



Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District

Serving Buckingham & Cumberland Counties

Annual Report July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020

DISTRICT 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

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>



Amanda Bryan will be returning in the Fall to Virginia Tech 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.



Jordon Smith will be attending Virginia Tech in the Fall majoring in Crop and Soil Environmental Science. He is the son of M. Todd Smith and Lacie H. Womack of Cumberland.



Jordon Newman will be attending Virginia Tech in the Fall majoring in Agribusiness. He is the son of Doug and Melissa Newman of Cumberland.

15 Years of Service - Terry Seal, District Director was recognized by the Virginia Association of Conservation Districts (VASWCD) for 15 years of service in December, 2019 at the Annual VASWCD meeting in Norfolk. Mr. Seal served an appointed Board position to fill an unexpired term from 2004-2007. In January 2008, Mr. Seal joined the board after running for the elected Director position for Cumberland County. He has successfully run for 3 terms on the Board. Mr. Seal serves as Vice-Chairman for the District.

Mr. Seal was unable to attend the VASWCD Annual Meeting in December; but was recognized by the Board, family and peers in January, 2020 at the BARN. Presenting Mr. Seal with his pin is Denney Collins, CDC (Conservation District Coordinator) with DCR.

Pictured left to right: Denney Collins, CDC presenting Terry Seal with his service pin.



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.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS, CONTINUED



Winners of the District's 2019 poster contest:
Peter Francisco SWCD participated in the VASWCD annual poster contest. The theme: "Life in the

1st Place Winner 10-12th Grade Category
Hannah Davis
Buckingham Co. High School

1st Place Winner 7-9th Grade Category
Lillian McConkey
Cumberland Co. High School



Ragland Receives 20 years Recognition — Sherry Ragland was recognized for 20 years of services at the Virginia Association Conservation District Employees Association (VACDE) luncheon held in December 2019 at Norfolk Sheraton Waterside Hotel. Ms. Ragland came to the District in 1999, as the District Administrative Assistant. Her responsibilities grew and added Education Coordinator to her duties. In July 2012, she was promoted to District Manager.

Pictured left to right: Cory Hoar, VACDE Vice-President, Sherry Ragland, Peter Francisco SWCD District Manager.

Reaching Outside Virginia

Kelly Jones Snoddy, the current President of the Virginia Association of Conservation District Employees (VACDE) and Peter Francisco's Conservation Specialist attended the Southeast Conservation District Employees Association annual conference in Tennessee November 3-7, 2019. Kelly represented us well along with four other SWCD employees from Virginia. They gave a presentation on Youth Conservation Camp and networked with other SWCD's from the South East states.

The VACDE has a mission to provide professional development, leadership and a voice for communicating issues and solutions on behalf of conservation district employees, and a vision to be a professionally accepted and integrated workforce of employees dedicated to the conservation of natural resources. The VACDE is affiliated with the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Southeast Conservation District Employees Association (SECDEA) and the National Conservation Districts Employee Association (NCDEA). Its membership consists of conservation district employees and directors, as well as personnel from partnering agencies.



VACDE Board Members at the SECDEA Conference
Front row L to R: Brandon Blevins, Area IV;
Cory Hoar, VACDE Vice-President, Area VI;
Back row L to R: Susie Brown, Area II; Kelly Snoddy, VACDE President;

EDUCATION

Youth Conservation Camp - 2019

The District sponsored two high school students to the VASWCD Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech in July 7-13, 2019. Foster Harkins and Resa Smith (Buckingham 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: Foster Harkins and Resa Smith at Claytor Lake



Pollinator Programs at Cumberland Elementary



Pollinator Programs at Buckingham Preschool



7th Grade Students at Cumberland County Middle School learn about soil food web trophic levels by playing a go-fish card game

Chesapeake Bay Field Trips

The District coordinated 2 field trips to Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach for high school students in Buckingham (28 students) and Cumberland (30 students). Buckingham Ecology and Envirothon Team Students attended September 18 and Cumberland Biology and Envirothon Team Students attended September 19. The District received a grant from Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund to pay for these field trips.



CCHS Student



BCHS Students

Educational Outreach Highlights (over 7,000 people reached)

Youth:

- 3,688 students participated in program in and out of Buckingham and Cumberland County Public and Private Schools
- Back to school educational resource newsletter emailed to all the teachers

Adults:

Approximately 3,500 adults were reached through various programs including:

- October 2019 – Booth at FarmFest at the Buckingham Historic Village
- October 2019 – Booth at State Fair
- October 2019 – Septic System Education/Well Water Testing
- October 2019 – Community Partner Info Tables at Buckingham and Cumberland Elementary Schools
- December 13, 2019 – District Open House
- January 13, 2020 – District update to the Buckingham Board of Supervisors
- January 14, 2020 – District update to the Cumberland Board of Supervisors
- 3 Radio Spots conducted on WFLO, Farmville

COVID cancelled a lot of our programs; we are learning new ways to educate/outreach to our community.

Note: Pictures in this report were taken Pre-Covid

AREA V MEETING

Peter Francisco SWCD hosted the Area V spring meeting at the Buckingham Agriculture Resource Network (B.A.R.N.) facility in Buckingham, VA on March 4, 2020. Guest speakers were Roger Nelson, Chairman of the Virginia Canals and Navigation Society and Randy Waycaster, Captain of the Slate River Batteau. They spoke on the history of the batteau on the James River and canal systems. There were over 91 attendees for the meeting. Our Vice-Chairman Terry Seal prepared the meats for the occasion.

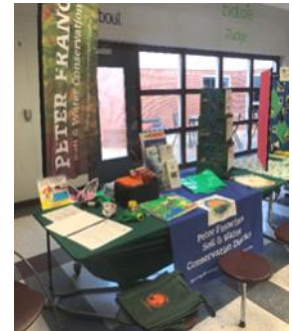


Peter Francisco SWCD Staff, Directors & Associate Directors served the meal at the Area V Spring Meeting

EDUCATION OUTREACH

The District set up information booths at Buckingham and Cumberland Elementary Schools for a national program called “Lights On After School”.

Picture to right: booth at CES with resources for students and adults.



9th GRADE MATH & SCIENCE FIELD DAY

Buckingham County High School 9th Grade Math and Science Field Day was held October 18, 2019 at Whetstone Farm, LLC owned and operated by the Davis family of Dillwyn, VA.

Participating agencies included: Virginia Department of Forestry, James River State Park, Buckingham and Cumberland Virginia Cooperative Extension, Central Piedmont Virginia Master Naturalists, and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to provide stations.

160 students rotated among 8 stations: Chemical and Physical Water Quality Monitoring; Macroinvertebrates; Surveying; Nutrient Management; Weed ID; Forestry; Hunter Safety; Slope Calculation



EDUCATION OUTREACH



Buckingham County Elementary School 21st Century Learning Center Grant - The program is called “Beyond the Bell.” Set up a table to kick off the event in September so parents of participating students can meet the partners and learn more about the programs they offer.

OPEN HOUSE

The District held its annual Open House in December 2019. Staff from Farm Service Agency, Virginia Department of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Bear Creek Lake State Park and James River State Park were also on hand Buckingham and Cumberland residents that stopped in.





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.

EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL PROGRAM (E&S)

During this report period, Kelly Snoddy reviewed five (5) E&S plans for Buckingham County and eleven (11) 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.

In 2019-2020, a total of 1,539 acres were planted.

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 land-owners. 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

Total Grant Allocation for PY2020 VACS: \$1,368,005.00

Buckingham County

- 3 SL-6 Practices (Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land (Management))
- 2 SL-6W Practices (Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer and Grazing Land Management)
 - 13,411 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
 - 17 ac. of buffer created thru installation of exclusion fencing
 - 415 head of livestock excluded from water source
- 6 CCI-SL-6W Practices (Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer Maintenance)
 - 51,916 linear feet of stream bank continued protection
 - 395 head of livestock excluded from water source
- 6 Cover Crop Practices (SL-8B Non-Harvestable & SL-8H Harvestable) - 848 ac. Planted in winter cover
- 1 CCI-CNT Practice (Long Term Continuous No-till Planting System) - 990.11 acres Benefitted
- 1 SL-1 (Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland)
 - 44.28 Acres converted from row crops to permanent cool season grasses
- 1 FR-1 (Afforestation of Crop, Hay and Pasture Land)
 - 1.02 acres converted from pasture to pines
- 1 WP-4F Practice (Animal Mortality Incinerator Facility)

Total Cost-Share Paid Out \$95,497.22
Total Tax Credit on Out-of-Pocket. \$1,441.16

Cumberland County

- 4 SL-6 Practices (Stream Exclusion with Grazing Land Management)
 - 8,140 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
 - 6.54 ac. of buffer created thru installation of exclusion fencing
 - 111 head of livestock excluded from water source
- 7 CCI-SL-6W Practices (Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer Maintenance)
 - 54,335 linear feet of stream bank continued protection
 - 580 head of livestock excluded from water source
- 1 CCI-SE-1 Practice (Stream Exclusion - Maintenance)
 - 4,300 linear feet of stream continued to be protected
 - 25 head of livestock excluded from water source
- 7 Cover Crop Practices (SL-8B Non-Harvestable & SL-8H Harvestable) - 2,421 ac. Planted in winter cover
- 2 CCI-CNT practices (Long Term Continuous No-Till Planting Systems) - 1,397.8 Acres benefitted
- 1 SL-1 (Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland)
 - 44.11 Acres converted from row crops to permanent cool season grasses
- 1 NM6A practice (Manure Injection) - 77 acres benefitted
- 1 FR-1 (Afforestation of Crop, Hay and Pasture Land)
 - 26.10 acres converted from pasture to pines
- 1 WP-4C Practice (Animal Mortality Composter Facility)

Total Cost-Share Paid Out:. \$305,918.92
Total Tax Credit on Out-of-Pocket. \$1,905.37

319 TMDL SLATE RIVER & ROCK ISLAND CREEK Residential Program

44 septic system maintenance practices completed FY19-20

Septic Tank Pump-outs (RB-1) - 36

Septic System Repairs (RB-3R) - 2

Onsite System Installation/Replacements (RB-4) - 3

Alternative Sewage System (RB-5) - 1

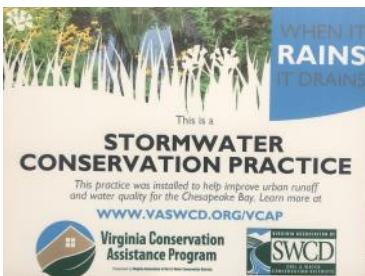
Cost-share paid out FY19-20 \$49,964.50



New Distribution Box

Funding is provided by DCR through the Environmental Protection Agency’s 319 Grant. Cost-share funding. 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. Grant PO #16688 will be extended to September 30, 2021. 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.

PARTNERSHIP(S) ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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 2020
Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation Funds	
Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost-share Funds	\$1,368,005
Operations	\$104,463
Agricultural Technical Assistance	\$209,834
Flood control structure maintenance and repairs	\$51,000
Virginia DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic BMP Grant	\$43,294
Local funds (equipment rental, grants for special projects, locality appropriations)	\$45,846

PETER FRANCISCO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Website: <https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/peterfranciscoswcd>

Follow us on Twitter & Instagram too!!

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
Eugene Absher, Associate Director

District Staff

Sherry S. Ragland, District Manager
Kelly J. Snoddy, Conservation Specialist
Elise T. Corbin, Conservation Education Coordinator
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 Wildlife Resources (DWR)
- Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Board



*Olivia Leatherwood,
Program Assistant*



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

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 2019-2020

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

Regular 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.

NOTE: During COVID-19 restrictions, the board meetings have been held at the Buckingham Agriculture Building Auditorium 54 Admin Lane Buckingham VA 23921