



Annual Report
2022-2023

WHO ARE WE?

The Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District is responsible for assisting the agricultural community, landowners, and residential property owners of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland Counties in the wise management and maintenance of the region's valuable natural resource base.

MISSION

To promote the stewardship of natural resources through leadership, education, and technical assistance for all resource users, and to engender a trusted relationship between the District and these users.

STAFF

Kathy Clarke.....District Operations Manager
Brandon Dillistin.....District Technical Manager
Joanna Balderson.....Administrative Assistant
Lowery Becker.....Education Conservation Specialist
Kelly Brann.....Marketing & Outreach Specialist
Aaron Saunders.....Agricultural Conservation Specialist



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Robert E. Pickett.....Chairman
Frank A. “Bert” Johnson, Jr.....Vice-Chairman
J. Vince Garland.....Treasurer

Elected Directors

Robert E. Pickett.....Northumberland
Frank A. “Bert” Johnson, Jr.....Richmond
J. Vince Garland.....Richmond
Faye A. Andrashko.....Lancaster
William A. “Billy” McCarty.....Lancaster
H. Shirley Powell.....Westmoreland
Robert G. “Bobby” Vanlandingham.....Northumberland
Richard E. Wilkins.....Westmoreland

Appointed Directors

Trent Jones.....Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent
Louis G. Basye.....At Large Appointed Member

Associate Directors

William D. Allensworth
E. Derwin Booker, Jr
Junius C. “J.C.” Berger
Richard F. Haynie
Kenneth Savko

PARTNERS

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Abigail Davis.....County Executive Director
Tara Brann.....Program Technician
Kelsey Keyser.....Program Technician
Charlotte Mironov.....Program Technician

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Lucee F. Kossler.....District Conservationist
Brody Ellis.....Soil Conservationist
Caroline Lancaster.....Soil Conservationist
Dylan Lockwood.....Natural Resource Specialist

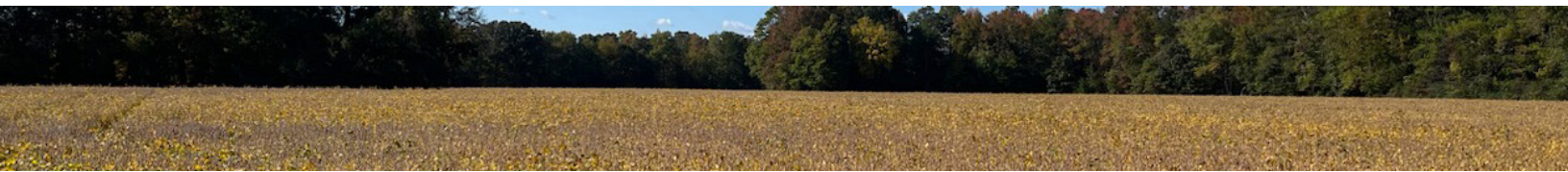


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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Partners in Conservation,

As I write this it is a beautiful autumn day in this special place we call the Northern Neck. The fall colors are approaching peak brilliance, our rivers and streams are sparkling, and our agricultural producers are harvesting bountiful corn and soybean crops. Already I am seeing preparations being made for cover crops to be planted. This and other practices nourish our soils and improve the water quality of our rivers and Bay.

Cover crops, no-till, nutrient management, and engineered practices are cornerstones of our programs covering over 180,000 acres in the four-county area. We thank our multiple producer participants as well as our federal and state agency partners and legislators that advocate for the best science-based practices and record financial support. Just as important are the educational outreach programs for our children-the next generation of environmental stewards. We are also pleased to work cooperatively with our localities to host the Household Hazardous Waste events that continue to be very successful.



Robert Pickett, Chairman

The NNSWCD will continue to promote the spirit of partnership, exemplify leadership and technical expertise to all in our Northern Neck community as we go forward in a shared vision of resource stewardship in 2024.

For Conservation,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Robert E. Pickett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

VASWCD ANNUAL MEETING

During the first week of December 2022, staff and directors enjoyed a very informative and enriching experience at the 2022 VASWCD Annual Meeting in Roanoke, Virginia. This meeting created a wonderful opportunity to meet and network in person with so many other soil & water conservation districts. Staff in attendance included Kathy Clarke, Joanna Balderson and Kelly Brann. Directors in attendance included Chairman, Robert Pickett, and Vice-Chairman, Frank Johnson, Jr.



NNSWCD HOLIDAY DINNER

After COVID-19 placed a hold on the Annual Holiday Dinner for a few years, we were finally able to join together again for a delicious meal at the Old Rapp Taphouse in Warsaw on December 14, 2022. Our staff greatly enjoyed reconnecting with our partners in person outside of the office.



YEARS OF SERVICE



On November 16, 2022, the NNSWCD family hosted Delegate Margaret Ransone for a special presentation honoring retired Board Chair and current Associate Director E. Derwin Booker, Jr. Surrounded by colleagues and staff, Mr. Booker was presented with a commemorative framed edition of the 2020 General Assembly House Joint Resolution No. 368 commending his many years of dedicated service to the Northern Neck and the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Robert G. “Bobby” Vanlandingham of Callao, VA is a farmer, realtor and Elected Director representing Northumberland County on the NNSWCD Board. Bobby was recognized in December 2022 for his **20 years of service** to the Board.



H. Shirley Powell of Colonial Beach, VA is a farmer and an Elected Director representing Westmoreland County on the NNSWCD Board. Shirley was recognized in December 2022 for his **15 years of service** to the Board.

STAFF INTRODUCTION



In October of 2022, our office welcomed Kelly Brann, the new Marketing & Outreach Specialist. Kelly has been a lifelong resident of the Northern Neck. “I started this position on October 3, 2022 and was able to jump right in with three Fall household hazardous waste collection events . I enjoy working with producers and a community I am fortunate enough to call home. I am looking forward to growing personally and professionally in this position with Northern Neck SWCD.”

EDUCATION

In April 2023, NNSWCD partnered with Friends of the Rappahannock, Menokin Foundation, Belle Isle State Park, Tidewater Oyster Gardener Association, Department of Forestry, and Virginia Cooperative Extension to successfully host two separate “Thinking Outside The Sink” (T.O.T.S.) events for sixth graders from Richmond County Middle School and Montross Middle School. Lowery Becker, Education & Conseration Specialist coordinated with the schools and partners to ensure the students had a meaningful experience learning about the Northern Neck’s watersheds.

Richmond County sixth graders T.O.T.S. event was held at the Belle Isle State Park. Students were broken into 5 groups and

rotated throughout the stations. These stations included seining for river aquatic organisms, how water flows through a watershed during storms, the life cycle and importance of oysters, wetlands and how to hike a trail, the role of a riparian buffer on water quality, and food webs.

Montross Middle sixth graders T.O.T.S. event was held at the Menokin Foundation. Students were broken into 4 smaller groups and rotated throughout the stations. These stations included kayaking, nature Bingo walk, the importance of water quality and the history of Menokin. For both events, each station was led by a different organization that provided different watershed experiences for the students.



2023 Scholarship Recipients



Anne Kathryn Martz, the recipient of the NNSWCD **J.C. Berger Conservation Advancement Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,000, attends Rappahannock High School and the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School. Anne Kathryn will be studying Agricultural Education at Virginia Tech. Anne Kathryn is very involved with the FFA and currently serves as the President. She also volunteers in the community through FFA, the Haven, Healthy Kids Run and other groups. Her love for agriculture, education and conservation made her the standout recipient of this scholarship.

Emma Packett, the recipient of the NNSWCD **James Edward Minor Ag Stewardship Award** in the amount of \$1,000, attended Rappahannock High School and the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School. Emma is studying Crop Soil and Environmental Science with a minor in Agribusiness at Virginia Tech. Emma had an active role in FFA, serving in many roles including President, and 4-H. Emma is now active in Agronomy Club, Eventing Club and Block and Bridle at VT. Her continued pursuit of conservation in agriculture meets the District's vision.



OUTREACH

Household Hazardous & Electronic Waste (HHW)

There are seven total HHW's planned every year - three in the spring and four in the fall. Often we are asked "***What is a household hazardous waste collection event?***" or "***what items are accepted?***". A household hazardous & electronic waste (HHW & E-Waste) collection is an event where county residents and/or property owners are allowed to bring household hazardous or e-waste items to a designated location for proper disposal. Acceptable items can include pesticides, old paint cans, used oil, bad gas, fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, aerosol cans and so much more! E-waste items include TV's, computers, printers, phones, or any other electronic device. Northern Neck SWCD partners with the four localities, MXI Environmental Services, and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) offices to make this event possible. The 2024 HHW dates can be found on our website, www.nnsxcd.org, as well as a list of accepted and non-accepted items.

	FY 22/23 HHW Data			
		VEHICLES	HHW	E-WASTE
	LANCASTER	271	29,188 lbs.	14,804 lbs.
	NORTHUMBERLAND	320	21,139 lbs.	9,169 lbs.
	RICHMOND	64	7,707 lbs.	1,590 lbs.
	WESTMORELAND	121	8,401 lbs.	-
				



WRCMSP - Trunk-or-Treat - October 2022



Lancaster Middle School's Career Day - March 2023



VA Farm Bureau Customer Appreciation Day - June 2023



Creating pollinators at Menokin's Makers Day - July 2023

"Our outreach program has really grown this past year. When I started in October 2022, I jumped right in with the remaining household hazardous waste events (HHWs) and attending my first trunk-or-treat as a NNSWCD representative. I decorated NNSWCD's van and headed over to the Warsaw Town Park for the annual community event. "Twist or Treat" was the name of our game where the kids were able to spin the wheel and get a piece of candy based off the color. It was such a fun and interactive game! To close the holiday season out, our office hosted a holiday brunch with our USDA partners followed by the annual holiday dinner with staff, directors and partners. The remaining fiscal year consisted of career days at Lancaster Middle School and Westmoreland High School, Earth Day festival, Farm Bureau Customer Appreciation Day with Mobile Education Unit, Lancaster Community Library's "Check Me Out" program and Makers Day at the Menokin Foundation."

Kelly Brann, Marketing & Outreach Specialist

PRODUCER CONFERENCE



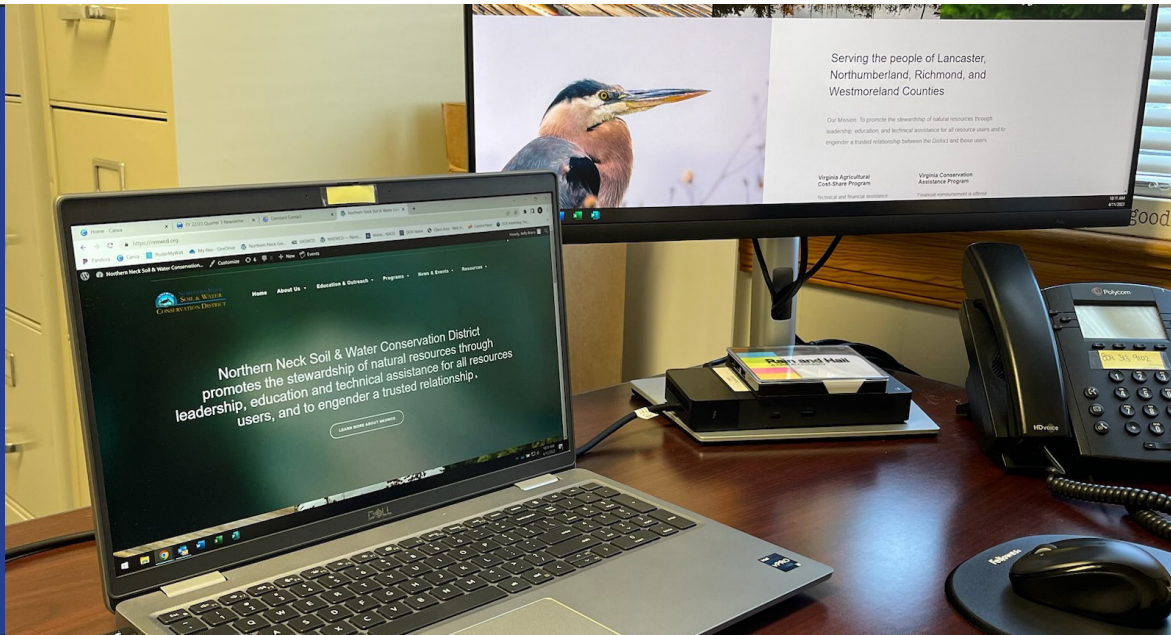
On March 16, 2023 the NNSWCD held a Producer Conference at the Westmoreland County Fire Department in Montross. A delicious, catered breakfast was provided by the Art of Coffee. The conference was open to all producers and/or growers in the Northern Neck. Presentations were given by Kathy Clarke (NNSWCD), Aaron Saunders (NNSWCD), Felicia Washington (FSA), Brody Ellis (NRCS), and

guest speaker Zach Jacobs with Virginia Farm Bureau. Representatives from the Northern Neck Land Conservancy and Virginia State University (VSU) Small Farm Outreach Program were also introduced. Kathy kicked the conference off by welcoming everyone and presenting over 80 years of NNSWCD history created by the Northern Neck SWCD. Aaron provided updates on the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share (VACS) Program as well as information regarding tax credits. USDA updates were provided by Felicia and Brody regarding FSA and NRCS upcoming deadlines and programs. The NNSWCD would like to thank the following for their contribution to this conference - The Art of Coffee, Cattywampus Customs, Helena, Nutrien, Southern States, James River Equipment, Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department, VA Farm Bureau and our participating partners.



Guest speaker Zach Jacobs, Legislative Specialist of Governmental Relations with Virginia Farm Bureau. He covered the topic "Ag Road Law" which included updates on the use of Farm Use Tags and Permanent Farm Plates. All producers, partners and staff in attendance found his presentation very informative and helpful as many questions regarding this topic were answered.

NEW WEBSITE



In January 2023, the Board voted to approve a website proposal created by Jen Shelor of Shelor Interactive to create a completely new look for the Northern Neck SWCD's website. Marketing & Outreach Specialist, Kelly, worked closely with Jen to create and design the updated look. On February 22, 2023 the new and improved Northern Neck SWCD website was launched. Jen provided tremendous help building this new site from the ground up and training Kelly on how to maintain the website. We are excited for this long and overdue change and we hope to use the site's new features to keep the public informed on the latest happenings at the Northern Neck SWCD.

Go to www.nnswcd.org and check out the new look!



Northern Neck SWCD's quarterly newsletters, *Conservation Around the Neck*, are available through mail & email! Be sure to give our office a call to sign up. (804)313-9102.

Inquiries

Lancaster - 20
Richmond - 2

Northumberland - 16
Westmoreland - 10
Other - 4

Approved

Lancaster - 2 living shorelines
Northumberland - 1 living shoreline

Lancaster

3 living shorelines completed
336 linear feet protected

1 conservation landscaping
3,698 square feet converted

Northumberland

1 living shoreline completed
80 linear feet protected

\$159,226.12
reimbursed

1 living shoreline completed
64 linear feet protected

Westmoreland

3 living shorelines completed
425 linear feet protected

Richmond

EQUIPMENT RENTAL

The Northern Neck SWCD has two no-till drills available for rent. No-till farming has numerous benefits such as reduces soil & nutrient loss, increases organic matter, and improves water quality. This equipment is perfect for planting or reseeding pasture, hay land, field buffers, wildlife plots, and small acreage fields. We hope that by having these drills available to rent, the citizens of the Northern Neck are provided with an affordable means of incorporating conservation on their land so that we may all enjoy these natural resources for generations to come.

2018 Great Plains Drill	2016 Esch Drill
7ft wide	7ft wide
7 1/2 inch spacing	5 1/2 inch spacing
Best for barley, clover, soybeans & wheat	Best for grasses, lawns & pastures
3,900 lbs.	4,500 lbs.



There is a minimal charge of \$100 due at rental for the first ten acres. After the first ten acres there is a charge of \$10.00 per acre. If you are interested in scheduling a drill for rent, reach out to Aaron at 804-313-9102 x106.

2022-2023 Figures	2018 Great Plains Drill	2016 Esch Drill
Total Rentals	14	13
Total Renters	12	10
Total Acres Planted	182.9	233.5
Total Income	\$2,333.63	\$2,424.00

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL



Virginia
Agricultural
**Cost
Share**

Department of Conservation and Recreation
and Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Northern Neck SWCD is responsible for assisting the agricultural community, landowners, and residential property owners of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties in the wise management and maintenance of the region's valuable natural resource base. We offer technical assistance as well as financial assistance and state tax credit for a variety of best management practices through the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share (VACS) program. This program offers more than 50 conservation practices that cover the full spectrum of agricultural operations. The District and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office frequently partner to assist producers with their conservation efforts. Our cost-share program is typically available for signup July through August.

Practices that may be funded:

- Cover Crops
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Cropland Conversion
- No-Till Practices
- Streamline Fencing
- Erosion Control

Payments by County	Lancaster	Northumberland	Richmond	Westmoreland
Cover Crop	\$519,670.00	\$969,379.00	\$1,144,864.00	\$1,220,135.00
No-Till	\$41,550.50	\$28,893.50	\$19,413.50	\$15,280.50
Nutrient Management	\$82,163.55	\$203,810.70	\$155,076.10	\$225,884.35
Engineered Practices	\$-	\$367,916.19	\$96,990.65	\$29,057.30

Acres by County	Lancaster	Northumberland	Richmond	Westmoreland
Cover Crop	6,655.00	13,150.30	14,338.80	16,951.20
No-Till	1,414.70	948.20	591.50	577.20
Nutrient Management	17,425.70	39,182.80	27,485.40	43,159.00

Our Impact in **PY 2023**

Total acres enrolled

181,879.8



162
producers

Total cost-share
payments

\$5,119,811.04

Thank You!

We wish to thank our partnering agencies and organizations that assist with the Northern Neck SWCD's conservation efforts and make them possible:

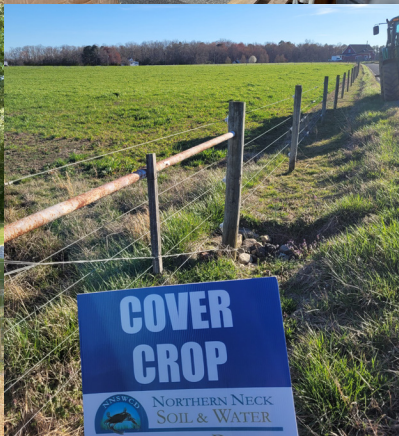
Belle Isle State Park
Chesapeake Bay Commission
Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)
Longwood University's Baliles Center
Lancaster County
National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
National Park Service (NPS)
Northern Neck Land Conservancy (NNLC)
Northern Neck Master Gardeners (NNMG)
Northern Neck Master Naturalists (NNMN)
Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC)
Northern Neck Tourism Council (NNTC)
Northumberland County
Richmond County
Rappahannock Community College
Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association (TOGA)
Town of Colonial Beach
Town of Irvington
Town of Kilmarnock
Town of Montross
Town of Warsaw
United States Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency (FSA)
United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (RD)
United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD)
Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)
Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)
Virginia Farm Bureau
Virginia Native Plant Society
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Virginia Tech
Water Stewardship, Inc.
Westmoreland County
Westmoreland State Park

Fellow Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Delegate Margaret B. Ransone—99th House District
Senator Richard H. Sturt—28th Senate District
Senator Ryan T. McDougle—4th Senate District
Representative Robert J. "Rob" Wittman—1st Congressional District
Senator Mark R. Warner
Senator Tim Kaine

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District programs, activities, and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, military status, or any other bases protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.





www.nnswcd.org

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