

POSITION: Soil Conservationist

GRADE: 9N

FLSA: Exempt

DATE: 7/2005

Position Summary:

Reviews Erosion and Sediment Control plans to ensure compliance with Natural Resource Conservation Service, Maryland Department of Environment, and County 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 Natural Resource Conservation Service, Maryland Department of Environment and County 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.
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Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

1. Working 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. Thorough 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. Working knowledge of soil conservation practices, such as: rotation, seeding mixtures, crop land terraces, waterways, diversions, contour strips and drainage ditches and tiles;
9. Working 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:

1. Bachelor's Degree in planning, environmental science, natural resources, agriculture, or closely related field;
 2. Or equivalent technical training, education and experience;
 3. Valid Class D Driver's License.
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Physical and Environmental Conditions: Work demands occasional strenuous effort. For example, handling of moderately heavy boxes, moderately heavy tools, equipment or materials, or walking/climbing or sitting/standing in a fixed position for extended periods of time.

Work involves risks or discomforts which require special safety precautions, e.g., working around moving parts or machines. Employees may be required to use protective clothing or gear such as boots, goggles, gloves, or shields; requires working in extreme weather conditions, including rain, heat, and cold.

The above description is not intended, nor should it be construed 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 essential functions of this job.