



PRINCE GEORGE'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Soil Conservation & Water Quality Planner Prince George's Soil Conservation District

(One Year Contractual Position - \$56,000 annual salary)

May 7, 2024

Overview of Position

The Soil Conservation & Water Quality Planner will provide Soil Conservation & Water Quality Plans (SCWQPs) and conservation technical assistance to farmers in Prince George's County. The Planner will work with Prince George's Soil Conservation District (District) staff, the Department of the Environment, and partners, to develop SCWQPs for the County's Climate-Smart Local Producers Program, funded through United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In addition, the Planner will work with staff from the District, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), to complete SCWQPs and Concept Conservation Plans through funding from a National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Technical Assistance Grant.

The Planner will engage in NRCS' 9 step planning process as well as assist the NRCS District Conservationist, Ag Conservation Program Manager, and Urban Ag Conservation Program Manager with preparing farmers for enrollment in NRCS financial incentive programs including, but not limited to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and other cost-share avenues as applicable. The Planner will also work with MDA's Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program and Small Farm and Urban Agriculture Program.

This position requires a considerable degree of independent judgment and initiative in completing complex work assignments. In addition, the Planner will be required to participate in District/Partner meetings, events, and outreach. The Planner will participate in NRCS and MDA training opportunities to further their knowledge in conservation planning and work toward becoming a Certified Conservation Planner.



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Key Responsibilities

Conservation Planning & Technical Assistance - 75%

- Inventory and evaluate soil and water resource concerns on Prince George's County farms.
- Collect necessary field data and associated material in order to determine the proper agronomic and engineering USDA Climate-Smart Agriculture & Forestry Best Management Practices (CSAF BMPs) needed to correct soil erosion, nutrient management, and water quality issues.
- Develop comprehensive SCWQPs (or Concept Conservation Plans for new farmers not ready for cost-share).
- Keep Conservation Assistance Notes updated.
- Work with the District and Partner staff to develop engineering CSAF BMPs when needed.
- Provide technical assistance to producers on subjects, including but not limited to, soil testing, nutrient management, water quality, zoning regulations and farming techniques that will protect and conserve soil and water resources.
- Provide technical assistance for implementation and certification of CSAF BMPs.
- Utilize the standards and specifications set forth in the USDA-NRCS Engineering Field Manual and the USDA-NRCS Technical Guide, as well as other reference materials.
- Assist Program Managers with preparing program and grant reports in a timely manner.
- Able to produce quality maps using PGAtlas.com or similar mapping tools.

Support District Program's Education and Outreach programs - 20%

- Work with District and its partners to promote local, state, and federal conservation grant opportunities to Prince George's County farmers and residents
- Participate in events and training related to the District's mission and partner initiatives

Other Duties - 5%

- Willingly and competently performs tasks and duties assigned which may not be specifically listed in the position description but are within the general occupational category and responsibility levels typically associated with the employee's class of work.



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Key Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resources, Environmental Sciences, Biology, Agronomy, or a related field
- Experience working with farmers and food system stakeholders in diverse communities
- Ability to drive District vehicles to site visits, meetings, and outreach events
- Maintain a positive attitude and diplomatic approach in presenting programs and ideas
- Ability to provide concise and clear written and oral plans and reports in a timely fashion
- Proficient in use of software suites such as Microsoft Office and Adobe products and planning software including but not limited to ARC GIS, PG Atlas, Web Soil Survey, PracticeKeeper, and Conservation Desktop
- Willingness and ability to work outside in inclement weather

Requirements

- Must possess a valid Driver's License and provide a current copy of your driving record prior to offer of employment
- Must pass background check for use of federal network

Compensation & Benefits

- This is a 40 hour per week position (Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm)
- There are no health benefits
- The position will receive 11 paid federal holidays
- The potential to earn 2 paid time off days per month, not to exceed 24 days per year
- An opportunity will be provided to obtain USDA-NRCS Conservation Planner Certification

To Apply

Please send a cover letter, resume and three references to Kimberly Summers, HR Liaison, at kmsummers@co.pg.md.us by May 19.

Prince George's Soil Conservation District is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer Committed to Diversity in the Workplace.