

PART 1 -- ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

CHAPTER CORE ACTIVITY REPORT

All Chapters must complete this part.

Virginia Chapter

As Reported by: Wade Biddix

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- A. Changes in policies and operations
1. Did your chapter change any of the following fundamental policies this year?
 - a. Fiscal year YES NO
 - b. Ending date for officer terms YES NO
 - c. By-laws YES NO
 2. If yes for (a) or (b), please supply the new information. If yes for (c) please supply a copy to SWCS Headquarters at Ankeny.
- B. Maintenance of legal and tax status
1. Did your chapter file the necessary report(s) needed to maintain its legal status in the state/province as a corporation or unincorporated organization?
YES NO
 2. U.S. Chapters: Chapters under SWCS's blanket federal income tax exemption are asked to file IRS Form 990 or Form 990EZ each year. Did your chapter file an IRS Form 990 or 990EZ in 2000?
YES NO
- C. SWCS membership
1. Did your chapter conduct an event/activity to promote membership?
YES NO
 2. Does your chapter have an active membership committee?
YES NO
- D. Other minimum benchmarks
5. Did your chapter produce "newsletters" to report chapter activities and progress to its members?
YES NO How many? 2
 6. Did your chapter officers meet during the year to conduct chapter business?
YES NO
 3. Did your chapter prepare and adopt a budget for the past year?
YES NO
 4. Does your chapter have an internet homepage?
YES NO If Yes, what is the address: http://www.bse.vt.edu/swcs/
 7. Did your chapter distribute newsworthy information through the internet?
YES NO
 6. Does the chapter provide scholarship(s). YES NO
How many? 2 Total Dollar Amount: \$ 2,000
(provided through the Virginia Association of SWCDs Educational Foundation)

E. Officers and E-mail (These are 2000-2001 officers)

When does your chapter elect officers? Annual Meeting in October

When do officers take office? At the end of the meeting

President: Wade Biddix; Wade.Biddix@va.usda.gov

President-Elect Ginger Kopp; Virginia.kopp@va.usda.gov

Secretary: Kathy Harris; kadjbh@aol.com

Treasurer: Larry Wilkinson; stumptown3@juno.com

Membership Chair: Ginger Kopp; Virginia.kopp@va.usda.gov

Other: Vice President: Kilby Majette; kilby.majette@vaquinton.fsc.usda.gov

Other: 2nd Year Council Member: Dawn Shank; dshank@dcr.state.va.us

Other: 1st Year Council Member: Stu Wilson; swilson@dcr.state.va.us

PART 2 -- ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARD

(This award recognizes a chapter from each region for its accomplishment in carrying out its overall program during the year.)

Chapter Name: _____ **Virginia** _____

A. Benchmarks:

1. Did the chapter develop a long-range plan or review its old plan to provide continuity and achievement of long-term goals? YES X NO
2. Did the chapter adopt an annual work plan that identifies key activities and events for the year, such as selection of officers, committees and task force appointments, meetings and workshops, membership drives, and award programs? YES X NO
8. Did the chapter distribute newsletters last year to keep members informed? YES X NO
How many newsletters were issued last year? 2
Please submit copies to Ankeny.
4. Did the chapter conduct at least one technical/social/professional meeting in addition to the annual business meeting to encourage interaction, and exchange of information?
Yes X NO
How many technical/social/professional meetings were held? 2
How many chapter members took part in the meetings? 30
How many non-chapter members took part in the meetings? 111
5. Did the chapter conduct an annual membership program to promote recruitment and growth? YES X NO
How many regular members did the chapter have at the start of the year?
 160
How many regular members did the chapter have at the end of the year?
 163
Does the chapter recognize new members via the chapter newsletter and/or at chapter meetings? YES X NO
Does the chapter recognize its top new member recruiter? YES NO X
6. Did the chapter recognize the efforts of members, cooperating organizations and individuals through an annual awards program? YES X NO
7. Did the chapter establish chapter by-laws term limits for chapter leaders to provide adequate opportunities for progression of elected officials while maintaining continuity from one year to the next? YES X NO
8. Has the chapter developed written materials for officers to inform them of their duties and responsibilities (Officer's Manual)? YES NO X
Does the chapter encourage and assist the incoming officer(s) to attend the regional chapter development workshops? YES X NO
How many chapter leaders attended the regional chapter development workshop?
 VA had 5 leaders attend the 2-day regional workshop held in Burlington, NC

Briefly describe (300 words or less) the highlights of your chapter that led to the outstanding accomplishments that were obtained during the past year.

The Virginia Chapter continued to focus on meeting a long-term goal of providing more service to members and more ways for members to participate in Chapter activities.

We sponsored a forum on “Biosolids and Animal Waste Application” (66 participants) in the spring, and a 2-day forum on “Alternative Septic Systems” (75 participants) in conjunction with our Annual Meeting. These forums on emerging topics provided an educational benefit to members and non-members alike, and have become a means of financial support.

Sponsoring the forums necessitated recruiting a large number of members outside of our central council for event planning, coordination, and implementation needed to make each event successful. We were able to get sponsorship for the conferences and provide scholarships to students and local government officials to attend the workshops. We also offered continuing education credits.

The forums provided a natural venue from which to reach out to audiences whose interests intersect and overlap those of our Society, allowing us to attract new members at the same time.

Communication and coordination within the Chapter has been greatly facilitated through the use of electronic mail, a Chapter list-serve for distribution of newsletters and other announcements for members with e-mail, and video-conferencing for many of our council meetings.

Our Chapter is keenly aware that members of our Student Chapter are an extremely important source of energy and enthusiasm. Members of the Student Chapter at Virginia Tech are invited to, and participate in, council meetings and all sponsored activities.

This year, we also wrote letters to state and national leaders in support of environmental issues and recognized those members who have contributed to various aspects of our organization and the field of soil and water conservation with an annual awards banquet. In addition to our usual Chapter awards, we formed a new partnership with Pinelands Nursery in New Jersey to give the first-ever Ecological Excellence Award in Construction for Virginia. A plaque and \$500 check was presented for design and construction work of a wetland restoration project.

PART 5 -- ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

(This award recognizes one chapter for its efforts in conducting and/or sponsoring professional development programs. The program, activities or curriculum should be focused on SWCS chapter members as organizers and/or as participants. A chapter must submit an Annual Report and complete Part 1 [Chapter Core Activity Report] **AND** Part 2 [Outstanding Chapter Award]).

Chapter Name: _____ Virginia _____

1. **List each chapter professional development program/ activity/ curriculum/ event and briefly describe it in one or two sentences. Then answer questions 2 through 10 for all items listed in this section.**

- A. "Biosolids and Animal Waste Application"- April 25, 2001. This workshop focused on the latest science, technology, environmental and legal issues surrounding this hot topic. We generated income for the chapter and recruited a few new members.
- B. "Alternative Septic Systems Workshop and Annual Meeting"- October 23-24, 2001. This 2-day workshop focused on topics that addressed the design, construction, maintenance, community planning, funding, new technology, assessing watershed and soil conditions for different types of alternative septic systems. The conference also provided an opportunity to discuss some basic engineering principles, listen to several case studies, and visit with exhibitors.
- C. "Host a Hospitality Room"- December 10, 2001. In order to provide some "fun and fellowship" for current members and to recruit some new members, we hosted a hospitality room at the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Annual Meeting. We invited prospective members to socialize and handed out membership information over snacks and beverages.

For **each** professional development activity or event that has been described in response to Question#1 (Part 5), please complete the following questions (#2-#10). Use additional copies of these sheets as needed.

2. What best describes the setting of this event (how learning/training/sharing/etc. occurred)?
- _____ informal workshop (semi-formal agenda)
- _____ formal workshop (formal/structured tasks)
- _____ correspondence course
- A,B seminar/lecture (limited participant interaction)
- _____ field-based tour (primary focus)
- C other (please describe): Hospitality Room

3. Was this event? (Check the one that best applies.)
 A, B, C A one time event (can be more than one day, but focused on a single event.)
 A reoccurring event (same topic or curriculum offered periodically)
 A series of events (multiple sessions and multiple topics, linked together)
 Other (please describe): _____

4. How many people participated in this event? A - 66; B - 75; C - 30 (total participants)

5. How many members of your SWCS Chapter participated in:
 planning and organizing the event A - 8; B - 12; C - 5
 attending the event as participants A - 14; B - 16; C - 15
 what was your total Chapter Membership last year 160

6. Was a fee assessed for this event? A, B Yes C No \$ Amount
 Member/Non-Member/Student: A - \$50/\$40/\$25; B - \$70/\$85/\$50; C - N/A;

7. Were Continuing Education Units (CEUs) offered for this event?
 A, B Yes C No
 If yes, how many CEUs were offered? A - 14; B - 9
 If yes, identify the certification program(s) linked to the CEU's, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planning, Authorized On-Site Soil Evaluators.

8. Was this event specially for, or linked to, a certification program?
 Yes A, B, C No
 If yes, please identify the certification program. _____

9. What best describes the primary focus of this event?
 A, B technical skill development (engineering, assessment, etc.)
 scientific reporting or inquiry (research updates, research methods, etc.)
 administrative (program management, leadership, personnel management, etc.)
 personal improvement (stress management, time management, career development, etc.)
 C Other (please describe): Membership Recruitment and Leadership Development

Please describe briefly (50 words or less) any impacts that are a result of this event.
The workshops have brought an awareness of these emerging issues to the participants. They also offered an open forum for people to discuss these complex issues. The discussions often spawned the topic for future training opportunities. We recruited new members and increased resources for the Virginia Chapter programs.