

DISTRICT FINANCES

Audited Bi-annually

The primary funding source for JRSWCD is a grant with the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Additional funding is provided by the counties of Chesterfield and Prince George, supplemented by grants, partnerships and district programs.

INCOME

Commonwealth of VA	\$ 142,278
Technical Assistance	\$ 28,709
County Support	\$ 33,250
Program Grants	\$ 6,500

DISBURSEMENTS

Staff Expenses	\$133,000
General Operations	\$60,000
Outreach and Education	\$7,800
Operational Reserve	\$40,000

VIRGINIA BEST MANAGEMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM

Chesapeake Bay	\$ 84,925	Chesapeake Bay	\$84,925
Outside the Bay	\$ 53,952	Outside the Bay	\$53,952

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the James River SWCD through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.



We work with the people who work the land.

2016 Annual Report

Serving Prince George and Chesterfield Counties



Staff

Linda McAllister-District Administrator
Glenn Chappell III-Conservation Specialist
John Bilzor-Administrative Program Assistant

Directors

Joseph Waymack-Chair, Prince George Co. Elected Director
Margie Davis-Vice Chair, Chesterfield Co. Elected Director
Donald A. Bagshaw-Treasurer, Prince George Co. Elected Director
Carey Lynn Allen, Chesterfield Co. Elected Director
J. Scott Reiter, Prince George Co. Coop. Extension Appointed Director
Bill Kreider, At-Large Appointed Director

Associate Directors

T. Michael Likins, Chesterfield County Cooperative Extension
Charles Skalsky, Prince George Co.



James River SWCD District Introduction

The James River Soil and Water Conservation District is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, organized and managed by local people assigned under Law with the responsibility of protecting and improving our soil and water resources. The District was established on September 26th, 1940, and at that time included Henrico County as part of a three county unit. In 1975, Henrico formed a single county district; Chesterfield and Prince George remain as a two-county district. The Board of Directors, composed of six citizens of Chesterfield and Prince George counties, directs the activities of the District. The public elects two Directors from each County and two positions are appointed, each serving a four year term. The current Staff is composed of a District Administrator, a Conservation Specialist, and a part-time Administrative Program Assistant.

The District is principally supported by financial assistance received from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) with local funding support from The Prince George and Chesterfield County Boards of Supervisors. In partnership with local, state and federal agencies, the District provides technical assistance to landowners, units of government, and others to identify, discuss, and solve natural resource conservation issues. The District Plan of Work is annually re-evaluated by the Board to ensure program effectiveness.



Educational Outreach

Envirothon: Our Envirothon program is the highlight of the Staff's work in outreach. Though we were expecting 5 teams at our Local Envirothon at Pocahontas State Park, due to logistical problems, we had 2 teams participate: Clover Hill High School and James River High School. The Staff contributed to the Area VI competition, and Clover Hill came in 1st place. They went on to place 7th out of 18 very good teams at the Virginia State Dominion Envirothon competition.

Farm Day: Our annual Farm Day event at Willie Bresko's farm on April 14th was a big hit once again this year, and our puppet show "Dirt made my Lunch" was seen by over 400 children. The Staff also assisted Chowan Basin SWCD with their Farm Day on April 6th, teaching 280 children about farm equipment and helping with photography.

Farmers Cookout and Breakfast: The District hosted our annual Farmers Cookout on August 20th 2015 in Prince George in conjunction with P.G. Cooperative Extension detailing to 50 local producers and government leaders our VACS program. December 10th 2015 saw our Farmers Breakfast in Chesterfield County, also with Coop-Ext. enabling pesticide recertification and encouraging VACS participation.

Virginia State Fair Exhibit: The JRSWCD Staff manned the VASWCD exhibit at the Virginia State Fair on Friday, September 25th education approximately 200 kids and parents about watershed issues and conservation efforts in Virginia.

Rain Barrel Workshops: On April 16th, 2016 the Staff facilitated 2 rain barrel workshops at the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Chesterfield County Department of Environmental Engineering, helping put 86 rain barrels in the hands of County residents, and educating them on their uses and environmental benefits.

Elementary School Events: On May 26th, the Staff once again participated in Math and Science Day at Beazely Elementary school in Prince George, showing 120 2nd graders our popular "Who Polluted the River" activity.

James River SWCD Agency Partners

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Farm Service Agency
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Extension Leadership Council
- Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors
- Prince George County Board of Supervisors
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- South Centre Corridors Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Virginia State University
- Virginia Naturally
- Prince George Farm Bureau
- Chesterfield Farm Bureau
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Chesterfield County Department of Environmental Engineering
- Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts



Lorne Field and JRSWCD Staff host a rain barrel workshop in Chesterfield County



Newly elected Chesterfield Director
Carey Lynn Allen



Directors Don Bagshaw (above) and
Chairman Joseph Waymack sworn in



Conservation & Cost-Share

Nutrient Management Planning for crops is an essential practice that uses decades of Virginia Tech field research to recommend fertilizer timing and application rates to meet a farmer's yield goals. In program year '16, the District helped farmers develop new Nutrient Management Plans on **2,388 acres** of cropland. By applying the right amount of fertilizer at the right time, each of these acres can reach its crop-growing potential with less wasted money and less nutrient pollution reaching our waterways. Our farmers followed through with their nutrient management stewardship by **split-applying Nitrogen** to over **460 acres** of small grains and corn.

Cover crops are plants that are sown in the fall after the harvest of a cash crop and grow through the winter on fields that would otherwise be left fallow. They are necessary to help prevent soil erosion and to capture excess Nitrogen that would otherwise leach out of the soil and into our waterways. They can also suppress weeds, reduce pest pressure, and add valuable organic matter to the soil. James River SWCD provided cost-share assistance in the amount of **\$54,708.09** for this important agronomic practice last year, and we would like to see that number continue to grow this fall.



Stream exclusion with grazing land management, or "**SL-6**" is now funded at 80% cost share rate. This practice aims to keep cows and other livestock out of creeks, streams, and ponds that feed into our impaired major rivers. The sediment erosion caused by hoof traffic up and down the banks is obvious, as is the nutrient and bacteria pollution caused by feces and urine deposited by livestock in or near the water. The JRSWCD is currently working with producers to complete **\$19,690** in SL-6 cost share contracts.

The JRSWCD is working with producers on 5 separate **Resource Management Plans** that are nearing completion and implementation. These **RMP's** are needed to encourage enrollment and execution of Best Management Practices (BMP's) that Improve water and soil quality. These RMP's also bring enrolled lands into full compliance with federal and state regulations. If you **might** be interested in an **RMP**, please feel free to contact us at the office during business hours for more information on this program.

Virginia Conservation Assistance Program



Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

New for 2016 is the VCAP program, facilitated through the Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the VASWCD by a grant from the EPA, this fledgling program is designed to help mitigate storm water run-off from privately owned properties in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This is geared towards home owners, but also applies to privately owned businesses. The James River SWCD currently has completed 2 VCAP contracts in Chesterfield County, and we have 2 more new contracts under development.

The **Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)** is an urban cost-share program that provides financial incentives and technical and educational assistance to property owners installing eligible Best Management Practices (BMP's) in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

These practices can be installed in areas of your yard where problems like erosion, poor drainage, or poor vegetation occur. Qualified sites shall be used for residential, commercial, or recreational purposes with a proposed practice that addresses a need.

If you have an erosion, flooding or drainage issue with your property and would like to find out more about the VCAP program, please contact the JRSWCD office at (804) 732-6550 or visit our website at jamesriverswcd.org.

A Message from Chairman Joseph Waymack

The James River Soil and Water Conservation District celebrates another successful year serving the communities of Prince George and Chesterfield. In the nearly six years I have served on the board, I have seen the district steadily improve. This past year has been a season of changes for the district. Each season brings new challenges but we have been blessed at every turn, overcome our obstacles, and the district is stronger than ever as we work to protect our most vital resources.

In January we welcomed a new member to the Board of Directors elected from Chesterfield County, Carey Allen. Carey has been an excellent addition to the board and brings with her the passion to continue to expand the district's impact on the community. Our Board continues to be strengthened by the dedication and passion of those whose serve. Our board is comprised of folks from different backgrounds and we work together well to implement a strategic plan for the future.

The past year also brought new staff to the district. John Allen, who served as our Conservation Specialist for the last few years moved on to bigger and better things. We were very pleased with the time he spent with us and wish him very well on his journey in life. The changing of the seasons blessed us with a new Conservation Specialist that grew up right here working the very soil we work to protect. We are pleased to welcome Glenn Chappell, III, a Prince George county native, and local producer. He has hit the ground running since joining us in late June and the feedback the Board has received from the community has been very positive. We know he will continue to serve our counties well as we expand our outreach and bring new producers on board with cost-share programs.

Although the seasons change, the James River Soil and Water Conservation District continues to be a relevant and positive force for our communities. Thank you to all who participate in our programs, and for all of your support over the years.

-Joseph Waymack, Chairman of the James River SWCD Board of Directors