



Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District

Serving Buckingham & Cumberland Counties

Annual Report July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

DISTRICT 2022 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 years scholarship recipients!! Visit the District's website for info: <https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org>

At the state level, Tanner Wise was chosen to receive the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation District's 2022 scholarship for \$1,000.



Cooper Fraser will be attending in the fall to Virginia Tech majoring in Engineering/Environmental Studies. He is the son of Lee and Leigh Fraser of Buckingham

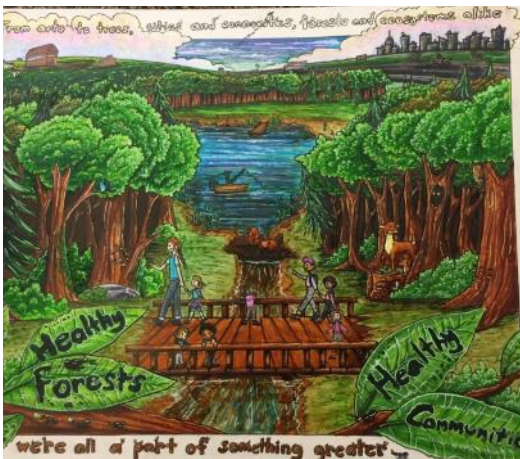


Maura Myles will be returning to Norfolk State in the fall majoring in Marine Biology. She is the daughter of Felcia and McKinley Myles, Jr. of Buckingham



Tanner Wise will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall majoring in Animal and Poultry Science. He is the son of David and Sheri Wise of Buckingham

2022 POSTER CONTEST WINNER



ONCE again....Lillian McConkey, an 11th grader at Cumberland County High School, won the **National** Association of Conservation District's (NACD) "Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities" poster contest for the 10-12 grade Category. Lillian was honored at the Cumberland County School Board meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2022 by District Associate Director, Vertie Mae Jamerson. She was also recognized on the District's FaceBook page, the District's website (<https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org/poster-contest>) and in the local newspaper, *The Farmville Herald*.

Her art work will be showcased at the Cumberland County School Board office from August-December 2022 and then at the Cumberland Library until June 2023.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS



Teacher of the Year

The District's nominee for Secondary Conservation Educator of the Year, Josh Fleenor, was chosen at the State level by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District (VASWCD). Mr. Fleenor was honored at the December Cumberland County School Board Meeting and VASWCD's Annual Meeting. Mr. Fleenor is the Agriculture Teacher at Cumberland County High school and has served as Envirothon Coach for the last 2 years. He also serves as an FFA Advisor. Congratulations Mr. Fleenor!!!

ENVIROTHON



Cumberland County High School Team, 1st Place Winners at the Area V Competition

(Left to right): Patricia Murrill, Celeste Mitchell, Mark Tuttle, Austin Cox, Cole Dalton and Coach Joshua Fleenor.



Buckingham County High School Team, 3rd Place Winners at the Area V Competition

(Left to right): Vernon Wilkerson, Aaron Trent (Team Captain), Brandon Johnson, Aaron Martin, Coach Andrew Schmitt, Elizabeth Grant, Aamon Harkins

The Area V Competition was held April 26, 2022 at Holiday Lake 4-H Center, Appomattox, VA. Both teams advanced to the 2022 Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon State Competition, May 15-16th at Eastern Mennonite University. 14 teams of high school students from across the state competed by presenting their oral presentation on one day and rotated through five station tests on the second day in the categories of Soil, Aquatics, Wildlife, Forestry and this years special topic: Waste to Resources. Buckingham County High School placed 3rd on the special topic test at the state level.

What is the Envirothon? It's is a national natural resources competition among high-school students in grades 9th - 12th. Students learn about stewardship and natural resource management concepts through "hands-on" learning and work to solve real environmental problems in a group presentation. Students study all year long with dedicated coaches.

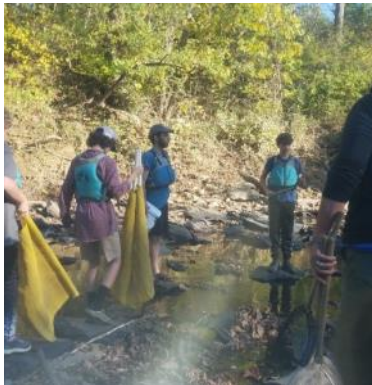
2022-2023 special topic: *"Adapting to Climate Change"*.

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Participated in Buckingham County's Farmfest in October, 2021 and Cumberland's Patriot Day in April, 2022.



Partnered with Chesapeake Bay Foundation to provide three field trips for Buckingham and Cumberland Middle and High School students. Field trips included a fall canoe paddle to explore the Slate and James Rivers, a spring boat trip out of Newport News to learn about oyster harvesting and the biodiversity in that section of the James River and a boat trip out of Hopewell to learn about efforts to restore water quality in the Middle James after the kepone contamination. Each field trip included water quality monitoring as well.



Worked with Bear Creek Lake and James River State Parks; Buckingham & Cumberland Virginia Cooperative Extension office to provide MWEE field days for middle school students in Buckingham and Cumberland Counties.



EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

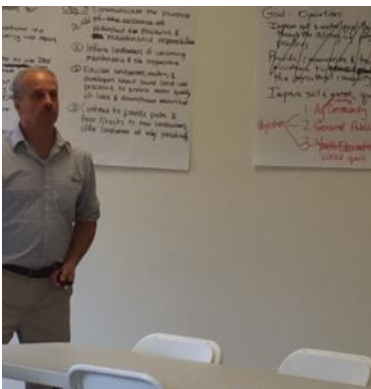
Jointly sponsored a Picnic & Paddle Event with the James River Association, Buckingham Cooperative Extension and Virginia Department of Forestry on April 30, 2022 on the Slate River. Members of the Buckingham Envirothon Team provided chemical and biological water quality monitoring. The event included lunch and a canoe trip down the Slate River with the Canals & Navigation Society sharing history of the Slate River, bateaus and locks. The Virginia Department of Forestry provided a short hike with buffer/tree i.d. Special thanks to Lacy & Becky Wood for sharing their property for the event.



Partnered with James River Association and Virginia Cooperative Extension to provide middle and high school students in Buckingham and Cumberland with a Watershed Exploration Camp at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge (an island in the James River) near Hopewell, Virginia and maintained by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



2022-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN



Every four years, the Peter Francisco SWCD develops a strategic plan to help guide our operations and generate goals and objectives. With help from Mike Foreman (pictured to the left) of TogetherWorks, LLC, a facilitator with 30 years of knowledge about the Districts, we started the survey and planning process in early June of 2021. Our 2022-2025 strategic plan was finalized October 20, 2021.

We can always improve the way we deliver our services in the areas of agricultural cost-sharing, youth education, septic work, and other natural resource issues. This process allowed for us to understand the needs and priorities by hearing from our local governments, stakeholders, cooperating agencies, and clients. The purpose of the plan is to guide the District as it strives to fulfill its mission and vision.



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.



VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Buckingham County

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

- 8 SL-6W Practices (Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer and Grazing Land Management)
 - 33,364 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
 - 87 acres of buffer created through installation of exclusion fencing
 - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 345 head of cattle and 2 horses
- 1 WP-2W Practice (Stream Protection Fencing with Wide Width Buffer)
 - 2,994 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
 - 9.62 acres of buffer created through installation of exclusion fencing
 - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 60 head of cattle
- 1 CCI-WP-2W practice (Stream Protection Fencing with Wide Width Buffer Maintenance)
 - 9,809 linear feet of stream bank continued to be protected
 - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 16 head of cattle
- 1 CCI-CNT Practice (Long-Term Continuous No-Till Planting System)
 - 248 acres under the no-till method
- 1 SL-7 practice (Extension of Watering System)
 - 23 Acres benefited through increased rotational grazing
- 11 Cover Crop practices (Non-harvestable SL-8B and Harvestable SL8H)
 - 2,544 acres planted in winter cover
- 4 NM-1A (Nutrient Management Plan Writing)
 - 2,167 acres planned
- 1 NM-5P (Precision Phosphorous Application)
 - 938 acres planned

Total Cost-Share Paid Out: \$492,842.38

Total Tax Credit on Out of Pocket: \$446.75

Cumberland County

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

- 8 SL-6W Practices (Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer and Grazing Land Management)
 - 67,671 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
 - 73 acres of buffer created through installation of exclusion fencing
 - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 530 head of cattle
- 1 CCI-SL-6W practice (Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer Maintenance)
 - 3,776 linear feet of stream bank continued to be protected
 - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 53 head of cattle
- 2 WP-2W Practice (Stream Protection Fencing with Wide Width Buffer)
 - 10,502 feet of stream excluded from livestock access
 - 8.44 acres of buffer created through installation of exclusion fencing
 - Livestock numbers excluded from water source: 65 head of cattle
- 2 SL-7 practices (Extension of Watering System)
 - 190 Acres benefited through increased rotational grazing
- 10 Cover Crop practices (Non-harvestable SL-8B and Harvestable SL8H)
 - 4,075 acres planted in winter cover
- 1 NM-1A (Nutrient Management Plan Writing)
 - 209 acres planned
- 1 NM-5N (Precision Nitrogen Application)
 - 217 acres planned
- 1 NM6 practice (Manure Injection)
 - 600 Acres benefitted
- SL-1 Practice (Long-Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland)
 - 85 Acres converted from row crop to orchardgrass
- 1 WP-4 Practice (Animal Waste Storage Facility)

Total Cost-Share Paid Out: \$793,767.76

Total Tax Credit on Out of Pocket: \$4,944.64

319 TMDL SLATE RIVER & ROCK ISLAND CREEK RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

159 septic system maintenance practices completed in Total for PO#16688

Septic Tank Pump-outs (RB-1) - 137

Septic System Repairs (RB-3) - 2

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

Septic System Installation/Replacement with Pump (RB-4P) – 2

Alternative Sewage System (RB-5) - 5

Cost Share Paid Out Total: \$158,508.25

Septic Match from Homeowners: \$113,851.87



DEQ Grant PO16688 ended June 30, 2022 and was provided funding wholly 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 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.

DEQ Grant PO17219 will start July 1, 2022.

LOCAL SEPTIC GRANT - through Peter Francisco SWCD

For the first time, the District offered a 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.

Cost Share Paid Out FY 22: \$11,000.00

EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL PROGRAM (E&S)

During this report period, District staff reviewed nine (9) E&S plans for Buckingham County and two (2) E&S plans for Cumberland County. The District staff reviews plans for both counties, assists county staff when needed with: on-site inspections and the planning process.



PFSWCD has virtual programs complete with videos, lesson plans, suggested activities, fact sheets and other resources to its website. Picture above: snapshot of our virtual page.

<https://www.peterfranciscoswcd.org>

DISTRICT'S ANNUAL BUDGET

OPERATING BUDGET	FISCAL YEAR 2022
Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation Funds	
Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost-share Funds	\$1,125,496
Operations	\$104,463
Agricultural Technical Assistance	\$175,422
Flood control structure maintenance and repairs	\$51,000
Virginia DEQ 319(h) Residential Septic BMP Grant	\$67,058
Local funds (equipment rental, grants for special projects, locality appropriations)	\$51,931



NO-TILL DRILLS

Peter Francisco SWCD has two NEW 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 2021-2022, a total of 1,057.4 acres were planted.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE – Program Year 2022

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) 2022 this included....

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

New contracts for PY 2022	5 for \$47,221
Total active contracts	9 for \$202,299

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

New contracts for PY 2022	0 Approved
Total active contracts	10 for \$484,881

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

New Re-enrollment contracts for FY 2022 1

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CRP)

New Re-enrollment contracts for FY 2022 3

Conservation Reserve Program - Grasslands (CRPG)

New enrollment contracts for FY 2022	8
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Conservation Reserve Program – CLEAR30 (CRP30)

New enrollment contracts for FY 2022	1
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The following Conservation Practices were installed from **10/1/2021 through 8/2/2022** by NRCS in Buckingham and Cumberland Counties...at the time of this report we still have additional practices that need to be reported for FY2022, but are awaiting notifications from participants that practices are completed and ready for certifications.

Access Control (472) (Ac)	14 Ac
Conservation cover (327) (Ac)	1 Ac
Conservation Crop Rotation (328) (Ac)	181 Ac
Cover Crop (340) (Ac)	176 Ac
High Tunnel System (325) (SqFt)	8,640 SqFt
Prescribed Grazing (528) (Ac)	96 Ac
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329) (Ac)	1292 Ac
Riparian Forest Buffer	1 Ac
Roof Runoff Structure (558) (No)	1 No

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>

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
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

District Staff

Sherry S. Ragland, District Manager
Kelly J. Snoddy, Conservation Specialist
Elise T. Corbin, Conservation Education Coordinator
Olivia Leatherwood, 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.

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



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

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.

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 2021-2022

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.