



November 2018

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Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan Phase III for the Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay was the first estuary in the nation targeted by Congress for restoration and protection.¹ The Chesapeake Bay program was formed in 1983 to help restore the Chesapeake Bay from excess nutrient pollution that was identified through studies to be the main source of the Bay's degradation.

Since the initial signing of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement in 1983, there have been other agreements signed such as the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement and the Chesapeake 2000 all with the same but more stringent goals of reducing pollution and restoring the Bay Ecosystem. In 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)³ which is a historic and comprehensive "pollution diet"³ to restore clean water in the Chesapeake Bay. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of pollution a body of water can receive and still meet the State water quality standards. The TMDL is designed to ensure that all pollution control measures needed to fully restore the Chesapeake Bay are in place by 2025.²

There are three phases of Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) that have been and are being developed by the Bay TMDL jurisdictions. Six states and the District of Columbia make up the Bay TMDL jurisdictions which include Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.³ Phase I and Phase II WIPs describe actions and controls to be implemented by 2017 and 2025 to achieve applicable water quality standards.³ The Phase II WIP builds on the Phase I WIP by providing more specific local actions.³ Virginia submitted its Phase I WIP in 2010 and its Phase II WIP in 2012. The Phase III WIP is currently underway and will provide informed actions the Bay TMDL jurisdictions intend to implement between 2018 and 2025 to the meet the Bay restoration goals.³

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts whose watersheds drain into the Bay and those Planning District Commissions (PDCs) respectively, have been currently updating the BMPs listed in the WIP III and projecting acres of BMPs and projects that could be achieved and counted in the Bay Model by 2025 to help meet the restoration goals. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts have been actively involved in the agricultural sector process while the PDCs have been working on the urban sector. Several meetings have been held throughout this process to date.

On Thursday, November 29, 2018 a public Combined WIP III meeting will be held at the Eastern Shore Community College Workforce Development Center from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Area VI (Bay Regional) Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will share agricultural and forest land recommendations and the Accomack-Northampton PDC, Hampton Roads PDC, and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will share recommendations of the urban sector. All stakeholders will be able to engage in a discussion on potential coordination and collaboration to implement practices and policies to improve water quality.

Footnote:

1. Chesapeake Bay Program. Chesapeake Bay—Who We Are. 2018. www.chesapeakebay.net
2. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). WIP III Virginia DEQ—Chesapeake Bay TMDL. 2018. <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/ChesapeakeBay/ChesapeakeBayTMDL/ChesapeakeBayWatershedImplementationPlans.aspx>--
3. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Total Maximum Daily Load. Jul. 2018. <https://www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl>

Clean Water Farm Award

The Clean Water Farm Award, a State award sponsored by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), is given to Virginia farmers who are exemplary in their protection of the State's soil and water resources. The 2018 Clean Water Farm Award was awarded to David Long of Long Grain and Livestock. Mr. Long is a regular participant in the District's annual small grain cover crop program. Mr. Long also has 400 acres enrolled in NRCS' small grain cover crop program. All of David Long's cropland, about 2,000 acres, has a



David Long

minimum 35' buffer width which helps to protect water quality by intercepting nitrogen and phosphorus carried by surface runoff which can pollute our local waterways. He maintains a 2.3 acre pollinator habitat which was established in 2014 to attract local pollinators like butterflies and bees. This year, he plans to plant another 9.2 acres in field borders, which helps reduce water erosion.

Conservation Farmer of the Year

The District awarded a local farmer, Oscar H. Smith, Jr. of SSS Farms as the Conservation Farmer of the Year. Mr. Smith has been a regular participant in the District's cover crop program where he includes an Abruzzi rye cover in his small grain rotation. He maintains a current Nutrient Management Plan on nearly 130 acres. Mr. Smith also installed a Stream Exclusion best management practice through funding provided by the District. The District partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to install almost 5,000 feet of barbed fencing, and almost 650 feet of woven fencing to prevent 35 cows from entering Nassawadox Creek. Keeping cattle out of waterways is critical to help Virginia meet Chesapeake Bay Water Implementation Plan goals.

Conservation Forester Award

The District's 2018 Conservation Forester Award was given to Richard F. Hall, III nominated by the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF), Area Forester. Rick manages his



Richard F. Hall, III

family timberlands in Accomack County for loblolly pine timber production and hunting leases. VDOF has worked closely with Rick over the years to conduct practices such as timber harvesting, commercial thinning, natural and planted reforestation, aerial release, prescribed burning, and pre-commercial thinning on Rick's wooded tracts. The results of these practices are focused on loblolly pine timber stand maintenance and improvement, and enhanced wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities for the deer hunters that hold hunting leases on Rick's farms. Forest Stewardship Plans have also been written for several tracts to cover wildlife habitat management, aesthetics, and soil and water conservation.

Wildlife Conservationist of the Year

Nominated by NRCS, this year's Wildlife Conservationist Award was awarded to Brooke Layton recognizing his outstanding efforts in wildlife conservation. In 2004, Brooke bought 70 acres of land under easement. He farms a number of species recreationally, including plants like buttonbush and wild celery and manages his 30 acre wetland with a water control device that he worked with NRCS to install in 2007. The wetland gets flooded with about five feet of water in the spring, attracting thousands of ducks, geese and other wildlife to the property. Then, when the ducklings are grown enough to fly, he lowers the water with his control device.



Brooke Layton

Educator of the Year

The District awarded Sandra Thornton, Environmental Science Teacher at Broadwater Academy as the 2018 Educator of the Year. Sandra began teaching in 1999. She was awarded a grant for Global Teachers to set-up a climate sharing project between Broadwater Academy students and students in India, Uganda, the Arctic and the Philippines. She is also a PolarTREC/NOAA Teacher at Sea fellow. Her students also grow oysters for Oyster Reef Keepers. Sandra has been the Broadwater Academy Envirothon coach for 5 years and coached 2 teams in the District competition in 2018. A quote that inspires Sandra is one by Jane Goodall -- "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind you want to make."



Sandra Thornton

Conservation Student of the Year

The District awarded the 2018 Conservation Student Award to an exceptional student who participates in environmental studies and conservation outreach, Palmer Smith. Palmer graduated from Broadwater Academy with a 3.97 GPA and is attending Virginia Tech in the fall. Palmer plans to study Animal & Poultry Science with aspirations of being a Veterinarian. Palmer has made the Honor Roll throughout high school and was the class president her 10th-12th grade years. Palmer participated on the Envirothon team and in 2017, the District and Ye Accawmacke Garden Club selected Palmer to represent the Eastern Shore at VASWCD's Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech.



Palmer Smith



Hayley Marshall

Fletcher/Beasley Conservation Scholarships

Palmer Smith was awarded a \$500 W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship by the District's Endowment Committee. Palmer is attending the Virginia and Maryland Veterinarian School.

Hayley Marshall who graduated from Northampton High School June 2018 second in her class with a 4.666 GPA was also awarded a \$500 W. Foster Fletcher Conservation Scholarship by the District's Endowment Committee. Hayley is attending the University of Virginia. Hayley had taken the initiative to enroll in the ES Community College and completed her Associate's Degree before she received her high school diploma. Her academic record demonstrates excellence and environmental consciousness.

The District is committed to help conserve the area's natural resources through its farm programs, through education and outreach that promote resource protection by everyone. By recognizing local individuals whose efforts really do make a difference, the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District hopes to set an example for all of us to follow.

The District honors local students, teachers, farmers and community members for their efforts in the conservation of our natural resources. The District would like to thank the farmers, landowners, teachers, students and other partners whose contributions to conservation help assure clean water and productive soil for the future.

Outdoor Exploration Day at Kiptopeke State Park

Saturday, September 29th marked the 2nd Annual Outdoor Exploration Day at Kiptopeke State Park. There were over 1,000 adults and children in attendance. Visitors to Outdoor Exploration Day met falcons, hawks, & owls with Flight of the Raptor. They made nature prints, pine cone owls and listened to local band Sonic Ukes at the Creation Station. Families went crabbing and fishing down on the pier! Children delighted in feeding live Painted Lady and Monarch butterflies at the Pollination Station. Virginia State Park staff provided historical cooking demonstrations and hands-on experiences with Virginia wildlife. Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, Kiptopeke State Park and ESO Arts Center would like to extend a huge thank you to those who attended and the many organizations and volunteers that made the 2nd Annual Outdoor Exploration Day a huge success. In addition to the more than 1,000 attendees for Saturday's program, several shoulder programs were hosted leading up to Outdoor Exploration Day including Hikes, Owl Prowls, and Flight of the Raptor demonstrations for area public school students, teachers, and parents reaching a total of 2,500 people from the local area and surrounding states.

Left picture: Helene Doughty with Virginia Tech Eastern Shore AREC shows Outdoor Exploration Day participants a collection of insects!

Top picture: Blake Nottingham gets up close and personal with a butterfly in the Butterfly Tent at Outdoor Exploration Day.

Bottom picture: Virginia State Park staff provided historical cooking demonstrations throughout the day.



Latonya Justice, Media Specialist Departs District

Latonya Justice started at the District in 2006 as the Conservation Technician. Latonya is saying goodbye to the District at the end of November after 12 years of service to pursue the next segment of her career. Latonya's dedication and zeal will be greatly missed. The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank Latonya Justice for her years of service and hard work. We wish Latonya all the best in her future endeavors!





Dave Lovell, District Director Resigning

Dave Lovell serving as an At-large Director appointed by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board will not be renewing his Director position after his term ends December 31, 2018. The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank Dave for his eight years of service as a District Board Director. Dave's deep dedication to protecting the environment and conservation on the Eastern Shore made him a true asset to the ESSWCD Board. We wish him the best in his future endeavors!

Farewell to Conservation Specialist, Cole Charnock

Cole Charnock will be leaving the District mid-December to continue the next leg of his environmentally-conscious career. Cole has worked with the District over six years as Conservation Specialist and has made an everlasting mark on the District. Cole's perseverance and energy on environmental issues on the Eastern Shore will be sincerely missed. The Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District would like to thank Cole Charnock, for his years of hard work and commitment. We wish Cole the best!



Northampton County Farm Field Day



*Students learn about farm equipment .
Tractor provided by Lipman Family Farms.*

Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and Northampton County Cooperative Extension partnered and held the 1st Annual Northampton County Farm Field Day on Thursday , November 1, 2018 at the old Northampton County Middle School. There were approximately 275 2nd and 3rd graders in attendance. There were six stations with presentations and hands-on activities for the students. Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District (ESSWCD) along with Northampton County Cooperative Extension, NRCS, Virginia Tech Eastern Shore Agricultural Research Extension Center and Accomack County Cooperative Extension had booths and exhibits to teach the students about different aspects of agriculture on the Eastern Shore.

The kids learned about different farm animals, their life cycles and their importance on a farm. There was Farm Bingo teaching the students about the different parts of the farm, farm equipment and local crops. The students participated in a relay game and made seed balls to learn about pollinators, how they pollinate and why the pollinators and pollinator plants are so very important. There were live worms and a tractor for

the kids to view. The students made germination seed gloves with seeds of Eastern Shore crops .

ESSWCD along with Northampton County Cooperative Extension would like to extend a huge thank you to those who attended and the many organizations that made the Northampton County Farm Field Day successful in its first year. Special thanks to Lipman Family Farms who donated the use of porta potties and a tractor for the event.

SAVE THE DATE—January 23-24, 2019

ES Ag Conference & Trade Show

The Eastern Shore Agricultural Conference and Trade Show will be held at the Eastern Shore Community College, Workforce Development Center, 29300 Lankford Highway, Melfa, VA 23410 on Wednesday and Thursday, January 23-24, 2019. For more information contact: Theresa Pittman, Accomack County VCE at 757-787-1361 x10 or tmjlong@vt.edu or Ursula Deitch, Northampton County VCE at 757-607-6133 or utankard@vt.edu.

The Shore Conserver is published quarterly by the Eastern Shore SWCD to provide information to land users. The District customarily meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00pm at the USDA Service Center in Accomack, VA. The public is welcome to attend. To be added to the mailing list, please contact the District office at 757-787-0918 x101. The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. All programs and services of the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.