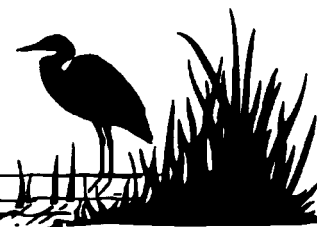


# PARTNERSHIP PRESS

Maryland Conservation



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## SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS MAKE THE BAY CLEANUP HAPPEN *BY BUDDY HANCE, MARYLAND SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE*

It seems as though every time I pick up a newspaper, I read about new restoration programs and projects being proposed to boost the Bay cleanup effort. What I don't hear much talk about, however, is how these programs will be implemented.

Luckily, agriculture has an ace in the hole with soil conservation districts when it comes to implementing natural resource protection programs. Over the years, soil conservation districts have become the go-to guys for getting the job done by helping farmers place conservation practices on the land to protect the Bay. Once again, I am asking districts to step up to the plate on behalf of Maryland farmers and the Chesapeake Bay.

Earlier this year, Governor Martin O'Malley announced a series of ambitious two-year goals at the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council Meeting. These short term goals or milestones are aimed at speeding up Maryland's efforts to reach its water quality objectives.

Maryland is counting on agriculture to help it reduce annual nitrogen loads to the Bay by 3.75 million pounds as part of its first two-year milestone goal. Agriculture is responsible for 67 percent of this nitrogen reduction.

It will fall on the shoulders of soil conservation districts to help farmers navigate the maze of new incentive programs associated with this goal. These include doubling the amount of cover crops that are planted on Maryland farm fields and expanding efforts to establish streamside buffers and wetlands through the newly reauthorized Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). With the 2009 cover crop planting season well under way, now is a good time for districts to reintroduce CREP to farmers. More than two years in the making, the new CREP can be a farmer's best friend during these uncertain economic times. It can also help animal producers comply with buffer requirements if they have been classified as a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) or Maryland Animal Feeding Operation (MAFO).

CREP can provide needed income to farmers who take marginal crop and pastureland out of production and plant streamside buffers or wetlands to protect local streams. Many farmers will find the new formula for determining annual soil rental rates works to their advantage. In addition, CREP offers a one-time sign-up bonus of up to \$200 an acre; up to 87.5 percent cost share; a one-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## NEW MAFO/CAFO PERMIT IN EFFECT DECEMBER 1 PERMIT ALLOWS FARMERS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH NEW OPERATIONS

The Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) will issue a general discharge permit, effective December 1, 2009, for Maryland Animal Feeding Operations (MAFOs) and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The permit requires additional measures to control nutrient discharges from Maryland's largest agricultural animal operations to further protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

A legal challenge by an environmental organization delayed the permit since January. MDE recently issued a final decision affirming the findings of the Office of Administrative Hearings' proposed decision to uphold the permit. While that decision was appealed, the appeal does not stay the permit implementation.

MDA looks forward to a resolution soon so farmers can move forward with new construction of livestock and poultry facilities. MDA has tracked the permit closely to ensure the permit is as manageable and affordable as possible for poultry and livestock farmers while further safeguarding water quality. For more information, visit <http://www.mde.maryland.gov/PressReleases/1230.html>

## ALL ABOARD FOR THE NEW AND IMPROVED CREP *BY ROYDEN N. POWELL, III, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MDA*

If you are a farmer or landowner looking to earn additional income from your land, don't let this train leave the station without you. Recent changes to Maryland's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) now provide even more financial incentives to farmers who remove environmentally-sensitive cropland from production for 10 to 15 years and plant streamside buffers, protect highly erodible land or establish wetlands to safeguard local streams.

CREP—a federal-state conservation program—was reauthorized and revamped earlier this year to help even more farmers stabilize and protect marginal crop and pastureland. By simplifying program requirements, increasing land rental rates, and offering a one-time signing bonus of up to \$200 an acre, CREP helps landowners reduce soil erosion, protect water quality and create wildlife habitat while earning dependable income from enrolled lands. It's a good investment choice for landowners looking to supplement farm earnings with steady income.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## MASCD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *BY R. CALVERT STEUART*

Since taking over the leadership of MASCD in July, I have come to realize the abundant issues that our soil conservation districts are facing each and every day. Some of those issues were discussed at the MASCD Board of Directors meeting and I want to share those discussions with the supervisors and conservation partners who did not attend.

On the urban side: following some unfortunately over publicized discussions in Howard County, the soil conservation districts recently signed an MOU with the County Executive to establish guidelines for the urban Erosion and Sediment Control program. The district is concerned that the fee schedule approved by the Howard County Council is unlikely to cover the cost of the review and approval process but they are documenting their time and costs and will be making monthly presentations to the County Council. The district asked the Maryland Department of the Environment to conduct an audit of their review and approval process to make sure that claims of overzealous review were unfounded. MDE's review found that the district's reviews have been in accordance with MDE expectations under the law.

With the new regulations for the Stormwater Management Act becoming effective on May 5, 2010, the districts discussed the phasing in of the new requirements and how they can best help the regulated community understand and come into line with the new Environmental Site Design criteria. It was agreed that having a state-wide policy directive from MDE is key to a smooth transition. Herb Sachs invited the districts to provide some guidance to MDE on what would be manageable for district workloads as the May deadline approaches. Bruce Young agreed to chair a small committee, with regional representation, to come up with some suggestions, to share it electronically with all districts, and after getting feedback from you all, MASCD will submit our comments to MDE. In light of the impending deadline – this will need to be undertaken within a month.

Dave Bourdon reported that MASCD held their first Professional Erosion and Sediment Control training session for nearly 40 district staff noting that both MDE and NRCS were very helpful and supportive. MASCD has put together a Fact Sheet to describe the role of the soil conservation districts in the urban Erosion and Sediment Control program and with the recent changes to the Clean Water Act and the Stormwater law. The Fact Sheet is available on our web site, [www.mascd.net](http://www.mascd.net).

All of the districts hard work over the summer inputting the data from soil conservation and water quality plans (SCWQPs) into Conservation Tracker has paid off. Jason Kepfer showed highlights from the reported data, which shows greater progress to date on SCWQP implementation than previously reported. As we move towards our 2-year milestones in the BayStat program – having accurate data will become increasing more important.

As a result of the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement and President Obama's Executive Order, EPA has been preparing reports and establishing their future role in Chesapeake Bay clean up. Senator

Cardin essentially put the draft EPA reports, which are available on <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/>, into legislation (S. 1816) to allow EPA to take on a new and undefined role in regulating agriculture. MASCD signed on to a letter to Senators Cardin and Crapo regarding S. 1816, expressing concern. We were in good company, for not only did 58 organizations from the Chesapeake Bay region sign onto the letter, but Maryland responded to the EPA reports expressing concern about Maryland farmers having to undertake greater restrictions than farmers across the county putting them at a competitive disadvantage. The latest EPA report, released on November 9<sup>th</sup> – The Draft Strategy for Chesapeake Bay Focused on Federal Action and Accountability is also available at the same web link.

In response to the first seven EPA reports, NACD received a grant from the Keith Campbell Foundation to bring conservation districts from the six Bay states together to discuss our role in the "new" Bay initiatives. The meeting was held in Beltsville, November 2-3, 2009. We heard from both Dana York, NRCS Bay program and Chuck Fox, EPA Bay program about the expanded workload for districts. Bob Ensor served as a moderator and we spent time in multistate groups and single state groups brainstorming current activities, future needs, gaps and action items. There were several reoccurring themes – the biggest being the lack of adequate technical assistance, then the need to count all of agriculture's best management practices to improve water quality regardless of how it was paid for – and lastly, how do we reach those individuals who do not walk in the door.

Throughout each group the issue of reaching the non-cooperator surfaced. It appears that our first response is that we don't have time to do outreach – I know, we have said it in Prince George's District. But let's think about it – I think the response needs to be – we must make time for it. It is a weak link in the otherwise strong district program – one that "other groups" think they can undertake because we have not. So how can we do it? I challenge you to put your thinking caps on and brainstorm about how you can reach the non-traditional customer – and not the ones you think are doing a good job. I believe we have to reach the ones who we know are not doing a good job. Perhaps we set aside one day every two weeks and rotate supervisors to go with staff to make "house calls", ideally with a prescheduled appointment. I think many of us know the recalcitrant farmers – we need to reach out to them and let them know that it is important for agriculture as a whole that they resolve any water quality issues they have. Regulations for all are usually driven by a few bad actors. The time has come where we owe it to our good customers to address water quality problems on a worst case basis. I welcome your feedback on this. Perhaps we should set aside some time in January to find out how each district has decided to deal with the few bad actors.

As I learn the ropes as your new president, please make every effort to keep me informed and provide me with your feedback so I can truly represent all of Maryland's districts.

SSCC



# Report

*Information from the State Soil Conservation Committee*

## WORKLOAD & TARGETING FUNDS

In July, MDA's Secretary Buddy Hance asked the SSCC to develop contingencies for targeting MACS financial assistance in case demand outpaces budget. In fiscal year 2009, MDA had brought a record \$12 million in funding requests to the Board of Public Works and fully utilized all MACS fund balances. In fiscal year 2010, there is approximately \$8 million available in Capital funding and there may be a need to prioritize BMPs or develop alternative funding strategies.

SSCC considered information related to fall 2008 discussion about workload targeting strategies, priority watershed information referenced in MACS enabling legislation, and 2011 Chesapeake Bay milestones.

Sachs noted the statistic presented by Dana York, NRCS at the July MASCD session. York said that Mississippi CEAP project revealed that 80% of agricultural NPS problems can be associated with 20% of the agricultural land base. He suggested the benefits of being able to identify these areas and asked about capacity to do so. Powell noted a lack of "tools" to conduct such an analysis. Hall said it could be assumed that parallel conditions may occur in Maryland. He suggested that the USGA water quality Sparrow model currently provides the best information available. He said that ambitious goals provide a small window to show progress toward achieving water quality goals.

Rice said analysis of demand for funding could be an alternative means for setting priorities. Giese noted demand for poultry HUAs and the commensurate ramp up in expenditure of funds but cautioned the need to examine the water quality benefits of HUAs.

Sachs asked if the Tributary Strategy documents identify priorities by watershed. Powell said milestones are statewide goals and have not been delineated locally. In earlier iterations an agricultural workgroup in each watershed had come up with recommendations.

Steuart said there is a general obstacle to be addressed in agriculture and other sectors if 20% of non-participants create 80% of problem. Beyond that, what happens if we achieve all BMP goals and water quality does not improve? What assurance is there that financial investments in these BMPs will result in the water quality outcome projected? Giese noted that a small watershed study in German Branch took 10 years before water quality results could be demonstrated. Steuart expressed frustration with Chesapeake Bay model. There was discussion of TMDL enforcement coming to bear after 2010.

Powell discussed the level of detail to be included in next model generation and the political need for local jurisdictions to take responsibility for meeting goals because of TMDL requirements.

There was additional discussion on how to identify the 20% of non-participants. Hoot suggested current outreach efforts may be inadequate to change behavior. Sachs indicated discussion with some SCDs reveal knowledge of "non-participants" but a desire to have a process to follow to activate these folks.

There was interest in keeping focus on the 17 milestone set for agriculture to achieve by 2011. Godfrey suggested that different practices could be prioritized based on outcome desired; i.e. reducing nitrogen, phosphorus or sediment.

There was discussion about changing the way applications are received/approved based on methods more similar to NRCS. This would allow comparison of effectiveness and a ranking process. Steuart said if goals are already established and funds are limiting, the goals should be adjusted accordingly. Hoot said if only certain BMPs get cost share support, farmers in need of non-priority BMPs could be considered non-compliant and subject to regulatory requirements under TMDL and other mandated programs.

MDA and NRCS staff met prior to the October SSCC meeting to discuss coordination of resources to cover shortfalls and assure BMP support continues to achieve their implementation goals.

At the October meeting the SSCC endorsed the following strategy:

- Continuation of BMP co-cost share to allow leveraging and increase flexibility for producer
- Concentration of joint effort on Milestone BMPs: emphasizing Animal Waste Management BMPs, explore options for pass through funding to MDA for management of cover crop incentives and NRCS add manure injection and Manure Transfer to their list of eligible practices
- Geographic Prioritization utilizing Sparrow Model mapping for nitrogen delivery to the Bay from agricultural sources and additional runoff and leaching potential maps based on soils data.

## SSCC



## Report

*Information from the State Soil Conservation Committee*

### CHESAPEAKE BAY EXECUTIVE ORDER

Dana York, USDA Senior Advisor, on detail to the Chesapeake Bay Program office explained the recent Executive Order from the Chesapeake Bay Executive Committee. It sets deadlines for EPA and other federal agencies to evaluate and critique program efforts and make recommendations accordingly to coordinate implementation strategies.

In September federal agencies released seven draft reports summarizing a suite of findings and recommendations focused on agriculture, NPS nutrients from developed land and other sources of Bay impairments. State jurisdictions have provided comments that will be considered as the federal agencies finalize these reports for public release and comment on November 9, 2009.

NACD is sponsoring a regional meeting in Beltsville in early November for state conservation leaders and soil conservation districts in the Bay watershed to identify implementation strategies including new BMPs, establish a framework for program accountability and discuss the federal reports and recommendations.

### NOTES

#### STORMWATER

In August Herb Sachs, MDE introduced issues related to the Stormwater General Permit to SSCC. He noted recent interest by Howard County to assume E&S review responsibilities may be more wide spread as budget issues continue. Counties may view it as a cost savings to cut SCD funding for E&S.

Sachs circulated correspondence MDE had provided to Howard County reaffirming the legal role SCD has in E&S. Additionally Sachs drafted information explaining the added complexities now that the stormwater GP and legislation link stormwater & sediment control process and give SCDs a bigger regulatory role.

In September MASCD reformatted this information and made it available to all SCDs to utilize when working with local government and providing information to local and state legislators. There is concern that these issues will spill into the 2010 Legislative Session and MASCD wants to be poised to inform any ensuing debates about SCD role in sediment and erosion control approval.

Sachs noted feedback from development community that SCD fees were small compared to financial impacts from E&S review delays. He suggested a letter of explanation to the Governor could be fortuitous, especially prior to any legislative proposals.

Steuart compared situation in Howard County to that Prince George's SCD faced a few years ago. Sachs noted that counties seem unaware of consequences. If the SCD were not involved, MDE would have the authority for E&S review and there could be significant impacts to development activity in the county. Steuart thanked Sachs for his support of SCDs and hard work on these issues.

Sachs indicated that the general permit will result in changes to the exemption for agricultural construction of structures/buildings. Projects an acre or greater in size will be required to have an E&S plan.

Sachs noted the changing attitude of MDE regarding the SCDs who are now viewed as the local environmental entity to approach for assistance on issues and regulatory programs.

#### FORESTRY MOU

SSCC endorsed the interagency Forestry MOU at their August meeting. The agreement spells out roles for delivery of forestry programs and program support activities of the following agencies: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy Boards, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Previous contention had revolved around the commitment DNR had to supporting the Forestry section of the Envirothon program. At the time of approval Rice modified language regarding DNR forestry staff and Envirothon was probably the best as can be expected. Steuart agreed and indicated he was willing to sign on behalf of MASCD since majority of SCDs were okay with it.

#### SSCC JULY, 2009 ELECTIONS

- Chair – Bruce Yerkes
- Vice-Chair – Charles Rice

#### SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENTS

The following supervisor appointments were made:

- Catoctin SCD – Richard McBride

**INTERNET**

**MDA LAUNCHES ONLINE REGULATORY INFORMATION CENTER**

MDA launched a new web page to provide additional transparency for the department's enforcement actions. MDA's Regulatory Information Center is designed to provide information to the public about enforcement actions the department takes and the process MDA follows in response to violations of state laws or regulations.

This information includes administrative, civil and criminal enforcement actions. MDA will continue to announce departmental enforcement actions on an ongoing basis through press releases and updates on the new webpage dedicated to regulatory activity. For more information, visit [http://www.mda.state.md.us/news\\_room/reg\\_center.php](http://www.mda.state.md.us/news_room/reg_center.php).

**EVENTS**

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU CONVENTION, DEC. 6-9**

Cal Steuart and Hans Schmidt will serve as MASCD Delegates at the 94th Maryland Farm Bureau Convention and Annual Meeting, December 6-9, 2009 at the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, MD. This is the largest single gathering of Farm Bureau members in Maryland. Approximately 400 influential agricultural leaders from all twenty-three counties will be in attendance. To register, call 410-922-3426.

**MASCD BOARD MEETING & LEGISLATIVE VISITS, JAN. 26-27**

MASCD will be holding a full day Board meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis, all district managers are invited and encouraged to attend. More information will be sent out shortly. Overnight rooms have been blocked at the hotel.

On Wednesday, January 27th, MASCD will hold a "Day in Annapolis", which will include early morning visits followed by a legislative luncheon in the House Office Building. All district supervisors are invited to attend this event to meet with members of the General Assembly to update them on our natural resource issues.

**NACD 2010 ANNUAL MEETING, JAN. 31—FEB. 3**

Conservation leaders from across the nation will gather in early February in Orlando, FL for NACD's 64th Annual Meeting. The conference will focus on the theme "Committed to Conservation." General sessions and breakouts will feature an exciting line-up of traditional and new and emerging partners. Attendees can hear the latest conservation policy updates from invited national leaders such as Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Dave White, and Farm Service Agency Administrator Jonathan Coppess.

Over the course of the entire meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to attend partner meetings, visit with NACD's Conservation Expo exhibitors, participate in another record-setting Live Auction and see Florida's natural resource challenges first-hand on state-hosted tours. For more information, visit <http://nacnet.org/events/annualmeeting/>

**TEAM UPDATE**

**USDA COST SAVINGS COMPETITION *A MESSAGE FROM TOM VILSACK, USDA SECRETARY***

President Obama recently challenged federal employees to submit ideas for cost savings as part of the annual Budget process. This is part of a larger effort to make sure that we invest taxpayer dollars in programs and initiatives that have proven records of success and fix or end programs that do not. I am challenging all of you to continue discussing ways to improve efficiencies at our department.

We have created an online space with a cutting edge, interactive tool, on which you can provide suggestions for reducing costs and improving operational efficiency. Employees will be able to see other's suggestions and vote on them. No suggestion is a bad one, or a wrong one, and no cost is too small to avoid. It could be as simple as turning off the lights when you leave a room or reducing your use of office supplies. Or, it may involve a larger change in how you implement your program. Whatever your idea, please share with your colleagues and they will do the same.

Log in to <http://costsavings.usda.gov> with your eAuthentication username and password to get started today! USDA will monitor this collaborative space, share ideas with the relevant agencies and hopefully, be able to report to all of you that together, we have identified ways to avoid costs.

**2009/2010 FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER**

Nov. 23	TMDL Meeting, MDE, Baltimore
Dec. 6-9	Maryland Farm Bureau Convention, OC
Dec. 11	MACCA Exam Registration Deadline
Dec. 15	Nutrient Management Workshop, UMD
Dec. 17	SSCC Meeting, MDA
Jan. 1	Happy New Year
Jan. 13	2010 Legislative Session begins
Jan. 21	SSCC Meeting, MDA
Jan. 26	MASCD Board of Directors, Loews Hotel, Annapolis
Jan. 27	MASCD Legislative Visits and Luncheon in the House Office Building, Annapolis
Jan. 31 - Feb. 3	NACD Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL
Feb. 5	MACCA Exams, DE, VA, & WV
Feb. 18	SSCC Meeting, MDA

## SCDS MAKE THE BAY CLEANUP HAPPEN

*(Continued from page 1)*

time federal practice incentive payment worth 40 percent of the total cost of installing most eligible BMPs; maintenance payments; and a permanent easement option. For landowners with expiring CREP or Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts, the new program offers easy re-enrollment at attractive rates and a \$100 per acre state signing bonus.

In short, CREP is an excellent way for Maryland farmers to protect local waterways and earn extra income during these tight economic times when every dollar counts and every effort to protect the Chesapeake Bay makes a difference.

MDA—working with our partners at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and USDA—has developed a range of CREP outreach materials that can help district staff explain the nuts and bolts of the program and answer some of the more frequently asked questions.

All soil conservation district offices received a shipment of new CREP materials earlier this month. If your district needs additional copies, please contact Louise Lawrence at 410-841-5863 or [lawrenl@mda.state.md.us](mailto:lawrenl@mda.state.md.us) and she will get them to you right away. You can also download them from our website at [www.mda.state.md.us/resource\\_conservation/financial\\_assistance/crep/index.php](http://www.mda.state.md.us/resource_conservation/financial_assistance/crep/index.php). On behalf of Governor O'Malley and Maryland farmers, thank you for everything that you do to keep farming profitable and Maryland smart, green and growing.

## ALL ABOARD FOR THE NEW AND IMPROVED CREP

*(Continued from page 1)*

Many farmers will find the new formula for determining the annual CREP land rental payment quite attractive. New this year, landowners receive the local soil rental rate (SRR) plus an additional incentive payment that ranges from 80 percent to 200 percent of the local SRR, depending on the environmental benefits of the practice installed.

Financial help to cover the costs of installing buffers and other best management practices (BMPs) is also available. The Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) program will provide landowners with up to 87.5 percent of the cost to plant buffers, protect highly erodible land install other BMPs on enrolled lands. New this year, cost-share to restore wetlands has increased from 50 percent to 87.5 percent. Cost-share is even available to help farmers install livestock fencing, stream crossings and watering troughs to protect local streams from animal traffic.

In addition, USDA will provide a one-time practice incentive payment worth 40 percent of the total cost of establishing certain qualifying BMPs. This payment is in addition to the 87.5 percent cost-share that is available from MACS for most practices. Free technical assistance to install BMPs is provided by local soil conservation districts.

At a time when every dollar counts, CREP is an excellent way for Maryland farmers to protect local waterways and earn extra income. If you have marginal cropland or pastureland that is next to a stream or highly erodible land that is within 1,000 feet of a stream you may be eligible to participate in CREP. Keep in mind that CREP also offers easy re-enrollment of expiring CREP or CRP contracts at attractive rates.

Contact your local soil conservation district or Farm Service Agency today to find out if you qualify for CREP. But don't delay...or this train may leave without you. Sign-up is ongoing until acreage goals are met. To date, Maryland landowners have enrolled more than 70,000 acres toward a goal of 100,000 acres, so now is the time to get on board with CREP.

## NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

### NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT EDUCATION COURSE TO BE HELD DECEMBER 15

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Maryland will offer a free one-day continuing education course on how to use the latest version of the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE2) to estimate soil losses. The course will take place Tuesday, December 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the University of Maryland College Park. Participants receive six Maryland Nutrient Management Program continuing education credits. Contact MDA's Mike Webster at 410-841-5959 or [WebsteMD@mda.state.md.us](mailto:WebsteMD@mda.state.md.us).

### NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM BY JO A. MERCER, NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TRAINING COORDINATOR, MDA

#### Agricultural Nutrient Management

Field staff conducted 222 nutrient management plan implementation reviews. Of these, 70% of agricultural operations are in compliance with the regulations related to plan implementation. Failure to have a current NM plan was the reason for failure to comply in 78% of the cases. Seventy-six operators were entered into the penalty process for non-compliance, 44 of whom received notices of fines. One operator requested and received a judicial hearing related to NM non-compliance. The program issued 23 new certificates and renewed 38 certificates for NM consultants. Two new nutrient management licenses were issued. Field staff conducted 67 plan reviews written by certified NM consultants and reviewed the records of 40 commercial nutrient applicators. Nutrient management compliance was confirmed for 53 cost share applications. Seventy-eight agriculture professionals attended an advanced pasture and hay nutrient management conference.

#### Non-Agricultural Nutrient Management

Field staff conducted 25 inspections of records for golf course and other grounds managers, nine of which were follow-ups to previously failed inspections. Two companies received warning letters and will require follow-up reviews. A conference for turfgrass professionals had 34 in attendance.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL STANDARDS REVIEW

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a comprehensive review of the State's erosion and sediment control standards in early 2009 and has developed an initial draft of the "2010 Maryland Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control" as part of the May 30, 2010 schedule for incorporation into regulation. Areas that were evaluated include: environmental site design requirements, the use of coagulants, revised stabilization standards, new standards for best management practices, and new technology. MDE has been working with all stakeholders including the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts through a technical review workgroup as part of this development and update process.

For more information: [http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/SedimentandStormwater/erosionsedimentcontrol/Draft\\_ESC\\_Standards.asp](http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/SedimentandStormwater/erosionsedimentcontrol/Draft_ESC_Standards.asp). Draft "2010 Maryland Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control" [http://www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/sedimentstormwater/MD\\_ESC\\_Standards\\_10-15-09\\_DRAFT\\_III.pdf](http://www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/sedimentstormwater/MD_ESC_Standards_10-15-09_DRAFT_III.pdf). Proposed Regulation Changes: [http://www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/sedimentstormwater/Draft\\_ESC\\_Regulations\\_10-15-09.pdf](http://www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/sedimentstormwater/Draft_ESC_Regulations_10-15-09.pdf). If there are any questions, please contact the Sediment, Stormwater, and Dam Safety Program at 410-537-3543 or email [kpensyl@mde.state.md.us](mailto:kpensyl@mde.state.md.us).

### PERMANENT HELP FOR MARYLAND FARMERS, WATER QUALITY AND WILDLIFE *BY HAGNER MISTER, FARM BILL COORDINATOR, DNR*

If you own agricultural land that is enrolled in a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contract, then you may qualify for participation into Maryland's CREP Easement Program. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking easements within one of Maryland's targeted counties for improved Chesapeake Bay water quality conservation.

Under the leadership of Governor Martin O'Malley, the State of Maryland has entered into agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commodity Credit Corporation enabling landowners to make permanent the conservation practices established through 10 and 15-year federal CREP contracts. As you may already know, these practices enhance wildlife habitats and reduce pollution into Chesapeake Bay. CREP provides for the establishment of stream buffers, grass plantings, shrubs and trees, and the retirement of highly erodible land to improve and enhance water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed by reducing soil runoff, increasing groundwater absorption, and reducing stream sedimentation and nutrient loading from crop fields into Maryland's waterways.

If your CREP contract is located in Caroline, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Washington, Wicomico, or Worcester Counties, DNR has set aside \$12 million for the purchase of conservation easements of lands under CREP contract. The CREP easement program is administered by DNR's Land Acquisition and Planning Unit, and is funded from Program Open Space funds. The easements are negotiated by land trusts or counties (Local Sponsors) with landowners interested in doing their part to make a difference in providing future generations of families with safe, clean drinking water, pollution control and long-term wildlife conservation. If you think you might be interested in making a permanent difference, or if you have any questions, contact DNR easement administrators Shawn Clotworthy, Western and Central Regions [sclotworthy@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:sclotworthy@dnr.state.md.us), 410-260-8421, or Tom McCarthy, Eastern and Southern Regions [tmccarthy@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:tmccarthy@dnr.state.md.us), 410-260-8429.

### UNDERSTANDING THE BAY TMDL: NEXT STEPS, SCHEDULE AND WHAT IT MEANS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

The State of Maryland is holding an informational meeting on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations at the Maryland Department of the Environment offices, 1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230 on November 23, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The focus of the meeting is "Understanding the Bay TMDL: Next Steps, Schedule and What it Means at the Local Level".

As part of the program, MDA will describe the approach that will be taken to address the agricultural portion of the milestones and the role of soil conservation districts as a key player in achieving the TMDL goals. The meeting is intended to provide an overview of the TMDL for the Bay and the proposed schedule recently agreed upon by the EPA and the Bay States. Most importantly, the State's plan to achieve TMDL objectives for agriculture will be rooted at the local level within soil conservation districts.

Please RSVP by noon on November 19th to Wendy Tucker at 410-841-5865, so that MDE can prepare for seating.

In a separate round of public outreach, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is holding a series of meetings to highlight the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, a strategy to put the watershed on a "pollution diet" to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its network of rivers, streams and creeks. These meetings are scheduled for December 8th at MDE and December 11th at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills. More information on these meetings will be available at the Nov 23rd meeting.

### DISTRICT COOPERATORS HALL OF FAME?

Is there interest in developing a Cooperator Hall of Fame on MASCD's website to recognize the cooperators that have been selected over the years by each district? This would amount to a long list of farmers who are going above and beyond the call of duty to protect natural resources.

MASCD has a write up on all the state winners going back several years, but it would involve some time to pull together a meaningful collection from every district. We could possibly get a grant to do it. Please share your thoughts with Lynne Hoot via email to [lynnehoot@aol.com](mailto:lynnehoot@aol.com).

## DIG IT! *The Secrets of Soil*

Last chance to visit the Smithsonian's *Dig It* exhibit on soil. After a year and a half long reign, the *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil* is set to retire at the end of January. If you haven't been—you are running out of time.

Unquestionably, this has been the most important opportunity that the field of soil science has ever had to educate the general public about soils and their role in food and fiber production, environmental quality at local and global scales, and in human health.

Museum visitors learn that soils are dynamic and living, that soils play a vital role in sustaining human welfare and assuring future agricultural productivity and environmental stability. They learn that soils provide food, pharmaceuticals, fibers, and shelter, and play critical roles in the filtering of water and functioning of ecosystems. To put it simply, soils sustain life.

The *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil* occupies an approximately 5,000 square foot space in the museum, the most visited natural history museum in the world, and is on display through January 2010. The exhibition is near the Hope Diamond and IMAX theater exit, giving great visibility to *Dig It!* and soil science. A soil monolith from each state, territory, and the District of Columbia are on display. Interactive stations include soil texture, color and parent materials, and the distribution of soils in the U.S. Models and videos show water, nutrient, and gas movement in soil, soil formation, and relate soils to our daily activities.

The exhibit themes include:

- Soils Are Living
- Soils Are Varied
- Soils Change Over Time
- Soils Link the Earth's Land, Air, and Water
- Soils are Resources -- Renewable, but Subject to Misuse and Overuse



### NACD CEO POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NACD is seeking a Chief Executive Officer to lead and represent the Association and oversee its operations. Individual must have ability to work collaboratively with NACD's Executive Board and Officers to achieve the mission, goals and objectives of the organization. Applicant must have working knowledge of natural resource conservation issues and ability to effectively communicate Association policies. Need proven experience in fundraising and operating a multi-million dollar budget in a complex operational environment.

Candidates must demonstrate success developing and sustaining effective working relationships with a variety of internal and external constituents including U.S. Congress, state and regional affiliates, state and local governments and other non-profit groups. Ideal candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree; strong leadership qualities; willingness to travel; and excellent communication, organizational and interpersonal skills. Proven experience managing a small staff and memberbased association is a plus. Position located in Washington, DC.

Additional information is available on NACD's website at [www.nacdnet.org/news/CEO\\_job\\_summary.pdf](http://www.nacdnet.org/news/CEO_job_summary.pdf). Cover letter, resume and salary requirements must be received by NACD no later than November 30, 2009. Please submit all materials to [jobs@nacdn.net](mailto:jobs@nacdn.net).

### NEW EXHIBIT FOR SOIL SURVEY PROGRAM

NRCS has revised its popular Web Soil Survey exhibit with an improved look that better illustrates the ease of accessing, defining, and gathering important soil information. Changes in acquiring soils data that are highlighted on the exhibit include simply logging into the NRCS website and navigating the easy to use Web Soil Survey application. To reserve the exhibit, contact NRCS Landcare at 888 526 3227 x 101.

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Oliver Miranda, the Special Emphasis Program Manager for Hispanic Employees reported that NRCS and Conservation Partnership employees celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month during September 15 through October 15. This time frame is the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16 and Chile on September 18. Hispanic Heritage Month has been celebrated in the United States since 1974, when President Gerald Ford issued a Presidential Proclamation extending Hispanic Heritage Week into a month-long observance. The theme for this year's Hispanic Heritage Month was "Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now."

Hispanic as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. Nationally, there are about 46.9 million people who are identified as Hispanic or Latino on the current estimate of the U.S. Census (2008). There is a 58 percent increase in Hispanic population from 1990 through 2000. Hispanics constitute the largest ethnic minority in the United States at 15% of the total population. The projected Hispanic population of the United States by July of 2050 is 132.8 million which will constitute 30% of the population.

The Hispanic population in Maryland ranks twentieth in population across the Nation. Most of the Hispanic communities are located in Montgomery and Prince George's County. This constitutes 13% of residents of Montgomery County, and 11.7% of Prince George's County. Hispanics are the second largest minority group in Maryland with about 350,000 people that accounts for 6% of the population. The significant increase in Hispanic population is centered in Prince George's County at nearly 42,000 and Montgomery County at 28,000 individuals. Frederick County had the highest in terms of rate of growth, followed by Washington and Carroll Counties. Garrett and Allegany counties have the lowest increase in Hispanic population.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture in Maryland showed an increase in number of farms by five percent to 12,834 farms. It also showed a nearly 16% increase in female principal farm operators. Statewide, the number of Native American and Asian farm operators increased while the African American and Hispanic farm operators decreased.

## PERSONNEL NOTES

### MDA WELCOMES...

**Catrilla Simpkins**, Secretary, MACS

### MDA BIDS FAREWELL TO...

**Pat Craddock**, Computer Information Service Specialist

**Vickie Shrewsbury**, Secretary, MACS

### NRCS WELCOMES...

**Tim Yarab**, as the new State Planning Specialist on the Resource Conservation Team. Tim formerly worked for NRCS Maryland as a Soil Conservationist in Talbot County, and more recently has worked with NRCS in Indiana and Maine. Tim's new appointment was effective September 13, 2009.

**Jeremy West** was selected for the position of the National Plant Materials Center Manager. West previously served as the RC&D Coordinator for Southern Maryland RC&D Office in Waldorf. Jeremy began his new appointment at the Beltsville PMC effective September 13, 2009.

**Matt Molchan**, formerly a Soil Conservation Technician in the Caroline Field Service Center, was selected for the Civil Engineering Technician position in Wicomico. Matt's new appointment was effective September 16, 2009.

**Christopher Davidson**, formerly a Soil Conservation Technician in the Kent Field Service Center, was selected for the Civil Engineering Technician position in Kent County. Christopher's new appointment was effective September 16, 2009.

**Eugene Jones**, a Soil Conservationist for the Kent Field Service Center, and recently serving on the Programs Team in the Maryland State Office, was selected for the Soil Conservationist position in Dorchester Field Service Center. Eugene's new appointment was effective August 30, 2009.

**Wally Smith** has been appointed to the Soil Conservationist position in the Kent County Field Service Center. He is a former Soil Conservation Technician from Murray, Kentucky. Wally's new appointment was effective August 30, 2009.

**Christopher Powles** has been selected for a Career Intern appointment as a Soil Conservationist in the Somerset Field Service Center. He served in NRCS New Hampshire, and his new appointment was effective August 30, 2009.

**Heather Foley** has been selected for a Career Intern appointment at the Carroll County Field Service Center. She worked with NRCS in New Hampshire, and her new appointment in Maryland was effective August 16, 2009.

**Genevieve Backus** joined the NRCS Maryland State Office Team on September 13, 2009. She was selected for a Career Intern appointment as a Public Affairs Specialist working on the Programs Team. Backus also formerly worked with NRCS in New Hampshire.

**Lauren Pitts** was selected as a Soil Conservationist Intern in the Wicomico Field Service Center. She began on October 12, 2009.

## IN MEMORIUM



**John Scott Shank II**, 55, of Boonsboro, MD, died Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009, at Washington County Hospital. Born Oct. 21, 1954, in Hagerstown, MD. John was a 1972 graduate of South Hagerstown High School and a 1977 graduate of Towson University with a bachelor of arts degree in business administration. John was employed by the City of Hagerstown as the code administration, building inspector. He was president and owner of Rocky Spring Enterprises Inc. and Rocky Spring Farm. He was a member of Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren of Hagerstown; Potomac Fish and Game, Elks Lodge 378, Sons of the American Legion Post 211 and Williamsport Improved Order of Red Men. He served as treasurer of the Allen K. Graham Memorial Scholarship, and was a board member of the Washington County Soil Conservation District. He was a former president of the Washington County Holstein Association, and former member of the Washington County Agricultural Exposition Board of Directors. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Allen K. Graham Memorial Scholarship, 20632 Beaver Creek Road, Hagerstown, MD 21740 or Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren.

**William K. McDaniel Sr.**, of Springfield Township, father of immediate past president Lee McDaniel died on Oct. 27, 2009, at the Masonic Home in Burlington Township. He was 87. Born in Greenwood, Miss, he received a MS Degree from Harvard University, and had a varied Military Service background. In 1942, he was a civilian employee with the Corps of Engineers, was later inducted into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and in 1945 became a commissioned officer. In 1947, he joined the NJ National Guard and was Aide De Camp to Commanding General Clifford Powell. In 1947, he was appointed Principal Engineer for the N.J. Department of Transportation and later resigned that position to form his own company. He was a member of the New Jersey Agricultural Society and the New Jersey and Maryland Farm Bureaus. He was a Principal Engineer for the State of New Jersey, CEO of Sterling Davis Dairies, President of Indian Spring Farm, CEO of All Star Dairies, Director and Member of the Executive Committee of General Artists Group in New York City, a Director of Creative Management Associates of New York City, Founder of HAC Farm Lines, President of Commodity Marketing Associates, Director of Holly Sugar Corporation and from 1992 until the time of his death, he was the principal owner and Chairman of the Board of the U.S. Sugar Company. From 1952 until 1995, Mr. McDaniel served as a Board Member for many banks in the Central New Jersey area. He was a co-owner of the Washington House in Mount Holly and a founding partner of Radio Station WJJZ.

The family requests donations be made to the "Burlington County College Foundation", for the William K. McDaniel Legacy Scholarship, and sent to the BCC Foundation, Enterprise Center, 3331 Route 38, Suite 256, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054.

**SWCS AND NAAEE 2010 CONFERENCES CALL FOR PROPOSALS**



Showcase the importance of conservation districts across the United States by submitting a presentation proposal for two upcoming conferences.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is accepting proposals until December 17, 2009. SWCS will host their 65th International Annual Conference themed "Ecosystem Services: Applications for Conservation Science, Policy, and Practice" on July 18-21, 2010 in St. Louis, MO. Go to <http://www.swcs.org/10AC> for more information.

The North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE) is accepting presentation proposals through February 1, 2010 for their 39th Annual Conference, scheduled for September 29 - October 2, 2010 in Buffalo, NY. The conference theme is "Environmental Education: Building Connections, Bridging Gaps." Additional information is online at <http://www.naaee.org/conference/call-for-presentations/>.



**P Maryland Conservation PARTNERSHIP PRESS** 

is a quarterly newsletter published for and about the members of Maryland's Conservation Partnership: MD Department of Agriculture, MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, MD Cooperative Extension, and the State Soil Conservation Committee.

The deadline for articles is January 30, April 30, July 30 and October 30. Please direct comments or questions to the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts at 410-956-5771.

The members of the Conservation Partnership prohibit discrimination in their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-5964 (TDD). Agencies in the Maryland Conservation Partnership are equal employment opportunity employers.



**MASCD**  
53 Slama Road  
Edgewater, MD 21037-1423  
410-956-5771, [www.mascd.net](http://www.mascd.net)

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