

Resource Management Plans

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

Chesapeake Bay Ag Workgroup
June 17, 2015

Resource Management Plans (RMPs)

The RMP program encourages farmers to implement conservation best management practices to reduce pollution to state waters and the Chesapeake Bay. In return for full implementation of these plans, farmers are insured protection from new state nutrient, sediment and bacterial-related water quality requirements.

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**

What is “Certainty”?

Owners or operators who fully implement and maintain their resource management plan shall be deemed to be in full compliance with any new state regulations for nutrients, sediment, benthic, or bacteria to address:

- Any new requirements of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan; or
- Any new load allocation contained in a local total maximum daily load (TMDL)

Other Reasons for an RMP

- Certainty from the Chesapeake Bay WIP and local TMDL requirements
- The farming industry can receive credit or recognition for practices already installed or implemented
- Agricultural industry representatives can speak with confidence about existing conservation practices
- Long-term farm planning will help cost-share program leaders to assess future funding needs to maintain existing practices and to install or implement planned practices
- Farmers with an RMP will receive priority consideration for BMP cost-share funding
- If desired, the farmer may advertise or promote their status of having implemented an RMP

Plan Developer Certification

❖ Certified Nutrient Management Planner (DCR)

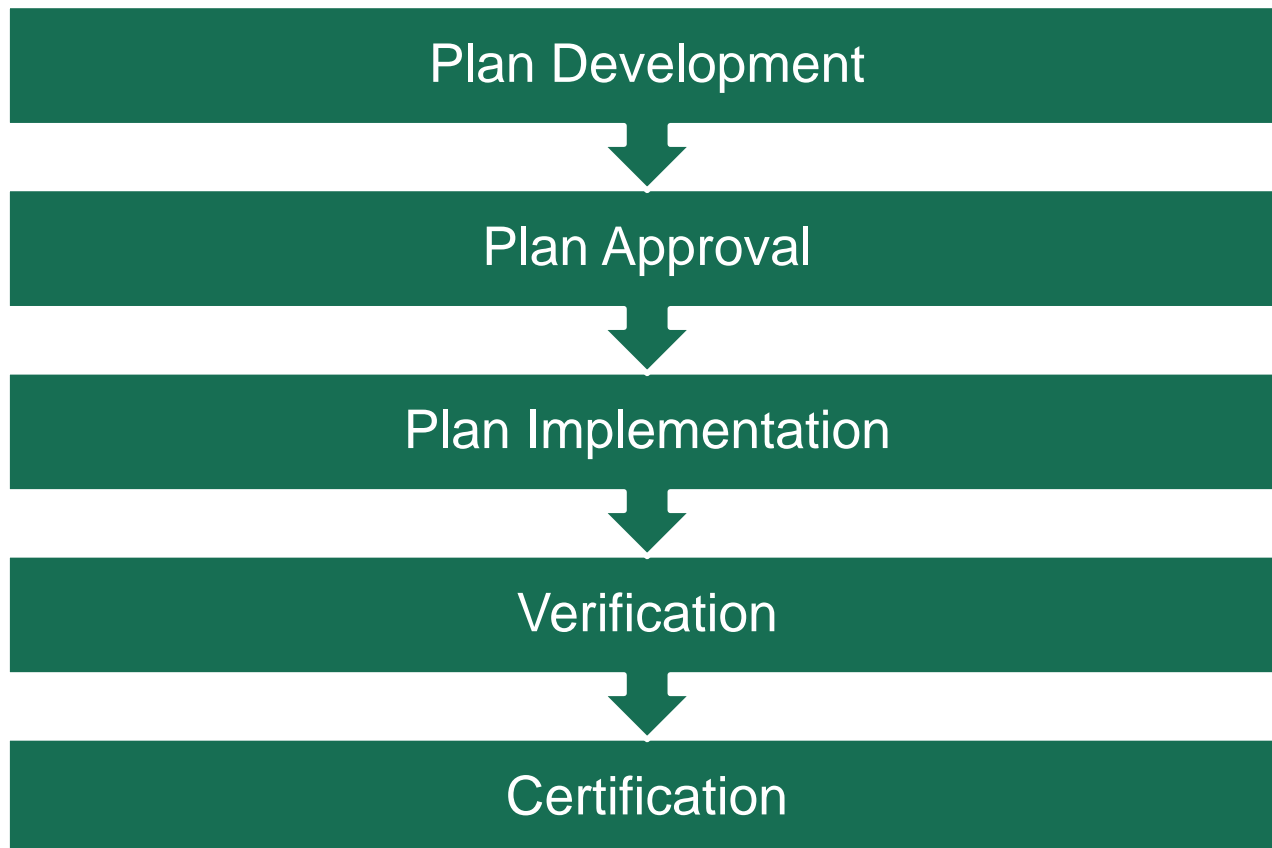
and

❖ Certified Conservation Planner (NRCS)

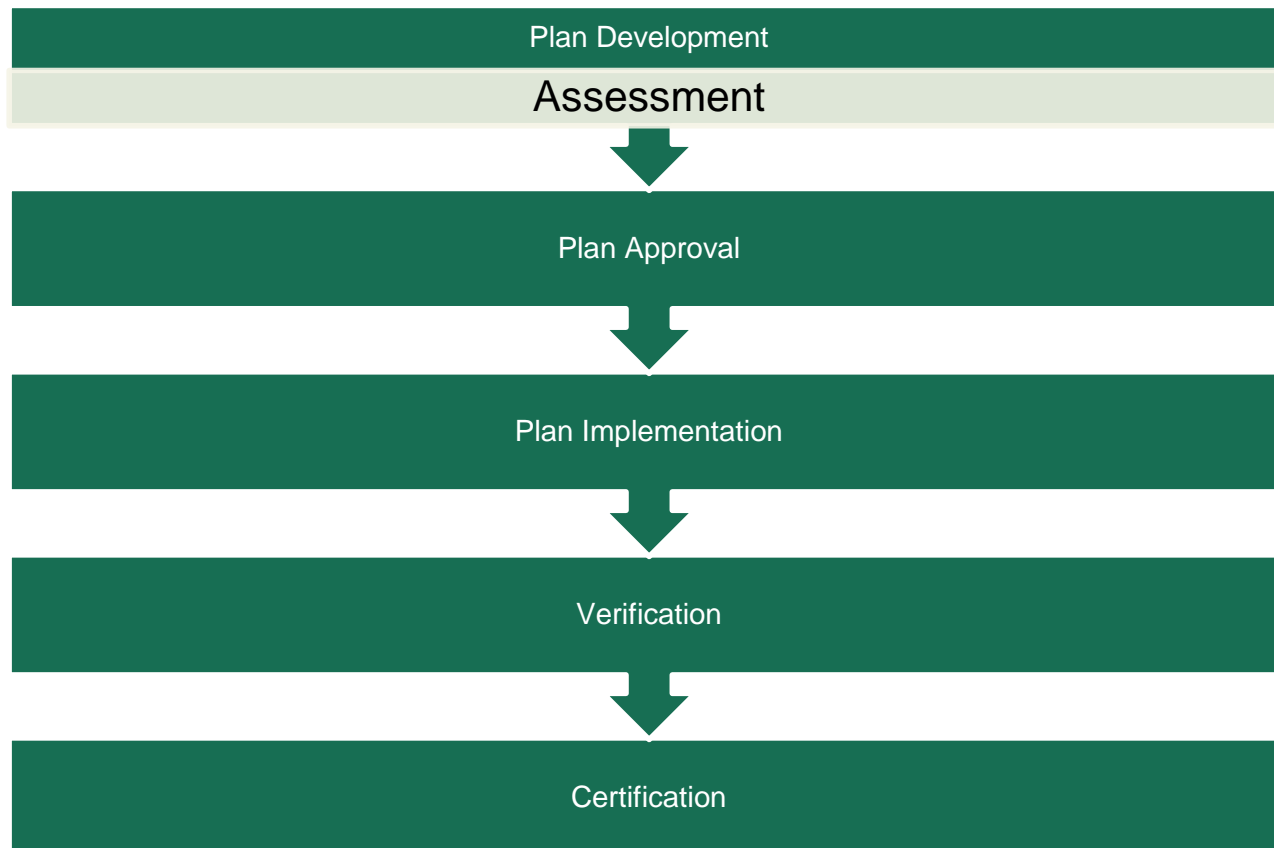
or

thru a demonstration of academic/applied
proficiencies

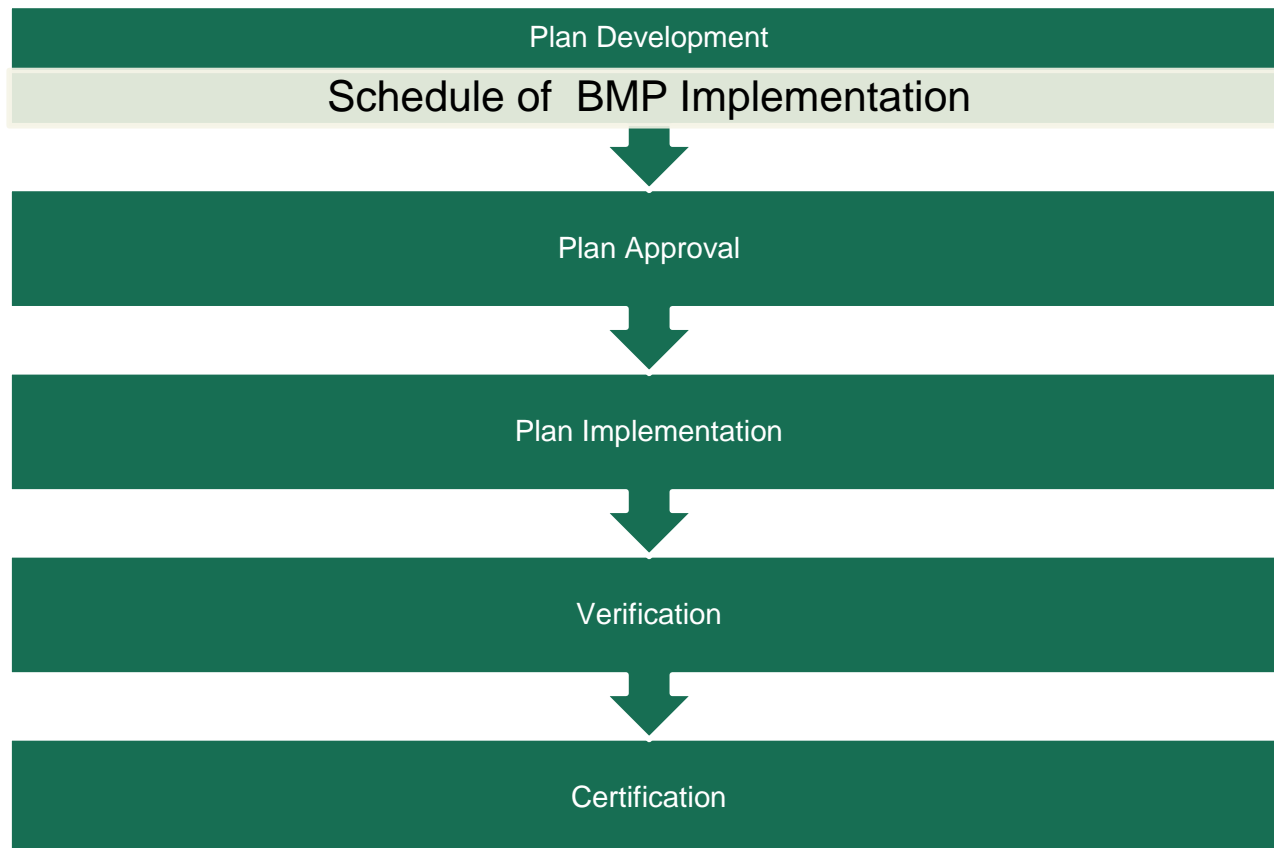
Process



Process



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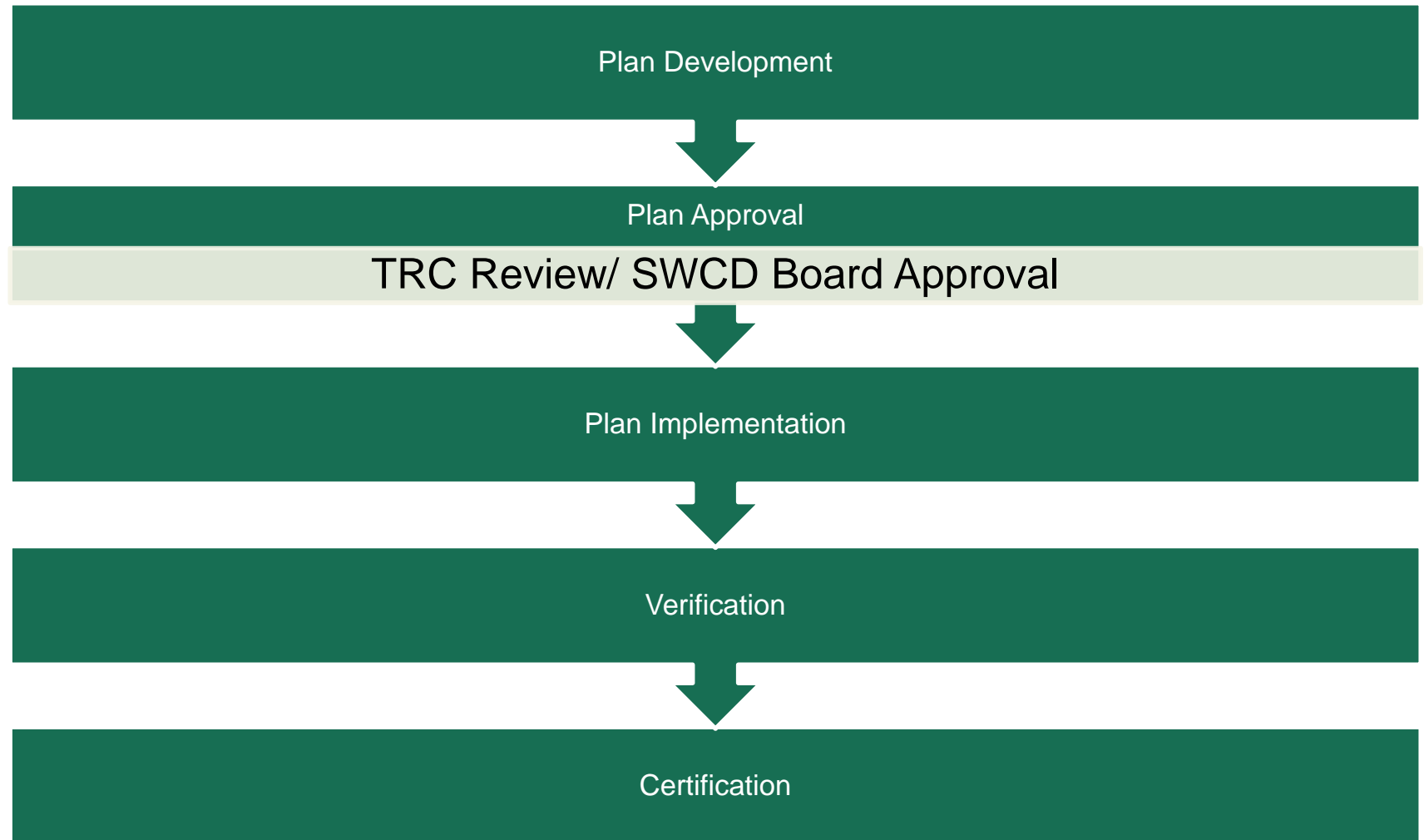


Minimum Standard Practices

- ❖ Nutrient management plan
- ❖ Soil conservation to “T”
- ❖ Cover crops (when required in NM or soil conservation plan)
- ❖ 35' Buffer along perennial streams (crop and hayland only)
- ❖ Fencing along perennial streams (pasture only)

RMP Plan Development Modules

- Web-based software to create and review RMPs
- Interfaced with Ag. BMP Tracking Program and DCR Conservation Plan Development tool



TRC

Soil and Water Conservation Districts act as the approval authority if an employee or director did not develop the RMP (4VAC 50-70-70)

Technical Review Committee is a committee established by a District Board to review RMP Plans and provide recommendations to the District Board.

Plan Development



Plan Approval



Plan Implementation



Verification



Certification

Implementation

- Time to implement variable
- BMPs included in the plan must receive Priority Consideration for VACS

Plan Development



Plan Approval



Plan Implementation



Verification



Certification

Plan Development



Plan Approval



Plan Implementation



Verification

Inspections



Certification

Plan Development



Plan Approval



Plan Implementation



Verification



Certification

Inspections

Inspections

- Verification of Implementation: Confirming all BMPs are installed and implemented prior to Certification
- Certification Compliance: Inspections occurring at least every 3 years during the 9-year life of the Certificate of Implementation confirming that all BMPs are maintained and continue to be implemented

CB RMP Development Grant

| # | Applicant /Sponsor | Targeted Number of Plans | Targeted Number of Acres | Grant Award Amount |
|--------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Tellus Agronomics LLC | 225 | 36,264 | \$ 362,640.00 |
| 2 | James Moneymaker | 17 | 2,325 | \$ 23,250.00 |
| 3 | Water Stewardship, Inc. | 15 | 2,125 | \$ 21,250.00 |
| 4 | Mattaponi Resources LLC | 11 | 4,050 | \$ 40,500.00 |
| 5 | Ag Management Services, Inc. | 6 | 2,500 | \$ 25,000.00 |
| TOTALS | | 274 | 47,264 | \$ 472,640.00 |

Calendar year 2016 CB and Southern Rivers RFP

- **\$120,000 Chesapeake Bay**
- **\$100,000 Outside Chesapeake Bay**
- **Timeline:**
 - RFPs issued on/before August 1
 - RFPs due early September
 - contracts begin January 1, 2016

RMP Cost-Share for 2016

- For PY 2016, nearly is \$60,000 set-aside for RMP-2 practices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- No set-aside for RMP-1 practices in CB
- No set-aside for any practices in OCB

RMP-1 RMP Development

- “Plan” practice
- Rate of \$10/acre
- Plan/application cap of \$6,500
- Payment pass-thru option (assignment of payment)

RMP-2 RMP Implementation

- “Certificate of Certainty” practice
- Rate of \$5/acre
- Plan/application cap of \$3,250
- Payment pass-thru option (assignment of payment)

“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.



http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_and_water/rmp.shtm

Resources for plan developers

- [Application](#) (Word)
- [RMP-1](#) (PDF) and [RMP-2](#) (PDF) cost-share practice
- [NRCS authorization information release form](#) (PDF)
- [BMP assessment authorization](#) (PDF)
- Request for verification of RMP implementation (coming soon)

Resources for Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- Q/A (coming soon)
- [Plan review cover page](#) (PDF)
- [Plan review checklist](#) (PDF)
- [Approval procedure for RMP-1 and RMP-2 practice applications](#) (PDF)
- Instructions and request for issuance of RMP Certificate of Implementation (coming soon)
- TRC response to plan review form letter (coming soon)
- TRC response to verification of implementation inspection form letter (coming soon)
- Notice of upcoming inspection form letter (coming soon)

Links

- [Resource management law](#) (PDF)
- [Resource management regulations](#) (PDF)
- [Resource management planner application](#) (Word)
- List of certified resource management plan writers (Coming in July)
- [FAQ](#) (PDF)
- [Brochure](#) (PDF)
- [Presentation](#) (PDF) (April 2014)

Additional Information on RMPs

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