

VA ASSOCIATION OF RC & D COUNCILS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
REPORT FOR SPRING 2011 MEETING

Legislative Committee Members:

Stacey Bradshaw, South Centre Corridors Council
Judy Lyttle, South Hampton Roads Council
Joan Comanor, Shenandoah RC&D Council – Chair
Jerry Davis, Tidewater RC&D Council
Susie Hampton, Old Dominion RC&D Council
Edwin Long, Eastern Shore RC&D Council
Bob Martin, New River-Highlands RC&D Council
Bill Smith, Black Diamond RC&D Council

NRCS Advisors:

Jane Corson-Lassiter, Eastern Shore RC&D Coordinator
Pat Tyrrell, Tidewater RC&D Coordinator
Ray Dorsett, NRCS RC&D Program Manager/Asst State Conservationist

The Legislative Committee has been very active in its efforts to save the USDA RC&D Program funding. There was a strong Virginia delegation attending the February 14-15 National Leadership Forum and/or making personal visits to our Congressional delegation offices. Efforts have continued up to the last minute by individual Council members, partners and others in behalf of the program. These included personal phone calls, emails, and faxes to both local offices and staff as well as to the Virginia delegation's offices in Washington, DC. In the end, the program funding was eliminated. In the final vote on the budget for the balance of this fiscal year which included the elimination of RC&D program funding, both Senators Warner and Webb voted yes.

We want to express our appreciation to the concerted efforts of our Committee members, our Council members and partners for all their efforts.