



May 31, 2023

Dear VASWCD Educational Foundation Board Members:

The Virginia Association of Conservation Districts Employees (VACDE) is seeking assistance for our training events. **The VACDE requests the VASWCD Educational Foundation/George Beals Conservation Fund consider support in the amount of \$2,000 for the Employees Association to assist with programming as we plan for training events in 2023.**

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 and increased technology requirements. 2022 was a very productive year for the VACDE, and we are looking to build on that. We are planning an in-person Summer Employee Training at Graves as well as attending the in-person Annual Meeting (VASWCD), and these funds would really make a difference in planning training for SWCD staff.

Our Annual Employees training at Graves Mountain Lodge is set to be held August 22nd-24th, and planning is ongoing. The VACDE Executive Committee and Area Representatives will be coordinating the event, with planning assistance from the VASWCD staff and the District Admin/Ops Committee. We are working with our other committees as well to construct beneficial training for all District employees, no matter their position. We consider results from previous evaluations, training certifications needed, educational programs, administrative aspects, and many other interests employees approach us with. We look forward to working with DCR's Engineering Services Staff and Conservation Planning Coordinator to offer the most effective topics and aim to fulfill as many employees needs as possible. Topics at this year's Summer Training will include Conservation Application Suite Rebuild, FOIA Training, As-Built Documentation, Environmental Literacy Plans, Project/Construction/Contractor Management, Attachment F: Outreach Deliverable, Accounting Trends and QuickBooks Manual Update, Envirothon, and Grazing Plans.

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

Sincerely,

Brianna Moring
President, VACDE

The VACDE strives to maintain a standard of quality for Conservation District employees and encourage excellence in the fulfillment of their duties by establishing and supporting continuing education and training to ensure the conservation of Virginia's natural resources