

*State Parks * Soil and Water Conservation * Outdoor Recreation Planning
Natural Heritage * Dam Safety and Floodplain Management * Land Conservation*

Conservation Planning in Virginia

***National Association of State Conservation Agencies
National Watershed Coalition***

September 25, 2017



Purpose

- Conservation plans are required to implement existing Virginia programs
 - State Tax Credit (§ 58.1-339.3 and § 58.1-439.5)
 - soil conservation plan
 - Resource Management Plans (§ 10.1-104.8)
 - soil conservation plan or pasture management plan
 - State Cost Share (VACS BMP Manual)
 - conservation plan
- Virginia-focused planning components and methodologies
- Increased opportunities for planning certification

Value of Planning

Producer

- Technical assistance
- Eligibility for certain Virginia programs
- May assist producers with meeting environmental program requirements
 - Confined animal permits
 - State water quality initiatives



Commonwealth

- Water quality improvements
- Nutrient and sediment controls



Stakeholder Advisory Group

- Authorized by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board in December 2016
 - Recognized the value for agricultural community and the Commonwealth
 - Directed the establishment of Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Advisory Group to offer recommendations regarding:
 - Resources to be considered
 - Components of a plan
 - Training and certification requirements
 - Other policy and programmatic considerations
- Advisory Group has met 3 times; next meeting on October 3

Virginia Conservation Plan

- Focused on Virginia law and regulations
- Priorities are improving water quality and conserving soil resources
- Coordinating with other state and federal agencies regarding reviews for endangered and threatened species, cultural resources, other water quality permit requirements

General Plan Components

- Narrative
- Assessment
- Maps
- Supporting documents
- Recommended actions
- Signatures and dates
 - Plan writer
 - Producer or land owner
 - Soil and Water Conservation District Board



DCR Conservation Planning Certification

- Soil and Water Conservation District staff, private consultants, and DCR staff will be able to become DCR conservation planner certified
- Certification and recertification will be for a period of three years
- DCR will continue to recognize NRCS conservation planning certification

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

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