



# VACDE

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

## VASWCD Board Meeting Partner Report

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### April 2020

#### **VACDE Quarterly Meeting**

The VACDE held our first quarterly meeting in February. The agenda included review of By-Laws, APOW, officer duties, updates from committees, discussion on our annual employees training hosted last August at Graves Mountain Lodge and future ideas for this year's training (August 18-20, 2020), update for the SECDEA mid-year planning meeting in April, planning for the upcoming winter business meeting in December, planning for future fundraising efforts and discussion of items on our annual plan of work.

Membership forms are electronic now! We currently have 149 members!

We have added a new committee to our roster: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee. Chris VanVlack of Loudon & Tabea Zimmermann of Colonial are co-chairs on this new committee which will help conduct introspection and forward thinking to ensure we are reaching all employees and representing everyone that we can through trainings and other opportunities.

Our next meeting will be April 20<sup>th</sup>, via teleconference.

#### **SECDEA Annual Conference (November 2019)**

The VACDE was represented by 5 employees at the South East Conservation District Employee's Association annual conference in Pigeon Forge, TN in November 2019. Virginia had time on the agenda to share our experiences and successes with Youth Conservation Camp, and we manned the registration desk.

Virginia was scheduled to host the SECDEA's mid-year planning meeting in April 2020 for the planning of the Annual Conference in November 2020. We had a contract underway with a venue in Virginia Beach to host this planning meeting for the SECDEA executive officers and were planning to treat them to a tour of the CBF's Brock Environmental Center and a boat ride on the Chesapeake Bay and Lynnhaven River. Due to the COVID-19 situation, we are canceling this planning meeting and will be having a teleconference near the end of April, instead. We are under discussions with the SECDEA Board to host the meeting in 2021, seeing as how we were unable to fulfill our role this year and the plans were already set.

#### **VASWCD Annual Meeting (December 2019)**

The VACDE held our winter business meeting on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Elections for the positions of: Treasurer, Area 1, 3 and 5 representatives took place. The VACDE assisted 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 were presented during the meeting to 19 employees, ranging in years of service from 5 to 45 years. 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 also recognized Tom Dunlap of Colonial SWCD Outstanding Conservation District Professionals Award, which recognizes an employee who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and professionalism in their job duties.

The VACDE Scholarship Committee received and awarded a total of 16 scholarship applications from staff representing 11 Districts (4 for Graves mountain, 2 for the SECDEA Annual Conference and 10 for the VASWCD Annual meeting). We are pleased to be able to support the attendance of these District employees.

#### **VACDE Fundraising Committee**

The VACDE Fundraising Committee offered a new fundraising opportunity last year through the sale of water bottles. We still have some for sale at \$15 each. We continue to offer Christmas ornaments from years past.