



# Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District

*Serving Buckingham & Cumberland Counties*

## Annual Report July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

### DISTRICT 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Each year the District awards up to four \$1,000 scholarships to students residing in Buckingham and Cumberland Counties. Qualified applicants are currently enrolled in or entering in majors of areas related to natural resource conservation or environmental studies. Applicants are encouraged to reapply each year. Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients!! Visit the District's website for info:

<https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org>



*Jordan Dorrier from Buckingham will be attending Sweet Briar College in the fall majoring in Environmental Science.*

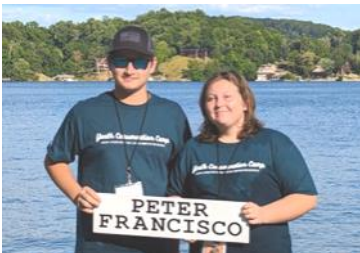
*She is the daughter of Travis and Sherry Dorrier*

*Bailegh Meinhard from Cumberland will be attending William & Mary in the fall majoring in Environmental Science.*

*She is the daughter of Todd Meinhard and Megan Hathaway*



### YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP AT VIRGINIA TECH



Two local students were selected in June, 2023 as recipients for sponsorship to Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech held in July 2023. Savanna Skeens and Tucker Bowman are both rising sophomores at Cumberland County High School.

They along with other students from across Virginia will spend a week in July learning about conserving Virginia's natural resources. They will have the opportunity during the week to canoe the New River, hike to cascade falls and be exposed to new technologies and methods for protecting water quality. The program, sponsored by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, included field trips and hands-on study of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, watershed management and how agricultural and urban land uses relate to water quality.

### NEW SIGN IN TOWN



"Entering Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District" signs were installed at 10 of the most-traveled points of entry to Buckingham and Cumberland Counties. This is a project that District Director James F. McDaniel, Jr. spearheaded. The District's logo was designed by Joanna Baldwin, a student from Cumberland High School who won the "design our logo" contest back in 1999.

*Picture to right: Photo from 1999 featuring Joanna Baldwin, holding her design, with her mother, Cumberland art teacher and Wesley Dunkum, Peter Francisco SWCD Chairman at the time.*



**Above picture - left to right back row:** H. Gwynn Tyler, M. Todd Smith, Jennifer Ligon and Terry Seal.  
**Front row:** James F. McDaniel, Jr., Kelly Jones Snoddy, Amber Taylor, Sherry Ragland and Cody Smith

*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

### Teacher of the Year



The District named Suzanne Snoddy, Biology and Environmental Science Teacher at Buckingham County High School as Conservation Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Snoddy was honored at the December Buckingham County School Board Meeting. Mrs. Snoddy has organized numerous field trips and field days for her classes with chaperoned with the District. She is a firm believer in hands-on learning allowing students to draw their own conclusions. She loves to get her students outdoors and make learning fun.

*Left to right: Suzanne Snoddy on the right and Peter Francisco staff Elise Corbin at the Buckingham School board meeting.*

### Staff Recognition

Kelly Snoddy represented the Peter Francisco SWCD, VACDE and SECDEA at the 2023 NACD meeting in New Orleans February, 2023 in her roll has the alternate Southeast regional representative for the NCDEA. She is currently serving as the SECDEA Vice-President

*Pictured to right - left to right: Cory Hoar, Past President VACDE (Virginia Dare SWCD), Peter Francisco Staff Kelly Snoddy, Vice-President SECDEA, and Jessica Shippen-Hansen, Conservation Specialist (Thomas Jefferson SWCD)*



### District Annual Awards/Dinner Meeting

The Annual Awards Banquet was held in May with 85 participants. Melvin and Vertie Mae Jamerson, Randy Leech and Joanne and John Doss served on a farmers' panel to discuss the cost-share programs they have participated in with the District. Leonard Elam gave an update on the Virginia State University's Small Farm Outreach Program. Suzanne Snoddy was recognized as the District's Conservation Teacher of the Year. Joanne and John Doss, owners of Hundred Year Farm, were awarded the Clean Water Farm Award. Winning artwork from the District's poster contest was highlighted, as well as Youth Conservation Campers and Envirothon Team members. The event was catered by the Cake Place, Dillwyn VA



**Farmers Panel**  
Front row left to right: Joanne Doss, Randy Leech, Melvin Jameson. Back row: Kelly Snoddy, M. Todd Smith, Vertie Mae Jamerson



**Teacher of the Year**  
M. Todd Smith, District Chairman with Suzanne Snoddy, BCHS Teacher of the Year



**VCU Small Outreach Program**  
Leonard Elam, VCU Agriculture Management Agent and M. Todd Smith, District Chairman



**Clean Farm Award Winner**  
Left to right: M. Todd Smith, Joanne Doss, John Doss and Kelly Snoddy



## EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

The District teamed up with Buckingham Cooperative Extension for a “Caring and Sharing” Fun Friday after-school program at Buckingham Elementary School. Students rotated among 4 stations: Caring for the Elderly where students made Valentine’s for local nursing home residents, Caring for your family where students made coupon booklets for family members, caring for animals where students made bird feeders and caring for yourself where students made trail mix—a healthy snack for themselves.



The District coordinated a 3-day, 2-night Chesapeake Bay Watershed Exploration Camp with Buckingham and Cumberland 4-H and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for middle school students from both counties. Students stayed at Jamestown 4-H Camp where they canoed, did team building, archery and marine ecology programs. Students boarded the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s 40-foot boat at the Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach. They performed water quality monitoring, trawled for fish, pulled up crab pots and explored the Lynnhaven River and Chesapeake Bay. Students spent an afternoon at Little Island State Park where they explored the Atlantic Ocean and nearby beach.



The 6<sup>th</sup> Graders at Cumberland Middle School had a MWEE Field Day at Bear Creek Lake State Park on March 29, 2023. This was a collaborative effort among Mrs. Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science teacher, the District, Cumberland Cooperative Extension and Bear Creek Lake State Park. Students performed chemical, physical and biological water quality tests, learned about erosion and the importance of riparian buffers, learned about native Virginia trees, participated in an Enviroscope Demo and discovered the Park’s watershed address.





## EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

The District partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Buckingham and Cumberland Cooperative Extension on a canoe field trip for 6th, 7th and 8th graders at Buckingham and Cumberland schools in October. Students paddled from the point where the Slate River joins the James River to Brems Bluff. Students were able to paddle up the Slate River to do macroinvertebrate and water quality testing.



PFSWCD had two teams participating in the 2023 Envirothon Competition. Joshua Fleenor (Cumberland Ag teacher) coaching for the Cumberland team. Andrew Schmitt (Buckingham Ag teacher) coaching the Buckingham team. A training workshop was held at the Longwood University Environmental Education Center on February 24, 2023. Area V had 8 teams competing this year and the workshop had 88 participants.



Peter Francisco Soil and Water educational programs are partially funded through a grant from the **CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION FUND** through sales of DMV Chesapeake Bay license plates. To purchase a plate, visit: [www.dmv.state.va.us/vehicles/#splates/info.asp?idnm=CB](http://www.dmv.state.va.us/vehicles/#splates/info.asp?idnm=CB)

VASWCD Annual Meeting held in December, 2022 at the Hotel Roanoke. Directors and staff attended numerous sessions and participated in soil and water business meetings.

*Picture to right: front row: Kelly Snoddy and Sherry Ragland, back row: Jennifer Ligon, Cody Smith, Kevin Dunn and Amber Taylor.*





Left: Hardwood buffer within an SL-6 fence planted through the James River Buffer Program [www.jamesriverbuffers.org](http://www.jamesriverbuffers.org)



Above: Pipeline trench for an SL-6 fencing & water system



Pictured above: Amanda Pennington, DCR Engineering Services Manager on a field visit with District staff assessing a site for feed and manure management conservation practices

## VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM

### Buckingham County

#### Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program (VACS) (Agricultural Practices) Installed/Completed:

##### Buckingham (Agricultural Practices) Installed/Completed:

- 3 SL-6W Practices (Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer and Grazing Land Management)
  - 3,800 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
  - 18 acres of buffer created through installation of exclusion fencing
  - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 106 head of cattle
- 2 WP-2W Practices (Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer)
  - 2,400 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
  - 16 acres of buffer created through installation of exclusion fencing
  - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 80 head of cattle
- 6 CCI-SL-6W practices (Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer - Maintenance)
  - 29,524 linear feet of stream bank continued to be protected
  - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 320 head of cattle
- 1 CCI-SL-6N practice (Stream Exclusion with Narrow Width Buffer - Maintenance)
  - 1,516 linear feet of stream bank continued to be protected
  - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 35 head of cattle
- 1 CCI-SE1 practice (Stream Exclusion - Maintenance)
  - 1,200 linear feet of stream bank continued to be protected
  - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 35 head of cattle
- 2 SL-1 practices (Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland)
  - 83 Acres converted from row crop to permanent cool season grasses
- 1 SL-10 practice (Prescribed Grazing Land Management)
  - 90 Acres benefited through increased rotational grazing/proper vegetative management
- 1 SL-11 practice (Permanent Vegetative Cover on Critical Areas)
  - 1 Acre benefited from correction of erosion
- 2 CCI-WP-4 practices (Animal Waste Control Facility - Maintenance)
- 1 CCI-WP-4C practice (Composter Facility - Maintenance)
- 8 Cover Crop practices (Non-harvestable SL-8B and Harvestable SL8H)
  - 1,669 acres planted in winter cover
- 5 NM-1A practices (Nutrient Management Plan Writing)
  - 1,676 acres planned
- 1 NM-5P (Precision Phosphorous Application)
  - 990 acres planned

**Total Buckingham Cost-Share Paid Out: \$328,247.90**  
**Total Buckingham Tax Credit on Out of Pocket: \$87.74**

### Cumberland County

#### Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program (VACS) (Agricultural Practices) Installed/Completed:

##### Cumberland (Agricultural Practices) Installed/Completed:

- 5 SL-6W Practices (Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer and Grazing Land Management)
  - 23,894 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
  - 70 acres of buffer created through installation of exclusion fencing
  - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 177 head of cattle and 20 sheep
- 8 CCI-SL-6W practices (Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer - Maintenance)
  - 29,842 linear feet of stream bank continued to be protected
  - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 290 head of cattle
- 10 CCI-WP-4 practices (Animal Waste Control Facility - Maintenance)
- 5 CCI-WP-4C practices (Composter Facility - Maintenance)
- 1 CCI-CNT practice (Long Term Continuous No-Till Planting Systems - Maintenance)
  - 70 acres protected from erosion with no-till planting
- 1 WP-2N Practice (Stream Protection Fencing with Narrow Width Buffer)
  - 982 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
  - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 100 head of cattle
- 2 SL-7 practices (Extension of Watering System)
  - 74 Acres benefited through increased rotational grazing
- 17 Cover Crop practices (Non-harvestable, Harvestable, for Specialty Crops and Legume Based Cover)
  - 3,885 acres planted in winter cover
- 4 NM-1A practices (Nutrient Management Plan Writing)
  - 21,381 acres planned
- 3 NM-5N practices (Precision Nitrogen Application)
  - 1,218 acres planned
- 1 NM-5P practices (Precision Phosphorus Application)
  - 198 acres planned
- 3 NM6 practices (Manure Injection)
  - 381 Acres benefitted
- 2 SL-1 Practices (Long-Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland)
  - 41.5 Acres converted from row crop to permanent cool season grasses

**Total Cumberland Cost-Share Paid Out: \$699,279.49**  
**Total Cumberland Tax Credit on Out of Pocket: \$2,801.11**



## 319 TMDL SLATE RIVER & ROCK ISLAND CREEK RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

DEQ Grant PO17219 Started July 1, 2022 and was provided funding wholly in part by the U.S. EPA and the VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) under a Section 319 grant agreement to the Peter Francisco SWCD under DCR for cost-share. The District offers 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 50% assistance, and some applicants may be eligible for more based-on income.

**56 septic system maintenance practices completed in Total for FY 2023**

- Septic Tank Pump-outs (RB-1) - 50
- Septic System Repairs (RB-3) - 2
- Onsite System Installation/Replacements (RB-4) - 4

**Cost Share Paid Out for FY 23: \$30,204.00**

### LOCAL SEPTIC GRANT - through Peter Francisco SWCD

The District continues to offer local septic grant of 50% assistance on pump-outs for residents within Buckingham and Cumberland counties that are not in the Slate River/Rock Island watershed area. This local grant was established to broaden the area of residential cost-share assistance to the community.

**113 Septic system maintenance practices completed in Total for FY 2023**

- Septic Tank Pump-outs (RB-1) - 59
- Septic System Repairs (RB-3) - 2

**Cost Share Paid Out FY 23: \$23,268.00**



### EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL PROGRAM (E&S)

E&S plans reviewed from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Buckingham - 9 plans

Cumberland - 1 plan

The District staff reviews plans for both counties, assists county staff when needed with on-site inspections and the planning process.

<b>DISTRICT'S ANNUAL BUDGET</b>	
<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>Allocations</b>
Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) Funds - Administrative Operations	\$157,565
DCR - Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) - Cost-share Funds	\$1,892,879
DCR - Agricultural Technical Assistance	\$276,999
DCR - Flood control structure maintenance and repairs	\$76,500
Local Funding - Buckingham	11,880
Local Funding - Cumberland	12,000
Virginia DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic BMP Grant	\$36,218.14
Local funds (equipment rental, grants for special projects)	\$44,056.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,508,097.32</b>
	<b>Disbursements</b>
District Operations	\$389,025.44
Virginia Agriculture Best Management Practice cost-share paid to Agriculture	\$1,022,820.87
DCR - Flood control structure maintenance and repairs	\$115,810.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,527,656.31</b>



**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 2022-2023, a total of 1,351.9 acres were planted.**

**WATERSHED FLOOD CONTROL DAMS**

Peter Francisco SWCD operates 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. The SWCD partners with Buckingham and Cumberland Emergency Medical Services to remain aware of any emergency action planning requirements.



**RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

**Program Year 2023 (10/02/2022 through 09/30/2023)**

**By DAVID B. HARRIS, District Conservationist**

The USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continues to provide technical and financial assistance to producers/landowners in Buckingham and Cumberland counties. For NRCS Conservation Program Year (PY) 2023 this included....

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

New contracts for PY 2023 4 for \$198,598  
Total active contracts 4 for \$198,598

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

New contracts for PY 2023 2 for \$57,676  
Total active contracts 12 for \$542,554

Conservation Reserve Program - Grasslands (CRPG)

New enrollment contracts for FY 2023 **1 but it was cancelled**

The following Conservation Practices were installed with NRCS assistance in Buckingham and Cumberland Counties:

Access Control (472) (Ac).....	14 Ac
Conservation cover for pollinators and beneficial insects (E327A) (Ac).....	2 Ac
Diversifying Forage Base with Interseeding Forbs & Legumes (E512L) (Ac).....	69 Ac
Forage biomass planting to build soil health (E512B) (Ac).....	14 Ac
High Tunnel System (325) (SqFt).....	25,064 SqFt
Improved grazing mgt for soil compaction on pasture (E528K) (Ac).....	891 Ac
Maintaining and improving forest soil quality (E666A) (Ac).....	75 Ac
Planting for high carbon sequestration rate (E612B) (Ac).....	24 Ac
Prescribed Burning (338) (Ac).....	6 Ac
Prescribed Grazing (528) (Ac).....	96 Ac
Roof Runoff Structure (558) (No).....	4 No
Soil Health Improvements on Pasture (E528S) (Ac).....	248 Ac
Underground Outlet (620) (Ft).....	400 Ft

**PETER FRANCISCO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

16842 W. James Anderson Hwy  
 Buckingham, VA 23921  
 Office: 434-983-7923

Gmail: [peterfranciscoswcd@gmail.com](mailto:peterfranciscoswcd@gmail.com)  
 Website: <https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org>  
**Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/peterfranciscoswcd>

**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  
 Amber Taylor, Extension Appointed Director

Ruth Wallace, Associate Director  
 Vertie Mae Jamerson, Associate Director  
 Linda Eanes, Associate Director  
 Jennifer Ligon, Associate Director  
 Eugene Absher, Associate Director  
 H.Gwynn Tyler, Associate/Treasurer

**District Staff**

Sherry S. Ragland, District Manager  
 Kelly J. Snoddy, Conservation Specialist  
 Elise T. Corbin, Conservation Education Coordinator  
 Cody Smith, Conservation Technician

**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.



**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
- Robert E Lee 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

**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 local support from the Counties of Buckingham and Cumberland.



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 2022-2023

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

Peter Francisco SWCD will provide the citizens of Buckingham and Cumberland counties educational programming, technical assistance, and conservation practices to encourage stewardship of the environment and natural resources.

### VISION STATEMENT

The District envisions Buckingham and Cumberland counties as agricultural, rural and urban areas committed to water quality and soil health. The District is accessible, committed and focused on service for our community. We strive to educate our rural and urban landowners and the general public to be responsible stewards now and into the future.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE STATEMENT

We value the educational and program benefits of diverse ideas, peoples, and cultures in order to contribute to equitable inclusion through collaboration and partnerships, guided by open expression, self-awareness, and mutual respect.