

# **Genesee Conservation District**

## **Position Description: MAEAP Water Stewardship Technician**

### **POSITION SUMMARY**

The MAEAP Water Stewardship Technician (MAEAP Technician) furthers the mission of the Genesee Conservation District (District) through the delivery of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). The MAEAP Technician is responsible for delivering on-farm technical assistance in Genesee and Oakland Counties in Michigan. This includes conducting farm-specific risk assessments; coordinating local, state, and federal agency resources to help farmers reduce environmental risks; and assisting farmers in making progress toward MAEAP verification. The MAEAP Technician is also responsible for collaborating with District staff to promote MAEAP and educate diverse audiences on the importance of environmental quality.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES**

- Coordinates all aspects of MAEAP and adheres to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) grant agreement and guidelines for conducting the program at the local level within Genesee and Oakland Counties.
- Maintains accurate records and a well-organized filing system for those records.
- Promotes Farm\*A\*Syst, Crop\*A\*Syst, Livestock\*A\*Syst, and other stewardship practices through displays, newsletters, presentations, demonstrations, public service announcements, news releases, and other means.
- Conducts Farm\*A\*Syst, Crop\*A\*Syst, Livestock\*A\*Syst, and Forest/Wetland/Habitat\*A\*Syst assessments.
- Conducts at least one on-farm field day that highlights MAEAP, MAEAP Farmstead System, MAEAP Livestock and/or Cropping System farming practices and qualifies for MAEAP Educational Credit.
- Assists landowners in developing emergency management plans for their farmsteads.
- Assists individuals with verified Right to Farm complaints, to bring them into conformance with Michigan's Generally Accepted Agriculture Management Practices (GAAMPS).
- Works closely with the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) to provide the technical assistance necessary for producers to access Farm Bill cost-share funds.
- Provides timely monthly reports to the Districts (Genesee & Oakland), and updates to MDARD MAEAP Database.
- Collaborates with District staff and external partners to promote MAEAP and educate diverse audiences on the importance of environmental quality.
- Supports District programs and activities, as needed.
- Performs other essential activities as required by the MDARD grant agreement.
- Maintains a valid driver's license.

### **STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE**

Success is measured by the degree to which:

- MDARD grant requirements are met.
- The number of farms engaged in MAEAP increases.
- The reported level of farmer satisfaction averages good or better.
- Written reports are complete and on time.
- Public awareness of MAEAP and environmental quality increases.

## WORKING CONDITIONS

The primary workplace is in a typical office setting at the Genesee Conservation District in Flint, MI. The MAEAP Technician will frequently be on farms, which may involve traversing uneven, boggy, and submerged terrain in a wide range of air temperatures and weather. Typical work hours are Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30, including some evenings and weekends. The MAEAP Technician may occasionally be in the vicinity of agriculture crews using hand tools, power equipment, and harvest machinery. Occasional involvement in hands-on field work may be required.

## REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in agriculture, natural resource management, environmental sciences, or a related degree from an accredited college or university. Two years' experience in agriculture or natural resource fieldwork is preferred. Knowledge of and experience working with agricultural producers and practices is preferred. Experience collaborating on, developing, and delivering education programs to a variety of audiences in diverse settings.

### Skills and Abilities

- Strong organizational skills.
- Proficient use of PC and Microsoft Office Suite.
- Working knowledge of GIS mapping programs.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Exhibit excellent social and interpersonal skills; relates effectively to diverse clientele and work groups.
- Able to work independently without direct supervision and as part of a team.
- Able to work efficiently outdoors in varying conditions and terrain.

## COMPENSATION

The MAEAP Technician is a full-time, 40 hours/week position. The position is grant-funded, renewed annually. Benefits include a small benefit stipend, paid holidays, and paid time off according to District policies.

## TO APPLY

Submit a cover letter stating your suitability for the position based on knowledge and skills, along with a resume to Angela Warren by email at [genesecd@yahoo.com](mailto:genesecd@yahoo.com) by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 31, 2017.

Genesee Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer and provider.