



# SMITH CREEK SHOWCASE WATERSHED

- April 27, 2010
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# A Little Bit about My Background

- Worked in the Northern Neck & Middle Peninsula from 1980-1991 with NRCS (District Conservationist in Tappahannock)
- 17 years as a RC&D Coordinator
- Worked with river basin coalitions in
  - Columbia River Basin
  - Upper Tennessee (Clinch, Powell & Holston rivers)
  - Big Sandy (Ohio River Basin (KY, WV & VA))

Let's work together to  
make the **WHOLE**  
greater than the sum  
of the parts!!!



The background is a solid blue color with a gradient. At the top, there are several wavy, horizontal lines in shades of blue and cyan, creating a sense of movement or a horizon line. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

The technical challenges we  
face are easy compared to  
the social challenges we face  
in this watershed.



# SHARED VISION?

- Smith Creek Partnership
  - Do we want to develop one?
- Smith Creek Watershed Community
  - Do they have a shared vision?
  - How do we learn about their community vision?
  - Where will it overlap with ours?



# What is a showcase watershed?

- USDA agencies will advocate for the watershed, seek funding and increase technical assistance.
- A PLACE to develop strategies and “lessons learned” to be shared and replicated in other BAY watersheds.
- The website will be a place for each partner to SHOWCASE their work and successes!!



# What is a showcase watershed?

- Need to establish a baseline. How do we measure success?
- 100% Outreach - What does that mean?
- We are still asking the question. What is a showcase watershed?
- **We need your help to fully flesh it out.**



# Project Sponsors of Showcase Watershed

- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Farm Service Agency
- Rural Development





# Showcase Watershed is a new player in Smith Creek

- Smith Creek Partnership's guidance and leadership are critical to make the various pieces work together.
- How does the showcase watershed's additional USDA resources augment existing efforts?



# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- USDA agencies will need to develop their own goals and objectives for this showcase watershed to satisfy USDA requirements.
- **Will the partnership desire to establish an overarching framework of goals and objectives to “mesh” efforts more effectively?**
- Together we must look for ways to leverage public and private resources to get more conservation on the ground.



# CCPI Funding Opportunity

CCPI = Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

- CCPI – Chesapeake Bay Watershed Proposals due by May 24, 2010 (\$1.3 million available in Virginia)
- NRCS will make Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) funds available to owners and operators of agricultural and nonindustrial private forest lands in approved CCPI project areas. **Are the partners interested in making Smith Creek Watershed a CCPI project area?**



# CCPI Funding Opportunity

- This is NOT a grant program. All federal CCPI funds made available to selected CCPI project areas will be paid directly to producers through program contract agreements.
- Projects cannot exceed a period of five years.



# PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

- **Executive Sponsors** – USDA State Executives who champion the showcase watershed, obtain budgets, etc.
- **Sounding Board** – local government, landowners, agricultural producers and industry (dairy, poultry, etc.) representatives that provide constructive feedback to the steering committee on project activities and future plans. **Utilize existing TMDL Steering Committee?**



# PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

- **Steering Committee** – is responsible for the strategic direction and success of the showcase watershed project. **Smith Creek Partnership would fill this role. Is this name acceptable to the partnership?**
- **Core Team** – is responsible for day-to-day project management. **Who should serve in this capacity?**
- **Project Technical Support Group(s)** – provide analysis and resource information identified by the Core Team and Steering Committee.



# “GRAND OPENING”

- May 12, 2010 marks the one-year anniversary of the signing of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order by President Obama.
- We might not be given much time to prepare for a visit by USDA officials representing the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.
- **What are your ideas on what we should do for the Smith Creek Showcase Watershed Grand Opening?**



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