



St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

2017 Annual Report
April 2018

Soil Stewardship Week
April 29th - May 6th

Message from the Chairman

Robert "Bobby" Cooper



The St Mary's Soil Conservation District celebrated its 75th anniversary in February of 2017 and it is very impressive to see not only the changes to production agriculture over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a century, but also the practices that have changed to protect the soil from erosion and promote soil health and productivity. Traditional intensive methods of moldboard plowing and disking of the land have transitioned to minimum and no tillage practices. Also many changes have been made in the way animal waste is controlled and managed on the farm, including stream fencing, manure storage facilities, and stabilization of heavy use areas. These are just some of the beneficial practices that are used in today's agricultural management system plans. The Soil Conservation District has been there every step of the way providing technical assistance, financial assistance, and conservation planning to balance the need to be profitable with good stewardship practices for environmental sustainability.

Not only have we seen major changes in agriculture over the last 75 years, but also major changes with laws and practices governing land clearing, development, building, timber harvesting and other land management practices that disturb soil and could cause erosion. We now implement stormwater management devices, erosion and sediment control plans, sediment traps, different types of silt fences, grass buffers, and numerous other ways of controlling erosion and runoff. The District, along with other Federal, State and County agencies, work very hard to ensure that these practices are implemented and adhered to in an effort to keep sediment and nutrients from leaving construction and disturbed sites. The rules, regulations, and practices for environmental protection are constantly changing and the staff of the soil conservation district strives to keep abreast of such changes. St Mary's County residents are very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and qualified staff working within the District.

I also would like to recognize the former Chairman of the Board, Stanley Boothe. Stanley was chairman of the board for many years and had numerous accomplishments throughout his term. He worked diligently for years to secure funding and support from our elected officials to build the Agricultural Service Center and make a "one stop shop" for our agriculture community. Stanley still serves as the District's Vice-Chairman and along with our Treasurer Donnie Ocker, their many years of experience provides guidance and direction to me and our two newest Supervisors, Jeffrey Raley, Sr. and Carl Dyson.

We have two new employees working in the District and I want to encourage you to stop in the office to meet them. Sara Williams, Administrative Aide, is a district employee and was hired by the Board in November. Sara has been doing an excellent job for the district and we welcome her to our District family. Matt Hobart, a Soil Conservationist, works for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Matt and Sara will tell you a little about themselves later in this report.

Hope everyone has a healthy and prosperous 2018.

- Robert "Bobby" Cooper

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Special points of interest:

- AB&H Excavating receives Contractor of the Year Award for work on Holton Pond
- District plans to get new manure spreader in 2018
- Coloring Contest Winners for 2017
- Cooperators of the Year - Tom & Sonny Trossbach
- Meet the New District Staff - Matt Hobart and Sara Williams

District History and Background

The St. Mary's Soil Conservation District is an independent political subunit of state government which was created on November 14, 1941. The legal charter was issued by the state of Maryland on January 5, 1942.

The District is governed by a board of supervisors who are local county residents. Members are appointed to five (5) year terms by the State Soil Conservation Committee, with recommendations from the County Commissioners, Farm Bureau, and Cooperative Extension Service. There are five voting members, one non-voting member and three associate members. These supervisors regularly attend meetings to keep informed on local, state and national issues, which could have an impact on farmers, landowners and residents within our area. The District's technical staff is provided by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Maryland Department of Agriculture and from the District itself.



1956 Aerial photo of farm in Chaptico, MD

Each year the District prepares detailed budget requests for administrative and operating funds from MDA and St. Mary's County to meet its goals and objectives. In calendar year 2017 the District received operating funds of \$73,946 from the county and \$40,021 from MDA. Additional support provided by MDA and NRCS is in the form of staff (\$564,924) and cost share support for best management practices installed through the Maryland Agriculture Cost Share (MACS) Program and Environmental Quality Assistance Program (EQIP).

2017 District Highlights

- Held 12 monthly meetings, which were scheduled for the first Thursday of each month and are open to the public
- Reviewed Memorandums of Understanding between the District and cooperating agencies at regular Board Meetings
- Attended the Winter and Summer Maryland Association of Conservation Districts (MASCD) Meetings
- Attended quarterly MASCD Board of Directors Meetings
- Maintained membership in state and national soil conservation district associations
- Cooperate with Maryland Department of the Environment on the local sediment control program
- Chairman Bobby Cooper and District Manager Bruce Young serve on the Southern Maryland RC&D Board
- Member of the county's Technical Evaluation Committee for site and subdivision approval
- Advisory member of St. Mary's County Agriculture, Seafood, & Forestry Board
- Tom Koviak and Mike Russell are certified as Nutrient Management Consultants by MDA
- Member of the local WIP II team
- Developed a workload analysis and a plan of operations for fiscal year 2017
- Maintained a list of contractors that do conservation work
- Assisted landowners in making determinations for acceptance into Agricultural Land Preservation Programs
- Completed Chancellors Point Road reconstruction project for Historic St. Mary's City Commission
- District staff are members of the State Envirothon Committee and Co-Chair for the NCF-Envirothon Maryland 2017.
- Bruce Young is a representative on the Maryland Cost Share Technical Advisory Committee
- Member of MASCD Endowment Committee
- Held a Kick-Off Meeting with core partners to initiate local funding pool through NRCS EQIP Program.
- Staff attended Patuxent Area and Patuxent Regional Partnership Meetings
- Rachael Riche selected as NRCS Student Leadership Council Representative
- Registered and updated District contact information for Open Meeting Act requirements.



2017 District Accomplishments

Agricultural Accomplishments

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans	2 no.
Conservation Cover	67.8 ac.
Conservation Crop Rotation	1263.9 ac.
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	170.1 ac.
Cover Crop	934.3 ac.
Critical Area Planting	6.7 ac.
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	1088.3 ac.
Diversion	809 ft.
Sediment Control Pond	4 no.
Streamside Fencing (10'-34')	12657 ft.
Streamside Fencing (35'+ tree buffer)	81 ft.
Fencing (Non-Streamside)	8785 ft.
Riparian Forest Buffer	1.9 ac.
Waterway	0.8 ac.
Lined Waterway or Outlet	173.1 ft.
Mulching	0.2 ac.
Forage Harvest Management	60 ac.
Forage and Biomass Planting	66.4 ac.
Livestock Pipeline	2352 ft.
Prescribed Grazing	35 ac.
Pumping Plant	3 no.
Roof Runoff Structure	3 no.
Heavy Use Area Protection	0.4 ac.
Nutrient Management	1470 ac.
Watering Facility	8 no.
Underground Outlet	676 ft.
Waste Recycling	186.1 ac.
Water Well	4 no.
Shallow Water Development	2.1 ac.
Early Successional Habitat Development	294 ac.
Conservation Plans	74 for 6117 ac.
74 Farmers Installed 292 BMP's to protect 3926 acres	



Urban Accomplishments

Plans Reviewed	976
Plans Approved	224
Acres on Approved Plans	633
TEC Reviews	27
Site Inspections	109
Forest Harvest E&S Plans	33
Pre-Construction Meetings	114

Outreach & Education



◇ 291 people attended the 64th annual cooperators' dinner meeting. The District celebrated its 75th anniversary.

- ◇ Met with congressional delegates concerning legislation that would affect St. Mary's County
- ◇ Sponsor of the Southern Maryland Crops Conference



◇ District staffed a display at the STEM Expo held on November 4th at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

- ◇ Sponsored the St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair
- ◇ Sponsored and coordinated the county envirothon program. Three (3) public high schools participated. County winner competed at the State Envirothon in Queen Anne's County. Team placed 8th at the Maryland Envirothon
- ◇ Participated in Town of Leonardtown Earth Day
- ◇ Participated in the STEM Bio-Blast Field Day
- ◇ Retain records of approved sewage sludge permits in the District office
- ◇ Published news articles in the local paper showcasing District programs and accomplishments
- ◇ Actively promoted and assisted landowners in applying for MACS and EQIP cost-share

- ◇ Participated in the MASCD Coloring Contest. Presented cash awards to the top three winners in each category
- ◇ Participated in Quality Assurance Review of District Operations and Programs
- ◇ Cooperated with the University of Maryland Extension in the development of Nutrient Management Plans
- ◇ Sponsored University of Maryland Soil Judging Team
- ◇ Member of the Mentoring Program for high school students at the Forrest Career and Technology Center
- ◇ Member of the St. Mary's County Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) program advisory committee
- ◇ Held 4 staff meetings throughout the year
- ◇ Promote conservation tillage through the lease of the District owned no-till drills. Purchased new 2017 10 foot John Deere Drill

- ◇ Participated in the Easter Festival at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
- ◇ Participated in Town of Leonardtown Christmas Tree Lighting Activities
- ◇ Had information booth at the St. Mary's County Fair in September
- ◇ Attended Senator Steve Waugh's Agriculture Forum Meeting
- ◇ Participated with the MDA Cover Crop Technical Advisory Committee
- ◇ Gave a soils presentation to Town Creek Elementary School K-5th Grade students
- ◇ Bruce Young was co-chair of the NCF-Envirothon Maryland 2017 Event. Hosted by Maryland at Mount St. Mary's University with 54 teams competing from the United States, Canada, and China.



◇ Partnered with Southern Maryland RC&D and NRCS to hold a Soils Health Workshop at the St. Mary's Agricultural Service Center



Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts Coloring Contest

Class A (K – 1st Grades)

- 1st Place - Kaitlin Shumaker, Duke Elementary
 2nd Place - Haleigh Tedder, Dynard Elementary
 3rd Place - Isabella Taracatac, Dynard Elementary

Class B (2nd-3rd Grades)

- 1st Place - Audrey Peters, Duke Elementary
 2nd Place - Isabella Derisavi, Greenview Knolls Elementary
 3rd Place - Brooklyn Connor, Oakville Elementary

Class C (4th-5th Grades)

- 1st Place - Sophie Hanks, Kings Christian Academy
 2nd Place - Aimee Shumaker, Duke Elementary
 3rd Place - Eleanor Bick, Kings Christian Academy

Each year the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District sponsors a coloring contest for Kindergarten through fifth grade. The District awards cash prizes for first, second, and third place drawings in each of three classes. The pictures are judged on neatness, attention to detail, and how well directions are followed. The first place winners in each class are then forwarded to the MASCD state contest to be judged against the winners from the other Maryland Districts.



Contractor of the Year - AB&H Excavating, Inc. Holton Pond, Patuxent River Naval Air Station

St. Mary's Soil Conservation District has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Navy, at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, to repair the failed outfall and to reconstruct the embankment of Holton Pond (Pond #3). The District has been working with Southern Maryland RC&D on this project for approximately 12 years. In 2015, the District put the project out for bid and two construction firms responded, but both bids far exceeded the available funds. The project was rebid in 2016 and only one contractor submitted a bid. At this point the U.S. Navy was able to receive additional funding and the contract was awarded to AB&H Excavating, Inc. on April 4, 2017.

AB&H Excavating mobilized on site in September of 2017 and due to permit constraints, they had to be significantly completed with the project by the end of December 2017. They fortunately had great weather this fall and were able to significantly complete the project prior to Christmas, with only the final stabilization not being done because of the frigid temperatures.

This project needed Maryland Department of the Environment Dam safety approval due to the 1200 acre drainage area to this pond. Design components included a cast in place concrete riser structure, 108 linear feet of 60" concrete pipe, a concrete pipe cradle, construction of a clay cutoff trench 290 feet long by 16 feet tall, a 3 foot wide sand filter diaphragm, a ten foot wide bottom width emergency spillway and a rip rap plunge pool scour hole at the outfall of the pipe. All of this work was completed in the three month period under the supervision of Glenn Gass, the Districts Engineer in charge, and daily by engineering technician Mike Russell.

This is the largest pond reconstruction project that the District has ever supervised construction on and it was completed on time and on budget by AB&H Excavating, Inc. Not one complaint was received and all field reports by the Maryland Department of the Environment erosion and sediment control inspector were satisfactory

2018/2019 Cover Crop Program

The 2018/2019 Cover Crop Program is expected to be level funded at 22 million dollars state-wide. The sign-up period will be Thursday, June 21st through Tuesday, July 17th. The program is expected to be very similar to last years program in regards to payment rates and incentives. The commodity or harvest option will not be offered again this year as an acceptable kill down method. We will continue to administer the program though SQL, a web based application that will require electronic signatures and submissions to the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Although the first year had a few growing pains, SQL did help streamline the reporting and payment process. Please continue to be patient with us as we assist each of you during sign-up and the fall and spring certifications.



If you have not already done so, please remember to bring your completed "Current Nutrient Management Plan Certification" Form to the office. This is now required in order to apply for any of the MACS Cost Share Programs, including Cover Crop.

Equipment Rental Program Reminders and Updates



6 Ft Frontier Overseeder
Purchased September 2010
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



10 Ft John Deere No-Till Drill
Purchased April 2017
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



12 Ft Great Plains Turbo Till
Purchased September 2010
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



7 Ft Great Plains No-Till Drill
Purchased September 2010
\$25/day \$10/ac SMADC



Shaver Post Driver
Purchased September 2010
\$150/day SMADC

For rental information, contact the District at 301-475-8402 ext 3 or visit our website at www.stmarysscd.com

The District has offered the equipment rental program to farmers in St. Mary's County since 1992. Over the years we have replaced equipment as needed and had to make a few changes to the program's rental policies and procedures. To be sure that everyone is aware of the current rental information, here are some reminders and updates:

- A new John Deere 1590 10 Ft No-Till Drill was purchased in April 2017. The new drill is equipped with a grass seed box attachment with 7.5 inch spacing
- A \$50.00 deposit is required on all rental equipment each time equipment is rented and prior to its use. Lessees must stop in the District office to pay the deposit, sign a lease agreement, and provide current proof of liability insurance on tow vehicle prior to renting
- The minimum fee assessed to lease District equipment is \$50.00
- Equipment is available to landowners and farmers within the boundaries of St. Mary's County. Any requests for exception must be submitted in writing to the District Board of Supervisors for consideration
- The 16 foot Gehl manure spreader was decommissioned. The District hopes to partner with SMADC for a grant to purchase a smaller, rear-discharge spreader in 2018



2017 Cooperators of the Year - Tom & Sonny Trossbach

Brothers Joseph B. (Sonny) Trossbach, Jr. and Thomas P. Trossbach are farmers in the south end of St Mary's County. Together they farm over 1020 acres where they grow corn, soybeans, small grains, hay, and raise beef cattle and pigs. Their home farm, which is located off of St Jerome's Neck road in Dameron, has been in their family for generations. On the home farm they have 68 acres of cropland and have their animal operations. They have a cow calf operation of about 20 animals and they feed out beef cattle of approximately 25 head. Sonny also has a swine operation of approximately 20 sows and over 200 feeder pigs.



Over the years the Trossbach's have worked with the St Mary's Soil Conservation District to implement many best management practices on the farms they own and work. These practices include over 5,000 feet of perimeter fencing along the Chesapeake Bay, and a manure storage facility for the pigs. They have also installed grass waterways in fields where erosion was creating a resource concern.

In addition to these structural BMP's, Sonny and Tom manage their land in ways which benefit both the land and their crop productivity. They practice crop rotation, nutrient management, and reduced tillage practices on their croplands. Each year they also plant significant acres of cover crop, participating in the MACS cover crop program, which help to decrease soil erosion and nutrient loss from the soil over the winter months as well as improving the soil health by increasing organic matter.

Sonny and Tom were selected as cooperators of the year for 2017 for their recent construction of a Waste Storage Facility and Heavy Use Area for their feeder cattle. Tom came to the district looking for a way to improve their current sacrifice feedlot area which had no contained place for them to store the manure. In combination with the Maryland Department of Agriculture Cost Share Program (MACS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP) the Trossbach's constructed a 40' x 40' manure Storage facility with 6' concrete walls. This facility also includes a 40' x 44' Heavy Use Area with roof, concrete floor, and concrete walls to house the feeder cattle. This facility is sized for 25 feeders with two areas to separate animals of different sizes. The Waste Storage is designed to hold the waste generated from these animals for a period of six months. The goal of the Waste Storage is to hold the manure for sufficient time to allow the Trossbach's to apply it to the fields when conditions are well suited and the nutrients can be utilized by crops. This project had many associated practices including Roof Runoff, Watering Facility, Lined Outlet, and Critical Area Planting.

We would like to thank the Trossbach's for their cooperation on this project, as it has been a long approval process coordinating between the two cost share programs, but we hope they are pleased with the end result. Sonny and Tom both have expressed their desire to build this project not only to improve their operations impact on the environment but also as an improvement to their farm for the next generation. We are happy to work with farmers so invested in conservation and agriculture in St. Mary's County as Sonny and Tom Trossbach.



Matt joined the St. Mary's Team in November as a USDA-NRCS Soil Conservationist. He has been with NRCS for two years and previously held the title of Farm Bill Program Assistant for Cortland, Schuyler, and Tompkins Counties in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State.

Originally from New York, Matt attended Iowa State University where he received a B.S. in Agricultural Studies with an emphasis on Agricultural Education and a Horticulture Minor. He also has a Master's Degree from Cornell University in Agricultural Education and Teaching, Learning, and Social Policy. Growing up with a Dairy and Nursery/Landscaping background he was also very active in FFA during high school having served as a State Officer and receiving his American FFA Degree.

Matt's diverse resume includes experiences working as a manager for a wholesale nursery supply company, a lobbyist for New York Farm Bureau, a sales representative for Wrangler jeans company, and a development officer for The Nature Conservancy and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. In his free time, Matt enjoys being outdoors, birdwatching, gardening, beekeeping, and taking naps with his two Boston Terrier rescue pups.

Sara began working for the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District in November of 2017 as an Administrative Aide. She is in charge of doing the District's bookkeeping and manages the Equipment Rentals along with other administrative duties. She was born and raised in Charles County Maryland and has been a resident of St. Mary's County for 3 years. She is a mother to a very energetic five year old little girl. Sara is also the owner of a Photo Booth business. In her spare time she enjoys being on the water and eating crabs with her family.



District Welcomes New Staff

Matt Hobart & Sara Williams



26737 Radio Station Way
Suite B
Leonardtown, MD 20650
Phone: 301-475-8402 ext 3
Fax: 301-475-8391

Cover Crop Reminders

- ♦ Kill down can occur anytime after March 1st
- ♦ Must certify no later than June 1st
- ♦ Sign-Up Period for 2018/2019 Program is June 21 - July 17, 2018

To:

All NRCS and SCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

www.stmarysscd.com

Cooperating Agencies, Supervisors, & Staff

STATE OF MARYLAND

Critical Area Commission
State Highway Administration
State Soil Conservation Committee
Department of Agriculture
Department of the Environment
Department of Natural Resources
University of Maryland Extension

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Commissioners of St. Mary's County
Department of Health
Board of Education
Metropolitan Commission
Dept. of Public Works & Transportation
Dept. of Land Use & Growth Management
Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Dept. of Economic Development

United States Government

Army Corps of Engineers
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Farm Service Agency

Others

Leonardtown Commissioners
Historic St. Mary's City Commission
MD Assoc. of Soil Conservation Districts
Nat'l Assoc. of Conservation Districts
Southern Maryland RC&D
St. Mary's County Farm Bureau
St. Mary's County Fair Board

The St. Mary's SCD Board of Supervisors

Robert "Bobby" Cooper - Chairman
Stanley Boothe - Vice-chairman
Donald Ocker - Treasurer
Jeffrey Raley, Sr. - Member
Carl Dyson - Member
Ben Beale - Secretary
Luther Wolfe - Associate
Bobby Wise - Associate
Darrell Goode - Associate

St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Staff

Bruce Young - District Manager
Haley Carter - Program Manager
Jane Sanders - Erosion & Sediment Control Specialist
Nancy LaRoche - Technician
Glenn Gass - Contract Engineer
Sara Williams - Administrative Aide

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Rachel Yeatman - District Conservationist
Susan Lamb - Resource Conservationist
Matthew Hobart - Soil Conservationist
Gail Myers - Civil Engineer
Valinda Clark - Program Support Specialist

Maryland Department of Agriculture Staff

Tom Koviak - Ag Resource Conservation Spec.
George Beavan - Ag Resource Conservation Spec.
Sara Lewis - Ag Resource Conservation Spec./Equine
Mike Russell - Engineering Technician
Luke Mudd - Engineering Technician