

**THREE RIVERS
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

2022 - 2023

**Annual
Report**



Mission:

To achieve soil and water conservation within the Three Rivers Soil & Water Conservation District through leadership, education and technical assistance.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

This year marked the 50th year anniversary for Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District. Beginning as a grassroots effort across the United States to protect topsoil from erosion, soil and water districts have been entrusted to deliver solid conservation programs dedicated to helping landowners/operators keep their soil and local waterways healthy.

FY23 marked the largest influx of funding received in our District for the VA Agricultural Best Management Practices & Whole Farm Approach Cost Share programs (\$6.4 million). These practices not only benefit our local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay but also benefit the aquatic and wildlife which reside within local watersheds. The District also added several new opportunities to spread the word of locally led voluntary conservation by hosting the Middle Peninsula Producer Conference in July, new Cover Crop/Nutrient Management roadside signage and T-shirts that promote never leaving your soil bare by planting cover crops.

Our mission is initiated by our six elected board members, two appointed board members and two associate board members who volunteer their time to serve and our four employees who manage the many programs offered by the District. We hope you will find this report informative and if we can be of service to you, please let us know.

Respectfully,

Robert T. Bland, IV

Chairman

History:

1938 – VA General Assembly enacted the Soil Conservation District Law

1938 – VA's first Soil and Water Conservation District was established – Tidewater SWCD which included Essex, King William, King & Queen, Hanover, Caroline, Gloucester, Mathews and Middlesex Counties.

1939 – First conservation plan written for the Taliaferro family farm in Essex Co.

1982 – Three Rivers SWCD was created to serve Essex, King William and King & Queen Counties.

1984 – VA begins Agricultural Cost Share Programs for farmers

2022 – 50++ years of Successful Conservation!

Our Team

Directors

Robert T. Bland, IV
Chairman, King & Queen Co.

Langdon Townsend
Vice Chair, King William Co.

Bruce Taylor
Secretary, King & Queen Co.

Keith Balderson
Treasurer, Essex Co.

Benjamin Ellis
Essex Co.

Thomas Fox
King William Co.

Sara Henley
King & Queen Co.

Robbie Longest
VCE, Essex Co.

A. J. Brooks
Associate Director
Essex Co.

Willie Upshaw
Associate Director,
King William Co.

Staff

Michelle Carter
District Manager

Anne Davis
Administrative Coordinator

Waring Baylor
Conservation Specialist

Sarah Cole
Conservation Coordinator

VISION:

**THREE RIVERS SWCD
ENVISIONS ENGAGED
COMMUNITIES WORKING
TOGETHER TO PROTECT
WATER QUALITY AND
RESTORE NATURAL
RESOURCES.**



About Us

The Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District (TRSWCD) was formed under the authority of Title 21, Code of Virginia, passed by the General Assembly in 1938. TRSWCD is a self-governed subdivision of State Government encompassing all the land within the boundary lines of Essex, King William, and King & Queen Counties. Three Rivers is named for the Rappahannock, Mattaponi, and Pamunkey River Watersheds that are located within the District; which are very important tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay.

The District establishes priorities, sets policy, and works through partnerships formed with Federal, State and Local Governments, Watershed Groups, and private organizations to administer effective soil and water conservation programs to landowners, homeowners, and producers.

The TRSWCD operates under the direction of a Board of Directors that serve four-year terms. The Board is composed of two elected directors from each jurisdiction (Essex, King William, King & Queen Co.) and two at-large directors appointed by the VA Soil and Water Conservation Board. One of the at-large members represents the VA Cooperative Extension. Directors are elected under the general election laws. There are also a number of Associate Directors, respected in their fields of natural resources, education or business. All Directors (elected and associate) serve the District as volunteers. TRSWCD is a member of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the National Association of Conservation Districts. There are 47 Districts statewide.

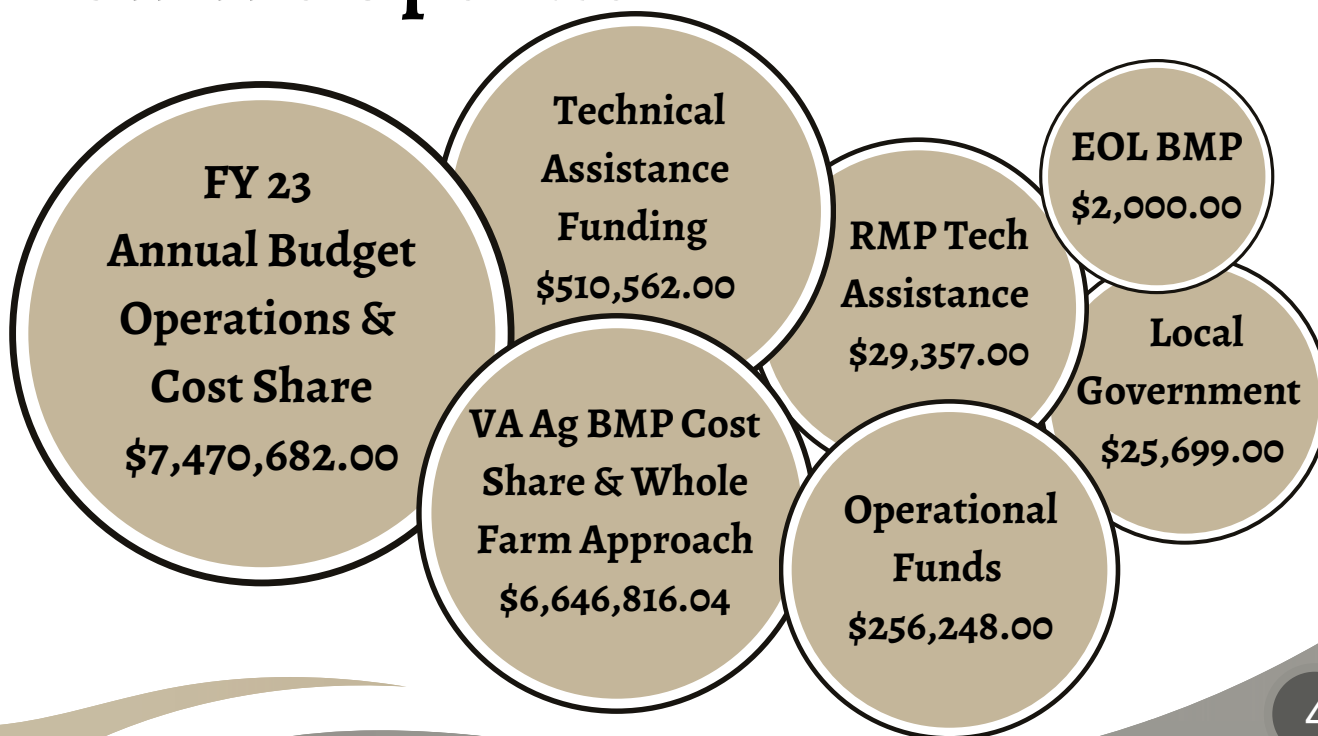
The District conducts monthly Board of Directors meetings to work with conservation issues and landowner concerns within the three county district. The public, as well as cooperating agencies, are invited to attend the District meetings to provide input. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Notification of Board Meetings are published in the local newspapers and listed on our website at the beginning of the calendar year. Although parliamentary procedures are followed, the atmosphere is warm and welcoming.

District Operations

The major goals of the District are achieved by the employees through planning, budgeting, and the provision of technical assistance. The District has four employees. In order to provide the highest quality service and up-to-date information, District employees regularly attended training workshops and seminars throughout the year to improve their skills. The Department of Conservation & Recreation and the VA Conservation District Employees Association provided most of the trainings. Annual personnel reviews were conducted by the Personnel Committee Chair & Board of Directors to evaluate the progress of employees and to ensure the orderly day to day operations of the District. The Annual Plan of Work and Long Term Strategic Plan were reviewed and updated to ensure the goals and objectives of the District were met.

The District Finance Committee oversees the operating budget. The District receives financial and administrative support from King William, King & Queen, and Essex Counties, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation and private grants. The District is audited every two years to ensure the proper use of funds.

How We Operate





Resource Management Plans (RMPs)

The Virginia Resource Management Planning program provides a voluntary way to promote the use of conservation practices that improve farming operations and water quality. RMP plans are designed to encourage farmers or landowners to use a high level of Best Management Practices that reduce runoff pollution to local waters and in many cases, improve the farmers' financial bottom line. In return for full implementation, the plan holder can be assured that he or she is in compliance with any new state nutrient, sediment, and water quality standards; in particular, regulations related to the Chesapeake Bay and all local stream segment TMDLs. The certificate of safe harbor is valid for 9 years provided the farmer continues to implement the RMP. The District has a Technical Review Committee made up of conservation professionals that review these plans. After review and inspections are complete, the Board of Directors approve the plans or approve RMP-2 contracts for cost share payment. The District conducted:

(7) 3-Year Continued Implementation Inspections covering 3,027.04 acres

(11) New Plan reviews covering 4,792.25 acres

(10) Certification Inspections completed covering 4,533.65 acres

Field work was conducted in Essex, King William, and King & Queen Counties.

VA Ag BMP Cost Share Program & Whole Farm Approach

The TRSWCD locally administers the VA Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost Share Program and Tax Credit Program, which allows the District to offer technical and financial assistance to Producers who wish to implement eligible BMPs.

In addition, the Department of Conservation & Recreation awarded Three Rivers SWCD with a grant for another year to pilot the new BMP – WFA-CC & WFA-NM “Whole Farm Approach” to local producers. These two BMP’s bundle agricultural Best Management Practices to collect data, assure that implemented nutrient management plans are accurate & up to date, minimize the impact of nutrients used in crops & highly managed hay production, and to provide for the establishment of vegetative cover on cropland for protection from erosion and nutrient losses to groundwater. Due to the success of the program, the District was able to allocate VACS funding to supplement WFA signup to fund all applications. The next two pages highlights an accounting of BMPs, Cost Share funds allocated and the number of contracts completed.

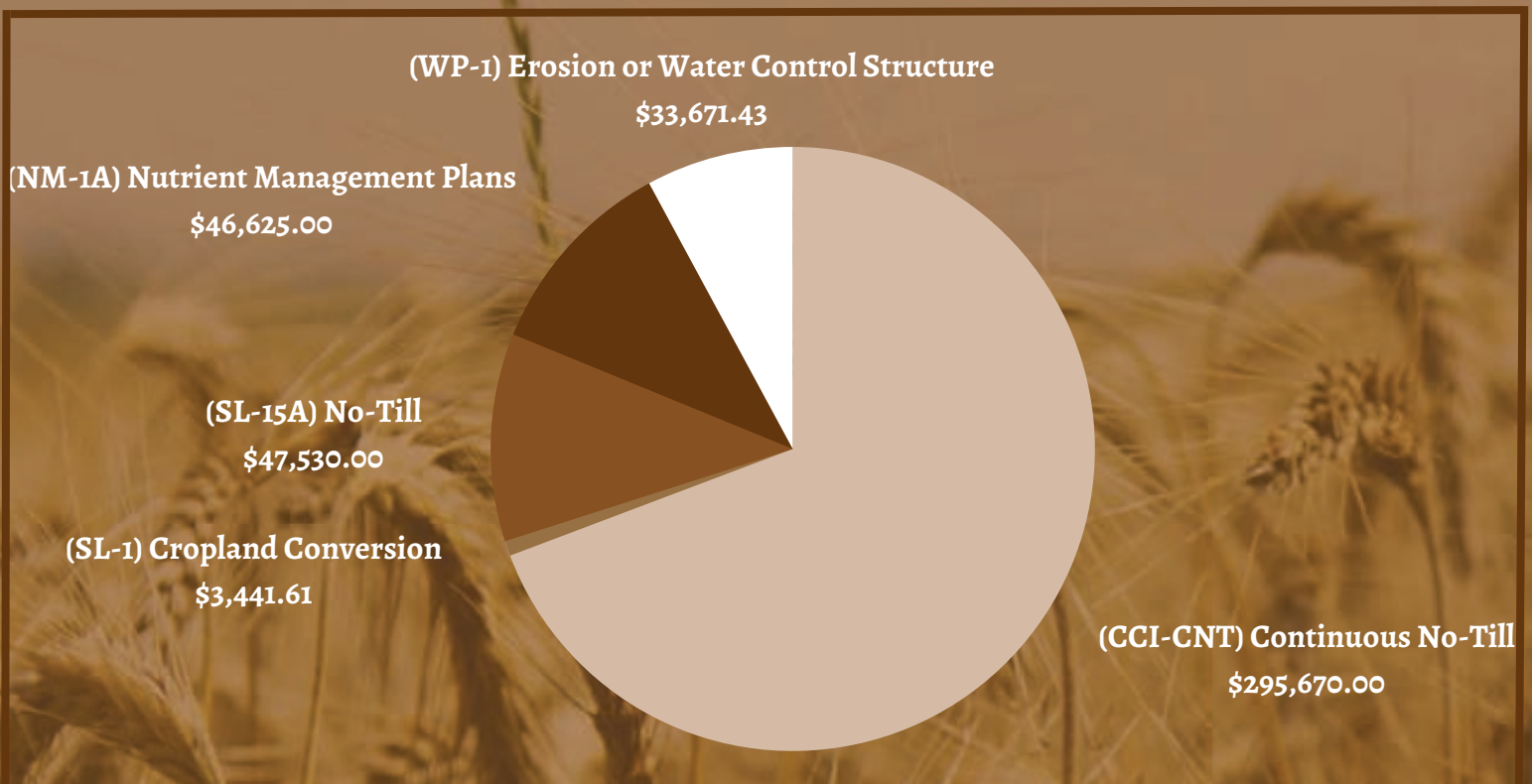
Total FY23 VACS & WFA Cost Share allocated to Producers was \$6,646,816.04.



VA Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost Share Program

The graph depicts BMPs implemented through the VACS program.

FY 23 - \$426,938.04



- 8 - Soil & Water Conservation Plans Written
- 6 - Equipment Tax Credits Issued
- 66,428.4 acres - Nutrient Management Plans written by DCR Precision Ag Specialists, District Staff and private plans forwarded to the Direct Pay program
- 9 - End of Lifespan BMP Verifications
- 59 - In-lifespan tillage compliance spot checks
- 55,976.4 acres - Cover Crop field reviews (97% of acres enrolled)
- 122 - Active participating entities in the Cost Share Programs

VA Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost Share Program - Whole Farm Approach

The Chart below describes Whole Farm Approach BMPs implemented in acres by County. Total WFA Cost Share Allocated in FY23: \$6,219,878.00

BMP's Installed	Essex County	King & Queen County	King William County
Core Nutrient Management Plan	35,189.9	27,982.9	26,568.1
In-Furrow/Banded Nitrogen	12,948.6	9,910.6	11,173.9
In-Furrow/Banded Phosphorous	13,045.6	9,633.6	11,313.9
1st Sidedress	14,901.5	13,896.5	11,647.4
2nd Sidedress	4,066.8	1,401.6	3,074.1
2nd Topdress	7,905	1,653.4	4,830.4
3rd Topdress	7,905	1,653.4	4,830.4
Variable Rate Nitrogen	5,595.7	452.4	0
Variable Rate Phosphorous	14,339.2	2,144	1,029.9
Early Rye Cover Crop	10,384.9	13,784.1	9,768.5
Non-Early Rye Cover Crop	11,023.8	3,439.2	6,813.8
Standard Rye Cover Crop	36.3	0	0
Standard Non-Rye Cover Crop	236	170.9	59.1
Legume Cover Crop	522.8	43.4	81.2
Harvestable Cover Crop	16	961.8	365.8
Total Actual Cost Share Payments	\$2,458,330.90	\$1,943,201.75	\$1,818,345.35

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Directors, Operational and Technical staff participated in continuing educational classes either in-person or virtually throughout the year. Most trainings or certifications were provided by the Department of Conservation & Recreation, the VA Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the VA Association of Conservation District Employees. A few are listed below:

VA Soil Health Coalition Conference

Records Retention Annual Training by Library of VA

Freedom of Information Act - FOIA Council

Whole Farm Approach Cost Share Training

VA Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Protection Training

BMP Data Tracking Program Training

Conflict of Interest Training - Directors & Staff

Building upon Partnerships, Partnership Path Forward

A Case Study in Understanding Cost Share

Personnel Management Guide & Salary Study

Values Based Leadership Session

Soil Health Training

Director/Administrative Human Resources Training

VACDE Training - Graves Mountain Lodge

Soil & Water Conservation Board of Directors Meeting

New Director Training

Cardinal/Healthcare Training

VASWCD Admin & Ops Committee

VASWCD Marketing Committee

VASWCD Education Committee

Leading From Your Position

Envirothon Committee

VA Ag BMP Cost Share Program Training

TLC Benefits Administration Training

Cultural & Historic Resources Training

CAS Rebuild Focus Group

5-County Agricultural Conference - VCE

VASWCD Area III Meeting

Human Resources Trends for 2023

VASWCD ANNUAL MEETING

The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts held their Annual Meeting at Hotel Roanoke from December 4 through December 6. Three Rivers SWCD was represented by Directors Robert T. Bland, IV (Chair) and Langdon Townsend (Vice Chair). Additionally, staff members Michelle Carter (District Manager) and Waring Baylor (Conservation Specialist) attended the conference. Both Directors and Staff experienced three days of informational speakers from NRCS, DCR, UVA Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, and attended many concurrent training sessions spanning the event.

SECDEA CONFERENCE

Conservation Coordinator Sarah Cole was able to attend the Southeast Conservation District Employee's Association (SECDEA) annual conference in Pigeon Forge, TN in November. This was the largest attended conference since its inception in 1998. There were 6 district employees in total from Virginia that were able to attend. The Southeast Region consists of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee. The agenda held many great speakers and "share fairs" from all over the region. The two day conference included topics such as Envirothon, Working with Legislation, Hydroponic Garden Towers, and the Farmer for a Day Program.

PRODUCER OUTREACH

MIDDLE PENINSULA PRODUCER CONFERENCE

Three Rivers SWCD hosted a Middle Peninsula Producer Conference on July 20, 2022 with 102 Producers in attendance. The evening consisted of a catered BBQ dinner with a wide array of informational speakers. Speakers Included:

Robert T. Bland IV, Three Rivers SWCD Chair

Waring Baylor & Sarah Cole, TRSWCD Conservation Staff

(New Whole Farm Approach BMP's & VACS Cost Share Program Details)

Amy Walker, DCR (Nutrient Reduction Goals Met through WFA Pilot Grant)

Andrew Smith, VA Farm Bureau (Ag Road Law)

Tracy Porter, VSU (Small Farm Outreach Coordinator)

Joey Reinhardt, Essex Volunteer Fire Department (Grain Bin Extrication Device)



In addition to the informative program, the Producers were entered into the door prize raffle that included donations from many supporting agribusinesses in our area and each producer received a custom T-Shirt to help spread the message of an important best management practice - Cover Crops. This campaign hopes to provide a chuckle but hit home the importance of soil health and reducing erosion while improving water quality locally and ultimately in the Chesapeake Bay.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Three Rivers SWCD was proud to celebrate outstanding producers and partners in the area on November 15, 2022 at our Annual Awards Banquet. The Banquet was held at Nick's with 55 in attendance.

The Outstanding Stewardship Award is presented to stewards of the land who are conscious in their efforts to maintain and improve soil health and water quality. Mr. Kevin Norman of T.O. Longest & Sons, LLC is the 2022 recipient of the Outstanding Stewardship Award for the Three Rivers District.

Kevin had a passion for farming from a very young age and credits his grandfather, a self-proclaimed "hobby farmer," for instilling in him his strong work ethic. Kevin graduated from Rappahannock Community College with a degree in electrical engineering and began a career at the West Rock paper mill in West Point prior to joining the T. O. Longest & Sons, LLC operation full time in 2013.



Three Rivers SWCD was also pleased to honor the Farm Service Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture for their invaluable assistance to our cost share program. Courtnie Ellis and Felicia Washington were awarded with Partnership Awards. Lane Brooks of Simplot was also honored with the Business Conservation Award for his contribution to the Wildlife Food Plot program put on annually by Three Rivers SWCD.

T.O. Longest & Sons, LLC currently works approximately 3,900 acres of land in King and Queen County and is primarily a row crop operation. Their first grain bins were installed in 2016 and at present day they currently have a 12,000 bushel wet bin and a total 95,000 bushel capacity in dry bins. Kevin practices no-till farming and is a proponent of the benefits of cover crops. He maintains buffer strips and strives to improve the land he works. Kevin looks forward to utilizing more precision agriculture such as variable rate fertilizer and seeding based applications in the future. Kevin is happily married to his best friend, Janet, and they have two girls together.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Clean Water Farm Award is presented in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to recognize producers who implement conservation practices to preserve water quality. The 2022 recipient of the Clean Water Farm Award is Randy D. Christian of the York River Watershed.

The Christian family began farming by raising vegetables. At the time, the operation consisted of Randy's father, Randy's brother, and two mules that were used to work the farm. Randy and his brother both had two sons, all of whom wanted to farm. Randy's father formed a partnership in 1992 while his brother and his two sons formed their own operation. In 1995, Randy's father retired, leaving the operation to Randy and his sons, who began a complete grain farming operation. Randy's brother and nephews continued to raise vegetables and began what is Pole Green Produce today. At one point, Randy and his boys raised hogs and had approximately 400 pigs at the peak of their operation.

Today, Randy D. Christian and Sons operates on approximately 2,700 acres between King William, New Kent, and Hanover counties. The operation functions as a row crop grain farm raising approximately 800 acres of small grain and 800 acres of corn each year. Randy's son Brian plants and hauls while his son Philip combines and sprays.

The Christians also have approximately 500 acres of timber, 225 of which are open. As part of an ongoing conservation effort, some acreage was purchased by the Civil War Trust. Additionally, over 400 acres are covered by a Resource Management Plan.

Randy and his sons routinely utilize best management practices such as winter cover crops, no-till systems, grass buffers, and forested buffers. As part of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, these buffers reduce runoff entering waterways. Approximately 10 acres have been taken out of production to help protect the Chickahominy River, in addition to Randy practicing water-quality minded efforts around the York River. The Christians utilize yield maps for precision agriculture and have been participants in the Whole Farm Approach since its pilot implementation in 2019. In addition to his work with Three Rivers, Randy also participates with Hanover-Caroline Soil & Water Conservation District, as well as Colonial Soil & Water Conservation District. Randy's dedication and commitment to soil health and water quality has been superb, and we commend him for his ongoing efforts.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

AG LITERACY

Three Rivers SWCD purchased and donated “I Love Strawberries” books to each 2nd grade classroom and also to each public library in our 3 county area. The book was selected by Ag In the Classroom as “Book of the Year”.



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE FIELD SIGNAGE:

TRSWCD continues to annually place roadside signage highlighting the Cover Crop program. In this initiative, we want to make sure we were delivering the message “Farmers Working Every Day To Improve The Chesapeake Bay”. Signs were installed at VACS or Whole Farm Approach participating cover crop fields throughout the District.

NEWSLETTER, WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

The Districts' quarterly newsletter was electronically emailed to approximately 1,625 citizens in our community, including state and local officials, schools, and cooperating agencies. A special Thank You to our sponsors: Java Jacks Cafe, Riverland Insurers, Three Rivers Forestry, James River Equipment and Colonial Farm Credit. The District is stiving to maintain an informative presence on our website and also on our Facebook page. Visit us @ www.trswcd.org or like us on Facebook.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

REEL IN & RECYCLE

Staff continues to monitor and collect monofilament fishing line to keep our waterways clean. The 3 receptacles are located at June Parker Marina in Essex County, the public boat landing at Aylett in King William County and Rainbow Acres Campground in King & Queen County. So far 5 buckets of fishing line have been collected.



DISTRICT SUPPORT

The District partners with and/or financially supports many workshops, field days, 4-H activities, and the VA Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Educational Foundation. Listed below are the sponsorships for FY23:

VA Farm Bureau Ag In the Classroom - \$200

Fredericksburg 4-H Livestock Sale - \$100

VCE 5 County Ag Conference - \$200

Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Golf Tournament - \$100 & Silent Auction - \$100

Sponsor a 4-H Camper in each county - \$1,050

2022 Cattle Health & Marketing Strategies Workshop - \$150

Clean Essex Project - Litter Campaign - \$200

EDUCATION OUTREACH

THREE RIVERS SWCD TEACHER MINI GRANT PROGRAM

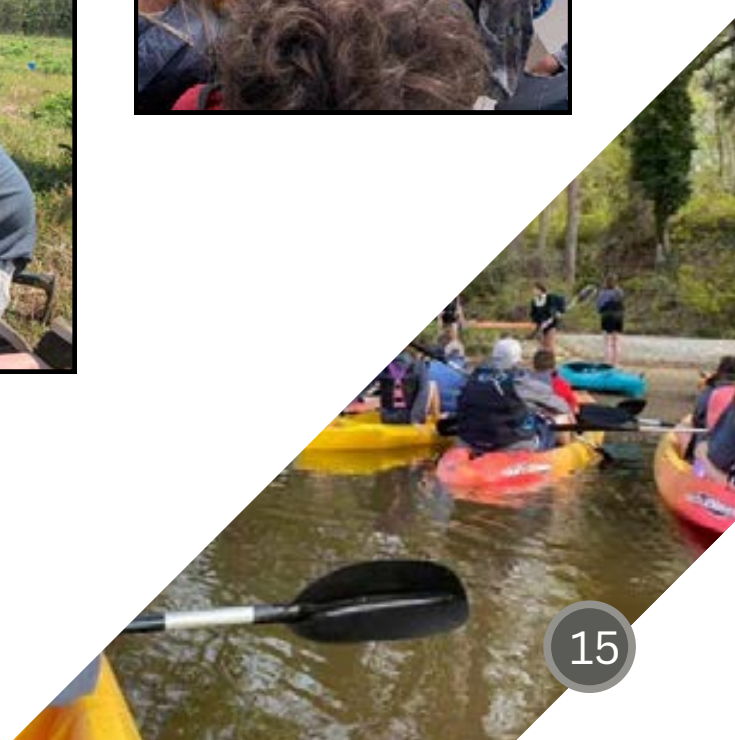
Annually, Three Rivers SWCD provides classroom mini grants to teachers in the District. The program has been extremely successful with our local public and private schools. The grants are intended for projects that integrate soil and water conservation into any curriculum. Below are the recipients of the FY23 classroom grants:

West Point Elementary—Purchase an Enviroscape Model

James Cary Middle School—Sponsor trip to the State Fair

Aylett Country Day School—Meaningful Watershed Experiences

West Point High School—Develop Sustainable Small Scale Ecosystems



EDUCATION OUTREACH

WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT COMPETITION

Three Rivers SWCD sponsored a Wildlife Food Plot competition this year for local high school students 13 to 18 years of age. The program is not only used to attract wildlife but also provides the students with an opportunity to learn about conservation and wildlife.



Applications were submitted by September 30 and the plots were judged on criteria such as seed production, variety of seeds used, and location of plot. Bonus points were given for evidence of wildlife using the plots.

This year we had six entries from King William High School. Staff worked with Howard Hill, FFA Instructor, to promote the competition. All six participants planted soybeans, clover, rape, radishes, winter pea and rye grass that was donated by Lane Brooks of Simplot.



CONGRATULATIONS

This year's winners are:

First place – Trenton Johnson and Wylie Johnson

Second place – Tucker Townsend and Patrick Upshaw

Third place – Emma Sparks and Spencer Lipscomb.



EDUCATION OUTREACH

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Three Rivers SWCD administers academic scholarships offered to high school and college students in Essex, King & Queen and King William Counties. Criteria included students who have applied to or are pursuing a college level curriculum related to natural resource conservation with an environmental protection emphasis or who are from a farming background. The Larkin Hundley Memorial Endowment is offered through a partnership with Colonial Farm Credit. And the Winners are:



**J. FRANKLIN "FRANKIE"
TOWNSEND, JR.
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Margaret L. Haynes, a 2023 graduate of West Point High School is the recipient of the J. Franklin "Frankie" Townsend Jr. Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. In the fall Margaret plans to attend Virginia Wesleyan and pursue a degree in Marine Biology specializing in the study of dolphin and sea turtles. Margaret is the daughter of William and Jennifer Haynes of West Point.

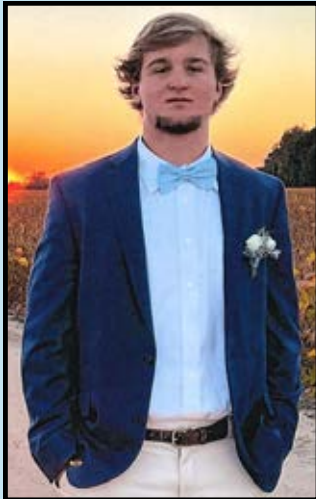


**EARL H. & ANNA K.
LONGEST MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP**

Krista A. Carlton, currently attending Virginia Tech, is the recipient of the Earl H. & Anna K. Longest Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Krista is majoring in Animal and Poultry Science on the pre-veterinary track with a focus in livestock and planning to add an Agribusiness Mgmt. and Entrepreneurship minor. Krista is the daughter of Bruce and Kimberly Carlton of King & Queen.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS CONTINUED



JOHN F. TOWNSEND, SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Trenton S. Johnson, the recipient of the John F. Townsend Sr. Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 attends King William High School. In the fall, Trenton plans to attend Virginia Tech and study Agriculture. Trenton comes from a farming background and has plans of returning to the family farm after graduation. Trenton is the son of Troy and Stacy Johnson of King William.



LARKIN HUNDLEY MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT

Arria Gross, recipient of the Larkin Hundley Memorial Endowment in the amount of \$2,000, is currently attending Methodist University. Arria is pursuing a degree in Business with a concentration in Professional Golf Mgmt. Her goal is to become a GM of a Country Club. In this role, she hopes to instill a focus on conservation and green initiatives such as limiting pesticides, turf management and biodiversity with native habitats. Arria is the daughter of Butch and Sherri Gross of Essex County. Arria is the granddaughter of the late Larkin Hundley.

Education Outreach

YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP

Three Rivers SWCD provides scholarships for students in Grades 9-12 to attend the Youth Conservation Camp held at VA Tech in July. The camp is focused on hands-on natural resources education.

Jackson Garner, Essex County resident and rising 10th grader was selected to attend the week long camp. Jackson spent the week studying soils, forestry and wildlife, as well as canoeing the New River, hiking the cascades and touring the VA Tech agriculture research farm!



ENVIROTHON

District Staff supported and attended the Area III Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon Competition by providing participation certificates to all students and coaches. Staff also supported the Host by ensuring all graded tests were properly secured and delivered to the scorekeeper.

The District helped promote the following programs for youth and adults through schools, news releases, website articles, Facebook posts, and local churches:

- VASWCD Photo & Poster Contest
- Boy & Girl Scout Badge Program
- Woods & Wildlife Camp
- Youth Conservation Leadership Institute



Education Outreach



SOIL & WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK

April 30 - May 7, 2023

This Year's theme is "One Water"

The District provided free downloadable lesson plans and resource materials to all teachers in grades K-12 to support Soil and Water Stewardship Week. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national programs to promote natural resource conservation. Celebrated annually since 1955 between the last Sunday in April and the first Sunday in May, NACD Stewardship Week reminds us of our individual responsibilities to care for natural resources. This year's theme was "One Water".

LIVING IN YOUR WATERSHED

As District staff participate in classroom education or outreach events, the "Living in Your Watershed" booklets are provided to youth and adults. These booklets were specifically designed and published with Rappahannock and York Watershed information included.

The material highlights conservation concepts such as non-point source pollution, watersheds, suggestions on how we can improve water quality, and Science SOL text that helps students understand their relationship and indirect impact upon the health of local waters and the Chesapeake Bay. 237 booklets were distributed.



EDUCATIONAL CAPSULES

District staff continued to promote 8 Science SOL Conservation Capsules for local teachers to provide hands-on Science SOL materials to their students. The capsules are all-inclusive interactive science activities targeting K-6 grades. They also include lesson plans to support the teachers. Activities include VA watersheds, storm water erosion simulator, conservation jeopardy, water contaminants and water supply. We were able to reach 132 teachers.



Homeowner Outreach

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VCAP)

The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) is an urban cost-share program that provides financial incentives and technical/educational assistance to property owners installing eligible Best Management Practices (BMPs).

These practices can be installed in areas of your yard where problems like erosion, poor drainage, or poor vegetation occur. Qualified sites shall be used for residential, commercial, or recreational purposes with a proposed practice that addresses a need.

To expand this program, Three Rivers SWCD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of the Rappahannock to provide assistance to property owners with urban water quality best management practices. 3 site visits were conducted and 1 BMP spot check for a Bioretention project at the King & Queen Courthouse was verified to be fully functioning. Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the Chesapeake Bay identifies that urban/suburban runoff is contributing to impairment and efforts to retro-actively address stormwater runoff from existing impervious surfaces is a priority. The District feels the VCAP program is an opportunity to help property owners do their part to improve water quality.



Conservation Landscaping



Infiltration



Dry Well



Constructed Wetlands



Permeable Pavement



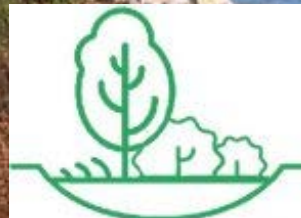
Living Shoreline



Impermeable Surface Removal



Green Roof



Bioretention



Rainwater Harvesting

Directors

The District recognized W. Todd Henley III, for his many years of dedicated service with a little token of our appreciation at the December Board of Directors Meeting. Todd has been a Director with us since 1980. He has served as Chairman, Vice Chair and on many committees supporting the District's mission of soil and water conservation.

Todd resigned as Associate Director, and we truly appreciate his time and outstanding leadership to the District.



In August, Three Rivers SWCD held a team building event with directors, staff, and family. This event gave us the opportunity to get to know each other outside of the Board Room. The day was filled with crab picking, socializing, and a lot of York River fun!





The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative support provided by the VA Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation & Recreation.

Three Rivers SWCD would also like to thank the Counties of Essex, King & Queen and King William for their continued financial support of water quality programs. Please contact us if we can be of assistance to you in the coming year!

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Here's To Another Great Year!



