

Division of Soil and Water Conservation  
Division Director's Report

December 2, 2018

Presented by Darryl M. Glover;

Director, Division of Soil and Water Conservation

Mr. President, members of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Board, please accept this Soil and Water Conservation Division Report.

**Livestock Stream Exclusion Update**

As of October 8, 2018, 2,131 SL-6 livestock stream exclusion practices have been installed statewide under the 100% cost reimbursement initiative. These practices have resulted in over 8.3 million linear feet of streambank protected and 103,000 animal units excluded from water bodies. Another 229 SL-6 practices have been funded but are not yet completed. This leaves only 120 pending FY2015 SL-6s that need just under \$6.3 million in future funding. Of these, only 15 pending practices, at an estimate cost of less than \$650,000, are in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**Resource Management Plan Program Update**

The Resource Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group (RMP SAG) met in November. DCR provided updates on the additional initiatives implemented within the last year to encourage more RMP implementation and certification. Contracts with RMP developers that took effect on July 1, 2018 will result in over 30,000 acres of fully implemented and certified RMPs by May 2019. The Annual RMP Report, which is now available online, also notes 14,000 new RMP acres were developed within the Chesapeake Bay watershed during the last year.

**Chesapeake Bay WIP III**

Working with the Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, Ann Jennings, and James Davis-Martin (DEQ), DCR conducted the third round of meetings with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Districts) that have Chesapeake Bay drainage area and other agricultural sector partners, in October.

Several Bay Districts elected to revise their agricultural BMP input deck spreadsheets, projecting additional BMPs that can be implemented by year 2025. DEQ is evaluating these changes.

Three joint sector meetings between urban and agricultural stakeholders were held throughout last week; the fourth and final meeting is scheduled for December 6.

Information from the new Phase 6.0 Chesapeake Bay Model, has now identified one additional District, raising the total to nine that are vital for meeting Virginia's nitrogen reduction targets: Eastern Shore, Culpeper, Hanover-Caroline, Headwaters, Lord Fairfax, Northern Neck, **Robert E. Lee**, Shenandoah Valley, and Three Rivers.

### **Agricultural BMP Technical Advisory Committee**

Suggestions for policy and programmatic changes for the state agricultural cost share program (VACS) that would promote more BMP implementation were accepted through October. Nearly 200 suggestions were received. These suggestions have been divided between six subcommittees of the Agricultural Best Management Technical Advisory Committee (Ag BMP TAC), namely Animal Waste, Cover Crop, Forestry, Nutrient Management, Programmatic, and Stream Protection. These subcommittees began meeting in early September and will continue to meet through early January.

Due to a number of horse-related suggestions, a new Equine Workgroup will continue to meet after the Ag BMP TAC concludes its meetings in January. This workgroup will make recommendations to DCR at a later date.

Every recommendation from the full Ag BMP TAC, including those that have been tabled, will go to the Soil and Water Conservation Board next spring, for final action. Many of these recommendations will require additional work by the TAC next year. Some others will require legislative or regulatory changes and/or additional programming in Ag BMP Tracking.

DCR will give a presentation on the Ag BMP TAC on Monday morning.