

Tidewater Resource Conservation & Development Council

Business Plan FY 2007

July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007

Mission: Helping to build an economically diverse
and ecologically sound region

Vision: Prosperous Communities in Harmony
with their Environment

**Tidewater RC&D Council
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Tidewater RC&D Council**

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July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007**

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Activity	Responsible Person
• Conduct 6 RC&D Council Meetings	<i>Full Council</i>
• Conduct 4 Executive Committee Meetings	<i>Executive Com.</i>
• Select and recognize local award recipients	<i>Awards Com.</i>
• Provide leadership to the Virginia Association of RC&D Councils	
• Serve on the VARCDC Executive Committee	<i>Jerry Walker</i>
• Serve as members of and chairperson of several committees	<i>J. Walker, C. Steele,</i>
<i>Annual Meeting/Training - P. Davis</i>	<i>Legislative – J. Davis</i>
<i>Awards - S. Pope</i>	<i>SE RC&D Mtg. – C. Steele</i>
<i>Forestry – William Saunders</i>	<i>Executive – J. Walker</i>
• Leadership role on the Rural Development Council Project	<i>J. Walker; J Davis</i>
• Participate in National RC&D Leadership Forum in Feb. 2007	<i>delegate or alternate</i>
• Develop Council Web Site	<i>Council Volunteer.</i>
• Sustain the RC&D Forestry Committee by hosting quarterly meetings	<i>W. Saunders</i>
• Update Council Financial Policy	<i>J. Davis</i>
• Update Council Member Handbook	<i>Council Volunteer</i>

ACTIVE PROJECTS

High Priority Projects for FY 2007 are:

1. **Project 42C** Forestry Education
Forestry Presentations to 9 Planning Commissions
Forestry Presentations to eighth grade classes
2. **Project 106** FACT – Web Page Development - Done
3. **Project 122** Converting Wildfire fuel to a Marketable Product: **85% DONE**
A feasibility Demonstration (Charcoal and Inventory)
4. **Project 141** Educating Through a Volunteer Monitoring Network **90% done**
Train the Trainers Manual and one training
4. **Project 146** Create NN Farm Museum at Cooper’s Lane
Capacity Building Support, Membership Development
Grant Writing
5. **Project 152** Forestry Short Course – Land Preservation
6. **Project 153** Down on the Farm Tour 2006 Northern Neck
7. **Project 154** Pilot new Forestry Short Course on Financial Assistance
8. **Project 156** Foxmill Storm Water Retrofit
9. **Project 158** Down on the Farm Tour 2007 Middle Peninsula
10. **Project 159** The Wine and Art Festival at Locust Grove
11. **Project 160** Roller Crimper
12. **Project 161** Middlesex Planning Committee for 2007
13. **Project 162** Farm Safety Camp
14. **Project F09** Upper Mattaponi Pottery

The following projects are scheduled for work during the fiscal year of July 2006~June 2007
Comments in italics indicate updated information from the original.

1. Project 120 Farmland Preservation – no actions planned

Project 42C Forestry Brochure and Presentations **Priority: High** **Adopted 1997**

The RC&D Forestry Committee will gather information from each of the ten counties regarding the acres harvested and income generated from forestry activity in the ten counties by obtaining a grant to hire a consultant or university student. A brochure will be created specific to this region about the many benefits of forests and the impacts of forest fragmentation. Presentations to community leaders will be made to increase their awareness of forestry issues. The cover brochure was designed and printed in 2003. The inserts will be completed and presentations begun in 2004. *Brochures completed and presentations made to all ten counties in 2004/2005. In FY 2006 an article for publication in the Forest Landowners Magazine was written and a presentation made to the NARCDC. In FY 2007 presentations will be reviewed for updating then made to 9 Planning Commissions, and school presentations will begin.*

Council Member: Bill Saunders, John Barber, Jack Miller

Staff: Cahoon, P. Tyrrell; M. Kennedy,

Timeline: Data collection	April 2002 ~ August 2002
Report and Brochure prepared	August 2002
Inserts developed	2003
Presentation developed	2004
10 BOS presentations	December 2005
Presentation for schools developed	March 2005
9 Planning presentations	February 2007
10 school presentations	June 2007

Partners: Virginia Department of Forestry, Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, Forestry Consultants, Forestry Industry, and Natural Resources Conservation Service

Project 120 Farmland Preservation **Priority Med** **Adopted June 2001**

No specific plans at this time

Council Members: Prue Davis,

Staff: P. Tyrrell, M. Kennedy **Timeline:** undefined **Funding:** undetermined

Project 122 Converting Wildfire fuel to a Marketable Product: A feasibility Demonstration
DONE **Priority: High** **Adopted May 29, 2002**

This phase will educate local community leaders in South Centre Corridors, South Hampton Roads, Eastern Shore and Tidewater RC&Ds about the need for fire hazard reduction strategies in comprehensive and community plans. Four fire hazard reduction plans for communities will be developed. Two plans will be from the DOF “Communities at Risk” list as demonstrations. In 2005 plans were developed and one plan was implemented by hosting a community work day that chipped waste wood. *Project was expanded to include Charcoal Feasibility Demonstration and a study of alternative uses of wood from subdivision development*

Council Members: Bill Saunders, Jerry Davis **Staff: H. Markham**

Timeline: Seek funding fall 2001
 Develop community plans Spring 2004
 Implement plans Summer Fall 2004
 Make final presentations 2002 ~ 2005
 Market analysis Sept 2005
 Charcoal Demonstration Spring 2006 to fall 2006
 Study of Subdivision wood Summer 2006

Partners: VA Dept. of Forestry (DOF), Planning District Commissions

Funding: US Forest Service grant through Virginia Department of Forestry

Project 141 Educating Through a Volunteer Monitoring Network Priority High

Adopted 2/4/04 Four new student groups in the Northern Neck will be engaged in learning about water quality from a hands-on experience. Greater understanding will be sought for two Northern Neck impaired streams with the anticipation that a costly TMDL may be avoided in one case and that more information will be the first step to an implementation plan in the other. *In 2005 this project was expanded to focus on providing training opportunities that will allow more monitoring, while maintaining established monitoring activity on 3 existing watershed. Two new volunteer watershed monitoring systems are being organized. The parameters that are monitored are water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, salinity and turbidity. In 2006, the primary goal is to work with adult volunteers, however, when requested support will be provided to teachers or students. In 2006 19 volunteers were utilized and the program embarked on writing a Train the Trainers manual. The manual will be completed in 2007.*

Council Member: Carol Steele, Luttrell Tadlock, James Minor, Prue Davis

Staff: W. Perry

Partners: Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District, Cat Point Creek Citizens Committee, Department of Environmental Quality, Alliance of the Chesapeake Bay

Timeline: June 2004 through Dec 2007

Phase A. is completed

Phase B is FY 2005 Citizen Water Monitoring Grant

This project will support water monitoring activity in Cat Point Creek, Totuskey Creek and Lancaster Creek.

Funding: DEQ

Time: 1/1/2005 – 10/31/2005

Phase C is FY 2005/2006 Chesapeake Experience

This project is Building a Chesapeake Bay Experience through Water Monitoring and builds a network of volunteer monitors. The goal is to increase knowledge about the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay generating wider concern for the Bay's health through greater volunteer participation in water monitoring activities. Specific objectives are 1) Train new citizen monitors 2) Support/manage volunteers & data 3) Establish QAPP's 4) Publicize water monitoring activity

Funding: \$ 20,000 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund

Timeline: 7/1/05 – 12/30/06

Phase D Capacity Building for Monitors (\$40,045)

This project expands Citizen Monitoring Network with Virginia's Northern Neck through Capacity Building. The goal is to expand the existing citizen monitoring in the Northern Neck into a comprehensive and sustainable regional network through technical capacity building that will assist in development of TMDL's and build economically diverse communities in harmony with the environment. The specific objectives are 1) Train the trainer certification program, 2) Training of new volunteer water monitors, 3) Support and Management of volunteers & data 4) Development of QAPP's.

Funding: DCR/DEQ –

Timeline: Completed June 2006

Project 146 Create NN Farm Museum at Cooper's Lane Priority High Adopted Sept 04

Luther Welsh Agriculture Center

The focus of the center/museum will be to create a place where students, families and visitors can come and learn about agriculture and the business of farming. Hands-on training will be done as part of the educational component, in addition to visiting the farm equipment displays and farming village complex. A community farm site will enable 4H, vocational and agricultural students and other groups to plan and market crops including flowers, as well as make produce available to needy citizens. The center will feature a large barn building to hold the Luther Welsh farm implements collection. Additional buildings include a replica of Dr. Neal's medical office and supplies, a one room school house (possibly Shiloh School) and a replica of an early farmer's home. *In 2005, the RC&D provided leadership to develop Constitution and By-laws, prepared incorporation documents, drafted the 501c3 application, managed the funds, solicited corporate contributions and provided support for meeting organization including meeting notices. In 2007, the RC&D will further assist with corporate capacity building, meeting organization, grant development and promotion of the Museum to corporate funders. Scheduled opening is in 2008.*

Council members: Luttrell Tadlock,

Staff: P. Tyrrell, M. Kennedy

Timeline: Work will continue throughout 2007 with building construction in 2008

Partners: Northern Neck Tourism Council, Cooperative Extension, Volunteer Board of Directors

Funding: Corporate Donations and mini-grant from the NN Garden Club; seeking major grants, major corporate sponsors and initiating a general membership drive.

Project 163 Forestry Short Course 2006 Priority: High Adopted July 06

Coordinate Forestry Short Course by locating speakers, arranging meeting rooms, organizing the logistics, and advertising the class. Class is Land Preservation and new partnership with the Land Trusts will be pursued

Council Member: Bill Saunders, John Barber

Staff: P. Tyrrell, M. Kennedy, A. Cahoon,

Partners: Virginia Cooperative Extension – Forestry Regional Forester and Va. Tech Va. Dept. of Forestry, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forestry Consultants, Industry

Timeline: Planning meeting Sept 2006
 Obtain speakers and rooms Nov 2006
 Circulate brochure, news articles Dec 2006
 Host the class Feb/March 2007

Funding: Registration fees cover the cost.

Project 153 Down on the Farm Tour 2006 Northern Neck Priority High Sept 27, 2005

Tidewater RC&D coordinates this family day that celebrates the farming, fishing and forestry heritage in the Northern Neck in a fun and educational public event that promotes agriculture and tourism.

Council Members: Bobby Mallory, Luttrell Tadlock, Jerry Davis,

Staff: P. Tyrrell, M. Kennedy

Timeline:

Planning Meetings	Sept 2005 ~ May 2006
Fund Raising	January ~ Feb 2006
Develop Brochure	July 2006
Promotion	July ~ Aug 2006
Event:	May 12, 2007
Finalize Projects	June 2007

Partners: Virginia Cooperative Extension, Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Northern Neck Tourism Council.

Funding : Local fund raising and apply for conservation grant

Project 154 Pilot new Forestry Short Course on Financial Assistance Sept 27, 2005

This new course will target provide training for natural resource professionals such as consultant foresters about the variety of financial assistance that are available so that they can better advise the land owners.

Councilmembers: B. Saunders, J. Barber,

Staff: RC&D A. Cahoon, P. Tyrrell, M. Kennedy

Timeline:

Planning meetings	Feb 2007 ~ Mar 2007
Publicity	Mar. and June 2007
Class	July 2007

Partners: Virginia Cooperative Extension Regional Forester, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Virginia Tech Forestry, Cooperative Extension, and local forestry consultants.

Funding: Virginia Tech has provided a \$ 500.00 grant

Project F09 Project F09 Upper Mattaponi Pottery Adopted July 2004

This project will assist the Upper Mattaponi Tribe to establish pottery making classes which will allow them to sustain an art form that is almost lost at this point. In 2005 funding for this project needs to be developed and a detailed plan developed.

Councilmembers: J. Adams, D. Shank, J. Walker

Staff: P. Tyrrell

Timeline:

Initial funding Search	in Sept 06
Develop detailed Plan	in Aug 06
Locate instructor	Sept 06
Establish facility	Nov 07

Partners: Upper Mattaponi Tribe

Funding: unknown at this time

Project 160 Demonstration of Roller Crimper

Adopted February 2006

Through a regional partnership with NRCS, SWCD and Extension a roller crimper will be purchased to look at mechanical suppression of a cover crop which will reduce the amount of herbicide used in no till production. The roller crimper has been used in other states, but this will be the first demonstration in Virginia.

Councilmembers: J. Blake, D. Shank, P. Davis,
Partners: NRCS, SWCD, Cooperative Extension
Funding: NRCS will purchase the crimper
Timeline: March 2006 through August 2007

Project 156 Fox Mill Stormwater Retrofit – Gloucester County

Originally, Tidewater RC&D agreed to administer a grant for Tidewater SWCD, however the project proved to be technically impossible for the site. A longer term planning project with all of the partners will be initiated in September 2006 to develop an appropriate design then find installation funding.

Councilmembers: C. Steele, J. Blake,
Partners: Tidewater SWCD, Fox Mill Foundation
Funding: DCR through a WQIP grant
Timeline: Sept 2007 through August 2008

Project 158 Down on the Farm Tour 2006 Middle Peninsula Priority High

Tidewater RC&D coordinates this family day that celebrates the farming, fishing and forestry heritage in the Middle Peninsula in a fun and educational public event that promotes agriculture and tourism and celebrates 400 years of history in this region.

Council Members: Carol Steele, Jack Miller, Jimmy Blake, Mo Lynch, Steve Pope

Staff: P. Tyrrell, M. Kennedy

Timeline: Planning Meetings	Sept 2005 ~ May 2006
Fund Raising	Sept 2006~ Feb 2007
Develop Brochure	March 2007
Promotion	March ~ Sept 2007
Event:	Sept 2007
Finalize Projects	Oct 2007

Partners: Virginia Cooperative Extension, Tidewater Conservation District, Gloucester County Dept. Parks, Recreation and Tourism, NRCS
Funding : Local fund raising and apply for conservation grant

Project 161 Middlesex County Jamestown 2007 Commemoration

Tidewater RC&D will serve on this committee and provide grant writing assistance where needed.

Councilmembers: J. Miller

Timeline: Feb 2006 through Dec 2007

Project 162 Farm Safety Camp –

Tidewater RC&D will recruit volunteers to serve as team leaders in support of Three Rivers SWCD's Farm Safety Camp.

Councilmember: D. Shank, C. Steele, P. Davis

Partners: Three Rivers SWCD

Funding: grants funds from Progressive Farmer and local fund raising

Timeline: May 2006 through August 2006

Project 163 Forestry Short Course 2007 Land Preservation

July 25, 2006

Seek partnerships with the Middle Peninsula Land Trust and the Northern Neck Land Conservancy to host this forestry course on techniques to preserve land.

Council Members: B. Saunders, Prue Davis

Partners: Virginia Tech Forestry, Virginia Cooperative Extension, RC&D Forestry Committee

Funding: Registrations should cover the cost

Timeline: Begin planning in October to host event in February

Project 164 Riparian Buffer Marketing (CRP/CREP)

Work with the RC&D forester and the soil and water conservation districts to promote better utilization of the CRP and CREP programs to install permanent riparian buffers to improve water quality.

Council Members: B. Saunders, Prue Davis, Jimmy Blake, Dawn Shank

Partners: Virginia Department of Forestry, NRCS, Cooperative Extension Forester

PROJECTS FOR FEASIBILITY DETERMINATION

Project 121 Removal of abandoned vessels from waterways **Adopted April 2001**

Develop project to identify and remove abandoned boats, vessels, and other watercraft from waterways.

Council Members: Steve Pope, Jerry Davis, Carol Steele **Staff: P. Tyrrell**

Timeline: Establish project committee Dec. 2002
Inventory vessels Jan 2002 ~ June 2003
Develop proposal May 2003
Seek funding April 2003

Partners: Northern Neck PDC, Middle Peninsula PDC, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Army Corps of Engineers

Funding: undetermined *2005 no action*

Project F 01 Support efforts to expand Sustainable Agriculture in this region **Adopted April 2001**
2007 no specific actions planned

Project F02 Determine feasibility of funding Beaver Dam Nature Center **Adopted April 2002**

Project F 03 Determine feasibility of a Northern Neck Watershed Coordinator

Project F05 Re-establish native reeds used in basket making

Project F06 Birding Festival

Project F07 Expand water quality monitoring

Project F08 Initiate Pottery Making by the Upper Mattaponi

**The following are items from the Long Range Plan that should have
planning initiated in 2007:**

Planning

- 1) Co-sponsor with the SWCD and NRCS informational programs on horse pasture management
- 2) Provide Bay Act Education
- 3) Host a land use forum with the Garden Club
- 4) Promote new markets for wood products with a summary of available forest resources and the sustainable level of annual biomass availability
- 5) Conduct study to explore use of wood biomass for energy production to reduce dependence on petroleum-based fuels
- 6) Publicize information about alternative sources of income from forests
- 7) Host a program to public information to demonstrate alternative forest income strategies and processes
- 8) Research opportunities and resources to explore feasibility of expanding fish and shellfish aquaculture to enhance employment opportunities
- 9) Promote alternate fuels such as methane, soy diesel, and ag crops
- 10) Seek economically viable alternative uses for waste products such as wood and seafood processing waste
- 11) Create new and support existing organizations devoted to sustaining natural resources and the heritage of the region
- 12) Host a Sharp Logger training in this area
- 13) Create and maintain forestry resource lists
- 14) Initiate reintroduction of grasses for basket making
- 15) Support pottery for Upper Mattaponi
- 16) Evaluate existing situations and determine needs for increase public recreation facilities and programming
- 17) Track legislation to stay informed on farmland preservation issues.
- 18) Identify and evaluate programs that minimize forestry fragmentation in growing communities

This Business Plan includes the major scheduled work for the upcoming fiscal year. Council members, sponsors, and the general public may submit project ideas for consideration at any time by completing a Project Proposal Form. The Council will consider the proposal at the next regular Council Meeting. The Executive Committee can review and approve items that require a quicker response providing the projects are compatible with the Councils goals and objectives as defined in their Area Plan.

The Annual Plan of Work for Fiscal Year 2007 was approved by Tidewater RC&D Council on July 2, 2006.

Margaret “Prue” Davis, Chairperson

Date

The Annual Plan of Work was approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service

M. Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist

Date

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