

WATER AND SOIL CONSERVATIONIST

KIND OF WORK

Advanced professional water and soil conservation work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under limited supervision, an employee in this class is responsible for implementation of water and land management programs and policies for the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) within an assigned work area. Provides technical, administrative and planning assistance to local units of government in the implementation process. May provide technical assistance in soils, hydrology, and/or land and water management to local units of government on a regional or statewide basis.

This position differs from the Hydrologist or Soil Scientist series in that it requires a more varied knowledge base, more than simply the technical knowledge of hydrology or soil science. In addition, it differs from the class of Water and Soil Regional Supervisor in that it does not supervise staff, nor does it provide the administrative direction to program and budgetary activities.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Coordinate and implement BWSR technical, financial and administrative assistance programs for local units of government so that programs are efficiently implemented and requests for information and assistance are responded to in a timely manner by developing and maintaining a working relationship with staff and board members of local units of government under the board's jurisdiction; provide information, training, and consultation to local governments in order to solve water and soil management problems; review grant applications and make funding recommendations to the board regarding local government grants; manage the board field office.

Plan and develop BWSR programs so that the resources of the state are properly managed by participating on work teams to plan and implement programs; consulting with local units of government which participate in or are impacted by BWSR programs; providing staff input, information, expertise, and review of rules developed by BWSR; providing input, information, knowledge, and expertise to program managers and the board.

Conduct annual audits and compliance checks of local government implementation of BWSR programs and direct the implementation of recommendations so that audits are current, violations are resolved in a timely manner, and training is delivered by initiating and scheduling required audit sessions with soil and water conservation districts and counties; noting violations of state law, grant agreements, BWSR programs; conducting investigations, developing corrective action plans and overseeing implementation of recommendations; reviewing annual reports of counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, and watershed management organizations, certifying that reporting requirements mandated by statute, rule, and guidelines have been met.

Communicate with local, state, regional, and federal agencies so that water and soil resource protection actions are coordinated by encouraging and assisting multi-local units of government into cooperative ventures; facilitating meetings with local governments to refine roles in implementation processes; facilitating cooperation among state agencies, local governments, and others making the state agency expertise available to local government to the greatest extent possible; responding to complaints; involving other BWSR staff in cooperative ventures; reviewing and approving amendments to county comprehensive local water plans, soil and water conservation district annual and long range plans, and watershed district overall plans; resolving disputes, conducting fact-finding and mediation sessions among units of government, landowners, and other agencies.

Direct and coordinate the technical aspects of BWSR program implementation within an area of specialization so that the resource management goals of BWSR are accomplished by compiling information on hydric soils and incorporating statewide wetlands protection act provisions into board program; interpreting hydric soils data; preparing soils interpretations for use by other BWSR staff in designing board programs; compile and incorporate information on wetland hydrology into board policy making initiatives; acting as member of panels while providing information on wetlands hydrology, resolving questions on wetland jurisdiction type; answering technical questions, providing access to state programs and training to assist in completion of local government groundwater protection components of local water plans; increasing lake management activities; reviewing proposed wetland restoration easements and providing RIM engineer with recommendations on pool evaluations and required flowage easements; compiling wetland biodata required to determine extent and type of wetland; provide technical advice to counties and participating agencies; providing information and technical assistance to clientele resulting in local regulatory program protecting water and soil resources.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

Soil and water conservation principles, practices, and policies sufficient to advise local governments and other clients of applicable laws, rules, and policy guidelines.

Hydrology, soil science, and/or land use planning sufficient to provide technical guidance and interpretation to clientele groups.

Structure, organizational procedures, and interorganizational dynamics of local, regional, state, and federal government and their boards, commissions, agencies, and affiliated associations sufficient to resolve interagency conflicts and accomplish program goals and objectives.

Ability to:

Communicate, both orally and in writing, and relate technical matters to staff, officials of local governments, and the public sufficient to provide knowledge and information to enable these groups to understand BWSR programs.

Negotiate, mediate, and manage interpersonal relationships sufficient to resolve difficult disagreements among diverse interest groups.

Est.: 04/92
Rev.:

T.C.:
Former Title(s):