



# VACDE

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

*Professional development, leadership, and a voice for communicating issues and solutions on behalf of conservation district employees*

April 2, 2020

Dear VASWCD Educational Foundation Board Members:

The Virginia Association of Conservation Districts Employees (VACDE) is seeking funding assistance for trainings and scholarships. **The VACDE requests the VASWCD Educational Foundation/George Beals Conservation Fund consider support in the amount of \$1,500 for the Employees Association, to assist with programming and scholarships as we plan for training events in 2020.** The assistance from the Beals Fund is not used for any operational expense.

The VACDE is striving to keep costs to a minimum as we offer training opportunities that are beneficial to our employees and this financial support will help offset fees associated with outside speakers, as well as to provide scholarships to employees. The VACDE will be offering scholarships for district employees who have financial difficulty in attending trainings, such as our Annual Summer Training held at Graves Mountain Lodge and the VASWCD Annual Meeting. The VASWCD staff and VACDE members have discussed the positive impact of the scholarship program over the last couple of years and agree that we need to continue to encourage and provide this type of incentive.

Our Annual Employees training at Graves Mountain Lodge is set to be held August 18-20 and planning is underway. The VACDE Executive Committee and Area Representatives from across the State will be coordinating this event, with planning assistance from the VASWCD staff and the District Admin/Ops Committee, in order to offer a wide variety of topics for employees. In planning the various sessions, we consider results from evaluations from the previous year's training, certifications needed, educational programs and administrative aspects. We are excited to work closely with DCR's Engineering Services Staff and Conservation Planning Coordinator in order to offer the most effective topics and aim to fulfill as many of our employees' needs, as possible. We have not fully defined an agenda at this time, however, suggested topics currently under discussion include: pasture management with Bill Patterson, roundtable discussions, education make and takes, tools for surveying, marketing topics, and communicating with agricultural producers.

Thank you for your continued support of the Soil and Water Conservation District employees across the State and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Kelly Jones Snoddy  
President, VACDE