

## The District At Work

### Financial Report

#### Program Year 2025 Cost Share Distributions

##### VA Agricultural Cost Share Program (VACS)

Chesapeake Bay watershed	\$ 709,412
Outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed	\$ 111,240

##### Roanoke River Implementation Plan

Tinker and Glade Creek Septic Program	\$ 55,998
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**Total cost share distribution — all programs \$ 876,650**



### Education & Outreach

#### Program Year 2025 District Operations

##### Income

Income — state & federal sources	\$ 319,115
Income — Botetourt & Craig	\$ 10,000
Dam maintenance — state sources	\$ 18,000
Educational grants	\$ 16,273
Interest income (includes CDs)	\$ 8,548
<b>Total operational income</b>	<b>\$ 371,936</b>

##### Expenses

Operations & Education	\$ 244,498
Dam Maintenance	\$ 16,717
<b>Total operational expenses</b>	<b>\$ 261,215</b>



Activities held	89
Partner organizations	14
Total participants	3,615
Social media reach	10,000+
Grants received	\$ 16,273
Scholarships awarded	\$ 3,668

#### Program Year 2025 Small Dam Repair and Dam Rehabilitation

##### Income

Small Dam Repair — state sources	\$ 159,742
Johns Creek #1 Rehabilitation — federal sources	\$ 693,504

##### Expenses

Small Dam Repair — state sources	\$ 160,876
Johns Creek #1 Rehabilitation — federal sources	\$ 621,632

### Johns Creek Dams

Mountain Castles SWCD and Craig County co-own four flood control dams on Johns Creek. Maintenance operations on the dams are completed twice per year. All dams are inspected annually.

Johns Creek Dam #1 Rehabilitation to improve spillway capacity is moving along through the design phase with a final design expected by summer of 2026.

The District completed two small dam repair projects and has started a new one on Johns Creek Dam #2, whose rehabilitation is next on the state's list. The District also successfully worked with our local partners to ensure public safety during high water levels from Hurricane Helene and heavy February rains.

More information about the dams is available on the district website.



## Clean Water Farm Awards



2024 Clean Water Farm Awards were recognized at the annual banquet in February: Tessa and Joe Haynes of Botetourt County (top) and John and Mary Hunter of Craig County (bottom).



Stream exclusion infrastructure such as this watering trough installed by Tessa Haynes (top) are critical to helping us meet our pollution goals for the James River and the Chesapeake Bay.

### Brett Smith



### Scholarships

John and Hallie Seibel Scholarship — \$2,000  
**Brett Smith**, Lord Botetourt HS (Washington & Lee)

Harold P. Entsminger Honorary Scholarship (James River HS) — \$2,000; not awarded in 2025

George Todd Memorial Scholarship (Craig County HS) — \$2,000; not awarded in 2025





### Mountain Castles SWCD

[www.mountaincastles.org](http://www.mountaincastles.org)

**(540) 580-8373**

### District Board of Directors

#### Elected Directors

Jeffrey W. Henderson, Chair - Botetourt County  
 Preston Wickline, Vice Chair - Botetourt County  
 Andrew Keffer - Craig County  
 Jason Williams - Craig County

#### Appointed Directors

Walter Nelson, Botetourt County  
 Jonathan Stanley, VCE

#### Associate Directors

Michael Beahm, Treasurer  
 Jeff Munsey  
 Tasha Snavely  
 Tom & Tara Williamson

#### District Staff

Tim Miller, District Coordinator  
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 Emily Williams, Conservation Technician Assistant  
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#### Conservation District Coordinator

Tad Williams, DCR

### Conservation Partners

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)  
 Botetourt County Board of Supervisors  
 Botetourt County Schools  
 Craig County Board of Supervisors  
 Craig County Schools  
 United States Department of Agriculture  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
 Farm Service Agency (FSA)  
 Shenandoah Valley Conservancy  
 Blue Ridge Land Conservancy  
 Virginia Cooperative Extension  
 Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
 Virginia Department of Forestry  
 National Association of Conservation Districts  
 Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources  
 Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
 Virginia Department of Health  
 Upper James Resource Conservation & Development Council  
 Virginia State University Small Farm Outreach Program  
 Roanoke-Valley Alleghany Regional Commission  
 Catawba Sustainability Center  
 Roanoke Cement Company  
 James River Association  
 Upper and Middle James Buffer Consortium



The Commonwealth of Virginia supports Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

## Mountain Castles Soil & Water Conservation District



### 2025 District Update

It was another record-setting year for the district, with almost one million dollars allocated for the construction of new Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Botetourt County and Craig County. With a record amount of cost share dollars for the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program (VACS) available for program year 2026, we know there will be many BMPs put on the ground over the next few years.

The district paid out over \$800,000 for VACS projects completed in the 2024 program year, which ended June 30. Demand continued for the Tinker & Glade Creek Residential septic program, with over \$55,000 paid in cost share.

Over ten site assessments were completed for the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP), as interest grew this year. The district will be adding a part-time position during the upcoming program year to conduct VCAP site assessments and to assist with the VACS program.

The district's education and outreach program reached over 3,500 students and adults through classroom programs, workshops, and field trips. Educational grants from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund provided meaningful field experiences for middle school students in Botetourt and Craig. For the second year in a row, the district co-hosted the Area I Envirothon in April with Natural Bridge SWCD.

The district cannot do this work without collaborative efforts from our partners. Our partners include the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Botetourt County, Craig County, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Virginia Department of Health, the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, Shenandoah Valley Conservancy, Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, the Catawba Sustainability Center, and Roanoke Cement Company.