

Soil and Water Conservation District

DESCRIPTION

The Soil and Water Conservation District of Hanover and Caroline County (SWCD) is a subdivision of State government responsible under State law for conservation work within its boundaries. The activities are governed by a six member Board of Directors of which four members are elected and two members are appointed by Virginia's Division of Soil and Water Conservation. The District maintains an office in Hanover and is staffed by four employees. The Soil and Water Conservation District is designed to assist County landowners with conservation planning and assistance with conservation programs. The District administers the Virginia Best Management Practices Cost Share Program and the Virginia Tax Credit Program. This program provides financial and technical assistance to install best management practices on agricultural land to reduce non-point source pollution and improve water quality. The District is funded with monies appropriated by the Commonwealth, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Hanover and Caroline Counties.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue to assist the County with the development and implementation of tributary strategies for the York and James Rivers
- Continue to administer the Virginia BMP cost-share and Tax Credit Program in order to provide cost sharing assistance to local landowners and operators;
- Continue to assist local citizens with the installation of BMP's on the land to reduce erosion and improve water quality;
- Continue to promote conservation planting and wildlife habitat establishment through the District's Tree Seedling and Wildlife Program;
- Continue to assist the Department of Public Works with the Virginia Biosolids Program;
- Continue to administer the AG Stewardship Act by investigating and resolving complaints against agricultural producers;
- Continue to administer the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and provide state funding for the establishment of riparian buffers;
- Provide GIS mapping and tracking of CBPA agricultural tracts, plans, and plan revisions;
- Provide complete Soil and Water Conservation plans on tracts where more in-depth technical assistance is needed; and,
- Continue to provide conservation education through school programs, the Envirothon Competition, Ag Day, awards, programs, newsletters, conservation camp, career days, and scholarship opportunities.

SERVICE LEVELS

Hanover-Caroline SWCD works with agricultural landowners to verify if farms are in compliance with State and local ordinances of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. The District provides these landowners with Soil and Water Quality Conservation plans to document riparian buffer information and assist with nutrient management, erosion control measures, and pesticide management. The District will provide the Hanover County Department of Public Works with a current database and GIS information generated through the identification and tracking of CBPA agricultural tracts, plans, and biosolids applications. The Virginia BMP Cost-share program's current funding rate is \$80,159. This funding will be used to assist landowners in Hanover and Caroline Counties with best management practices that reduce erosion and improve water quality on agricultural land. Education is provided on conservation and natural resource issues in the Hanover and Caroline schools systems through teaching, an annual agriculture day for third graders, an Envirothon competition, Youth Conservation Camp for 9-12 graders, and a college scholarship for a graduation senior at each county high school.

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BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FY04

The amount provided in FY04 is a continuation of supplemental funding provided in FY03 to fund State reductions.

FY05

The increase in the budget is to merit increases for employees.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Expenditures

Soil and Water Conservation District	FY03 <u>Budget</u>	FY03 <u>Actual</u>	FY04 <u>Budget</u>	FY05 <u>Budget</u>	Percent <u>Change</u>
Operating Expenditures	\$ 57,400	\$ 72,400	\$ 72,400	\$ 79,000	9.1%
Total Expenditures	\$ 57,400	\$ 72,400	\$ 72,400	\$ 79,000	9.1%

Revenue

Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 57,400	\$ 72,400	\$ 72,400	\$ 79,000	9.1%
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

FUTURE FUNDING ISSUES

Expenditures

	FY06 <u>Plan</u>	FY07 <u>Plan</u>	FY08 <u>Plan</u>	FY09 <u>Plan</u>
Operating Expenditures	\$ 79,079	\$ 81,214	\$ 83,407	\$ 85,659
TOTAL	\$ 79,079	\$ 81,214	\$ 83,407	\$ 85,659

Revenue

Total Department Generated Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Generated Revenue Percent of Budget	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other General Fund Revenue	\$ 79,079	\$ 81,214	\$ 83,407	\$ 85,659
Other General Fund Percent of Budget	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Maintenance level funding is projected throughout the Plan.