

(4) The principal administrative official for agricultural affairs at the University of Maryland as designated by the president of the university;

(5) The chairman of the Maryland Agricultural Commission, or his designee;

(6) The president of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts;

(7) 5 soil conservation district supervisors representing the 5 different geographic areas of the State, as provided in subsection (b);

(8) The Director of the Cooperative Extension Service and the principal administrative officer for Maryland of the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, who shall be nonvoting members; and

(9) Other representatives of cooperating State and federal agencies serving as consultants to the Committee as selected by the Committee.

8-603.

(a) (1) "Agricultural drainage project" means the construction, reconstruction, or repair, or the straightening, widening, or deepening, of any ditch, drain, canal, or other watercourse, natural or man-made, financed or managed by a public drainage association for the purpose of lowering the water level in the soil of adjacent lands for agricultural purposes.

(2) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture or [Health and Mental Hygiene] THE ENVIRONMENT or Natural Resources or any combination of them.

(3) "Person" includes an individual, receiver, fiduciary or representative of any kind, or any partnership, firm, association, public or private corporation, trust, or any other entity.

(4) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture unless the context requires otherwise.

(b) The General Assembly determines and finds that the lands and waters comprising the watersheds of the State are great natural assets and resources. It continues to find that the drainage of surface waters from lands for agricultural purposes by public drainage associations represents a public benefit. The General Assembly further finds that agricultural drainage projects, if not properly designed, operated, and maintained, have the potential to contribute nonpoint source pollutants to the waters of the State.