

VIRGINIA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD (VSWCB)

The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board (board) was established by the General Assembly to help guide the delivery of soil and water conservation services to citizens of the commonwealth. The board is supported mainly by DCR staff for programs covering soil and water conservation and dam safety.

Composition:

- Nine voting members and one non-voting member (DCR director).
- All voting members are appointed by the governor.
- Three are at-large, of which two must have a demonstrated interest in natural resource conservation with a background or knowledge in dam safety, soil conservation, or water quality protection; four are farmers and two are farmers or Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) directors. Each of the six members who is a farmer or district director shall be a representative of one of the six geographic areas represented in the VASWCD.
- Members serve staggered four-year terms and no more than two consecutive full terms.

See § 10.1-502 of the *Code of Virginia* for a full description.

Duties include: Provide oversight and support of SWCD programs, including financial support, coordination, information exchange, the formation of districts, adjustments to their boundaries, as well as other specified duties.

Establish policies governing the distribution of appropriated funds for the delivery of the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program and for the administrative, operational, and technical assistance support for SWCDs.

Approve appointments of SWCD directors (two per entity and as needed to fill vacancies).

Keep district SWCD directors informed of the activities and experience of all other districts, and facilitate an interchange of advice and experience between the districts.

Provide oversight and enforcement of the commonwealth's dam safety program and regulations.

Approve the distribution of loans and grants from the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund to local governments and private entities.

Adopt regulations for the voluntary nutrient management training and certification program and for the voluntary resource management plan program.

Approve the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share (VACS) BMP manual as Board Guidance.

Provide for the conservation of soil and water resources, control and prevention of soil erosion, flood water and sediment damages thereby preserving the natural resources of the Commonwealth.