

South Centré Corridors

Resource Conservation and Development Council



Biodiesel Workshops



Teacher Training Day



Wildlife & Forestry Bus Tour

2007 Annual Report

Comments from the Chair

As you review this yearly report, you will see that the past twelve months have been very successful as well as noticing a few changes that were made in regards to council members and guidance.

First, Keith Boyd, who was our first RC&D Coordinator, has been promoted to Assistant State Conservationist and is based in Smithfield. Keith was very instrumental in providing guidance and leadership during the council's forming period. It was during this period that the council received its 501(c)(3) status on October 12, 2002 and approval by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture. Once again, on behalf of the entire council, I say "Thank You" and wish you the best in your new position.

Replacing Keith as RC&D Coordinator is Patrick Vincent, who started on June 25, 2007. Patrick has an outstanding background in the agricultural field and we welcome him to our council.

Some of the projects we participated in or sponsored were: Farmer & Small Producer Biodiesel Workshops in Suffolk and Dinwiddie, Greenville County Forestry & Wildlife Bus Tour, Value of Forestry Presentations and the JEJ Moore Middle School Teacher Training Day in Prince George.

Two projects which are in the active stage at this time are Uriah Branch Wellness Trail in Greenville County and our first project, De-Commissioning Wells which is an area wide project.

Anna K. Cahoon, our RC&D Forester and the RC&D Forestry Committee are very active with their meetings and the planning and presentation of forestry workshops.

The RC&D Council wishes to acknowledge and offer congratulations to two individuals who won State Awards for Exemplary Assistance to the RC&D Program By an Individual - Beth Kirby & Holly Boyd in reference to the JEJ Moore Middle School Nature Trail.

During the past year one new council member was appointed and I would like to welcome Linwood Pope of Greenville County.

On behalf of the RC&D Council, I would like to extend our thanks to Dama Rice of Petersburg, for her "outstanding contribution" to the council for serving as Treasurer for the past two years.

In conclusion, on behalf of the entire council I would like to thank RC&D Coordinators, Pat Tyrrell of Tidewater RC&D and Dave Roberts of Old Dominion RC&D for their valuable assistance during the period when South Centré Corridors was without a Coordinator.

Thank you for taking time to read this report and it was an honor once again to serve as Chairman. If you wish to offer possible ways that you may become involved in any of our projects, please feel free to contact our RC&D Coordinator, Patrick for information as an official "Earth Team Volunteer"



Chairman Don Bagshaw

About South Centré Corridors RC&D

South Centré Corridors RC&D is a local Non Profit 501(c)(3) corporation. The members of the corporation include five counties, two cities, three Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and one planning District Commission. These are Prince George, Dinwiddie, Sussex, Southampton and Greensville Counties, cities of Hopewell and Petersburg, James River, Appomattox River, and the Chowan Basin SWCD's and the Crater Planning District Commission. Each member appoints two representatives to the Council. Day-to-day operations of the Council are provided by the staff supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture NRCS.

Our Mission

Developing partnerships to advocate and promote the conservation, preservation, and development of our resources to enhance the quality of life in the region.

Our Vision

A place where our children and grandchildren are proud to call home because of the abundant recreational opportunities, a sustained agriculture economy, preservation of the Rural Character, enhanced environmental quality, and the existence of vibrant, safe urban areas.

Our Goals

- Improve Downtown Re-Development and Revitalization
- Increase Agricultural Opportunities
- Increase and Improve Recreational Opportunities
- Protect and Ensure Groundwater Quality
- Improve and Increase Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Council

Project Leaders Win Award



Beth Kirby and Holly Boyd are joined by Steve Pope, Tidewater RC&D and Carlyle Wimbush, Old Dominion RC&D as they accept their award.

Holly Boyd and Beth Kirby were recognized at the annual meeting of the Virginia Association of RC&D Councils held in Staunton, Virginia on April 26, 2007. Holly and Beth both received the award for **Exemplary Assistance to the RC&D program By an Individual** for their work on the JEJ Moore Middle School Outdoor Classroom/Nature Trail.

The educators were able to secure a \$10,000 grant from the Albemarle - Pamlico Natural Estuary Program for the project. Also they were able to enlist the help of many partners and volunteers to provide assistance in completing the project.

South Centré Corridors RC&D Council congratulates Holly and Beth on their award and thank them for their initiative and hard work.

Teacher Training Day Held

As a follow-up activity to the successful completion of the JEJ Moore Middle School Outdoor Classroom/Nature Trail a Teacher Training Day was held at the site on August 7, 2006.

Ten science teachers from Prince George participated in the training. The training consisted of the history of the trail, hands on activities and development of lesson plans.

Five different learning stations were setup along the trail with instructors that focused on aquatics/water testing, forestry plants, habitats, watershed/water cycle and soils.

Instructors consisted of specialists from Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Forestry, Natural Resource Conservation Service and James River Soil & Water District.

The instructors shared information with teachers at each station on how subjects may be taught using the outdoor classroom and in developing lesson plans that meet their current SOL requirements.

Above—Teachers in classroom developing lesson plans

Below— Greg Hammer, NRCS Soil Scientist provides training to teachers at the soils station.



Farmer and Small Producer Biodiesel Workshops

South Centré Corridors Resource Conservation & Development Council sponsored a Farmer and Small Producer Biodiesel Workshop in Dinwiddie County and co-sponsored another workshop with Southampton Roads RC&D Council in Suffolk.

There were over 200 people in attendance at both workshops, which consisted of local leaders, businessmen, farmers and citizens.

The program agenda consisted of topics such as what is biodiesel, how is it made safely, how to make it legally, oilseed crops & markets and transitioning fleets to biodiesel.

The South Centré Corridors RC&D Council partnered with Virginia Clean Cities and Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy to conduct the workshop.



Participants in attendance at biodiesel workshop.

Greensville Forestry & Wildlife Field Tour

Over 56 participants took part in the Forestry & Wildlife Bus Tour held in Greensville County and the city of Emporia, on October 17, 2006. Participants were educated at four tour stops about wildlife management, water quality, forest management, longleaf pine reestablishment and soil conservation programs.

Participants also had an opportunity to visit Georgia Pacific's plywood mill in Emporia. This tour stop gave the participants an opportunity to see how their forestry management decisions affect the value of their timber and the financial impact it has on the Commonwealth.

In addition to the landowners, youth from a local school had an opportunity to attend and learn the importance of forestry and land management.



Greensville County Forester Justin Hancock demonstrates to participants how to plant longleaf containerized seedlings.

Value of Forestry Presentations

Through the efforts of the RC&D Council and Department of Forestry a comprehensive study was developed to determine the true value of forestry within each locality. The results of the study were made into an informational power point presentation for all counties in our council area. Power point presentations were created for County Planning Commissions and Boards of Supervisors and another presentation was designed for teachers to utilize in classrooms. Presentations were made in Prince George and Greensville counties and were well received.



RC&D Forestry Committee Established

The South Centré Corridors RC&D Forestry Committee held their first meeting on August 22, 2006. In addition to having our RC&D Forester, Anna Cahoon the RC&D Council thought it would be necessary to form a committee that would focus their efforts on forestry issues and projects.

The RC&D Forestry Committee consist of private forest landowners, professional foresters, timber company representatives and RC&D Council members. The committee also consist of agency personnel from the Department of Forestry, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The committee's focus for the first year was to educate themselves on forestry issues such as financial incentives to manage timberland, economic constraints on industry, and conservation options available. The committee will continue to explore options for the landowner, along with educating the general public on the value of our forest lands. Also recommendations from the committee will be provided to the RC&D Council for future projects.



Anna Cahoon, RC&D Forester presides over forestry committee meeting.

Council Says Farewell To Keith Boyd

Keith Boyd was promoted from RC&D Coordinator to Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in the Smithfield Area Office in December 2006.

Keith began as a RC&D Coordinator for Virginia Eastern Shore RC&D Council and then came to South Centré Corridors RC&D Council. During his time as Coordinator Keith provided leadership in forming the Council and continued to be very instrumental in the development and implementation of programs and projects. His skills as a facilitator have opened the door for the council to complete a multitude of projects to the benefit of all; some specifically benefiting several urban areas and other projects benefiting rural areas.

The RC&D Council would like to thank Keith for his efforts, support and guidance during his tenure as a Coordinator and wish him much success in his new job role.



Chairman, Don Bagshaw (right) presents Keith Boyd (left) with a certificate of appreciation.

New RC&D Coordinator Hired

On June 25, 2007 the South Centré Corridors RC&D Council had the pleasure of welcoming Patrick Vincent aboard as the RC&D Coordinator. Patrick was hired by USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service to serve as the liaison to the Council. His primary responsibilities will include assisting the Council in meeting their goals and objectives of their area and annual plans by providing guidance, advice and leadership.

Patrick previously has held positions within USDA with Farm Service Agency, Rural Development and also Cooperative Extension at Virginia State University . He holds a Bachelors & Masters degree in Agricultural Education from North Carolina A&T State University.



Patrick Vincent, RC&D Coordinator

Ongoing/Newly Adopted Projects

- **Nottoway River Recreation Development**— The Council would like to develop two public access locations along the Nottoway River in Sussex County to increase recreational activity.
- **Uriah Branch Wellness Trail** — This is a project that the Council has adopted to establish a combination nature/ wellness trail on property adjacent to the Greensville County Government Complex. This will involve several partners that will include the county and regional jail.
- **Albemarle-Chowan Basin Watershed Roundtable** - The roundtable is a project of numerous stakeholders whose goal it to preserve and protect the natural resources and water quality within the watershed.
- **Well Capping Greensville County**— The Council has identified unsafe wells that present a serious safety hazard and need to be plugged according to USDA and Health Department standards to protect groundwater quality and remove severe safety hazards.

Financial Report	
July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007	
South Centre' Corridors Resource Conservation & Development Council	
Balance as of June 30, 2006	\$37,630.24
Income:	
Dues: 7 localities @ \$3,000.00 each	\$21,000.00
Interest income	100.00
Total Income:	<u>\$58,730.24</u>
Expenses:	
Dues paid	\$1,200.00
Insurance	1,521.00
Misc. office	497.03
Meeting	454.04
Education for board members and staff	450.00
Travel:	
State Conference	1,658.88
Miscellaneous Conferences	2,261.87
Well Capping	850.00
Expense Sub-total:	<u>\$8,892.82</u>
Ending Fund Balance:	<u>\$49,837.42</u>

South Centr  Corridors RC&D is authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture and received \$127,000 in technical support through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

RC&D Sponsors & Council Members

Dinwiddie County	Greensville County	City of Hopewell	City of Petersburg	Prince George County	Southampton County	Sussex County
<i>Daniel Lee</i>	<i>Linda Clements</i>	<i>Brenda Pelham</i>	<i>Dama Rice</i>	<i>Jerry Skalsky</i>	<i>M.L. Everett, Jr</i>	<i>Mary E. Jones, Secretary</i>
<i>Susan A. Watkins</i>	<i>Linwood Pope</i>	<i>Robyn Thompson</i>	<i>Ron Reekes</i>	<i>Paul Douglas Holc</i>	<i>Walter L. Young, III</i>	<i>Crockett Morris</i>
Appomattox River Soil & Water District	Chowan Basin Soil & Water Conservation District	James River Soil & Water Conservation District	Crater Planning District Commission	Member At Large		
<i>Granville Maitland</i>	<i>Gary Cross</i>	<i>Donald A. Bagshaw, Chairman</i>	<i>F. Woodrow Harris</i>	<i>Linda McAllister, Treasurer</i>		
<i>Bonnie Thompson</i>	<i>Stacey Bradshaw, Vice Chair</i>	<i>W.D. Kreider</i>	<i>Victor Liu</i>			

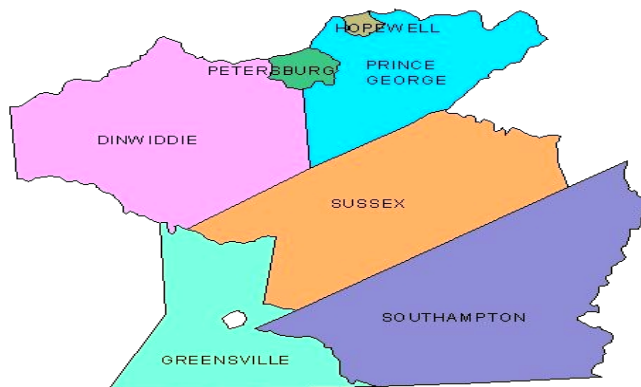
RC&D Staff

Patrick Vincent,
RC&D Coordinator

Meredithe J. Wilson,
Administrative Assistance

Anna K. Cahoon,
RC&D Forester

South Centré Corridors Resource Conservation & Development Council
P.O. Box 1237
Prince George, VA 23875
Phone (804) 732-4375
Fax (804) 732-4713
<http://southcentrecorridorsrcd.org>



All programs, activities and services of the RC&D are available to people on a nondiscriminatory basis regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, physical ability, political affiliation and marital or familial status.

“Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer”