

2015-2016 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

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Rappahannock County

Mike Peterson
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David Massie, Conservation Specialist III
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Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist II
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EJ Burke, Contract 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

John Jeffries, ACES

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The Eastern View High School Envirothon team from Culpeper County placed 1st in the Local Envirothon, 2nd in the Area II Envirothon and 3rd in the Dominion Virginia Envirothon. From left to right: Seniors Daryl Brown II and Mitchell Luckinbill; Junior Josie Txakeeyang; and Seniors Phillip Gros and Omar Elbulok; 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, six Conservation Specialists, an Administrative Secretary, an Information/Education Coordinator and a part-time District outreach representative.

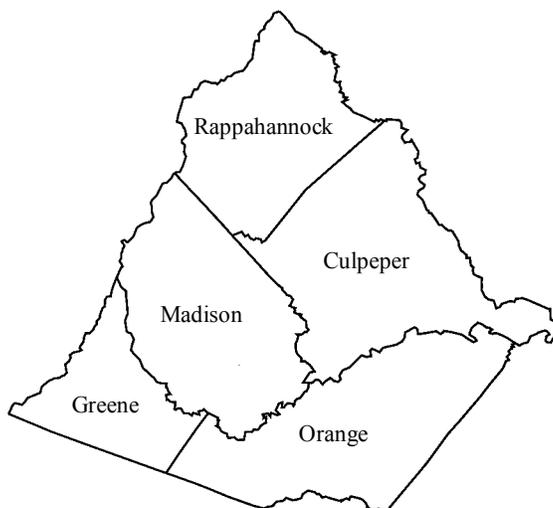
A 12-member Board of Directors governs the District. Each of the five counties within the District elects two members in the general election, one member is appointed at large and a Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent from one of the member counties is appointed by Virginia Tech. Directors are not paid, 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 pro-

gram 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 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 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 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 was established by the General Assembly to help guide the delivery of soil and water conservation services to citizens of the Commonwealth. The board's responsibilities include oversight and support of Virginia's soil and water conservation districts and 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; 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, other programs 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 Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF)

DGIF 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, 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 policy around the Commonwealth. The Culpeper SWCD holds one of the two seats reserved for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This role on the VRUEC allowed Culpeper staff to participate in a NOAA Education grant and have a role in statewide environmental education policy.

Accomplishments of Committees

1. Technical

- Allocated over \$3,355,720 in agricultural cost share funding to needed projects in 5 counties.
- Allocated \$95,500 in residential cost share funding to 203 needed projects in the Upper Hazel, Robinson and Upper York TMDL watersheds.
- Inspected, maintained & repaired 11 watershed flood control dams in Culpeper & Madison Counties.
- Committee Chair provided 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 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 six, day-long, outdoor Meaningful Watershed Experiences for over 700 students.
- Coordinated the annual awards banquet, held in November 2015.
- 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 30 rain barrels and over 3,000 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 newsletter & 10 articles for newspapers & other newsletters.
- Recognized 5 local students with college scholarships and 2 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 reviews 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 2015—2016 operating budget (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) for the CSWCD was \$737,575.

Funding Sources

Funding included \$178,025 in general operating funds and \$328,548 in agricultural and septic technical assistance funding from the Commonwealth; \$196,802 from member counties; \$80,000 in watershed maintenance and repair funds from the Commonwealth; and \$46,100 in other grant projects.

- Culpeper \$57,005
- Greene 18,421
- Madison 40,035
- Orange 61,666
- Rappahannock 19,675

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, 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 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 2015-2016

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. Eligibility for that signup ended on June 30, 2015 although a \$5-\$6 million backlog exists.

Cost share funds allocated for BMP installations through the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program during the 2015-2016 program year totaled **\$3,355,720** (excluding the septic system cost share programs.) This included projects for 100% reimbursement, not including the above referenced back log.

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 **\$42,662** and were distributed as shown in the list below.

- Culpeper \$6,450 (7 landowners)
- Greene \$4,562 (5 landowners)
- Madison \$7,520 (9 landowners)
- Orange \$6,280 (5 landowners)
- Rappahannock \$17,850 (3 landowners)

* 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 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 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 49 plans reviewed during the 2015-2016: 17 in Culpeper, 10 in Town of Culpeper, 7 in Madison, 12 in Orange and 3 in Rappahannock. These site plans include single family and private driveways over an acre.

Site Plans Reviewed by Culpeper SWCD			
County	Reviewed	Approved	Stormwater Management Facilities Approved
Culpeper	17	15	14 facilities
Town of Culpeper	10	8	11 facilities
Madison	7	5	2 facilities
Orange	12	11	11 facilities
Rappahannock	3	3	0 facilities



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.

During the first quarter of 2015, the District working with both the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) and Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission 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 has been completed and reported to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

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 amount of acreage served by these stormwater management facilities as of September 2015:

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 (7.4 ac); Manufactured Filters (1.69 ac)	Bioretention (78.37 ac); Infiltration (4.09 acre)
Rappahannock	Detention Basin (2,005.54 ac); Ext. Detention (880.32 ac); Underground Detention (29.85 ac.); Wet Pond (1684.65 ac); Manufactured Filters (19.75 ac.)	Infiltration (64.13 ac); Bioretention (76.64 ac); Wetland (0.33 ac); Riparian Buffer (5,735 LF); Green Roof (9 ac); Permeable Pave (1.52 ac); Dry Swale (11.76 ac)
York	Detention Basin (362.52 ac); Ext. Detention (15.03 ac.); Wet Pond (45 ac)	Infiltration (2.19 ac); Bioretention (0.36 ac.); Permeable 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 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 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 **\$76,451** during the 2015—2016 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 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



Reconstruction of shoreline embankment at Caynor dam Culpeper County 2015

PL-566 Dams Within the CSWCD

Dam ID	Watershed	County	Normal Surface Area (Acres)	Drainage Area (miles ²)
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 2015-2016 in the District. Both were unfounded.

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.

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.)

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.

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.

(Environmental Quality Enhancement Program (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– Regional Conservation Partnership Program (EQIP-RCPP) funds fencing projects similar to the SL-6 practice under the Virginia BMP Program.

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

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

Conservation Stewardship Program (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.

2015-2016 USDA Conservation Incentive Programs

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.

NRCS developed 55 farm conservation plans during the year as follows:

- Culpeper 11 (828.05 acres)
- Greene 9 (302.6 acres)
- Madison 13 (384.8 acres)
- Orange 14 (822.4 acres)
- Rappahannock 8 (254.3 acres)



Left photo: Cover crop planting of tillage radish, a growing trend to improve soil porosity Right Photo: Stream crossing

A Change in Wildlife Funding, but Not the End

The State Cost Share program to establish Northern Bobwhite Quail Habitat in the Culpeper District may have ended on June 30, 2015, but it did not mean an end in wildlife funding for landowners. Landowners now can receive technical and financial assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Financial assistance is available for wildlife habitat creation and maintenance as well as forestry related practices. Wildlife habitat creation practices may include tree and shrub establishment and conservation cover (or fescue conversion to pollinator habitat). Wildlife maintenance practices may include prescribed burning and herbaceous weed control. Possible forestry practices include site preparation and forest stand improvement. Local NRCS staff rely on Foresters from the Virginia Department of Forestry and Private Lands Biologists to provide the technical expertise and assistance in the development of conservation plans for these projects. During Fiscal Year 2016, NRCS has worked with ten landowners and obligated more than \$100,000 for these projects.

PROGRAM	# OF LANDOWNERS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
EQIP – Wildlife Creation	3	\$47,421.00
EQIP – Wildlife Maintenance	4	\$34,401.00
RCPP – Forestry	3	\$22,065.00
	Total:	\$103,887.00



The photo above illustrates a successful conversion of fescue grass to pollinator habitat in Orange County.

TMDL Implementation Continues in Three Watersheds

The District actively pursues implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects in the 5 member counties. TMDLs establish water quality improvement thresholds for selected pollutants which have been identified as exceeding state water quality standards. The District seeks out grants to assist landowners with the implementation costs. In addressing the TMDL Implementation Plans for the Upper Hazel River watershed in Rappahannock, Madison and Culpeper Counties, the Upper York watershed in Orange County and the Robinson River in Madison County, the Department of Environmental Quality provides a higher cost share rate for stream practices and specification flexibility for exclusion of livestock from streams than most cost share programs. 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. In addition, the District also continued to offer 50-75% cost share for septic system inspections, pumpouts, repair and replacement. There has been expanded outreach in the TMDL area through signs, meetings and mailings. Agricultural cost share allocated in the TMDL areas was reported on page 11.

Upper York River		
Practice	Number	Amount Spent
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	30	\$4,500
Septic repair (RB3)	7	\$12,600
Septic replacement (RB4)	2	\$8,000
Septic replacement (RB4P)	1	\$4,500
Total	40	\$21,600
Upper Hazel River		
Practice	Number	Amount Spent
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	62	\$9,300
Septic repair (RB3)	13	\$23,400
Septic replacement (RB4)	2	\$8,000
Septic replacement (RB4P)	0	\$0
Total	77	\$40,700
Robinson River		
Practice	Number	Amount Spent
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	78	\$11,700
Septic repair (RB3)	5	\$9,000
Septic replacement (RB4)	2	\$8,000
Septic replacement (RB4P)	1	\$4,500
Total	86	\$33,200

Education

Youth Education Programs

The District sponsored or participated in the following events:

2015-2016 Envirothon

The District trained 5 Envirothon teams: 2 teams at Eastern View High School in Culpeper County and 3 at Wakefield Country Day School in Rappahannock County. Following a local competition, the Eastern View A and Wakefield Team A earned spots to the Area II Envirothon, competing against students from 15 localities. The Eastern View team placed 1st 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 Madison 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 October 2015 and April 2016, 200 students from Madison County’s William Wetsel 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 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 120 fourth grade students and 120 fifth grade students from AG Richardson Elementary Middle School in Culpeper, 100 students from Rappahannock schools and 100 students from Lightfoot Elementary 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 5,500 students within the District participated in a classroom activity and/or field days with District staff.



The 2016 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 Ag Expo
- Madison County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo
- State Graded Sheep and Goat Sale

Mountain to the Bay Watershed Academy: Culpeper SWCD was a contractor on this NOAA-funded grant for three years, which provided 65 hours of instruction over 4 weekends to interdisciplinary teams of teachers from the Rappahannock and York River watersheds. This grant focused on school districts with 2 middle schools or less. Over three years of the grant, 230 teachers received 65 hours of professional development each.

Greene County Contractor Workshop: In February 2016, the District working with Greene County Planning and Zoning Department held a workshop for contractors at Piedmont Valley Community College in Stanardsville. The workshop provided contractors, builders and developers an update on the Greene County Stormwater Management Program. The workshop included a refresher on the control measures used for erosion and sediment control and the stormwater management practices. It was attended by 30 local professionals and provided an opportunity for Greene County to receive feedback on their stormwater program.

Staff Continuing Education Programs

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:

- Resource Management Plan update
- DEQ TMDL Grant Program Administration training
- Virginia Public Records Act Training
- VASWCD Annual Meeting
- Virginia Dam Safety Training

Joann Neal, Administrative Assistant

- 2016 Virginia Cost Share Programs training
- Record Retention
- Quick Books

Richard Jacobs III, Conservation Specialist

- DEQ Stormwater Plants
- DEQ BMP Inspector Update
- Urban Nutrient Management Training at Virginia Turf Management Association
- Riverwise Assessments Alliance for Chesapeake Bay
- Nutrient Trading Rappahannock River Commission Summit
- Turf Conversion Workshop Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Floating Wetlands Webinar

Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Communications Specialist

- VACDE Annual Training
- American Red Cross CPR certification
- Virginia Environmental Education conference
- Woods and Wildlife conference
- Envirothon 2017: Introduction to Agricultural Stewardship

David Massie, Conservation Specialist

- Central VA Beef and Educational Field Day and Sale
- Graves Mountain Lodge Annual Training
- VASWCD Annual Meeting
- VFGC Winter Forage Conference
- VA No-Till Alliance Winter Conference
- USACE/DEQ JED Training
- JED "In-Service" and CIG Showcase
- Spring Forage and Grazing Field Day
- Advanced Culvert Training

Staff Continuing Education Programs

W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist

- VACDE Annual Training
- Virginia Forage and Grasslands Council meeting
- Virginia Cooperative Extension Hay Showcase
- VACS Program Changes
- CVCA Spring Beef Meeting
- VASWCD Annual Meeting

Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist

- Ag Learn Nutrient Management Track 1 Part 1
- Ag Learn Pest Management Track 2 Part 7
- Mob Grazing Field Day
- VACDE Training: Rain Gardens
- VFGC Winter Forage Conference

Ashleigh Cason

- VACS Program Changes
- VFGC Summer Meeting
- 2015 Ag Expo
- Tucker's Beef Sale/Conservation Day
- Toolkit Training
- OMC Farm Show
- VACDE Annual Training
- Conservation Bootcamp
- AREC Fall Field Day
- Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy Annual Meeting
- Pesticide Applicator Recertification Course
- VFGC Winter Meeting
- VA No-Till Alliance Conference
- Madison Extension's Crop Production Conference
- Spring Forage and Grazing Field Day
- AREC Cover Crop Field Day
- Piedmont Environmental Council Landowner Workshop
- Greene Extension's Pond Workshop
- 2017 VACS Training
- Nutrient Management Plan Writing School

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 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. We take these exhibits to 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: Five students from the Culpeper District were awarded academic scholarships based on academic standing, demonstrated interest in conservation, leadership and involvement. **Tess Reeves**, 2016 graduate of Orange County High School, received the \$1,500 John Bol-dridge Scholarship. She will study horticulture and landscape architecture at Virginia Tech. William Monroe School graduate **Valerie Wessel** received \$1,000 to study wildlife conservation at Virginia Tech. Madison County High School graduate **Kelly Jarvis** received \$1,000 to major in biology at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Wakefield Country Day School graduate **Carolina Leonard** received \$1,000 to major in environmental science at the University of Virginia. Madison County High School graduate **Zachary Dove** received \$500 to major in agriculture at Piedmont Virginia Community College.

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 two students to attend summer camp. Ian Bailey of William Wetsel Middle School represented the District at Forestry Camp at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox. Joshua Racer of Rappahannock County High School represented the District at Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech.

Heritage Day: On April 2, 2016, 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.

Drinking Water Clinic: Culpeper SWCD partnered with Virginia Cooperative Extension to provide 70 residents of Culpeper, Fauquier and Rappahannock the opportunity to test their residential well water. A similar event for Greene, Madison and Orange will be held in Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

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

The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program is an urban/residential Best Management Practices Cost-share Program created and piloted by four Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Culpeper being one of them. The goal of the program is to assist property owners in reducing their storm-water impact and helping them to resolve problem landscape areas. Originally piloted in the 4 Districts the program is now available in 30 Districts that drain to the Chesapeake Bay. The Culpeper District is active with both the VCAP Steering Committee and provides technical/engineering training modules for other Districts.

Graves Mountain Lodge Rain Garden

In August 2015, the District, with funding from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) assisted in the design and installation of a Rain Garden at Graves Mountain Lodge. The Rain Garden Treats 1,800 square feet of roof in a depressed landscape bed with native pollinator plants. The Rain Garden has managed to capture 5 inches of rainfall in a single storm.

Private Rain Garden in Culpeper County

In April 2016, the District with funding from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) assisted a private resident in the design and installation of a Rain Garden. The Rain Garden treats 2,500 square feet of roof and driveway in a depressed landscape bed with native plants.



Outdoor Classroom Update

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. In June of 2016, the converted area looks great!



2015 Conservation Awards

The annual Conservation Awards dinner was held on November 5, 2015 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, *Belle Meade Farm*, **The Hawkins and Tingler Families**
- Greene County, **Travis Baugher**
- Madison County, *Lazy Creek Farm*, **David & Betty McMullen**
- Orange County, *Hilton Farm*, **Otto Fuchs**
- Rappahannock County, *Castleton Lakes LLC*, **The Jacquemin Family**

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 **James Bowen** for exemplary conservation practices in **Culpeper County**.

The 2015 **Educator of the Year** was presented to **Donald Hearl** of Madison County.

The 2015 **Forestry Award** was given to **James B. Kuykendall**. The 2015 **Business and Industry Award** was given to **Glatfelter**.

The 2015 **Wildlife Habitat Award** was given to **The Fletcher family** of **Rappahannock 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 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 is currently the chairman of the Virginia State Apple Board. He also is serving on the Virginia Agribusiness Council Board and is currently the chairman for 2016. Mr. Graves and his family own and operate Graves Mountain Lodge and Farm, which is 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, 70 acres of apples and 2 acres of peaches. The Lodge does school tours for 7,000 school children annually to promote agriculture. For the past 14 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.



J. Robert Brame III, Vice- Chair

Mr. Brame was elected as a Director representing Greene County in 2007. After moving to Orange County, Mr. Brame was elected to represent Orange County in 2015. Bob Brame grew up on a working farm in western Kentucky, where his father was an early supporter of soil conservation and developer of wildlife habitat. Following his graduation from Yale Law School, he moved to Virginia. After practicing law in Richmond for approximately 20 years, he moved to Greene County in 1994. From 1997–2000, he served on the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, but maintained his home in Greene. He divides his time between practicing law, furthering his father's soil conservation initiatives on the family farm and fighting the blight and insects on his fruit trees. Bob and his wife, Jane, have five children and two grandchildren. Mr. Brame is the Chair of Area II.



Thomas O'Halloran, Treasurer

Mr. 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 4 grandchildren and a great grandchild. His hobbies include motorcycle riding and reading. He is chairman of the Ag/Forestral Advisory Committee and is a member of the Culpeper County Economic



Advisory Committee. He 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 and in 2016 was appointed to its Executive Council.

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 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'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 is retired from the USDA Forest Service, having worked in all 33 eastern states and Puerto Rico. Mr. Byrne spent 5 years as a Soil Scientist, 5 years as Watershed Manager, 4 years as an Ecologist, 8 years in Forest Resource Planning and 8 years as Air Resources Manager. He served as District Chairman for three years. He owns and operates a cow-calf beef operation in Madison County. He is a Past President of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and is a member of the Madison County Task Force for Sustainable Development. 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. Mr. Byrne became an Associate Director in January 2012.



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 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 and The Morris Arboretum. For a long while, as a resident of Radnor Township, Pennsylvania, she was active in the League of Women Voters, as well as later in Culpeper County for a short while. She was a member of the local Farm Bureau and a group called The Young Farmers. Her interests include trees, open space, farming and land use. Laura is also an avid traveler, photographer, and gardener. Locally, in 1998, she received the Northern District Outstanding Forage Producer Award in Culpeper County. In April of 2005, she became a "Culpeper Colonel" recognition Cul-



peper County Citizen Service Award from the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors. The following year, 2006, Mrs. Campbell was recognized by the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts with 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 District Board in January 2012.

Dr. Stephen R. Hill

Stephen Hill was elected as a Director representing Madison County in 2015. He previously served as Associate Director for Madison County. Prior to moving to Madison County in 2013, Dr. Hill owned and operated a cow/calf operation in Orange County, which he currently rents for grain and cow/calf operations. His Madison farm is locally known as the Aylor Hunt Club. He uses that farm for hay production, is establishing a sheep operation, and is in various stages of developing several small-scale supplemental agricultural activities including fruit, fowl and draft animals. He established clean water and forest best management practices on both farms. Dr. Hill earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, where he was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. He founded and ran a consulting firm with clients in government and industry with offices in Virginia and New Mexico and currently advises the government on aerospace research and development, acquisition and operations.



L. Brad Jarvis

Brad Jarvis is the Agriculture Extension Agent 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.



Warren Lee

Mr. Lee was appointed an Associate Director representing 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 resource conservation, holding NRCS positions in Montana, Washington State, Colorado and 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 and the Director of the Resource Inventory Division. Lee retired in 2001 and lives with his wife Barbara in the Lake of the Woods community in Orange County. He enjoys spending time with the grandchildren and on the golf course with his golfing buddies.



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 10 years and director of Planning and Zoning in Fauquier County for 20 years. The father of 3 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.



Philip Morris

Philip Morris was elected as a Greene County Director in November 2015 and 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 if locations around the Pacific and 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 at NOAA. After several positions and 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.



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. Mr. Morris was appointed to represent CSWCD on the Rivanna River Basin Commission.



Mike Peterson

Mike Peterson was elected as a Director for Rappahannock County in November 2015 and began his term on January 1, 2016. Mike, along with his wife Molly own Heritage Hollow Farms in Sperryville. They utilize regenerative agricultural practices to raise grass-fed beef, lamb, and pastured pork. They also operate a farm store in Sperryville. Mike was introduced to farming at a young age at his grandparents' dairy farm in rural Illinois. He spent 7 years working in professional kitchens after graduating from culinary school in 2003. Through this work, he was re-introduced to farming as a career and lifestyle. He was able to connect with farmers and understand agricultural practices while he sourced ingredients and planned menus. Mike and Molly moved to Sperryville from Colorado in 2008 to pursue an opportunity that would get them started in agriculture. Their business is now a very full time job, but he also enjoys reading and just about anything outdoors. Mike lives with his wife Molly in Sperryville along with their 4 dogs, cat and over 200 cows, pigs, sheep and goats that encompass Heritage Hollow.



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 and 2013 by presenting Dr. Rifaat with the Clean Water Farm Award. Dr. Rifaat is the chair of the Legislative Committee and has served as Chair of the District and Area II.



Robert Runkle

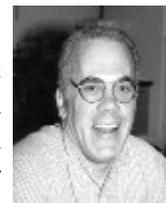
Mr. Runkle was elected Director representing Greene County in 2001. He resides on and operates the Greene County farm that has been in his family for over 200 years. He graduated from James Madison University with a BS in Social Studies Education and was a teacher for 31 years. Mr. Runkle was on the 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.



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 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 as Administrative Secretary in May of 2003. She was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She developed 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 Greener 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 the Culpeper SWCD in January of 2005 as a Conservation Specialist. 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 two beautiful daughters. 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 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 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. He graduated from North Carolina State University with an Associate's Degree in General Agriculture. 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 old family farm. In his spare time, Spencer enjoys camping, hunting, fishing and watching Virginia Tech games.



James Henshaw

James Henshaw 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.



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 and raised in Rappahannock County. He graduated from Rappahannock County High School, where he was a 4-H All Star and 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 installed CREP and 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 and 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 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.



EJ Burke

EJ Burke joined the District part time from in July 2015 and was hired as a full time Conservation Specialist in May 2016. He was a partner in a land surveying business in Madison County from 2003 to 2015 and was a surveyor since 1989. He grew up in Madison County and still live on family farm, where he has a small beef cattle operation. He lives there with his wife, Robyn Burke. He enjoys gardening and bee keeping.