

ERIE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WATER QUALITY TECHNICIAN

Position Description

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES:

The Water Quality Technician is a technical position that involves administrative and technical assistance to the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District in planning, coordinating and implementing water quality and nonpoint source pollution control projects within Erie County. The incumbent will assist with the planning, design and implementation of soil and water conservation practices in farm and non-farm settings. Employees in this class are expected to directly assist in projects such as agricultural waste management, agricultural environmental planning and water quality implementation programs such as the Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program, Agricultural Environmental Management as well as other natural resource conservation programs. All work is to be performed under the general supervision of the District Field Manager.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Working knowledge of the principles and practices of natural resource conservation with emphasis on nonpoint source pollution, water quality practices, watershed management and aquatic ecosystems. Ability to interpret maps, charts and graphs (with a special emphasis on aerial photographs and topographic maps); working knowledge of soils; good verbal and interpersonal communication skills; good report writing and summarization skills; ability to get along well with others; ability to understand and carry out written and oral instructions; ability to work independently and as part of a team. Must be dependable, enthusiastic and in good physical condition.

DUTIES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Assist with all aspects of the Erie County water quality programs. Develop technical materials and information for the benefit of all water quality programs.
- Serve as a technical advisor to all agencies and units of government with respect to water quality.
- Assist in preparing annual grant proposals along with budget considerations and develop the program outline and goals.
- Prepare annual and technical reports for all program elements as required.
- Develop and maintain public relations with regard to water quality.
- Assist the District with the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) and watershed planning efforts.
- Assist the District with the implementation of Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program (Environmental Protection Fund) and other state and federal programs.
- Attend and report on water quality activities at meetings held by conservation partners other agencies, municipalities, and groups or organizations as requested.
- Provide assistance to communities and other interested water quality groups requesting watershed protection planning and implementation projects.

- Write articles as requested on water quality activities for news media and newsletters of groups interested in water quality.
- Assist in the development of bidding and purchase of specialized equipment needed for implementing water quality programs.
- Collect and compile water quality data in a concise and understandable manner.
- Utilize computers for collection, management, and presentation of water quality monitoring data. Must be able to explore new programs and technologies for the compilation of data and watershed modeling.
- Assist with established District programs such as the Tree and Shrub sale, fish stocking, Ag Value Assessments, etc.
- Will work with the District's conservation education programs as assigned by the District Field Manager.
- Participate in various meetings as assigned by the District Field Manager, which may include evening hours or weekend times.
- Attend monthly District Board of Directors meeting and present a report on conservation work.
- Attend any and all training sessions as required and/or permitted.
- Perform other work-related activities as assigned by the District Field Manager.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture, Natural Resources, Physical Sciences, Forestry or related field with no practical experience; or
- B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an Associates degree in civil, construction or environmental technology, agriculture, forestry, environmental studies or related field with a minimum of 2 years of professional level experience in natural resource conservation; or
- C) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma, and a minimum of 4 years of professional experience in soil and water conservation, forestry, agriculture, land surveying, engineering or related field; or
- D) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A), (B) and (C).

NOTE:

Verifiable part-time and/or volunteer experience will be pro-rated toward meeting full-time experience requirements.

SALARY/BENEFITS:

The salary for this FT position is commensurate with experience but will typically range between \$31,000 to \$36,000 annually. Benefits include NYS retirement, 75% health insurance, holiday, vacation, personal time and flexible schedule option.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Must hold a valid NYS driver's license

Must be able to travel occasionally overnight

Must be able to work occasional evening and/or weekend

Physical condition commensurate with demands of the position

Provisional appointment pending civil service exam

CONTACT:

Mark C. Gaston, District Field Manager 652-8480 x 5 or mark.gaston@ny.nacdnet.net

Resumes will be accepted until 4:00pm on July 20th and can be mailed to ECSWCD, 50

Commerce Way East Aurora, NY 14052