

and the Office of Resource Conservation by planning, developing, and coordinating policy, programs, and public information. The soil and water conservation work of the Office is coordinated with soil conservation districts, and agencies and organizations with related programs.

Under the Agricultural Water Management Program, Program Planning and Development helps public drainage associations maintain agricultural drainage projects. Interagency reviews of public drainage association plans for construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance are conducted. Financial aid is made available to these associations through drainage maintenance cost-share agreements. Program Planning and Development also coordinates and evaluates the Nutrient Management Program, which helps individual farmers plan nutrient management.

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Robert M. Davis, *Chairperson*,
Wicomico County, 1996

Louise Lawrence, *Executive Secretary*
(410) 841-5863

Established in 1937, the State Soil Conservation Committee works to retard soil erosion and non-point source pollution, conserve soil, and protect water quality (Chapter 436, Acts of 1937). Through twenty-four soil conservation districts covering the entire State (except Baltimore City), the Committee coordinates district work to apply scientifically sound and practical conservation measures ("best management practices") to Maryland lands. For each district, the Committee appoints four of the five persons who serve on a local board of soil conservation supervisors.

The State Committee helps districts secure aid from State and federal agencies for soil and water conservation, and certain phases of related land use programs. Areas of concern include nonpoint source pollution, watershed protection and flood prevention, siltation of streams and reservoirs, shore erosion control, and highway erosion control. They also involve forest and woodland conservation and development, the protection and propagation of wildlife, development of public land areas, and urban sediment and erosion control.

The Committee has eleven members. Six serve ex officio. Five are soil conservation district supervisors appointed to four-year terms by the Secretary of Agriculture from recommendations made by the districts represented (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 8-101 through 8-501).

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Louise Lawrence, *Chairperson*
(410) 841-5863

The Nutrient Management Advisory Committee was created in 1992 (Chapter 137, Acts of 1992). Nutrient management concerns soil fertilization and determining the amount, placement, timing, and application of animal waste, commercial fertilizer, sludge, or other plant nutrients to prevent pollution and maintain productivity. The Committee advises the Department on the certification and licensing of nutrient management consultants (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 8-801 through 8-806).

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Royden N. Powell III, *Chief*
(410) 841-5896

Resource Management Services originated as the Resource Conservation Operations Section in 1989 and was reorganized under its present name in 1992. Resource Management Services administers State resources that support soil and water conservation programs on agricultural land and provides guidance and assistance to twenty-four soil conservation districts. It gives financial support to soil conservation districts for conservation programs. Resource Management Services also provides technical assistance to farmers and landowners on best management practices to control nutrient soil erosion and agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

RESOURCE PROTECTION INCENTIVES

F. Gould Charshree, *Supervisor*
(410) 841-5864

Resource Protection Incentives began as the Conservation Grants Section in 1989 and received its current name in 1992. This office conducts the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program (MACS) and the State Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Established in 1983, the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program reduces water pollution caused by nutrient and sediment erosion, animal wastes, or agricultural chemicals. The Program provides cost-share grants to individuals for installing best management practices on agricultural land.

The State Conservation Reserve Program provides annual payments to landowners or operators for certain acreage taken out of agricultural production and planted in vegetative cover for a ten-year period. The Program began in 1988 as an incentive for enrolling in a similar federal program administered by the U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.