VIRGINIA'S SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

AREA VI REPORT
PROGRAM YEAR 2022
QUARTER THREE

Appomattox River
(Petersburg and Dinwiddie)

Chowan Basin
(Greensville, Southampton, and Sussex)

Eastern Shore
(Accomack and Northampton)

James River
(Prince George and Chesterfield)

Peanut
(Isle of Wight, Surry, and Suffolk)

Virginia Dare
(Chesapeake and Virginia Beach)
**Appomattox River**

- Our District is able to fully fund cost-share contacts with funding from neighboring districts
- Participated in Chowan Basin Mini Farm Day
- Preparing for our first Farm day in over 2 years
- We are going back into classrooms to do environmental education activities in over 2 years

**Chowan Basin**

- Grand Basin and Local Clean Water Farm awarded to Jared Webb
- Total FY2022 cost-share requested in tracking is $4,571,984 to date
- Cost-share payments issued on completed applications
- Tire Recycling event set for March 24th and 25th
- Mini Farm to School day held at Greensville Elementary 3rd Graders held March 1st
- Local Precision Ag Soil Sampling Program

**Eastern Shore**

- **EDUCATION:** We have lots going on in the education area now that some mandates have been lifted!
  - In-classroom programming has returned with schools and homeschoolers
  - We are partnering with extension to bring a modified Farm Field Day to 3rd and 4th graders in both Northampton and Accomack counties
  - Facilitating a Project Wild training at the Chesapeake Bay Field Station
  - Career Days presentations
  - Plans are underway for a “Grow Your Garden” Camp over spring break
  - Ag Camp at the BIC will be returning this summer
  - Arbor Day is going to rock! We are focusing on native plants and partnering with DOF and Master Gardeners to give away seedlings, plugs of native bushes, and seeds.
  - Life Cycle of Butterflies for 2nd graders this spring
  - Water Wise Home was rolled out for the Eastern Shore Community
  - Spring Grant and scholarship applications are due April 1, 2022
  - The Education Director is serving on the Environmental Education Advisory Committee for VDOE

- **VACS COST SHARE:**
  - All Ches. Bay VACS original allocation has been 100% allocated. Additional $200,000 Ches Bay transfer from John Marshall SWCD is in the process and will be 100% allocated.
  - All OCB VACS original allocation has been 100% allocated. Also 100% allocated a $250,000 transfer of OCB VACS funds from James River SWCD- still short $130,000 in OCB funds to fully fund all cost share requests. If funding cannot be obtained from other Districts, the Board voted to use local funds from Operating Budget and Designated funds.
  - FY20 Carryover Poultry Projects are underway- 2 have been completed, another completed- scheduled for as-built inspection, one completed but needs some corrections and 3 under construction.

- **WHOLE FARM PILOT PROGRAM (WFA-1):**
  - FY22 is the second year of the pilot program for ESSWCD. We have allocated $333,150 (3 producers) this year with more cost share approvals to come for funding RMP-2 practices. The requirement for the Eastern Shore SWCD participants to have an RMP developed was a major deterrent for having more participation.

- **VCAP:**
  - There are two living shoreline projects in the planning stage. Another living shoreline project is currently underway and one rainwater harvesting project is underway. There is a lot of interest in VCAP but since the Bayside is prone to erosion, the fetch requirement for VCAP prevents some eligibility.
James River

Conservation
- Cover Crop
  - 5,500 Acres Planted
  - $287,400 in Cost-Share
- Agricultural Assessments
  - Prince George- 892 Acres
  - Chesterfield- 628 Acres
- VCAP $11,909 reimbursed
  - 1 Conservation Landscaping
    - 750 ft²
  - 1 Vegetated Swale
    - 100 linear ft
Operations
- Created new strategic planning survey and sent out into the community and directly to past program participants
- Updated website with new educational opportunities including our new Donald Bagshaw Memorial Scholarship
- Created District Policy Book to include new Director and Associate Director position descriptions and Virtual Attendance Policy
- Developed new email newsletter with content provided from Director Laura Thompson’s Interns
- Preparing for Spring Rain Barrel Workshop 4/23
- Working with Area 6 to create an Envirothon Experience for 2022
- Soil lesson on March 21st with 4th Graders at Beazley Elementary

Peanut

Admin/Education
- Ag Literacy Week March 14-18
- Envirothon – 1 team participating
- Scholarship program – accepting applications through April 15th
- Youth Camp – we have 2 students who will be attending
- Tire Amnesty Days – March 29-31 @ Indika Farms
- Farm Days – May 3-5 @ Indika Farms for all 2nd graders in IOW/Surry/ Suffolk
Cost Share
- Approved all Cover Crop funding, now working on Split Nitrogen signups
- Reviewing Nutrient Management Plans
VCAP
- 1 application this quarter

Virginia Dare

- The District has completed our VACS Program for the year. The Conservation Specialist will be checking on Cover Crop and completing checks on other BMPs. The District has transferred some of our Bay and OCB funds to two other Districts in the State.
- The District has had a record sign up for VCAP again this year. We are working on an extensive waitlist. We are finalizing our MOU with the City of Virginia Beach on a VBCAP Program with annual funding of $160,000 for 5 years to put practices on the ground in the City of Virginia Beach. We are currently hiring for VCAP Independent Contractors.
- The District has announced the Cynthia Pridmore Scholarship for High School Students in our District who will major in Conservation Majors related to conservation and environmental education.
- The District will celebrate Agriculture Literacy Week by partnering with Chesapeake and Virginia Beach Farm Bureau and providing the approved Agriculture in the Classroom book “Tales of the Dairy Godmother” to every primary and elementary school in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake Public Schools. The District is also providing books for every classroom on the Chesapeake Pre-School Initiative Program (at risk and underserved students 4-year olds in Chesapeake Public Schools. The District Directors, Farm Bureau and Partners will also read in the classrooms.
- The District is working on completing our 4-year Strategic Plan
- Watson Lawrence, former Director of over 24 years has retired.