

St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

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MEMO

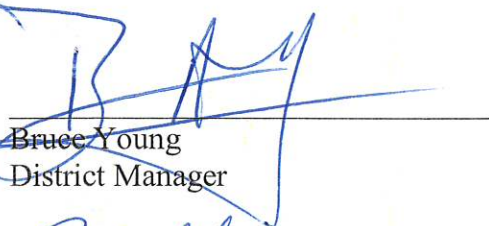
DATE: September 8, 2023

TO: Byron Petrauskas, MDA
Kendrick Flowers, NRCS
Adam Lyon, MDA

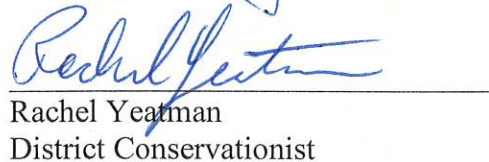
FROM: Bruce Young, St. Mary's SCD

RE: 2024 Annual Plan/Workload Analysis

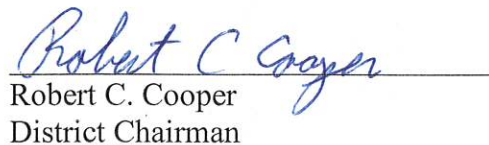
Attached is St. Mary's Soil Conservation District's 2024 Annual Plan/Workload Analysis. The plan was developed by the Board of Supervisors, District Conservationist and District Manager and was formally reviewed and approved on September 7, 2023 at the District Board Meeting.



Bruce Young
District Manager



Rachel Yeatman
District Conservationist



Robert C. Cooper
District Chairman

2024 ANNUAL PLAN

for

St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

26737 Radio Station Way, Suite B

Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

(301)-475-8402 or (301)475-5856

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/stmaryssoilconservationdistrict>

Web site Home Page: <https://stmarysscd.com>

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS & ASSOCIATES

Robert C. Cooper – Chairman (FB)
St. Inigoes - (Term 3/30/25)

Jeffrey Raley – Member (At-Large)
Mechanicsville – (Term 3/30/27)

Stanley Boothe – Member (UME)
Valley Lee - (Term 3/30/24)

Carl Dyson – Member (County)
Leonardtown – (Term 6/30/27)

Darrell Goode – Treasurer (At-Large)
Leonardtown - (Term 3/30/26)

Ben Beale – Secretary
University of Maryland Extension

Bonnie Browne – Associate
Leonardtown

Abigail Sivak – Associate
Lexington Park

DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF

ST. MARY'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Bruce A. Young – District Manager
Haley Carter – Program Manager
Bradlie Quick – Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist
Glenn Gass – Engineer (contract)
Karyn Hankins – Administrative Aide

USDA NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Rachel Yeatman – District Conservationist (Shared w/Charles SCD)
Vacant – Soil Conservationist
Brian Brookhart – Engineer (Patuxent Area)
Jacob Kiessling – Civil Engineering Technician (Patuxent Area)
Mike Montillo – Soil Conservation Technician (Shared w/Charles SCD)
Valinda Clark (RC&D) – Program Support Specialist (Shared w/Southern MD)

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Tom Koviak – Agriculture Resource Conservation Specialist III
Sara Lewis – Agriculture Resource Conservation Specialist III-Equine (Shared w/Charles)
Savannah Dobbins – Agriculture Resource Conservation Specialist II
Leah Langford – Agriculture Resource Conservation Specialist I
Luke Mudd – Soil Conservation Engineering Technician
Nancy LaRoche – Soil Conservation Engineering Technician
Georgia Bowling – Soil Conservation Associate

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CALENDAR OF DELIVERABLES 1

WORKLOAD ANALYSIS

Staff Allocation Table 2

PLAN OF OPERATION

Strategies 3-7

**ST. MARY'S SCD
2024 CALENDAR**

<p><u>JANUARY</u> MASCD Winter Meeting registration Approve County Budget Request Discuss Cooperator's Meeting Update website Pay NACD Dues</p>	<p><u>FEBRUARY</u> Attend MASCD Winter Meeting Update Facebook page Cooperator Dinner Meeting St. Mary's Co. Science Fair</p>
<p><u>MARCH</u> Discuss Quarterly WIP Progress Review the MASCD Winter Meeting Envirothon Training Attend MASCD BOD Meeting Send out MASCD Coloring Contest Rules Discuss the MASCD Awards</p>	<p><u>APRIL</u> Complete Annual Report Discuss MOU Reviews Discuss Quarterly WIP Progress Review Annual Plan & Progress County Envirothon Competition Update website and Facebook pages</p>
<p><u>MAY</u> Submit MASCD Awards MASCD Coloring/Poster Contest Staff Attend MDA Employee Meeting Review MDA Budget Request Update SAM Registration</p>	<p><u>JUNE</u> Submit 2010 Trust Fund Request State Envirothon Competition Cover Crop Sign-ups Approve MDA GF Budget Request Discuss MASCD Summer Meeting</p>
<p><u>JULY</u> Review 2 MOU's Submit materials for annual review of District receipts and disbursements Update website Discuss Quarterly WIP Progress Register for MASCD Annual Meeting</p>	<p><u>AUGUST</u> Attend MASCD Annual Meeting Discuss Annual Plan Attend CASE & Natural Res. PAC Meeting Update website and Facebook pages Send out invitations for Area 2 Dinner Mtg. hosted by St. Mary's</p>
<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u> County Fair Display Start County Envirothon Program Approve Annual Plan Update PIA Contact info for Attorney General's Office Pay MASCD Dues Hold public meeting for NRCS Local Workshop</p>	<p><u>OCTOBER</u> Discuss Cooperator's Dinner Meeting Discuss Quarterly WIP Progress Fall Envirothon Training Southern Maryland Dinner Meeting Attend MASCD BOD Meeting Update website and Facebook pages Election of Officers</p>
<p><u>NOVEMBER</u> Discuss Cooperator's Dinner Meeting Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Cover Crop Installed Acres Report Crops Conference Pay MD Envirothon Dues</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER</u> Discuss County Budget Discuss MASCD Winter Meeting Review MDA MOU Review Annual Plan Accomplishments Discuss WIP Progress</p>

2024 GOAL SUMMARY & STAFF ALLOCATION TABLE

ST MARY'S SCD		STAFF – List all Ag staff names									
PROGRESS ACTIVITY	SCD ANNUAL GOAL	Koviak	Lewis	Dobbins	Langford	NRCS Vacant	Mudd	LaRochelle	NRCS Montillo	Bowling	
WIP (acres)	3600* 7000**	1100	550	850	600	500					
PLANS (#)	78	24	12	18	12	12					
OUTREACH	85	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	5	10	
BMP's INSTALLED	339	80	48	65	48	48	15	15	10	10	
CREP	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

*This is the annual goal as set by MDA for plan acres based on plan numbers.

**This is the annual goal as set by SCD for plan acres to meet 6/31/25 WIP Goals.

PART II
CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP 2024 PLAN OF OPERATION

For the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

Priority 1.

Protect soil resource base from degradation by erosion.

- Goal Develop Soil Conservation & Water Quality plans on eligible acres to meet or exceed the 2025 WIP III goal of 32,351 acres. In 2024, the District will set as a workload goal to develop 78 new conservation plans covering 7000 acres.
- Goal Implement all planned conservation compliance systems and install BMP's. In 2024, the District will set as a workload goal to assist in the installation of 339 BMP's.
- Goal Review sediment control measures for non-agricultural construction sites. Provide administrative and technical review of erosion and sediment control plans. In 2024, the District will set as a workload goal to review 750 and approve 300 erosion and sediment control plans and perform 120 pre-construction meetings.
- Goal Provide service to clients relating to Federal, State, and local pollution prevention and water quality initiatives. The District will set as a workload goal to provide education and outreach programs to 85 agricultural landowners and operators by promoting conservation education and outreach to maximize participation.
- Goal Review and approve Standard Erosion and Sediment Control plans for forest harvest operations. The District will establish a 5 day review and approval period for each of 20 standard plans on 630 acres.

Priority 2.

Strengthen business operations by providing high quality products and services to customers.

- Goal Maintain and update the NRCS engineering workload priorities list and the MDA conservation tracker database on a regular basis. On a monthly basis the workload priorities will be reviewed with staff and appropriate changes will be made.
- Goal Utilize the services of the Program Support Specialist to reduce the amount of administrative work being done by the technical staff.

- Goal Support marketing, promotion and participation in FSA, NRCS EQIP, and Maryland Conservation Grant Programs by conducting public information campaigns and various other outreach programs.
- Goal Hold a minimum of **12** District/MDA/NRCS office staff meetings to review planning, design and program obligations to ensure that deadlines are being met. Provide quarterly updates on PRS and WIP III goals and review EQIP contracts for completeness with established deadlines.
- Goal Endorse, promote and participate in Federal, State and local initiatives/programs like the Cover Crop Program, Poultry Litter Transport Program, and CREP that mitigate effects of nutrients, animal waste and pesticides.
- Goal Promote the Nutrient Management provisions of the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998.
- Goal Assist District landowners, when and where applicable, in the establishment of **5** CREP acres and **12** EQIP applications.
- Goal Support watershed initiatives that promote water quality improvements like the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan, the St. Mary's River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy and the St. Clements Bay Watershed plan to meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reductions.
- Goal Provide technical assistance to help farmers comply with CAFO/MAFO regulations and the Maryland Nutrient Management Program.

Priority 3.

Facilitate program delivery through the partnerships locally led conservation approach.

- Goal Improve efficiency, effectiveness, quality and equality of soil and water conservation program services and operations through training, software and hardware upgrades and the sharing of resources.
- Goal Expand partnerships, coalitions and outreach at the local, State and National levels to reach historically underserved populations. Plan at least one outreach event.
- Goal District Manager coordinates Federal Local Workgroup for NRCS programs.
- Goal Support Equal Employment Opportunities.

- Goal Provide all services on a non-discrimination basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, marital status or handicap.
- Goal Sharing training opportunities with all district staff to improve technical and administrative skills. This includes on-the-job training across county boundaries with other SCD's. Communicate training needs to the partnership leadership and training committee.
- Goal Ensure well-informed agricultural landowners and operators through an established information and educational program. This will be achieved through a combination of web page content, emails, newspaper articles, direct mailings and social media (Facebook).
- Goal Provide quality customer service. This will be measured through the use of customer service cards located on the front counter.
- Goal Maintain and update information into the MDA Conservation Tracker Management System. Entry of information will be done at least monthly by the Program Manager and is to include structural as well as management bmp's.
- Goal Have all SC&WQ planners within the District obtain Certification by NRCS.
- Goal Expand staff capacity (Federal, State, and local) to meet 2025 WIP goals.
- Goal Recruit interested and diverse persons to serve as Associate Supervisors. District policy allows for three (3) associate positions which will ensure continuity as vacant supervisor positions are filled with informed individuals. (Associate Supervisor Position Description developed and available for interested persons.)

Priority 4.

Expand and promote St. Mary's SCD's local priorities.

- Goal Promote and expand the Districts agricultural equipment lease program.
- Goal Provide technical assistance on non-structural shoreline erosion control methods for public entities and private landowners to stabilize eroding shorelines and to create tidal marsh.
- Goal Contract and supervise construction of Natural Resource projects located on the Patuxent River Naval Air Warfare Center and Webster Field through Southern Maryland RC&D cooperative agreements.
- Goal Assist the County Ag Land Preservation program and the RC&D Rural Legacy program through the development of SC&WQ plans and compliance checks.

- Goal Participate and promote MASCD FSCAP and pollinator programs.
- Goal Assist farmers and operators in establishing/constructing bmp's to achieve the County agricultural WIP III goals.
- Goal Provide technical support to the Southern Maryland RC&D and the Agriculture, Seafood and Forestry Boards.
- Goal Host at least one NRCS Earth Team Student Volunteer during the summer to assist with local program priorities.

Priority 5

Inform and educate the citizens of St. Mary's County while promoting District activities.

- Goal Exhibit a District display at the County Fair.
- Goal Prepare and present conservation related programs to civic groups, professional organizations and units of Government on request.
- Goal Publish news articles on timely conservation related topics; prepare and publish an annual report for mass distribution.
- Goal Participate with St. Mary's County schools with the STEM and/or STEAM Program(s).
- Goal Provide training for and hold a local Envirothon competition for high school student teams. Take the local winning team to the State Envirothon competition. Expand participation to all county high schools.
- Goal Hold a cooperators' dinner meeting to inform farmers about programs and the previous years' accomplishments.
- Goal Participate and have a booth at a county or Town of Leonardtown sponsored event.
- Goal Invite media to scheduled District activities, coop dinner, Envirothon etc.
- Goal Participate with the MASCD in promoting the coloring and poster contests to elementary and secondary schools.
- Goal Maintain the District's web and Facebook pages and provide updates as needed to keep site current.

- Goal Provide sponsorship or awards for the St. Mary's County Science Fair.
- Goal Participate with the Curriculum for Agriculture Science Education (CASE) Program and Natural Resources PAC Committees.

Priority 6

Reduce sedimentation and nutrient runoff from urban construction sites, residential development and forest harvest projects.

- Goal Review and approve standard erosion and sediment control plans for timber harvest operations.
- Goal Hold preconstruction meetings for all proposed projects that require an engineered erosion and sediment control plan.
- Goal Provide technical assistance to non-agriculture landowners on erosion, storm water management, and nutrient reduction.
- Goal Provide technical assistance to tidal shoreline property owners regarding current MDE and Critical Area regulations for shoreline stabilization.
- Goal Perform periodic site visits of active construction sites to document good and/or failing erosion and sediment control practices, to increase knowledge of what works and doesn't work so that E&S approvals are more effective.
- Goal Participate with County government agencies reviewing concept projects through the Development Review Application process.
- Goal Participate on County committees and offer input on the development of local ordinances that would have an impact on District operations, such as; the Grading, Storm Water Management, Erosion and Sediment control and the Illicit Discharge Detection And Elimination ordinances.