

2026 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GARY CROSS, Southampton
WYATT COX, Sussex
M.L. EVERETT, Southampton
H.M. DUNN, JR, Sussex
JEFF ROACH, Greenville
WALTER ROBINSON, Greenville
JIMMY FERGUSON, Greenville
ELIZABETH COOPER, Sussex VCE
ANTHONY GILLUS, Greenville (Associate)
RAYMOND WARREN, Sussex (Associate)

DISTRICT PERSONNEL

JENNIFER COKER
District Manager
jcoker@chowanbasin.com

ANDREW BYERS
Conservation Technician
abyers@chowanbasin.com

DALTON HARRISON
Conservation Technician
dharrison@chowanbasin.com

WANDA SNODGRASS
Business & Finance Administrator
wsnodgrass@chowanbasin.com

CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

GREENSVILLE/SUSSEX:

EMILY ALESHIRE

SOUTHAMPTON:

GARRY BANKS,

HANNAH CLIFFORD, MEREDETH HUTCHINS

Virginia Cooperative Extension

GREENSVILLE: SARA RUTHERFORD

SOUTHAMPTON: VACANT

SUSSEX: ELIZABETH COOPER

Farm Service Agency

GREENSVILLE:

DAREYON HOWELL, JOY HOBBS

SOUTHAMPTON:

SAMANTHA BLAIR, MELISSA NURNEY,

TERI JOYNER, CHRISTIE DOYLE, KELSEY LOWE,

SAMANTHA TURNER

SUSSEX:

MONTA WORLEY, KRISTIN HEATH, LINSEY COLLIER

CHOWAN BASIN

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

706 S. Main Street Emporia, VA 23847 (434)634-2115 ext.4

Schedule
your
Appointment

PY2027 Cost-Share Sign-up

Dates: July 27th—August 28th

CALL NOW TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT!!!!

Annual Tire Amnesty Event

Thanks to all of our producers our annual tire recycling event for active agricultural producers in Greenville, Southampton, and Sussex Counties was a huge success this year. This annual program is designed to provide an opportunity to dispose of tires in an environmentally friendly way. Producers from all three localities are encouraged to bring their tires to whichever location works best for them. We thank everyone that

participated and especially those that volunteered their time and helped make the event successful!

Keep an eye out for next year's tire amnesty event!



Local Programs our District offers:

- ⇒ An annual tire amnesty program
- ⇒ Oil recycling pick-up program
- ⇒ An EC program
- ⇒ A Precision Soil Sampling program



Check out our website!

Chowanbasinswcd.org

Like Us On Facebook!



Clean Water Farm Awards

Our District was honored to award the Clean Water Farm Award to a deserving producer from each county that we serve for program year 2025-2026.

Matt Covington of Southampton County, Jeff Roach of Greenville County, and Ryan Stephenson of Sussex County were recognized for their exceptional conservation management. All three producers implement conservation practices that improve and protect water quality through the reduction of soil and nutrient loss.

They employ planting cover crops, precision nutrient management technology, and other best management practices on all their acres to achieve these results.



On the left:
Andrew Byers
presenting
Matt Covington
his award



On the left:

Gary Cross
presenting
Jeff Roach
his award

On the Right:
Ryan Stephenson
with his award



Community Outreach Event

The District held its Local Community Outreach Event and Producer Appreciation Luncheon at the Joyner-Gray Ruritan Club in Yale. We had several representatives from partner agencies to provide updates and information on programs their agencies offer. We thank Bob Glennon with DWR, Elizabeth Cooper with VCE in Sussex, DW Coble with DOF, Marie Schirmacher with DCR and Garry Banks with VSU Small Farmers Outreach Program for attending and speaking.





Congratulations!!!

CLASS OF 2026



Our District would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2026 College Scholarship Awards.

Every year we offer scholarships to college freshmen and high school seniors who reside in Greenville, Southampton, and Sussex Counties and are planning on majoring in a course curriculum related to natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies.



Anthony David Cuthbertson, Jr.

David graduated from Southampton Academy. He is the son of Anthony and Jennifer Cuthbertson of Newsoms.

He will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall majoring in Crop and Soil Sciences.



William Thomas Barham

Will graduated from Southampton High School. He is the son of Chris and Stacy Barham of Capron.

He will be attending NC State University in the fall majoring in Field Crop Technology and Ag Business.

Isabel Maria Vaughan

Isabel graduated from Vaughan Academy Homeschool. She is the daughter of Chris and Casey Vaughan of Emporia.



She will be attending Nash Community College in the fall majoring in Equine Science and Biology.



2025 YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP

This year our District selected three amazing students to receive scholarships to attend the 48th Annual Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg in July. This week-long summer conservation camp is held on VT's campus for high school students and brings together over 70 students for a week of hands-on outdoor learning about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals and VT faculty.

Congratulations to Irene White, upcoming sophomore at Southampton Academy; James Trombley upcoming sophomore at Tidewater Academy; and Collin Hunter, upcoming junior at Tidewater Academy.



Important Dates To Remember!!!



Deadline for early cover crop planting— November 10, 2026

Deadline for standard cover crop planting—November 30, 2026

Final Deadline to report cover crop planting—December 15, 2026

Burn Down — March 15, 2027—June 1, 2027

Late Burn Down Incentive —May 1, 2027—June 1, 2027



The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Chowan Basin Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Chowan Basin SWCD
705 South Main St.
Emporia, VA 23847