

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEERobert M. Davis, *Chair*, 1996Louise Lawrence, *Executive Secretary*
(410) 841-5863

Established in 1937, the State Soil Conservation Committee works to stop soil erosion and nonpoint 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 nominees of the districts represented (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 8-101 through 8-501).

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEELouise Lawrence, *Chair*
(410) 841-5863

The Nutrient Management Advisory Committee began 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. Appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Committee advises the Department on certification and licensing of

nutrient management consultants (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 8-801 through 8-806).

RESOURCE CONSERVATION GRANTSEileen O'Brien, *Supervisor*
(410) 841-5864

Resource Conservation Grants started in 1989 as the Conservation Grants Section. In 1992, the Section was renamed Resource Protection Incentives, and in 1994 received its present name. This office administers 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. Department of Agriculture.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION OPERATIONSVacancy, *Chief*
(410) 841-5896

Resource Conservation Operations originated in 1989 as an outgrowth of the Soil Conservation Administration. It was reorganized as Resource Management Services in 1992. In 1994, it resumed its earlier name.

Resource Conservation Operations administers State resources that support soil and water conservation programs on agricultural land. This section guides and assists twenty-four soil conservation districts and gives financial, administrative and technical support for conservation programs. Resource Conservation Operations also provides technical assistance to farmers and landowners on best management practices to control soil erosion and agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

DEFUNCT DEPARTMENTAL AGENCIES**MARKETING**

Renamed Marketing and Agricultural Development in July 1995.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Renamed Resource Conservation Operations in 1994.

RESOURCE PROTECTION INCENTIVES

In 1994, renamed Resource Conservation Grants.

SEAFOOD MARKETING

In July 1995, absorbed by Aquaculture Development and Seafood Marketing.