



We work with the people who work the land.

Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Report 2018 - 2019

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

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 appointed by the State VA Cooperative Extension director.

Richard Shiflet, Chair
Otis Bilkins, Vice-Chair
Wendy Turley, Treasurer
DuBose Egleston, Jr., Secretary
Judy Burtner
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
Carolyn Ford	Brenda Mead

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
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Rachel McCuller, Education Specialist/Technical Assistant
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Kayla Mathews, Operations Assistant
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Agency Partners

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.mangun@gmail.com)
Chesapeake Bay Foundation (AHorn@cbf.org)

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.



Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

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.

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

The District has completed its **34th** 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. State funds in the amount of **\$582,424** were paid for BMPs in FY-18/19, with **\$1,522,560** obligated.

As a result of DuPont – Waynesboro Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Settlement, funds for agricultural BMP's in the Headwaters SWCD totaling **\$317,828** were paid out in FY-18/19. Funds currently obligated under this program are **\$1,813,789**. Also, funds in the amount of **\$9,575** were obligated under the South River/Christians Creek DEQ program.

The Headwaters District paid landowners a total of **\$900,253** in fiscal year **7/1/18 – 6/30/19** to install the following practices:

Practice Code	Practice Name	# Contracts
SL-6	Stream Exclusion w/Grazing Land Mgmt.	10
CCI-SE-1	Continuous Stream Exclusion	8
CRSL-6	CREP Grazing Land Protection	2
SL-7	Extension of CREP Watering Systems	1
	TOTAL LINEAR FEET OF STREAM BANK PROTECTED: 84,362	
WP-4	Animal Waste Control Facility	4
WP-4C	Composter Facility	2
	TOTAL TONS OF WASTE TREATED (PER YEAR): 4,361	
SL-1	Long-Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland	9
SL-8B	Small Grain Cover Crop for Nutrient Mgmt.	27
SL-8H	Harvestable Cover Crop	34
WQ-4	Legume Cover Crop	1
	TOTAL ACRES IN PLANTED COVER CROP: 6,663	
CCI-FRB-1	Forested Riparian Buffer (Maintenance)	1
CRFR-3	CREP Riparian Forest Buffer Planting	2
CP-22	CREP Rental Payment	2
	TOTAL FORESTED ACRES: 14.92	

Headwaters SWCD has obligated an additional **\$3,345,924** in cost-share projects under construction (as of 6-30-19).

Landowners who install conservation BMP's **may** also qualify for a 25% VA State Tax Credit on their out-of-pocket costs.



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.



Annual District Awards Banquet

In January, 2019, the District celebrated the accomplishments achieved over the past year, recognizing those who excelled in their respective fields. The following award winners were honored:

Conservation Farmers of the Year

2017: Indigo Hills Ranch - Kate Mahanes & Jim Fleming

2018: Purple Cow Road Farms - The Shifflett Family

Forest Conservation Award

Lucinda Lundy

Special Recognition Award

Donna Good

Environmental Educator Award

Matthew Rider

The Shifflett Family - Purple Cow Road Farms



2018 Clean Water Farm Award--Shenandoah Basin

Roger & Sharon Shifflett started Purple Cow Road Farms in 1971 with only 5 acres, raising pigs and dairy goats. They transitioned the original farm to beef and expanded to 78 acres. In 1994, 44 acres were purchased on Point Lookout Rd for 3 poultry houses. In 2000, The Shifflett's purchased the 117 acre Meadow Farm where they reside today. Currently, they run a 100 cow/calf operation and turkey brooder operation with their two sons, Wyatt & Justin.

Flood Control Dams

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

Rehab includes riser upgrades, auxiliary spillway modifications, toe drain replacement and access road improvements. Staff meets monthly with project engineers and contractors to ensure the project continues to move forward.

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.

A contractor was secured for herbicide applications on 9 of the flood control dams.

Headwaters held their annual EAP (Emergency Action Plan) drill with partner agencies and localities to review procedures and contact information.

Annual inspections of all 16 dams were conducted on March 25 – 27. Mowing was completed in July.

Total expended for general dam repair, maintenance & major rehabilitation, as well as staff & support, for **FY-2018/2019** was **\$178,766**.



Education



Headwaters hosted our local Envirothon on April 4th at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton. We had two competing teams, and three participating middle and high school teams. Our two teams, Fort Defiance HS and Stuarts Draft FFA, competed in the Area competition held on May 1st. Fort Defiance HS placed 1st at the Area I Envirothon and finished in 3rd place at the state Dominion Envirothon. We congratulate both of these teams on their successes in all levels of the Envirothon program.

Next year's special topic is **"Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions"**.

Educational Scholarships

The first annual District educational scholarship was awarded to Ashlyn Clemmer from Riverheads High School. Ashlyn plans to pursue an undergraduate degree in Animal Science.

The VASWCD Educational Foundation continues to offer scholarships at the state level as well. The District chooses one application to forward on to the VASWCD Educational Foundation for statewide consideration. This year's choice to forward on was Ramona Shelton from Stuart Hall.

The Underground Classroom (Mobile Education Unit)

The District is expanding its mission of conservation education by developing a mobile classroom.

Constructed from a new 22 foot cargo trailer, this classroom will aim to provide hands-on interactive learning on soil health and soil conservation.

The District has gathered input from the instructional departments of our three public school systems and all three are excited and eager to have the mobile soils classroom!

We are currently in the design phase, and can officially unveil a preliminary image of the "Underground Classroom".



Headwaters SWCD is working with Gropen, a local design firm in Charlottesville for the designing and fabrication phases of the project. The District aims to have the classroom completed in time for the 2019-2020 school year.

Financials

Income FY-18/19

Cost-Share (including interest)	926,301
DCR Operations & Administration	198,992
Technical Assistance (including voluntary BMP)	159,778
DCR Dam Funds (grant)	33,000
Mobile Education Unit, CB License Plate (augmented sandbox), Envirothon	26,399
VRA Dam Grants (Inundation Studies)	22,500
Dam Mowing	320
Local Dam Escrow (including interest)	6,281
Local Operations, Education, Compensation	119,749
Local Watershed	22,000
Dam Rehabilitation	93,115
Interest	5,348
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,613,783

Expenses FY-18/19

Cost-Share Program / Payments	900,254
Education, PR, Youth	7,156
Employee Compensation Packages	436,328
Support Expenses (for positions)	26,563
Office & Operations	9,138
Local Watershed	14,212
DCR Dam Funds (grant)	707
DCR Technical Assistance (other than employee comp)	1,895
Various Grants	1,080
Dam Rehabilitation	92,875
Misc (dues, memorials, get wells, retirements gifts, product costs)	4,953
Designated Fund (education scholarships & Mobile education unit (donations)	49,210
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,544,371

We appreciate the help and support of our legislators, local officials, agency partners, volunteers and friends who have donated their time, support and funds to our District. This current year is full of opportunity like never before, with increased cost-share dollars, additional bmp practice options, increased caps, mobile education unit, augmented sandbox, volunteer program, etc. We look forward to a monumental year ahead.