



Charles Soil Conservation District Annual Report 2020

The Charles Soil Conservation District serves an area that is changing rapidly from rural agricultural to suburban residential, commercial and industrial land uses. The Potomac and Patuxent rivers border the district in the west, south and east, and are the focus of multi-agency conservation programs. Although the District's main priority is to provide the agricultural community with technical assistance to conserve valuable soil and water resources, development pressures have generated an increased workload in the District's sediment and erosion control and pond review responsibilities. More than 60 percent of the land area of the county remains forested and is home to several environmentally important areas such as the Mattawoman Creek and Zekiah Swamp.

Major Accomplishments in 2020

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs)—Developed 18 new comprehensive SCWQPs to help farmers protect natural resources on 2,116 acres of farmland. Currently there are 19,135 planned acres in Charles County.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)—Worked with 16 farmers to install 58 BMPs to control soil erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality on 447 acres.

Cover Crops—Provided technical assistance to 34 farmers who planted 2,862 acres of cover crops in Fall 2020.

Erosion and Sediment Control—Reviewed 1,361 erosion and sediment control plans for construction projects with 1,049 approvals impacting 4,253 acres. Charles SCD held coordination meetings with Charles County Government sediment and erosion control inspectors.



subsidized rental program in conjunction with Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC). Rental equipment available: 12' Turbo Till, Post Pounder, 7' No-Till Drill, and 10' No-Till Drill.

Agricultural Rental Equipment—Coordinated and provided technical assistance to farmers who planted cover crop m pollinator habitats, and pastures; built equine and livestock fencing; and performed pasture renovations and seed bed preparation utilizing equipment offered through a

Board of Supervisors

Charles Rice *Chairman*
Jeffrey Bossart *Vice Chairman*
Jack Welch *Treasurer*
Wes Tomlinson *Member*
Wayne Hancock *Member*
Alan Leslie *Secretary/UME*
Kevin Warring *Associate Supervisor*
Lynne Wheeler *Associate Supervisor*



New Hires—

- Brian Brookhart, PE

Website—Maintained the updated Charles SCD website: CharlesSCD.com

Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant—Maintained native landscaping, and raingardens at the Charles County Agricultural and Environmental Service Center. Maintained grassed waterway and associated conservation practices to address

resource concerns on the District farm. These practices serve as conservation efforts as well as models for our local farmers, developers, and homeowners.

Charles County Dam Inspections—Assisted Charles County Government with dam inspections and assessments. Staff carried out topographic surveys of three high hazard flood control dams in addition to assisting with annual safety inspections.

Howard Soil Conservation District—Assisted HSCD with agricultural engineering workload.

Sponsorships—

- Charles County and Maryland Envirothons
- Hosted three college interns
- Earth Team volunteers on USDA-NRCS Student Conservation Leadership Council
- Charles County Coloring and Poster Contests
- University of Maryland Soil Judging Team
- UME Hay and Pasture Conference
- UME Calving Workshop

Hosted Visits, Events, and Trainings—

- Charles County Government
- Charles County Commissioners
- Survey Training

Annual Dinner — The May 20, 2020 scheduled Annual Conservation Dinner was cancelled due to COVID. The 2019 cooperators of the year will be recognized at the September 2021 Annual Cooperator Dinner.



Conservation Education—

- Provided ongoing training for high school students participating in the Envirothon, an outdoor natural resources competition for students interested in learning about the environment. Over 75 students from all seven of the county’s public high schools participated in the Envirothon in 2020. All three trainings were able to take place, however both the Charles County Envirothon Competition and the Maryland Envirothon Competition were cancelled due to COVID.
- Sponsored the Annual Charles County MASCD Coloring Contest for Charles County elementary students and Poster Contest for elementary, middle, and high school students.
- Sponsored high school and college interns to engage and educate future conservationists.
- Hosted two high school Earth Team volunteers participating in USDA-NRCS Student Conservation Leadership Council.



Technological Support Systems—

- Website: CharlesSCD.com
- Charles County Bluebeam Review
- Web Soil Survey
- Aerial Photo Database

Participation in—

- Charles County Dam Inspections
- Monthly Charles County Inspections Meetings
- Monthly Town of La Plata Meetings
- Monthly Agricultural Workload Meetings
- Quarterly WIP Progress Meetings
- Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Quarterly and Annual Meetings
- Charles County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board
- Patuxent River Commission
- Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development
- Monarch Watch



Staff Members

Luis Dieguez	<i>District Manager, SCD</i>
Dee Dee Saunders	<i>District Coordinator, SCD</i>
Susan Pirner	<i>Secretary, SCD</i>
Timothy Wells, PE	<i>Conservation Engineer, SCD</i>
Jerry Spence	<i>Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist, MDA</i>
Randy Sweeney	<i>Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist, MDA</i>
Sara Lewis	<i>Soil Conservation Planner Regional Equine Specialist, MDA</i>
Udeni Leanage	<i>Soil Conservation Agricultural Technician, MDA</i>
LeeAnn Olthaus	<i>Soil Conservation Agricultural Technician, SCD (Grant)</i>
Sidney Saunders	<i>Public Affairs Intern, SCD</i>
Rachel Yeatman	<i>District Conservationist, NRCS</i>
Brian Brookhart, PE	<i>SoMD Regional Engineer, NRCS</i>
Jake Kiessling	<i>Civil Engineering Technician, NRCS</i>
Mike Montillo	<i>Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS</i>
Colleen Kiefer	<i>Conservation Planner, NRCS</i>
Valinda Clark	<i>Program Support Specialist, RC&D</i>

If you would like to receive this annual report by email, please send your information to info@CharlesSCD.com



Charles Soil Conservation District
4200 Gardiner Road
Waldorf, MD 20601