

**TIDEWATER SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**STRATEGIC PLAN
2017-2020**

**TIDEWATER SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 677
GLOUCESTER, VA 23061
804-693-3562 Ext. 5
www.tidewaterswcd.org**

The Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia that serves the counties of Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex. The District develops comprehensive plans that conserve and improve the quality of soil and water resources. With the assistance of its cooperating agencies, it also provides educational programming to address local environmental and conservation issues within the District. The District is governed by an eight member board of directors who serve a four year term. Six directors are elected, two from each county, and two directors are appointed by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. Non-voting associate directors may be selected by the Tidewater SWCD Board of Directors.

The daily operations of the District are conducted by the staff which consists of a District Manager, Conservation/Education Specialist, and Conservation Office Assistant. Technical assistance is provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The District maintains a close working relationship with the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Forestry, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, and other federal, state, and local agencies. Operating funds are provided by grants and appropriations from state and local governments. The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. All programs, services, and employment opportunities of the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, handicap, or political affiliation.

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

District Directors

Ronnie Lewis - Mathews
Robert Respass, Jr.- Mathews
Jason Bray – Middlesex
Alan Sutherlin - Middlesex
Keith Horsley - Gloucester
Daniel Rilee - Gloucester
William Richardson, Jr.- At Large
David Moore -VCE Agent/Appointed

District Staff

LaVerne Calhoun - District Manager
Kristal Evens - Conservation/Education Specialist
Vacant - Conservation Office Assistant

NRCS Staff

Michael Combs - District Conservationist
Sean Allen - Soil Conservationist

COOPERATING AGENCIES

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD)

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOT)

Virginia Cooperative Extension Service (VCE)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA)

The Counties of Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex

On July 27, 2016, the District hosted a successful Strategic Planning meeting engaging local agricultural and urban residents, as well as members of governmental agencies and community organizations to be a part of this process. In preparing this plan, the District had three main objectives: 1. Open discussion to better understand community expectations and concerns relating to conservation and environmental issues; 2. Better utilize its human and financial resources; 3. Promote conservation of our natural resources in a manner consistent with good stewardship and economic reality. This strategic plan is to be a vital tool that enables the District to meet the natural resources management needs of our rapidly changing community.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the conservation of natural resources through stewardship, outreach and education.

VISION STATEMENT

To be a leader in conservation education and in evaluating and providing creative solutions to natural resource related issues.

Goals for 2017-2020

Goal #1: Provide Agricultural BMP Assistance and Information to Producers

Objective #1 Educate producers about Agricultural BMPs and increase Ag BMP program participation

Action #1 Newsletter articles about Ag BMPs

Action #2 Ag Field Days, demonstrations, workshops

Objective #2 Improve communication between all parties and partners; agricultural, government, and citizens

Action #1 Seminars/workshops with cooperating agencies

Action #2 Select Clean Water Farm Award Recipient

Action #3 Participate in Urban Conservation Program

Action #4 Provide educational assistance to non-traditional agricultural operators

Objective #3 Advocate for increasing Cost Share funding

Action #1 Work with existing stakeholders for increased funding for new technology and precision agriculture BMPs

Action #2 Directors contact their Board of Supervisors and local officials concerning conservation issues and increased funding

Goal #2: Provide Conservation Education for Community with Cooperating Agencies.

Objective #1 Educate homeowners, special citizen groups, conservation groups, and professionals

Action #1 Develop conservation programs to include information about land and stormwater management, soil testing, and wildlife

Action #2 Provide educational material for contractors, gardening groups, and lawn care providers

Action #3 Workshops on specific topics and public service announcements

Action #4 Initiate projects with local governments to implement conservation practices on county property

Objective #2 Educate local youth in schools and community organizations

Action #1 Promote organization of an Envirothon team

Action #2 Present and coordinate SOL based conservation programs and information to schools, non-school, and youth groups

Action #3 Create an action committee, between school personnel and district, to work with schools on program development and implementation

Objective #3 Educate the non-farm community on Agricultural BMPs

Action #1 Host BMP bus tour and/or Down on the Farm Tour for county officials and citizens

Action #2 Directors discuss the benefits of BMPs with their Board Supervisors and local officials

Action #3 Increase BMP and District signage

Goal #3: Advocate for Conservation Practices in Natural Resource Management and Agricultural Production

Objective #1 Increase District input and influence in planning and decision making process

Action #1 Directors contact their Board of Supervisors and local officials concerning conservation issues and increased funding

Action #2 Provide Board of Supervisors and planning departments presentations

Action #3 Promote farmland preservation

Action #4 Training for District Board on important issues

Goal #4: Seek Outside Funding Sources.

Objective #1 Research available grant opportunities

Action #1 Seek additional grant and other funding opportunities

Approved: Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors

Daniel Rilee, Chairman

David Moore

William Richardson, Jr., Vice
Chairman

Ronnie Lewis

Jason Bray, Secretary

Alan Sutherlin

Keith Horsley, Treasurer

Robert Respass, Jr.

Date

Approved: Commonwealth of Virginia Department of
Conservation and Recreation

Amy Walker, CDC

Date
