

VASWCD Strategic Plan: 2016 -2020

Mission:

To serve and strengthen soil and water conservation districts in the stewardship of natural resources.

Vision:

The VASWCD will be an effective, independent voice in Virginia's conservation partnership supporting the missions of Soil and Water Conservation Districts by providing leadership and training, improving communication, promoting financial independence, and providing cohesive representation to legislative bodies on natural resource issues.

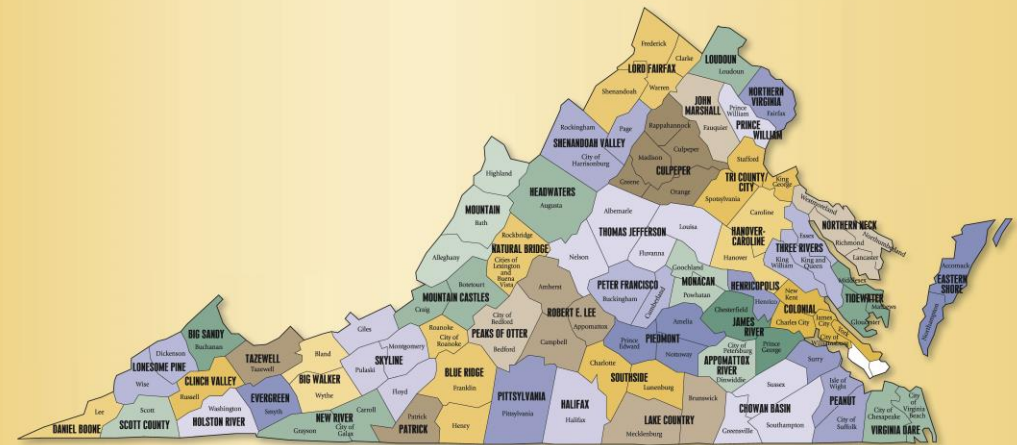
About Us:

The Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) is a private non-profit association of 47 Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in Virginia and is classified accordingly as a 501(c)5 by the IRS. The VASWCD coordinates conservation efforts statewide to focus effectively on issues identified by member districts.

The VASWCD's voting members are all elected and appointed directors. SWCDs were established in the 1930's as political subdivisions of the state in response to the pressing need for the conservation of our natural resources in the Commonwealth. Each local SWCD is directed by a board of APPOINTED or ELECTED directors who are elected in general elections and serve four year terms. The VASWCD is governed by a 12-member board, all of whom must also be Directors. A President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Past President, Secretary/Treasurer and representative to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) constitute the executive committee and are empowered to act on behalf of the board between meetings.

The state of Virginia is divided into six geographic areas. SWCD directors within each area annually elect two directors to serve as Area Chair and Area Vice Chair. The Area Chair serves on the VASWCD Board and represents his/her respective SWCDs.

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Website: www.vaswcd.org

Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Strategic Plan: 2016 - 2020

Goals	1 Strengthen the Capacity of the VASWCD to Effectively Lead and Serve all SWCDs in the Commonwealth.	2 Maintain, and Enhance, a Legislative Advocacy Plan for the VASWCD and SWCDs.	3 Increase and Stabilize VASWCD and SWCD Funding.	4 Strengthen the Capacity of SWCDs to Effectively Address the Soil & Water Conservation Needs of their Communities.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the use of Committees to develop and manage specific initiatives. 2. Committees, and responsible parties, shall develop an Annual Plan of Work. The Board shall adopt the Plan, to be reviewed no less frequently than semi-annually, for progress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each Committee shall develop an Annual Plan of Work, and review their Charter, annually, for approval by the Board, as part of the overall Plan of Work. 3. The Board shall review the Strategic Plan annually. 4. Develop and evaluate public relations initiatives to enhance awareness of activities, and value of the VASWCD and SWCDs. 5. Develop and implement concepts, tools and technologies to improve VASWCD efficiency and effectiveness. 6. Strengthen existing partnerships, and develop new ones, to support the work of the VASWCD. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain active interaction with State and Federal governmental decision makers. 2. Develop and maintain partnerships with appropriate government agencies, and other public and private organizations, to promote VASWCD goals and objectives. 3. Assist SWCDs in developing, and maintaining, effective relationships with local governments. 4. Develop an annual legislative agenda. 5. Advocate on member approved policies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work collaboratively to increase VASWCD and SWCD funding streams. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement a training and education program for SWCD Directors and staff, in conjunction with VASWCD Educational Foundation, and other partner organizations. 2. Develop and implement concepts, tools and technologies to improve SWCD efficiency and effectiveness. 3. Strengthen existing partnerships, and develop new ones, to support the work of SWCDs. 4. Sponsor and promote recognition programs.