



We work with the people who work the land.

Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Report 2016 - 2017

The Headwaters SWCD is one of **47** Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Formed in **1975**, our District is a “political subdivision of state government” that provides citizens in Augusta County and the Cities of Staunton & Waynesboro the structure and the capability to solve conservation problems at a local, grassroots level. Cooperation between related agencies, including sharing technical expertise, enables the Headwaters District to assist the community in protecting its natural resources.

The public is invited to monthly Board meetings which are now held every **third Tuesday @9:00 AM**, Augusta County Government Center, Verona.

Headwaters SWCD
70 Dick Huff Lane
Verona, VA 24482

Phone: 540-248-0148

Website: www.headwatersswcd.org

Board of Directors

Headwaters District is governed by an **eight-member** Board of Directors, six of whom are elected in the general election and two are appointed, one at-large and one who is always a County Extension Agent.

Richard Shiflet, Chair
Otis Bilkins, Vice-Chair
Judy Burtner, Treasurer
DuBose Egleston, Jr., Secretary
Brenda Mead
Charles Schooley
Jennifer Lewis
Matt Booher

Associate Directors

Appointed by the Board are Associate Directors, respected in their fields of natural resources, education or business.

Charles Horn	Urbie Nash
Jim Nichols	Charles Huppuch
Jim Boland	Allen Norheim
Steve Talley	Jeff Slaven
Ian Heatwole	Leo Tammi

The Headwaters SWCD Board members serve as volunteers.

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the VA Soil & Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Augusta County, City of Waynesboro and City of Staunton also support the Headwaters SWCD through financial assistance, now including funds for a Dam Technician.

Headwaters SWCD Staff

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USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

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Justin Folks, Private Land Biologist
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Rebecca Evans, Civil Engineering Technician
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All programs and services of the Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or disability.

Agency Partners (contact info.)

VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (332-9991)
 VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries (248-9360)
 VA Dept. of Environmental Quality (574-7800)
 VA Dept. of Health (332-7830)
 VA Cooperative Extension (245-5750)
 VA Dept. of Forestry (363-7002)
 VA Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services (540-209-9110)
 US Forest Service (432-0187)
 Farm Service Agency (248-6218)
 Natural Resources Conservation Service (248-6218)
 Valley Conservation Council (886-3541)
 Shenandoah Pure Water Forum (info@purewaterforum.org)
 Friends of the Middle River (fomr.mccue@gmail.com)
 Chesapeake Bay Foundation (www.cbf.org)

Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost-Share & Tax Credit Program

The District has completed its 32nd year of administering the VA Agricultural BMP Cost-Share program, funded through the VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation. DCR receives funds from the Virginia General Assembly, and distributes funds to SWCDs. These cost-share funds provide an incentive to agricultural producers to apply beneficial BMPs to their land for more effective control of sediments, nutrient losses and the transport of pollutants into our waterways.

Cost-share applications are accepted on a continual basis; however, approvals are subject to allocations received. Cap amounts are subject to change in future program years.

The Headwaters District paid landowners a total of **\$1,279,197** in fiscal year **7/1/16 – 6/30/17** to install the following practices:

Practice Code	Practice Name	# Contracts
SL-6	Stream Exclusion w/Grazing Land Mgmt.	15
CCI-SE-1	Continuous Stream Exclusion	3
LE-1T	Livestock Exclusion with Riparian Buffer	3
LE-2	Livestock Exclusion with Reduced Setback	2
CRSL-6	CREP Grazing Land Protection	3
	TOTAL LINEAR FEET OF STREAM BANK PROTECTED: 93,108	
WP-4	Animal Waste Control Facility	2
WP-4B	Dairy Loafing Lot Management System	1
	TOTAL TONS OF WASTE TREATED (PER YEAR): 1,544	
SL-1	Long-Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland	4
SL-8B	Small Grain Cover Crop for Nutrient Mgmt.	35
SL-8H	Harvestable Cover Crop	30
WQ-4	Legume-Based Cover Crop	3
	TOTAL ACRES IN PLANTED COVER CROP: 6,749	
FR-1	Aforestation of erodible crop and pastureland	3
FR-3	Woodland Buffer Filter Area	3
CRFR-3	CREP Riparian Forest Buffer Planting	4
	TOTAL FORESTED ACRES: 43.6	
RMP-2	Resource Management Plan Implementation	1
	TOTAL RMP IMPLEMENTATION ACRES: 329.5	

Headwaters SWCD has obligated an additional **\$877,140** in cost-share projects under construction (as of 6-30-16).

Landowners who install conservation BMP's may also qualify for a 25% VA State Tax Credit on their out-of-pocket costs. Changes to the Tax Code (enacted by the 2011 General Assembly) allow the VA Dept. of Taxation to refund 100% of the difference between the participant's tax obligation and the amount of the BMP Tax Credit when the authorized credit is greater than the participant's tax credit obligation for that year.

Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)

VCAP is an urban cost-share program that provides financial incentives and technical and education assistance to property owners installing eligible BMP's in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

These practices can be installed in areas of your yard where problems like erosion, poor drainage or poor vegetation occur. Qualified sites shall be used for residential, commercial, or recreational purposes with a proposed practice that addresses a need.



A model home display featuring a rain barrel and a "green" roof promotes urban BMP's.

Middle River Grant Project

Headwaters SWCD completed the final year of a 3-year grant cycle with funds provided through the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network. These funds allowed us to focus on the impaired stream segments of Edison Creek (PS01), Bell Creek (PS04), and Moffett Creek (PS05) within the Upper Middle River watershed with concentrated focus on the special needs of non-operator farm landowners and renters. These segments make up approximately **67,037** acres and were targeted because they are known to be the three worst of the impaired stream segments.

Headwaters SWCD also was awarded a 319 federal grant (**\$240,000**) through the VA Dept. of Environmental Quality to be used for certain livestock exclusion cost-share practices in the Upper Middle River watershed. Over **\$70,354** has been paid for **three LE-1T** (Livestock Exclusion with Riparian Buffer) & **one LE-2T** (Livestock Exclusion with Reduced Setback) practices.

Resource Management Plans

This state program provides a voluntary way to promote the use of conservation practices that improve farming operations and water quality. RMP's can help farm owners and operators take advantage of all the conservation measures at their disposal. The plans are designed to encourage farmers, either the owner or operator, to use a high level of best management practices (BMPs) that reduce runoff pollution to local waters and, in many cases, improve the farmer's financial bottom line.

In return for full implementation, the plan holder can be assured that he or she is in compliance with any new state nutrient, sediment and water quality standards; in particular, regulations related to the Chesapeake Bay and all local stream segment TMDLs. The certificate of safe harbor is valid for 9 years provided the farmer continues to implement the RMP. Participation in the program is completely voluntary. Currently, there are 7 RMP's at various stages recorded in the state's tracking program for Headwaters SWCD.



Flood Control Dams

A major rehabilitation project has been completed (Todd Lake) in the North River Watershed of Augusta County. Another rehab project (Hearthstone) is currently in the planning & design phase.

Headwaters SWCD continues to maintain, inspect and make repairs for 11 SWCD flood control dams, and 5 additional dams of partner agencies. Total expended for general dam repair, maintenance & major rehabilitation for **FY-2016/2017** was **\$1,445,245**.

In May, 2017 we began treatments for Water Shield at South River Dam #11, Canada Run. Located in the Stuarts Draft area, the dam is 25 feet tall with a length of 1,139 ft. The lake sits on roughly 5 acres of land.

Education



FDHS has placed first overall at the state level in years 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016 & 2017.

Fort Defiance High School again represented Headwaters SWCD at the State Envirothon competition held at Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA, where they placed 1st. This team went on to represent the State of Virginia at the National

Conservation Foundation Envirothon at Mt. Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD.



Youth Conservation Camp

For the past 40 years, the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts has sponsored a week-long summer conservation camp for high school students on the campus of VA Tech. Most of the instruction is hands-on and outdoors, conducted by conservation professionals and faculty from Tech.

In July of 2017, **Ariana Birchler, Drake Bryan & Logan Case** represented Headwaters SWCD at Youth Conservation Camp. They received a partial scholarship from Headwaters SWCD and the Shenandoah Pure Water Forum to attend.

Financial Reports

Income - FY16/17

VA Agr BMP Cost-Share (including interest)	728,995
DCR Operations & Administration	198,992
DCR Technical Assistance (including RMP/TRC)	147,062
DCR Dam Funds (grant)	33,000
Pure Water Forum, VASWCD (Envirothon, Youth Conservation Camp, Women's Meetings, VCAP)	1,837
Local Dam Escrow (including interest)	6,269
Local Operations, Education, Compensation Pkgs.	111,375
Local Watershed	22,000
Dam rehab, mowing, maintenance	997,313
Misc (Donations, FOIA, Interest)	3,193
TOTAL INCOME	2,250,036

Expenses - FY16/17

VA Agr BMP Cost-Share Program / Payments	1,279,197
Education, PR, Youth	7,951
Employee Compensation Packages	314,896
Support Expenses (for positions)	21,817
Office & Operations	8,447
Local Watershed	6,792
DCR Dam Funds (grant)	1,207
DCR Technical Assistance (other than employee comp)	213
Private Source Grants	33,911
Dam Rehabilitation	1,400,431
Misc (dues, memorials/get-well/retirements/gifts, product costs)	4,669
Designated Fund (F-150 truck, voice mail, carpet, total station equipment)	37,738
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,117,269