

# WETLANDS WATCH RECEIVES FOUNDATION GRANT AND HIRES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Wetlands Watch, a Norfolk-based non-profit environmental organization, announced the receipt of a grant from the [Keith Campbell Foundation](#) of Annapolis, MD. With the funding, Wetlands Watch has hired its first executive director, William A. “Skip” Stiles, Jr. and has expanded its operations statewide.

“This grant couldn’t come at a better time, for our organization or for the health of Virginia’s environment,” said Heather Smith, President of Wetlands Watch. “With this grant and the staffing it allows, we can expand and deepen our impact.”

Wetlands Watch began in Norfolk in 1999 when a group of neighbors gathered to fight a dredging project on Crab Creek in Norfolk, Virginia, part of the Lafayette River watershed. It is an award-winning organization that was incorporated on Earth Day, 2001, and has evolved into a respected voice for the protection and conservation of wetlands in Virginia.

“We are proud that the Keith Campbell Foundation has recognized our past work and our future potential,” said Jay Taylor, one of the founding Board members of Wetlands Watch. “This investment in our future should inspire citizen’s groups throughout the Chesapeake Bay to keep at their work – it can lead to bigger and better things!”

Skip Stiles stepped down as president of the Board of Wetlands Watch to become its executive director. Stiles has 22 years of experience as a senior professional staffer in the US House of Representatives and had been working as a consultant to foundations and federal agencies prior to taking this position. Stiles is also Vice-President of the Virginia Conservation Network, a statewide coalition of over 100 environmental groups.

“When I left Capitol Hill I saw the innovative work of society happening at the state and local level,” Stiles said. “Progress on pressing environmental issues was not to be had in Washington but in the Nation’s backyards and main streets. That has been and continues to be the focus of Wetlands Watch’s work.”

The Campbell Foundation grant has allowed Wetlands Watch to operate statewide on tidal and nontidal wetlands protection and conservation. Wetlands Watch also works on land use issues connected to the conservation of shoreline and riverfront natural resources – upland buffers, wetlands, mudflats and shallow water habitat..

For further information, contact Skip Stiles at 757-623-4835 or 757-621-1185 (cell).

E-mail [skipstiles@wetlandswatch.org](mailto:skipstiles@wetlandswatch.org)

WEB Site: <http://www.wetlandswatch.org>