



County of Albemarle
Community Development Department

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To: Albemarle Conservation Easement Authority
From: Scott Clark, Senior Planner/ACEA Secretary
Re: ACEA 2020 Field Monitoring
Date: January 28, 2021

In the spring of 2020, the field-monitoring program for ACEA conservation easements came to temporary halt due to the onset of the Covid-19 health emergency. Although one monitoring visit was completed in February, 2020, field activities were stopped soon thereafter due to restrictions on staff travel, as well as to the departure of Jason Sheridan, the UVA monitoring intern (who was no longer able to work due to Covid-19 risk).

To address ACEA concern regarding the continuity of the monitoring program and working with reduced staff resulting from a pandemic-related hiring freeze, in the summer staff shifted work assignments to allow Ches Goodall, the ACE Program Coordinator, to add ACEA monitoring to the ACE monitoring that he was already carrying out .

Mr. Goodall began visiting ACEA properties in August. By the end of December he visited 41 properties under ACEA-held donated easements or Rural Preservation Development easements. (Overall, the ACEA and the County together hold 186 easements over 28,480 acres.) Staff anticipates that this monitoring approach will continue at least as long as Covid-19 restrictions are in place.