



NORTHERN NECK
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report
July 1, 2020 — June 30, 2021

Our 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.

2021 LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

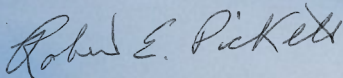
Dear Partners in Conservation:

It is a very fulfilling responsibility for our team to be part of the conservation network in Virginia's Northern Neck. We do so with passion and purpose and the help of our producers, local government, our state agencies and legislators, and our many partners. Without this network of supporters achieving the largest implementation of cost share funding in our history would not have been possible. To that I say "thank you" and if the environment could speak I am sure it would shout a big "thank you" as well.

We have had another challenging year (COVID-19) but with constant analysis, communication, and flexibility we have been extraordinarily successful. I look forward with optimism at the coming year that has record funding support, good prices for agricultural commodities, and a positive synergy from our many partners.

Working together we can accomplish some great initiatives for agriculture, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and this special place we call the Northern Neck.

Best Regards,



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P.O. Box 220
Warsaw, VA 22572
(804) 313-9102
nswcd.org

Elected Directors

Robert E. Pickett, Chairman (Northumberland)
Frank A. "Bert" Johnson, Vice-Chairman (Richmond)
J. Vince Garland, Treasurer (Richmond)
Faye A. Andrashko (Lancaster)
William "Billy" McCarty (Lancaster)
H. Shirley Powell (Westmoreland)
Robert G. "Bobby" Vanlandingham (Northumberland)
Richard Wilkins (Westmoreland)

Appointed Directors

Trent Jones, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent
Louis Gregory "Greg" Basye —At Large Appointed Member

Associate Directors

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

District Staff

Kathy E. Clarke, District Operations Manager
Brandon W. Dillistin, District Technical Manager
Joanna Balderson, Administrative Assistant
Lowery Becker, Non-point Source Specialist
Kelsey Moss, Intern
Aaron Saunders, Conservation Specialist
Kathleen Watson, Education/Outreach Specialist

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff, Warsaw Service Center

Lucia "Lucee" Kossler, District Conservationist	Scott Hammond, Soil Conservationist
Caroline Lancaster, Soil Conservationist	Qadree "Q" Willis, Soil Conservationist
Eli Hoar, Pathways Intern	

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil & 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 disability, race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, color, age, religion/religious creed, veteran status, or genetics. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Front cover: photo of Cat Point Creek, Richmond County, courtesy of J. Paul Welch

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL BMP COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Payments By County	Engineered Practices	No-Till	Cover Crops	Nutrient Management	Total
Lancaster	-	-	\$74,306.00	\$85,242.65	\$159,548.65
Northumberland	-	\$2,675.00	\$266,444.00	\$215,377.95	\$484,496.95
Richmond	\$1,418.13	\$25,430.00	\$213,697.00	\$174,705.70	\$415,250.83
Westmoreland	-	\$18,845.09	\$319,322.00	\$236,854.00	\$575,021.09
Grand Total Payments:					\$1,634,317.52
Acres By County	Engineered Practices	No-Till	Cover Crops	Nutrient Management	Total
Lancaster	-	-	2,018.5	19,892.4	21,910.9
Northumberland	-	107.0	5,588.9	48,525.4	54,221.3
Richmond	0.2	435.8	4,171.3	41,471.3	46,078.62
Westmoreland	-	119.5	6,842.4	54,287.8	61,249.7
Grand Total Acres:					183,460.5

The NNSWCD administers the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share (VACS) Program, which provides funds and/or state tax credits for the installation of conservation practices that prevent soil erosion and runoff that pollute our streams, rivers, and the Bay. VACS offers different practices that assist farm landowners and producers in maintaining soil on the land, with consequent benefits to crop production and water quality. The implementation of conservation practices also assists localities in working toward the nutrient and sediment reduction goals outlined in the State's Chesapeake Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP III). This table illustrates the practices installed in each county of the Northern Neck, and the amount of funds reimbursed to producers for BMP implementation during FY 20/21 through VACS.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL INCOME

Continuous No-Till practices are known to improve long term soil quality and crop yield. To support these practices, the NNSWCD has two no-till drills available for rent. From lawns, to pastures, to small grains, we can help you with your planting needs.

2016 ESCH™ 5507NT DRILL

Specs:

- 7 feet wide
- 5 ½ inch spacing
- Best for: grasses, lawns and small seed
- One main seed box, one small seed hopper
- Requires a minimum of a 45 horse power tractor with at least two hydraulic remotes
- 4,500 pound weight



FY 20/21 figures:

12 Total Rentals
12 Different Renters
160.8 Ac. Planted
\$1,705.00 Income



2018 GREAT PLAINS™ 706 NT DRILL

Specs:

- 7 feet wide
- 7 ½ inch spacing
- Best for: barley, clover, soybeans, and wheat
- One main seed box, one small seed hopper
- Requires a minimum of a 45 horse power tractor with at least two hydraulic remotes.
- 3,900 pound weight



FY 20/21 figures:

14 Total Rentals
11 Different Renters
157 Ac. Planted
\$1,804.00 Income



VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VCAP)

The *Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)* is an urban cost-share program that provides financial incentives and technical and educational assistance to property owners installing eligible Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Virginia's participating Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).

These practices can be installed in areas of your yard where problems like erosion, poor drainage, or poor vegetation occur. Living Shoreline practices are especially practical in the Northern Neck.

In FY 20/21 the NNSWCD received 55 VCAP applications. See below for details on approved and completed projects as of June 30, 2021.



FY 20/21 Projects Approved

County	Practice	Cost Share	Practice Area
Lancaster	Living Shoreline	\$ 14,793.75	75 lin. ft.
	Conservation Landscaping	\$ 2,310.00	3698 sq. ft.
Northumberland	Living Shoreline	\$ 15,000.00	143 lin. ft.
	Living Shoreline	\$ 15,000.00	120 lin. ft.
Westmoreland	Living Shoreline	\$ 15,000.00	270 lin. ft.

FY 20/21 Projects Completed

County	Practice	Cost Share	Practice Area
Northumberland	Living Shoreline	\$ 15,000.00	162 lin. ft.
	Living Shoreline	\$ 13,334.51	94 lin. ft.
Westmoreland	Living Shoreline	\$ 15,000.00	160 lin. ft.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE/E-WASTE PROGRAM

The NNSWCD held five Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections in FY 20/21. Because Northern Neck residents dropped off nearly 90,000 lbs. of HHW and 34,000 lbs. of electronic waste (E-Waste), we can ascertain that these items were recycled or disposed of properly, no longer a danger to our natural resources.

Each county saw record attendance at the socially distanced events. Participants were asked to remain in their vehicles while masked crew members unloaded their items.



FY 20/21 Household Hazardous Waste/E-Waste Program Summary

Lancaster County

One event: Fall 2020
 HHW Collected: 27,729 lbs.
 E-Waste Collected: 13,190 lbs.
 Number of vehicles: 213

Northumberland County

Two events: Fall 2020, Spring 2021
 HHW Collected: 34,363 lbs.
 E-Waste Collected: 19,235 lbs.
 Number of vehicles: 410

Richmond County

One event: Fall 2020
 HHW Collected: 12,232 lbs.
 E-Waste Collected: 1,582 lbs.
 Number of vehicles: 76

Westmoreland County

One event: Fall 2020
 HHW Collected: 6,547 lbs.
 Number of Vehicles: 73

FY 20/21 Totals:

HHW Collected: 80,871 lbs.
 E-Waste Collected: 34,007 lbs.
 Number of Vehicles: 772

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN C. BARBER

JANUARY 6, 1925 – FEBRUARY 6, 2021

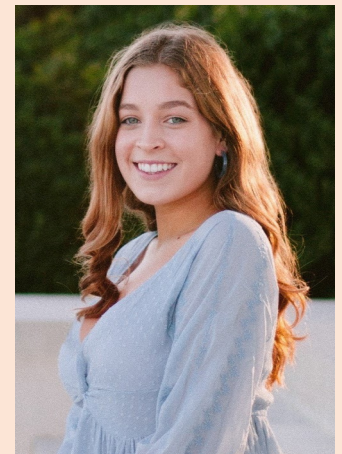


Dr. John Clark Barber was a friend to conservation efforts in the Northern Neck. Following a career with the U.S. Forest Service, he belonged to several conservation organizations. Dr. Barber served the NNSWCD for 30 years, as an elected District Director (1998-2000) and as an Associate Director (1991-1997 and 2001-2021).

SAVANNAH HARRIS NAMED 2021 J.C. BERGER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Savannah Harris, daughter of Keith and Kathryn Harris of Heathsville was the 2021 recipient of the \$1,000 J.C. Berger Conservation Advancement Scholarship. Savannah, a 2021 graduate of Northumberland High School, successfully balanced a demanding class load, her role as Senior Class President, and her membership in Beta Club, graduating with a 4.19 GPA. In addition, Savannah competed on the Dance Team for the past four years and played field hockey for two years. In 12 years of school, she appeared on the Honor Roll consistently.

Savannah credits growing up on her family's farm for her awareness of the importance of responsible stewardship of natural resources. She begins her studies at Virginia Tech this fall, where she will major in Environmental Science. Savannah plans to become a marine biologist and work in the conservation field. One of her main concerns is the growing problem of pollution in local waterways and in the world's oceans. Ultimately, she hopes to return to the Northern Neck and help those in the farming and fishing industries use more eco-friendly methods in their work.



COVID-19 AND CONSERVATION

FLEXIBILITY, CREATIVITY ESSENTIAL TOOLS WHEN WORKING THROUGH A PANDEMIC

By the end of FY 20/21, 16 months had passed since the NNSWCD locked its doors to the public as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This past year has yielded many *lessons learned* as the District has continued to conduct "business as usual" when it has been anything but "usual".

The nature of our work depends on interaction with others. Whether it is conducting our 6th grade watershed lessons, doing field work for VCAP and VACS or sitting down with our producers at cost-share sign-up time, face to face communication has always been the way that the NNSWCD serves the people of the Northern Neck. During certain times of the year, the District Office has many visitors such as producers signing up for programs or picking up cost-share checks. Of course, these interactions had to move outdoors, with staff members and members of the public wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Cost-share sign ups moved to a tent in the parking lot, on an appointment only basis, with screening procedures and a log to record each person's visit.

Household Hazardous Waste collections took place as socially distanced events to ensure the public's safety. Participants experienced a new level of service as they were asked to remain in their vehicles and to allow the event staff to unload their chemicals and electronics. Record numbers of HHW were collected at several events, with many participants saying that staying at home during the pandemic gave them plenty of time to clean out basements and garages.

The NNSWCD partners with all Northern Neck counties on classroom lessons for 6th grade science students. During FY 20/21 staff members collaborated with teachers to present lessons virtually, allowing students to participate whether they were in the classroom or at home. It was a challenge to not have in person sessions using the Mobile Education Unit, but technology allowed for some creativity while presenting lessons on Watersheds and Solutions, which was delivered three times during the year. Watersheds, Oysters, and Solutions was a special unit requested by Northumberland County, which was delivered twice. All lessons were delivered in real time over a virtual platform using discussion, videos, and visual aids.

Over the past 16 months the NNSWCD has grown in the knowledge that it is possible to detour from normal routines with successful results. While times remain uncertain, the NNSWCD will continue our mission while following CDC guidance and state laws to ensure the safety of the public, District staff members and directors.



NORTHERN NECK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

***WE WISH TO THANK OUR PARTNERING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT ASSIST WITH THE
NNSWCD'S CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND MAKE THEM POSSIBLE***

Belle Isle State Park
Chesapeake Bay Commission
Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)
Hull Springs Farm of Longwood College
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
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. Stuart-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

Naylor's Beach on the Rappahannock River in Richmond County ;
Photo courtesy of J. Paul Welch