



8 We work with the people who work the land.

# Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District

## Annual Report 2017 - 2018

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 @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](http://www.headwatersswcd.org)**

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### 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**

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### Headwaters SWCD Staff

**John Kaylor**, Senior Conservation Specialist  
[jkaylor@co.augusta.va.us](mailto:jkaylor@co.augusta.va.us)  
**Cathy Perry**, District Operations Manager  
[cperry@co.augusta.va.us](mailto:cperry@co.augusta.va.us)  
**Jason Wilfong**, Conservation Technician  
[jwilfong@co.augusta.va.us](mailto:jwilfong@co.augusta.va.us)  
**Aaron Lucas**, Conservation Technician  
[alucas@co.augusta.va.us](mailto:alucas@co.augusta.va.us)  
**Josh Walker**, Conservation Technician  
[jwalker@co.augusta.va.us](mailto:jwalker@co.augusta.va.us)  
**Michael Jimenez**, Dam Technician  
[mjimenez@co.augusta.va.us](mailto:mjimenez@co.augusta.va.us)  
**Rachel McCuller**, Education Specialist/Technician  
[rmcculler@co.augusta.va.us](mailto:rmcculler@co.augusta.va.us)

### Associate Directors

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

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

The Headwaters SWCD Board members serve as volunteers.

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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.

### USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

**Charles Ivins**, District Conservationist  
[charles.ivins@va.usda.gov](mailto:charles.ivins@va.usda.gov)  
**Bobby Drumheller**, Soil Conservationist  
[robert.drumheller@va.usda.gov](mailto:robert.drumheller@va.usda.gov)  
**Jeffrey Barr**, Soil Conservationist  
[jeffrey.barr@va.usda.gov](mailto:jeffrey.barr@va.usda.gov)  
**Wes Hedrick**, Soil Conservationist  
[wesley.hedrick@va.usda.gov](mailto:wesley.hedrick@va.usda.gov)  
**Emily Fugate**, Soil Conservationist  
[emily.fugate@va.usda.gov](mailto:emily.fugate@va.usda.gov)  
**Lorraine Cormier**, Farm Bill Assistant  
[lorraine.cormier@va.usda.gov](mailto:lorraine.cormier@va.usda.gov)  
**Justin Folks**, Private Land Biologist  
[justin.folks@va.usda.gov](mailto:justin.folks@va.usda.gov)  
**Rebecca Evans**, Civil Engineering Technician  
[rebecca.evans@va.usda.gov](mailto:rebecca.evans@va.usda.gov)

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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](mailto:info@purewaterforum.org))
- Friends of the Middle River ([fomr.mccue@gmail.com](mailto:fomr.mccue@gmail.com))
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation ([www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org))

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

The District has completed its 33rd 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 **\$801,391** in fiscal year **7/1/17 – 6/30/18** to install the following practices:

Practice Code	Practice Name	# Contracts
SL-6	Stream Exclusion w/Grazing Land Mgmt.	8
CCI-SE-1	Continuous Stream Exclusion	3
CRSL-6	CREP Grazing Land Protection	4
SL-7	Extension of CREP Watering Systems	3
	<b>TOTAL LINEAR FEET OF STREAM BANK PROTECTED: 41,649</b>	
WP-4	Animal Waste Control Facility	5
WP-4C	Composter Facility	1
	<b>TOTAL TONS OF WASTE TREATED (PER YEAR): 4,294</b>	
SL-1	Long-Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland	2
SL-8B	Small Grain Cover Crop for Nutrient Mgmt.	36
SL-8H	Harvestable Cover Crop	35
	<b>TOTAL ACRES IN PLANTED COVER CROP: 6,224</b>	
FR-1	Aforestation of erodible crop and pastureland	1
FR-3	Woodland Buffer Filter Area	1
CRFR-3	CREP Riparian Forest Buffer Planting	7
CP-22	CREP Rental Payment	6
	<b>TOTAL FORESTED ACRES: 31.08</b>	
CL	Conservation Landscaping	1
	<b>TOTAL ACRES: 4.25</b>	

Headwaters SWCD has obligated an additional **\$3,789,354.34** in cost-share projects under construction (as of 6-30-18).

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.

**New Funding Source for BMP's**

As a result of DuPont – Waynesboro Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Settlement, funds for agricultural BMP's in the Headwaters SWCD total \$2,549,790, as well as \$305,974 in technical assistance funds. All cost-share dollars from this settlement were obligated.

**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.

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><u>No Engineering Required</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Conservation Landscaping</li> <li>*Rain Gardens</li> <li>*Dry Wells</li> <li>*Impervious Surface Removal</li> <li>*Pet Waste Stations</li> <li>*Urban Nutrient Management Plan</li> </ul> | <p><u>Engineering Required</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Bio-retention</li> <li>*Infiltration Basin</li> <li>*Permeable Pavement</li> <li>*Green Roofs</li> <li>*Rainwater Harvesting</li> <li>*Vegetated Stormwater Conveyances</li> <li>*Constructed Wetlands</li> </ul> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**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. There are two practices that can help with financial assistance to develop and to implement Resource Management Plans.



**Kate Mahanes & Jim Fleming  
Indigo Hills Ranch, LLC**



**Education**



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

**2017 Clean Water Farm Award--Shenandoah Basin**

Kathleen & Jim stockpile forages to facilitate rotational grazing among several paddocks on their farm. They practice rotational grazing/strip grazing with temporary fence. They have plans in the near future to permanently further divide specific paddocks.

They have been working closely with NRCS to develop a plan for wildlife areas on the property.

Kate & Jim have installed solar panels on their own merit as a source of renewable, sustainable energy. Not to mention, the sheep love the panels: additional shade!



Virginia's Dominion Envirothon competition was held May 20-21 at Ferrum College. Fort Defiance High School again represented Headwaters SWCD, and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

The FY-18/19 current issue will be "*Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World*".

**Flood Control Dams**

Headwaters SWCD is working with NRCS & Augusta County on a dam rehabilitation project for Hearstone Dam, in the North River Watershed area.

Robinson Hollow, Inch Branch, Toms Branch & Todd Lake have all been rehabilitated over the past 10 years. Waynesboro Nurseries dam is #2 on the state's priority list for rehabilitation.

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, as well as staff & support, for **FY-2017/2018** was **\$655,826**.



**Youth Conservation Camp**

For the past **41** 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.

In July of 2018, **Jacob Watts & Selah Wangler** represented Headwaters SWCD at Youth Conservation Camp. They received a partial scholarship from Headwaters to attend.

**Educational Scholarships**

The Directors of the Headwaters SWCD are pleased to announce that an educational scholarship program has been initiated that will allow students within District boundaries to apply for funds.

The VASWCD Educational Foundation continues to offer scholarships at the state level as well.



### **Mobile Education Unit**

Headwaters is embarking on a new project - a mobile walk-through education classroom! It will include hands on and interactive learning. The unit will be ADA compliant and equipped with additional learning stations that can be selected and set up to meet a wide range of student grade levels as well as adults.

The soil tunnel allows people to walk through the three dimensional virtual experience of the underground world of soil. It explores the dependence between plants and animals with the soil as well as water and groundwater. The 3-D models of microorganisms offer an opportunity to motivate students. Activities and lesson plans will correlate to the Standards of Learning. The plan is to have the unit set up in the parking lot of the school for classes to rotate through the exhibits.

#### **Income FY-17/18**

Cost-Share (including interest)	<b>3,853,696</b>
DCR Operations & Administration	<b>198,992</b>
Technical Assistance (including VCAP, voluntary BMP & DuPont Mercury Settlement)	<b>469,454</b>
DCR Dam Funds (grant)	<b>33,000</b>
Mobile Education Unit, MWEE grant, Envirothon	<b>6,400</b>
Local Dam Escrow (including interest)	<b>6,275</b>
Local Operations, Education, Compensation	<b>111,375</b>
Local Watershed	<b>22,000</b>
Dam Rehabilitation	<b>491,346</b>
Interest	<b>2,568</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,195,106</b>

#### **Expenses FY-17/18**

Cost-Share Program / Payments	<b>801,391</b>
Education, PR, Youth	<b>11,093</b>
Employee Compensation Packages	<b>367,059</b>
Support Expenses (for positions)	<b>21,228</b>
Office & Operations	<b>10,054</b>
Local Watershed	<b>27,712</b>
DCR Dam Funds (grant) & VRA Grants	<b>79,803</b>
DCR Technical Assistance (other than employee comp)	<b>5,610</b>
Private Source Grants	<b>1,249</b>
Dam Rehabilitation	<b>487,180</b>
Misc (dues, memorials, get wells, retirements gifts, product costs)	<b>4,837</b>
Designated Fund (education scholarships & foundation fee)	<b>25,250</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,842,466</b>