



## Q2 2010 Newsletter

June 1, 2010

### New Agency Heads

The Governor recently announced new leadership for two agencies central to Virginia *forever's* mission of increasing the commitment of state funds for natural resource protection.

*David Johnson – Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation*



David Johnson was appointed as Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation in May 2010. Johnson has spent more than 14 years in the environmental policy arena. He served as chief deputy for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) from 1998 through 2002 and as director for a short time in 2002. Since 2006, he has worked as an environment and energy consultant to the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and represented the group before state regulatory bodies and the General Assembly. Johnson has a bachelor's degree in Ocean Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation works with Virginians to conserve, protect, and enhance their lands and improve the quality of the Chesapeake Bay and our rivers and streams, promote the stewardship and enjoyment of natural, cultural and outdoor recreational resources, and ensure the safety of Virginia's dams.

*Matt Lohr - Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*



Matt Lohr was appointed Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) in March 2010. Lohr, a native of Rockingham County, Virginia, represents the 26th District in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2006 to 2010. Lohr is a 1995 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in agricultural education. He taught Agricultural Science in Shenandoah County for two years. He and his wife Andrea are part of his family farm in Rockingham County. The farm is a designated Virginia Century Farm, having been operated by the same family for more than 100 years. In 1996, the farm won the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Farm Stewardship Award. The farm produces poultry and grains and has a pick-your-own pumpkin operation that serves as an outdoor classroom for hundreds of school children each year.

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services promotes the economic growth and development of Virginia agriculture, provides consumer protection and encourages environmental stewardship.

#### **Member Spotlight: Waste Management**



The first installment of our member profile for the *Virginiaforever* newsletter features one of our newest members – Waste Management of Virginia (WM). WM provides an array of services to its Virginia customers including residential, commercial and municipal hauling, transfer stations, materials recycling facilities, landfill operations and renewable waste-to-energy facilities. The company takes great pride in being a good neighbor keeping citizens safe and the communities in which it operates clean. While most folks think of WM as only a trash collector, protecting the environment has always been a top priority.

This is evident in WM's company-wide Environmental Management Program (EMP), which specializes in environmental protection, groundwater protection, environmental engineering, air/gas management and national laboratory services to achieve superior performance while supporting the company's main principles of protection, compliance and conservation.

WM facilities across North America also provide more than 24,000 acres of protected land for wetlands and wildlife habitat. To date, a total of 73 WM facilities have earned the Wildlife Habitat Council's (WHC) prestigious 'Wildlife at Work' certification awards and 14 of those also have the 'Corporate Land for Learning' certification. In addition, the company was recognized in 2006 as the first organizational

recipient of the WHC's President's Award, and in 2008 became the first recipient of the WHC's William W. Howard C.E.O. Award, recognizing the company's efforts in conservation, education and outreach.

Locally, WM's Maplewood Recycling and Waste Disposal Facility in Amelia (Wildlife at Work and Corporate Land for Learning' certifications) and King George County Landfill (Wildlife at Work) were recipients of WHC certifications in 2009. 'Wildlife at Work' certification recognizes outstanding native habitat management and environmental education programs developed through partnerships with local organizations. King George County Landfill's 200-acre wildlife habitat is actively maintained for wildlife and includes grasslands, wetlands and ponds.

Maplewood Recycling and Waste Disposal Facility's 'Corporate Lands for Learning' program provides interactive opportunities for students and the community, and enhances the public's knowledge of wildlife, habitat, landfill operations and environmentally responsible management practices. The site also partners with the Virginia Save Our Streams program to educate students and visitors about the ecology and organisms that use the on-site stream.

WM is actively seeking WHC certification for its Atlantic Waste Disposal (Suffolk) facility and Charles City County Landfill in 2010. The WHC is a nonprofit, non-lobbying group of corporations, conservation organizations and individuals dedicated to restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat.

To nominate a member to be featured in our next e-newsletter, please email [info@virginiaforever.org](mailto:info@virginiaforever.org).

## **Virginia Budget Update**

Virginia recently received a small bit of positive news on updated revenue projections for the state. Assuming revenue collections for May and June 2010 are equivalent to figures for the same period last year, Sec. Brown expects the Commonwealth to run \$140 million surplus for FY2010.

Related news:

1. [NBC 29 \(May 17, 2010\)](#)
2. [WSLS 10 \(May 17, 2010\)](#)
3. [Bloomberg Businessweek \(May 17, 2010\)](#)

## **Member Updates**

In April at the 21st Annual Environment Virginia Symposium, Michael Lipford (The Nature Conservancy) was awarded the 2010 Ron Erchul Environmental Leadership Award.

The Erchul Award recognizes a Virginian who has made significant individual efforts to better our environment. The award is named for retired VMI Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor, Ronald A. Erchul, the founder of the Environment Virginia Symposium. Nominees are judged on the basis of vision, expertise, commitment, integrity, communication skills, accomplishments, and diplomacy.

Congratulations to Michael on this honor!

## Going Forward

Virginia*forever* will be hosting our annual Bridge Builder Roast this September. Please be on the lookout for additional information on this event in the coming weeks.

Thank you for all that you do to support funding for the protection and preservation of our natural resources.

On behalf of the Board of Virginia*forever*, I remain,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Dunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent and the last name "Dunn" following in a similar style.

Robert L. Dunn  
Chairman