

THREE RIVERS



SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION COURIER



TOP NEWS OF THE QUARTER

COST SHARE INFORMATION



TO OUR PRODUCERS

We hope all our producers are having a safe and successful growing season. We received a record \$8,937,775 for the Whole Farm Approach program this year. Sign-up is now complete, and we want to thank everyone who enrolled.

THANKS AGAIN <<<

We truly appreciate your ongoing support and stewardship efforts. We're excited to continue working alongside you. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions — we're here to help.

STAY CONNECTED

 @ThreeRiversSWCD

STAFF SPOTLIGHT AND UPDATES



MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE TRSWCD TEAM

We're excited to welcome Joe and Hailey as our Environmental Outreach Interns this summer. They've been working on a homeowner initiative and have already made valuable contributions to our team!



JOE SCHNEIDER
ENVIRONMENTAL
OUTREACH INTERN

"My name is Joe Schneider, and I'm from Richmond, VA. I'm a rising senior at Virginia Tech, majoring in Environmental Conservation. This summer, I've joined the Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District as an Environmental Outreach Intern. I'm excited to contribute to the team using my teamwork and problem-solving skills while gaining valuable professional experience. "



HAILEY COOKE
ENVIRONMENTAL
OUTREACH INTERN

"Hi! I'm Hailey, a recent graduate from the University of Mary Washington with a B.A. in Geography. I discovered my passion for environmental conservation through courses like biogeography, conservation seminar, and several independent studies. I'm especially interested in the relationship between humans and the environment.

In my free time, I love camping in state parks, reading, and doing just about any kind of arts and crafts.

I'm also happy to announce my continuation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts as the new VCAP Assistant Coordinator at VASWCD!"

PRECISION AG INSIGHTS



TREVOR GUY

CONSERVATION & PRECISION
AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST



PRECISION AG BASICS COURSE HELD FOR VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

On June 5th, Precision Agriculture Specialist Trevor Guy led a Precision Ag Basics course for Virginia Cooperative Extension. Topics included variable rate application, equipment, seeding, Rx maps, GPS, and monitors.

Trevor also highlighted how Three Rivers SWCD supports local producers through our Precision Agriculture Program, helping them adopt technologies that boost efficiency and conservation.

We're proud to be the only SWCD in Virginia with a dedicated Precision Ag Specialist.

CONTACT INFORMATION



trevor.guy@trswcd.org



[804-599-8332](tel:804-599-8332)



DISTRICT UPDATES



TRSWCD LAUNCHES NEW HOMEOWNER PROGRAM



TRSWCD is excited to announce the kickoff of its new Clean and Conscious Homeowner Program, which launched on Monday, July 21st. This initiative aims to connect with local homeowners and landowners to promote environmentally conscious practices that improve soil and water health.

Participants can receive incentives like free rain barrels by adopting Best Management Practices (BMPs) that help reduce stormwater runoff and support local conservation efforts. The program will include TRSWCD appearances at local events, workshops, and accessible educational materials to help homeowners take action.

Interested in joining? Contact Education & Outreach Coordinator, Grace Daughtrey, at grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org

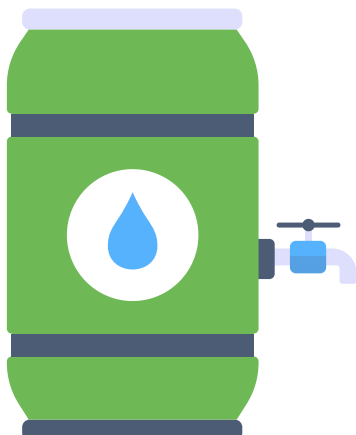
CONTACT INFORMATION



grace.daughtrey@trswcd.org



[804-445-6423](tel:804-445-6423)



FY26 COST SHARE SIGN-UP

>>> FY26 COST SHARE SIGN-UP

Our Cost Share sign up ran from July 10th through August 8th this year, and we were glad to meet with so many growers to get them signed up.

This program helps cover the costs of proven conservation practices such as cover crops, nutrient management plans, no till or reduced tillage, buffer strips, along with other methods that improve soil health, reduce erosion, and protect our local water.

We appreciate everyone who took the time to participate and look forward to working together in FY26 to make these practices pay off out in the field.



FY26 COST SHARE SIGN UP

Thursday, July 10 – Friday,
August 8, 2025

Call Waring to schedule your
appointment today!



Cell: (804) 445 -5282



Office: (804) 443 -4027



DISTRICT UPDATES

»»» MIDDLE PENINSULA PRODUCER CONFERENCE

On July 9, 2025, we welcomed producers, partners, and experts to this year's Middle Peninsula Producer Conference. It was a great opportunity to share updates, connect, and look ahead to the coming year.

A big thank-you to our speakers for their time and insight:

- Waring Baylor, Tyler Deitz, & Trevor Guy – District Updates on Conservation and Precision Ag
- Josey Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau – Grain Market Outlook
- Katelyn Jordan, Virginia Farm Bureau – Highlights from the 2025 General Assembly
- Estie Thomas, Virginia Outdoors Foundation – Land Conservation and Easements
- Felicia Washington (FSA) & Dwight Forrester (NRCS) – Partner Agency Updates

Thanks again to everyone who joined us. We're looking forward to continuing our work together throughout FY26!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THE AWESOME DOOR-PRIZES!

Helena, Simplot, Coastal Agrobusiness, Riverland Insurers, Farm Bureau Crop Insurance, Colonial Farm Credit, James River Equipment, First Bank & Trust, , Southern States, NAPA King William, T-Town Tack, Nutrien Aylett, Queenfield Golf Course, Rappahannock Seed LLC – Jerry Dickenson, Bella Pizza & Italian Restaurant, Virginia Soybean Association, 528 Italian American Restaurant, Jojo's Huntin & Fishin, Perdue AgriBusiness, Crabbe Aviation, Hooper, Java Jacks, Prince Street Cafe



DISTRICT UPDATES

»»» VICTORIA WHITT AWARDED J. FRANKLIN “FRANKIE” TOWNSEND JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

TRSWCD is proud to award the J. Franklin “Frankie” Townsend Jr. Memorial Scholarship to Victoria Whitt of King William County.

Victoria plans to attend the University of Virginia to study Environmental Science and was selected for her strong academic record and dedication to conservation.

Congratulations, Victoria!



Victoria Whitt

J. Franklin “Frankie”
Townsend Jr.
Memorial Scholarship

»»» THREE RIVERS DONATES TO HELP BUILD FFA GREENHOUSE IN KING WILLIAM

Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District recently donated funds to help King William High School’s FFA chapter build a new greenhouse.

This project will give students valuable hands-on experience in agriculture and plant science while encouraging conservation-minded practices. We’re proud to support the next generation of agricultural leaders and look forward to seeing the greenhouse come to life!



TRSWCD board presents check to Charles Piersa of King William County Farm Bureau

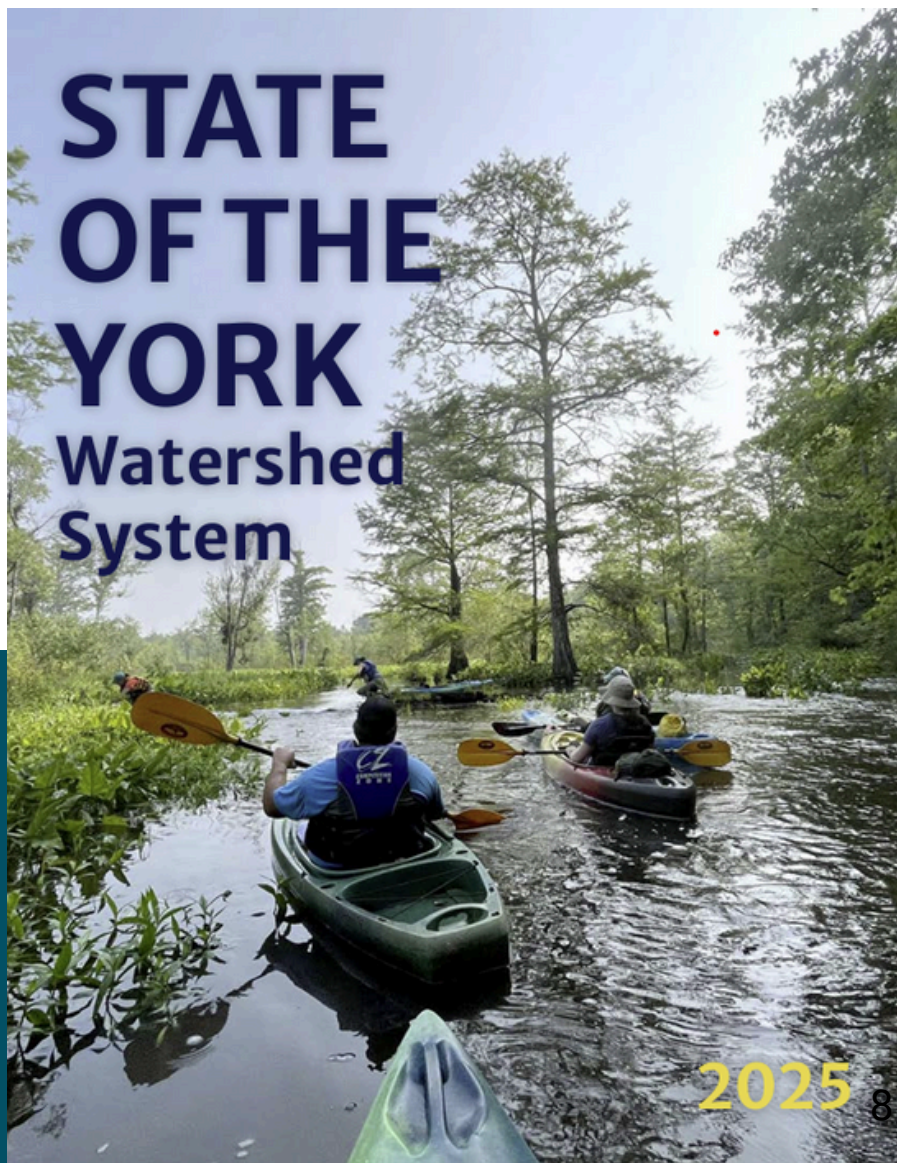
DISTRICT UPDATES

➤➤➤ 2025 STATE OF THE YORK REPORT RELEASED

We are pleased to share with you the long-awaited State of the York Report. This is the first report since 2000 and was developed by the York River & Small Coastal Basin Watershed Roundtable, of which the Three Rivers SWCD is a member.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the watershed, covering its changing landscape, water quality, system geography, the resources we steward, and other important information.

You can find the full report on their website by clicking the link below:



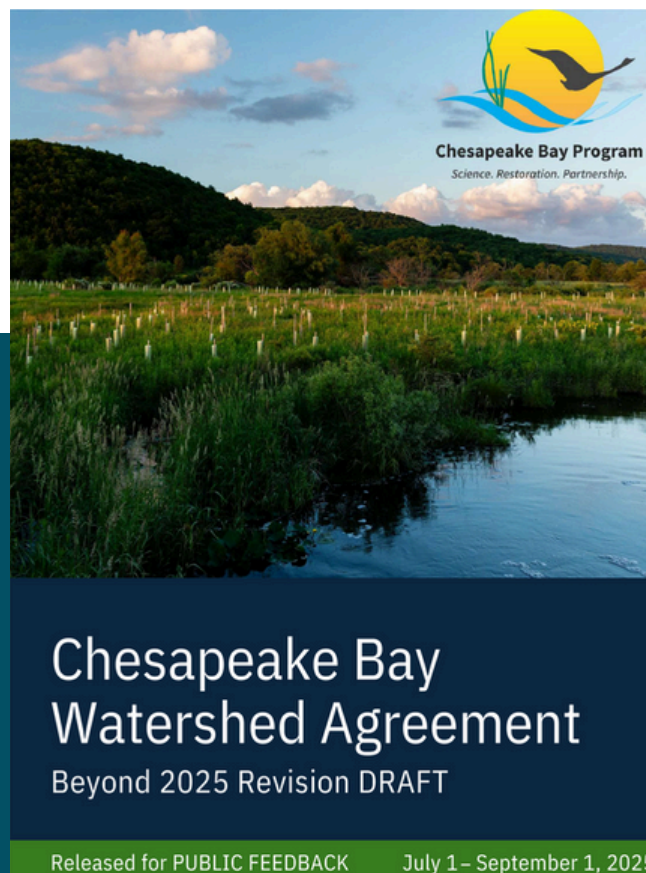
DISTRICT UPDATES

>>> PUBLIC COMMENT NOW OPEN ON DRAFT CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT

The Chesapeake Bay Program has released a draft revised version of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, and they want to hear from you!

Originally signed in 2014, the Watershed Agreement laid out a shared vision for restoring and protecting the Bay. Now, after years of research, progress, and public input, it's getting an update. The new draft streamlines the original 10 goals and 31 outcomes into four goals and 21 outcomes, making it more focused and easier to track progress moving forward. The draft is available now on the Chesapeake Bay Program website, and public feedback is open from July 1 through September 1, 2025. If you have thoughts, ideas, or concerns, this is your chance to share them. Just send your comments to comments@chesapeakebay.net.

To read the draft and learn more about how to submit feedback, visit the Planning for 2025 and Beyond page on the Chesapeake Bay Program website by clicking the link below.



DISTRICT UPDATES

>>> FARM TOUR VISITS SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY

The 2025 Middle Peninsula–Northern Neck Farm Tour gave participants a chance to explore agriculture in Suffolk County, Long Island. With over 600 farms generating more than \$260 million annually in vegetables, seafood, wine, flowers, and other products, the region offered a rich agricultural experience.

One highlight was a visit to the Bianchi-Davis Greenhouse in Riverhead, where Robert Payne Longest of King & Queen County and John Mason Hundley of Essex County were photographed in front of 35,000 orchids.

We were proud to sponsor this trip, which was attended by forty participants and organized with the help of local extension staff and retired Virginia Cooperative Extension agent Sam Johnson.



Teacher Mini Grant Applications Now Available

TRSWCD is offering a limited number of mini grants to teachers in Essex, King William, and King & Queen counties to support classroom projects that promote soil and water conservation.

- ✓ Supports soil, water, or environmental education
- ✓ Raises awareness of natural resources
- ✓ Includes a clear, achievable plan
- ✓ Enhances classroom learning



Ready to apply? Scan here or visit our website for more information.



www.trswcd.org



(804) 443-4027

THREE RIVERS



SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DONT FARM NAKED T-SHIRT

Photo Contest

WITH TRSWCD

**WHETHER YOU'RE ON THE FARM, AT
THE BEACH, IN THE MOUNTAINS, OR
EXPLORING SOMEWHERE NEW—
TAKE YOUR DON'T FARM NAKED
SHIRT ALONG AND SNAP A PHOTO!**

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS VIA TEXT OR EMAIL TO:



MARLEY.GOODMAN@TRSWCD.ORG



(804) 445-5792

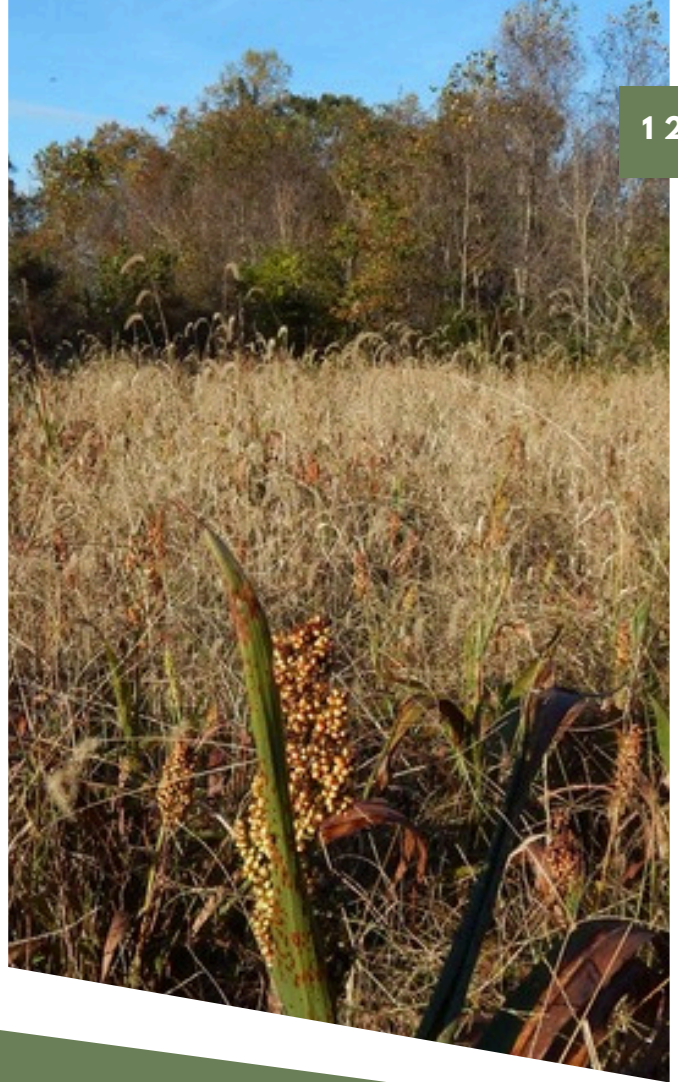


THREE RIVERS



SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WILDLIFE FOOD PLOT COMPETITION



12

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!



APPLICATIONS

Our Wildlife Food Plot Competition is now open to students ages 9–12 (Junior) and 13–18 (Senior) in Essex, King & Queen, and King William Counties.

Visit our website to find more information or applications. Applications are also available directly from Anne Davis. Please submit all completed applications to Anne.

Contact Information:

Email: anne.davis@trswcd.org

Phone: (804) 443-4027

**Applications Due:
September 30, 2025**



trswcd.org



DISTRICT OUTREACH

»»» TAPPAHANNOCK FARMER'S MARKET

On Saturday, May 17th, Three Rivers and Colonial Soil and Water Conservation Districts set up an outreach booth at the Tappahannock Farmer's Market to promote the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP). Visitors could pick up brochures, stickers, and other promotional materials to learn more about the program and its benefits.



»»» GROWING TOGETHER: KING AND QUEEN CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATION

TRSWCD had a great time celebrating the King and Queen County Public Library's first birthday this summer!

Grace Daughtrey, our Education and Outreach Coordinator, along with interns Hailey Cooke and Joe Schneider, led a hands on "Soil Babies" activity where kids planted seeds to take home and grow.

We're thankful for the chance to connect with the community and share the value of agriculture and conservation.



EDUCATION OUTREACH: SUMMER PROGRAMS

»»» SPLASH INTO SCIENCE: WATERSHED DISCOVERIES

From June 23rd to 26th, six enthusiastic students from Essex County joined our first-ever half-day summer camp, made possible by the Chesapeake Bay License Plate Fund!

Led by our Education and Outreach Coordinator, Grace Daughtrey, the camp brought students outside and into their local watershed for exciting, hands-on experiences in nature and conservation.

Thanks to generous support from Friends of the Rappahannock, Friends of the Refuge, and Essex Public Schools, campers had a week full of adventure. Activities included:

- Kayaking on Cat Point Creek
- Touring the Essex Museum
- Cooling off at the Tappahannock Splash Pad
- Fishing and hiking at the Hutchinson Unit
- Exploring nature at the Wilna Unit

A huge thank you to all the partners and supporters who helped make this unforgettable week a success!



*Get the latest
education updates
with Grace's teacher
newsletters on our
website!*



Teacher newsletters
— scan here!

EDUCATION OUTREACH: SUMMER PROGRAMS



>>> SUMMER SNEAKERS

TRSWCD attended the Summer Sneakers Program in King William with the interactive Enviroscope watershed model to help students understand water pollution, runoff, and erosion.

Students learned how everyday actions impact local rivers and streams and explored ways to protect the environment.

Thank you to the King William County Farm Bureau Women's Committee for the invitation to be part of this program.



>>> AG DAY AT TAPPAHANNOCK ELEMENTARY

On May 20th, Three Rivers SWCD hosted Ag Day for 3rd and 4th graders at Tappahannock Elementary. Students enjoyed hands-on activities exploring agriculture, conservation, and natural resources.

Thanks to Education & Outreach Coordinator Grace Daughtrey for organizing the event, and to our guest speakers from Virginia Farm Bureau, Friends of the Rappahannock, Virginia Conservation Police, NRCS, and Virginia Cooperative Extension for sharing their expertise. We're proud to help educate the next generation of agricultural and environmental leaders!



EDUCATION OUTREACH: SUMMER PROGRAMS

»»» YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP 2025

From July 12 to 19, sixty six high school students gathered at Virginia Tech for the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' annual Youth Conservation Camp.

This year, Three Rivers SWCD proudly sponsored two students, Lucas Kenny from King William County and Sterling Brooks from Essex County, to join this exciting week focused on natural resource conservation. Campers enjoyed hands on fieldwork at Claytor Lake, toured the College of Natural Resources and Environment, visited the Dairy Sciences department, explored turf management at Lane Stadium, and kayaked on the beautiful New River.

Our Education and Outreach Coordinator, Grace Daughtrey, was right there alongside as a camp counselor, helping guide and inspire the students throughout the week. We're especially proud to celebrate Sterling Brooks, who was named Camper of the Week for his enthusiasm and dedication.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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ORGANIZATION DETAILS

THREE RIVERS SWCD DIRECTORS

Robert T. Bland, IV - Chair,
King & Queen County
Langdon Townsend - Vice Chair,
King William County
Sara Henley - Secretary,
King & Queen County
Bruce Taylor - Treasurer,
King and Queen County
Thomas Fox, Director,
King William County
Robbie Longest, VCE,
Essex County
AJ Brooks, Director,
Essex County
Jay Hundley, Director,
Essex County
Willie Upshaw, Associate Director,
King William County
Kevin Norman, Associate Director,
King & Queen County

Board of Directors Meetings
3rd Tuesday of each Month-
contact us for time and location at
804-443-4027

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation & Recreation. Three Rivers SWCD programs, activities, and employment opportunities are available to all people on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, political affiliation or handicap.

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