

In Memoriam: Diane Hoffman

Diane Hoffman's years of service to Fairfax County and Northern Virginia should not be underestimated. As long time Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District (NVSWCD), Diane worked seamlessly with local jurisdictions to improve and enhance the waterways that feed our rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Whether working with elected officials in board rooms or donning boots to evaluate the soils and maintenance of horse farms and stables, Diane always listened carefully and then made rational and implementable recommendations that would address the issues in a sustainable manner.



Diane always utilized the never-adequate NVSWCD funding in an efficient manner and found creative ways to find additional dollars at both the State and local levels. Her prowess in Richmond, working with the General Assembly and other SWCDs made her one of the most respected environmental leaders in the Commonwealth.

Diane was instrumental in the founding of the Potomac watershed Roundtable (PWR) in 2000. The Roundtable brought together officials, state and local environmental staffs, non-profit organizations and other stakeholders for regional meetings across the watershed. Urban, suburban, and rural participants were able to share successes and failures, observing firsthand both development and the agricultural practices, always with a view to protecting and preserving the environment that she so treasured. The PWR is the most successful Roundtable in the Commonwealth and an outstanding example of Diane's commitment to regional excellence.

Diane was an excellent manager of staff and her care and concern for everyone she worked with was well known. Her care was both profound and personal. It was not unusual for Diane to inquire about feelings and family, almost an "earth mother."

The Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) worked with Diane on many occasions. It was not uncommon for her to attend to listen past EQAC Annual Public Hearings on the Environment or other EQAC presentations on environmental issues. Members of EQAC frequently served on community task forces with Diane. The most recent being the Task Force for the Future of Accotink and this being one of the last community meetings Diane was able to attend. Diane was a knowledgeable resource that members of EQAC would consult on environmental topics. She was a friend and mentor to many current and past members of EQAC.

In the pantheon of environmental leaders in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia, Diane Hoffman's place is secure and untarnished, Thank you, Diane, for your example and dedication to future generations. Your foundation is firm.