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The State Soil Conservation Committee was established by Chapter 436, Acts of 1937, as amended to date. The Committee has organized soil conservation districts that cover the entire State except Baltimore City. The Committee coordinates the work of the twenty-three districts to further the application of scientifically sound and practical conservation measures to the lands in Maryland, which will result in a retardation of erosion and the advancement of soil and water conservation.

The State Committee also assists districts in securing the advice and help of State and federal agencies that have resources that can be brought to bear on soil and water problems and on certain phases of related land use programs and problems. Relevant areas of concern include agricultural non-point source pollution, watershed protection and flood prevention, siltation of streams and reservoirs, shore erosion control, highway erosion control, forest and woodland conservation and development, the protection and development of wildlife, and the development of public land areas.

The Committee consists of six ex officio and five soil conservation district supervisors representing five geographic areas of the State. District supervisor members are appointed to five-year terms by the Secretary of Agriculture from recommendations made by the districts represented (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 8-101 through 8-501).

SOIL CONSERVATION ADMINISTRATION

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The Soil Conservation Administration is responsible for administering the Department's soil and water conservation program and implementing State policies that further the control of soil erosion and agriculturally related non-point source water pollution.

The Administration provides resources to the twenty-four Soil Conservation Districts in the State. Financial assistance and State personnel are made available to support programs that provide technical assistance to the agricultural community. Through these programs, soil and water conservation plans are developed for agricultural landown-

ers and farm operators, and agricultural best management practices are promoted.

The Administration includes a Water Quality Cost-Share Program, which provides financial assistance to individuals and landowners installing agricultural best management practices in order to reduce water pollution caused by nutrient and sediment erosion, animal wastes, or agricultural chemicals.

An Agricultural Water Management Program protects water quality through oversight of the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of agricultural drainage projects by public drainage associations. Financial aid is made available to public drainage associations through drainage maintenance cost-share agreements.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Chairperson: William I. Guy, 1985

William E. Burall, 1985; Bradford Reeves, 1985; Roland B. Heilman, 1987; Constance Leider, 1987; T. Allan Stradley, 1987; Erna R. Chapman, 1988; Donald Dell, 1988; Leonard E. Lowry, 1988.

Ex officio: Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., *Secretary of Agriculture*; William S. James, *State Treasurer*

Gerald F. Talbert, *Executive Director*

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The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation was created by Chapter 784, Acts of 1977. The Foundation implements the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The intent of the program is to preserve productive agricultural land and woodland in Maryland, provide for the continued production of food and fiber, curb the extent of urban sprawl, and protect agricultural land and woodland as open space.

The program is voluntary on the part of landowners and is dependent upon the cooperation of local governments, which appoint five-member Agricultural Preservation Advisory Boards.

By agreement with the Foundation, landowners may initiate the creation of an Agricultural Preservation District, in which subdivision and development are restricted for at least five years. The creation of such a district results in the protection of normal agricultural activities and in the eligibility of landowners to make application to sell a