

PRINCE GEORGE'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Budget Review for TIEE

April 18, 2019



5301 MARLBORO RACE TRACK ROAD
UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND 20772
www.pgscd.org



Executive Director: Steven Darcey, CPESC

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

2019 marks the Prince George's Soil Conservation District's 78th year of locally led soil and water conservation efforts in Prince George's County

The District works under the Maryland Conservation Partnership and receives staff, equipment and funding from multiple sources

The three primary partners include Prince George's County/USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

- **County:** Prince George's County Government (64%)
- **Federal:** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) (19%)
- **Review Fees :** Technical Plan Review (7%)
- **Grants:** Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund (6%)
- **State:** Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) (4%)





THE PRINCE GEORGE'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS A TECHNICAL SERVICE AGENCY

Locally Led Soil and Water Conservation Programs Include

- **Urban Development and Conservation Program**
- **Rural Agricultural Conservation Program**
- **Agricultural Land Preservation Program**
- **Outreach and Education Programs**
- **Urban Agricultural Conservation Program**

URBAN DEVELOPMENT and CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Program leader: John Tarr P.E., District Engineer

- Review and approve grading/erosion and sediment control plans.
- Provide technical consultation to Engineers, Developers and general public on principles and practices of land grading and erosion/sediment control
- Assist in MDE's Review of delegated Inspections and Enforcement Programs (Delegated Authority – City of Bowie, Laurel, Greenbelt & County)
- Review and approve grading erosion and sediment control plans for mining, reclamation projects & forest harvest operations
 - Review and approve all impoundment facilities per MD-378 standards for dam safety including Geotechnical Assessments/Soils Report, Dam Breach Analysis and Hazard Classifications.

FY 2019 stats as of April 15, 2019

- **Over 1400 technical submissions have been reviewed with over 420 approvals for development in the county**
- **Average review cycle turn around time of 3.9 business days**
- **Conducted multiple training and preparation exercises, and on-site construction site assessments/field changes with inspectors from the Cities of Greenbelt, Laurel, Bowie and the County (DPIE).**



AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

- **60,000** acres of rural agricultural land in Prince George's County with 67% (40,000 ac) privately owned
- Average farm size is just under 100 acres
- District currently has **775** active Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQP) on over **50,000** acres of land
- Working with MNCPPC on two soil health demonstration farms to educate the public on the use of soil health practices and carbon sequestration

FY 2019 stats as of April 15, 2019

- Over 2600 acres of farm plans have been completed
- 140 Best Management Practices (bmps) have been installed
- Over 3000 acres of farm land have received conservation bmps
- On track to meet Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan Goals

Prince George's County Agriculture is Diverse and requires a variety of Best Management Practices to Address Soil and Water Conservation Needs



Dry hydrant in farm pond



Irrigation water recovery system



Field Strip cropping System



Watering Facility for Livestock



Farm Irrigation Pond

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Administrator: Jeanine Nutter

The District administers 3 land preservation programs for the County

The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), Rural Legacy and the Historic Agricultural Resource Preservation Program (HARPP)

PRESERVED STATISTICS

HARPP: 39 properties for approximately 3626 acres

MALPF: 18 properties for approximately 1,651 acres

RURAL LEGACY: 6 property for 862 acres

PENDING APPLICATIONS

5 properties for approximately 412 acres

2 properties for approximately 340 acres

1 property for approximately 52 acres

In total, 63 properties for approximately 6139 acres have been permanently preserved in Prince George's County.

Current HARPP balance is \$2.8M. Pending applications of \$1.8M leaves a balance of \$1.0M ending FY 19.

Pending applications in FY 20 at \$2.4M would leave a negative balance of approximately \$400K in FY 20.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

Envirothon, Arbor Day, Earth Day, Champion Tree Tour, County's Summer Youth Enrichment Program, Summer Intern, Envirothon Scholarship, PGCPs Green School Program, PGCPs Environmental Studies Academy, Soil Health Demonstration Farms, Urban Ag Conservation and Future Farmers of America (FFA)

Program Leader: Debra Sandlin-Administrative Assistant



Students learn about soils in soil pit



Students identify soil layers with Delegate James Proctor watching

The District has provided \$23,000 higher education scholarships to students on local winning Envirothon teams

Provided recycle containers to four elementary schools in support of the County Public School's Green School Program

Will host four FFA students from Gwynn Park HS for this years' Summer Youth Enrichment Program

URBAN AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Program Leader: Kim Rush-Lynch-Urban Ag Conservation Planner

Importance of the UAC program

Health, Education, Environment and Economic Development

HEALTH: USDA's Food Research Atlas reports **43% of the County's residents live in "healthy food priority areas"** and John's Hopkins' Center for Livable Future reports **fast food chains make up 71% of the County's restaurants**

EDUCATION: Working with the Public School System, MNCPPC, Food Equity Council, University of Maryland and others provides excellent opportunities to provide outreach and education.

ENVIRONMENT: Soil Resource Concerns: Marlboro Clay outcrops, Acid Sulfate Soil outcrops, heavy metals, >80% are Highly Erodible. Water Resource Concerns: Urban ag areas drain directly into TIER II or impaired water bodies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: There is an estimated \$26B spent on food in the Baltimore-Washington region but **only 2% is spent on locally raised food**. Approximately 73% of the county is eligible for agricultural use.

FY 2019 stats as of April 15, 2019

Conducted over 100 individual site visits

12 new cooperators signed on with the District

12 new soil and water conservation plans (SCWQP) written

Two producers have applied for the County property tax credit

Working with MNCPPC on conservation plans to address irrigation water needs, nutrient management and soil-water conservation concerns on all community garden plots

Developed a bilingual urban ag conservation flyer

PRINCE GEORGE'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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The Prince George's Soil Conservation District prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.

