



St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

2019 Annual Report
May 2020

Soil Stewardship Week
April 26th - May 3rd

Message from the Chairman

Robert "Bobby" Cooper



It's hard to think of anything these days other than the corona virus, falling stock markets, and keeping yourself and your family safe. To say the least there is a lot going in Maryland, the United States, and worldwide as you well know. Hopefully things will turnaround soon and our lives will get back to something close to normal. We certainly hope and pray that it will.

Here at the District we have had to make a few changes in order to comply with Governor Hogan's restrictions on businesses and office operations. We will do what is possible to not only keep our employees safe, but the public we serve as well.

Even though at times there may not be staff physically in the office, they can be contacted by e-mail or phone. This information can be found on our website at <https://stmarysscd.com> or you may visit our Facebook page.

On the bright side, spring has arrived and a lot of us will be getting out in our fields and gardens getting ready to start planting. With the warmer than normal temperatures many have already put in a few early vegetables. And speaking of spring planting, think about maybe planting a pollinator plot on your property or farm. For those that were at our annual cooperators dinner in February, you heard me speak of the loss of pollinator habitat and the possibility of some of the pollinator species becoming extinct within the next few years. Pollinators are bees, birds, butterflies, moths and even bats. Because of the lack of pollinator habitat here in Maryland, the folks at the University of Maryland are working with State Agencies such as Maryland Department of Transportation to plant pollinator strips along state right of ways and other state owned property.

Here in the County, we have a number of people that have already planted pollinator strips on their properties. These flower plantings can be established on poor yielding ground, wet areas, or even along field edges. The 2018 Farm Bill has several programs available to help you establish these important habitats. If you are interested in planting a pollinator habitat on your property, contact the District to get in touch with a conservation planner. They can assist you with planning the location of the pollinator habitat as well as any cost share monies that might be available.

I would also like to welcome our new Administrative Aide Karyn Hankins. Karyn started working with the District in mid-March and is very experienced in the accounting/bookkeeping field. Karyn should be a great asset to the District and we wish her well.

As always, the District Supervisors and staff look forward to assisting you in what we hope will be a very healthy and productive year.

Sincerely,
Bobby Cooper

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Special points of interest:

- NRCS Update from District Conservationist
- New Poultry Litter Manure Spreader Coming Soon
- Coloring Contest Winners for 2019. Christina Derisavi from St. Mary's wins 1st at State Competition
- District helps County Repair Piney Point Museum Boardwalk
- Cooperator of the Year - Stephen O'Brien
- Meet New District Staff - Karyn Hankins & Brittany Wolford

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.

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 2019 the District received operating funds of \$73,946 from the County, \$26,369 from MDA, \$50,000 from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), and \$78,872 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund. Additional support provided by MDA and NRCS is in the form of staff (\$466,644) and cost share support for best management practices installed through the Maryland Agriculture Cost Share (MACS) Program and Environmental Quality Assistance Program (EQIP).



1964 Photo of minimum till tobacco in Loveville, MD

2019 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, Mike Russell, Haley Carter, George Beavan, and Nancy LaRoche are certified as Nutrient Management Consultants by MDA
- Member of the local WIP III Team
- Developed a workload analysis and a plan of operations for fiscal year 2019
- Maintained a list of contractors that do conservation work
- Assisted landowners in making determinations for acceptance into Agricultural Land Preservation Programs
- District staff are members of the State Envirothon Committee
- Bruce Young and Haley Carter are representatives on the Maryland Cost Share Technical Advisory Committee and Cover Crop 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 Meeting
- Kayla Thomas was selected as NRCS Student Leadership Council Representative
- Member of NACD Northeast Regional Training Committee
- Completed Piney Point Museum Boardwalk Reconstruction Project
- Developed and Board approved new 5-Year Long Range Strategic Plan



2019 District Accomplishments

Agricultural Accomplishments



Urban Accomplishments

Plans Reviewed	759
Plans Approved	255
Acres on Approved Plans	973
TEC Reviews	60
Site Inspections	89
Forest Harvest	26 for
E&S Plans	864 ac
Pre-Construction Meetings	108
SWM 378 Pond Reviews	14

Best Management Practice	Extent Done	Unit
313 - Waste Storage Facility	2.0	NO
327 - Conservation Cover	22.7	AC
328 - Conservation Crop Rotation	1,698.4	AC
329 - Residue and Tillage Management	797.4	AC
340 - Cover Crop	738.4	AC
342 - Critical Area Planting	0.1	AC
342A - Critical Area Planting - HEL	2.2	AC
342B - Critical Area Planting -Const	5.1	AC
345 - Residue and Tillage Management	878.4	AC
367 - Roofs and Covers	3.0	NO
378 - Sediment Control Pond	1.0	NO
380 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establis	480.0	FT
382 - Fence	96.0	FT
382D - Non Streamside Fence	6,580.0	FT
410 - Grade Stabilization Structure	1.0	NO
412 - Grassed Waterway	680.0	AC
422B - Hedgerow Planting (Trees)	1,334.0	FT
430 - Irrigation Pipeline	3,690.0	FT
442 - Sprinkler System	28.2	AC
468 - Lined Waterway or Outlet	114.0	FT
472 - Access Control	7.0	AC
484 - Mulching	3.7	AC
500 - Obstruction Removal	0.1	AC
511 - Forage Harvest Management	17.4	AC
512 - Forage and Biomass Planting	47.6	AC
516 - Livestock Pipeline	2,362.0	FT
528 - Prescribed Grazing	123.2	AC
533 - Pumping Plant	1.0	NO
558 - Roof Runoff Structure	7.0	NO
560 - Access Road	75.0	FT
561 - Heavy Use Area Protection	0.2	AC
570 - Stormwater Runoff Control	2.1	NO
575 - Animal Trails and Walkways	223.0	FT
587 - Structure for Water Control	2.0	NO
590 - Nutrient Management	1,931.0	AC
612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment	15.1	AC
614 - Watering Facility	9.0	NO
620 - Underground Outlet	1,292.0	FT
633 - Waste Recycling	36.1	AC
645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Manage	30.9	AC
646 - Shallow Water Development and	2.3	AC
649 - Structure for Wildlife	20.0	NO
659 - Wetland Enhancement	0.1	AC
RI-04b - Watercourse Access Control	438.0	FT
RI-06 - Watercourse Access Control (470.0	FT
RI-15 - Rotational Grazing	61.7	AC
RI-16 - Barnyard Clean Water Diversi	4.0	NO
RI-18 - Watering Trough	5.0	NO

OTHER COST SHARE PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cover Crop

56 applicants with 10,195 acres certified

Poultry Litter Transport

24 applicants for 6837 tons imported

Outreach & Education

- ◇ 252 people attended the 66th annual cooperators' dinner meeting. Meeting was held at the Bay District Fire Department in Lexington Park
- ◇ Met with congressional delegates concerning legislation that would affect St. Mary's County
- ◇ Sponsor of the Southern Maryland Crops Conference
- ◇ Sponsored the St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair
- ◇ 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



- ◇ District staffed a display at the STEM Expo held on October 26th at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

- ◇ 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 5 staff meetings throughout the year
- ◇ Promote conservation tillage through the lease of the District owned no-till drills and turbo till
- ◇ 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

- ◇ Participated with the MDA Cover Crop Technical Advisory Committee
- ◇ Participated with the Curriculum for Agriculture and Science Education (CASE) Program in mock interviews for senior students
- ◇ Bruce Young gave an erosion and sediment control presentation to the Patuxent River Commission
- ◇ Participated at Ag Sustainability Field Day at Bowling Farm in Charles County
- ◇ Participated in a presentation to Southern Maryland Timber Harvesters developed in coordination with University of Maryland Eastern Shore, MD Department of Natural Resources - Forestry, and St. Mary's SCD



- ◇ St. Mary's Ryken High School won 1st place for the first time and participated at the Maryland Envirothon at St. Mary's College



Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts

Coloring Contest

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.



Christina Derisavi wins 1st Place in Class B at the State Competition in August

Class A (K – 1st Grades)

- 1st Place - Raelee Clem, Mother Catherine Academy
 2nd Place - Hannah Wood, Lettie Marshall Dent Elem.
 3rd Place - Margaret Hayden - Dynard Elem.

Class B (2nd-3rd Grades)

- 1st Place - Christina Derisavi - Greenview Knolls Elem.
 2nd Place - Nathan Nepini, St. Michaels School
 3rd Place - Cameron Wood, St. Michaels School

Class C (4th-5th Grades)

- 1st Place - Isabella Derisavi, Lexington Park Elem.
 2nd Place - Emma Myers, Lettie Marshall Dent Elem.
 3rd Place - Brooklyn Connor, Oakville Elem.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS Update

2019 was, as usual, a busy year for the St. Mary's County Service Center as evidenced in the District's Agricultural Accomplishments. In Fiscal Year 2019 we also were able to obtain 12 new Federal financial assistance contracts with our county's farmers totaling over \$160,000. This money will go directly to the farmers here to help them offset the cost of installing over 70 BMP's. In fact, 28 of these were already completed in 2019 along with 68 prior year contracted BMP's that were installed in 2019.

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 began rollout in 2019. In terms of conservation the new Farm Bill keeps and expands on many of the same programs we are used to from prior Farm Bills. Limited resource, beginning, minority, and veteran farmers will all still get increased payment rates to help our historically underserved farmers install conservation. The definition of Veteran Farmer has been broadened to include not only beginning farmers who are veterans, but also any farmer that became a veteran within the last 10 years. Another new highlight is the ability for these historically underserved farmers to receive a partial advanced payment ahead of construction to help them with the purchase of materials. While I expect the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to still be our most popular assistance program, there are other opportunities for us to explore too. I think the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) in particular is a great program to help farmers enhance the resources of their woodland. In the past we haven't been able to offer much assistance within forests, but CSP rewards landowners who have already invested in their forests and allows them to take it a step further with even more enhancements. If you are interested in any of these programs, please contact the office to speak to your conservation planner or me.

In early 2019 our NRCS Soil Conservationist, Matt Hobart, went back to his family farm in New York. And while we sorely miss Matt and his contributions here, I am happy he was able to go back home and start farming, and wish him the best there. The good news for St Mary's is we are expecting a new NRCS Soil Con to start any day now. Her move has been delayed with the COVID19 pandemic, but we expect her onboard by the end of May.

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Boardwalk Project



St. Mary's SCD and the Southern Maryland RC&D have more than 20 years experience in contracting natural resources related projects in partnership with the U.S. Navy. This past fall we were able to expand our partnership to include St. Mary's County Government. Responding to a County request for proposal, the District and RC&D were selected as the general contractor to perform an emergency repair of a storm damaged section of boardwalk at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum.



Work involved removal and reconstruction of a fifty foot section of boardwalk that had been declared unsafe for pedestrian traffic. Significant beach erosion from numerous storms had undermined the boardwalk pilings and left them suspended in the air. The Southern Maryland RC&D engineered the design and the District hired the marine contractor, supervised the construction, and provided the "as-built" drawings and certification upon the project completion. Once the contractor was authorized to start, repair was completed in three days and within the allotted budget. The old boardwalk was removed and new 16 foot pier pilings were driven in to support new stringers and decking boards. Our Contractor did an excellent job and we look forward to our next project with the St. Mary's County Government.

Equipment Rental Program Reminders and Updates

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 \$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**



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

For rental information, contact the District at
301-475-8402 ext 3 or
visit our website at
<https://stmarysscd.com>

**Coming
Soon!**

BBI 16' Poultry Litter Spreader



Frontier Manure Spreader
Purchased January 2019
\$25/day \$10/load SMADC



2019 Cooperator of the Year - Stephen O'Brien

The Cooperator of the Year owns a 48 acre critical area farm that has approximately 1100 feet of tidal shoreline along flood creek in Medley's Neck. The farm has a diverse operation that includes 37 acres of cropland and 4.8 acres of dedicated pasture for 12 broad cow/calf pairs and 24 feeder calves. In 2019, the owner/ operator finished construction on a two part roofed heavy use area and agriculture waste storage structure. The HUA was designed to separate the cow/ calf pairs from the feeders and is split into a 20' x 64' area for the pairs and a 40' x 64' area for the feeders. Total manure storage in the facility is 11,527 cubic yards and is designed to hold six months of manure. Twice a year the manure will be applied to the crop fields based on recommendations in his Nutrient Management plan.



In addition to the roofed HUA and the waste storage structure, many additional

structural best management practices were installed following the implementation recommendations in his soil conservation and water quality plan. The additional bmp's installed were critical to the functionality of the HUA /waste storage facility and included 96 feet of fencing, 170 feet of livestock pipeline, 2 watering facilities, 2 underground outlets, 34 feet of trails and walkways, storm water runoff control, and roof runoff structures. Previously installed cost shared practices included a water well, pumping plant, watering facility, and an underground outlet. All of these new and previously installed bmp's were cost shared through the NRCS environmental quality Incentive program (EQIP) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture cost share program (MACS).



Landowner installed practices included over 3000 feet of perimeter containment fencing and additional interior rotational fencing. Approximately 1100 feet of the fencing is along tidal water and excludes his livestock from accessing waters of the state. Nonstructural best management practices are followed on the crop acres to improve soil health and to reduce nutrient and sediment transport off of the fields. These practices include conservation crop rotation, cover crop, critical area planting, and nutrient management.

District Welcomes New Staff

Brittany Wolford & Karyn Hankins

Brittany was born and raised in sunny New Smyrna Beach, Florida. I raised and exhibited sheep for 10 years and was heavily involved in the FFA and 4H. If you want to get my attention, all you have to do is talk about livestock. After graduating high school I decided I wanted to pursue a degree in Agriculture. After careful consideration I chose to major in Agronomy and Crop Sciences. From there I spent 3 summers as a research intern, one of those in Arizona on a study of how drought affects different hybrids of corn. My senior year internship was with the NRCS in Parke County, Indiana. From there on out my passion started to shift to that of conservation and public service. A fun fact about me is that when I was 10 years old my family took a trip to Washington, D.C and as I got my picture next to the USDA Headquarters, I told my mom "I'm going to work for the USDA someday". She loves to tell that story because I don't have any recollection of that moment, although looking back now it must have been a pretty big one for me. After graduating from Purdue I came on full time in Indiana with the USDA-NRCS and have enjoyed every minute of it. I can't wait to serve the landowners of St. Mary's as the new NRCS Soil Conservationist.



Brittany in front of USDA HQ



Karyn with her family

Karyn joined the District in March as our new Administrative Aide. She comes to us with an accounting, banking, and customer service background. Karyn was born and raised in Charles County and moved to St. Mary's County 21 years ago. She enjoys motherhood and has four wonderful children: Kayla, Nickolas, Maggie and Oliver. In her spare time, Karyn also loves to garden. We are excited to have both Brittany and Karyn join our staff!



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



Cover Crop Reminders

- ♦ Kill down can occur anytime after March 1st
- ♦ Must spring certify no later than June 3rd
- ♦ Call in and report kill down over the phone

To:

All NRCS, MDA, 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.

We're now on Facebook. Check us out!

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
Environmental 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
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
Caroline Trossbach—Grant Planner
Glenn Gass - Contract Engineer
Karyn Hankins - Administrative Aide

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Rachel Yeatman - District Conservationist
Brittany Wolford - Soil Conservationist
Mike Montillo - Soil Conservation Technician
Jacob Dieguez - 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
Nancy LaRoche - Engineering Technician