

Northampton County Eastern Shore of Virginia

Board of Supervisor Members

Suzanne Wescoat

Jeff Walker



Northampton County

- Real Estate assessments have increased dramatically in the last 5 years
- County Budget - \$39,352,000
 - School budget ~ 55% of the County budget
 - More Social Services are needed for population, ~ 8%
 - Debt service ~ 7%
- Capital Improvement Programs, CIP
 - School Projects
 - Jail
 - Courthouse

Northampton County

- Agriculture Background
 - Currently have 52,459 acres of farmland
 - Aquaculture
 - Commodity Farms – small grains and vegetables
 - Market value of product sold \$44,192,000
 - Agriculture lands are important to the industry and natural resources for future generations

Northampton County

- Natural Resources
 - Sole Source Aquifer
 - Pristine Shoreline
 - Bay
 - Ocean
 - Entire County is under Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act

Northampton County

- Grassroots effort to develop PDR Ordinance
 - Delmarva Conservation Corridor
 - A Congressman worked with our committee to have money put into the Farm Bill, but funding was not appropriated
 - 5600 acres are already protected through TNC, VOF and the VA Eastern Shore Land Trust
 - Cost of Community Services
 - Long process to establish the ordinance
 - Followed the state PDR model, VDACS reviewed and approved
 - Evaluate farms to determine criteria
 - Look at funding sources

Possible Funding Options

- Transient occupancy tax
 - Would like to raise the tax to 5% in order to use 1-2% increase for PDR
- Roll back taxes resolution passed during 2006
 - Half of the taxes collected would come to PDR program
 - Limited funds would be available, not a substantial source
- State Funding for Local PDRs