



VASWCD Board Meeting Report September 2019

VACDE Quarterly Meeting

The VACDE will be scheduling our next quarterly board meeting in October. The agenda will include a review of our annual employees training hosted at Graves Mountain Lodge, planning for the SECDEA conference in November, planning for the upcoming winter business meeting in December, planning for future fundraising efforts and discussion of items on our annual plan of work for the remainder of 2019.

SECDEA Annual Conference

The VACDE is encouraging employees to attend the South East Conservation District Employee's Association annual conference in Pigeon Forge, TN in November. Virginia is on the agenda to share our experiences and successes with Youth Conservation Camp, and has been tasked with manning the registration desk. Virginia is hosting the SECDEA's mid-year planning meeting in April 2020 for their planning of the Annual Conference. Planning is currently under way to locate a venue to host this planning meeting for the SECDEA executive officers.

VASWCD Annual Meeting

The VACDE is planning for our winter business meeting that will be held during the VACDE's Tuesday luncheon at the Annual Meeting in December. Elections for the positions of: Treasurer, Area 1, 3 and 5 representatives will take place at the business meeting. The VACDE is preparing to assist with the annual Educational Foundation Auction. Co-coordinators for the Auction are Brianna Moring, James River SWCD and Allyson Ponn, Lord Fairfax SWCD.

Annual Service Awards recognizing employees for their years of service will be presented during the meeting, as well. To be eligible to receive a service award, an employee must be a current VACDE member (have paid membership dues for the current calendar year).

The VACDE will also recognize an employee who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and professionalism in their job duties with the Outstanding Conservation District Professionals Award. Nominees must have been employed for three (3) years and be a current member of the VACDE. The recipient will be recognized during the Annual Meeting and will receive a plaque and a check for \$300. The deadline for submission of nominations is **Tuesday, October 15th** and applications should be sent to Kelly Snoddy, VACDE President at Kelly.snoddy@vaswcd.org.



Employee Training at Graves Mountain Lodge

The VACDE hosted its Annual Training at Graves Mountain Lodge on August 20-22.

Attendance breakdown:

- **Total Registered: 127**
 - SWCDs represented: 35
 - Areas Represented: 6 (*Breakdown by # Districts/Area: I-4; II- 6; III-7; IV-5; V-8; VI-5*)
- SWCD Staff: 106
- Directors: 5
 - Loudon – 2; Tri-County City/VASWCD – 1; Culpeper/VASWCD – 1; Northern Virginia – 1
- VASWCD: 5
- DCR: 7
- VDACS: 3
- OTHER: 1

The VACDE Scholarship Committee received 4 scholarship applications from staff representing 4 Districts. Applications were reviewed & ranked by the Committee and \$200 scholarships were awarded to: Melissa Waller, Halifax SWCD; Allen Jackson, Blue Ridge SWCD; Tabea Zimmerman, Colonial SWCD and Tim Miles, Daniel Boone SWCD. Three of the scholarship recipients have been employed less than 5 years and had not attended the Graves training before. The scholarships were issued as a reimbursement after the Graves Mountain Training. Scholarship recipients must have attended training sessions in order to be eligible for reimbursement. We were pleased to be able to support the attendance of these 4 District employees. **Special thanks to the Beals Fund as managed through the VASWCD Educational Foundation for contributions to help fund these scholarship opportunities.** Remaining Beals funds will be used to support additional employee scholarship opportunities to the VASWCD Annual Meeting and other training opportunities, such as the SECDEA conference

A summary of the evaluations received from the Training, (attached) indicated that most attendees found the Training sessions to be excellent. A thank you letter was sent to Anne Beals on behalf of the VACDE in appreciation of these funds.

The VACDE Fundraising Committee organized a raffle to help support our ongoing training efforts. Two items were raffled off at the Graves Training; a Yeti cooler and a Visa gift card. This proved to be a successful venture with approximately \$420 raised.

MANY THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS, DIRECTORS AND DISTRICT EMPLOYEES WHO PROVIDED TRAINING AND ASSISTED WITH COORDINATION DURING THE SESSIONS!