

**Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
Proposed Resource Management Plans Regulations
(4 VAC 50-70-10 et seq.)**

PUBLIC HEARING LOCATIONS

August 13, 2012 in Wytheville (Bland Hall, Room 104, Wytheville Community College, 1000 East Main Street, 7 p.m.)

August 14, 2012 in Verona (Smith Transfer Room West, Augusta County Government Center, 18 Government Center Lane, 7 p.m.)

August 15, 2012 in Williamsburg (James City County Community Center, Community Room A, 5301 Longhill Road, 7 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURES (Public comment period July 16, 2012 – Sept. 14, 2012)

The Department of Conservation and Recreation on behalf of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board is seeking comments on this regulatory action, including but not limited to 1) recommended improvements to the proposed regulations, 2) the costs and benefits of the proposal, and 3) potential impacts of the proposed regulation. The Agency is also seeking information on impacts on small businesses as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia. Information may include 1) projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs, 2) the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses, and 3) the description of less intrusive or costly alternatives for achieving the purpose of the regulation. It should be noted that the regulations set out a regulatory framework for how the program shall be implemented but participation in the program by farmers is voluntary.

For the purposes of this regulatory action the primary small business entity to be affected is the farming community. Most farms meet the definition of small business as they are (i) independently owned and operated and (ii) employ fewer than 500 full-time employees or have gross annual sales of less than \$6 million.

Anyone wishing to submit comments may do so via the Regulatory Town Hall website (<http://www.townhall.virginia.gov>), or by mail to the Regulatory Coordinator at: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, 203 Governor Street, Suite 302, Richmond, Virginia 23219. Comments may also be emailed to the Regulatory Coordinator at: regcord@dcr.virginia.gov. Comments may also be faxed to the Regulatory Coordinator at: (804) 786-6141. All written comments must include the name and address of the commenter (e-mail addresses would also be appreciated). In order to be considered, comments must be received by midnight on September 14, 2012.

Further information on this regulatory action may be found:

On the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website at <http://www.townhall.virginia.gov>.

On the Department of Conservation and Recreation's website at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/lawregs.shtml>.

Resource Management Plan – Simplified Process Overview

1) Owner or Operator expresses interest in RMP process and contacts RMP developer

2) RMP developer prepares (or updates) plan and certifies (4VAC-50-70-50)

3) Owner or Operator certifies the RMP will be implemented (4VAC50-70-50) and submits for review (4VAC50-70-70)

4) Review authority considers RMP (4VAC-50-70-70); District Technical Review Committee (TRC) review in 90 days

5) Review Authority Approves RMP

6) Owner or operator implements RMP

7) Owner or operator requests review authority verification of implementation (4VAC50-70-80)

8) Review authority affirms adequacy and implementation of RMP (4VAC50-70-80)

9) Department issues 9-year Certificate of RMP Implementation (4VAC50-70-80)

10) Review authority verifies continued implementation of RMP through inspections (4VAC50-70-90) [no more than annually (unless deficiencies) and no less than every three years]