HEADWATERS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
       June 2022

Technical

- BMP staff continue to work with producers on current VACS projects, and process new applications. Staff also attend the VANTAGE and VA Forage & Grassland Council Conferences held this winter.

Education

- The District held its Local HS Envirothon in early April, as well as a successful, brand new Middle School Envirothon, with (6) teams competing.
- Staff also assisted at the Area I Envirothon and Dominion Energy Virginia State Envirothon.
- Education Staff has been very busy with taking the Underground Classroom on the road this Spring-11 visits to schools, educational events and festivals, including Staunton’s Earth Day Festival and Waynesboro’s Riverfest.

Flood Control Dams

- May 31st was declared Dam Safety Awareness Day in Virginia by Governor Glen Youngkin. To recognize this day, the District hosted a special proclamation event showcasing the rehabilitation of Hearthstone Lake Dam. Representatives from the Governor’s Office, DCR, USDA, Augusta County EMS, Schnabel Engineering and Headwaters SWCD staff spoke about the history, and success, of this important rehabilitation project.

- In addition, all the annual dam inspections were completed, as well as (8) new remote monitoring stations were installed.
Our office has been busy preparing for the 2022 PSNT Season. New seasonal staff have been trained in the procedures that are necessary to make this a smooth sampling season. Postcard reminders have been mailed to producers who utilize PSNT. The season got off to a good start with our first soil samples collected on 6/1. The District’s phone is ringing regularly with producers calling to schedule times for our technicians to collect samples to be analyzed. Our office is humming with activity as we provide this very important, time sensitive program that aids the farmer in knowing what amount of Nitrogen their soils need to maximize corn growth.

SVSWCD staff assisted with the State Envirothon Competition held at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg. We were very excited to learn that Harrisonburg High School placed first in the State Competition. Unfortunately, the team is unable to attend the National Competition.

District staff have also been very busy participating in many education events with local schools including a trout release at Riven Rock Park, an Earth Day Celebration and multiple Ag and STEM Day events.

Megen Dalton and Cory Guilliams, NRCS District Conservationist in the Harrisonburg Field Office were recently interviewed for an episode of Virginia Home Grown that airs on Virginia Public Media PBS station. The interview took place at the Hone Quarry dam located in Western Rockingham County and highlighted general information about dams and how they function to control water. The segment will also feature the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program. The episode will air on the evening of June 28th.
NATURAL BRIDGE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

June 2022

- The Personnel Committee has completed the hiring process to fill the position of Office Administrator. Jennifer Huffman was hired and began working on May 9, 2022.

- The Lexington USDA Center is now open to 100% capacity.

- The District Board approved the 2022 Upper James RC&D Grant Award Contract. The grant includes eight sub-awards totaling $11,375.00 to continue efforts to promote conservation of land and water resources.

- SWCD & NRCS field staff conducted a site visit to a local farm interested in WQ-11 Practice. During the site visit, staff looked at agriculture farm ponds for possible exclusion and checked on a field of small grain cover crops consisting of a mixture of brassicas and legumes.

- On June 11, 2022, Natural Bridge SWCD co-sponsored a Fish Shock event informing attendees about strategies to enhance healthy fish populations in local streams. Information about important land use practices was provided as well as Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) fishery biologists to conduct the event and answer attendee’s questions.
MOUNTAIN CASTLES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
June 2022

- The district’s first animal waste storage facility since 2006 was planned and approved this quarter
- The district has seen increased interest in VCAP and expects to submit its first two VCAP applications in July or August
- Abby Pierson completed Chesapeake Bay Landscaping Certification and is working on nutrient management certification.
- The district submitted a VACS amended costs list to DCR, which was approved
- District staff conducted a rain barrel workshop at the Eagle Rock Library
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy Community Grant update: raised bed gardens were planted at 7 elementary schools; district staff are maintaining them over the summer, with some help from volunteers
- Twenty middle school teams participated in the district Envirothon, held at the Catawba Sustainability Center
- Education staff organized a two-hour paddle on the James River for seventh grade students

- Education staff conducted a field experience for 150 sixth grade students at Catawba Sustainability Center
• Mountain SWCD has been very busy finishing up BMP projects as well as ongoing BMP Projects.
• Staff attending zoom trainings and meetings.
• The Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District administers the Bath County Multiflora Eradication program; which is in full force. Below are before and after pictures.
**LORD FAIRFAX SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

*June 2022*

**Technical Updates:**

Technical staff had a very busy spring! With the warmer weather and the end of the year approaching, staff have been on initial field visits for VACS and VCAP, conducting as-builds, and hosting pre-construction meetings. At this time, LFSWCD has obligated just over the 90% goal for the VACS program.

LFSWCD is estimated to receive approximately $8 million in cost-share for fiscal year 2023. Even though these numbers have not been confirmed by the state, the Board and staff have begun to think of more outreach and education ideas to reach a broader audience and initiate signups to match the funding. We hope to include these new ideas in our District Ag BMP Action Plan for PY2023, which helps drive the goals for all of our education and information efforts regarding the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share program.

**Education Updates:**

LFSWCD had a great turnout for the Dominion Energy Envirothon this spring. The local competition hosted 5 teams who competed on April 6th at Sherando Park. From this competition, the top three (Massanutten Regional Governor’s School, Central High School and Millbrook High School) advanced to the Area 1 Competition on April 28th at Grand Caverns Park. Central High School FFA ended up placing third at area, advancing them to the state competition! This is the first team in many years who have advanced to states to represent LFSWCD. Central finished 8th overall, but had some very impressive test scores, including first place in forestry!

This spring, LFSWCD has been active in many local events, including Earth Day celebrations and National Trails Day. The District recently updated all of the display materials and handouts for landowners which have helped increase outreach at these events.