



Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District

Serving Buckingham & Cumberland Counties

Annual Report July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019

2019 RECOGNITION & AWARDS BANQUET

Spring Recognition & Awards Banquet was held on April 2, 2019 at the B.A.R.N. off Route 60 in Buckingham County with 107 in attendance. Meal was prepared by Pig-in-Out catering (the Laydens) and then local farmers/landowners, District partners and teachers were showcased for their conservation efforts.



*Robert Earl and Annie Bryant of Buckingham County (center and left) receives the **Clean Farm Award** from director Kevin Dunn*



*L. Bruce Hogshead of Buckingham County (above left) receives the **2019 Conservation Wildlife Award** from Lorien Koontz, with Natural Resource Conservation Services*



*Andrew Schmitt (above left) Buckingham County High School Career & Technical Center Instructor receives the **Conservation Educator Award for Secondary School Teacher** from director Kevin Dunn*



*Ruth Wallace, Senior Virginia Cooperative 4-H Agent for Buckingham Cooperative 4-H Agent for Buckingham receives the **2019 Conservation Partner Award** from director Kevin Dunn*



*Lindsey Absher Brown, Buckingham County Primary Teacher, received the **Conservation Education Award for Primary School Teacher***

The Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital status.

2019 RECOGNITION & AWARDS, CONTINUED

The Virginia Association of Conservation District Employees has recognized James F. McDaniel, Jr. for 20 years of service as an elected Director for the Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District. Prior to serving as an elected Director, Mr. McDaniel served as an Associate Director for 7 years, from 1992-1998. In January 1998, after the resignation of an elected Director, Mr. McDaniel was appointed to fill the remainder of that unexpired term, to be served through December 2000. After successful completion of that term, Mr. McDaniel ran for the elected Director position for Buckingham, to be effective January 2001. In that same year, he was nominated by the Board of Directors to serve as the Treasurer for the District. He still performs the duties of that position today.

Mr. McDaniel brings to the District years of agriculture experience, having served as the Executive Director with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), now known as Farm Service Agency (FSA) from 1968 until his retirement in May, 1990. His organizational skills in conducting meetings and serving on numerous committees within the District has been instrumental in the success of the Peter Francisco SWCD. His availability to the staff in the office on short notice is one dedication to fulfilling his responsibilities as Director on the Board.



Pictured left to right: Mr. James F. McDaniel, Jr. receives recognition award from Dr. Wilkie Chaffin, Area V Chairman for the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

DISTRICT 2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Amanda Bryan will be returning to Virginia Tech in the Fall majoring in Agriculture Science and Agribusiness. She is the daughter of Kyle and Alison Bryan of Buckingham.



Brandon Womack will be returning in the Fall to Liberty University majoring in Environmental Biology. He is the son of Michael and Christy Womack of Buckingham.



J. Hunter Sanderson will be returning to Virginia Tech in the Fall majoring in Agribusiness. He is the son of Will and Laura Sanderson of Cumberland.



Charles Grubbs will be returning in the Fall to VA Tech majoring in Business, Engineering & Science Minor. He is the son of Todd and Glenda Grubbs of Cumberland.

Each year the District **awards four \$1,000 scholarships** to two students that reside in Buckingham and two students that reside in Cumberland. Qualified applicants are currently enrolled in or entering in majors of areas related to natural resource conservation or environmental studies and protection. Applicants are encouraged to reapply each year. Visit the District's website for info: <https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org>

EDUCATION

Youth Conservation Camp - 2018

The District sponsored four high school students to the VASWCD Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech in July, 2018. Cole and Connor Bohanon (Buckingham Co. HS), and Graceyn Cabbage and Annabelle Williamson (Cumberland Co. HS). The program offers students, from across Virginia, to spend the week on the Virginia Tech campus focusing on natural resource education including hands-on studies of: soil, forestry, wildlife, aquatics as well as time to go canoeing the New River, exploring the cascades and learning about new technologies and methods for protecting water quality.



Pictured left to right: Cole Bohanon, Graceyn Cabbage, Annabelle Williamson and Connor Bohanon at Claytor Lake



Soils study with Cumberland 3rd graders



Ecology classes studying macroinvertebrates at Buckingham High School

Envirothon Teams

Two teams participated in the Area V Envirothon for 2019 competition year.



Buckingham CHS Envirothon Team



Cumberland CHS Envirothon Team



Leap frog relay with Cumberland 1st Graders at Bear Creek Lake

EDUCATION

James River Headwaters Exploration Camp - September 28-30, 2018

7th and 8th grade students who participated in Chesapeake Bay Watershed Exploration Camp in the Spring of 2018 were invited to participate in James River Headwaters Exploration Camp. This is a weekend camping trip with field trips to Douthat State Park, Natural Bridge State Park and water quality monitoring of the headwaters of the James River in Iron Gate, Virginia. Both Buckingham and Cumberland Cooperative Extension 4-H agents partnered with the District on this camp.



Picture on left: Swinging bridge over the Cow Pasture River; Picture on right: Natural Bridge Caverns

The camps are an extension of the school MWEE (Meaningful Watershed Education Experience) program that is conducted all year long with 6th graders in Buckingham and Cumberland Counties. The trips allow students to see how we impact water downstream on out to the Chesapeake Bay. The Headwaters shows them where it all starts.



Picture above: Students in front of Humpback bridge, Covington VA, along their travels observing the Jackson River and traveling to Falling Springs Waterfall

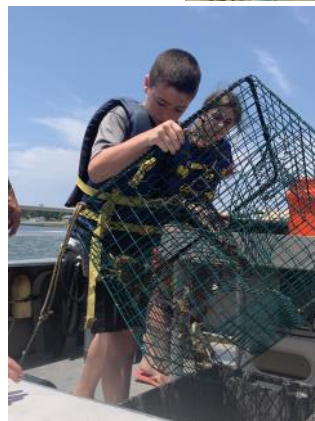
Watershed Exploration Camp - May 28-30, 2019

The District teamed up with the 4-H agents with the Virginia Cooperative Extension to host its annual Watershed Exploration Camp. Eight 6th grade MWEE reflective essays were selected from Buckingham County and eight from Cumberland County and their authors were awarded a scholarship to our Watershed Exploration Camp. Highlights of the camp:

- Field trip with Chesapeake Bay Foundation at the Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach. Boarded a 40-foot boat and performed water quality monitoring, trawled for fish, pulled up crab and eel pots and explored marshlands in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center tour and Marine Mysteries program
- Afternoon swimming and cooking out at the Atlantic Ocean
- Canoeing and team building at Jamestown 4-H Center



Top Picture: Group experienced a day at Little Island State Park, Virginia Beach near Sandbridge. 1/3 of this group experienced the Atlantic Ocean for the first time



Picture to left: Students pulling up a crab pot with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Brock Environmental Center

Bottom Picture: Group toured the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, Virginia Beach Program: Marine Mysteries





NO-TILL DRILLS

Peter Francisco SWCD has two Haybuster No-Till Drills available for rent within the two counties. One drill is housed at the Cumberland Extension Office on Route 60 and the other is at the District office, located at the USDA Service Center, Sprouse's Corner, in Buckingham. The no-till drill can be used for planting of fescue and orchard grass ensuring proper seeding without disturbing the soil. In 2018-2019, a total of 1,088 acres were planted in Buckingham and Cumberland Counties using the no-till drill.

EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL PROGRAM (E&S)

During this report period, Kelly Snoddy reviewed twelve (12) E&S plans for Buckingham County and twenty-five (25) E&S plans for Cumberland County. The District staff reviews plans for both counties, assists when needed with: on-site inspections, county staff with complaints and engineers and developers with the planning process.

WATERSHED FLOOD CONTROL DAMS

Peter Francisco SWCD owns and maintains 17 watershed dams in Buckingham County. There are two in the Muddy Creek Watershed, four in the Slate River Watershed and eleven in the Willis River Watershed areas of the county. The watershed dams are scattered throughout Buckingham County with a majority of the watershed dams belonging to private landowners. The watershed dams have been strategically built for flood control within the county and with neighboring counties affected by the Appomattox, Slate and Willis Rivers. The dams are regulated under the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Dam Safety Division. DCR provides funding for regular dam maintenance. In addition to routine maintenance, District staff performs inspections to remain in compliance with State and Federal regulations. Staff attends quarterly meetings of the Watershed Dam Safety committee, which is comprised of the SWCDs across the state that own and operate watershed dams. Through this committee SWCDs are kept up-to-date on changing regulations and employee training for proper watershed dam maintenance and emergency preparedness.



VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Buckingham County

- 6 SL-6 Practices (Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management)
 - 7,436 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
 - 7 ac. of buffer created thru installation of exclusion fencing
 - 525 head of livestock excluded from water source
- 1 SL-8B Practice (Non-Harvestable Cover Crop)
 - 35 ac. Planted in winter cover
- 1 SL-8H Practice (Non-Harvestable Cover Crop)
 - 172 ac. Planted in winter cover

Total Cost-Share Paid Out:.....\$78,260.14
Total Tax Credit on Out-of-Pocket.....\$5,034.80



Completed
SL-6
Stream
Exclusion with
Grazing Land

Cumberland County

- 3 SL-6 Practices (Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management)
 - 12,349 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
 - 12 ac. of buffer created thru installation of exclusion fencing
 - 152 head of livestock excluded from water source
- 3 SL-8B Practices (Non-Harvestable Cover Crop)
 - 640 ac. Planted in winter cover
- 2 SL-8H Practices (Harvestable Cover Crop)
 - 238 ac. Planted in winter cover

Total Cost-Share Paid Out:.....\$43,282.42
Total Tax Credit on Out-of-Pocket.....\$51,161.84



Completed
SL-6 Stream
Exclusion with
Grazing Land
Pump house

319 TMDL SLATE RIVER & ROCK ISLAND CREEK Residential Program

54 septic system maintenance practices completed FY18-19

Septic Tank Pump-outs (RB-1) - 45

Septic System Repairs (RB-3) - 2

Onsite System Installation/Replacements (RB-4) - 4

Alternative Sewage System (RB-5) - 3

Cost-share paid out FY18-19 \$56,557.00

Completed residential practices since 2011: 212

Total cost-share paid out since Jun 30, 2012: \$98,789.00

Funding is provided by DCR through the Environmental Protection Agency's 319 Grant. 50-75% Cost-share funding with a 25% state tax credit on out-of-pocket expenses. The District is offering financial assistance for septic maintenance and repairs to residents of the Slate River and Rock Island Creek watersheds in Buckingham County in an effort to reduce pollution from failing septic systems. Applicants can receive up to 50% assistance, and some applicants may be eligible for up to 80% assistance based on income. The current grant PO #16365 ended December 31, 2018. An extension grant PO #16688 will run to December 31, 2020. This project has been funded wholly or in part by the U.S. EPA and the VA Department of Environmental Quality under a Section 319 grant agreement to the Peter Francisco SWCD.



URBAN - VCAP PROGRAM

The District participates in the **Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)** is a stormwater management cost-share program that provides financial incentives and technical and educational assistance to property owners installing eligible Best Management Practices in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed. These practices can be installed in areas 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.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical expertise is provided through the designing and installation of conservation practices implemented voluntarily by Virginia farmers interested in conservation programs related to non-point source pollution. The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Virginia Soil Water Conservation Board, in addition to the Counties of Buckingham and Cumberland.

DISTRICT'S ANNUAL BUDGET

OPERATING BUDGET	FISCAL YEAR 2019
Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation Funds	
Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost-share Funds	\$411,447
Operations	\$104,463
Agricultural Technical Assistance	\$46,703
Flood control structure maintenance and repairs	\$51,000
Virginia DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic BMP Grant	\$97,786
Local funds (equipment rental, grants for special projects, locality appropriations)	\$38,490

PETER FRANCISCO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Buckingham, VA 23921
Office: 434-983-7923

Gmail: peterfranciscoswcd@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org>

Board of Directors

M. Todd Smith, Chairman (Cumberland)
Terry Seal, Vice-Chairman (Cumberland)
James F. McDaniel, Jr., Director (Buckingham)
Kevin Dunn, Director (Buckingham)
Barbara Teeple, Appointed At-Large Director
Jennifer Ligon, Extension Appointed Director

Ruth Wallace, Associate Director
Vertie Mae Jamerson, Associate Director
Linda Eanes, Associate Director
Amber Anderson, Associate Director

District Staff

Sherry S. Ragland, District Manager
Kelly J. Snoddy, Conservation Specialist
Elise T. Corbin, Conservation Education Coordinator
Emily Gibbs, TMDL Urban/Septic Specialist
Olivia Leatherwood, Program Assistant



Staff LtoR: Kelly Snoddy, Sherry Ragland, and Elise Corbin



Olivia Leatherwood,
Program Assistant

COOPERATING AGENCIES/PARTNERS:

The success of our programs would not be possible without the continued support of the following agencies. The District would like to say....THANK YOU!

Bear Creek Lake State Park
Buckingham Cattlemen's Association (BCA)
Buckingham County Government
Buckingham County Public Schools
Buckingham County Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)
Central Piedmont Virginia Master Naturalists
Central Virginia Christian School
Cumberland County Government
Cumberland County Public Schools
Cumberland County Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)
Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)
Farm Service Agency (FSA)
James River Association (JRA)
James River State Park
National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Piedmont Soil & Water Conservation District
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD)
Virginia Cooperation Extension (VCE)
Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (DACS)
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)
Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Board



LtoR: Emily Gibbs and Kelly Snoddy at YCC

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

YOUTH

- 9,325 students outreached for programs in and out of Buckingham and Cumberland County Public and Private Schools
- District Sponsored field trips to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Brock Education Center for:
 - * Cumberland HS - October 30, 2018, 30 students
 - * Buckingham HS - November 26, 2018, 20 students
- April 25, 2019 - Area V Envirothon at Gentry Farms, VA; both BCHS & CCHS had an Envirothon Team competing
- May 19-20, 2019 State Envirothon at University of Mary Washington College
- Multiple Afterschool programs on: Erosion, Pollinators, Water Cycle, Soil, Natural Resources, Biological/chemical and physical water quality monitoring
- District awarded 4 scholarships to High School students for Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech July 8-14, 2018
- District sponsored 4 youth to Camp Woods & Wildlife (formerly known as Forestry Camp) June 17-21, 2019



ADULT

- November 13, 2018 - District update to the Buckingham Board of Supervisors
- December 11, 2018 - District update to the Cumberland Board of Supervisors
- December 14, 2018 - District Open House
- May 2, 2019 - Women in Ag Symposium held in conjunction with FSA and VCE at the BARN
- May 11, 2019 - Booth at Mayfest at the Buckingham Historic Village
- May, 2019- District's annual Spring Awards Dinner in Buckingham
- 4 Radio Spots conducted on WFLO, Farmville



POSTER CONTEST

The District received 49 entries for the 2018-19 poster contest. The theme: "Watersheds, Our Water, Our Home". Each of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners received a gift card award.

Grade	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Gr K-1	William Davis - CVCS	Shelby Walker - CVCS	
Gr 2-3	Evan Shumaker - CVCS	Collin Snoddy - BPS	Dallas Davis - CVCS
Gr 4-6	Nathalie Sullivan - CMS	Maya Bell - CMS	Piper Scialdo - CVCS
Gr 7-9	Grace Dunkum - BCHS	Twylia Young - BCHS	Emily Roach - BCHS
Gr10-12	Katyia Brown - CCHS	Tiera Butler - CCHS	Minha Shin - CCHS



1st Place—Katyia Brown, Cumberland HS

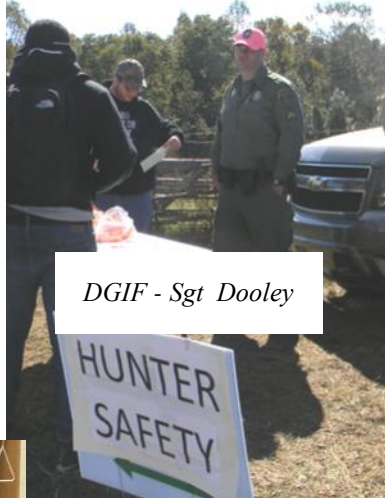


1st Place - Nathalie Sullivan - Cumberland MS

PARTNERING AGENCIES IN ACTION



*Master Naturalists -
Tana & Frank Knott*



DGIF - Sgt Dooley



VCE-Jake Morgan



JRSP - Tiffany Franklin



*DCR Engineer Services -
Raleigh Coleman & Ben Chester*



VCE - Jason Fisher



*Dept of Forestry - Matt Hall, Henry Womack,
Charlene Bardon, & Chad Wisecarver*

Peter Francisco Soil & Water
Conservation District
16842 W James Anderson Hwy
Buckingham, VA 23921

ABOUT THE DISTRICT



Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District

Annual Report 2018-2019

Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was originally organized in July 24, 1940 and reorganized with the counties of Buckingham and Cumberland on January 1, 1973. The District covers an area of 873 square miles and is located in the Southern Piedmont Region of Virginia. It is bounded on the North by the James River and bounded on the South by the Appomattox River. Within the District, there are 17 watershed dams built as flood control structures that affect the Slate and Willis Rivers and are a part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The District is a rural, agricultural district with the majority of the area in woodland and small farms. The main industries are timber, cattle and poultry.

We are a “political subdivision of State Government” led by a Board of Directors made up of local people. The Board of Directors manages our activities, according to state law. The Board consists of six members: Four Directors, two from each county, elected every four years in the general election; one is appointed by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and one is appointed as a representative of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service within the District. The District Directors are Volunteers.

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources by providing technical expertise and educational programs.

VISION STATEMENT

To ensure the citizens of the District become educated stewards by committing to conservation practices with their limited natural resources now and for future generations.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

District meetings are held monthly, on the 3rd Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in the U.S.D.A. Service Center Conference Room, Sprouses’s Corner. Please call (434) 983-7923 to confirm that a meeting has not been cancelled or meeting place changed.