

## **SOILS AND GROUNDWATER SPECIALIST**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** The Soil and Groundwater Specialist works as a member of an interdisciplinary team that is responsible for the administration and implementation of all Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) programs. The Soil and Groundwater Specialist is primarily responsible for technical guidance and special studies in support of SWCD programs and the relevant technical needs of the Delaware County Department of Public Works (DPW). The Soil and Groundwater Specialist reports directly to and receives direction from the SWCD Executive Director. Does related work as required.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:** (Illustrative only)

Performs special studies and generates reports that support the goals of the SWCD and cooperating agencies; Conducts field delineations of federally protected wetland boundaries, and produces reports which support federal wetland permit applications; Conducts soil investigations for onsite septic systems, including the evaluation of soil test pits, conducting percolation tests and writing reports; Maintains and interprets a current soil survey database, in coordination with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, provides this information to users, and interprets soil mapping as needed; Provides information to the general public regarding soil requirements for onsite septic systems, wetlands, and groundwater issues; Keeps informed about current NY State Department of Health and NY City Department of Environmental Protection regulations regarding onsite septic systems, wetlands and groundwater issues; Provides SWCD program support, including the following tasks: Writes articles for the SWCD newsletter on current topics; assists in the annual SWCD Tree and Shrub program as needed; supports the regional Envirothon program by serving as an instructor; Assists the DPW by interpreting soil and water analytical test results and by helping to produce quarterly and annual reports of groundwater monitoring at the Solid Waste Management Center; Attends meetings as needed to support the goals of the SWCD and cooperating agencies; Provides assistance to municipalities in urban erosion and sediment control, and stormwater management; Assists the SWCD Executive Director in the establishment, reviews and maintains SWCD technical policies and procedures. Operates and maintains work vehicle as assigned.

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:** Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of soil science and good knowledge of hydrogeology. Good knowledge of computer software sufficient to complete complex projects and create professional reports; which should include experience with computer spreadsheets, word processing, graphics, and computer simulation modeling applicable to soil moisture or groundwater flow. Good knowledge of agricultural systems, soil conservation and water quality management to allow application of best management practices in both rural and urban settings. Good knowledge of the functions of local, state and federal agencies. Ability to communicate effectively on technical subjects, both orally and in writing. Ability to work independently, manage workload efficiently and accurately, with integrity, confidentiality and sound professional judgement. Ability to maintain a professional and cooperative working relationship with all agency and interagency staff. Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Either:

- A. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State college or university with a Masters degree in Soil Science, Hydrogeology, Groundwater Hydrology, Environmental or Agricultural Engineering, or closely related studies and three years experience in soils interpretation and groundwater management or related work; OR
- B. Gradation from a regionally accredited or New York State college or university with a Bachelors degree in Soil Science, Hydrogeology, Groundwater Hydrology, Environmental or Agricultural Engineering or closely related studies and five years experience in soils interpretation and groundwater management or related work; OR
- C. An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined in A and B, above.

**NOTE:** A valid New York State driver's license is required at time of appointment.

Adopted 10/29/02