



# St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

2021 Annual Report  
May 2022

Soil Stewardship Week  
April 24th - May 1st

## Message from the Chairman

Robert "Bobby" Cooper



With all the literature and talk these days of everyone going green and the effects of climate change, a number of farmers are changing their practices to include planting into green standing cover crops and are experiencing very good results. Some farmers have actually installed crimper attachments on their planters and were very pleased with the outcome. The crimped down cover crop helps to suppress weeds and cuts down on the use of herbicide, conserves moisture, and adds organic matter to the soil. With the rising costs of fuel, chemicals and other input costs; the less passes over the field can result in a little more savings. As most of you know, the last couple years, the Maryland Department of Agriculture has added into their program an extra ten dollar per acre incentive for leaving cover crops green until after May 1<sup>st</sup>. Every year there seems to be more participation in in this program, especially with some vegetable growers. We have discussed in the District the possibility of trying to purchase a crimper for rental if there is enough interest from the farming community.

The District staff has been working with the Maryland Department of Agriculture in trying to meet the Agriculture Watershed Implementation Plan goals that are mandated state wide to be met by 2025. These WIP III goals are set by the Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Chesapeake Bay cleanup to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff into the Bay. There are many practices that the District receives credit for, too many to mention here, but a few of them are animal waste structures and manure management; grass waterways and buffers; shoreline stabilization and many more. At our meeting last week with MDA to go over our goal progress, St. Mary's Soil Conservation District is doing quite well in meeting our 2025 goals. The next three years will go by quickly and hopefully we will have done our part.

One thing to consider this spring when planting this year's crops is to be mindful of the buffers and conservation practices on your farms and to pay particular attention that they are maintained and kept in place. With the rise in grain prices, there may be some tendency to plant closer to streams, tidal waters and drainage ditches. These natural grass buffer areas are very effective in reducing nutrient and sediment runoff. Everyone wants to take advantage of the good grain prices and more production but it is also important to maintain your conservation practices.

The District would like to congratulate George Beavan on his retirement as a planner for the Soil Conservation District as a Maryland Department of Agriculture employee for the last 23 years. George began his employment in December 1998 and retired in December 2021. We applaud George for all his hard work for the District and wish him a long and healthy retirement. Also George has graciously agreed to let the District house the rental equipment on his farm in Chaptico. So if you would like to rent a piece of District equipment, George is still the contact person.

The District would like to welcome Savannah Dobbins to the District staff. Savannah started in October 2021 as a temporary grant planner funded by a technical assistance grant through the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. We look forward to working with Savannah and hopefully she will be with us for a while. The hope is that as she gains valuable experience in her grant position, that she will be able to transition into a permanent MDA position within the district when one becomes available.

*Continued on page 7*

## Inside this issue:

<i>District Background</i>	2
<i>Highlights</i>	2
<i>Agricultural &amp; Urban Accomplishments</i>	3
<i>Outreach &amp; Education</i>	4
<i>Coloring Contest</i>	4
<i>2021 Cooperator of the Year</i>	5
<i>2021 Contractor of the Year</i>	6
<i>NRCS Update</i>	6
<i>Message from Chairman continued</i>	7
<i>NCFM Wetland Boardwalk</i>	7



## Special points of interest:

- NRCS Update from District Conservationist
- Coloring Contest Winners for 2021
- Mattapany Angus Farm is the 2021 Cooperator of the Year & B&D Siteworks is awarded the Contractor of the Year

### 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 Co-operative 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.



*July 1966 photo of a well established grass waterway in Clements 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 2021 the District received operating funds of \$103,423 from the County, \$35,407 from MDA, and \$69,547 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).

### 2021 District Highlights

- Held 12 monthly meetings, which were scheduled for the first Thursday of each month and are open to the public (Due to COVID-19, all meetings had an optional call-in component)
- 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 (Winter Meeting was virtual event)
- Attended quarterly MASCD Board of Directors Meetings (Virtual 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, Haley Carter, George Beavan, Sara Lewis, 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 2021
- 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
- Member of planning group for State Buffer Initiative
- Revised & Updated MOU with Southern Maryland RC&D & County Government
- Presented at the St. Mary's County Planning Commission Meeting on Farm Brewery
- Completed design and applied wetland permits for 300 feet of wetland boardwalk and overlook for North County Farmers Market in cooperation with Southern Maryland RC&D and Commissioners of St. Mary's
- Met with St. Mary's County Government Staff on Tier II Watersheds and the requirement for enhanced erosion and sediment controls



## Agricultural Accomplishments

237 BMPs  
Protecting 4596 acres

Soil Conservation Water Quality Plans  
59 Plans on 3010 acres



*Cattle enjoying their new Ag Waste Structure at  
Mattapan Angus Farm*

Best Management Practice	Extent	Done Unit
313 - Waste Storage Facility	2.0	NO
314 - Brush Management	0.1	AC
325 - High Tunnel System	14,520.0	SF
327 - Conservation Cover	8.1	AC
328 - Conservation Crop Rotation	1,072.1	AC
329 - Residue and Tillage Management	625.7	AC
340 - Cover Crop	676.1	AC
342A - Critical Area Planting - HEL	0.2	AC
342B - Critical Area Planting - Cons	6.1	AC
345 - Residue and Tillage Management	372.7	AC
362 - Diversion	686.0	FT
367 - Roofs and Covers	2.0	NO
378 - Sediment Control Pond	1.0	NO
380 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Est	110.0	FT
382D - Non Streamside Fence	717.0	FT
410 - Grade Stabilization Structure	2.0	NO
412 - Grassed Waterway	1.2	AC
422 - Hedgerow Planting	0.2	AC
422B - Hedgerow Planting (Trees)	819.0	FT
449 - Irrigation Water Management	38.4	AC
468 - Lined Waterway or Outlet	69.5	FT
484 - Mulching	2.0	AC
511 - Forage Harvest Management	13.4	AC
512 - Pasture & Hay Planting	8.0	AC
516 - Livestock Pipeline	1,587.0	FT
528 - Prescribed Grazing	65.5	AC
558 - Roof Runoff Structure	4.0	NO
560 - Access Road	177.0	FT
561 - Heavy Use Area Protection	0.4	AC
570 - Stormwater Runoff Control	1.0	NO
575 - Animal Trails and Walkways	25.0	FT
590 - Nutrient Management	1,189.2	AC
606 - Subsurface Drain	192.0	FT
612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment	8.0	AC
614 - Watering Facility	6.0	NO
620 - Underground Outlet	1,703.0	FT
644 - Wetland Wildlife Habitat Manag	31.7	AC
645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Manage	166.8	AC
666 - Forest Stand Improvement	4.4	AC
RI-04a - Watercourse Access Control	70.0	FT

### Urban Accomplishments

Plans Reviewed	720
Plans Approved	230
Acres on Approved Plans	715
TEC Reviews	60
Site Inspections	49
Forest Harvest	17 for
E&S Plans	503 ac
Pre-Construction Meetings	114
SWM 378 Pond Reviews	7



*Grade Stabilization Structure constructed by B&D Siteworks at Ryan Farm in Leonardtown*

### OTHER COST SHARE PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### Cover Crop

57 applicants with 7322 acres certified

#### Poultry Litter Transport

24 applicants for 6475 tons imported

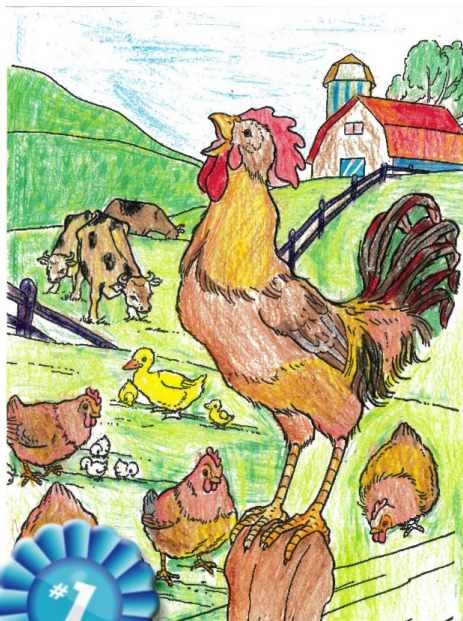
## Outreach & Education

- ◇ Met with congressional delegates concerning legislation that would affect St. Mary's County
- ◇ Sponsor of the Southern Maryland Crops Conference
- ◇ 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
- ◇ Member of the St. Mary's County Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) program advisory committee
- ◇ Held 12 staff meetings throughout the year
- ◇ Promote conservation tillage, soil health and nutrient management through the lease of the District owned no-till drills, manure spreaders, and turbo till
- ◇ Participated with the MDA Cover Crop Technical Advisory Committee
- ◇ Financial sponsor of the 9th season of the very successful Maryland Public Television Farm and Harvest Program
- ◇ Participated in the Town of Leonardtown Christmas Tree Lighting Event on November 26th
- ◇ Attended Apprenticeship Maryland Workshop with Farm Bureau
- ◇ Had a display booth at the St. Mary's County Fair, assisted 4H Program with judging natural resource projects
- ◇ Participated in the two (2) day Farm to School Program at two (2) elementary schools
- ◇ Held a virtual Envirothon competition. Seven (7) teams from four (4) public and private high schools participated. Chopticon High was local winner and placed 22nd at the Maryland Envirothon
- ◇ Supported the St. Mary's County Science Fair Program

### Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts

## Coloring Contest

**E**ach 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.



### **Class A (K – 1<sup>st</sup> Grades)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Ashley Quinonez, St. Michaels School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Patrick Jahrmakt, Hollywood Elem.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Saydee Howell - Duke Elem.

### **Class B (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grades)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Noah Naranjo - Hollywood Elem.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Hannah Wood, Dent Elem.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Margaret Hayden - Banneker Elem.

### **Class C (4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - McKinley Shanks, St. Michaels School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Jayda LeBeaux, St. Michaels School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Sammie Mullinix, St. Michaels School



## 2021 Cooperator of the Year Mattapan Angus Farm

The 2021 Cooperator of the Year award is presented to Mattapan Angus Farm. The farm is owned and operated by two generations of the Tennyson Family. Melvin and Judy Tennyson inherited the farm from Judy's father Edward Baroniak. Melvin and Judy, along with their son Mark, have continued Ed's love and passion for raising Black Angus Cattle. The farm consists of 150 acres of a combination of cropland, pasture and woodland. The Tennyson's have implemented crop rotation and their pasture acres follow a prescribed grazing plan for the beef operation.



The Tennyson's are being recognized for their implementation of an animal waste management system and waste storage facility. The project was started at the request of Mark and Melvin to address winter housing and manure storage. The farm had an existing structure that was poorly drained and stayed wet and messy throughout the winter. The animals had access to the structure and adjacent pasture year round and the area was degraded and the soils extremely compacted. Accumulated manure was periodically scraped and stockpiled uncovered in a pasture near the barn.



The new structure designed by the District engineering technical staff was sized to house all of the herd throughout the winter and at times when the weather is unsuitable. The design allowed animal access to the fields when the weather was good and the pasture were in good condition. A heavy use area was

sized to handle 30 animals with an adjacent waste storage structure designed to hold six months' worth of manure. Both the waste storage structures and the heavy use area were constructed with roofs to keep rain off of the manure. The project was co-cost shared using Maryland Agricultural Cost Share (MACS) and USDA Environment Quality Incentive program (EQIP) funds. Additional best management practices (bmp's) that were installed as project components were roof runoff, trails and walkways, watering facility, subsurface drain, lined outlet, livestock pipeline, underground outlet and fencing.



*Pictured: Chairman Bobby Cooper with Melvin, Judy, & Mark Tennyson*

## 2021 Contractor of the Year B&D Siteworks

The District is pleased to announce the selection of B&D Siteworks as our 2021 Contractor of the Year. B&D Siteworks is owned and operated by David Adams and Bruce Sivak. Their construction company is based out of St. Mary's City, and in addition to urban construction projects, they have considerable experience working with the District on agriculture structural best management projects. In 2021, B&D Siteworks constructed two projects for landowners that were installing BMP's within the 1000 foot critical area buffer in the Breton Bay watershed. Both projects stabilized critically eroding gully's that were cumulatively contributing an estimated 375 tons of sediment per year to Breton Bay.

Both projects were grade stabilization structures that were designed to stabilize eroding gully's and to safely convey agriculture runoff from crop fields down a slope to release the water at a non-erosive rate. Project #1 is a 62 foot long, 13 foot wide rock chute or swale. The rock swale and the associated grading around the area conveyed water from over 17 acres of crop field where concentrated flow had created a gully that was actively eroding back into the crop field. Project #2 had the same purpose to safely convey water down a slope, but the design was different to capture runoff from multiple areas and bring it to one discharge point. This grade stabilization structure required the construction of 686 feet of an earthen diversion and associated swale that collected runoff from a large area and took it to one discharge point. This grade stabilization structure involved installing a pipe riser and barrel to convey the water down the slope to discharge in a 10 foot by 10 foot rock plunge pool. Both types of projects meet Natural Resource Conservation Service design standards and were funded in part through the Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program.

B&D Siteworks was selected by the District based on recommendation from our technical staff. Luke Mudd, engineering technician had this to say about their work "They are the type of company that do things right, whether someone is inspecting or not "and" B&D Siteworks follow the design plans, give notice before starting work and make sure the jobsite is stabilized before leaving at the end of the day."



Natural Resources Conservation Service

## NRCS Update

By: Rachel Yeatman  
District Conservationist

2021 saw a record breaking EQIP, AMA and CSP signup for St Mary's County. We secured funding for 11 new contracts totaling over \$327,000 that will install nearly 70 new BMPs on farms in the county. This level of dedication to the sustainability of your farmland especially during the pandemic is indeed impressive and much appreciated. Farmers and landowners were also able to install 40 BMPs in calendar year 2020 with the help of over \$276,000 in federal funds from these 3 federal programs. I look forward to continuing to work with our county's farmers during the upcoming year and we'll also be welcoming a new NRCS Soil Conservationist onboard as Brittany Wolford has transferred to our Charles County office.

We hope to continue increasing our Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)- Forestland and Ag land projects in the upcoming fiscal year. If you currently manage forestland on your property and are interested in further enhancing its wildlife or production value then CSP may be a great program for you. CSP helps implement BMPs or enhancements on non-industrial private forestland as well as providing an annual payment (for 5 years) for existing conservation already implemented. There is also an Ag land option that covers all non-forested land in an operation. All crop, pasture, and associated ag lands that you control would be evaluated to determine current conservation levels which determines if you qualify for the program and the annual stewardship payment you would receive. You would also select new BMPs or enhancements to implement on each landuse within the 5-year contract. If interested in learning more about CSP please contact me or reach out to your conservation planner.



## Message from the Chairman *(continued from page 1)*

We regret the passing of former District Supervisor Luther Wolfe who served on the board for seventeen years. Luther passed away November 24, 2021 after a long battle with Leukemia. During his term as a Supervisor, Luther was very instrumental in the building of the St. Mary's Agricultural Center and was very active with the District and Soil Conservation functions. Our condolences go out to the Wolfe family.

As everyone knows by now, the St Mary's District Board of Supervisors elected not to hold our annual cooperators' dinner this past February. When we would have had to start the planning process in November/December of 2021, the threat of the Omicron Variant was still very present. Other Southern Maryland Districts were canceling theirs, so we, in an effort to keep everyone safe, decided to cancel ours for another year. Even though we didn't have the dinner, the District elected to recognize a Co-operator and Contractor of the year for 2021. Congratulations to the Tennyson Family (Mattapany Angus Farm) for receiving the Cooperator of the year award and B&D Siteworks for receiving the Contractor of the year award. A detailed write up on both is included in this newsletter.



Top:  
boardwalk construction

Right:  
wetland overlook  
under construction



## North County Farmers Market

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County awarded a contract to Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development to oversee the construction of the new North County Farmers Market. The new market, when it opens, will move the existing makeshift market from the Charlotte Hall Library to the new location off of Thompson Corner road. The new market will have a year round value added building as well as a separate building for the seasonal market. With the relocation of the market; parking, sidewalks and trails were incorporated into the design for citizens to access the very popular Three Notch Hiker/Biker Trail. In between the market and the Three Notch Trail is a Department of Natural Resources mapped wetland. To connect the market to the trail would require permits and an elevated boardwalk over the wetlands.

Southern Maryland RC&D entered into an agreement with St. Mary's SCD to design the boardwalk and to obtain all necessary permits to construct the boardwalk. The District met on-site with MDE wetlands division to map out the best route and to submit the permit documents. While the permit package was under review, district staff designed the boardwalk and developed construction drawings. Final design plans were completed and approved by the county Department of Public Works and Transportation on October 19, 2021. The design has the boardwalk tying into the existing ten (10) foot wide asphalt trail at the edge of the wetland and meandering through the woods for approximately 300 feet to tie into the Three Notch Trail. The boardwalk is ten feet wide with curbing and railing and will have a 20 X 20 overlook that is situated adjacent to an open water wetland area.

The District developed bid documents and sent the bid package out to local marine contractors with an invitation to bid on December 16, 2021. The District had a pre-bid site showing on January 11, 2022 and received three qualifying bids on January 25, 2022. The boardwalk construction contract was awarded to SE Davis Construction on January 28, 2022. The boardwalk is currently under construction and is anticipated to be completed by the end of May. The District is doing the daily inspection on the project and will complete the "as-built" drawings upon completion of the project. When the trail opens, it is expected to provide hiking and biking enthusiasts with a safe place to park and access the Three Notch Trail and to also enjoy local and fresh agricultural products from the market. Amenities included at the market are restrooms and bicycle stations. The University of Maryland Extension office has developed signage to be installed along the trail and boardwalk that will provide information about wetland habitat.

The seasonal market building opened on April 9, 2022 and different vendors are on-site Tuesday through Saturday. Please come out and support your local farming community.



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

To:

## Cover Crop Reminders

- ♦ Must spring certify no later than June 3rd
- ♦ You do not need to come to the office in person, you can call in and report kill down over the phone

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.

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## 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 SCD Board of Supervisors

Robert "Bobby" Cooper - Chairman  
Stanley Boothe - Vice-chairman  
Darrell Goode - Treasurer  
Jeffrey Raley, Sr. - Member  
Carl Dyson - Member  
Ben Beale - Secretary  
Bonnie Browne - Associate  
Abigail Sivak - Associate

### St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Staff

Bruce Young - District Manager  
Haley Carter - Program Manager  
Jane Sanders - Erosion & Sediment Control Specialist  
Glenn Gass - Contract Engineer  
Karyn Hankins - Administrative Aide  
Savannah Dobbins - Ag Resource Conservation Spec.  
(Grant)

### Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Rachel Yeatman - District Conservationist  
Vacant - Soil Conservationist  
Mike Montillo - Soil Conservation Technician  
Brian Brookhart - Civil Engineer  
Valinda Clark - Program Support Specialist

### Maryland Department of Agriculture Staff

Tom Koviak - Ag Resource Conservation Spec.  
Vacant - Ag Resource Conservation Spec.  
Caroline Trossbach - Ag Resource Conservation Spec.  
Sara Lewis - Ag Resource Conservation Spec./Equine  
Vacant - Engineering Technician  
Luke Mudd - Engineering Technician  
Nancy LaRochelle - Engineering Technician