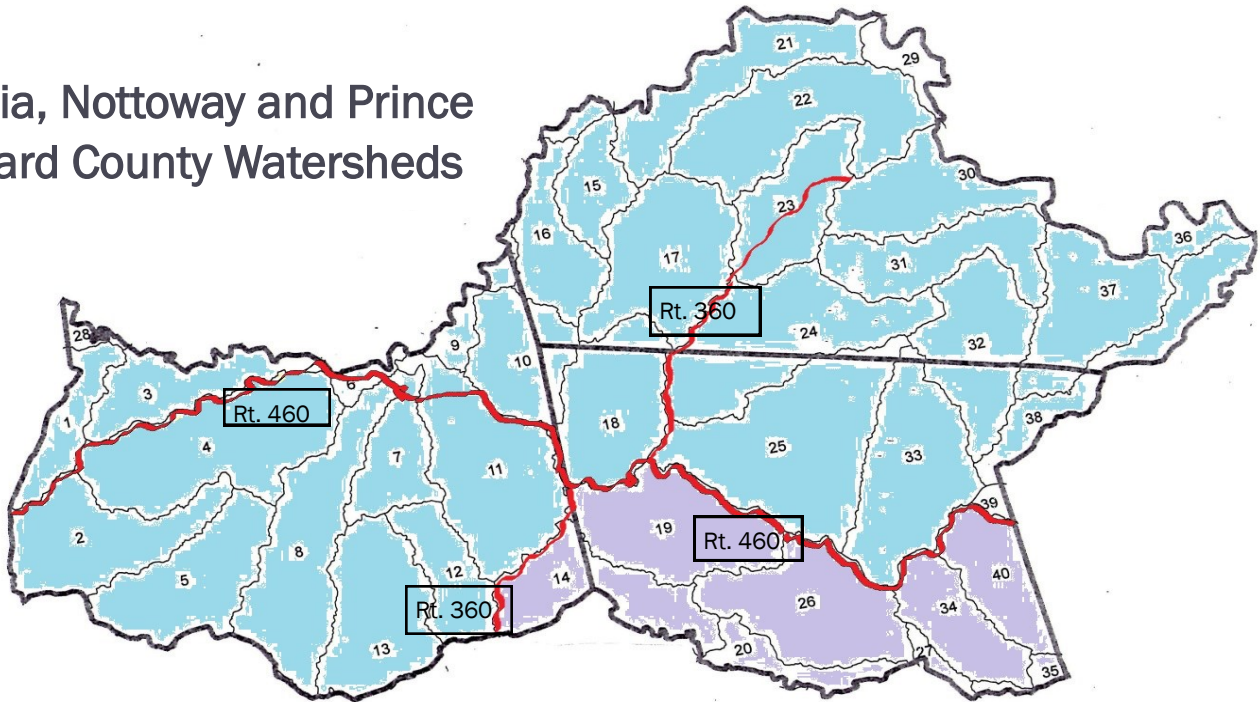


PIEDMONT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward County Watersheds



A watershed is all the land that water runs over on its way to a stream, pond, or other water body. In the map above, the Piedmont SWCD watersheds are numbered 1 thru 40.

The numbers are listed below followed by the name of the stream that drains that watershed.

Piedmont SWCD watersheds that empty into the Chesapeake Bay are in blue above. Those that empty into the Albemarle Sound (in North Carolina) are in purple above, and noted with an asterisk below.

1- Vaughans Creek	11- Sandy River	21- Bent Creek	31- Beaver Pond Creek
2- Spring Creek	12- Mountain Creek	22- Haw Branch	32- Sweathouse Creek
3- Dunker Creek	13- Evans Creek	23- Nibbs Creek	33- Cellar Creek
4- Lockett Creek	14- Dry Creek *	24- West Creek	34- Long Branch *
5- Little Buffalo Creek	15- Stock Creek	25- Little Creek	35- Red Oak Creek *
6- Bad Luck Branch	16- Sandy Creek	26- Whetstone Creek *	36- Nooning Creek
7- Millers Creek	17- Beaver Creek	27- Cedar Creek *	37- Winticomack Creek
8- Briery Creek	18- Little Creek	28- Fishpond Creek	38- Namozine Creek
9- Angola Creek	19- Crystal Lake *	29- Skinquarter Creek	39- Butterwood Creek *
10- Sayers Creek	20- Falls Creek *	30- Smacks Creek	40- Beaver Pond Creek*

We are ready to partner with you to improve the water in your watershed!

NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Just a few words to thank all who made it possible for the Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District to have another successful year. Thanks to the ongoing partnership with our sister agencies, our staff was able to stretch our conservation dollars. These partnerships enabled us to put more conservation “on the ground” and improve water quality on many more acres in Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward County than if we worked separately.

The year ahead comes with challenges. We hope to continue to look for creative solutions to problems and maintain the quality of conservation guidance and support that our farmers have come to expect from us. I want to again thank our staff, agency partners, county support and the farmers for helping improve the environment.

Larkin Moyer, Chair

Do not try to satisfy your vanity by teaching a great many things. Awaken people’s curiosity. It is enough to open minds; do not overload them. Put there just a spark. If there is some good inflammable stuff, it will catch fire.

Anatole France
1844- 1942

INTRODUCTION

The Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District is a political subdivision established under state law to carry out natural resource stewardship programs at the local level in Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties. Piedmont SWCD has been involved in delivering voluntary, locally-led conservation for over 75 years. The Piedmont SWCD, under the guidance of an elected board of directors, promotes voluntary, incentive based solutions to natural resource concerns.



District Manager Deanna Fehrer and Director Ricky Rash look over documents at the “field office”.

Between July 2014 and June 2015 the Piedmont SWCD staff conducted 516 farm visits resulting in cost-share disbursements of \$606,342 through the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share program (VACS). The cost-share payment incentives helped farmers implement many best management practices, and this year saw the restoration of 19 acres of streamside forested buffers and the protection of 94,970 feet of stream from cattle. The productive cost-share partnership between farmers and the Piedmont SWCD resulted in cleaner water, healthier habitats and more productive

soils. This and every year, the Piedmont SWCD strives to educate the community and schools about the value of natural resources and encourage conservation efforts.

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Piedmont SWCD through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

FINANCIAL

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 the District operating budget included over \$606,000 in cost-share funding. An audit conducted by Robinson, Farmer and Cox for FY12-14 found no discrepancies.

OPERATING BUDGET	FISCAL YEAR 2015
VA Agriculture Best Management	\$606,342.00
Annual Operating Budget	\$303,443.00
Local funds (equipment rental, grants for special	\$ 53,691.00
State Funds (VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation)	
Operations	\$169,880.00
Agricultural Technical Assistance	\$ 37,872.00
Flood control structure maintenance and repairs	\$ 42,000.00



Senior Conservation Specialist Charlie Wootton checks progress of a cost-share practice installation.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

- Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program (VACS)
- TMDL – Chesapeake Bay Watershed Improvement Program (WIP)
- Agricultural conservation planning and technical assistance
- Resource Management Plan Program
- Virginia’s Agricultural Stewardship Act
- Youth and adult conservation education programs
- No-till equipment rental
- Conservation awards
- Website, newsletter, radio spots and other media outreach
- Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)
- Watershed dam management program



Stephen Reames delivers and maintains the Piedmont SWCD’s four no-till drills.

WATERSHED DAMS



Bush 4B plunge pool.

The District manages 14 flood control dams located in Prince Edward County in compliance with the Department of Conservation and Recreation dam safety regulations.

- Annual inspections performed and reports provided to NRCS, DCR and Prince Edward County—seven inspections made by DCR Professional Engineers. Additional site visits included storm event inspections, maintenance inspections, and NRCS site design for repairs.
- Emergency Action Plans finalized for all dams.
- Four dam repair projects completed—two graded filter drains; emergency spillway drains; culvert/road replacement; regrade and replenish stone at two outfalls pools.

AGRICULTURE

Agricultural producers participated in incentive and related programs managed by the Piedmont SWCD resulting in reduced non-point source pollution and improved resource management.

JULY 2014 TO JUNE 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **\$606,342 cost-share funding allocated**

- **Amelia County cooperators—\$238,425 cost-share:**

- 29,339 feet of stream exclusion
 - 1649.1 acres of planted cover crops

- **Nottoway County cooperators—\$178,055 cost-share:**

- 24,804 feet of stream exclusion fencing
 - 540.1 acres cover crops
 - 5.62 acres CREP streamside buffer
 - 1 Litter Shed

- **Prince Edward County cooperators—\$189,862 cost-share :**

- 40,827 feet of stream exclusion fencing
 - 728.6 acres of cover crops
 - 13.5 acres of CREP streamside buffer

- 516 farm visits to:

- promote voluntary, incentive based best management practice implementation,
 - provide conservation planning to land owners to address natural resource concerns, and
 - provide technical assistance to help producers implement best management practices.

- 40 best management practice applications approved, including six producers new to the program.
- 27 Conservation Plans developed.
- 3,046 acres sowed using district no-till rental equipment.
- 26 best management practice spot checks conducted.
- 2 Virginia Forage and Grasslands Council field day demonstrations for ag producers.
- Provided support to farmers in their effort to comply with regulatory requirements by assisting with the new Resource Management Plan Program.

- Conservation Awards presented:

- Jack Boswell, Sunny Slope Orchard—Clean Water Farm Award, Nottoway
 - Billy Thompson—Outstanding Conservation Farmer, Prince Edward County
 - Mountain View Dairy—Don & Janet Benson, Outstanding Conservation Farm, Amelia County
 - Joe Wirt, Jr.—Wildlife Stewardship, Nottoway County
 - Shirley Marshall—Forestry Stewardship, Nottoway County
 - Heart of Virginia Master Gardeners—Conservation Group
 - Katie Martin—Conservation Educator, Prince Edward County



A big “Thank You” from District staff. From left, front, Deanna Fehrer and Amanda Hancock, and rear, Charlie Wootton, Kevin Dunn and Robin Buckalew. Stephen Reames not pictured.



URBAN CONSERVATION

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OR VCAP

VCAP is a new program that provides financial reimbursement to property owners installing specific conservation landscaping practices like rainwater harvesting systems, rain gardens, conservation planting, porous pavement. All non-agricultural property owners in the Piedmont District Chesapeake Bay Watershed are eligible to apply—residential, business, public and private.

Longwood University “Smart” Rainwater Harvesting System

Dr. Kathy DeBusk Gee designed and supervised the installation of a rainwater harvesting system at the new Longwood University Environmental Education Center located in the University’s Lancer Park. The rain water harvesting system includes a 3,000 above-ground cistern, pictured right, and an overflow-fed rain garden. Both were installed with cost-share assistance through the District’s Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP).



The “smart” rainwater harvesting system incorporates the use of real-time weather forecast data from the National Weather Service to release the precise amount of water stored in the cistern that would be expected to be replaced by the forecasted amount of rainfall. The stored water is automatically released 12 to 24 hours in advance of the expected rainfall.

Releasing the water before the storm is important. When streams take on a huge pulse of water during a rain event it can cause the streambanks to fail, sending large amounts of sediment into the stream, and causing problems for water treatment plants and aquatic life downstream. Capturing rainwater and releasing it back into the environment after the peak storm event not only reduces flooding, but also helps recharge the aquifer, filter out pollutants and reduce erosion.

TREES, BEES AND CLEAN WATER

In partnership with Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Clean Virginia Waterways and Heart of Virginia Master Gardeners, the District helped organize this informative program for homeowners. Over 75 attended the event. The Town of Farmville held their annual Arbor Day tree give-away after the workshop.

WATER IN THE LANDSCAPE

Over 50 participants attended the Fall Garden Symposium coordinated by the Heart of Virginia Master Gardeners and the District. The series featured several guest speakers and employed the popular “Landscape for Life” curriculum to address sustainability related to soil health, water runoff and conservation and native plants in non-agriculture landscapes.



The Farmville Train Station was the site of the Trees, Bees and Clean Water program. After the program, the Town of Farmville’s Arbor Day tree give-away included Smokey Bear who drew a crowd of admiring fans.

Fuqua School’s cafeteria was where Fall Garden Symposium participants enjoyed lunch together after listening to several informative presentations.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

YOUTH EDUCATION



Envirothon
Fuqua and Nottoway High School competed at the District's Local

Envirothon. The Nottoway team went on to represent the Piedmont District at the Area V and State Envirothon competitions.

Classroom K-12 Presentations

Soil Tubes program conducted for 120 Amelia Elementary Students.

Water Cycle program presented to 47 Amelia Elementary Students.

Watersheds program presented to 18 Fuqua School students, and 37 Amelia 4th grade students.

Biological Water Monitoring program presented to 24 Fuqua School students.

Soils Station at Holiday Lake 4H for 110 third grade students.

Conservation Poster Contest

The District received 400 entries in the 2015 poster contest with the theme "Local Heroes, Your Hard Working Pollinators". A Girl Scout poster workshop was held with nine scouts participating.

Ag Awareness Day

This field day for 300 third grade students in Nottoway and Lunenburg Counties included exploring the District's soil tunnel and watching the erosion box demonstration.

Family & Farm Day

577 adults and youth attended this family oriented day showcasing agriculture. Kids, and several adults, enjoyed crawling through the District's soil tunnel.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Conservation Education

Piedmont Conservation College Education Scholarships of \$1,000 each were awarded this year to Jessica Newcomb of Amelia, left, and Sarah Rash of Nottoway



County, right. Sarah also received a \$1000 Virginia Association of Conservation District college scholarship award.



Youth Conservation Camp

The District sponsored Selena Yanoska of Amelia Co. and Mary Rash of Nottoway Co. to attend VASWCD Youth Conservation Camp.



Mary Rash, left, and Selena Yanoska right.

MEDIA

Educational Displays

Educational display "75 Years in Conservation" placed first in the VASWCD annual meeting exhibit competition.

Media

13 news articles published.

3 radio spots aired.

3 issues of newsletter circulated.

1 annual report circulated.

7 videos produced to highlight conservation achievements at the District's award ceremony.

3 educational videos produced and uploaded on website.

ADULT OUTREACH

Landscape for Life

Partnering with Virginia Cooperative Extension, the District offered a "Landscape for Life" training for public grounds staff at Longwood University, Hampden Sydney College and the Town of Farmville. Participants learned which native plants work well in public ground landscapes, what techniques can help control erosion and runoff, ways to improve soil quality, and proper pruning techniques.

Virginia Forage and Grassland Council Tours

Va Forage and Grassland Council's annual summer and winter programs were sponsored, in part, by the District and attended by producers from across the state. Senior Conservation Specialist Charlie Wootton serves as Vice President of the Council.



Producers and partners met at the grazing dairy farm of Tommy Watson and discussed forage species selection and management; grazing system layout; nutrient management and its advantages in a grazing dairy system; herd health; review of micro-dairy start-up; and overview of available technical and financial assistance.

VALUED PARTNERSHIPS

We thank our network of valued partners for helping the District promote natural resource conservation to an ever-wider circle of people.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Horace Adams, Rachel Loveday,
Derek Hancock, and Robbie Hazlegrove
-NRCS
Kirby Woolfolk, Patrick Murphy and
Doug Audley- Dept. of Forestry
Farm Service Agency
VA Cooperative Extension
Katie Martin-Dep. of Game & Inland
Fisheries

ENVIROTHON

Doug Audley, Kirby Woolfolk and
Stephen Jasenak-Dept. of Forestry
Derek Hancock, Rachel Loveday,
Brittany Atkinson & Jim Jarvis- NRCS
Rose Wootton-Piedmont SWCD
David Fowlkes- Town of Farmville
Katie Martin-DGIF
Kelly Snoddy- Peter Francisco SWCD
Longwood U. Envir. Ed. Center- Host
Beth Sokolik-VASWCD

POSTER CONTEST

Joy Utzinger-PECES
Carol Edmundson-PECES
Emily Grabiec - LCVA
Patty Jones-Girl Scout Troop 64

YOUTH EDUCATION

PROGRAMS

Billy & Barbara Thompson
Amelia Ruritans
Nottoway High School
Amelia Elementary
Fuqua School
Blackstone Primary

MEDIA SUPPORT

Amelia Bulletin-Monitor
Farmville Herald
Southside Messenger
Blackstone Courier Record
Crewe-Burkeville Journal
WFLO

LANDSCAPE OUTREACH

Heart of VA Master Gardeners
Katy Overby, Haley Norton &
Caitlin Miller - Virginia
Cooperative Extension
Dr. Kathy Gee- Longwood Univ.
Paula Totten-NRCS, Farmville
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Clean Virginia Waterways
Town of Farmville-Host

LOCAL PARTNERS

Middle James Roundtable
Amelia, Nottoway and
Prince Edward County
Supervisors
Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Ed.
County Farm Bureaus
VA Forage & Grasslands Council
Virginia Association of Soil and
Water Conservation Districts
Heart of VA Master Gardeners

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

NRCS 2014-2015 ANNUAL PROGRESS

Total managed financial assistance-(active contracts in all programs)

Farmville Office - 32 Contracts \$984,364

Amelia Office - 19 Contracts \$619,860.18

7 Contracts managed totaling \$249,039

3 Contracts totaling \$104,953 in financial assistance.

4 Contracts managed totaling \$173,932

5 Contracts totaling \$230,712 in financial assistance.

7 Contracts managed totaling \$170,911

1 Contracts totaling \$2,999 financial assistance.

14 Contracts taken to obligation totaling \$390,482

10 Contracts totaling \$281,195 financial assistance.

31 applications are still current

30 applications are still current

All 61 applications to be rolled over to FY 2016.

Contracts with financial assistance

Farmville Office - 8 CREP contracts totaling \$29,618.00 financial assistance paid out to date.

All contracts and applications were cooperative projects with either Piedmont SWCD or EQIP.

RCP2015 Applications

8 Applications still current, 2 pre-approved for funding totaling \$6000



PIEDMONT SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
100 B DOMINION DRIVE
FARMVILLE, VA 23901

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage Paid
Farmville, VA
23901
Permit No. 71

Address Service Requested

ELECTED DIRECTORS

LARKIN MOYER
Chairman - Amelia County
RICKY RASH
Vice Chair - Nottoway County
WILKIE CHAFFIN
Treasurer - Prince Edward Co.
CHUCK ARNASON
Secretary - Nottoway County
DONNA KERR
Amelia County
BILL POWERS
Prince Edward County
JUAN WHITTINGTON
Amelia County - Appointed
HALEY NORTON
VCE Appointed

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

GARY DILLARD
Amelia County
DON MAXEY
Prince Edward County
ROSE WOOTTON
Nottoway County

DISTRICT STAFF

DEANNA FEHRER extension 108
District Manager
AMANDA HANCOCK ext. 132
Education Program Tech
CHARLIE WOOTTON ext. 128
Senior TMDL Conservation
Specialist
KEVIN DUNN ext. 116
BMP Conservation Technician
STEPHEN REAMES
Equipment Program
ROBIN BUCKALEW ext. 134
Communications



The above 2015 Poster Contest grand winning poster was created by Madisen Tillerson, a first grade student at Prince Edward County Elementary school.

All programs and services of the Piedmont SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, handicap or political affiliation.

This publication is sponsored in part by Colonial Farm Credit, ACA. Dedicated to providing sound and constructive credit, they strive to improve the well being of the American farmer by providing long and short term financing. The Farmville office is located at 1700 South Main St. In Farmville, Virginia. Call or stop by Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. (phone:434.392-3193).

