

POSITION: Soil Conservationist 1
CODE: 2140
FLSA: Exempt



DEPARTMENT: Soil Conservation
GRADE: 118N
DATE: 7/2005; rev 7/2019

POSITION SUMMARY:

Position, under general supervision, reviews Erosion and Sediment Control plans to ensure compliance with Maryland Department of Environment, County, District and Natural Resource Conservation Service Standards and Specifications; surveys, designs, layout and spot checks of Soil and Water Conservation practices on agricultural land.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

1. Reviews and interprets detailed Erosion and Sediment control plans to ensure compliance with, Maryland Department of Environment, County, District and Natural Resource Conservation Service Standards and Specification.
2. Serves as a technical expert on the Technical Advisory Committee to the Planning Commission.
3. Interacts directly with consultants, engineers, developers and Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) officials routinely.
4. Prepare reports or special assignments.
5. Provides direct responses to inquiries or complaints from the public.
6. Perform surveys and develops designs of Best Management Practices to assist cooperators with the installation of soil conservation and water quality improvement projects based on Natural Resources Conservation Service technical guidelines.
7. Perform site evaluations for cooperators to address soil and water conservation needs by meeting with individual landowners and gathering site specific information necessary to develop engineering designs, survey work, soil runoff computations. Best Management Practices selection, topographical information and mapping, soil interpretation, plotting survey and computer data entry and site interpretations.
8. Directly supervise and track on-site construction of Best Management Practices to ensure adherence to an approved plan and specifications through the use of site visits, survey, spot checks, inspections that meet the required guidelines set fourth in the design manual of Natural Resource Conservation Service, or other approved manuals.
9. Interpret resource materials including maps and aerial photographs to assist in the development of the design of engineering practices through a working knowledge of survey and key geographic information as well as computation on engineering data.
10. Coordinate and teach public outreach programs.
11. Provide land use assessment and soils inventory data for other county departments, state agencies, and private organizations.
12. Provides assistance to landowners interested in various state and federal cost share programs.
13. Performs others duties as instructed and assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS and ABILITIES:

1. Knowledge of the principles of Natural Resource Conservation Service, Maryland Department of Environment, and County standard and specifications.
 2. Ability to prepare, review, and interpret engineering drawings, blueprints, maps, and other technical material.
 3. Knowledge of all applicable County, State, and Federal codes, guidelines, regulations and standards.
 4. Working knowledge of the Erosion and Sediment Control review process.
 5. Working knowledge of surveying.
 6. Ability to plot survey information to design appropriate Best Management Practices.
 7. Ability to interpret aerial, topographic, soils and other applicable maps.
 8. Knowledge of soil conservation practices, such as: rotation, seeding mixtures, crop land terraces, waterways, diversions, contour strips and drainage ditches and tiles.
 9. Knowledge of conservation and engineering practices as they apply to agricultural and urbanizing areas.
 10. Ability to make conservation planning decisions regarding alternative conservation methods.
 11. Ability to communicate effectively with the public, contractors, developers, cooperators, co-workers and outside agencies.
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EDUCATION and EXPERIENCE:

Education: Bachelor’s Degree in planning, environmental science, natural resources, agriculture, or closely related field.

Experience: Three (3) to five (5) years’ related experience.

Equivalency: An equivalent combination of education and experience can be substituted.

CERTIFICATES, LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS:

1. Valid Class “C” non-commercial driver’s license.
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PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

Individuals appointed or promoted to a position in this class will be required to serve a probationary period of six (6) months. Performance will be carefully evaluated during the probationary period. Continuation in this class will be contingent upon successful completion of the probationary period.

PHYSICAL and ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS:

Work demands occasional strenuous effort, such as handling moderately heavy boxes, equipment, or other materials. Sitting or standing for extended periods of time. Must be able to lift 50 pounds unassisted on an occasional basis.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

Prior to appointment, employees are subject to pre-employment medical history review and drug testing, extensive background investigation, including but not limited to reference checking, and driving history, and an evaluation of training or experience.

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. This is a full time, exempt position.
 2. Work is normally performed Monday through Friday during normal business hours, however may require alternate work hours to attend evening meetings, special events, etc.
 3. Position is benefit eligible.
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The above job description is not intended as, nor should it be constructed as, exhaustive of all responsibilities, skills, efforts, or working conditions associated with this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of this job.

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