

# ***Resource Management Plans***

***A Voluntary Approach  
to Agricultural Certainty***

**House Agriculture,  
Chesapeake and Natural  
Resources Committee  
February 17, 2016**

# Background

- The Resource Management Plans (RMP) program was created with the support of the agricultural and conservation communities.
- Voluntary program that verifies greater implementation of agricultural water quality best management practices.
- HB1830 passed in 2011 (Delegate Edward T. Scott - Patron).
- RMP regulations approved in 2013.
- Effective in July 2014.

# FOIA

- Farmers' personal or proprietary information for RMPs exempt from FOIA.
- DCR Director may release RMP information in statistical or aggregate form.
- SWCDs can have closed meetings to discuss RMPs [added by 2015 General Assembly – HB1618 (Scott) and SB1126 (Hanger)].

## Make your conservation efforts count

**RMPs** give the agricultural community the credit they deserve for conservation efforts. In return, farmers have certainty that acreage covered by the plan is compliant with any new state nutrient or sediment standards.

- Nutrient Management**
  - Soil conservation plans to “T”**
  - +**  **Buffers and/or stream exclusion**
- 
- Resource management plan**

# Process

Plan Development



Plan Approval



Plan Implementation



Verification



Certification

# Resource Management Plans (RMPs)

- Farmers who fully implement an RMP are protected for 9 years from new state nutrient, sediment, and bacterial-related water quality requirements.
- Voluntary best management practices (BMPs) implemented in RMPs are captured for Chesapeake Bay WIP credit.

## Results in 2015

- Surpassed the goal of 40 RMPs within Chesapeake Bay during calendar year.
- 278 RMPs covering more than 48,500 acres developed in the Bay watershed; 2 more outside the Bay.
- 1,816 total BMPs in RMPs.
- 1,116 BMPs proposed or installed with no public funding.

# Number of Best Management Practices in RMPs without Public Funding

382	Cover Crops (VSL-8B and VSL-8H)
260	Continuous/ High Residue Tillage System
193	Late Winter Application of Nitrogen on Small Grain (VNM-4)
190	Split Application of Nitrogen on Corn (NM-3)
40	Grass Filter Strips (VWQ-1)
32	Other BMPs
<u>19</u>	Permanent Vegetative Cover on Critical Areas (VSL-11)
1116	Total



# Funding for RMP Development and Implementation

- \$473,000 in Chesapeake Bay grants for RMP development in 2015.
- \$120,000 in Bay grants in 2016.
- \$100,000 for RMP development in 2016 outside the Bay.
- RMP development and implementation can also receive state BMP cost-share.

**“This voluntary program makes sense for farmers and for Virginia’s ongoing push to keep the Chesapeake and surrounding waters clean. My administration has worked closely with agricultural and conservation groups to develop a program that is a ‘win’ for all those involved by promoting best conservation practices, while also better tracking the programs that farmers already have in place.” – Governor Terry McAuliffe; August 24, 2014 at Gerald Garber’s Cave View Farm in Weyers Cave**

