

Indiana County Conservation District

JOB DESCRIPTION

Water Resource/Agriculture Specialist

The Indiana County Conservation District is looking for an open minded individual who is a good listener and comfortable with introducing themselves to new individuals and speaking to groups. Obtaining the environmental goals of this position will require the ability to understand the specific situations of each landowner and be accepting of compromise where needed. The ability to think “outside the box” and employ communication skills specific to your target audience are essential for obtaining the goals of this position.

POSITION GOALS

The focus of this position will be to reduce the amount of non-point source pollutants reaching Indiana County waters, while simultaneously promoting management practices that sustain the agricultural industry, urban and rural communities, and stream ecosystems.

POSITION CHALLENGES

Indiana County stream quality ranges from high quality to severely mine drainage impaired devoid of aquatic life. Sediments and nutrients are the predominate pollutants to streams not impaired by mine drainage.

Agriculture is varied ranging from 700 cow dairy operations to small plain sect dairies that supply canned milk to a local cheese plant. Veal barns, cow/calve beef operations, produce farms and large corn/soybean operations are also present. Additional conservation and education efforts are needed.

The Conservation District has received an EPA 319 grant with the objective of restoring the South Branch of Plum Creek, a sediment and nutrient impaired watershed, to its high quality classification, and a PADEP grant to remediate mine drainage impacts to the Bear Run watershed. Both of these projects are ongoing and will also be coordinated by this position.

BACKGROUND

To successfully complete these goals/challenges, candidates will be required to gain or already have knowledge in the following areas:

- Current animal and crop production methods
- Manure and crop nutrient management
- Agricultural conservation practices
- Agricultural non-point source pollutants
- Basic water chemistry
- Coal mining non-point source pollutants
- Mine drainage remediation methods
- Fresh water/stream ecology
- Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan review certification

JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Primary responsibilities may include but are not limited to:

- Educate the agricultural community on conservation practices to reduce non-point source pollutants.
- Educate farmers in nutrient and manure management.
- Encourage and introduce farmers to management practices that promote sustainable agriculture.
- Work with NRCS partners to implement conservation practices.
- Implement the Watershed Implementation Plan for the South Branch of Plum Creek.
- Continue with the implementation of the Bear Run Renaissance Grant to reduce mine drainage impacts in this watershed.
- Prepare and submit grant proposals to provide funding for non-point source watershed activities.
- Support existing watershed organizations with technical assistance, watershed planning, and educational programs.
- Develop workshops and implement demonstration projects.
- Attend meetings, seminars, workshops, and other training classes as necessary to advance your job skills.
- Acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to evaluate agricultural operations and recommend management practices for stormwater control.
- Acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to evaluate abandoned mine discharges and recommend treatment strategies.
- Develop skills necessary to determine aquatic ecosystem health along with corrective action.
- Acquire basic surveying skills to assist in project design.
- Interpret technical drawings and oversee project construction.
- Acquire necessary computer skills to facilitate data organization.
- Work to promote a “district team concept” by assisting in various other related functions, activities and programs of the District, as assigned.
- Prepare educational outreach materials.
- Prepare monthly activity report for the Board of Directors.
- Attend Board of Directors’ meeting.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- Bachelors Degree with course work in Biology, Environmental Resource Management, Freshwater Ecology, Environmental Chemistry or Agricultural Sciences.
- Organizational skills necessary to carry projects through all stages of development.
- An ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing to a wide range of individuals and groups is essential.
- Computer skills.
- Ability to traverse difficult terrain.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Valid driver’s license and dependable vehicle.

WORK CONDITIONS

The position will require both field and office work. Field work will require your own transportation and the ability to work in all weather conditions. The office environment will require the ability and tolerance to work in close proximity to other employees. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITIONS

The physical and mental demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations will be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of this job, and encourages both prospective employees and current employees to discuss potential accommodations with the District. The Indiana County Conservation District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

- Must be able to sit for long periods throughout the workday, with occasional periods of standing, walking, bending, twisting, balancing, crouching, kneeling, and reaching necessary to carry out the duties of the job.
- Dexterity requirements range from simple to coordinated movements of fingers/hands/arms, feet/legs, and torso necessary to carry out the duties of the job.
- Occasional lifting/carrying of objects with a maximum weight of fifty pounds.
- Must be able to cope with the physical and mental stress of the position.
- Must be able to move frequently throughout the workday.
- Must be able to pay close attention to details and concentrate on work.
- Must possess the ability to record, convey, and present information, explain procedures, and follow instructions.

WORK SCHEDULE

This is a full-time, permanent position eligible for District benefits after successful completion of required probationary periods. Salary range \$27,000 to \$29,000. Normal workweek is 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with occasional evening and weekend hours as special conditions, meetings or projects arise.

Resume may be submitted to info@iccdpa.org with job application in the subject line. Application deadline April 16, 2010.