

Annual Report July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



Photo courtesy Alicia Beall, Barnes Creek, Montross



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.

*Serving the people of
Lancaster, Northumberland,
Richmond, and Westmoreland Counties.*

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.

2022 LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear Partners in Conservation,

It has been a very successful year for us at the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District. As you will see in the report we managed the largest agriculture cost share in our history. This is the largest both in dollars and in acreage. It could not have been achieved without the dedicated producers who participated in our programs contributing their time, energy, and resources. These funds were used to put conservation practices on the ground by individuals that care about water quality, soil conservation and a sustainable future for agriculture. We say thank you to our participants as well as the many partners public and private who contribute to our success every day.

The Northern Neck is blessed with an abundance of natural resources which we have a responsibility to manage and use in ways that allow them to flourish for generations to come. The staff and the Board of Directors of the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District remain committed to doing its part to conserve and preserve the wonderful resources in this special place we call the Northern Neck.

Robert E. Pickett

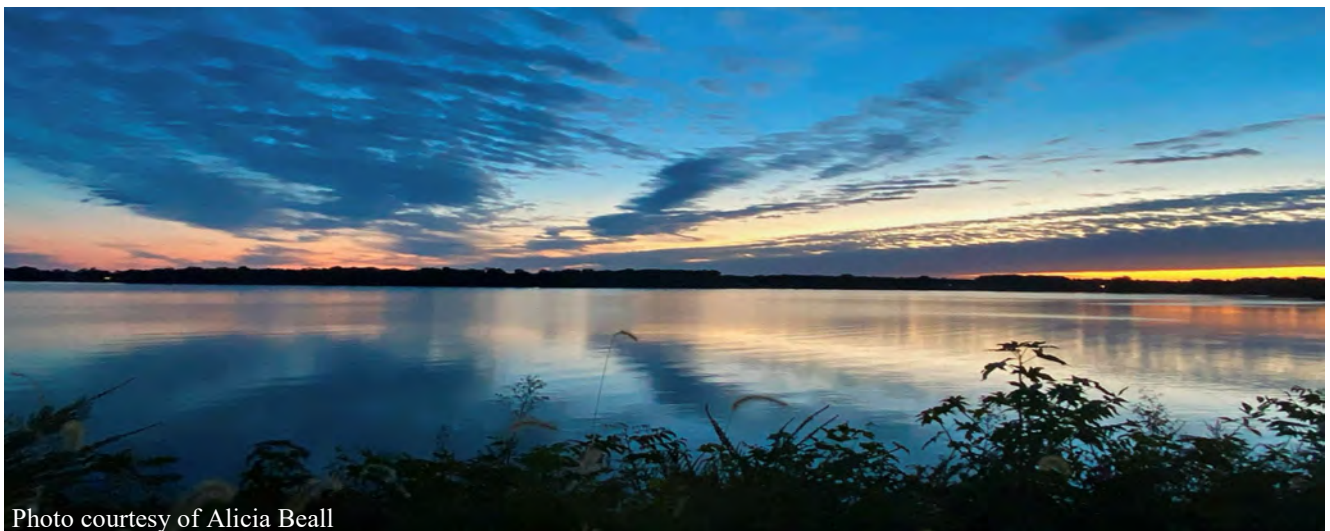


Photo courtesy of Alicia Beall

DIRECTORS AND STAFF:



Photo courtesy of Robert Sutherland

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 (Northumberland)

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
Aaron Saunders, Agricultural Conservation Specialist
Joanna Balderson, Administrative Assistant
Kelly Brann, Marketing/Outreach Specialist
Lowery Becker, Education Conservation Specialist
Kelsey Moss, Intern

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

Lucia “Luce” Kossler, District Conservationist
Brody Ellis, Soil Conservationist
Caroline Lancaster, Soil Conservationist

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL BMP COST-SHARE PROGRAM (VACS)

Payments By County	Lancaster	Northumberland	Richmond	Westmoreland
Engineered Practices	—	\$61,256.25	\$41,577.50	—
No-Till	\$12,261.30	\$15,488.07	\$15,202.50	\$26,449.67
Cover Crops	\$282,667.00	\$517,101.00	\$504,634.00	\$583,075.50
Nutrient Management	\$81,932.90	\$222,847.55	\$156,824.30	\$221,992.05
Totals	\$376,861.20	\$816,692.87	\$718,238.30	\$831,517.22
Grand Total Payments:				\$2,743,309.59

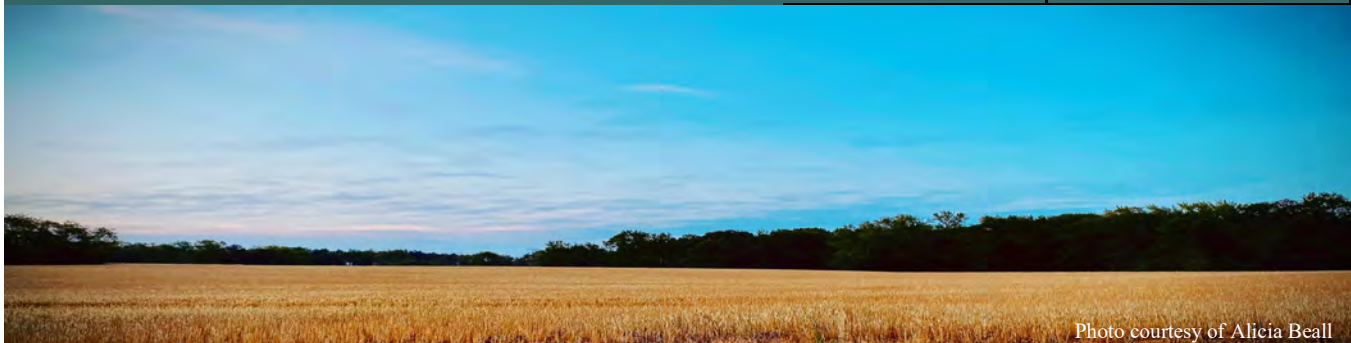


Photo courtesy of Alicia Beall

Acres By County	Lancaster	Northumberland	Richmond	Westmoreland
Engineered Practices	—	2.0	12.0	—
No-Till	5.6	526.4	608.1	541.4
Cover Crops	5,495.3	10,360.2	9,688.0	11,647.9
Nutrient Management	18,571.1	48,088.0	36,624.3	47,302.8
Totals	24,072.0	58,976.6	46,932.4	59,492.1
Grand Total Acres:				189,473.1



Equipment Rental

Did you know that continuous no-till practices are known to improve long term soil quality and crop yield? In efforts to support these practices, the NNSWCD has two no-till drills available for rent. From pastures to small acreage fields, NNSWCD can help with your planting needs.



2016 ESCH™ 5570NT DRILL

Specs:

- ◇ 7ft wide
- ◇ 5 ½ inch spacing
- ◇ Best used for grasses, lawns & pastures
- ◇ One main seed box & one small seed hopper
- ◇ Requires a minimum of 45 horsepower tractor with at least two hydraulic remotes
- ◇ 4,500 pound weight

FY 21/22 Figures:

- ◇ 12 Rentals
- ◇ **141.6 Acres Planted**
- ◇ **\$1,672.00 Income**

2018 GREAT PLAINS™ 706NT DRILL

Specs:

- ◇ 7ft wide
- ◇ 7 ½ inch spacing
- ◇ Best used for barley, clover, grasses, pastures, soybeans & wheat
- ◇ One main seed box & one small seed hopper
- ◇ Requires a minimum of 45 horsepower tractor with at least two hydraulic remotes
- ◇ 3,900 pound weight

FY 21/22 Figures:

- ◇ 13 Rentals
- ◇ **136.3 Acres Planted**
- ◇ **\$1,435.00 Income**

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS & E-WASTE PROGRAM

The NNSWCD held the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections in 21/22. Due to these events, we can be certain that these items are disposed of properly. This is a much-needed event to keep these items from harming our environment.



FY 21/22 HHW Program Summary

Lancaster County:

Two Events: Fall & Spring
 HHW Collected: 39,099 lbs.
 E-Waste Collected: 16,777 lbs.
 Number of vehicles: 428

Northumberland County:

Two Events: Fall & Spring
 HHW Collected: 31,097 lbs.
 E-Waste Collected: 16,804 lbs.
 Number of vehicles: 326

Richmond County:

One Event: Fall
 HHW Collected: 8,629 lbs.
 E-Waste Collected: 910 lbs.
 Number of vehicles: 80

Westmoreland County:

Two Events: Fall & Spring
 HHW Collected: 12,765 lbs.
 Number of vehicles: 119

FY 21/22 Totals:

HHW Collected: 91,590 lbs.
 E-Waste Collected: 34,491 lbs.
 Number of vehicles: 953

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VCAP)

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

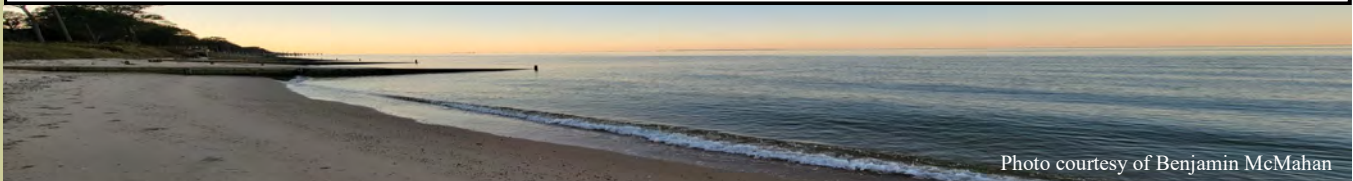


Photo courtesy of Benjamin McMahan

FY 21/22 Projects Completed

County	Practice	Cost Share	Practice Area
Northumberland	Living Shoreline	\$15,000.00	143 lin. ft.
	Living Shoreline	\$15,000.00	120 lin. ft.
Lancaster	Conservation Landscaping	\$2,820.92	3698 sq. ft.

FY 21/22 Projects Approved

Lancaster	Living Shoreline	\$15,000.00	180 lin. ft.
Richmond	Living Shoreline	\$15,000.00	80 lin. ft.

FY 21/22 Projects Cancelled, Inquired, Not Applicable

	Cancelled	Inquiries	Not Applicable
Lancaster	—	9	1
Northumberland	—	8	3
Richmond	—	4	1
Westmoreland	1	7	4
Other	—	—	1

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VCAP)

On May, 13th, the NNSWCD organized a day to show VCAP Coordinator, Blair Blanchette, VCAP Assistant Coordinator, Darby Reed and Maggie Pascoe, Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service (SEAS) Program Assistant living shorelines throughout the Northern Neck. Staff learned more about the NNSWCD/SEAS relationship pertaining to VCAP and different living shoreline options. Examples of rip rap sills, oyster bag sills and oyster sentinels were viewed. This was a great opportunity to showcase the success and challenges of living shoreline projects. There was great discussion and ideas for the future of VCAP!



Photo courtesy of Darby Reed



The NNSWCD hosted the 2022 Area III Dominion Energy Envirothon on April 27th. We are proud to have partnered with such an amazing group of natural resource professionals who not only served as great representatives of their respective agencies and organizations but our region as well. The charming Baliles Center at Hull Springs coupled with the beautiful weather, provided the perfect backdrop for cultivating a new generation of environmental stewards.



PARTNERS

2022 AREA III EXPERIENCE

Hosted by:
Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District

645 Hull Springs Farm Road, Montross, VA 22520
April 27, 2022

EVENT SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:45	Registration
9:45 - 9:55	Welcome & Instructions
9:55 - 10:00	Move to Station #1
10:00 - 10:30	Testing Station #1
10:30 - 10:35	Move to Station #2
10:35 - 11:05	Testing Station #2
11:05 - 11:10	Move to Station #3
11:10 - 11:40	Testing Station #3
11:45 - 12:45	Lunch
12:45 - 12:50	Move to Station #4
12:50 - 1:20	Testing Station #4
1:20 - 1:25	Move to Station #5
1:25 - 1:55	Testing Station #5
1:55 - 2:00	Move to Station #6
2:00 - 2:30	Testing Station #6
2:35 - 2:45	Final Scoring & Team Photos
2:45 - 3:00	Closing Remarks

RESOURCE PERSONNEL

Aquatics - Lance Gardner, VDOT & RC
Forestry - David Milby, DOF
Soils - Caroline Lancaster, NRCS
Wildlife - Celia Vuocolo, Quail Forever & NRCS
Special Topic: Waste to Resources - Jeremy Kazio, DEQ

Oral Presentation Judges

Keith Boyd, NRCS
Maura Christian, VASWCD
Marissa Roland, DCR
Amy Walker, DCR
John Gray Williams, VT CNRE

STATION ROTATIONS

TIME	Aquatics	Wildlife	Soils	Forestry	Special Topic	Forestry
10:00 - 10:30	GREEN		BLUE		BROWN	
10:35 - 1:05		GREEN		BLUE		BROWN
11:10 - 11:40	BROWN		GREEN		BLUE	
LUNCH: 11:45 - 12:45						
12:50 - 1:20		BROWN		GREEN		BLUE
1:25 - 1:55	BLUE		BROWN		GREEN	
2:00 - 2:30		BLUE				GREEN

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Caroline High School
Coaches: Robin Didlake
Team Members: Rashella Epperson, Olivia Hinton, Colton Lynch, Alina Smith, Shaun Terrell
Alternates: Nolan Huff

Highland Springs High School
Coaches: Amanda Lilley & Dawn Sherwood
Team Members: Sebastian Gardero-Muniz, Josie Dull, Neera Naran
Alternates: Matthew Cook, Veronica Johnson

Jamestown High School
Coaches: Rebecca Elton, Charlie Dubay, & Amanda Mullane
Team Members: Carolina Bakker, Diego Cordero-Muniz, Sebastian Gardero-Muniz, Josie Dull, Neera Naran
Alternates: Rowan Henderson, Nolan Krehler

EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

2022 J.C. Berger Conservation Advancement Scholarship:



Thomas Neale, Jr., the recipient of the NNSWCD J.C. Berger Conservation Advancement Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, attended Northumberland High School and the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School. Thomas is studying Business/Pre-Law with an emphasis on Environmental Studies at James Madison University. Thomas has a very hard work ethic and recently worked with the Menokin Foundation to orchestrate rental kayak trips. His love for the water, the environment and conservation made him the standout and be the recipient of this scholarship.

2022 NNSWCD James Edward Minor Ag Stewardship Award:



Zachary Smith, the recipient of the NNSWCD James Edward Minor Ag Stewardship Award in the amount of \$1,000, attended Rappahannock High School and the Northern Neck Technical Center. Zachary is studying Agriculture Management with an emphasis in Crop Production at Virginia Tech, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Zachary had an active role in FFA, serving as President, volunteers for the Richmond County Volunteer Fire Department and worked in the large machine and agriculture field. His continued pursuit of conservation in agriculture meets the District's vision.

2021-2022 Classroom Virtual Lessons and Field Experiences:

6th Grade – Virtual lessons were created for Westmoreland, Lancaster and Northumberland students focusing on 6.7 and 6.9 SOLs. The lessons covered water quality issues, Chesapeake Bay facts and renewable vs nonrenewable resources. Students also participated in an outdoor field experience where they learned more about their environment and create a sense of place. This program is in partnership with partner organizations including: Menokin Foundation, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Belle Isle State Park, Friends of the Rappahannock, Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association and Northern Neck Master Naturalists.

Kindergarten – A virtual lesson was created for Richmond County's Kindergarteners focusing on SOL K.11. "Michael Recycle" was read to each class and reviewed recycling vs trash. Students were very engaged throughout the reading and review. A post-lesson was set up for teachers to complete with the students.

Post-Lesson – The students were put into four groups and each group would be given a paper bag. The teacher had a jar full of seeds and would have the students from group 1 come up and get as much from the jar as they wanted. The next groups were then called up in numeric order until there was nothing left. The discussion then began with group 1 – Did you think about the next person/groups while you were getting your seeds? Do you think that not thinking about them has made a difference? How did the other groups feel about not having much? Ultimately, if we use too much and don't reduce, reuse, or recycle then we are doing the same thing and not leaving enough for the next generation.

NEW Office Location

Since the 1970s, the NNSWCD Office has been co-located in the Warsaw USDA Service Center with federal partners - the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA). However, in early 2020, differences in COVID-19 policy at the state and federal levels inevitably resulted in the NNSWCD losing access to the Service Center shared spaces such as restrooms, the kitchen/breakroom, and the conference room. Over the next two years, the NNSWCD would evoke a great deal of creativity, adaptability, and flexibility to accommodate six full-time employees within an indoor area of less than 1200 square feet.

On March 21, 2022, the Virginia Safety and Health Codes Board rescinded the Virginia Standard for Infectious Prevention of the SARS-CoV-2 Virus that Causes COVID-19 (16VACS25-220) and the NNSWCD found itself like many other employers trying to redefine their “new normal” workplace. After two years of staggering staff schedules and meeting with customers outside to accommodate social distancing, it became overwhelmingly apparent that physical space would be the greatest limiting factor moving forward. When office space within the existing complex became available offering almost double the existing square footage, the NNSWCD Operations Committee and Board of Directors recognized the opportunity to grow yet still remain close to the USDA Service Center. On June 4, 2022, after over 50 years of occupying 5559 Richmond Road, the NNSWCD relocated across the parking lot to its new home beside the Richmond County Health Department. This new location provides a more secure entrance, private offices, two bathrooms, a kitchenette, and a conference room large enough to host monthly board meetings onsite.

As District Operations Manager, Kathy Clarke reflects on the last couple of years and the decision to move, she notes that it was a bittersweet process. *“Change is hard but the COVID-19 pandemic taught us that adaptability and resilience are critical. As a local government agency, we had to figure out a way to not only survive but also thrive. Since April 2005, the Warsaw USDA Service Center had served as my second home with my NNSWCD and USDA family. I began my career within those walls as the youngest person on staff amid a core group of tenured colleagues; now they have all either retired or relocated and I find myself as one of the oldest among an entirely new group. That comes with a sense of responsibility to watch over things. When the new space became available, I knew there wouldn’t be many other opportunities that would allow us to remain close. As this new chapter unfolds, I’ve got the best of both worlds - being in a new, larger space but still being able to look out at the Service Center from my window.”*



NNSWCD OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, July 6, 2022
10AM - 2PM

5585 Richmond Road
Warsaw, VA 22572

OLD LOCATION

5559 Richmond Road, Suite B
Warsaw, VA 22572



NEW LOCATION

5585 Richmond Road
Warsaw, VA 22572



***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
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



**NORTHERN NECK
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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