

## HIGHLIGHTS - VARC&DC ANNUAL MTG



USDA/FSA was a key sponsor of the annual meeting. Pictured are: Jacquelin Easter, State Executive Director and Lee Womack, Augusta/Highland County Executive Director.

Jim Nichols boards one of bio-diesel buses.



Shenandoah RC&D Projects Tour - waste oil furnace for pyrolysis project.

A good time was had by all at the Awards Banquet.



Jim Lawrence and John Eckman speak about land protection.

Sherry Swinson passes the gavel to Jay Hubble.



## MISSION

The Shenandoah RC&D's mission is to sponsor and promote projects and programs that improve the quality of life and sustainable use of natural resources, primarily in the Shenandoah River Watershed, by providing volunteer leadership, technical resources, and financial assistance.

## GOALS

1. Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestlands and open space.
2. Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.
3. Promote the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water and air quality.
4. Promote community development and diverse rural economies.
5. Strengthen Shenandoah RC&D Council operations.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>Carryover from FY2006</b>	
Projects:	\$123,780
Admin:	\$9,507
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$133,287</b>
<b>Income during FY2007</b>	
Projects:	\$113,238
Admin:	\$21,962
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$135,200</b>
<b>Expenses during FY2007</b>	
Projects:	\$98,285
Admin:	\$10,640
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$108,925</b>
<b>Carryover to FY2008</b>	
Projects:	\$47,257
Admin:	\$21,329
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$68,586</b>

**Preliminary Financial Report:** Funds received to date have not necessitated a formal audit. A formal review has been completed.

## OFFICERS



Officers: (from left) Joan Comanor, Chairwoman; Jim Nichols, Past Chair; Jim Lawrence, Vice-Chair. Not pictured: Roy Stephenson, Secretary/Treasurer

## SPONSORS

Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District

Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District

Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

Farm Bureau

Valley Conservation Council (VCC)

Shenandoah Valley Pure Water Forum

Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

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# 2007 Annual Report



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## INTRODUCTION

The Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) area lies between the Allegheny and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the northwestern section of Virginia. It includes the independent cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester as well as the counties and towns of Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren. The seven counties in the RC&D Area comprise Virginia's Shenandoah River watershed which drains to the Chesapeake Bay. The headwaters for two major watersheds reside here, the Shenandoah and the Upper James. The Valley boasts four of the top five agricultural counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia in terms of agricultural receipts.

The Shenandoah RC&D Council was formed to help address a variety of regional natural resources concerns. The RC&D provides a community-based vehicle for assisting in the regional management and development of the natural, social, and economic resources of the Valley. The Shenandoah RC&D Council, in fulfilling its mission and vision, can serve as a catalyst and partner with others to strengthen resource protection and enhancement over time.



Joan M. Comanor, Chairwoman

## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Agua Fund, Inc.  
Chesapeake Bay Funders' Network  
Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)  
USDA - FSA  
USDA - NRCS  
Virginia Department of Forestry  
Virginia Environmental Endowment

## YEAR IN REVIEW

- Leveraged over \$1.3 million during federal FY 2007 working on and completing projects in the RC&D Area. This past year the Council adopted 17 new projects and currently has 20 projects on-going.
- Provided small grants totaling over \$50,000 to various organizations for projects that promote sustainable agriculture in the region, such as Organic Dairy Systems, Farming Fridays, a Field Crop Summer Intern, On-Farm Bio-Diesel Production, and Shiitake Mushrooms
- Hired and set up office space for two new grant-funded employees:
  - A full-time market maker funded by a \$157,000 grant from NFWF to help aggressively market the Valley's organic resources;
  - A part-time student intern to help with Waste Solutions Forum administrative work funded by a \$12,500 grant from Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment.
- Received two statewide awards from the Virginia Association of RC&D Councils: Outstanding Performance by a Council Member – Jim Nichols; Outstanding RC&D Project – Waste Solutions Forum.



Tom Benzing and Carl Luebben accept the VARC&DC Project of the Year Award for the WSF.



Jim Nichols

- Continued to fund promotional materials, field days, outreach and research related to a cover crop roller crimper to roll down and kill cover crops reducing or eliminating herbicide use.



Demonstration of Roller/Crimper

- Assisted Crossing Creeks, a supportive, therapeutic community where persons with persistent mental illness can live and work with others on a small farm, to expand the diversity of their farming operations based on sustainable agriculture principles.
- Received a three-year \$250,000 commitment from the Chesapeake Bay Funders' Network to do an adaptive fencing project to exclude livestock from Valley streams and help water quality.
- Coordinated three financing workshops with the University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center and Valley Conservation Council to examine financing Greenways, Stormwater Management, and local Purchase of Development Rights Programs as part of implementing a \$24,000 project funded by the Virginia Environmental Endowment.
- Continued work with Waste Solutions Forum to help solve issues related to excess nutrients from animal agriculture in the Valley and assist with water quality improvements, including planning the Innovative Environmental Technologies

Symposium which drew more than 250 people to the Rockingham County fairgrounds in February 2007.

- Worked with the RC&D forester and New River Highlands RC&D to reduce wildfire fuel hazards on residential properties near national forestland on almost 100 acres in the Shenandoah RC&D area; \$58,000 has been paid for technical fuel reduction work.
- Hosted the spring 2007 meeting of the Virginia Association of RC&D Councils at the historic Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton, Virginia, providing trainings, tours, awards banquet and business meetings for RC&D Councils across Virginia. (see highlights on next page)

## SPONSORS - VARC&DC ANNUAL MTG

### Gold Level

Agua Fund, Inc.  
Conservation Services, Inc.  
Coors Brewing Company  
Farm Bureau of Augusta County  
Farm Bureau of Rockingham County  
Farm Bureau of Shenandoah County  
First Bank & Trust Co.  
Hershey Chocolate of Virginia, Inc.  
Hinton Lorenzo Mortgage Company  
NIBCO of Virginia, Inc.  
SunTrust Bank  
The Virginia State Dairymen's Association  
USDA – FSA  
USDA – NRCS

### Silver Level

Home Depot of Waynesboro  
Kmart of Waynesboro  
Kroger of Staunton  
Lowe's of Staunton  
Lowe's of Waynesboro  
Martin's Food Market of Staunton  
Martin's Food Market of Waynesboro