

I would like to thank South Centré Corridors RC&D Council for selecting me to be their next Chairperson. It has been a great privilege to serve on the Council and I look forward to working with the members and the RC&D Staff.



The Council had an active role in several successful projects in the last fiscal year. Through our Educator & Youth Mini-Grant Program, area schools and Soil & Water Districts' educated students on the importance of natural resources and the environment. The Council continued to provide leadership and facilitate the Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable and partnered with other RC&D Councils to host educational workshops. To help reduce nonpoint source pollution the Council partnered with James River Soil & Water Conservation District to conduct several rain barrel workshops for citizens to build and take home. These were just a few of our successful projects, please read more of our annual report for additional information on these projects and others that the Council took part in over the last year.

South Centré Corridors RC&D Council recently completed their next 5-year area plan. The Council's next plan will focus on agriculture sustainability, forestry, youth education, improving impaired waters, alternative energy, recreation, and capacity building. The Council looks forward to partnering with other nonprofit organizations, agencies, institutions, local, state and federal government agencies to meet the goals of our next plan.

I would also like to welcome new Council Members, Prince George representative John Nicol and Hopewell representative Christina Luman-Baily. We look forward to your input and participation. Finally I would like to congratulate Mary E. Jones for becoming South Centré Corridor's first inductee into the Virginia Association of Resource Conservation & Development Council's Hall of Fame. Thanks for your hard work and dedication.

Stacey T. Bradshaw
Chairman

Woodland Options Course Held in Dinwiddie

The Council partnered with the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program to host a forestry workshop called Woodland Options. This workshop educated new and existing landowners about the benefits of their existing forested land. Presenters at the workshop informed landowners about assessing resources, costs and benefits, defining objectives, finding assistance, multiple-use management of pines and hardwoods, and wildlife effects. Other organizations that participated were Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Game & Inland Fisheries, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Smurfit Stone Container Corporation. Twenty-six landowners that manage 3,900 acres participated in the workshop. South Centré Corridors provided assistance with registrations, arranging speakers, and program planning. This workshop was tied to our goal to *Increase Agricultural Opportunities*.

Rain Barrel Workshops in Hopewell & Prince George

South Centré Corridors RC&D Council partnered with James River Soil & Water Conservation District to conduct four workshops to educate over 120 participants to build their own rain barrel. After completing the workshop each participant was able to take home a rain barrel for personal use. The main use of rain barrels are to conserve stormwater and reduce nonpoint source pollution. Tools for the workshops were purchased by the Council. The Council also handled registration and assisted with teaching the workshop. Conducting the rain barrel workshops was an action item for our goal to *Protect and Ensure Groundwater Quality*.



Council Provides Financial Assistance to Prince George & Dinwiddie Drinking Water Clinics

Prince George and Dinwiddie residents recently participated in drinking water clinics, which are household water quality testing programs administered by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Participants from 162 households had samples of their household water tested. Those households were educated on the results from their test, how to prevent contamination, and how to treat water quality problems. The Council provided \$1,000 to each county to help reduce the cost for citizens to participate in the program. This project met our goal to *Protect and Ensure Groundwater Quality*.



Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable Making Regional Progress

The Council continues to provide leadership over the Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable. 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.



Under the leadership of South Centré Corridors four Roundtable meetings were held, three educational workshops were conducted, and a Rivers Day event was organized. The Roundtable partnered with South Hampton Roads RC&D Council to hold a watershed awareness workshop for 55 participants in Suffolk, VA. Old Dominion RC&D Council held two water quality presentations for teachers and students in Lunenburg and Nottoway Counties. The 2nd Annual Albemarle-Chowan Watershed & Rivers Day was held on June 6, 2009 at Blackwater Boat Landing in Franklin, VA. Thirty participants attended and took part in the youth fishing tournament and visited with exhibitors from environmental agencies and organizations. This project meets our goal to *Increase and Improve Recreational Opportunities*.

Investing in Sustainable Forestry Workshop Held in Sussex

The Council partnered with the Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Virginia Department of Forestry to offer a one-day short course for forest landowners interested in learning how to make profitable and sustainable investments in the future of their forests. The course was called "Investing in Sustainable Forestry – Profitable Forest Management in the 21st Century".



Topics covered during the workshop included: increasing forest productivity, improving forest health, increasing biodiversity, conserving soil and water and sequestering carbon. Participants also had an opportunity to develop an understanding of: socio-economic benefits, legal, institutional and economic situations, and establish peer to peer educational opportunities.

Fifty-one landowners, who owned 10,250 acres of forested land participated in the workshop. This workshop met our goal to *Increase Agricultural Opportunities*.

2009 Educator & Youth Mini-Grant Program

South Centré Corridors RC&D Council sponsored an Educator & Youth Mini-Grant Program for the 2nd year throughout our entire project area. The purpose of the grants were to provide financial assistance to area schools and Soil & Water Conservation District's to educate youth on natural resources and the environment. Five projects were funded for \$500 each that benefited over 991 youth from 6 schools. Listed below are the grant recipients.

♦ Woodlawn Learning Center (City of Hopewell)

Supplies and equipment to create outdoor vegetable and flower gardens on school grounds were purchased for preschool students. Prior to creating their gardens, students listened to classroom stories about planting seeds and how to care for them.



♦ JEB Stuart Elementary School (City of Petersburg)

To enhance beautification of school grounds and students' knowledge about trees, JEB Stuart used their grant to purchase and plant trees. Students remove litter from their school grounds, participated in tree identification activities and celebrated Arbor Day with a tree planting.



♦ Edward Wyatt Middle School (Greensville County)

Students at Wyatt Middle School were able to use their grant to purchase water testing equipment and supplies for a watershed workshop. Water testing experiments were conducted during a field trip at the Nottoway River. Students analyzed their findings through descriptive writing, taking and drawing photos.



♦ Chowan Basin Soil & Water Conservation District (Sussex County)

The Chowan Basin SWCD utilized its' mini-grant to hold a youth farm day for 2nd & 3rd graders in Sussex County. Mini-grant funds were used to purchase water quality and soils activity books for each student and educator guides for each teacher. The event allowed students to learn about natural resources and conservation topics at ten stations. Stations included water quality, soils & erosion, wildlife, forestry, crops and life cycles, animal control, live stock, farm equipment, and two craft stations where they made a soil profile tube and soybean baby.



The mini-grant program meets our goal to *Protect and Ensure Ground Water Quality*.

Annual Awards Banquet Held in Hopewell

The Council held its' first Awards Banquet on September 29, 2008 at the Beacon Theatre in Hopewell to recognize past projects, individuals, and organizations that have made significant contributions to South



Centré Corridors and the local community. The following projects, partners, organizations, and individuals were recognized. **Outstanding RC&D Projects:** Burrowsville School Community Planning, JEJ Moore Middle School Outdoor Classroom/Nature Trail, and the Educator & Youth Mini-Grant Program. **Outstanding Partners:** Virginia Clean Cities, and the City of Franklin. **Outstanding Council Member:** Stacey Bradshaw. **Hall of Fame Award:** Mary E. Jones. **Service Awards:** Don Bagshaw, Stacey Bradshaw, Mary E. Jones, W.D. Kreider, Dan Lee, Granville Maitland, Linda McAllister, Jerry Skalsky. **Community Service Awards:** Friends of Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR), Blackwater/Nottoway Riverkeeper Program, Rebuilding * Together Petersburg. **Special Recognition:** Meredith Wilson, Administrative Assistant

Council Receives Circle of Diamonds Recognition

South Centré Corridors RC&D Council recently received membership into the National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Council's (NARC&DC) Circle of Diamonds. Circle of Diamond councils exemplify positive impacts in the quality of life within their local areas. Circle members are publicly accountable and realize that their accountability directly relates to the councils structure, process, and outcomes each member of the Circle attains. The program highlights Councils that have produced quality programs within their local community. Primarily, membership in NARC&DC's Circle of Diamonds will show the honesty, integrity and strong commitment of Councils to the RC&D mission.



Council Recognized for Statewide Awards

The Virginia Association of RC&D Councils held their Annual Meeting in South Boston, VA on April 29 — May 1, 2009. South Centré Corridors was recognized for three awards. The City of Franklin received the award for Outstanding Partner. This award was for their assistance with the Albemarle-Chowan Watershed & Rivers Day program. South Centré Corridors received an award for The Educator & Youth Mini-Grant Program project. Mary E. Jones received the Hall of Fame Award.



Donald Goodwin receives the award for the City of Franklin.



Mary E. Jones receives the Hall of Fame Award.

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

1. Improve Downtown Re-Development and Revitalization
2. Increase Agricultural Opportunities
3. Increase and Improve Recreational Opportunities
4. Protect and Ensure Groundwater Quality
5. Improve and Increase Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Council

Financial Statement

Net Assets as of June 30, 2008	\$40,567
Total Income	\$27,899
Total Expenses	\$28,081

The finances of South Centré Corridors RC&D Council were audited by Sandra Claytor, CPA for fiscal year 2008.

South Centré Corridors filed an Internal Revenue Service Form 990 as a statement of their financial activity in fiscal year 2008.

South Centré Corridors RC&D is authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture and received \$137,310 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

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”

2009

Annual Report



6450 Administration Drive
P.O. Box 1237
Prince George, Virginia 23875
Phone: (804) 732-4375
Fax: (804) 732-4713

www.southcentrecorridorsrcd.org/