

Area III Information/Report

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1.- Annual Meeting Information - December 8-10, 2019 at the Norfolk Sheraton Waterside. Registration deadline = November 14. Reservation information and registration form now available on website.

2.- Legislative Agenda Development - Draft legislative agenda is under development. Districts can work with Area Chairs and submit recommendations to Ricky Rash, Legislative Committee chair and Kendall Tyree thru August 15. The VASWCD Legislative Committee will meet on August 19 to review submissions and begin development of a draft 2020 legislative agenda. The draft will be presented to the board at the September 12 board meeting and then be advanced to the December annual meeting for vote by our membership.

Feedback: COIA clarification, need for smaller, more effective presentation(s) involving COIA

3.- Are there any comments, input, concerns or anything from the local district that you would like to bring forward to the Association? If there's something we can assist with or take to our partner stakeholders for consideration at the quarterly board meeting on September 12th then feel free to share it with me.

Feedback from districts: COIA, change the language in the code, etc.

4.- Also, keep in mind that at your Area meeting in December the Chair and Vice Chair positions are up for election again. I am eligible for a second term. Tom is not running for SWCD director and a new Vice Chair would then need to be determined.

Feedback: We will be in better position to make decisions after the election.

5.- Pamunkey Indians. A stakeholder meeting was held on the reservation about various conservation programs from several agencies (NRCS, Rural Development, FSA, etc.). I attended as the Area III representative since a part of Area III is located in the Pamunkey's ancestral lands. Otherwise, the reservation is in the Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District. **Key observation:** the stakeholder meeting was critical because the Pamunkey Indians are now a sovereign tribe entering a nation-building agenda. There can be mutual benefits between the soil and water conservation districts and the Native American community in general.

Feedback: Dr. Warner Orozco, horticulturalist and extension agent for the Pamunkey Indians, attended the Three Rivers board meeting in August. The Three Rivers District has since engaged the Pamunkey Indians through Dr. Orozco. Conservation opportunities are being explored.

6. M.O. Smith and Sons, Inc. operate a dairy farm in the Colonial Williamsburg/Jamestown Colony area along the James River. The dairy farm has been in operation for over 75 years. The farm is located in the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District. **Key observation:** the present-day dairy farm is possibly a historical site where the earliest African slaves farmed the land. There can be mutual benefits between the soil and water conservation districts and the African American community in general.

Feedback: The Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District has engaged the dairy farm. Conservation opportunities/information was shared.