

**Acceptance of Individuals Nominated to Serve on the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board Members**

**§ 10.1-502. Soil and Water Conservation Board; composition.**

The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board is continued and shall perform the functions conferred upon it in this chapter. The Board shall consist of nine nonlegislative citizen members and one ex officio member with nonvoting privileges. The Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation or his designee shall be a nonvoting ex officio member of the Board. Three nonlegislative citizen members of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor as at-large members, of whom at least two members shall have a demonstrated interest in natural resource conservation with a background or knowledge in dam safety, soil conservation, or water quality protection. Additionally, four nonlegislative citizen members shall be farmers at the time of their appointment and two nonlegislative citizen members shall be farmers or district directors. Each of the six nonlegislative members who is a farmer or district director shall be a resident of a different one of the six geographic areas represented in the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of two qualified nominees for each vacancy jointly submitted by the Board and the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in consultation with the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation and the Virginia Agribusiness Council. Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of four years. All appointed members shall not serve more than two consecutive full terms. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be made in the same manner as the original appointments, except that such appointments shall be for the unexpired terms only. The Board may invite the Virginia State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, to serve as an advisory nonvoting member. The Board shall keep a record of its official actions and adopt a seal and may perform acts, hold public hearings, and adopt regulations necessary for the execution of its functions under this chapter.

**Recommended Motion:**

The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board accepts the nominations of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and directs staff to forward these nominations to the Secretary of the Commonwealth for consideration for appointment.



**Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

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April 26, 2022

Matt Wells, Director  
Department of Conservation & Recreation  
600 East Main Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Director Wells:

With the term soon coming to an end for the current Area I and IV representatives to the Virginia Soil & Water Board, the Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Board of Directors in accordance with the Code of Virginia § 10.1-502 formally bring forward the following individuals for consideration of appointment to the Virginia Soil & Water Board. The VASWCD has also consulted with both Farm Bureau and the Agribusiness Council regarding these nominations, as required by Code of Virginia and no concerns were noted.

<b>Area I Representatives:</b>	
Charles Newton	Farmer & Director – Shenandoah Valley SWCD
Paul Burkholder	Director – Lord Fairfax SWCD

  

<b>Area IV Representatives:</b>	
Adam Wilson	Farmer & Director – Holston River SWCD
Roger Elkins	Farmer & Director – Daniel Boone SWCD

The Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts will be prepared to present the above list comprised of two qualified nominees for both Area I and Area IV for recommendation to the State Soil & Water Board at its upcoming June meeting. As Charles Newton and Adam Wilson are incumbents, currently serving on the board, we support their reappointment based on background as well as their knowledge and expertise brought to the group throughout their current term. However, the VASWCD firmly stands behind the credentials of all of our nominations and supports all four individuals knowing each would serve the board well also.

On behalf of the Virginia Association and our 47 Soil & Water Conservation Districts across the state we are appreciative our Directors have the opportunity to serve and strengthen efforts at the state level.

Sincerely Yours,

Lynn Graves, President  
Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
Director, Culpeper SWCD

Kendall Tyree, PhD  
Executive Director, VASWCD

Enclosures – Resume/Bio Credentials for Recommended Candidates

Cc: Chuck Arnason, SWCB Chair; Christine Watlington Jones, DCR; Mike Fletcher, DCR

# Charles Newton

149 Balkamore Hill Road  
Stanley, VA 22851

## **SERVICE ON BOARDS OR OTHER ADVISORY ROLES**

### **Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board**

**2018 - present**

Serve on the Board and on the Audit Committee of the Board.

### **Elected Director of Shenandoah Valley SWCD**

**2008 - present**

- Serve as Treasurer and Chair of Finance Committee for Board of Directors and also serve on the Chesapeake Bay Technical Committee.
- Serve as Chair of Dam Maintenance Committee - participating in annual dam inspections and DCR Engineering inspections and regularly attend DCR Dam Owner Workgroup meetings to stay current on Dam Safety Regulations and best practices. Familiar with Dam Break Inundation Zone studies and engineering designs for required modifications for safety of high hazard dams.

### **Page County Planning Commission**

**2007 – 2011**

Contributed to a significant update to County Comprehensive Plan to better protect natural resources and the farming economy. I have also assisted as requested with Comprehensive Plan updates as a citizen after my term on Planning Commission.

### **Chairman of Page County Water Quality Advisory Committee**

**2001 - present**

Committee appointed by Board of Supervisors to provide advice and recommend actions to County government and citizens to protect and improve local water quality.

### **Page County Tree Board (non-profit)**

**1999 - present**

Serve as Treasurer and grant writer/administrator for planting landscape trees on public property and providing tree maintenance advice to County residents.

## **PROFESSIONAL CAREER**

### **National Park Service (Retired)**

**1975-2016**

Ended career at Shenandoah National Park with other assignments at National Capital Regional Office and Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia area National Parks.

### **Areas of Expertise:**

Engineering, maintenance and construction; Contract administration for water and sewer system repairs, sewage treatment plants, major road rehabilitation and building construction; Supervision and Management of Operation & Maintenance for multiple public water systems and wastewater treatment plants including VA DEQ and VA Department of Health permit applications, permit reporting, inspections and compliance; Safety Program Management, Serious Accident Investigation, Industrial Hygiene, Employee and Visitor Safety, Budget and Operations Management, Business Process Re-Engineering, Coordination of Environmental Management System, Strategic Planning, Program Audits, and Policy Development.

## **EDUCATION**

**Union College** - B.S., Electrical Engineering (*cum laude*)

Schenectady, NY

**Union University** - M.S., Industrial Administration

Albany, NY

**Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute** (UVA, VA Tech. & VA DoF)

Graduate, 2002

## **PERSONAL BACKGROUND**

Grew up on my family's 'Newton Dairy' farm.

## **Paul Burkholder**

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Winchester, VA 22601

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Paul Gentry Burkholder, age 65 in May, married 41 years to Ann T Burkholder who is the Commissioner of Revenue for Winchester (R). Ann and Paul Burkholder have two grown children Cameron Verano, PhD age 35 and Spencer Burkholder age 32.

Burkholder earned his BSCE from Virginia Military Institute in 1980, worked for Norfolk Southern and Amtrak for 19 years and then Wells Fargo Advisors for 25 years. He is retiring from a distinguished professional career, where he currently serves as Senior Vice President Private Client Group, at the end of April 2022.

Burkholder has served for three years as an elected Director to the Lord Fairfax Soil & Water Conservation District. At the local district level, he serves as Legislative Committee chair and a member of the Dam Committee.

His interests include hiking, kayaking, photography and all things history - especially Virginia history.

# Adam Wilson

14980 Black Hollow Road

Abingdon, VA 24210

Phone: 276-608-0026

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Since graduating from Virginia Tech in 2001 with a degree in Animal and Poultry Sciences, Adam Wilson has been a full-time cattle producer in southwest Virginia for over sixteen years. With farms in Russell and Washington County, Adam is also a licensed auctioneer from the Mendenhall School of Auctioneering in High Point, NC. A member of the Virginia Cattlemen's Association, Virginia Auctioneers Association, as well as the National Auctioneers association, Adam has regularly demonstrated his many talents as a leader in both the agricultural field as well as auctioneering. Currently, Adam serves as a board member for the Washington County Farm Bureau, a board member for Holston River SWCD serving as treasurer, and former Chairman for the Clinch Valley SWCD. Adam has successfully implemented numerous agricultural best management practices and continues to raise the bar on many different levels for production farming across the region.

After receiving the Clean Water Farm Award from Holston River SWCD, Adam's work has continued to progress. In 2015, Adam was featured by John Deere's "Gator Stories" – only five farms in the nation were featured in this story (see link below). And most recently, Adam was one of five farmers in the nation to receive Progressive Farmer's prestigious award of the Best Young Farmers and Ranchers for 2018.

Adam's leadership doesn't end there. After Russell County School System eliminated their agricultural program several years ago, Adam spearheaded the reintroduction of ag. in the classroom in 2015 and 2016. After a successful year for the agriculture program, Adam recently received the Betty O'Quinn Award by the Russell County Chamber of Commerce. Adam is also a member of the Maple Grove Presbyterian Church in Abingdon, VA where he serves as elder there.

Adam resides in Abingdon, Virginia with his wife Sarah, and their two children, Mady and Clint.

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Adam was featured in a John Deere Gator Story video highlighting his operation that has received over 109k views. "John Deere Gator Stories - Adam and Sarah Wilson know how to reduce risk and bring family together to get things done in Virginia in this John Deere Gator Story. Bet on love and hard work going a long way." View the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eku12woxpoQ>

In April 2022, Adam was featured in a video showcasing agriculture and its importance in Washington County. View the video here:

<https://vimeo.com/689390938>



We work with the people who work the land.

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April 7, 2022

Roger Elkins  
8905 Middle Wallens Creed Road  
Jonesville, Virginia 24263

I was born and raised on a Virginia Century Farm, Elkins Sandy Spring Farm, a traditional burley tobacco/beef cattle farm. The last several years the farm has changed to a strictly beef cattle operation. Currently the farm is being transitioned to my son, Andrew Elkins, to continue the Century Farm legacy.

I have worked more than 33 years for the Virginia Department of Transportation as both a Construction Inspector and as a Construction Manager. I currently hold a Certified Construction Manager certification (CCM) issued by the Construction Management Institute of America.

I have an Associate Degree in Environmental Science from Mountain Empire Community College.

I have served on the Lee County Farm Bureau Board of Directors since 2009 and currently serve on the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Legislative Advisory Committee.

I completed the Virginia Agricultural Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) program at Virginia Tech in 2014 as part of its Inaugural Class.

I have served on the Daniel Boone Soil & Water Conservation District Board since 2011 and as its Chair since 2017. I currently serve as the VASWCD Area IV Chair.

My favorite thing to do is travel, especially on a motorcycle.