediment Control Combined Administrator Certification
- Stormwater Management Combined Administrator Certification
- Cultural Resources Modules 7&8 Certification
- Stormwater Management Plan Reviewer Certification
- RUSLE 2 Certification
- Effective Presentations and Instruction
- Soils in Relationship to BMP Practices
- Engineering as it relates to SL-6 Stream Crossings and Water Source Development
- VFGC 2015 Winter Forage Conference
- Virginia Water Protection Permit Meeting
- Civil Rights - JED Training
- 2016 Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program Training

Ashleigh Cason

- Environmental Compliance for Conservation Assistance
- Cultural Resources Training
- Introduction to the Field Office Technical Guide
- Introduction to Water Quality
- Prescribed Burn Awareness Training
- FY 2014 & 2015 USDA Information Security Awareness Training
- 2015 Cost Share Programs Training

## **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, and links to other informative and educational websites at [www.culpeperswcd.org](http://www.culpeperswcd.org).
- **Quarterly Newsletter:** The seasonal 12-page newsletter is sent to landowners in our member counties that receive land use tax benefits.
- **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, as well as a Watershed Awareness display. We take these exhibits to county fairs, agriculture-expo events, educational conferences and annual meetings. Conservation publications are offered to the public free-of-charge.
- **Literature racks:** Racks with conservation related brochures are in county libraries and planning offices.

**College Scholarships:** Four students from the Culpeper District were awarded academic scholarships based on academic standing, demonstrated interest in conservation, leadership and involvement. All of this year's recipients received \$1,000 and will begin Virginia Tech in the fall. Eastern View High School graduate Courtney Dalimonte received the John Boldridge Honorary Scholarship to study Biosystems Engineering. William Monroe High School graduate Anthony Houchens received a scholarship to major in agricultural technology. Madison County High School graduate Rebekah Broyles received a scholarship to study in Biosystems Engineering. Orange County High School graduate Cole Reeves received a scholarship to study fisheries.

All of the students received high accolades from teachers and other mentors for contributions above and beyond the requirements of the high school curriculum.

**Summer Camps:** Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District chose five students to attend summer camp. Noah Mazuch of Eastern View High School and Philip Hall of William Monroe High School represented the District at Forestry Camp at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox. Trevor Haldeman and Jessica Ryals of Culpeper County High School represented the District at Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech.

**Heritage Day:** On April 4, 2015, the District joined other private, State, and Federal natural resource organizations at Graves Mountain Lodge for the 4th Annual Heritage Day. Graves Mountain Lodge expanded the program to include wildlife exhibits, a benthic macroinvertebrates station and our soil tunnel exhibit. The primary focus of the event was to educate children (and some adults) about fishing, wildlife and natural resources. Over 300 people attended the event.

Staff attend various agriculture producer meetings of Virginia Cooperative Extension, Central Virginia Cattlemen's Association and others to engage outreach opportunities.

## **Outdoor Classrooms**

### **Pearl Sample Elementary School Rain Garden:**

In November 2014, the District with funding from the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) assisted with the installation of a Rain Garden for Pearl Sample Elementary School in Culpeper County. The Rain Garden is a landscaped feature that improves water quality and provides opportunities to conduct field studies outside of the classroom. The Rain Garden was planted with native species for pollinators.

### **Gordon-Barbour Elementary School Headstart Tree Planting:**

In November 2014, the District with funding from the Department of Forestry and sponsored by VCAP assisted with the planting of 68 hardwood trees in a wet area behind the Headstart building at Gordon-Barbour Elementary School in Gordonsville.

### **Prospects Heights Middle School Turf Conversion:**

In May 2015, the District with funding from the York River Roundtable and sponsored by VCAP assisted with the planting of 40 hardwood trees, 900 native plants and converting 1 acre of turf to a native meadow at Prospects Heights Middle School in Orange.



**Above left:** Pearl Sample Elementary School **Above right:** Prospect Heights Middle School

Below: Gordon-Barbour Elementary School Head Start parents and students plant 68 trees with guidance from Forester Jack Kauffman.



## 2014 Conservation Awards

The annual Conservation Awards dinner was held on November 6, 2014 in Culpeper to honor residents who have demonstrated leadership in the stewardship of local soil and water resources.

The **Bay Friendly 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 Bay Friendly Farm Awards were:

- Culpeper County, *Grassroots Livestock*, **Al & Susan Caldwell**
- Greene County, **Alvin Chapman**
- Madison County, *RET Farms LLC & Riveredge Farms LLC*, **Ron Trzcinski**
- Orange County, *Bloomsbury Farms*, **Hon. Helen Marie Taylor**
- Rappahannock County, **Rick & Dorothy Lessard**

The **Conservationist of the Year Award** is given to an individual or individuals who demonstrate outstanding leadership, hard work and investment in conservation practices that protect the quality of soil and water in the Culpeper District. This year's award was presented to **Robert Bradford** for exemplary conservation practices in **Orange** County.

The 2014 **Educator of the Year** was presented to **Kristine Jarvis** of Madison County.

The 2014 **Forestry Award** was given to **Stephen & Annette Willis** of **Rappahannock County**.

The 2014 **Wildlife Habitat Award** was given to **William & Ann Tidball** of **Madison County**.



## **Board of Directors**

Soil & Water Conservation District directors are the local, legislatively mandated protectors and managers of natural resources. They are not public employees and receive no salary. They work as volunteers to identify local conservation needs, represent local citizens in conservation issues, educate others about conservation issues and programs, and work with local, state and 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, and local state and national legislative processes. They also find it useful to develop skills such as leadership, personnel management, public speaking, negotiation and fiscal management.

### **Lynn Graves, Chair**

Lynn Graves joined the CSWCD board in 2005 to represent Madison County. Mr. Graves graduated from Virginia Tech in 1995, where he was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity (National Agriculture Fraternity). He has been a member of the Virginia Apple Growers Association Board and the Virginia State Apple Board since 2000. Mr. Graves and his family own and operate Graves Mountain Lodge and Farm, located on the Rose River. The Lodge and Farm operates a cannery that produces over 35 different jams and jellies, along with apple butter. The Lodge also operates a 100 cow-calf operation, 100 acres of apples and 8 acres of peaches. The Lodge does school tours for 7,000 school children annually to promote agriculture. Mr. Graves is married to his wife, Tricia. They have 2 children, Amelia and Cole. The Graves family have been living in the Syria area for over 5 generations.



### **Robert Brame III, Vice- Chair**

Bob Brame grew up on a working farm in Western Kentucky. His father was an early practitioner of soil conservation and promoter of wildlife habitat. Following his graduation from Yale Law School, he moved to Virginia. After practicing law with a large firm in Richmond for almost 25 years, he bought a home and small acreage in Greene County. In 1997, he was appointed to a three year term as a Member of the National Labor Relations Board in Washington. He maintained his home in Virginia, and after returning to his former practice, he was elected a Greene County Director in 2007 and 2011. He retired from the practice of law in 2014, sold his family farm in Kentucky and bought a soon-to-be cattle farm near Gordonsville, in Orange Country. He is actively involved in its operations and implementing a range of conservation practices with the assistance of our District staff, DCR and NRCS. Bob and His wife, Jane, have five children and seven grandchildren. Mr. Brame received the 2014 Watershed Connections Award from the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for his outstanding commitments to watershed management issues in the Rappahannock River Basin. He is Chair of Area II.



### **Thomas O'Halloran, Treasurer**

Tom O'Halloran was born and raised in Culpeper and graduated from Culpeper County High School in 1963. He received a degree in engineering from Virginia Tech. He 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 and a daughter plus 3 grandchildren. His hobbies include motorcycle riding and reading. He is vice chairman of the Ag/



Forestal Advisory Committee, is on the Extension Leadership Council and is a director of the Virginia Farm Direct Marketing Association, past president of the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association and 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 CSWCD on the Rappahannock River Basin Commission.

### **Robert Bradford**

Mr. Bradford was elected a Director in 1996 after serving as an Associate Director for three years. He lives in Orange County with his wife, Virginia, and his daughter Stella. He owns and operates a beef cattle operation and has been a building contractor specializing in renovations. He is very supportive of BMPs and water quality and has an active roof water collection system on his farm. Mr. Bradford received the 2005 Watershed Connections Award from the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for his outstanding commitments to watershed management issues in the Rappahannock River Basin. Mr. Bradford's activity as Director includes Technical Committee Chair.



### **James G. Byrne**

Mr. Byrne served as a Director representing Madison County from 1994 to December 2011. He retired from the USDA Forest Service, having worked in all 33 eastern states and Puerto Rico. Mr. Byrne spent five years as a Soil Scientist, five years as Watershed Manager, four years as an Ecologist, eight years in Forest Resource Planning, and eight years as Air Resources Manager. He served as District Chairman for three years. He was active with watershed issues on the Rappahannock River Basin Commission and served as Chairman of the Rappahannock Conservation Council. Mr. Byrne received the 1998 Watershed Connections Award from the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for his outstanding commitments to watershed management issues in the Rappahannock River Basin. He is currently the Past President of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and in 2004 was given the R. E "Bobby" Wilkerson award for significant contributions to the advancement of the Association. Mr. Byrne became an Associate Director in January 2012. He owns and operates a cow-calf beef operation in Madison County.



### **Andrew Campbell**

Andrew Campbell began his term as an elected Director representing Culpeper County in January 2012. Andrew was raised in Culpeper on Croftburn Farm. While growing up he was active in 4-H and helped on his family's black angus and sheep farm. He received a Bachelor's degree in American Studies and Economics from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. After college he worked in a law firm as well as teaching skiing in Colorado before returning to Culpeper. He owns and operates Croftburn Market, a local butcher shop where he makes sausages and sells meats. He enjoys participating in triathlons.

### **Laura Ann Stevenson Campbell**

Mrs. Campbell was an elected Director from 1990 through 2011, serving on several committees. Though now 'retired', she ran long-established herd of Black Angus cattle, as well as sheep, at Croftburn Farm in Culpeper County. Her daughters Meg and Desy carry on the tradition. Mrs. Campbell received a BA from Smith College and an MLS from Villanova University. She studied botany at The Barnes Arboretum. She was active in the League of Women Voters in Pennsylvania and in Virginia - Farm Bureau, Young Farmers. Her interests include trees, open space, farming and land use. She is also an



avid traveler, photographer, and gardener. Locally, in 1998, she received the Northern District Outstanding Forage Producer Award in Culpeper County. In 2006, Mrs. Campbell was recognized by the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts by the Watershed Connections Award. In 2010, the Culpeper County Chamber of Commerce presented the Agribusiness Award to the Campbell family. Mrs. Campbell became an Associate Director of the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation Board in January 2012.

### **L. Brad Jarvis**

Brad Jarvis is the Extension Agent, Agriculture for Virginia Cooperative Extension in Madison County. He received his degrees in Animal Science and Extension Education from Virginia Tech in 1987. Over his 25 year Extension career, he has worked with farmers, agri-business and community leaders to disseminate researched based information and developed educational programs in agricultural production and sustainability with an emphasis on nutrient management planning, cover crops, integrated pest management, commercial fruit production, forage production, local food systems and community strategic planning. Mr. Jarvis is a member of the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District Board, Madison Young Farmers, Madison Farm Bureau Board, Virginia Forage and Grassland Council, Central Virginia Cattlemen Association and National Association of County Agriculture Agents.



### **Bob Kane**

Mr. Kane began his term as an elected Madison County Director in January 2012. Bob grew up in New England's Connecticut River Valley and earned his Chemical Engineering degrees from the University of Massachusetts. His early career was spent working in the process industries. After a five-year stint at the Department of Energy, he founded a Washington, DC advocacy firm representing farm cooperative petroleum refiners. Mr. Kane acquired Runnymede Farm in 1987 and ran a stocker operation there for many years. He is a past director of the Culpeper-Madison Feeder Cattle Association and was designated a Forest Steward by the Department of Forestry in 1993. In 2011, Runnymede earned the District's Clean Water Farm Award. Bob and Jean Kane have two children and five grandchildren and all are enthusiastic UVA fans.



### **Evelyn Kerr**

Evelyn began her term as an elected Director in January 2012. She was raised in Maryland, where she learned, first-hand, the environmental threats to the Chesapeake Bay. At an early age, a love of the land was nurtured by her paternal grandmother, who, after losing her husband, fed her family of four by farming acres in West Virginia. Evelyn's father, also an avid farmer and conservationist, was an early member of the Izaak Walton League. Evelyn was a flight attendant for American Airlines for 13 years and served as an executive assistant to the president of two organizations. While her children were in college, she completed an Associate's Degree in Arts and Sciences. Evelyn and her husband, David, have lived in Rappahannock County for over 26 years and have three children and eleven grandchildren. They have been members of St. Peter's Catholic Church for over 26 years, where she has volunteered and served as a religious educator. Evelyn is a Board member of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, the Legislative Chair for the Shenandoah Garden Club District, and is the current Vice-President of the Academy of Gardeners. Evelyn relishes the two "G's" in her life -- grandchildren and gardening.



### **Warren Lee**

Mr. Lee was appointed an Associate Director for Orange County in 2002. He grew up on a wheat and cattle ranch in Montana. He earned his degree in agricultural engineering at Montana State University in Bozeman and spent his entire career in the field of natural resource conservation. He served in many capacities at the county, area, state and national levels. Lee retired in 2001 to the Lake of the Woods in Orange County, Virginia where he resides with his wife Barbara.



### **Richard McNear**

Mr. McNear graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point and received an MS in engineering from Purdue University. Before serving with the CSWCD, he was a major with the US Army Corps of Engineers for ten years and director of Planning and Zoning in Fauquier County for twenty years. The father of three daughters, he currently raises beef cattle and horses at his farm in Gid Brown Hollow in Rappahannock County where he lives with his wife, Jeanie. He has also taught Comprehensive Planning and Zoning at the University of Virginia, won a Fauquier County Citizen of the Year Award, served as a board member of the Rappahannock County Farmer's Association and the Piedmont Environmental Council, and been recognized by the Virginia General Assembly for outstanding contributions to planning in Virginia.



### **Steve Morris**

Mr. Morris was appointed as an Associate Director in 2006 and became an appointed At-Large Director in December 2013. He was born and raised in Greene County and 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 and 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 and his wife, Sharon, have one daughter. In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, golf and muscle car restoration



### **Dr. Monira Rifaat**

Dr. Rifaat was appointed as an Associate Director in 2002 and became a Director representing Rappahannock County in February 2003. She has since been reelected to continue to represent Rappahannock County on the Board of Directors. Since 1987 Dr. Rifaat has owned and operated a cow/calf operation on Manor Farm in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Sperryville, VA. The Cattle are managed by a rotational grazing program and a health program based on strict grass grazing. Manor Farm has completed several conservation projects protecting most of the streams on the farm with stream fencing and the planting of hardwood buffers. The entire farm is placed in a conservation easement with the Virginia outdoor Foundation. The Culpeper SWCD recognized the conservation practices on Manor Farm in 1992 by presenting Dr. Rifaat with the Clean Water Farm Award. Dr. Rifaat received the 2013 Watershed Connections Award from the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for his outstanding commitments to watershed management issues in the Rappahannock River Basin. Dr. Rifaat is the chair of the Legislative Committee and has served as Chair of the District and Area II.



**Robert Runkle**

Mr. Runkle was elected Director representing Greene County in 2001. He resides on and operates the Greene County farm that has been in his family for over 200 years. He graduated from James Madison University with a BS in Social Studies Education and was a teacher for 31 years. Mr. Runkle was on the committee which prepared the original Greene County Comprehensive Plan, served on the Planning Commission, has been on the Board of Zoning Appeals since 1993, and is a member of the Greene County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He won a conservation award from the CSWCD in the 1980's and has employed numerous conservation practices on his grazing land over the years. Mr. Runkle and his wife Janet have two daughters. His hobbies include travel and reading. Mr. Runkle serves as Chair of the Personnel Committee.

**Alyson Sappington**

Alyson Sappington was elected as a Director representing Orange County in November 2007. She is District Manager of the five-locality Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, which covers Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa, and Nelson Counties and the City of Charlottesville. Alyson received a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from Rutgers University and a Master of Science in Natural Resource Economics from Virginia Tech. She spent a year in the VISTA Program (Volunteers In Service To America) in New Mexico working in farm marketing for Pueblo Indian Reservations. She has also worked for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and for Southern States Cooperative. On a personal note, Alyson has two grown children and lives with her husband on a small farm in the Barboursville area where they operate a saw mill and dry kiln.



# Staff

## **Greg Wichelns**

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



## **JoAnn Neal**

Administrative Secretary JoAnn Neal started working for the District in May of 2003. She was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, developing a love of the land and nature spending summers on her grandparents' farm in the Ohio countryside. JoAnn studied Business Administration at Germanna Community College and underwent extensive training in computer programming and systems analysis with IBM. She worked for many years as a Programmer and Systems Analyst with Rental Uniform Service in Culpeper and the Culpeper Farmer's Coop. She also served as the Database Administrator for Communications Corporation of America in Boston, Virginia, and was the Office Manager and Administrative Assistant for the Culpeper Country Club. In 1985 she worked with her husband Greaner to turn their interest and experience in organic gardening into the Boston Spice and Tea Company, a small business growing and selling culinary herb products. JoAnn's hobbies include kayaking, hiking and just "being in the outdoors." They have two daughters, Carly and Logyn. In 2014 JoAnn was recognized as Conservationist of the Year by the Virginia Soil and Water Society.



## **Richard Jacobs III**

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



## **Stephanie DeNicola-Turner**

Education and Information Coordinator Stephanie Rose DeNicola joined the Culpeper SWCD in January 2005. She was born and raised in Queens, NY and 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 and domestic violence. In addition, Stephanie has trained for and participated in 2 marathons for the Arthritis Foundation, the 2001 Honolulu Marathon and the 2002 Bermuda Half-Marathon, while raising over \$10,000 combined for the organization. In her spare time, she is a patient success story for Johnson & Johnson. In June 2011 Stephanie was recognized as a Certified Watershed Educator by the Virginia Departments of Education and Environmental Quality. Stephanie lives in Albemarle County with her husband and daughter.



### **W. Spencer Yager**

Spencer Yager joined the District as a Conservation Specialist in September 2005. He graduated from North Carolina State University with an Associate's Degree in General Agriculture. Spencer was raised on his family's dairy farm. He graduated from Orange County High School, where he was very active in FFA and served as the regional vice president. He worked at Orange Madison Co-op and on the family farm while in high school and college. Spencer worked on the family dairy and for a lumber company prior to working at the District. Spencer, his wife and their three children live in Somerset on a part of his family's farm. In his spare time, Spencer enjoys camping, hunting, fishing and watching Virginia Tech games. In 2014 Spencer was recognized as Conservationist of the Year by the Virginia Soil and Water Society.



### **James Henshaw**

Jimmy joined District in October 2005 as a District Representative. Jimmy was born and raised in Greene County. He received The Governor's Model Clean Water Farm Award in 1992. He spent 4 years in the Air Force before marrying his wife of 30 years, Gayle. His farm currently has beef cattle, although he has had hogs and sheep in the past. He has fenced all of the streams on the property he owns, and most of the streams on the land he rents. He is a past member of Culpeper SWCD board, Greene County School Board, Greene County Board of Supervisors and the Greene County Social Services board. Jimmy and his wife enjoy spending time with their 3 daughters and grandchildren. In 2014 James was recognized as Conservationist of the Year by the Virginia Soil and Water Society.



### **David Massie**

David joined District in October 2006 as a Conservation Specialist. David was raised on his family's beef cattle farm, which is a 5th generation commercial beef cattle and hay operation that has installed various BMPs. He was born in Charlottesville and raised in Rappahannock County. He graduated from Roanoke College in May 2006 with an Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Policy. While in college, David interned at Piedmont Environmental Council & Mill Mountain Educational Park in Roanoke. In his spare time, David enjoys fishing, canoeing and working on the family farm. In 2014 David was recognized as Conservationist of the Year by the Virginia Soil and Water Society.



### **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 and crop farm for many years. When she is not performing District tasks, she enjoys working on the farm or with her animals.

### **Ashleigh Cason**

Ashleigh joined the District in September 2014 as a Conservation Specialist for the TMDL areas. Ashleigh was raised in Greene County and graduated from William Monroe High School in 2008. While in high school, she worked on a farm in Free Union. Her work on the farm instilled an interest in agronomy. Ashleigh graduated from Virginia Tech in 2012 with a Bachelor's Degree in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences and a minor in Animal and Poultry Sciences. Ashleigh serves on the Farm Bureau Board of Directors in Greene County as the Young Farmer Chair. She lives in Greene County with her husband Jeff. They enjoy hiking, fishing and being with family.

