



Dana Adkins

Chickahominy Tribe - Richmond, Virginia

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Sarah Rodriguez: This is Sarah Rodriguez with the Southern Foodways Alliance. It is December...

Dana Adkins: 9th.

Sarah Rodriguez: 9th, thank you. I'm here in—are we in Roxbury or Charles City?

Dana Adkins: We're in Charles City County. The locality is Roxbury.

Sarah Rodriguez: I see. In Virginia. Do you mind introducing yourself for the recorder?

Dana Adkins: My name is Dana C. Adkins, I'm a citizen of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe. I am the Tribe's environmental director.

Sarah Rodriguez: Going back, can you tell me when and where you were born?

Dana Adkins: I was born in Richmond, Virginia in January of 1958 and lived here all my life.

Sarah Rodriguez: Did you grow up in Richmond?

Dana Adkins: No, I grew up in Charles City County.

Sarah Rodriguez: And who did you grow up with in your household?

Dana Adkins: In my household were my mom and dad, and I have three sisters.

Sarah Rodriguez: Where are you in the line?

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Dana Adkins: I have two sisters that are older and one younger.

Sarah Rodriguez: Can you tell me what it was like kind of growing up? Were you growing up around other family? What was the community like for you growing up?

Dana Adkins: Yeah, growing up in Charles City, we, as tribal members, were a minority within a minority. The county itself, I guess, still had a majority population of Black citizens, followed by then the white population, and then the rest of the population was basically composed of tribal members and citizens. So, most of the families within the tribe probably reside—at that point, probably 95% of them, I'd say, were probably within an hour's drive of our church.

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We didn't have a tribal center at that point when I was young. But the church was really the center of our community, and most of our citizens lived very close to that center. I'd say probably the other 5% were, as they are now, scattered around the state and beyond.

Sarah Rodriguez: And what church was that?

Dana Adkins: Samaria Indian Baptist Church.

Sarah Rodriguez: Could you tell me a bit more? Has your family always been in Virginia? Have they moved around? Can you tell me about that?

Dana Adkins: My family's always been here in Virginia. My parents were born and raised in Charles City County, as were their parents. So, we have our history, extended history, really, centered around Charles City. Again, I was born in Richmond, raised in Charles City, as were most of my relatives and the people that I know within the tribe.

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Sarah Rodriguez: Could you tell me a bit what food was like in your household growing up? Whether that's in your household, your extended family's household, whatever.

Dana Adkins: Yeah, when I was growing up, we didn't eat out much. My mom cooked the meals, as was the case for most of the families within the tribe. When I was young, going to a restaurant was a rare occasion, and it was a real treat if you got to do that. We also all had family gardens growing up. So, most of the families within our tribe—I really can't think of any probably that didn't have a family garden, so there was an abundance of fresh produce during the summer, during the growing season.

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And then, a lot of the produce was canned for future use. When I was growing up, most of the families, if they had freezers, they weren't as convenient to use as they are now because they weren't self-defrosting, for sure. So, most of the families, when they were preserving produce that was grown out of the gardens, it was canned.

Sarah Rodriguez: And what kind of produce? Do you remember any specific...

Dana Adkins: Oh, it ran the gamut. Of course, the basics, beans, corn, squash, then you had your green leafy vegetables, both white potatoes and sweet potatoes. And if you got really fancy, some families grew watermelons. So, yeah, it ran the gamut.

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Anything that you could think of that could be grown in a vegetable garden was grown.

Sarah Rodriguez: And are there any particular dishes that stand out from your family that were made when you were growing up?

Dana Adkins: Yeah, of course, all the fresh vegetables. You had both your lima beans or butter beans, as they were most often called in my neighborhood, my community. String beans. Any dishes with tomatoes, cucumbers, I guess probably a dish that I don't know if you find it much beyond our community, but it was common within our community, was fried corn. So, you would take the sweet corn, instead of just boiling it as you commonly would find it, it would be boiled, then it would be fried. So, that was a dish, I think, that stands out. That's probably a community favorite that I don't know if you'd find it in many other communities.

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Sarah Rodriguez: So, you grew up in this area. Could you tell me about what happened after you graduated school? Did you move around Virginia, or did you stay here?

Dana Adkins: No, I stayed here. I came back and started out, I guess—I worked a few different jobs. Actually, I went to school, and then I stopped school for a bit and got a job in the private sector working for the railroad. Went back to school, and after I came back home the second time, that's when I actually started in the chemical industry. First, I guess, working with what would've been Western Electric in their process control lab.

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We were making printed wire boards or circuit boards. And then, from there, I ended up with a chemical manufacturer in Hopewell, Virginia, where we made a lot of different types of raw materials for different industries. The industry I was working in was the personal care industry. So, started out in the quality control lab there and eventually made it into applications, where I was formulating hand and body lotions, shampoos, things of that nature.

Sarah Rodriguez: And where did you go to school?

Dana Adkins: Stared out at Samaria Indian School. And then, I went to Charles City High School, where I finished high school.

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And then, went to J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, and then ended up at Emory & Henry College in Southwest Virginia. And then, I came home for a bit. I didn't get my degree. I wish I would've. I didn't. But nonetheless, I went about it the hard way. When I got into industry, I actually worked my way up from technician to bench chemist, where I was formulating the creams and lotions, so I guess you could say I know enough chemistry to be dangerous. [Laugh]

Sarah Rodriguez: Could you tell me a bit about your involvement with the Tribe kind of throughout that time and how it's evolved to where you are now?

Dana Adkins: Yeah, life was a lot different in my younger years.

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Thankfully, things have improved for younger generations. During the time that I was growing up, there was a lot of tension between all three races in the county, between the whites and the Blacks, the whites and the Natives, and the Blacks and the Natives. So, it was not an easy time to grow up. I would say probably, of course, I think the tension between the whites and the Blacks is obvious. We come from a society where the white culture was the dominant culture. And this is my personal opinion, I think systemic racism still exists in our society. And it definitely did when I was in my teens and younger.

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I think the relationship between the Black community and the Tribe is a bit more complicated. And I think you have to begin with the Racial Integrity Act of 1924, when there was basically an attempted paper genocide for Natives in Virginia. I think because of that doctrine and its statement that if you have one drop of any other blood other than white, you were classified as colored, so again, it was almost a paper genocide of all the Natives in the state. And I think because of that doctrine, we had to really work to disassociate ourselves from the Black community so our legacy wouldn't disappear.

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So, it was a difficult time. I can see how a lot of people would think, "Oh, you were being racist. You didn't want to have anything to do with the Black community." But for us, it was more a matter of survival so that our community wouldn't be absorbed into a place where it didn't belong or where it rightfully shouldn't be. We had our own space. We're Natives. We didn't want to be classified and didn't deserve to be classified as something that we're not. And that's probably the reason why there was such a complicated relationship between the Native community and the Black community.

Sarah Rodriguez: How did those complications manifest in your time?

Dana Adkins: I think that it manifested itself just by—there was a lot of tension, especially during the time of integration of the schools. I grew up going to an all-Indian school, which kind of insulated us somewhat. When we were integrated into the larger county schools, then it made that separation of the races, especially between the Black and the Native communities, even more intense, so to speak.

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It's something you really had to make sure that everybody knew who you were. And you weren't classified over here or over there, but we had our own lane. That's where we'd be classified. It was a tough fight to try to show that we were proud of who we are without, I guess, putting out there or maybe making it seem like we just didn't want to have anything to do with the other races. It was difficult. It was, I think, a fight that was—I still see it as necessary because I don't know that we would be here as a community if we hadn't fought to really have people recognize who we are.

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Sarah Rodriguez: And can you talk about how that's changed to now and since you've been here through that time? Like, when did you start seeing a change? What do you think caused the change?

Dana Adkins: I think we started seeing a change, for me, probably in the 80s, especially with the state acknowledging tribes as being native. We were recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1983 as the Chickahominy Tribe. So, I think that's probably when, to me, the change really started taking hold and people really started recognizing us for who we are and not fighting us or telling us that we're something that we're not.

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Sarah Rodriguez: And how were you involved in the Tribe growing up? Was there any formal involvement that you had?

Dana Adkins: Growing up, I'd say, if there was any formal involvement, it was probably when I used to dance with the tribal dancers. That was, I think, an outlet for us to really show who we are and to be proud of who we are, sharing our culture with communities that didn't know much

about us or didn't know that we even existed as a community. So, I think that was probably my most formal, I guess, way of representing the Tribe, was being part of the dance team. That really displayed some of our tribal dances, cultural dances, and shared a little of our history with the rest of the state.

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Sarah Rodriguez: And when you were working in the chemical industry, in the railroad industry, were you still kind of involved in the Tribe, or was it less so?

Dana Adkins: I wasn't dancing at that point. I'd say my involvement was probably, at that point, more I guess along the lines of—I was accepted into the Tribe as a citizen at the age of 16, and so from that point on, then I could attend the tribal meetings. I was able to vote on matters that were important to the Tribe. I think my involvement then was more through attending the tribal meetings, being involved in that way.

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Sarah Rodriguez: And how did you get to the position that you hold now? What was that process like?

Dana Adkins: To get to where I am now, actually, there had been some restructuring at the company in the chemical industry that I was working for. And so, I had been out of work for a bit, and that was during the time of our federal recognition and during the time when we were, I guess, having more access to grant funding for opening different offices and bringing more capacity to our tribal offices. One of those offices was the environmental office that was set up through an EPA Indian General Assistance Program grant.

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So, during that time, I became aware of the need for somebody to stand up the environmental office, and I guess the rest is history.

Sarah Rodriguez: When did you join in the environmental office?

Dana Adkins: I came onboard in October 2019, so that's when we really got established as an environmental office.

Sarah Rodriguez: Could you tell me about the early years of you working in that, especially because the office was new? What were y'all working on? How did y'all get going?

Dana Adkins: I guess you could say that coming from a chemical background, I had some knowledge of gathering data, what that would look like, working in a lab, analyzing different compounds, things of that nature. But still, working in the environmental field was totally new to me. So, there was a bit of a steep learning curve initially.

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And I'm still learning every day now, but I think the process is not such a steep climb at this point as it was initially. Setting up the office initially was a lot. I was the director and the staff, so I had nobody in there to help me set it up administratively, so to speak. I was given lots of resources. The EPA staff from region three was a tremendous help in getting the office going. I think it probably helped because at the time that we were recognized, there was only one other tribe in the state previously recognized in 2016.

Sarah Rodriguez: Federally.

Dana Adkins: Federally.

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So, the EPA region three office still didn't have a lot of experience of working with tribes, especially setting up environmental offices. So, after my tribe and five others came in all at the same time, it was a heavy lift for the region three staff, EPA staff as well. At that point, I think that's when, really, the environmental offices really started being staffed and set up as far as being given the resources and the administrative tools you need to run an office. I know during that time, that's when our Regional Tribal Operations Committee was formally chartered. I was really on board with that process from the beginning.

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My tribe and the six other tribes that were federally recognized met on several occasions to establish the Regional Tribal Operations Committee for EPA region three. So, I think that with all that happening at one time, the region three EPA staff, they were learning with us. So, they were new to it, we were new to it. I think maybe, in a way, it helped everybody that we all kind of grew together and were learning together.

Sarah Rodriguez: What were some of the early projects y'all were taking on?

Dana Adkins: I'd say as far as projects, you're talking in the field work maybe?

Sarah Rodriguez: Sure. Because I imagine a lot of the time was dedicated to just getting the office set up.

Dana Adkins: Yeah, yeah. I'd say the first probably three, almost four years of the Tribal Environmental Office for my tribe was just administrative, just setting everything up.

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Within the last year, I've been able to hire two people, so that shows how long our office went without really any capacity. So, in the last year, I've hired one person to run and stand up our water programs and one person that I just hired a couple months ago to stand up our air quality programs. So, we're still young as far as that goes, as far as getting those programs set up.

Sarah Rodriguez: This project's about regenerative agriculture, and I know that's not specifically what you work in, but those ideas of kind of regeneration through the environment, can you talk about how that applies to the work that you do in this office?

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Or even kind of what you saw growing up with your family growing gardens and that kind of thing.

Dana Adkins: Yeah, I think that regenerative agriculture is something that's probably close to all tribes. We, by nature's tribes, aren't extractive of Mother Earth. We want to take care of Mother Earth, sustain Mother Earth, and we really don't want to do any harm because we know that if we harm Mother Earth, then we're not going to be able to take advantage of the rewards that she provides us. So, with that being the case, our goal is to use as many processes that we can that are friendly, when we're establishing gardens, a food forest.

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Whatever our projects we're taking on, we want them to be as friendly as possible to the surroundings, which makes it better for the community at large. Not just the Native community, but for everybody that lives in the area.

Sarah Rodriguez: You mentioned the air quality and the water programs. Can you talk about how that applies there?

Dana Adkins: Yeah, so what we're doing for our air quality programs is, we're going to start out with indoor air quality first, and what we want to do is, we're going to start out with sending out as much educational material as we can to our citizens about using products that are green, that are friendly, for cleaning, just for taking care of your household.

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We know that harsher chemicals, while they may be more efficient at cleaning, they're not so friendly to your health. So, that's our goal is to try to introduce as many green cleaning products as we can, things that will help to relieve some of the chronic respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and whatnot, that we see that are so prevalent among the Native communities.

Sarah Rodriguez: And about the water program, can you tell me how it applies there?

Dana Adkins: Yeah, with the water program, we know that at this point, it's a bit tougher. Just because, for instance, the surface waters that flow past our properties were upstream—there are a lot of industries that we really can't control what they're doing.

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The dream that I have for our properties is that, at some point, get to a point where we can apply for treatment as a state, which means that we would be able to, in the case of the water programs, set our own water quality standards. That way, if we set the water quality standards for the waters that flow past our properties, then we can have a little bit more input into what's happening upstream. Now, don't get me wrong, I know we won't change everything, but at least I

think it'll give us a stronger voice, especially when decisions are made regarding industry moving forward. Let's say a business wants to start making a new chemical, and some of the effluents that may be discharged eventually into the rivers contains something at levels that we really don't want to see.

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Then, if we can have a seat at the table before that process starts, say, "Look, these are our water quality standards. If you're going to be doing this, then you need to make sure that whatever you're introducing into the river is not above the standards that we have set for the waters that flow past our properties," that's my dream. But I think that's where we'll end up going eventually when we get to that point.

Sarah Rodriguez: And can you tell me what the impacts have been on not having those kinds of standards on your community?

Dana Adkins: I'd say, at this point, that some of the impacts, we see every day. Just look at the fish consumption levels that are advised because of mercury. If we'd been at a point years ago where we would've had a voice, maybe we could've done something to positively impact those fish consumption levels and the amount of mercury in the water.

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But at this point, we're starting now, so we're looking to be able to impact what happens in the future based on the water quality standards that we'll be able to set if we get to a point where we can achieve status as treatment as a state.

Sarah Rodriguez: And can you tell me a bit more about some of the other initiatives you're working on? You mentioned the food forest.

Dana Adkins: Yeah, so we have—actually, partnering with—or we're not partnering, but we're being advised by a greenhouse or a business in Charlottesville called Little Bluestem Nurseries. And they're actually providing the technical expertise that we need to help us establish a food forest on one of our tribal properties. What we'll be doing is, we'll be planting trees that are fruit- and nut-bearing, for instance, bushes, vines that grow along the ground.

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A whole multitude of different plants that also have a symbiotic relationship with each other. So, not only will the plants be a source of food for our citizens, but also the animals that inhabit those spaces. And they'll be a source of nourishment for each other, the plants. Because again, we're looking to introduce plants that live symbiotically. We see that by introducing those types of plants, it's another way of not extracting from Mother Earth, but replenishing Mother Earth with the nutrients that probably aren't there now, but that can make the space better and more healthy.

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Sarah Rodriguez: And where did the idea for the food forest come from?

Dana Adkins: Where did that come from? It's something that I probably was maybe introduced to or maybe had seen where it was being done, probably, I'm thinking, at one of our Regional Tribal Operations Committee meetings, our annual meeting, where we've had several good guest speakers talking about projects across Indian Country. And I think that maybe it was one of the speakers at our annual meetings that kind of flipped the light switch to me that, "Yeah, this will

be something that we could use. We have the property for it, and it'd be something good for our community." So, I think that's where it came from initially.

Sarah Rodriguez: Could you kind of, throughout your time in the environmental office, talk about some of the major challenges that you've faced in this work that you're doing?

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Dana Adkins: Yeah, I think probably some of the major challenges I've faced is, a lot of the work we do takes a lot of manpower, and we just don't have the capacity. As a tribe, we don't have any revenue-generating entities. We don't have casinos that a lot of tribes have. And we don't own any other businesses that would generate income or supply revenues for projects we might want. So, we're having to exist solely on grants at this point, which makes it really tough. Again, beyond that, besides having to live off of grants for funding, again, we don't have the manpower to do a lot of projects that we want. Really, we rely on volunteers a lot.

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Sarah Rodriguez: From the Tribe, primarily?

Dana Adkins: From the Tribe, primarily. We have had some volunteers from outside of the tribal community, which we appreciate. But that's something you can't rely on all the time. We appreciate it when we can get volunteer help, but we know that it's not going to be a resource that's always readily available. That's probably some of the biggest hurdles we have, are our funding and then manpower to complete the projects that we would like to see completed.

Sarah Rodriguez: Kind of on the flip side, can you talk about any major successes you've seen while you've been in this role that stand out in your mind?

Dana Adkins: Yeah, I think some of the major successes are things that are happening right now. For our water program, for instance, we just completed the first year of a NFWF grant, where we were able to assess the health of the shorelines, getting a reading on if they're in poor shape, if they're in good shape, or if they're somewhere in the middle.

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We are getting technical advice and support from the Department of Conservation and Recreation from the Commonwealth, and with their recommendations, based on what they have observed of our shorelines, we are now ready to move into phase two, where we implement some of the changes or some of the work that needs to be done to the property to shore it up, or to maintain it, or whatever the case may be. We were just awarded the second in the pipeline of grants from NFWF, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, for implementation, so beginning the implementation phase of the shoreline work.

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I see that as a major accomplishment, something that we're very proud of, and we're definitely not taking it lightly.

Sarah Rodriguez: That's really cool. Are there any favorite memories that you've had from doing this type of work that stand out in your mind?

Dana Adkins: I think probably, some of the better memories I have are just all the great people I've been able to meet, not only in the state, but nationally. Now, something I didn't anticipate, never really thought about, was our presence on the national stage since federal recognition.

Sarah Rodriguez: And what year was that?

Dana Adkins: We were recognized in 2018.

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Since then, I was talking about the establishment of the RTOC, the Regional Tribal Operations Committee, I happened to be the chair of our RTOC, so I am also the delegate or the representative to the National Tribal Operations Committee, which is composed of representatives from all 10 EPA regions in the US. So, being on that platform. It gives us a national presence. I've been honored during my time as representative to the NTOC to be able to, for instance, give the opening prayer at the NTOC meetings in Washington D.C. when we have them every October. So, again, I think it shines a light on not only region three, but on our tribe as well.

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So, I think that any, I guess, positive message you can leave behind on the national level is something that's definitely a good thing to do. And my presence and the Tribe's presence on the national level, I think, not only within the environmental program but within the other programs with our tribe, I think it's having a positive impact on how we're viewed throughout our country.

Sarah Rodriguez: You've already mentioned a few instances of this, but I'm curious if you could talk more specifically about when it comes to more regenerative practices, whether that is with air quality, water, or growing food, what the learning process has been like. Is this information you learned a long time ago?

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You mentioned kind of learning from some other people as well. Could you talk about what that whole process is like?

Dana Adkins: Yeah, I think it's a combination of traditional knowledge or TEK and western science. So, some of the practices, for instance, the garden, it's stuff we grew up with. I think the processes of setting our water quality standards, monitoring our air quality, as far as the data gathering, that's more reliant on western science. So, it's a combination of the two, and I think that to me, you can't say that TEK isn't science. It is science. Maybe it's just viewed through a different lens. So, I think using both sciences, TEK and western, has been something that I've used in this current position where I didn't necessarily use in private industry. So, that's been pretty nice.

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Sarah Rodriguez: Could you describe some examples of TEK?

Dana Adkins: I'd say, some examples of TEK, for instance, are just the things that we would apply in establishing our tribal gardens, the food forest. I think TEK is something that we've been able to see over the years just in the decline in some of the cultural resources that are important to us, like river herring and shad, how their numbers have declined. I think we use TEK every day.

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When I was growing up, we didn't know it was called TEK, it was knowledge. So, I think TEK is just something that, outside of the community, it's still—I don't know what you'd call it—environmental knowledge. I think everybody possess some to an extent. It's not just relegated

to tribes. But I think that when it comes to tribes, its importance is probably elevated just because of the culture associated with that knowledge.

Sarah Rodriguez: Could you talk about your involvement with other tribes in achieving some of your goals in the environmental realm?

Dana Adkins: Yeah, as I was saying, we have the Regional Tribal Operations Committee, which is composed of my tribe and the six other tribes. We meet monthly to talk about issues that are important to tribes, either regionally or locally.

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I think probably, some of the local issues that have been on the radar, for instance, with the Nansemond Tribe down in Suffolk, they've been having some issues with a landfill down there in their region. It's been pretty touchy with the expansion that's been requested and how it'll touch on maybe affecting cultural resources of the Nansemond Tribe. Up in Caroline County, you have the Rappahannock Tribe and the proposed data centers in Caroline County, and the extraction of water from the Rappahannock River. And even though the data center's going to be up there in Caroline, it's going to affect possibly the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe as well because the water extracted from the Rappahannock River is proposed to be dumped into the Mattaponi River once it's been used as cooling water for the data center.

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So, you're having water that's taken from one environment used and then put into another environment. What are the ecological impacts? A lot of that hasn't been discussed, and it wasn't discussed until the Rappahannock Tribe really became involved in the discussions surrounding that data center. So, we'll see where it goes from here, but I know those conversations are

ongoing. And hopefully, it works out for the tribes. If the data centers are, in fact, put in place, that it won't have the environmental impact that it possibly will have right now as it's proposed.

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Sarah Rodriguez: Could you describe maybe some future—if not specific plans because you already mentioned the food forest, future goals or a vision you have for the environmental office here at the Chickahominy Tribe?

Dana Adkins: Yeah, I think one of the goals we have is, of course, we want to grow the office. Not only with the number of projects we're able to take part in, but with capacity. We want to grow our staff. We, right now, rely on experts from outside of the Tribe because we don't have the expertise in-house. I would like to see a pipeline established with our universities, a STEM-type pipeline for our students to go into environmental science and then bring that knowledge back to the Tribe and use it to benefit the Tribe.

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So, that's what I have as a long-term vision, to have our own in-house experts that can really have a real positive impact on the tribe for the better.

Sarah Rodriguez: That'd be really cool. Well, as we're wrapping up, is there anything I didn't ask about that seems really important kind of about your work, about your experience in this field? Anything that I didn't ask that you think is important to mention?

Dana Adkins: I think that it's important to realize or for us to acknowledge the people that have been instrumental in helping us to get to where we are that aren't tribal, that aren't Native. We

wouldn't be able to do the things that we're doing without experts that, although they're not Native, do have a genuine concern for our tribe and seeing us grow and do good things.

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We have good relationships with VCU Rice Rivers Center, for instance. We have good relationships with William & Mary's Batten School, VIMS, Virginia Institute for Marine Science. We've done some great work with George Mason University as well as University of Virginia's Institute for Engagement and Negotiation. So, I think that it would be remiss of me not to mention all the great work that those institutions have provided us and the ways that they've supported us to continue to grow and get some of the things done that we're able to do.

Sarah Rodriguez: What's it been like working with those institutions as a tribe?

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Dana Adkins: We've had a very good relationship with those institutions. Mind you, it's not like we don't have to remind them from time to time about certain protocols that are important to us. But they've always taken it very nicely, I guess, is the best way to put it. We haven't really had any pushback on some of the things we've requested. "Well, we know this is being done this way, but it really ought to be done this way." That's all been listened to, and we haven't had any pushback when we've made suggestions of that nature. I'd say, overall, we've had a very good relationship with institutions. I'd say if there's any maybe room for growth, it's not with the people we work directly with, but maybe with those higher up in the chain, those university presidents, the boards of directors that maybe don't have a relationship with us directly and still need to learn a little bit about Native culture and how to interact with the indigenous populations.

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Sarah Rodriguez: What are some particular things that are really important that you think there's room for growth on?

Dana Adkins: I think that when new programs are established in schools, those higher institutions of learning, especially when it involves Native culture, don't institute a program and then tell us about the great work you're doing to institute programs. Have us at the table when you're developing those programs. That's where it needs to start. That still doesn't happen all the time, and we keep reminding them that this needs to happen. But that's where we want to get to eventually, when a new program is—maybe a lightbulb goes off in somebody's head, "Well, we need to do this Native-themed program or to bring awareness to the Native populations."

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Instead of laying out a new program of learning and then telling us about it, have us at the table to help develop it.

Sarah Rodriguez: Awesome. Is there anything else that you want to mention before we wrap up?

Dana Adkins: I think we've covered everything.

Sarah Rodriguez: All right, that's great. Well, thank you so much.

Dana Adkins: Thank you.

[End]