

Adopted October 15, 2003

Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Board (Board) Policy

Title: Financial Commitments For Establishment of a New Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD/district), or Realignment of an Existing District

Purpose:

To preserve the annual appropriation for SWCD funding made by the General Assembly so that the creation of a new district or realignment of an existing district does not adversely impact the financial resources of existing districts as specified by the Board's Policy entitled: Financial Assistance for Soil & Water Conservation Districts (districts).

To achieve this purpose:

- The Board hereby establishes a position of supporting inclusion of every county and/or city of the Commonwealth in an SWCD (solely, or in partnership with one or more localities). The Board also recognizes that creating or realigning districts can adversely impact the financial resources the Board administers.
- Given authority established by § 10.1-512. and § 10.1-514. of the Code of Virginia, the Board will require commitments of financial support from the locality(ies) of the newly created or realigned SWCD in situations where the creation of a new district, or realignment of an existing district will result in a reduction of funding to all other districts.
- This commitment shall be required as a condition of approval for establishment of a new district or realignment of an existing district.
- When a county or city not within an existing district is added to a district or is established as a new district; or an existing district's boundaries are realigned, the newly added or established locality(ies) must commit resources (cash and/or in kind assistance) in amounts no less than the appropriate portions that comprise the essential funding level specified in the Board's Policy entitled: Financial Assistance for Soil & Water Conservation Districts (districts) to provide for the technical and administrative needs for the district and its board of directors.
- This commitment must continue annually until an equal increase is established within state funds administered by the Board to support SWCD operational expenses, or until otherwise notified by the Board in writing.