# Resource Management Plan Regulations (4VAC50-70)

- **4VAC50-70 -10. Definitions**
- 3 "Assessment" means an onsite review of a management unit conducted pursuant to 4VAC50-70-50.
- 4 "Best management practice" or "BMP" means structural and nonstructural practices that manage soil
- 5 loss, nutrient losses, or other pollutant sources to minimize pollution of water resources and improve
- 6 water quality.
- 7 <u>"Board" means the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board.</u>

"Department" means the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

11 <u>"Director" means the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation or his designee.</u>

"Local soil and water conservation district" or "soil and water conservation district" means a political subdivision of the Commonwealth organized in accordance with the provisions of §10.1-500 et seq.

"Management unit" means a collection of two one or more agricultural fields or USDA Farm Service Agency tracts located in proximity, under the control of the owner or operator and identified by the operator as a having a functional linkage as the appropriate unit for RMP implementation. The management unit may consist of multiple fields and tracts, or an entire agricultural operation.

"NRCS" means the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Operator" means the any person that has direct operational who exercises managerial control over the agricultural management unit addressed by the resource management plan including the day to day operational activities. The operator may include, but not be limited to, the agricultural landowner or farm manager.

"Owner" means any person who owns land where an agricultural activity occurs.

"Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, state, municipality, commission, or political subdivision of a state, governmental body, any interstate body, or any other legal entity.

"Plan" means a document prepared pursuant to 4VAC50-70-60.

"Resource Management Plan" or "RMP" means a plan developed and implemented pursuant to the
 standards established by this chapter.

"Plan writer-Resource Management Plan Developer" or "RMP developer" means a person who is certified as a conservation planner by the USDA virginia Natural Resources Conservation Service to perform conservation planning, or fulfills training, education and experience criteria meets qualifications established approved by the Board.

"Technical Review Committee" or "TRC" means a committee established by the local soil and water conservation district board to review RMPs and provide recommendations to the local soil and water conservation district board regarding RMPs. A TRC may include, but not be limited to, the following persons: local soil and water conservation district personnel, Virginia Cooperative Extension personnel, department nutrient management specialist, and NRCS personnel.

"Total maximum daily load" or "TMDL" means a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources. A TMDL includes wasteload allocations (WLAs) for point source discharges, and load allocations (LAs) for nonpoint sources or natural background or both, and must include a margin of safety (MOS) and account for seasonal variations.

### 4VAC50-70-20. Purpose and Authority

 Pursuant to 10.1-104.6, and 10.1-104.7 Article 1.1 of \$10.1, these regulations are adopted to clarify and specify the criteria that must be included in a resource management plan. Any owner or operator fully implementing a resource management plan shall be deemed to be in full compliance with any load allocation contained in a TMDL, any requirements of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan, and any applicable state water quality requirements for nutrients and sediment.

#### 4VAC50-70-30. Applicability of other laws and regulations

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as limiting the applicability of other laws, regulations, or permits, including but not limited to, a Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, a Virginia Pollution Abatement Permit, a nutrient management plan otherwise required by law for such operation, any requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, and any requirements of the Agricultural Stewardship Act.

### 4VAC50-70-40. Minimum standards of a resource management plan.

A. Pursuant to §10.1-104.5, 10.1-104.6, and 10.1-104.7, a resource management plan requires the implementation of BMPs to reduce nutrients, sediments, and other pollutants from agricultural operations. Pursuant to §10.1-104.6 B5, a RMP shall include the following based upon the assessment:

1. For all management units, a nutrient management plan that meets the specifications of the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations (4VAC5-15);

 For management units in cropland, specialty crops, or hayland, a forest or grass buffer between the field in production and the perennial stream of a minimum width buffer of 35 feet to meet water quality objectives and consistent with NRCS standards and specifications

 For management units in cropland, specialty crops, or hayland, a soil conservation plan that achieves a maximum soil loss rate of "T", as defined by the NRCS;

 For management units in pasture, a pasture management plan or soil conservation plan that achieves a maximum soil loss rate or "T" as defined by NRCS; and

5. For management units in pasture, a system that limits or prevents livestock access to perennial streams in accordance with the following:

 a. Any fencing or exclusion system that provides year-round livestock restriction to perennial streams;

- 91 b. A 35 foot forest or grass buffer between the exclusion system and perennial
  92 streams; and
  93 c. Excludes livestock with provisions made for access through stream crossings
  - c. Excludes livestock with provisions made for access through stream crossings and livestock watering systems designed to NRCS standards and specifications and determined necessary by the RMP developer.
  - B. Additional BMPs including those identified in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, or identified in the Virginia Chesapeake Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan, or approved by the board, may be utilized as needed to achieve the minimum standards set out above.
  - C. <u>If a management unit is unable to meet the minimum standards listed above, alternative BMPs and alternative measures, which achieve nutrient and water quality reductions, may be utilized; however no RMP shall be deemed sufficient where:</u>
    - 1. The average buffer width for the entire management unit is less than 35 feet, where forest or grass buffers between cropland, specialty crops, or hayland border perennial streams and where livestock access to perennial streams requires a forest or grass buffer.
    - 2. Any field in cropland, specialty crops, hayland or pasture exceed a soil loss rate of "2T" as defined by the NRCS.

### 4VAC50-70-50. Components of a resource management plan.

### A RMP shall contain the following components:

- A. Pursuant to \$10.1-104.6 B3, an assessment shall be performed by the RMP developer or individual authorized by the RMP developer to perform work on their behalf, and include the following components in a format established by the department or in a format approved by the board as equivalent:
  - Information on the location of the management unit including geographic coordinates, USDA Farm Service Agency tract number(s), if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number(s);
  - Information on the type of agricultural operation Description of the management unit, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay) agricultural activity;
  - 3. <u>Contact information for the owner or operator who has requested the RMP, including name, address, and telephone number;</u>
  - 4. Authorization from the owner or operator for the RMP developer, or his designee, to obtain copies of any current conservation or water quality plans necessary for the assessment;
  - 5. <u>for the person completing the assessment to access copies Copies of nutrient management plans from the department and soil conservation plans from Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS, and any other conservation or water quality plan that require includes the implementation of BMPs; and</u>
  - 6. Information on the location and type an evaluation of all BMPs, conservation plans, water quality plans, and other alternative measures applicable to the type of management unit that are currently implemented, including but not limited to, nutrient management plans, soil conservation plan, crop rotation, tillage practices, livestock exclusion, and riparian buffers.
- B. <u>Identification of management unit BMPs and implementation schedule</u> completed by a RMP developer in a format established by the department or in a format approved by the board as equivalent:
  - 1. A review of the assessment to determine the adequacy of existing BMPs, conservation plans, water quality plans, in meeting the minimum standards set out in 4VAC50-70-40;

139	2.	A complete listing list of BMPs that may be utilized to reach the management unit's
140		reduction goal, developed as a result of the assessment required in 4VAC50-70-50
141		Subsection A, that may be utilized to meet the minimum standards include the BMPs listed
142		<del>in §10.1-104.8.5</del> set out in 4VAC50-70-40.;
143	3.	A complete listing list of the BMPs that the owner or operator agrees to implement or
144		maintain to meet the management unit's reduction goal minimum standards set out in
145		4VAC50-70-40;
146	4.	Confirmation of BMPs that achieve the standards set out in 4VAC50-70-40;
147	5.	A schedule for the implementation of the BMPs; and
148	<mark>6.</mark>	Inclusion of any nutrient management plans, soil conservation plans from NRCS, and any
149		other conservation or water quality plans that include the implementation of BMPs.
150		The reduction goal the management unit needs to achieve pursuant to 4VAC50-70-40;
151	C. <u>Ce</u>	<mark>rtification</mark>
152	1.	A RMP developer A plan must be certified by the plan writer certify that the plan RMP is
153		true and correct in their professional judgment.
154	2.	The plan RMP-must be signed by the owner or operator:
155		a. Attesting that they are the responsible person to be implementing the RMP and as
156		such are subject to the compliance provisions of 4VAC50-70-100;
157		b. Agreeing to adhere to the plan RMP, including the BMPs that will be implemented
158		and the schedule of implementation,
159		c. Agreeing to notify the plan writer a RMP developer of any changes to the
160		management unit that require revision of the plan pursuant to 4VAC50-70-70
161		4VAC50-70-60.
162	4VAC50-7	<del>0-50. Assessments</del>
163	-	Pursuant to §10.1-104.6, an assessment shall include the following components:
164	<del>/.</del>	Information on the location of the management unit including geographic coordinates,
165	<del>/ .</del>	
166		
167		USDA Farm Service Agency tract number , if applicable, or the locality tax parcel
168	0	USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;
4.00	<mark>8.</mark> -	USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of
169	<del>8.</del> -	USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay);
170		USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay);  Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number;
170 171		USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay);  Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number;  Authorization for the person completing the assessment to access copies of nutrient
170 171 172		USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay);  Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number;  Authorization for the person completing the assessment to access copies of nutrient management plans from the department and soil conservation plans from Natural
170 171 172 173		USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay);  Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number;  Authorization for the person completing the assessment to access copies of nutrient management plans from the department and soil conservation plans from Natural Resources Conservation Service, and any other conservation or water quality plan that
170 171 172 173 174	<del>10</del>	USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay);  Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number;  Authorization for the person completing the assessment to access copies of nutrient management plans from the department and soil conservation plans from Natural Resources Conservation Service, and any other conservation or water quality plan that require the implementation of BMPs;
170 171 172 173 174 175	<del>10</del>	USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay);  Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number;  Authorization for the person completing the assessment to access copies of nutrient management plans from the department and soil conservation plans from Natural Resources Conservation Service, and any other conservation or water quality plan that require the implementation of BMPs;  Information on the location and type of BMPs, applicable to the type of management unit,
170 171 172 173 174 175 176	<del>10</del>	USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay);  Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number;  Authorization for the person completing the assessment to access copies of nutrient management plans from the department and soil conservation plans from Natural Resources Conservation Service, and any other conservation or water quality plan that require the implementation of BMPs;  Information on the location and type of BMPs, applicable to the type of management unit, that are currently implemented, including but not limited to, nutrient management plans,
170 171 172 173 174 175 176	<del>10</del>	USDA Farm Service Agency tract number , if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay); Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number; Authorization for the person completing the assessment to access copies of nutrient management plans from the department and soil conservation plans from Natural Resources Conservation Service, and any other conservation or water quality plan that require the implementation of BMPs; Information on the location and type of BMPs , applicable to the type of management unit, that are currently implemented, including but not limited to, nutrient management plans, soil conservation plan, crop rotation, tillage practices, livestock exclusion, and riparian
170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177	10 11	USDA Farm Service Agency tract number , if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay); Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number; Authorization for the person completing the assessment to access copies of nutrient management plans from the department and soil conservation plans from Natural Resources Conservation Service, and any other conservation or water quality plan that require the implementation of BMPs; Information on the location and type of BMPs , applicable to the type of management unit, that are currently implemented, including but not limited to, nutrient management plans, soil conservation plan, crop rotation, tillage practices, livestock exclusion, and riparian buffers.
170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179	10 11	USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay);  Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number;  Authorization for the person completing the assessment to access copies of nutrient management plans from the department and soil conservation plans from Natural Resources Conservation Service, and any other conservation or water quality plan that require the implementation of BMPs;  Information on the location and type of BMPs, applicable to the type of management unit, that are currently implemented, including but not limited to, nutrient management plans, soil conservation plan, crop rotation, tillage practices, livestock exclusion, and riparian buffers.  Each section of the management unit shall be evaluated to determine which BMPs, if any,
170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180	10 11	USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay);  Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number;  Authorization for the person completing the assessment to access copies of nutrient management plans from the department and soil conservation plans from Natural Resources Conservation Service, and any other conservation or water quality plan that require the implementation of BMPs;  Information on the location and type of BMPs, applicable to the type of management unit, that are currently implemented, including but not limited to, nutrient management plans, soil conservation plan, crop rotation, tillage practices, livestock exclusion, and riparian buffers.  Each section of the management unit shall be evaluated to determine which BMPs, if any, are currently implemented.
170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179	10 11 8 9	USDA Farm Service Agency tract number, if applicable, or the locality tax parcel identification number;  Information on the type of agricultural operation, including total acreage and acreage of each type of operation (livestock, crops, pasture, hay);  Contact information for the operator, including name, address, and telephone number;  Authorization for the person completing the assessment to access copies of nutrient management plans from the department and soil conservation plans from Natural Resources Conservation Service, and any other conservation or water quality plan that require the implementation of BMPs;  Information on the location and type of BMPs, applicable to the type of management unit, that are currently implemented, including but not limited to, nutrient management plans, soil conservation plan, crop rotation, tillage practices, livestock exclusion, and riparian buffers.  Each section of the management unit shall be evaluated to determine which BMPs, if any,

their objective analysis of a agricultural operation. The assessment shall be certified by an

184 individual qualified as a RMP plan writer. The individual shall certify that that the 185 assessment is true and correct in their professional judgment. 11. The assessment shall be documented in a format established by the department or in a 186 187 format approved by the board as equivalent. 188 189 4VAC50-70-60. Plans 190 12. A plan shall include the following components: 191 192 13.-A completed on-farm assessment developed pursuant to 4VAC50-70-50; 14.-The reduction goal the management unit needs to achieve pursuant to 4VAC50-70-40; 193 194 15.- A complete listing of BMPs that may be utilized to reach the management unit's reduction goal. developed as a result of the assessment required in 4VAC50-70-50, may include the 195 BMPs listed in §10.1-104.8.5.: 196 16. A complete listing of the BMPs that the operator agrees to implement to meet the 197 management unit's reduction goal: and 198 17.-A schedule for the implementation of the BMPs. 199 18. A plan must be certified by the plan writer that the plan is true and correct in their 200 201 professional judgment. 19. The plan must be signed by the operator agreeing to adhere to the plan, including the BMPs 202 203 that will be implemented and the schedule of implementation, and agreeing to notify the plan writer of any changes to the management unit that require revision of the plan 204 pursuant to 4VAC50-70-70. 205 206 207 4VAC50-70-60. Changes or revisions to a resource management plan 208 209 A. When the owner or operator of a who signed a resource management plan in accordance with 210 4VAC50-70-50 C changes, notification of the change by the new owner or operator shall be submitted to the local soil and water conservation district or the department if there is no soil 211 and water conservation district operating in the locality where the resource management plan 212 213 RMP has been established within 60 days of the new owner or operator assuming control of the management unit. The resource management plan RMP shall be reviewed with the new owner 214 215 or operator by the local soil and water conservation district or the department, if applicable. A review of all elements of the resource management plan shall be conducted with the operator. 216 217 Based upon the RMP a review of the RMP, the new owner or operator may elect to: 218 1. Implement and maintain the BMPs as required in the resource management plan 219 provisions of the RMP. This requires no revisions to the resource management plan. If a 220 Certificate of RMP Implementation had been issued, the Certificate must be transferred to the 221 new owner or operator. The new owner or operator must sign the RMP in accordance with 222 <del>4VAC50-70-60 H</del> 4VAC50-70-50 C. 2. Implement a resource management plan, with revisions to the BMPs included in the 223 224 RMP. The new owner or operator must sign the RMP in accordance with 4VAC50-70-60 H 225 4VAC50-70-50 C. If a Certificate of RMP Implementation has been issued to the previous owner 226 or operator, the new operator may request a new Certificate of RMP Implementation be issued 227 in accordance with 4VAC50-70-90. 3. Choose not to continue implementing a resource management plan RMP where 228

B. <u>A resource management plan shall be revised upon significant When there are material changes</u> to the management unit, the owner or operator who signed a resource management plan in

upon the Certificate of RMP Implementation for the management unit shall be revoked.

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- 232 accordance with 4VAC50-70-50 C shall notify a RMP developer within 30 days. A RMP developer
  233 will determine if a revisions to the RMP is required.—Changes Material changes to the
  234 management unit may include:, but not be limited to.
  - 1. A change in the conversion from one type of agricultural operation to another;
  - 2. A change in the schedule and type of BMPs implemented pursuant to 4VAC50-70-60 F.5 4VAC50-70-50;
  - 3. An increase or decrease in land production acreage if there is change in the agricultural operation's reduction goal and the BMPs implemented pursuant to 4VAC50-70-60 that materially impacts the management unit's ability to meet the minimum standards set out in 4VAC50-70-40; or
  - 4. An increase or decrease in livestock population if there is a change in the agricultural operation's reduction goal and the BMPs implemented pursuant to 4VAC50-70-60 that materially impacts the management unit's ability to meet the minimum standards set out in 4VAC50-70-40;
  - C. A resource management plan RMP shall be reviewed and revised as when needed to address any the issuance of a new or modified TMDL implementation plan that is issued for the Chesapeake Bay or any other local TMDL requirements for the area where the agricultural operation is located and where the implementation plan or TMDL assign a load to agricultural uses. A presumption of compliance with the RMP will continue under this subsection if:
    - a. <u>an owner or operator has been issued a Certificate of RMP Implementation for a management unit;</u>
    - b. the RMP has been revised; and

- c. the owner or operator agree to implement the revised RMP.
- D. <u>Upon a revision to the RMP, the department shall be notified, in writing, of the revisions within</u> 30 days by the RMP developer.

### 4VAC50-70-70. Approval Review of a resource management plan

- A. Upon completion of a RMP that fulfills all requirements set forth in 4VAC50-70-50, the owner or operator, or the RMP developer on behalf of the owner or operator, shall submit the RMP to the local soil and water conservation district(s) or the department if the management unit does not fall within the boundaries of a soil and water conservation district.
- B. RMPs received by a soil and water conservation district shall be referred to the TRC for review to ensure the RMP fully meets the minimum standards set forth in 4VAC50-70-40. Within 90 days after submittal of a RMP, the local soil and water conservation district shall notify the owner or operator and the RMP developer in writing if the RMP has been deemed sufficient to address water quality objectives. If within 90 days, the local soil and water conservation district fails to provide written notice to the owner or operator and the RMP developer of RMP sufficiency or a listing of RMP deficiencies, the RMP will be deemed sufficient.
- C. If a RMP is located within multiple soil and water conservation district areas, each local TRC will review the portion of the plan applicable to the management unit within their area, either in consultation or independently of each other. The soil and water conservation districts with the largest amount of acreage under the RMP is responsible for coordinating the review when portions of the management unit fall in multiple districts, and corresponding with the owner or operator and RMP developer regarding the RMP review.
- D. RMPs received by the department where no local soil and water conservation district exists that fully meet minimum standards set forth in 4VAC50-70-40 shall be reviewed by the department

- within 90 days of receiving the RMP. Within 90 days after submittal of a RMP, the department shall notify the owner or operator and the RMP developer if the RMP has been deemed sufficient to address water quality objectives. If within 90 days, the department fails to provide written notice to the owner or operator and the RMP developer of RMP sufficiency or a listing of RMP deficiencies, the RMP will be deemed sufficient.
- E. When a RMP is determined to be insufficient to address water quality objectives by either the soil and water conservation district or the department, the department or local soil and water conservation district shall work with the owner or operator and the RMP developer to revise the RMP.
- F. If revisions to a RMP cannot be agreed upon to the satisfaction of the local soil and water conservation district, RMP developer and the affected owner or operator, the the local soil and water conservation district shall document the basis for determining the RMP is insufficient.
- G. <u>If revisions to a RMP cannot be agreed upon to the satisfaction of the department, local soil and water conservation district, if applicable, RMP developer and the affected owner or operator, the department shall document the basis for determining the RMP is insufficient.</u>

### 4VAC50-70-80. Verification Issuance of a Certificate of Resource Management Plan Implementation

- A. Prior to requesting a Certificate of RMP Implementation pursuant to 4VAC50-70-100 being issued for a management unit, verification of the full implementation of the RMP shall be completed.
- B. The owner or operator shall request the verification of RMP implementation through the local soil and water conservation district(s) or the department if there is no soil and water conservation district operating in the locality where the agricultural operation is located.
- C. The request for verification shall include the following:

- 1. A complete copy of the RMP including any referenced plans and
- 2. Any nutrient management, soil conservation, or water quality plans referenced by the RMP; Authorization for local soil and water conservation district or department employees to conduct an onsite inspection of the agricultural operation management unit to ensure the BMPs are fully implemented during the lifespan of the plan.
- D. If, based on onsite verification and a review of referenced plans, by the local soil and water conservation district, the resource management plan-RMP is determined to be fully implemented, the local soil and water conservation district board(s) shall affirm such implementation and direct the required documentation to the department for submission to the board. The department shall submit the request from the operator to the board for action by the board, which may include the issuance action, which may include the issuance of a Certificate of RMP Implementation to the owner or operator who signed the RMP in accordance with 4VAC50-70-50 C.
- E. Where there is no soil and water conservation district operating in the locality where the agricultural operation is located, the department shall determine full implementation of the RMP through onsite verification and a review of referenced plans. If, based on the onsite verification and a review of referenced plans, the resource management plan is determined to be fully implemented, the department shall affirm such implementation. The department shall submit the request from the operator to the board for action by the board, which may include the issuance of issue a Certificate of RMP Implementation to the owner or operator.

- F. If the resource management plan has not been fully implemented, the local soil and water conservation district or the department, as applicable, shall provide the owner or operator with written documentation that specifies implementation deficiencies of the RMP.
  - G. A Certificate of RMP Implementation shall be valid for a period of six years.

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### 4VAC50-70-90. Requesting a Certificate of RMP Implementation

- A. An owner or operator may request a Certificate of RMP Implementation from the board upon the full implementation of the RMP.
- B. Prior to the request for a Certificate of RMP Implementation, verification of the full implementation of the RMP pursuant to 4VAC50-70-80 must be completed.

### 4VAC50-70-90. Inspections

- A. Each owner or operator that has been issued a Certificate of RMP Implementation for a management unit shall be subject to periodic onsite inspections during the lifespan of the plan by the soil and water conservation district(s) and the department when the management unit or any portion of the management unit does not fall within a soil and water conservation district, or when the department deems appropriate, to ensure the continued implementation and maintenance of the resource management plan RMP.
- B. Onsite inspections shall occur no less than once every three years on lands where an active Certificate of RMP Implementation has been issued.
- C. <u>During an inspection, an owner or operator shall provide any documents needed to verify the implementation of the resource management plan RMP, including but not limited to, the resource management plan, nutrient management plan, and soil conservation plan and any other referenced plans as applicable.</u>
- D. Upon the completion of the inspection, an inspection report shall be completed in a format provided by the department, to document the conditions found-implementation of the RMP on the management unit. A copy of the inspection report shall be provided to the owner or operator and the department, when appropriate, within five 10 business days following the date of inspection. The inspection report shall include:
  - 1. a list of all BMPs and any alternative measures installed and implemented; and
  - 2. <u>any identified deficiencies including any components of the</u> resource management plan RMP that have not been implemented or components that need to be renewed.
- E. <u>If based upon the inspection there are deficiencies noted, the department shall proceed</u> pursuant to 4VAC50-70-100.

### 4VAC50-70-100. Compliance.

A. If there are deficiencies noted during inspections conducted in accordance with 4VAC50-70-90, the director shall provide a written notice to the owner or operator within 30 days of the inspection report being issued. The written notice shall include a list of the noted deficiencies needing to be addressed for the management unit to remain in compliance with the resource management plan-to meet full implementation of the RMP.

- B. Within 60 days of the written notice being provided to the owner or operator, a corrective action agreement, which may include revisions to the RMP, shall be performed developed by a plan writer RMP developer in consultation with the owner or operator and submitted to the department for approval. The corrective action agreement, and any revisions to the RMP, shall be signed by the owner or operator and submitted to the department for approval. The corrective action agreement shall include an implementation schedule to address the deficiencies found during the inspection that is acceptable to both the department and the owner or operator. If the corrective action agreement, including any revisions to the RMP, is determined by the department to be reasonable and satisfactory, no further action shall be taken by the department, and the department shall not recommend any action to be taken by the board.
- C. If the department determines that the corrective action agreement, including any revisions to the RMP, does not satisfactorily address deficiencies documented from an inspection conducted pursuant to 4VAC50-70-90, the department shall document such shortcomings in writing to the owner or operator within 10 30 business days following receipt of the revised plan-corrective action agreement.
- D. If the department and the owner or operator are unable to concur on a corrective action agreement within three months of the submission of the corrective action agreement to the department, the department shall recommend to the board the revocation of revoke the owner's or operator's Certificate of RMP Implementation for the specific agricultural operation where no concurrence on a corrective action agreement occurs.
- E. If it is determined by the department that an owner or operator has failed to fully implement the agreed upon corrective action agreement through an inspection conducted in accordance with 4VAC50-70-90, the department shall revoke the owner's or operator's Certificate of RMP Implementation for the specific management unit.
- F. At any time, the <u>owner or</u> operator may provide written notice to the board requesting that the Certificate of RMP Implementation be revoked.

#### 4VAC50-70-110. Appeals

- A. An owner or operator that has been aggrieved by any action of the local soil and water conservation district or the local soil and water conservation district board, taken without a formal hearing, or by the inaction of the local soil and water conservation district(s) or the local soil and water conservation district board, shall have a right to appeal to the department in accordance with §2.2-4019 through §2.2-4024 of the Code of Virginia.
- B. An owner or operator that has been aggrieved by any action of the director department taken without a formal hearing, or by the inaction of the director department, shall have a right to appeal to the board in accordance with §2.2-4019 though §2.2-4024 of the Code of Virginia.
- C. Revocation of the Certificate of RMP Implementation, issued pursuant to 4VAC50-70-80, shall be suspended pending any appeals.

418 419	4VAC50-70-120. Reporting requirements???  (Topics to be addressed and incorporated in the regulations)		
420			
421	•	Exactly what information, in what level of detail must be reported?	
422	•	What is the reporting frequency?	
423	•	Where will reporting duties rest with:	
424		o the owner or operator	
425		That requested the RMP?	
426		Has an approved RMP under implementation?	
427		Has been issued a Certificate of RMP Implementation?	
428		o Districts?	
429		o Department?	
430	•	What is the format for BMP data collection?	
431	•	How will the collected data be collected and entered in an automated reporting system	
432		(Agricultural BMP Tracking program), aggregated and submitted to meet the department's	
433		reporting requirements?	
434			