

2017-2018

Annual Report

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District

<http://www.culpeperswcd.org>

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

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

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

Madison County

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

Greene County

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

Orange County

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

Rappahannock County

Mike Biniek
Dr. Monira Rifaat

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
Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist II
Amanda McCullen, Conservation Specialist II
Kendall Dellinger, Conservation Specialist I
James Henshaw, District Representative
Stephanie DeNicola, Information/Education Coordinator

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rex Rexrode, District Conservationist
Nancy Utz, Soil Conservationist
Ashleigh Cason, Soil Conservationist
Courtney Pooton, Soil Conservationist

John Jeffries, ACES

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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.

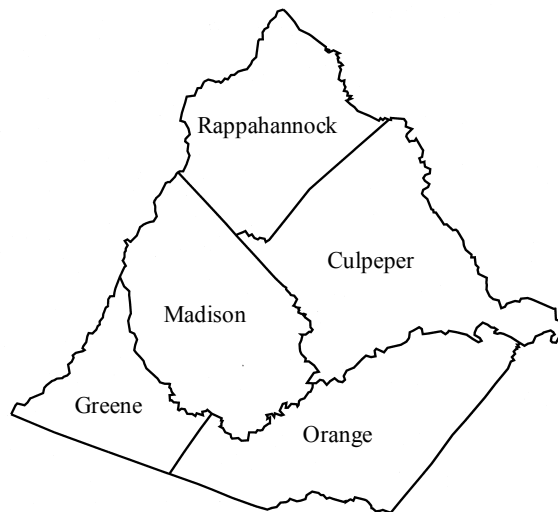
A 12-member Board of Directors governs the District. Each of the five counties within the District elects two members in the general election, one member is appointed at large and a Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent from one of the member counties is appointed by Virginia Tech. Directors are not paid,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

Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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

National Association of Conservation Districts

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

Department of Conservation and Recreation

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board

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

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

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

Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)

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

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ administers state and federal laws and regulations for air quality, water quality, water supply and land protection. In addition, 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 in 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 **\$1,715,796.52** in agricultural cost share funding to needed projects in 5 counties and **\$66,572.62** in state tax credits.
- Allocated **\$330,898.33** in residential cost share funding to **649** needed projects in the Upper Hazel, Rapidan, Robinson and Upper York TMDL watersheds and elsewhere in the District.
- 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 70 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 6, day-long, outdoor Meaningful Watershed Experiences for over 647 students.
- Coordinated the annual awards banquet, held in November 2017.
- Trained 2 Envirothon teams year long, coordinated 1 State-wide Envirothon training 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 20 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 3 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 2017—2018 operating budget (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) for the CSWCD was \$1,101,641.

Funding Sources

Funding included \$178,025 in general operating funds and \$654,271 in agricultural and septic technical assistance funding from the Commonwealth; \$236,345 from member counties; \$91,570 in watershed maintenance and repair funds from the Commonwealth; and \$33,300 in other grant projects.

• Culpeper	\$77,451
• Greene	\$33,034
• Madison	\$34,587
• Orange	\$71,090
• Rappahannock	\$20,183

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 75-80 percent of the BMP installation cost up to \$70,000. 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 2017-2018

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

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 **\$66,572.62** and were distributed as shown in the list below.

- Culpeper \$10,653.81 (8 landowners)
- Greene \$10,046.19 (5 landowners)
- Madison \$18,523.73 (12 landowners)
- Orange \$20,387.82 (16 landowners)
- Rappahannock \$6,961.07 (9 landowners)

Our Vision

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

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

The Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program, adopted as state law in 1973, established minimum standards and guidelines to be followed when nonagricultural lands are disturbed. The state program is implemented primarily through local program adoption. The CSWCD is contracted with four of five member counties (Culpeper, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock) to provide plan review service for their Erosion and Sediment Control Programs and provides assistance to Greene County as requested. The Town of Culpeper also contracts 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 70 plans reviewed during the 2017-2018: 22 in Culpeper, 5 in Town of Culpeper, 7 in Madison, 29 in Orange and 7 in Rappahannock. These site plans include single family homes and private driveways over an acre.

Site Plans Reviewed by Culpeper SWCD			
County	Reviewed	Approved	Stormwater Management Facilities Approved
Culpeper	22	13	9 practices
Town of Culpeper	5	2	1 practice
Madison	7	5	0 practices
Orange	29	23	4 practices
Rappahannock	7	5	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.

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

In the 1960s, the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) constructed fourteen dams on both private and public lands within the District—five in Culpeper County and nine in Madison County. The District assumed local sponsorship of these dams and with this came the responsibility to uphold the operation and maintenance of these dams. The District continues to hold responsibility for eleven of the dam structures. Operation and maintenance of White Oak Dam in Madison County was transferred to the Rapidan Service Authority. Mountain Run Lake Dam and Lake Pelham Dam are operated by the Town of Culpeper 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 **\$91,570** during the 2017—2018 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. The District coordinates efforts to secure maintenance and repair funding from the Virginia General Assembly with the Virginia Association of Conservation Districts.

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

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



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

Agricultural Stewardship Act

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

management options and utilizing the BMP cost-share program and other incentive-based programs prior to mandated enforcement, the district can assist producers with remedial actions.

There were no ASA complaints in fiscal year 2017-2018 in the District.

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.

2017-2018 USDA Conservation Incentive Programs

RCPP-Blue Ridge Prism: PRISM stands for the Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. PRISM is a partnership between the Shenandoah National Park Trust and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to control invasive species in a ten-county area bordering Shenandoah National Park. (Nelson, Albemarle, Greene, Madison, Rappahannock, Augusta, Rockingham, Page, Clarke and Warren Counties). PRISM received from NRCS thru the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, \$894,000.00 to help producers control invasive species on their property. The list of invasive species includes: Autumn Olive, Garlic Mustard, Japanese Honeysuckle, Japanese Stiltgrass, Kudzu, Mile-A-Minute, Multiflora Rose, Oriental Bittersweet, Porcelainberry, Privet, Tree-of-Heaven, and Wavyleaf Basket Grass. All available PRISM funding was committed during 2017. Within the three counties in the Culpeper District (Greene, Madison, and Rappahannock) 31 contracts involving 873 acres were signed.

NRCS developed 37 farm conservation plans during the year as follows:

- Culpeper 14 (1,390.6 acres plus 1 high tunnel)
- Greene 3 (111.6 acres)
- Madison 4 (147.3 acres)
- Orange 9 (765.4 acres)
- Rappahannock 7 (262.3 acres)



Left photo: Cover crop planting of tillage radish, a growing trend to improve soil porosity.

Right Photo: Stream crossing

TMDL and WQIF Implementation

The District actively pursues implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects and the state Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) projects in the 5 member counties. As required under both state and federal laws TMDLs establish water quality improvement thresholds for selected pollutants which have been identified through stream water sampling as exceeding state water quality standards for designated uses. The WQIF projects are designed to address many of the same pollutants and utilize the same remedies. Typically the TMDLs rely on federal funding from the Environmental Protection Agency directed through the Department of Environmental Quality while WQIF projects are funded by the Virginia General Assembly. The District seeks out grants from both state and federal sources to assist landowners with the implementation costs for projects that both protect and improve local stream health.

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, the Robinson River watershed in Madison County and the Upper Rapidan River watershed in Greene, Madison and Orange Counties, the Department of Environmental Quality provides a higher cost share rate than most cost share programs for stream protection practices. The State Cost Share Program typically with the 35 foot setback required under standard fencing specifications provides 80% cost share for stream exclusion practices, while producers in the TMDL area can receive 85% cost share. A flexible option under both programs is to have 10 foot setback and producers receive 50% cost share. In addition, the TMDL and WQIF grant projects also continued to offer 50-80% 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.

In Fiscal Year 2017 the District successfully competed for a WQIF grant for 2 years which expanded the residential septic system cost share programs of the TMDL watersheds to include the entire District. This project will be extended an additional year. The results of all 5 of these grant projects are tabulated below by both project and by county.

A newly established herbaceous riparian buffer in a tributary to the Thornton River



Allocated Projects Listed by Grant Project		
Upper Hazel River TMDL		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	56	\$5,835.00
Septic repair (RB3)	6	\$12,507.50
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3R)	7	\$5,700.00
Septic replacement (RB4)	1	\$4,341.00
Total	70	\$28,383.50
Upper Rapidan River TMDL		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	64	\$10,080.00
Septic repair (RB3)	2	\$3,322.10
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3R)	22	\$21,020.00
Septic replacement (RB4)	3	\$10,928.75
Septic replacement (RB4P)	1	\$5,000.00
Total	92	\$50,350.85
Robinson River TMDL		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	37	\$5,835.00
Septic repair (RB3)	1	\$1,312.50
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3R)	3	\$3,000.00
Septic replacement (RB4)	1	\$4,000.00
Total	42	\$14,147.50
Upper York River TMDL		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	24	\$3,862.50
Septic repair (RB3)	2	\$5,620.00
Septic replacement (RB4P)	2	\$11,000.00
Total	28	\$20,482.50
Water Quality Improvement Fund		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	307	\$48,531.25
Septic repair (RB3)	25	\$58,865.00
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3R)	75	\$62,025.23
Septic replacement (RB4)	8	\$38,112.50
Septic replacement (RB4P)	2	\$10,000.00
Total	417	\$217,533.98

Allocated Projects Listed by County		
Culpeper County		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	178	\$31,011.25
Septic repair (RB3)	18	\$37,877.50
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3R)	45	\$35,418.03
Septic replacement (RB4)	3	\$15,562.50
Septic replacement (RB4P)	1	\$5,000.00
Total	245	\$124,869.28
Greene County		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	70	\$11,025.00
Septic repair (RB3)	2	\$5,300.00
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3R)	23	\$21,315.00
Septic replacement (RB4)	1	\$4,000.00
Septic replacement (RB4P)	1	\$5,000.00
Total	97	\$46,640.00
Madison County		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	107	\$16,455.00
Septic repair (RB3)	5	\$9,634.60
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3R)	18	\$16,362.50
Septic replacement (RB4)	4	\$14,928.75
Total	134	\$57,380.85
Orange County		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	76	\$12,147.50
Septic repair (RB3)	6	\$15,320.00
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3R)	12	\$12,000.00
Septic replacement (RB4)	3	\$14,800.00
Septic replacement (RB4P)	3	\$16,000.00
Total	100	\$70,267.50
Rappahannock County		
Practice	Number	Allocated
Septic inspection & pump out (RB1)	58	\$9,045.00
Septic repair (RB3)	5	\$13,495.00
Septic pump out & inspection (RB3R)	9	\$6,650.00
Septic replacement (RB4)	2	\$8,091.00
Total	74	\$37,281.00

Education

Youth Education Programs

The District sponsored or participated in the following events:

2017-2018 Envirothon

The District trained 2 Envirothon teams: 1 team at Eastern View High School in Culpeper County and 1 at Wakefield Country Day School in Rappahannock County. The Wakefield team earned a spot to the Area II Envirothon, competing against students from 15 localities. The Wakefield team placed 6th at the Area competition. The District helped to organize and execute the Area and State competitions. The District also coordinated 1 State-wide Envirothon training at Graves Mountain Lodge. Over 200 students and coaches attended the training.

Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE)

Held on the banks of the Rose River at Graves Mountain Lodge in October 2017 and Spring 2018, 690 students from area schools 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 worked together to facilitate a variety of activities. Participating schools were: 120 fifth grade students from Ruckersville Elementary School in Greene, 75 sixth grade students from Floyd T. Binns Middle School in Culpeper, 30 AP Environmental Science & AP Biology students from Culpeper County High School, 165 students from William Wetsel Middle School in Madison, 175 seventh grade students from Prospect Heights Middle School in Orange and 125 students from various schools in Rappahannock County.

Presentations at Local Schools

Hands on, SOL-based activities were coordinated at a number of local schools on conservation topics throughout the District including Culpeper Middle School, Eastern View High School, Farmington Elementary School, Yowell Elementary School, Ruckersville Elementary School, Emerald Hill Elementary School, Floyd T. Binns Middle School, Culpeper County High School, Epiphany Catholic School, William Monroe Middle School, William Wetsel Middle School, Pearl Sample Elementary School, Locust Grove Elementary School, Nathaniel Greene Elementary School, Waverly Yowell Elementary School and Wakefield Country Day School. Over 6,500 students within the District participated in a classroom activity and/or field days with District staff.



Students participate in the Area II Envirothon training



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

Adult 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
- North Piedmont Research Station Field Day
- Central Virginia Beef Educational Field Day and Sale
- Orange-Madison Cooperative Field Day
- Virginia Forage and Grasslands Conference
- Madison County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo
- Rapidan Master Gardeners Training
- Regional Master Gardeners Conference

Professional Trainings in VCAP practices for SWCD employees: The District established an MOU with the Virginia Association of Conservation Districts to provide professional development trainings for staff from the other Conservation Districts for the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP). VCAP provides funding and technical assistance for residential retrofit best management practices (<http://vaswcd.org/vcap>). The District developed and presented five technical trainings for VCAP.

- VCAP Rain Garden/Dry Wells and Impervious Surface Removal/Conservation Landscaping

The District also assisted with professional outreach to promote VCAP in other venues.

- Master Gardeners Annual Conference
- Rapidan Master Gardeners class

Contractor Workshops

In February 2018, the District working with Culpeper County Planning and Zoning Department held a contractors workshop in Culpeper County. The workshop provided contractors, builders and developers an update on the Erosion Control and 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 10 local professionals.

In June 2018, the District working with the Army Corp of Engineers, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Dam Safety provide two contractor's workshops for Orange and Rappahannock County. The workshop provided contractors, builders and developers an update on the various environmental permitting programs including the wetland and stream filling, construction of large dams, and Erosion Control and 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.

Staff Professional Development

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

Greg Wichelns, District Manager:

- Virginia Freedom of Information Act training
- Virginia Retirement System Training
- DCR IT Security Awareness Training
- 2018 Quickbooks Training with DCR
- 2017 VASWCD Annual Meeting Conflict of Interest Training

JoAnn Neal, Administrative Assistant

- VACS Program Changes
- 2018 VACDE Annual Training
- 2018 Quickbooks Training with DCR
- 2018 Virginia Retirement System Annual Training
- 2019 Virginia Cost-Share Training

Richard Jacobs III, Conservation Specialist

- Shedding a Light on Solar workshop (RRRC)
- Living Shorelines Webinar (New Jersey Nature Conservancy)
- E&S Sediment Basin Design Webinar (DEQ)
- Virginia Lakes and Watershed Association Conference
- IT Security Awareness (DCR)
- HEC-RAS 2D Flow Modeling (NRCS)
- CPR/AED/First Aid Certification
- Turf Management Webinar (VCE)

Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Communications Specialist

- Woods and Wildlife conference
- Project Learning Tree: Teaching Trees
- Scout Patch & Education Tracking Tool
- Make & Takes: Virginia map & BMP Model
- CPR/AED Certification
- DCR IT Security

David Massie, Conservation Specialist

- Graves Mountain Lodge Annual Training
- VASWCD Annual Meeting
- DCR Livestock Water System Training
- VFGC Winter Forage Conference
- CFC Mineral Supplement/Silage Meeting
- Local Wheat Market Expansion/Ardent Mills Meeting
- VFGC Grazing School
- Area II Spring Meeting
- 2019 Program Year Updates and Tracking Issues

Staff Professional Development

W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist

- VACDE training
- VAFGC winter meeting
- Urban Soil testing
- Upper Rapidan TMDL
- 2019 VACS training

Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist

- Applied Soil Concepts for ESC And SWM Professionals
- Overview of Wetlands for ESC and SWM Professionals
- DCR Security Awareness Training

Amanda McCullen, Conservation Specialist

- DEQ FY18 Webinar
- VCE and NRCS Native Grazing Workshop
- VASWCD Annual Training: GIS, Engineering, CPR/AED Certification
- NRCS 3 day Virginia Soils Training
- DCR Computer Security Webinars
- DCR Livestock Water System Training
- VFGC Winter Forage Conference
- VCE Farm Taxes Workshop
- VCE Sheep Producers Meeting
- NRCS JED: Conservation Planner Certification Update and Changes
- Area II Spring Meeting
- No Till Demo, Fauquier Education Farm
- FY19 VACS Training
- DCR Conservation Planner Webinar

Kendall Dellinger, Conservation Specialist

- DCR IT Security Awareness 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 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: Three students from the Culpeper District were awarded \$1,500 academic scholarships based on academic standing, demonstrated interest in conservation, leadership and involvement. **Caragh Heverly** graduated from **Rappahannock County High School** with a 4.1968 GPA. She will attend **Duke University** in the fall, where she will major in **environmental science and policy**. **Liam Godbold** graduated from **Holy Trinity Home School** with a 4.0 GPA. He will major in **biotechnology** at **James Madison University**. **Robert Keast** is an Eastern View High School alum and was a member of the school's Envirothon team. He graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in environmental science. He will attend graduate school at **The Ohio State University**, where he will major in Landscape Architecture and Horticulture.

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. **Carlie Ryals** and **Makenna Diaz**, both students at Culpeper County Middle School represented the District at Forestry Camp at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox.

Heritage Day: On April 7, 2018, 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 225 people attended the event.

Drinking Water Clinic: Culpeper SWCD partnered with Virginia Cooperative Extension to provide 55 residents of Greene, Madison and Orange the opportunity to test their residential well water.

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

In 2017, the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program or VCAP received substantial funding to implement stormwater and landscaping practices on non-agricultural lands. Funding was secured from the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program with assistance from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the grant was administered by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The District helped five landowners secure \$11,341.67 of funding assistance to convert 48,965 square feet of poorly vegetated lawn to native plantings and treat 1,300 square feet of impervious surfaces. These landowners were from Culpeper, Madison and Orange Counties.

Meadow at Locust Grove Middle School (Bottom left: students raking & seeding and completed meadow bottom right)

With funding from the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program and Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, students at Locust Grove Middle School in Orange worked together to create a native meadow on a poorly vegetated slope next to the school. The meadow covers about 16,000 square feet and was incorporated into the schools nature trail system.

Dry Swale in Culpeper County (bottom row)

In July 2017, the District's first Dry Swale practice was completed under the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program. The Dry Swale is 45 linear feet long and diverts runoff away from the driveway. Native plantings were added on the slopes of the swale to further slow runoff.



2017 Conservation Awards

The annual Conservation Awards dinner was held on November 9, 2017 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, *Salubria Farm*
- Greene County, *Wilhoits Farm*, **Scott Sullivan**
- Madison County, *Banks Mountain Cattle Farm*
- Orange County, *Red Crest Farm*, **Shane and Tammy Fletcher**
- Rappahannock County, *The Farm at Sunnyside*

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 and help promote conservation in the Culpeper District. This year's award was presented to **Jim White of Orange County** for exemplary conservation practices in **Orange County**.

The 2017 **Educator of the Year** was presented to **Kimberly Adams of Madison County**.

The 2017 **Forestry Award** was given to **Jeff DuBro** in **Culpeper County**.

The 2017 **Wildlife Habitat Award** was given to **Dana Squire** of **Madison County**.

The 2017 **Service Award** was given to **Medge Carter** of the Virginia Department of Health for her support of District program development.



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. Elected every four years in the general election, they work as volunteers to identify local conservation needs, represent local citizens in conservation issues, educate others about conservation issues 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 and currently serves as Chairman of the Board. 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 was the chairman in 2016. Mr. Graves and his family own and operate Graves Mountain Lodge and Farm, which is located on the Rose River. The Lodge consists of 55 motel rooms and 15 cabins, and the farm consists of crop fields, pasture for 100 head of cattle and 70 acres of apple orchards. Also a cannery is operated by the Graves family which produces jams and jellies, and apple cider, along with the favorite apple butter. The Graves Mountain hosts numerous festivals during the year, Music Festival, Apple Festival, Heritage Day (fishing for kids) and more. The Farm does school tours for 7,000 school children annually to promote agriculture. For the past 16 years the Farm has also run aquatic programs that teach children about watersheds, rivers and ponds. Mr. Graves and his wife, Tricia have 2 children, Amelia and Cole. The Graves family have been living in the Syria area for over 5 generations.



Philip Morris, Vice Chair

Philip Morris was elected as a Greene County Director in November 2015 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 in 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 and the National Tidal Network 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.



Thomas O'Halloran, Treasurer

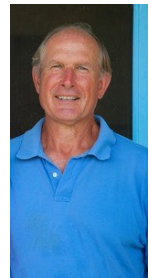
Mr. O'Halloran was born and raised in Culpeper and graduated from Culpeper County High

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 conservation districts on the Rappahannock River Basin Commission and in 2016 was appointed to its Executive Council.



Mike Biniek

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



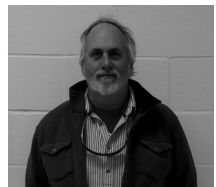
J. Robert Brame III,

Bob Brame grew up on a working farm in Western Kentucky. His father was an early supporter of land conservation and promoter of wildlife habitat. The family regularly watched and listened to the Bobwhites in the Spring and Whip-poor-wills in the evenings. Mr. Brame was elected a Greene County Director in 2007 and 2011. In 2014, after practicing law in Richmond, Washington and Charlottesville for 47 years, Bob and his wife, Jane, traded family land in Kentucky for Jordan Farm in Orange County. Bob was elected an Orange director in 2015. He has worked closely with the Culpeper SWCD staff and NRCS to implement various conservation practices, including stream fencing, cattle waterers, eradication of invasives and planting wildlife cover. Neither the quail nor whip-poor-wills have yet returned but he and his family remain hopeful their 9 grandchildren will enjoy the same wildlife sights and sounds as their grandparents.



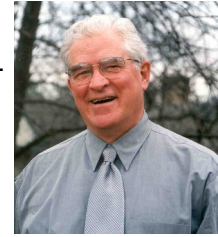
Robert Bradford

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, for a short while, in Culpeper County. She was a member of the local Culpeper 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. Laura Campbell served at the Culpeper Library with Miss Crimora Waite on a long-time regular basis, using her Master's in Library Science skills and giving our small town public library a boost in status of credibility. 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 Culpeper 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 to a natural beef producer. He runs a graze 300+ cow/calf operation on his Madison farm. 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.



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 30 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 an Associate Director 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.



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.



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.



Sarah Weaver Sharpe

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



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 along with other District staff as Conservationist of the Year by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation 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 a 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.



Amanda McCullen

Amanda McCullen joined the District in September 2016 as a Conservation Specialist. She grew up in Fauquier County on her family's farm and enjoyed participating in 4-H while growing up. She graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Christopher Newport University, with minors in Chemistry and Psychology. After college she volunteered at the Smithsonian

Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, where she worked with cheetahs, black-footed ferrets, and several species of endangered birds. Amanda joined Culpeper SWCD with 2 years of experience working for the Lord Fairfax SWCD in the Shenandoah Valley. She is an amateur birder, who enjoys hiking, skiing and time with friends and family.



Kendall Anderson Dellinger

Kendall Anderson Dellinger joined the Culpeper SWCD in May of 2018. Kendall was born and raised in Culpeper on her family's beef cattle farm. She graduated from Culpeper County high school where she was active in 4-H and FFA. Kendall graduated from Virginia Tech with a Degree in Animal Technology and was an active member of Block and Bridle and was on the collegiate Livestock Judging team. She has worked with the Virginia Dept. of Agricultural and Consumer Sciences (VDACS) in the Warrenton Animal Health Lab and most recently has worked at the Orange-Madison Co-op. She lives on the family farm with her husband. In her spare time she enjoys working on the family farm, horseback riding, gardening and fishing with her husband.

