



We work with the people who work the land.

Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Report 2015-2016

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 held every **third Tuesday @10:00 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**
- Brenda Mead, Treasurer**
- Judy Burtner**
- Matt Booher**
- Charles Schooley**
- DuBose Egleston, Jr.**
- Jennifer Lewis**

Associate Directors

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

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| James Nichols | Urbie Nash |
| James Boland | Charles Huppuch |
| Becky Earhart | Allen Norheim |
| Steve Talley | Jeff Slaven |
| Ian Heatwole | Leo Tammi |
| Charles Horn | |

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

- John Kaylor**, Senior Conservation Specialist
jkaylor@co.augusta.va.us
- Cathy Perry**, Office Administrator
cperry@co.augusta.va.us
- Brittany Wood**, Conservation Technician
bwood@co.augusta.va.us
- Ginny Hoffman**, Education Specialist
vhoffman@co.augusta.va.us
- Aaron Lucas**, Conservation Technician (hired 8.16.16)
alucas@co.augusta.va.us
- Ryan Keiner**, Conservation Technician (hired 9.1.16)
rkeiner@co.augusta.va.us
- Richard Fitzgerald**, Contractor – (Upper Middle River grant)
vtagnuts@gmail.com
- Megan Mauk**, Conservation Specialist (resigned 7.22.16)

USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

- Charles Ivins**, District Conservationist
charles.ivins@va.usda.gov
- Bobby Drumheller**, Soil Conservationist
robert.drumheller@va.usda.gov
- Jeffrey Barr**, Soil Conservationist
jeffrey.barr@va.usda.gov
- Wes Hedrick**, Soil Conservationist
wesley.hedrick@va.usda.gov
- Lorraine Cormier**, Farm Bill Assistant
lorraine.cormier@va.usda.gov
- Justin Folks**, Private Lands Biologist
justin.folks@va.usda.gov
- Matt Pyle**, Civil Engineer
matthew.pyle@va.usda.gov
- Rebecca Evans**, Civil Engineering Technician
rebecca.evans@va.usda.gov

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)

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

The District has completed its **31st** 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 **\$1,091,802** in fiscal year **7/1/15 – 7/30/16** to install the following practices:

| Practice Code | Practice Name | # of Contracts |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| SL-6 | Stream Exclusion w/Grazing Land Mgmt. | 18 |
| CCI-SE-1 | Continuous Stream Exclusion | 5 |
| LE-2 | Livestock Exclusion with Reduced Setback | 4 |
| | TOTAL LINEAR FEET OF STREAMBANK PROTECTED: 108,222 (20.49 MILES) | |
| WP-4 | Animal Waste Control Facility | 3 |
| WP-4B | Dairy Loafing Lot Management System | 2 |
| WP-4C | Composting Facility | 2 |
| | TOTAL TONS OF WASTE TREATED (PER YEAR): 4,483 | |
| SL-1 | Long-Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland | 7 |
| SL-8B | Small Grain & Mixed Cover Crop for Nutrient Management & Residue Management | 24 |
| SL-8H | Harvestable Cover Crop (TAX CREDIT ONLY) | 25 |
| WQ-4 | Legume-Based Cover Crop | 1 |
| | TOTAL AREA IN PLANTED COVER CROP: 4,477 acres | |
| NM-3C | Split Application of Nitrogen on Corn Using Pre-sidedress Nitrate Test | 2 |
| | TOTAL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ACRES: 1,103 | |
| CRFR-3 | CREP Riparian Forest Buffer | 1 |
| | TOTAL FORESTED ACRES: 0.5 | |

Headwaters SWCD has obligated an additional \$986,854 in cost-share projects under construction (as of 6-30-16).

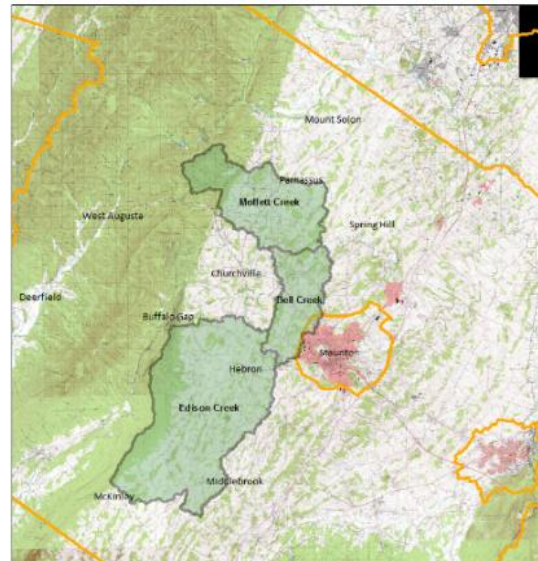
Landowners who install conservation BMP's may also qualify for a 25% VA State Tax Credit on their out-of-pocket costs. Changes to the Tax Code (enacted by the 2011 General Assembly) require the VA Dept. of Taxation to refund 100% of the difference between the participant's tax obligation and the amount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

Voluntary BMP Program

There were **95** inspections conducted which brought to the District **\$11,875** of technical assistance funds under the "voluntary bmp" program. This program allowed the capture of data of water quality benefit from **36** structural bmp's whose lifespan had been met but where the practice was still actively being maintained. These benefits are now counted in the Chesapeake Bay Model.

Middle River Grant Project

Headwaters SWCD began the **third (and final)** year of a **3-year** grant cycle with funds provided through the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network. These funds will continue to allow 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 are being targeted because they are known to be the three worst of the impaired stream segments.



Edison Creek (PS01), Bell Creek (PS04), and Moffett Creek (PS05) within the Upper Middle River watershed

Headwaters SWCD also has been approved for 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. To date, over **\$46,603** has been obligated for **two LE-1T** (Livestock Exclusion with Riparian Buffer) 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 **9** RMP's at various stages recorded in the state's tracking program for Headwaters SWCD. The District has an RMP Technical Review Committee that review these plans.

Flood Control Dams

Two major rehabilitation projects have been taking place on **2** of the flood control dams in the North River watershed:

- Todd Lake
- Hearthstone Lake

Todd Lake dam rehabilitation is all but complete, save final paperwork. Hearthstone is currently in progress.

Headwaters SWCD continues to maintain, inspect and make repairs for **11** SWCD flood control dams, and **5** additional dams of partner agencies. Total funds expended for general dam repair, maintenance & major rehabilitation for **FY-2015/2016** were **\$3,735,335**. (This amount includes funds not only of the District, but also NRCS & Augusta County).



Education



Fort Defiance High School once again represented Headwaters SWCD at the State Envirothon competition held at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, where they placed 1st. This team went on to represent the State of Virginia at the international competition held in Ontario, Canada where they placed 12th overall.



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



Youth Conservation Camp

For the past **39** 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 2016, **Rachel Watts & Madison Roach** represented Headwaters SWCD at Youth Conservation Camp. They received a partial scholarship from Headwaters SWCD and the Shenandoah Pure Water Forum to attend.

VASWCD Educational Foundation – Scholarship
Jacob Wright was chosen to receive one of the state's annual **\$1,000** scholarship awards presented each year to deserving students who plan to enroll in environmental curriculums in their higher education pursuits.

Financial Reports **Income FY-15/16**

| | |
|--|------------------|
| VA Agr BMP Cost-Share (including interest) | 1,282,349 |
| DCR Operations & Administration | 198,992 |
| DCR Technical Assistance | 77,477 |
| DCR Resource Management Plan, Tillage Survey & Voluntary BMP support funds | 14,387 |
| DCR Dam Funds (grant) | 33,000 |
| Upper Middle River project (Chesapeake Bay Funders Network) grant | 11,000 |
| Shenandoah Pure Water Forum (Envirothon, Women's Meetings, Youth Conservation Camp) grants | 1,500 |
| Local Dam Escrow (including interest) | 7,671 |
| Local Operations, Education, Compensation Packages | 41,375 |
| Local Watershed | 22,000 |
| Misc (dam mowing, dam rehab, donations, interest) | 233,715 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 1,923,466 |

Expenses FY-15/16

| | |
|---|------------------|
| VA Agr BMP Cost-Share Program / Payments | 1,091,837 |
| Education, PR, Youth | 7,377 |
| Employee Compensation Packages | 229,527 |
| Support Expenses (for positions) | 15,865 |
| Office & Operations | 8,664 |
| Local Watershed | 9,124 |
| DCR Dam Funds (grant) | 11,465 |
| DCR Technical Assistance | 3,475 |
| Upper Middle River project (Chesapeake Bay Funders Network) grant | 29,164 |
| VCC Alternative Fence grant | 15077 |
| Shenandoah Pure Water Forum (Youth Conservation Camp) | 500 |
| Misc (dues, memorials/get-well/retirements/gifts, product costs) | 4,629 |
| Misc (dam rehabilitation) | 3,735,335 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 5,162,039 |