

*Robert E. Lee
Soil and Water
Conservation District*

Annual Plan of Work

Fiscal year 2011-2012

Objective I: Strengthen the educational and informational programs for youth and adult constituencies.

1. Offer conservation education programs to local schools, for both student and teacher audiences, especially related to the Virginia Standards of Learning, as staffing allows.
2. Promote area school's participation in:
 - Youth Conservation Camp
 - Envirothon
 - Soil Stewardship Week (April/May)
 - Natural Resources Conservation Week (October)
3. Select and recognize various conservation contributions from throughout the District, as appropriate. Awards may include but are not limited to: outstanding agricultural cooperator, outstanding conservationist, outstanding conservation educator, outstanding urban cooperator.
4. Sponsor workshops or other educational events designed for adults for the purpose of improving awareness of watershed issues and conservation practices, such as rain barrel workshops, Low Impact Development seminars, county fairs/festivals and Best Management Practices demonstration days.
5. Provide upon request conservation programs to local youth and adult civic groups, as staffing allows.
6. Distribute the Annual Report to local governments and to members of the Virginia General Assembly who represent our District.
7. Support the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Educational Foundation and seek scholarship applicants.
8. Support and participate in school-based conservation studies/projects upon request, and as staffing allows.

9. Develop a “branding” initiative to raise awareness about the District, as well as market our programs and services. For example, by providing hats, shirts, etc. for staff and the public during special events or providing signage for public vehicles.

Objective II: Increase funding.

1. Seek corporate and/or individual sponsors for local Youth Conservation Camp applicants and Envirothon teams.
2. Apply for grants when applicable and/or appropriate.
3. Continue service to localities and ensure their boards/councils recognize District contributions.
4. Request and document need for appropriate funding levels from local governments.

Objective III: Improve coordination of information on conservation issues pertaining to the District; improve networking and participate in county/city comprehensive planning.

1. Cooperate with USDA and other agencies to promote and implement the Best Management Practices (BMP) and Cost-Share Programs. Solicit input from local natural resource professionals to optimize District effectiveness.
2. Inform and encourage landowners to utilize Cost-Share Programs available to them (BMP, TMDL, EQIP, etc.), placing major emphasis on highly erodible land.
3. Maintain streambank stabilization demonstration projects and provide technical assistance to landowners requesting assistance for repair of flood damage and/or streambank erosion.

4. Provide assistance to local governments in the development of erosion and sediment and storm water control programs. Assist local governments in implementation of Erosion and Sediment Control and other local conservation ordinances.
5. Maintain watershed dams and other conservation projects that are the responsibility of the District. Seek additional projects when feasible and appropriate.
6. Maintain affiliation with the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) and participate in their program.
7. Promote and educate landowners and industry personnel on Forestry Best Management Practices and/or pursue adoption and enforcement of local forestry Erosion and Sediment Control ordinances.
8. Encourage sound Land-Use in locality Zoning and Comprehensive Plans through promotion of:
 - Agricultural-Forestal Districts
 - Conservation Easements
 - Riparian Buffers
 - Land-Use Valuation
9. Assist the Department of Conservation/Recreation (DCR) as appropriate in administering erosion and sedimentation control certification program.
10. Refine the Strategic Plan to include further cooperation with Region 2000 (PDC) and the localities Boards of Supervisors and Planning Commissions.

Objective IV: Acquire additional resources and equipment.

1. Recruit volunteers to supplement technical staff.

2. Continue to recruit, train, and support interns, as help for staff, and liaisons with area colleges, universities, and the community.
3. Develop and continuously update District Web site.

Objective V: Promote comprehensive storm water management planning.

1. Maintain ongoing assessment of storm water management problems throughout the District by means of liaison with local government agencies and volunteer groups that share our concerns.
2. Develop and manage specific constructive and corrective projects such as the Blackwater Creek Restoration Project.

Objective VI: Assist Watershed Improvement District

1. Cooperate with Timberlake property owners in operation of Watershed Improvement District (WID).
2. Promote WID as a successful model that could be used as a template for new WIDs.
3. Work with Timberlake WID and homeowners above the lake to become more aware of their roles in protecting water quality in the lake.
4. Pursue initiation of watershed survey. Explore possibilities for funding, intern labor and the development/distribution of educational materials.

Objective VII: Assist Amherst Watershed Protection Program

1. Support the watershed protection program for Amherst County and the Town of Amherst to encourage source water protection and reduction of non-point source pollution impacts to their drinking water supplies.

2. Provide District staff for a Watershed Coordinator who will conduct continuous surveys of the protected watersheds and advise Amherst County land users on the installation and maintenance of agricultural and urban soil & water conservation practices with concentration on the Amherst County's watershed protection ordinance.
3. Provide District staff who will administer the Amherst County Service Authority's local grant/cost-share incentive program.
4. Review the Memorandum of Understanding with the Amherst County Service Authority and Town of Amherst annually.

Objective VIII: Participate in conservation across District boundaries:

Tributary Strategies
Region 2000 Commission
Watershed Roundtables
Total Maximum Daily Loads
College Lake Advisory Committee
Roanoke River Basin
Greater Lynchburg Environmental Network

Objective IX: Acknowledge DCR support of the District

1. Recognize the conservation partnership the District has with DCR and the support and assistance provided by the DCR to each district.
2. Acknowledge this partnership and support through District recognition of DCR's primary partner agencies within the various printed documents produced by the district. Specifically, the District's Strategic Plan, Annual Plan and Annual Report will acknowledge DCR support and financial assistance by written acknowledgment in the following format:

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.