

Office of Regulatory Management
Economic Review Form

Agency name	Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	<u>4 VAC 50-70</u>
VAC Chapter title(s)	Resource Management Plans
Action title	Periodic Review of Resource Management Plan Regulation
Date this document prepared	September 1, 2023
Regulatory Stage (including Issuance of Guidance Documents)	Periodic Review

Cost Benefit Analysis

Complete Tables 1a and 1b for all regulatory actions. You do not need to complete Table 1c if the regulatory action is required by state statute or federal statute or regulation and leaves no discretion in its implementation.

Table 1a should provide analysis for the regulatory approach you are taking. Table 1b should provide analysis for the approach of leaving the current regulations intact (i.e., no further change is implemented). Table 1c should provide analysis for at least one alternative approach. You should not limit yourself to one alternative, however, and can add additional charts as needed.

Report both direct and indirect costs and benefits that can be monetized in Boxes 1 and 2. Report direct and indirect costs and benefits that cannot be monetized in Box 4. See the ORM Regulatory Economic Analysis Manual for additional guidance.

Table 1a: Costs and Benefits of the Proposed Changes (Primary Option)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	Direct Costs: Describe the direct costs of this proposed change here. Indirect Costs: Describe the indirect costs of the proposed change. Direct Benefits: Describe the direct benefits of this proposed change here. Indirect Benefits: Describe the indirect benefits of the proposed change.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a)	(b)
(3) Net Monetized Benefit		
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)		
(5) Information Sources		

Table 1b: Costs and Benefits under the Status Quo (No change to the regulation)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	Direct Costs: Describe the direct costs of this proposed change here. Indirect Costs: Describe the indirect costs of the proposed change. Direct Benefits: Describe the direct benefits of this proposed change here. Indirect Benefits: Describe the indirect benefits of the proposed change.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a)	(b)
(3) Net Monetized Benefit		

(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	
(5) Information Sources	

Table 1c: Costs and Benefits under Alternative Approach(es)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Direct Costs: Describe the direct costs of this proposed change here.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: Describe the indirect costs of the proposed change.</p> <p>Direct Benefits: Describe the direct benefits of this proposed change here.</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: Describe the indirect benefits of the proposed change.</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a)	(b)
(3) Net Monetized Benefit		
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)		
(5) Information Sources		

Impact on Local Partners

Use this chart to describe impacts on local partners. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 2: Impact on Local Partners

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Direct Costs: These regulations expand on the criteria and requirements related to the development and implementation of resource management plans (§10.1-104 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). A resource management plan (RMP) is a voluntary program that agricultural producers may choose to participate in. Implementing certain best management practices will provide the producer with an assurance that the producer will meet state requirements related to nutrient and</p>
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	<p>sediment reductions for the next 9 years. Virginia’s 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Districts) are responsible for reviewing, approving, and ensuring implementation of RMPs. There are currently 26 Districts that have RMPs in their areas. Districts are reimbursed for the costs associated with these activities by the funds provided through the Water Quality Improvement Fund or the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund. Additional funding for these activities is provided each year through the Appropriation Act with general funds for the administration and operations of Districts.</p> <p>Local governments are not involved with RMPs, unless they choose to assist with marketing efforts or other activities to increase participation in the program.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: There are no known indirect costs to local partners related to this regulation.</p> <p>Direct Benefits: This regulation assists Virginia in meeting its water quality goals. When producers implement an RMP, fewer nutrients and reduced amounts of sediment impact Virginia’s waters including the Chesapeake Bay. Producers who choose to voluntarily implement an RMP receive an assurance that they have met the state requirements for nutrient and sediment reductions for 9 years. Districts typically develop long-term, productive relationships with their producers who choose to implement RMPs.</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: The relationships Districts develop and maintain with producers who choose to implement RMPs may lead to additional agricultural producers implementing RMPs or participating in the Virginia Agricultural Cost-share Program. Agricultural producers who successfully implement their RMP are able to provide recommendations to other producers about the benefits of an RMP or working with the District; these recommendations are critical to enhancing participation in voluntary programs and assisting Virginia in achieving its water quality goals. If agricultural producers achieve the needed nutrient and sediment reductions included in Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay TMDL Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), there may be less pressure on local governments to achieve additional reductions above those reductions included in the WIP.</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a)	(b) As of June 30, 2023, 202 RMPs, including over 49,000 acres, have been certified as fully implemented. Additionally, 362

		RMPs, including nearly 68,750 acres, are included in an RMP that is currently being implemented (i.e., not yet certified). The certified RMPs within the Chesapeake Bay watershed include over 48,000 acres. Nearly 60,000 additional acres within the Chesapeake Bay watershed are included in an RMP that is currently being implemented. There are nearly 6,000 acres outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed that are certified and approximately 7,000 acres are included in an RMP that is currently being implemented.
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)		
(4) Assistance		Funding is provided to Districts each year in the Appropriation Act for administration and operations; additional funding is provided through the Water Quality Improvement Fund or the Virginia Natural Resources Fund to assist with offsetting the costs of reviewing, approving, and ensuring implementation of RMPs.
(5) Information Sources		

Impacts on Families

Use this chart to describe impacts on families. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 3: Impact on Families

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Direct Costs: There are no direct cost impacts to families as a result of this action.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: There are no indirect cost impacts to families as a result of this action.</p> <p>Direct Benefits: There are no direct benefit impacts to families as a result of this action.</p>
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	Indirect Benefits: There are no indirect benefit impacts to families as a result of this action.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a)	(b)
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)		
(4) Information Sources		

Impacts on Small Businesses

Use this chart to describe impacts on small businesses. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 4: Impact on Small Businesses

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Direct Costs: There are no direct cost impacts to small businesses as a result of this action.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: There are no indirect cost impacts to small businesses as a result of this action.</p> <p>Direct Benefits: The individuals who are certified to develop RMPs are typically part of a small business. Increased interest and implementation of RMPs by agricultural producers will increase the demand for these private sector RMP developers.</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: There are no indirect benefit impacts to small businesses as a result of this action.</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a)	(b)
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)		

(4) Alternatives	
(5) Information Sources	

Changes to Number of Regulatory Requirements

Table 5: Regulatory Reduction

For each individual action, please fill out the appropriate chart to reflect any change in regulatory requirements, costs, regulatory stringency, or the overall length of any guidance documents.

Change in Regulatory Requirements

VAC Section(s) Involved	Authority of Change	Initial Count	Additions	Subtractions	Net Change
	Statutory:				
	Discretionary:				

Cost Reductions or Increases (if applicable)

VAC Section(s) Involved	Description of Regulatory Requirement	Initial Cost	New Cost	Overall Cost Savings/Increases

Other Decreases or Increases in Regulatory Stringency (if applicable)

VAC Section(s) Involved	Description of Regulatory Change	Overview of How It Reduces or Increases Regulatory Burden

Length of Guidance Documents (only applicable if guidance document is being revised)

Title of Guidance Document	Original Length	New Length	Net Change in Length