

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

January 2006

First Annual Ground Water Award Presented to Jane Corson-Lassiter

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee has awarded Jane Corson-Lassiter of the Eastern Shore Environmental Education Council the 2005 Groundwater Award. The Award was made at the annual Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission Christmas Party. The Award recognizes her work on the 2005 Shore Outdoors newspaper insert featuring information about Ground Water Resources. The issue highlighted

that our drinking water aquifer is limited. The lens of drinkable water is quite small when looking at the surrounding salt water which surrounds us and underlays us. The supplement reached approximately 65% of Shore households and contained detailed information about local ground water use and supply.

The Eastern Shore Environmental Education Council has been publishing Shore Outdoors since 2003. The En-

vironmental Education Council is an association interested in environmental education, conservation, and natural resource protection on the Eastern Shore. The Environmental Education Council has plans to develop an additional newspaper supplement concerning Eastern Shore ground water issues.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is dependent on ground water as its only source of fresh water and that supply could easily be irreversibly damaged. The Ground Water Committee wants to reward activities that protect that supply. The Committee has established the Ground Water Awards Program to publicize efforts that benefit our water supply. Six types of projects are eligible: Water Conservation, Recharge Area Protection/Preservation, Aquifer Preservation, Recycling/Reuse, Pollution Prevention and Public Education/Community Outreach.

Nominations for the award can be made by going to www.a-npdc.org/groundwaterawards.html and filling out the application form and sending it in. Nominations for the next award will be considered over the summer. For more information on applying, contact Elaine Meil at (757)787-2936 x127.



Left to Right: Ground Water Committee Past Chairman Wanda Thornton, Chairman Suzanne Wescoat, Jane Corson-Lassiter, Secretary Paul Berge

Public Service Authority = Planned Growth = Beauty

The Eastern Shore's two counties have been wrestling with wastewater management for several years. One recurring solution for Eastern Shore wastewater disposal issues is decentralized sewer. Decentralized sewer allows for future growth to occur in suitable areas that do not have soils with wastewater disposal capacity.

In 1999, after almost two years of preparation and planning, Accomack and Northampton Counties agreed to form the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority (ESVPSA). The benefits of forming such an entity included the ability to access funds not available to Towns and Counties on their own.

The county's efforts were timely. The Virginia Health Department made regulatory changes effective July 1, 2000, requiring alternative sewage systems where soils cannot be expected to perform the level of treatment necessary for the protection of the public health.

Many of these systems have since been installed on the Eastern Shore. These are still very new systems but their continued maintenance is an issue. Another issue regarding these systems are the aesthetic characteristics. Periods of history on the Eastern Shore are marked largely by our structural environment. The Colonial period houses are small and connected by annexes, the late 1800s is marked by large Victorian houses with porches, the 1920s are marked by American Four Square houses. Our period will be marked by humps of dirt in the front yard unless we get serious about wastewater disposal.

Public service authorities are incor-

porated as "not-for-profit" incorporations. They are not intended or designed to be profit making and are Board controlled, both organizationally and fiscally. On the other hand, they cannot lose money! A business plan is developed, adhered to, and routinely updated so that the work of an authority can be accomplished and the infrastructure can be maintained and replaced when necessary and without funding difficulty. An authority can offer an economical and long term solution to existing wastewater problems and housing clusters using well thought out decentralized methods. The alternative to an authority may result in reliance on private companies of unproven results and/or the proliferation of alternative systems that are not aesthetically appropriate or convenient anywhere.

\$21,391 in Continuum of Care Funds Awarded to PDC

The Homeless Prevention Task Force made application for funding to put together a regional plan to deliver housing and services that allow people who are homeless to move to stable housing. Application was made in Spring 2005 and HUD has awarded \$21,391 in funding to prepare the plan.

\$16,250 Awarded to PDC in Wellhead Protection Funds

The Ground Water Committee applied for funding for a 2006 education campaign and for the 2006 Household Hazardous Waste Collection. The Department of Environmental Quality has awarded funding for both projects.

Onancock Square Funds Awarded

The Accomack-Northampton Housing Authority has been working with T.M. Associates, Inc. on the purchase and subsequent renovation of Onancock Square Apartments. In March 2005 the Housing Authority made application to the Virginia Housing Development Authority for a portion of the \$3.2 million financing necessary to accomplish this task. On July 15, 2005 the Housing Authority received a reservation of financing from VHDA. In September 2005 the Housing Authority made application to the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta's Affordable Housing Program to obtain a \$400,000 grant. Our application was successful and we anticipate receipt of our award notification shortly.



2005 Household Hazardous Waste Collection



2004 Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Clerical Assistant/ Receptionist

Responsible for answering phones, directing calls, and assisting the Administrative Department in carrying out a variety of clerical tasks for regional office located in Accomac. Prefer some experience in word processing and database management. Candidate must be self motivated and able to handle a fast paced work environment. Starting salary \$15,000-\$18,000.

Send resume by January 3, 2006, to Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, PO Box 417, Accomac, Va 23301, EOE.

Housing Specialist

Duties include inspection of rental units participating in the HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, interpreting and applying HUD Housing Quality Standards, providing written notice of the physical condition of rental units and working with landlords to ensure timely and proper repair of deficiencies. Applicants must have a high school diploma, good organizational, communication, writing and computer skills. Residential construction experience useful but not required. Salary range \$15,000-\$35,000. Send resume by January 3, 2006, to Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, PO Box 417, Accomac, Va 23301, EOE.



How to Contact the A-NPDC

If you have questions or would like to discontinue your subscription, please contact the Planning District Commission.

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