

North Country RC&D
2009/2010 Plan of Work
Project Update and Coordinators Report
August 4, 2009

NH Farm Viability Program- (New project) A Proposal was submitted to USDA Beginner Farmer/Rancher Program back in June that if approved would providing funding to re-initiate a business planning assistance program similar to what was done under the NH Agricultural Innovation Program which was completed on June 30, 2009. If approved, a Council Liaison would need to be appointed. A proposal was made to the SNHRC&D for another project which NCRC&D could collaborate on. This proposal would not just do business planning, but would help the farmer conduct research and provide technical assistance to complete and submit grant applications which can be quite daunting for anyone.

2009 Small and Beginning Farmers Conference –(New project) This project is in the Annual Plan of Work, however Small and beginning Farmers of NH has not formally requested assistance from NCRC&D on this.

Livestock Processing (Carry over project). This statewide project is a carry over from the 2008/2009 Annual Plan of Work and has not yet moved forward. It would need a Council Project Liaison. Preliminary goal is to explore conducting a feasibility study on the idea of forming a livestock servicing company similar to what exists in NY State.

Distributed Energy/District Heating Initiative-(On Going Project)(Russ Dowd is Council Project Liaison) Last years Wood Biomass Jump Start Project and the Groveton District Heating Project, both of which were completed have evolved into this project which aims to assist communities with institutional and district scale wood biomass heat and heat/power projects statewide. A proposal was made to the NH Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to create and promote what is being called a “Roadmap” to help communities better understand and position themselves to pursue biomass heat /power options. This proposal has been approved and will go before NH Governor and Council in September. Meanwhile NCRC&D is acting as the facilitator for a group calling itself the NH Wood Biomass Heat/Power Task Force which is primarily serving as an information sharing network.

Farm Energy Audits-(New Project) This is a project initiated and led by the SNHRC&D. NCRC&D is in a support role. A Council Liaison is needed. The purpose is to conduct 25 farm energy audits and facilitate energy efficiency improvements on NH farms.

NH Rural Fire Protection Initiative (On going Project)(Dan McLaughlin is Project Liaison for NCRC&D, Jim Moore for SNHRC&D. Pat Tarpey and Karl Berardi work for the NCRC&D on this project out of the NC RC&D office in Laconia)- This ongoing project continues to assist communities statewide and is on its way of assisting another 30 communities with water resource assessment as part of their All Hazards Mitigation

Plans. In addition, the employees and project team are exploring ways of income generation in the form of fee for services and serving as a representative for ISO. A new staff member was hired and stationed at the Southern NH RC&D Office. Ann Bowes is conducting outreach to communities to line up workload and also developed a proposal to update the NH Rural Fire Resource Quick Guide which was submitted to the NH Charitable Foundation for funding and approved. A proposal for continuation of the NH Rural Fire Protection Initiative was submitted to then NH Office of Homeland Security and has been approved, but is waiting on final approval from Governor and Council.

Winnepesaukee Watershed Management Plan- On going project (John Hodsdon is Project Liaison). Pat Tarpey works for NCRC&D on this project)- A proposal was accepted by NH-DES and approved for \$76,000 in funding. Pat Tarpey has been working on this project as a PSU grad student and employee of NCRC&D. \$12,000 has been allocated to cover her time in planning additional water quality sampling and testing watershed modeling techniques. An agreement between NCRC&D and LRPC to formally arrange for deliverables and compensation will be presented to the NCRC&D Board on August 4, 2009. More funds need to be raised for sampling that will occur in 2010. In addition, as the amount of funds approved by DES is approximately half of what was requested for NCRC&D's role in this project, the Council is asked to consider approval of the use of \$6500 of the NRCS/RC&D Council Agreement to fully fund and compensate Pat Tarpey for her anticipated time on this project through April, 2010..

Re-Print of Guide to developing and redeveloping Shoreland Property in NH (Carry Over project)(John Hodsdon is project liaison)- LWWA has not yet begun on the Update process.

North Country Farm Fresh Cooperative-(Carry over project in its second year) This project was adopted by the NCRC&D on 11/13/07. The Project Liaison is Lisa Rixen. NCRC&D's role in the project is to provide technical advice and fiscal agency to the fledgling Cooperative until it can function on its own. A new funding proposal (\$46,000) was submitted to USDA Rural development RBEG and approved in July, 2009 and another proposal to the Tillotson Foundation to continue financial support of this "start-up" through 2009 and into 2010.

Mt Washington Valley Bike Path- (Carry over Project) Still needs a project liaison. The Planning Group is well organized and self motivated. Getting them connected with North Country Council is still a priority.

Board Development items (Under the direction of the Leadership Team)-

1. **By Law Review and Update**-Daniel McLaughlin and Rick DeMark are working on this..
2. **Board Training**- training survey conducted in May, 2007. Proposed use of a portion of the NRCS Agreement funds to conduct this action
3. **Recruitment**- Ben Hudson of Lyme, has come on as representative of the Grafton County Conservation District and Jeff Hayes has returned as representative of the

North Country Council in 2009. Several vacancies still exist on the NCRC&D Board and need to be filled.

4. **External Communications** - Plan in place. Various press releases have been distributed as well as the 2008 Annual Report. Increasing communications is one of Ann Bowes primary responsibilities.
5. **Self-Sustainability**- While behind schedule, the Finance committee has met (April 12, 2009) and has this on their agenda.
6. **Development of 2010-2015 Area Plan- Needs to be completed by January 1, 2010.**