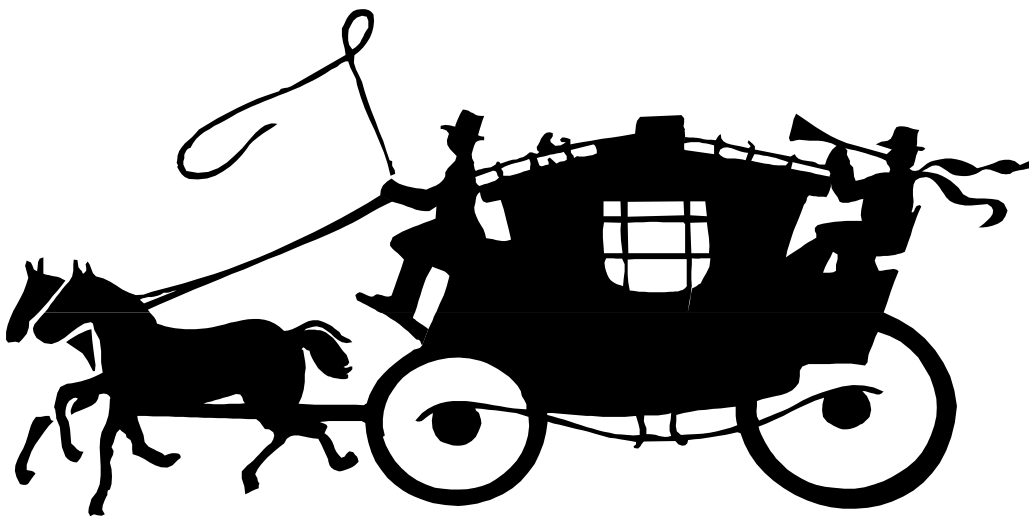


**SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
& DEVELOPMENT AREA**



Reaching Out &
Reaching Up

**ANNUAL PLAN
FOR 2006-2007**

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Natural Resources

Goal – To encourage and support the sustainable use of the natural resources of southern New Hampshire.

Objective 1: Improve or maintain the quality and quantity of surface and ground water supplies.

Actions:

1. Provide technical and or administrative support to the North Country Rural Fire Suppression Team in the planning and completion of rural water supply and hazard mitigation plans.
Who: Sue and Bob
Completion Date: Ongoing
Board Member Contact: Jim Moore
2. Meet with each of the Conservation Districts to determine local water quality and quantity needs and to identify potential projects and partners.
Who: Sue and Bob
Completion Date: December 30, 2006
Board Member Contact: Edwin Robinson, Terry Frost

Objective 2: Raise awareness of the benefits of local farm and forest product development.

Actions:

1. Assist in the development and completion of Southern New Hampshire Beginner farmer (SNHBF) capacity building presentations in all southern counties.
Who: Sue, Bob, SNHBF Leadership, and Heifer International
Completion Date: November 1, 2006
Board Member Contact: Dick Babcock
2. Provide administrative support needed to update existing SNHBF membership and marketing materials and to develop new ones as needed.
Who: Sue and Bob
Completion Date: September 30, 2007
Board Member Contact: Dick Babcock
3. Assist SNHBF to plan, publicize, and carry out their 2006 annual meeting.
Who: Sue, Bob, and SNHBF Leadership
Completion Date: November 4, 2006
Board Member Contact: Dick Babcock

4. Provide technical and administrative support to complete a feasibility study for the Community Gardens and The Children's Learning Project at the Youth Development Center in Manchester.

Who: Sue, Bob, Roger Charbonneau, NH Ag Innovations Team, YDC Staff

Completion Date: December 30, 2006

Board Member Contact: Jim Moore and Karen Bennett

5. Service follow-up requests resulting from the completion and distribution of the Timber Bridges in NH publication.

Who: Sue and Bob

Completion Date: Ongoing

Board Member Contact: Karen Bennett and Bob Spoerl

Objective 3: Preserve family farms and the rural character of southern New Hampshire.

Actions:

1. Cosponsor a booth at the NH Farm and Forest Expo to increase public awareness of the value of NH open space.

Who: Sue, Bob, and NCRC&D

Completion Date: February, 2007

Board Member Contact: All

2. Serve as an advocate for continued federal, state, and local funding for the protection of open space in NH.

Who: Sue, Bob, NCRC&D, and other interested partners

Completion Date: Ongoing

Board Member Contact: Edwin Robinson, Terry Frost, and Don Ferren

3. Provide administrative support to publicize and increase participation in NH Ag Day.

Who: Sue and Bob

Completion Date: August 20, 2006

Board Member Contact: Dick Babcock

Objective 4: Conserve and improve the quality of natural communities through ecological restoration.

Actions:

1. Distribute information to state and local conservation partners to publicize the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) and to identify potential projects.

Who: Sue and Bob

Completion Date: October 31, 2006

Board Member Contact: Edwin Robinson, Bob Spoerl, Karen Bennett, and Terry Frost

2. Conduct field visits to evaluate program interest and determine priority projects for CCPI funding.

Who: Sue, Bob, and interested partners

Completion Date: January, 2007

Board Member Contact: Edwin Robinson, Bob Spoerl, Karen Bennett, and Terry Frost

3. Provide administrative and technical assistance to state and local sponsors in completing CCPI grant applications for priority restoration projects.

Who: Sue, Bob, and interested partners

Completion Date: March, 2007

Board Member Contact: Edwin Robinson, Bob Spoerl, Karen Bennett, and Terry Frost

Community Development

Goal – To address the resource issues facing southern New Hampshire’s changing communities.

Objective 1: Establish a network with groups, agencies, and individuals providing assistance to people with varying physical, mental and cultural needs.

Actions:

1. Evaluate the potential for using Educate Grant funds to provide bilingual natural resource materials to ethnic communities through partnership with the NH Latin American Center.

Who: Sue, Bob, and Latin American Center Staff

Completion Date: Ongoing

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer

2. Upon completion of the feasibility study for the Community Gardens and Children’s Learning Project, continue administrative and technical support to project director Roger Charbonneau to solicit potential project partners.

Who: Sue and Bob

Completion Date: December 31, 2006

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer, Karen Bennett, and Bob Spoerl

3. Attend the National RC&D conference in Savannah Georgia to obtain and share new information and technology, and to investigate opportunities for RC&D project partnerships.

Who: Sue, Rick DeMark, Jeff White, and Council Members

Completion Date: June 23, 2006

Board Member Contact: All

Objective 2: Develop and implement a variety of recreational opportunities for residents of southern New Hampshire, including those with varying needs.

Actions:

1. Complete fabrication and distribution of universally accessible planters to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other interested recipients.
Who: Sue, Bob, NH Plant Growers Association, and other interested partners
Completion Date: October 1, 2006
Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer and Bud Windsor
2. Follow up with NH Agribility to investigate the potential for conducting a field day(s) to demonstrate the use of specialized agricultural equipment for people with disabilities.
Who: Sue and Bob
Completion Date: September 30, 2006
Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer and Bud Windsor
3. Provide technical and administrative assistance for the development of educational materials for the universally accessible Cocheco River Trail and Tree house project.
Who: Sue, Bob, and Lorie Chase
Completion Date: Ongoing
Board Member Contact: Dick Babcock
4. Continue to investigate funding opportunities for the restoration of recreational athletic fields destroyed by the 2005 flooding in Alstead.
Who: Sue and Bob
Completion Date: Ongoing
Board Member Contact: Bud Windsor

Objective 3: Promote and expand the rural fire protection initiative in southern New Hampshire.

Actions:

1. Host a series of workshops for town Fire Chiefs, Realtors, and lending institutions to demonstrate the economic value of participation in the Rural Fire Suppression Program.
Who: Sue, Bob, and North Country RC&D
Completion Date: June 1, 2007
Board Member Contact: Jim Moore
2. Prepare and disseminate press releases to publicize the presentation of completed Water Supply Plans to all towns participating in the program.
Who: Sue and Bob
Completion Date: Ongoing
Board Member Contact: Jim Moore

Objective 4: Promote opportunities to improve public access to community natural areas.

Actions:

1. Develop press releases and marketing materials and disseminate to publicize the opening of the universally accessible Cocheco River Trail.

Who: Sue, Bob, and Lorie Chase

Completion Date: Ongoing

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer and Bud Windsor

2. Work with Conservation Districts and other partners to identify potential public access projects and funding sources.

Who: Sue, Bob, Conservation District Managers and Boards, and other partners

Completion Date: Ongoing

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer, Bud Windsor, and Terry Frost

Economic Development

Goal – Identify and develop economic alternatives to the traditional manufacturing economies of southern New Hampshire.

Objective 1: Develop a strategy to identify tourism opportunities within southern New Hampshire communities.

Actions:

1. Work with NCRC&D to establish contacts within the NH Travel and Tourism Council.

Who: Sue, Bob, and Rick DeMark

Completion Date: Ongoing

Board Member Contact: Bob Spoerl and Karen Bennett

Objective 2: Examine the feasibility of specialty or niche markets for local crafts, farm, and forest products.

Actions:

1. Conduct a survey of the Latino Community in Manchester to determine the need/opportunity for the production of specialty foods for personal consumption and distribution to local ethnic markets and restaurants.

Who: Sue, Bob, and the Latin American Center Staff

Completion Date: December 31, 2006

Board Member Contact: Dick Babcock

2. Upon completion of the survey, link producers with consumers/retailers of specialty foods in the Latino Community in Manchester.

Who: Sue, Bob, Latin American Center Staff, NHBF

Completion Date: June 30, 2007

Board Member Contact: Dick Babcock

3. Work with North Country RC&D and other interested partners to determine the feasibility of implementing a “Fuels for Schools” program in NH.

Who: Sue, Bob, NCRC&D, interested partners

Completion Date: September 30, 2007

Board Member Contact: Karen Bennett and Bob Spoerl

Objective 3: Examine the feasibility of agritourism and value added business opportunities for local producers.

Actions:

1. Work with NH Plant Growers Association and other interested partners to conduct a needs assessment/feasibility study for recycling soil amendments used in the nursery, greenhouse, and container growing operations in NH.

Who: Sue, Bob, Rick DeMark, and interested partners

Completion Date: December 31, 2007

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer and Bud Windsor

2. Work with NCRC&D and the NH Department of Agriculture, NH Farm Bureau, and other interested partners to conduct a needs assessment/feasibility study for an NH Meat Inspection Program and the establishment of additional slaughtering capacity in NH.

Who: Sue, Bob, Rick, NH Dept. of Ag, and other interested partners

Completion Date: December 31, 2007

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer and Dick Babcock

Information and Education

Goal – Identify and develop opportunities for informational and educational materials that are accessible to all.

Objective 1: Develop and implement a strategy to market the RC&D Program, its benefits, and opportunities.

Actions:

1. Continue Area Wide Plan, Annual Plan, and annual newsletter distribution to SNHRC&D sponsors and partners.

Who: Sue and Bob

Completion Date: Ongoing

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer

2. Develop and distribute press releases for all RC&D projects completed.

Who: Sue and Bob

Completion Date: Ongoing

Board Contact Person: Webb Palmer

3. Complete Cooperative Agreement with NRCS State Office for RC&D to Develop training materials and conduct 4 statewide training sessions for licensed professional engineers to become certified as Technical Service Providers.
Who: Sue, Bob, and Rick
Completion Date: December 31, 2006
Board Member Contact: Karen Bennett

4. Continue local, state, and national legislative communications through letters and personal visits to publicize and emphasize the importance of RC&D's in NH.
Who: Sue and Bob
Completion Date: Ongoing
Board Member Contact: Don Ferren and Terry Frost

5. Pursue opportunities for board capacity development by completing the Board Member Skills Assessment activities started during development of the Area Plan, and through continued interaction with project partners and sponsors.
Who: Sue and Bob
Completion Date: Ongoing
Board Member Contact: All

Objective 2: Alter or modify educational materials so they are useable by people with varying abilities.

Actions:

1. Produce educational materials for the Coheco River universally accessible trail and tree house project as defined in the project agreement.
Who: Sue, Bob, Kathy Bates, and Latin American Center staff
Completion Date: Ongoing
Board Member Contact: Dick Babcock

2. Examine the possibility of producing bilingual documents for use by Spanish speaking Clients.
Who: Sue, Bob, and the Latin American Center staff
Completion Date: Ongoing
Board Member Contact: Dick Babcock

Objective 3: Develop and promote natural resource workshops for teachers.

Actions:

1. Contact the Woods End Institute in Maine to obtain information on building design for composting school lunch waste.
Who: Sue and Bob
Completion Date: December 31, 2006
Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer

2. Contact schools utilizing these facilities to obtain educational curriculum information.

Who: Sue and Bob

Completion Date: December 31, 2006

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer

3. Conduct needs assessment/feasibility study to determine interest in NH school districts to implement school lunch composting curriculum.

Who: Sue, Bob, and Rick

Completion Date: December 31, 2007

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer

Objective 4: Develop and promote youth educational activities.

Actions:

1. Conduct needs assessment/feasibility study to determine interest in NH school districts to participate in the “Plant a Tree” program (children would plant a tree when entering elementary school and harvest it as a Christmas Tree when they graduate high school).

Who: Sue and Bob

Completion Date: December 31, 2006

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer, Karen Bennett, and Bob Spoerl

2. Link interested schools with sources of free seedlings (NH Arbor Day Foundation), plant bed locations and planting and care instructions.

Who: Sue and Bob

Completion Date: December 31, 2007

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer, Karen Bennett, and Bob Spoerl

3. Continue organizational, administrative, and technical support for Community Gardens and Children’s Learning Project.

Who: Sue and Bob

Completion Date: December 31, 2006

Board Member Contact: Webb Palmer, Karen Bennett, and Bob Spoerl

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

“The Southern NH RC&D Council agrees that the RC&D Program will be conducted in compliance with the non-discrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other non-discrimination statutes; namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A and B), which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial (or technical) assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.”

The Southern NH RC&D Council agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with Federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for non-procurement, debarment and State review. Lobbying restrictions state that no more than 25% of the non-federal funds available to the Council, be used for expenses related to lobbying efforts.

The Southern NH RC&D Council hereby adopts this RC&D Annual Plan and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlines herein.

Southern NH RC&D Council, State of New Hampshire

By _____ Date
Chairman, Southern NH RC&D

Attest: _____
Secretary/Treasurer

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Southern NH Resource Conservation and Development Area Board of Directors on May 23, 2006.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Annual Plan of the Southern NH RC&D Council as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97-98 to receive assistance from the USDA.

Acknowledged by:

State Conservationist Date