

South Centré Corridors was fortunate to have a very productive year as a Council. Our most successful project of the year was the Mission Ministries Outreach Center & Foodbank in Waverly, VA. The Council would like to congratulate Mission Ministries on its success and being awarded the Outstanding RC&D Project for Virginia. We look forward to being able to partner with Mission Ministries in the future on other projects that will benefit citizens of our community.



For the third year we sponsored the Educator & Youth Mini-Grant Program. This year we provided 10 grants to area schools and 3 Soil & Water Conservation Districts. These grants educated 3,674 youth on the environment and natural resources throughout our region. I would like to congratulate Woodlawn Learning Center on continued excellence with their Community Garden. This year they were awarded the Outstanding RC&D Project with Youth Involvement in Virginia and also the award for Southeast RC&D Region. We also would like to thank the Virginia Environmental Endowment for their financial support on the project.

An upcoming project that you will be hearing more about in the coming year is the South Centré Corridors Buy Fresh Buy Local Chapter. We are definitely excited about this regional project to promote locally grown foods and specialty products! Be on the lookout for our first Buy Fresh Buy Local Food Guide. South Centré Corridors looks forward to creating more opportunities and partnering with local growers, specialty vendors, restaurants, and retail stores to promote and educate our community on the benefits of buying locally. We would like to thank the Virginia Tobacco Commission and the Cameron Foundation for their financial support with our Buy Fresh Buy Local project.

Other projects that we are currently involved in are the Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable, on-farm energy, and forestry education. I would also like to welcome our newest Council Member Ronald West from Southampton County. We look forward to his input and participation.

Stacey Bradshaw
Chairman

Mission Ministries Outreach Center & Foodbank

South Centré Corridors RC&D Council provided technical assistance to Mission Ministries, a nonprofit organization made up of 13 churches, to obtain grant funding and donations to establish an outreach center and foodbank in Waverly, Virginia. The Town of Waverly agreed to lease Mission Ministries a historic building to use for their headquarter operations. However the building was in need of repairs before it could be used. The Council assisted the group with writing grants and developing marketing material for prospective funders to receive over \$50,000 in grants and donations to cover the cost of renovations and repairs. The majority of the labor on the building has been done by volunteers. Funding for this project came from corporations, foundations, churches, nonprofit organizations, individual donors and local citizens. Last year Mission Ministries provided assistance to over 1,700 citizens through monthly feeding programs, food deliveries and monthly bill payment assistance. With the assistance of the RC&D Council and completion of the building those numbers are expected to double for the next year. The partnership with Mission Ministries on this project meets our goal to improve revitalization of urban and rural areas to strengthen community development.



South Centré Corridors Buy Fresh Buy Local Chapter

This year South Centré Corridors became the 75th Buy Fresh Buy Local (BFBL) Chapter created in the country. The Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign was designed to persuade small and regional grocery stores to carry locally grown foods, while also encouraging consumers to buy food products from local growers. BFBL chapters improve the economic vitality of farmers in the project region by increasing markets; build greater awareness of the local and community food system; and improve the infrastructure needed for local consumption and institutional buying of local foods. The first task of the chapter will be to develop an online and printable local food guide. The printable food guide will be distributed throughout our service area to those who have an interest in locally grown foods.



South Centré Corridors was fortunate to receive grants from the Virginia Tobacco Commission and the Cameron Foundation totaling \$40,000 over a period of 3 years to support the Buy Fresh Buy Local Project. Funds will be used to develop, create, and print local food guides. We also plan to host a local foods conference. The Buy Fresh Buy Local project meets the Council's goal to improve revitalization of urban and rural areas that strengthen community development.

2010 Educator & Youth Mini-Grant Program

To meet the Council's goal of promoting environmental education opportunities South Centré Corridors sponsored the Educator & Youth Mini-Grant Program for the third consecutive year. The purpose of the grants were to provide financial assistance to area schools and Soil & Water Conservation Districts to educate youth on natural resources and the environment. Ten projects were funded up to \$500 that benefited over 3,674 youth. Listed below are the grant recipients and their projects: titles.

◆ **Appomattox River Soil & Water Conservation District**

Urban Farm Day
Appomattox River SWCD hosted a farm day for six area schools in Dinwiddie County and Petersburg. Students had an opportunity to visit a local farm to learn more about agriculture. They learned why it is important to conserve the land, water, air, animals, and plants. Students learned about the environment and what they can do to make sure it is here for future generations. Grant funds were used to purchase supplies and materials.



◆ **AP Hill Elementary School (Petersburg)**

Worms Have Class
Students did research on landfills and recycling; and then collected and sorted paper and cardboard. The class explored what worms eat and how to keep them alive and healthy. The entire school participated in feeding the worms by bringing apple and banana peels every day to place in the worm bins. Twice a month students from each grade level came for an explanation/ demonstration of what the worms were doing and how they reduced the amount of garbage going into the landfill. The compost will be used to grow strong healthy plants. Grant funds were used to purchase worm bins, pots, soil, seedlings, and seeds.



◆ **Woodlawn Learning Center (Hopewell)**

How Does Your Garden Grow
Preschool students from Woodlawn Learning Center participated in the development of their own community garden. Students were able to plant corn, tomato, dill, cantaloupe, carrots, peppers, lima beans, peas, squash, cucumbers, cabbage, strawberries, lettuce, watermelons, and pumpkins. They also planted flowers: zinnias, dianthus, sunflowers, marigolds & petunias. Virginia State University donated a cellugro garden unit and soil which was in addition to the garden that students created. Students were also taught about the nutritional value of the vegetables grown in the garden. Grant funds were used to purchase seeds, potting soil, sprinkler, and other materials.



◆ **Edward Wyatt Middle School (Greensville County)**

The Connection
Students from Wyatt Middle School were able to take a fieldtrip to the Nottoway River to conduct water quality experiment tests. Students also used hands-on activities to learn about soil properties, erosion, and how their actions can affect the quality of the soil and a watershed. Students also learned about freshwater ecosystems and completed hands-on activities on stream ecology, and water quality. Grant funds were used to purchase materials.



◆ **Chowan Basin Soil & Water Conservation District**

Youth Farm Day for Second & Third Graders
The Chowan Basin SWCD utilized their grant to hold a Youth Farm Day for 2nd and 3rd graders on a farm in Sussex County. The youths were able to visit 10 stations that included wildlife, forestry, livestock, farm equipment, and water quality. Grant funds were used to purchase supplies and activity books.



◆ **Greensville County High School/Greensville-Emporia 4-H**

Community Keyhole Garden
The mini grant was awarded to build the keyhole garden at the Greensville/Emporia Extension Office. The keyhole garden is a round garden of about two meters in diameter and raised to waist height to make them easy for the sick and elderly to work. It is supported by stonework that protects the rich soils from erosion. The garden serves as an outdoor classroom for various classes. Vegetables & fruits harvested from the garden will be used for demonstrations on preparing healthy meals from the garden and donated to the local food bank. Grant funds were used to purchase landscaping materials.



◆ **Greensville Elementary School**

Plant, Watch, Grow!
Kindergarten students were able to plant their own seeds in pots and monitor their growth. The class also attempted to start a flower garden in a mini greenhouse. Grant funds were used to purchase flower seeds, watering cans, a greenhouse, and other supplies.



◆ **JEB Stuart Elementary School (Petersburg)**

Understanding Conservation
Seventy students along with nine parent volunteers were able to complete a school beautification project. The project consisted of planting flowers and shrubs, laying down landscaping fabric, and spreading mulch. Grant funds were used to purchase plants, bird feeders, mulch, and other materials.



◆ **Dinwiddie Junior High School**

Courtyard Beautification
All three agriculture classes worked on a beautification project to improve the school courtyard area. Students planted shrubs, mulched flower beds, installed two bird feeders, and painted exterior walls to improve the courtyard. The school was able to receive assistance from the Dinwiddie County Master Gardeners for design ideas and guidance. Grant funds were used for materials and supplies.



◆ **James River Soil & Water Conservation District**

Prince George County Farm Day
Prince George County SWCD hosted a farm day for second graders in the county. Students learned why soils are important to the world we live in and the food we eat. Grant funds were used to purchase handouts.



Projects Continued

South Centré Corridors continues to lead the Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable

The Council signed a new grant agreement with Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to administer the Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable for the third consecutive year. This project meets our goal to work with our partners to increase our cooperation of watershed protection. The Roundtable is a group of stakeholders whose interest is to protect and preserve the natural resources and water quality in the Albemarle & Chowan Watersheds. Those stakeholders consist of local, federal, and state environmental agencies, local county/city governments, nonprofit organizations and citizens. Planned activities include developing a Living In Your Watershed Booklet about the Chowan Watershed for youth. Other activities include hosting a Rivers Day program and four quarterly meetings for stakeholders.



Council Partners with Virginia Cooperative Extension on Local Foods Symposium

On May 26, 2010 South Centré Corridors RC&D Council partnered with Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia FAIRS to hold a Local Foods Symposium at Virginia State University's Randolph Farm. A total of 67 people participated in the symposium. South Centré Corridors RC&D Council participated on the planning committee and gave a short presentation during the symposium. Symposium topics included community benefits and economic impacts of local foods, farm to school initiatives, and resource agencies that support local food systems. This project meets our goal to create agriculture and forestry educational opportunities.

Partnering with Virginia Cooperative Extension on Fall Forestry Bus Tour

The Council partnered with Virginia Cooperative Extension to host the 33rd Annual Fall Forestry Bus Tour for 68 participants in Southampton County. Participants were educated on quail management, prescribed burning, NRCS cost-share programs, conservation easements, and southern pine beetle prevention. Old Dominion Electric Cooperative also gave a presentation on how woody biomass would integrate into the proposed Cypress Creek Power Station. South Centré Corridors RC&D Council handled the workshop registration for participants and were involved in planning the tour. This project meets our goal to create agriculture and forestry educational opportunities.



Council Recognized for Statewide Awards



Belinda Piercy, Principal, received the award for Woodlawn Learning Center in Hopewell for Outstanding RC&D Project with Youth Involvement.



Members from Mission Ministries received the Outstanding RC&D Project for the Mission Ministries Outreach Center. From left-right Bob Baker, Connie Morris, and Crocket Morris.

The Virginia Association of RC&D Councils held their Annual Meeting in Smithfield, VA on April 28 - April 30, 2010. Two South Centré Corridors projects were recognized for statewide awards. Mission Ministries Outreach Center received the Outstanding RC&D Project award. Woodlawn Learning Center in Hopewell received the Outstanding RC&D Project with Youth Involvement award for their community garden project.

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 Mission

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

Financial Statement

Net Assets as of June 30, 2010	\$48,253
Total Income	\$23,880
Total Expenses	\$16,175

The finances of South Centré Corridors RC&D Council were audited by Sandra Claytor, CPA for fiscal year 2010.

South Centré Corridors filed an Internal Revenue Service Form 990 as a statement of its financial activity in fiscal year 2010.

South Centré Corridors RC&D is authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture and received \$136,129 in technical support through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Sponsors

Dinwiddie County
Greensville County
City of Hopewell
City of Petersburg
Prince George County
Southampton County

Sussex County

Appomattox River SWCD

Chowan Basin SWCD

James River SWCD

Crater Planning District Commission

Officers

Stacey Bradshaw, Chair
Mary E. Jones, Vice Chair
Linda Clements, Secretary
Linda McAllister, Treasurer
Don Bagshaw, Past Chair

RC&D Staff

Patrick Vincent, RC&D Coordinator

Meredith Wilson, Administrative Assistant

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance (staff, office, vehicle, etc.) to the South Centré Corridors RC&D Council.



"USDA Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"

2010 Annual Report



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