



# Eastern Shore RC&D

## 2019/20 Annual Report

### From the Council Leadership...

For nearly half a century, the Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development (ESRC&D) has worked quietly in the background on a wide range of local issues. We pioneered development of innovative public infrastructure such as waterless fire hydrants for dealing with the challenges of rural firefighting. We spearheaded widespread implementation of public boat landings in many of our seaside and bayside towns. We collaborated on the development of model conservation demonstration programs such as Living Shorelines, which not only mitigate erosion from increased weather activity and rising sea levels, but also improve water quality which in turn improves aquaculture. The reestablishment of oyster and clam beds in the Chesapeake Bay and in the coastal waters of the seaside contribute not only to a major economic gain but also to the resiliency of our shorelines. Not only do we facilitate the research and development of conservation and resource infrastructure, we follow up with community outreach and education to spread the practices of resiliency throughout the community and private landowners. Most recently we have been known for our work with the Eastern Shore Watersheds Roundtable and its efforts to engage the community in ensuring clean water for drinking, business, agriculture, and recreation.

As we look toward the future, the ESRC&D is at a critical crossroads in terms of sustainability. While federal funding for the national RC&D program ended in 2011, we are thankful for the generous support of our state and local partners which has enabled us to continue to fulfill our mission during this last decade. We understand now more than ever the need to be good stewards of the investments made in our community. We look forward to an important year of reengaging our partnerships

and strategic planning to determine our priorities for the coming year and the next half century to come!



*Pictured Left the **RC&D Executive Board:**  
Jim Crunk; Keith Privett;  
Barney Selph; Edwin Long;  
and Joe Mysko (not pictured)*

#### Council Members 2019/20

##### **Accomack County**

Barney Selph, Secretary\*  
Vacant Positions (3)

##### **Northampton County**

James Crunk\*  
Stanley Plowden  
Butch Nottingham  
Joseph Mysko, Treasurer\*

##### **Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission**

E. Wayne Haycox  
Lynn Custis Thornton  
Richard Jenkins  
Vacant Position

##### **Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District**

Cora Johnston Baird  
Edwin Long, Chair\*  
Keith Privett, Vice Chair\*  
Sally Williams

##### **Projects Director**

(as of September 2020)  
Caroline Bott

director@esrcd.org

757.204.1266

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Follow us on Facebook:

@easternshorercd

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\*Executive Board Member

*The Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development Council is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization serving Accomack and Northampton Counties. The work of the Council is locally defined and directed by a council that represents a diverse cross section of community interests. **Our Mission is to improve, enhance, and preserve the quality of life on the Eastern Shore of Virginia by coordinating and educating the community to promote and protect the use of resources.***

# Projects

*The pandemic has impacted almost every aspect of our lives, and the ESRC&D is no exception. A number of 2019/20 projects were delayed or put on hold as schools, businesses, and organizations were temporarily closed and social distancing protocols were put in place. Further disruptions to our work continuity were experienced due to a transition in leadership as a new Projects Director was hired. We look forward to resuming our work and identify new projects with the assistance of our Council members and partners in the coming year. If you have project ideas/suggestions and want to partner with the ESRC&D please reach out to our Projects Director Caroline Bott at [director@esrcd.org](mailto:director@esrcd.org) or 757-204-1266.*

## **Project: Kegotank Elementary School Rain Garden & Environmental Education Curriculum**

ESRC&D partnered with the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District to develop a rain garden at the school and partnered with Eastern Shore Master Gardeners to provide instruction assistance and conservation education to students. The Projects Director participated in Career Day and talked about farming and its impacts. Pungoteague and Kiptopeke elementary schools expressed interested conducting similar programs. Due to the pandemic, project activities were suspended.

## **Project: Broadwater Academy Sustainable Agriculture Teaching and Demonstration Site**

ESRC&D helped Broadwater Academy develop a sustainable agriculture teaching garden on their Pre-K through Grade 12 school campus. The ESRC&D provided funds for supplies and expert advice on planning and implementing the garden and composting site. School staff continued to develop the site despite the pandemic-related school closure and Sustainable Agriculture class is currently offered to Upper School students.

## **Project: Eastern Shore Regional Jail Garden Expansion and Composting**

ESRC&D worked with members of the Northampton County Sheriff's Department to examine ways to expand their

new re-entry program for inmates. The program includes vegetable gardening and they would like to begin composting. Due to the pandemic, project activities were suspended.

## **Project: Elementary School Conservation Activity Books**

ESRC&D worked with the Master Gardeners to develop a compost and conservation presentation program focused on youth education. The program includes both instruction as well as compost activity. Due to the pandemic, project activities were suspended.

## **Project: Native Plant Distribution**

ESRC&D partnered with the Virginia Master Gardeners and DEQ in hosting two native plant events which resulted in 550 native plant plugs (11 different species) being given away to area residents. In addition, these events provide attendees opportunities to learn about native plants and nature of the Eastern Shore.

## **Project: Waste to Wealth - An Introduction to Advanced Biological Composting ©**

ESRC&D partnered with DEQ and the Assateague National Wildlife Refuge present an educational seminar on practices to reduce pollution and improve soil health through a proven method of advanced biological composting.

## Roundtable Update

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Watersheds Roundtable program provides a range of projects addressing water quality concerns from many different angles and targeting a wide range of audiences including underserved minorities, master gardeners, master naturalists, farmers, homeowners, and the general public. The program reflects wide collaborations, even beyond the Roundtable Member organizations, the ESRC&D has successfully partnered with Town and County officials, state agencies, and non-profit organizations. Past projects include large public presentations and exhibits, hands on workshops, tree planting, environmental education for minority children, creation of interpretive signage, trash removal on a highly sensitive causeway, continued participation in Clean the Bay Day on the Shore, and more.

**We look forward to reengaging the Eastern Shore Watersheds Roundtable in the coming year!**





# WASTE TO WEALTH

An Introduction to Advanced Biological Composting

## WHEN

October 5  
1pm – 2:30pm

## WHERE

Bateman Visitors  
Center Auditorium  
Assateague National Wildlife Refuge

FEATURING: Practices to Improve Composting - User  
Friendly Methods for Home Gardeners & Farmers Adding  
Value to Organic Materials - Reducing Pollution -  
Improving the Soil Health

## OPEN PUBLIC EVENT Free

## AT THE GATE

Tell the attendant  
you are here for the  
event at the  
auditorium in the  
visitors center

## SPONSORS

Virginia DEQ  
Assateague National  
Wildlife Refuge  
Eastern Shore VA  
Resource  
Conservation &  
Development  
Council  
Eastern Shore VA  
Master Gardeners

## BENEFITING

Citizens Wanting To:  
reduce pollution,  
improve soil health,  
naturally cycle  
organic waste to  
brown gold

For Info Call:  
757-716-7266

Pictures from Master Gardener  
Native Plant Sales, Broadwater  
Academy Sustainable  
Agriculture Class, and the  
Waste to Wealth seminar.



# Partners & Sponsors

*As always, we are thankful for the partnerships we have made, past and present, and look forward to renewing our relationships in the coming year!*

Northampton County  
Accomack County  
Eastern Shore Marketing Cooperative  
**A-N Planning District Commission**  
**Chesapeake Bay Foundation**  
**Chincoteague Bay Field Station**  
**Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore**  
**DCR's Natural Heritage Program**  
**DEQ's Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program**  
Eastern Shore Environmental Education Council  
Eastern Shore Healthy Communities Coalition  
Eastern Shore Rural Health Systems, Inc.  
**Eastern Shore Health District, VA Dept. Health**  
**Eastern Shore Soil & Water Conservation District**  
Farm Bureau Northampton  
Farm Credit Mid-Atlantic  
Future Harvest/Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture  
Hampton Inn & Suites Exmore  
National Association of RC&Ds  
**Resource Management Associates**  
**The Nature Conservancy**

Town of Exmore  
Town of Onancock  
USDA Agricultural Research Service  
**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
USDA Rural Development  
Virginia Association of RC&Ds  
Virginia Cooperative Extension VCE  
Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
**Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation**  
Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality  
**Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust**  
Virginia Department of Forestry  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
Virginia State University Small Farm Outreach Program  
Virginia Tech Eastern Shore AREC  
Virginia Tech Hampton Roads AREC  
VISTA Volunteer Program  
Waste Watchers of the Eastern Shore

**Indicates a Member of  
Eastern Shore Watersheds Roundtable**

## Statement of Activities for FY 2019/20

Annually, the Council develops a Work Plan that describes priority projects for the coming year and the resources required to accomplish them. Projects are identified through public input and from direct requests for assistance from sponsors, partner organizations, and individuals. Potential partners are invited to make presentations on their proposal to RC&D Council members.

<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Grants		\$19,869
Local Sponsor Support		0
Interest Income		\$11
Program Revenue		
Total Revenue		\$19,880
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration		\$10,179
Excess for the Year		
<b>Total Assets</b>	(Beginning of Yr)	(End of Yr)
	\$28,222	\$35,454
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1	0
<b>Net Assets</b>	\$28,221	\$35,454
<b>Program Expenses</b>		
<i>These numbers represent amounts that will be reported on the organization's 2019-20 IRS 990.</i>		

