

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.

BUDGET SUMMARY

	FY07 Actual	FY08 Budget	FY09 Budget	FY08 to FY09	FY10 Plan
Expenditures					
Operating	\$ 87,927	\$ 95,000	\$ 103,500	8.9%	\$ 106,605
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 87,927</u>	<u>\$ 95,000</u>	<u>\$ 103,500</u>	<u>8.9%</u>	<u>\$ 106,605</u>
Revenues					
General Fund Revenue	\$ 87,927	\$ 95,000	\$ 103,500	8.9%	\$ 106,605
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 87,927</u>	<u>\$ 95,000</u>	<u>\$ 103,500</u>	<u>8.9%</u>	<u>\$ 106,605</u>

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The increase in the FY09 budget is attributable to funding to assist with additional employee benefit and technology costs. .

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue to locally administer the Virginia Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost-share and Tax Credit Program in order to provide financial assistance to local landowners and operators for proper installation of conservation practices
- Continue to bring landowners into compliance with USDA Farm Bill regulations through conservation planning and implementation of BMPs using federal programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREP);

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- Continue to assist local citizens with the on-farm resource planning through the development of Chesapeake Bay Act Soil and Water Quality Conservation Plans and installation of riparian buffers on the land to reduce erosion and improve water quality;
- Continue to promote conservation no-tillage planting techniques and residue management through the District's Seeder Program;
- Continue to assist the Department of Public Works with the tracking of biosolids applications and CBPA tracts, plans, and plan revisions;
- Continue to administer the Ag Stewardship Act by investigating and resolving complaints against agricultural producers;
- Continue to assist the County with the development and implementation of TMDLs (total maximum daily loads) for locally impaired streams and basin-wide tributary strategies initiatives for the York and James Rivers;
- Continue to provide assistance to urban and suburban landowners for water quality problems, drainage problems, erosion and sediment control problems, and other natural resource problems as referred to us by the County;
- Actively promote flood hazard awareness, perform inspections and maintenance, and maintain a current and executable emergency action plan for dam Site 52-B in Hanover County;
- Continue to provide conservation education through such youth and adult programs as the Envirothon Competition, Ag Day, Conservation Awards Programs, Quarterly Newsletters, Website development, Conservation Camp, career days, Youth Scholarship Opportunities, Bayscapes Workshops, Scout Programs (Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge), and conservation workshops/topics of interest as requested; and
- Manage fiscal and administrative operations of the District to comply with regulations and directives.

SERVICE LEVELS

The SWCD works with agricultural landowners to verify if farms are in compliance with State and local ordinances of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. SWCD provides a minimum of 30 Soil and Water Quality Conservation plans to landowners each year to document riparian buffer information and assist with nutrient management, erosion control measures, and pesticide management. SWCD provides Hanover County Department of Public Works with a current database and GIS information generated through the identification and tracking of these CBPA agricultural tracts, plans, and biosolids applications.

The Virginia BMP Cost-share program's current funding rate is \$89,467. 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 schools systems through an annual agriculture day for third graders, an Envirothon competition, Youth Conservation Camp for 9-12 graders, and college scholarships for a graduating senior at each county high school in the field of conservation.