



Nanticoke Watershed Alliance Agriculture Buffer Program Monitor

Volunteer Position Description

Background: The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance mission is to foster partnerships and progress in conserving the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Nanticoke River watershed through dialogue, collaborative outreach and education. The Alliance, formed in 1992, is a consortium of over 40 organizations from Maryland and Delaware, including representatives from agriculture, industry, environmental, business, community, state, local and federal governmental organizations.

In 2010, the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance instituted a three-year research project that aims to study the impact of reduced agricultural buffer strip sizes and environmental impacts (in particular, nutrient reduction). Farmers enrolled in the program plant a reduced sized buffer strip that ranges from 6-10 feet, as opposed to the Federal 35-foot minimum requirement. Following the completion of the program, the Alliance will analyze the results to determine if a reduced buffer strip size has the same nutrient reduction potential as the 35-foot standard.

Monitor Responsibilities: The Agriculture Buffer Program Monitor will work every other week with the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program Assistant or staff member responsible for water quality monitoring at buffer strip research sites. The Program Monitor will follow protocol and help obtain measurements and water samples. The Program Monitor may transport collected samples to designated drop-off sites and complete required paperwork. Responsibilities include:

- Meeting Alliance staff at designated locations and following the monitoring schedule.
- Following water monitoring protocol.
- Assisting with program every other week year-round (excluding designated periods during deer hunting season).

Training and Benefits: The Alliance will provide training for the Agriculture Buffer Program Monitor on water quality monitoring protocol. In addition, the Alliance will provide background information about the agriculture buffer strip program, nutrient reduction, and watershed implementation plans. Benefits include:

- Learning more about the Nanticoke River watershed and the impact of BMPs (Best Management Practices) on nutrient reduction.
- Participating in a long-term program that may have a critical impact on buffer strip regulations in the future.
- Learning more about water quality monitoring.
- Spending time outdoors at beautiful sites in Dorchester County throughout the year and observing seasonal changes.

Qualifications: Agriculture Buffer Program Monitors should be in reasonable physical condition and able to walk, reach, bend, lean, and carry light-weight equipment, such as Secchi disks and collection jugs. Monitors must have transportation and the ability to drive to Vienna, Maryland, or to designated meeting locations in the field.

Supervisor: Beth Wasden, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

To Apply: Complete an Alliance Volunteer Application (found online at www.nanticokeriver.org); call Beth Wasden at 443.944.1175 or email at bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org to be mailed an application.