NFWF Regional Collaborative Spotlight Series

Agricultural & Rural Collaboratives: The Shenandoah Valley – Resources, Relationship, and Effective Process

Session 5. Collaborative Leads **Rory Maguire,** Virginia Tech; **Kate Wofford,** Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley Funder Synthesis **Jake Reilly,** NFWF Group Process Synthesis **Mike Foreman,** UVA IEN; **Jennifer Miller Herzog,** Land Trust Alliance Moderating **Liz Feinberg,** CalVan Environmental



NFWF's Goals for the Series

- Strengthen understanding and application of collaborative models for Bay restoration
- Support development, growth, and sustainability of local and regional collaboratives
 - ✓ Seed future NFWF INSR project opportunities
- Identify leaders and practitioners of successful collaborative models to share their knowledge and expertise
- Advance the practice of collaborative conservation for Bay restoration



Metrics of Success. Recommended to NFWF by UVA IEN

• **Motivation:** Factors that Inspire and Sustain Engagement

• **Capacity:** Factors that Empower Collaboratives

• **Effective Process**: Factors that Facilitate Collaboration

• **Evaluation:** Factors that Advance Effectiveness and Impact Over Time



Today's Agenda

- Use the Chat Box!
 - Introduce yourself and your organization in the Chat Box.
 - During the panel discussion we have "Chat Hosts" who will pool your Qs and we'll cover as much as possible.
 - Resource links will be posted in the Chat Box throughout the discussion.
- Featured Collaborative Leads will present first.
- Brief synthesis from Funder and Group Process folks will follow.
- Panel discussion including Collaborative Leads, Funder and Group Process folks to explore your Qs.
- Polls! You'll be invited to participate in a couple of polling Qs throughout.
- What's Next? Stay tuned until the end to hear more from NFWF about upcoming GRANT opps for regional-scale collaboratives



Building Soil Health in Virginia

Rory Maguire

Professor and Extension Specialist

Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech - Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences

Current Virginia Soil Health Coalition



NRCS Soil Health Practices

- Keep the soil covered
 - Leave residue on surface
- Minimize soil disturbance
 - No-till
- Maximize living roots
 - Cover crops
- Energize with diversity
 - Diverse cover crop
 - Rotational grazir

New \$1 million Soil Health Grant Thanks to our Sponsors!!

 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction

1:1 Cost Share
DCR \$800,000
Agua Fund \$200,000

New Soil Health Grant

• Pillar 1: Coalition Building and Collaboration

• Pillar 2: Soil Health Practice Implementation through Education, Demonstration and paid Peer-to-Peer Mentoring. Leverage early adopter knowledge to late adopters. Through established organizations.

• Pillar 3: Market Opportunities



New Project in VA will:

- 1. Expand coalition building, (has multiple support letters from agencies and non-profits)
- Local established groups will be involved with expanding adoption of soil health practices through peer-to-peer mentoring Measurable metrics
 - VT will be working on soil tests, primarily for nitrogen. Can you define a healthy soil, and can you run a test to decrease N applications? 0.75 instead of 1 lb N/bu corn?
- 3. Expand market opportunities



Shenandoah Valley Conservation Collaborative NFWF Webinar Series on Regional Collaboratives

August 27, 2020

Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley



VISION: A Shenandoah Valley where our way of life is sustained by rural landscapes, clean streams and rivers, and thriving communities.



Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley



FOR THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY





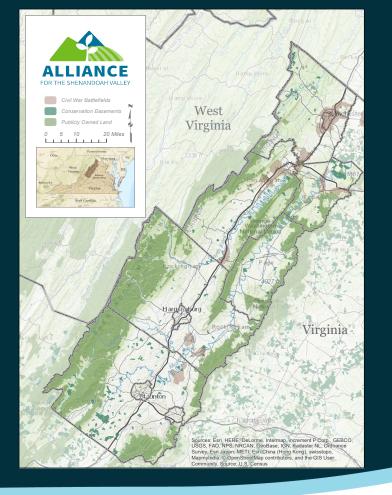






Scenic 340 Project, Inc.





Service Area:

Augusta County Rockingham County Shenandoah County Page County Warren County Frederick County





SVCC

Local Land Trusts Watershed Groups Regional Nonprofits Agency Partners County Easement Authorities



Founded in 2017, Shenandoah Valley Conservation Collaborative leverages the expertise and landowner relationships of its diverse partners to conserve the extraordinary land and water resources treasured by Valley residents and visitors.

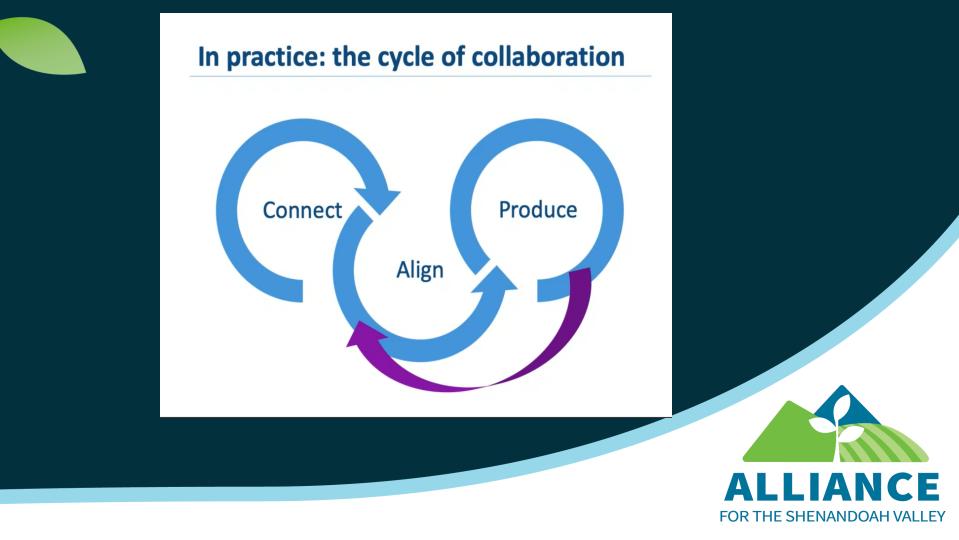
We focus on land protection and water restoration on shared priority lands in six Shenandoah Valley counties.



Stages of regional-scale collaboratives









SVCC

Local Land Trusts Watershed Groups Regional Nonprofits Agency Partners County Easement Authorities



We are building on track record of successful partnerships in the Shenandoah Valley

- Smith Creek Partnership Showcase Watershed
- Pure Water Forum
- Waste Solutions Forum
- R C & D Council
- And many more...



ALLIANCE

FOR THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

NFWF Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant 2020-2022:

Pillar One: Develop collaborative capacity Pillar Two: Outreach and recruitment of landowners

- Livestock stream exclusion
- Farm and forestland protection





NFWF Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant 2020-2022

Grant Funds Support

- Staff positions: SVCC Project Manager, Conservation Field Assistant
- Pass through funding to partners
- Implementation funds for practices

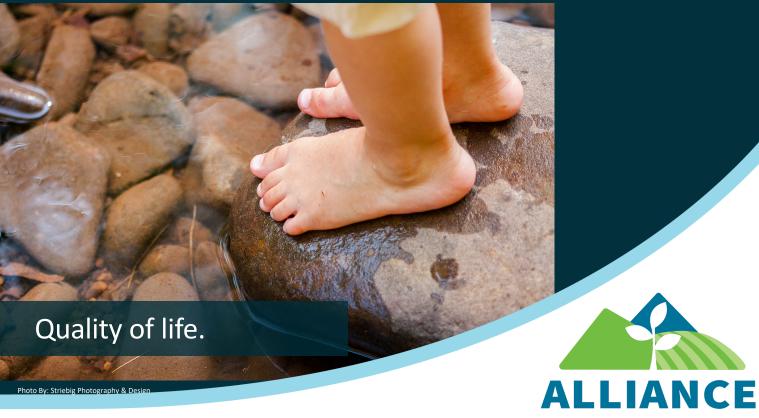


Early lessons learned:

- Show and celebrate successes
- Partners will only show up if there's real benefit
- Strong support network
- It is complicated! Water quality restoration and farmland protection will not be achieved by a single agency or nonprofit



Collaboration and partnerships for the future



FOR THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY



ShenandoahAlliance.org

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Discussion

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What's Next?

- **Soon:** Announcement of 2020 INSR awards and additional examples of what makes for fundable, collaborative approaches
- **December 2020 (est.):** NFWF releases 2021 INSR RFP for proposals to resource expansion and enhancement of existing regional collaboratives working to accelerate on-the-ground implementation
- January 2021 (est.): NFWF releases 2021 SWG-I/SWG-PTA RFP for proposals to help inform, build, and pilot new and emerging collaboratives



What's Next?

- **NOW!!!:** We invite you to prepare ahead of the 2021 RFP season to consider what's needed to significantly accelerate, advance and sustain water quality improvements in the landscapes YOU are working in:
 - Consider the PRIORITY needs of the watersheds and the best scale for addressing it
 - Check out NFWF's Business Plan for the Chesapeake Bay and geographic priorities
 - Contact NFWF or your nearest field liaison to discuss your ideas for building/strengthening a regional collaborative
 - Review the REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE resources available from this series and consider joining a "new" network of practitioners working with and leading collaboratives

