



**Quarterly Meeting
November 19, 2009
Tidewater Agricultural Research & Extension Center
Suffolk, VA**

Present: Harvey Baker (NRCS, Greensville), Stacey Bradshaw (Chowan Basin SWCD), Eric Brittle (VDGIF), Neil Clark (V Coop Ext), Harvey Darden (VDOF), Michael Faulk (NRCS Smithfield), Roy Flanagan (Virginia Dare SWCD), Tyrone Franklin (Surry Co.), Todd Herbert (DCR/APNEP), Kim Hummel (Isle of Wight Co.), Claire Jones (Hampton Roads PDC), Beth Lewis (Southampton Co.), Judy Lyttle (Southampton Co.), Brian Saunders (NRCS Sussex), Skip Stiles (Wetland Watch), Yamika Stokes (NRCS Courtland), Patrick Vincent (South Centré Corridors RC&D), Meredith Wilson (South Centré Corridors RC&D)

I. Welcome: Patrick Vincent welcomed everyone to the meeting and called for introductions.

II. Minutes from 8/11/09 Meeting: P. Vincent reviewed the minutes. If anyone has question, suggestions or additions regarding the minutes please contact the office.

III. Guest Speaker – Skip Stiles, Executive Director, Wetlands Watch, Wetlands & Climate Change in Virginia – Wetlands Watch has been in existence since 2001. Mr. Stiles discussed the issue of sea-level rise and conserving wetlands in the Hampton Roads area. On the East Coast land is sinking. Sea level rise is a new issue in human history. Melting glaciers are causing sea level rise. Wetlands, as productive as rain forests, are the most productive ecosystem in North America. It is important to preserve the wetlands. The Hampton Roads area has the greatest risk of losing wetlands to sea-level rise in the United States. With sea level rise affecting the shoreline storm surges will be a bigger problem. To address the problem coastal regional maps with contours are needed for the Hampton Roads area. Also, applying the Chesapeake Bay 2000 plan, an ecosystem assessment, identifying mitigation areas, and local government assistance in carrying out the plans are needed. Some effects of sea level rise are: economic, recreational (saltwater sport fishing). Some areas will be under water and will change to saltwater & tidal; Barrier islands will not last. Action plans to combat sea-level rise: make land use changes, give local governments authority to make decisions, involve federal government, develop maps & models to see what the future holds, include climate change in TMDLs. For more information see www.wetlandswatch.org.

IV. Plan of Work for FY 2010: P. Vincent, T. Herbert & S. Bradshaw worked to modify the plan of work. The total budget for 2010 will be \$7,000.00 for meetings, projects, workshops, and the awareness event. RC&D Councils may use project funds for mini grants to SWCDs or schools for natural resources projects, with emphasis on water quality. The Plan of Work must be submitted to DCR by tomorrow. For the next River Day, E. Brittle suggested talking to the Wakefield 4-H Center about getting youth groups/campers to participate.

V. Partner Updates: DCR/APNEP: T. Herbert reported the DCR Storm Regulations comment period ends before Thanksgiving. L. Brinn sent an e-mail regarding APNEP's new RFP for outdoor classrooms, grant proposals are due 12/31. **South Centré Corridors RC&D –** P. Vincent reported the council is working to develop a Buy Fresh, Buy Local chapter next year, working with Mission Ministries with funding, the Mission Ministries Outreach Center is located in Waverly. The building will tentatively be completed in January. The Council is within its 3rd year of the Mini-Grant Program. **South Hampton Roads RC&D –** J. Lyttle reported the Council is working on a TMDL on the Elizabeth River.

The Camp Young Project is starting. The Council is offering grants to Surry & Suffolk Free Clinics and also contributed funds to Mission Ministries. They are doing an Isle Be Green Project in Isle of Wight County. **SWCD –**

Virginia Dare - R. Flanagan reported that cover crops got in before the storm. The District has a new director.

Chowan Basin – S. Bradshaw reported the Strategic Plan was approved in July. They are conducting adult education activities. Farm Day was held in Southampton County with 234 2nd graders. They are still doing the cover crop program. **NRCS –** Y. Stokes reported that programs have just finished Period 1 CSP sign-ups. By 11/27

pre-approvals should be received. They are waiting on 2010 guidelines for the EQIP/WHIP programs. B. Saunders says NRCS is catching up on work while the farmers are in the fields. **DOF –** H. Darden reported planting season is here. No extra cost-share money is available now. The previously approved applications have been funded. The reforestation program, cost-share program for next year may be affected. The Tomorrow's Woods Program for funding & conservation easements will be beginning soon for Dinwiddie, Isle of Wight, Prince George, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, and City of Suffolk. A flyer will be produced soon. Landowners contact H. Darden.

DGIF – E. Brittle reported that the Back Bay vegetation re-establishment project will start February or March. **Ext –** N. Clark gave a Forestry update. In the spring there will be funding for hardwood seedlings for 4-H/teachers. 12/6, 6-9pm Forest Landowner Issues in Southeast VA/Tree Farm program will be held. **Counties –** no updates. **Hampton Roads PDC –** C. Jones reported they are working with the city of Chesapeake and The Nature Conservancy on a watershed management plan for the Northwest River Watershed. They are also involved in the Hampton Roads Roundtable Watershed.

VI. Next Meeting Date & Location: February 2010, exact date and location to be announced.