

Coordinator's Report – November 30, 2007 – January 29, 2008

Training/Workshops/Seminars Attended

- December 11 – Governor's Forum on Land Conservation, South Boston, VA
- December 13 – NRCS In-Service Training, Suffolk, VA
- December 14 – James River SWCD Farmers Breakfast, Ettrick, VA
- January 9 – Warm Season Grass Workshop, Petersburg, VA
- January 10 – Low Impact Development Workshop, Fort Lee, VA

Meetings

- December 17 – RC&D Forestry Committee Meeting, Waverly, VA
- January 3 – James River SWCD meeting
- January 15 – Met with Wayne Walton, regarding shoreline erosion at the Old Patrick Copeland School Park in Hopewell.
- January 19 – Met with Bettie Guthrie from Wilcox Watershed Conservancy about restoration efforts at Lee Memorial Park in Petersburg.
- January 23 – Attended FOLAR meeting.

Project Updates

- **Classroom Mini-Grants** – The schools below received their mini-grant awards on the following dates:
 - Edward W. Wyatt Middle School (Greensville County) – December 12, 2007
 - Nottoway Elementary School (Southampton County) – December 12, 2007
 - Prince George High School – December 7, 2007

News releases with photos of Council members, Teachers, Principals, and students were in five newspapers (Progress Index, Hopewell News, Prince George Journal, Tidewater News, and Independent Messenger).

- **Southern Rivers Grant** – DCR selected to award the RC&D Council's mini-grant application for \$3,000. The intentions of the grant were to solicit a 2nd round of mini-grants for classroom projects that would address water quality issues. Letters were mailed out to 47 schools on December 15, 2007 with an application deadline of January 25, 2008. One application was received back from Blandford Academy in Petersburg to construct and maintain the FOLAR/Appomattox River Trail within the City of Petersburg.
- **Albemarle - Chowan Watershed Roundtable** – Received grant agreement for leadership activities of the roundtable from DCR on December 18, 2007. Grant is for \$7,000 to conduct four quarterly roundtable meetings, hold "River Day Celebration", conduct two educational workshops, develop roundtable logo/brochures, and participate in Virginia Watersheds Alliance meetings. Executive Committee met on January 8, 2008 to discuss the draft and changes that needed to be made to the grant agreement, which has since been forwarded to DCR.

The next roundtable meeting has been scheduled for February 5, 2008 at the Virginia Diner in Wakefield, VA. The guest speaker will be the Jeff Turner from the Blackwater Nottoway Riverkeeper Program. The meeting will be from 9am-12pm.

- **Biodiesel Fuel Quality Seminar** – I have spoken to Virginia Clean Cities and we have agreed on holding the seminar on April 9, 2008 in the Prince George Human Service Building.
- **Well Capping Hopewell** – Letters were mailed to 45 homeowners that have wells located on their properties to see if well capping assistance is needed.

Potential Projects

- **Old Patrick Copeland School Site** – Met with Wayne Walton on January 15th from FOLAR regarding restoring the park behind the Old Patrick Copeland School site in Hopewell. Wayne would like for the RC&D Council, Hopewell City Engineer and NRCS to revisit the streamline restoration project, update site plan, and look to find sources of funding to rehabilitate the park.
- **Lee Memorial Park** - On January 19th I had an opportunity to take a tour of Lee Memorial Park in Petersburg with Bettie Guthrie from the Wilcox Watershed Conservancy. The Conservancy is leading efforts to rehabilitate the 330 acre historical park. The Conservancy would like to have our involvement and participation in partnering with them to restore the park.

Other Items

- **Council Appointments** – Letters were mailed out on December 7th to the City of Petersburg and Prince George County regarding expiring terms for Dama Rice and Jerry Skalsky.
- **Awards** – The Council sent in one award nomination to the Virginia Association of RC&D Councils. Stacey Bradshaw was nominated for Outstanding Council Member
- **Legislative Activity** – Congress has completed the federal appropriations bill and the RC&D program will be funded nationally at \$51,088,000.
- **Leadership Forum** – The NARC&DC Leadership Forum will be held February 25-27, 2008, Washington, DC.

Patrick Vincent
RC&D Coordinator