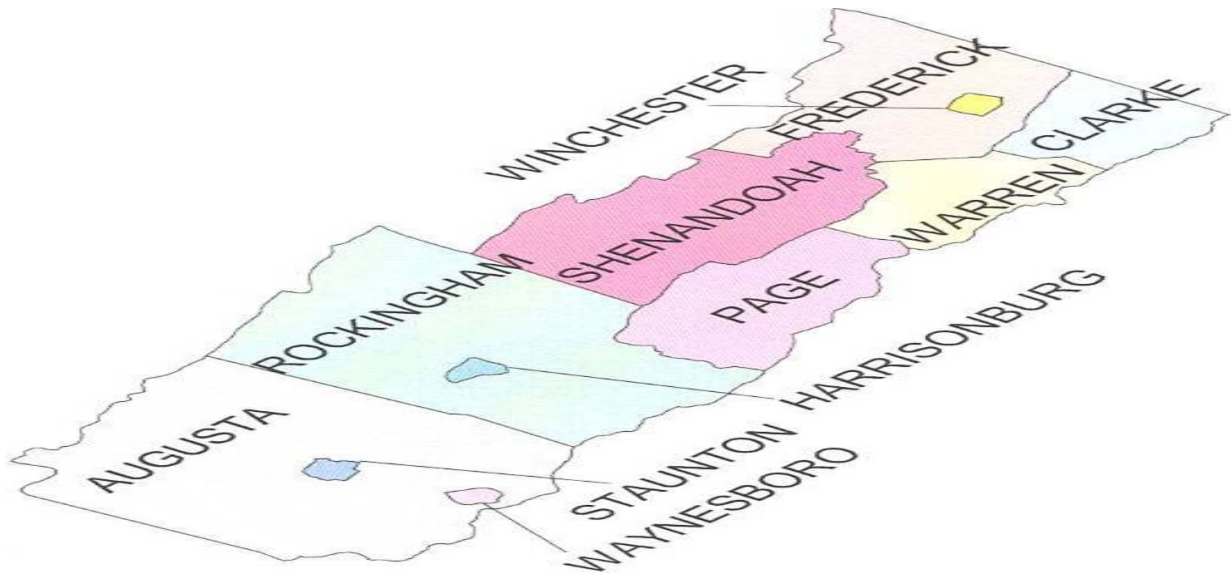


Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council

**Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Plan of Work
July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006**



Administered by

Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council

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**A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving Virginia in Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham,
Shenandoah, and Warren Counties; and
the cities of Harrisonburg, Waynesboro, Staunton, and Winchester**

Forward

The US Secretary of Agriculture designated the Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development Area under the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, as amended. The purpose of the Area is to promote rural development in the Shenandoah River watershed of Virginia.

The Shenandoah RC&D Council, (a nonprofit organization), leads implementation of RC&D activities in the Area. **The Council's mission is to enhance the quality of public and private decisions and programs in the Shenandoah River watershed as they affect the care and use of natural resources.**

The Shenandoah RC&D Council focuses on:

- Optimizing nutrient management and utilization in the Valley
- Conserving open spaces, forestland and farmland in the Valley; assisting with community development
- Encouraging diverse and healthy rural economies
- Improving water management in the Valley
- Providing information and education and assisting with homeland security

To achieve this mission, the Shenandoah RC&D Council has adopted this Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Plan of Work. This document is designed to be a flexible management tool the Council uses to guide its activities throughout the fiscal year. Benefits of the Annual Plan of Work include:

- Allowing continuity of action from one year to the next.
- Keeping everyone working toward the same goal.
- Informing the sponsors about Shenandoah RC&D Council activities.
- Forming the basis for technical assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in accessing programs and services from USDA and others to achieve the Council's goals and objectives.

Approval

The Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. hereby adopts the Annual Plan of Work for Fiscal Year 2006 and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the strategies and goals outlined herein. This action taken at the Council's regular meeting held on July 11, 2005.

Shenandoah RC&D Council Chair

Date

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service Concurrence

NRCS State Conservationist

Date

**“All programs and assistance of the Shenandoah RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD).
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”**

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SERVICES

The Shenandoah RC&D Council provides diverse services in the areas of natural resources and community development. The Council provides technical assistance to its sponsors and organizations consistent with the Shenandoah RC&D Council annual and strategic plans. The Council places a high priority on projects and issues that affect large portions of the Area. The Council and its Committees undertake projects consistent with the annual and strategic plans. Sponsors and other organizations desiring assistance may make a request in writing to the Council. All sources of technical and financial assistance are explored. RC&D does not address projects that can best be addressed by others or where collaboration is not needed or possible.

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK OVERVIEW

The Annual Plan of Work is an annual action plan focusing and directing the activities of the Shenandoah RC&D Council. Planning builds a framework leading to the achievement of organizational goals and objectives.

Some benefits of an annual plan:

- Defines the actions needed to meet established goals and objectives in a defined time frame within the organization's capacity for implementation.
- Communicates those actions to the organization's constituents.
- Ensures the most effective use is made of the organization's resources by focusing the resources on important priorities.
- Provides a base from which progress can be measured and establish a mechanism for informed change when needed.

NEW PROJECTS

The Annual Plan of Work is an adaptable document with modifications made throughout the year as opportunities arise or shift. New projects may be added to the Annual Plan of Work as needed. Project proposals may be submitted to the Council for its consideration throughout the year. They may be submitted by individuals, local governments, and other organizations that are focused on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Shenandoah Valley. The project proposal is assigned by the Council to the appropriate RC&D Committee for evaluation and recommendation to the Council. Proposed projects need to meet two criteria. First, the project must be compatible with the Shenandoah RC&D Council's goals and objectives. Second, the project needs to have a project leader and other citizens ready to make the project happen. Without grassroots citizen participation and leadership, the project will not succeed.

FISCAL YEAR 2006 WORK PLAN: PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

July 1, 2005

Project #	Project/Activity	Status	Responsible Person	Purpose	Major Funder(s)
04-4	Shenandoah Watershed Restoration and Outreach Project	Completed (Sept. 13, 2004)	Whitescarver	Water Quality/Quantity	Chesapeake Bay Foundation; National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
04-2	Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Promote Local PDR Programs, and Help Localities Secure Funding for PDRs	Completed (May 9, 2005)	Holm/Eckman/Comanor/Lawrence	Farmland and Open Space Preservation	Beirne Carter Foundation; Agua Fund
04-1	Increase Tree City USA participation by Valley communities	Completed (May 9, 2005)	Comanor/Holm	Economic Vitality; Water Quality	Technical assistance
04-3	Study Feasibility for bringing Soybean Crusher/Biodiesel Refinery to Valley	Completed (May 9, 2005)	Nichols/Holm/Clark	Rural Economic Vitality	Technical assistance
05-2	Waste Solutions Forum – Phase I	Completed (May 9, 2005)	Gardner/Holm/Bauhan	Nutrient Management	Agua Fund, VA Tech, CBF, ED, Farm Bureau, Virginia Dairyman's Assoc, VA Poultry Federation, and other state partners
05-9	Conversion of Poultry Litter to Pyrodiesel and Slow-Release Fertilizer	In progress	Shiflet/Bauhan/Holm/Agblevor	Nutrient Management	Agua Fund
05-1	Community Fire Protection Program Partner	In progress	Comanor/Holm/NR Highlands RC&D	Forestry	Stevens Amendment Funding % \$200,000
05-8	Nutrient Input and Removal Verification	In progress	Kaylor/Holm	Nutrient Management	Agua Fund
05-3	Volunteer Farm	In progress	Blair/Holm/Comanor	Open Space, Farmland, Forestry and Community Development	Technical Assistance
05-4	Rockingham County Produce Auction	In progress	Bendfeldt/Stanley/Holm/Nichols	Rural Vitality	Agua Fund
05-5	Augusta County Sustainable Ag Task Force Enhancement	In progress	Shiflet/Holm/Nichols	Rural Vitality	Agua Fund
05-6	Winchester City Market	In progress	Kearns/Holm/Nichols	Rural Vitality	Agua Fund
05-7	Fitch Individual Home Small Sewage Discharge	In progress	Benzing/Holm/Carr	Water Quality/Quantity	319 Funds DCR

	Project and Activity Proposals Under Consideration for Fiscal Year 2006				
Activity	Outreach/Relationship Building – To local SWCDs, local governments, member organizations & others, to enhance awareness of and forge working relationships with RC&D through meetings and letters		Council/Holm	Capacity Building	N/A
	Biofuels Forum: Explore options for educating and promoting biofuels and alternative energy for home and on-farm use in the Valley		E&I Committee/ Lawrence /Holm	Education and Information	DMME/Blue Ridge Alternative Fuels
Activity	Maintain Shenandoah RC&D Website		E&I Committee/ Cormier/Holm	Capacity Building	N/A
Activity	Help enhance media and public awareness of Shenandoah RC&D		E&I Committee/ Comanor/Holm/ Cormier/ Council	Capacity Building	N/A
	Offer key local government officials training in PDR programs, especially funding options		Farmland, OS, Community Development Committee Comanor/Holm/ Eckman	Farmland/Open Space Preservation; Education	Agua Fund?
Activity	Establish a Community Development subcommittee to specifically address community development issues		Farmland, OS, Community Development Committee Comanor/Holm/ Eckman	Community Development	N/A
Activity	Review criteria for proposal submission/tracking		E&I Committee/ Holm	Capacity Building	N/A
Activity	Purchase Council Computer and financial software, set up basic financial statements to track Council funds, reimbursements, etc.		Council/Holm/ Cormier	Capacity Building	Tides Foundation

Activity	Help identify, clarify and define what RC&D strengths and assistance capacity are, what RC&D has to offer, and communicate that more clearly		E&I Committee/ Council/Holm	Capacity Building	N/A
	Look for ways to fund recommendations and action items from Waste Solutions Forum that relate to water quality		Water Quality Committee/ Benzing/Holm	Water Quality	
Activity	Consult with county planning commissions and regional planning commissions on how RC&D can support better management of urban, suburban, and rural lands; address their board meetings		Council/Holm	Capacity Building; Project Development	
Activity	As RC&D members brief the Council on their organizations, ask them to also educate on one issue their organization addresses that affects the RC&D region		Council	Capacity Building/Project Development/Education	N/A
Activity	Inform the Council about particular subject areas that affect RC&D work		Committees	All Council goals	N/A
Activity	Identify up to three locally led watershed groups and foster their efforts; assist with identified projects. FY 2006: Black's Run Greenway; Friends of the Shenandoah River; either Riverfest or Lewis Creek WQ Advisory Committee		Water Quality Committee/ Benzing/Holm	Water Quality/Quantity	
Activity	Create a Directors notebook that provides information/materials for Council and associate members; outlines participation in Council activities and additional opportunities		Cormier/Holm/ Comanor	Capacity Building	Tides Foundation
Activity	Explore Homeland Security venues and ask each RC&D committee to explore Homeland Security projects, funding and options related		All Committees		

	to its goals and objectives				
Activity	Look for action points where RC&D might fit in with the Regional Water Policy Committee when it releases its final report April 2006		Water Quality/Quantity Committee/ E&I Committee	Water Quality/Quantity	
Activity	Look for homeland security links and funding to ensure a complete effort for water quantity data through the SVRWRPC Water supply Action Plan process. Review data in December 2005 when it becomes available, prior to plan finalization in April 2006.		Water Quality/Quantity Committee		
Activity	Help support the Shenandoah RC&D FY 2006 Area Plan and associated planning process		Council/all Committees	Required by NRCS as part of Area Designation Agreement	CVI?
Activity	Do preliminary preparation work for the 2007 VARC&DC meeting, hosted by Shenandoah RC&D		Lawrence/Comanor/Holm/E&I Committee	Required for State Association Participation	FSA, Forest Service, Agua Fund, CVI?
	Explore possibilities for introducing local food(s) in schools or similar institutions		Nichols/Holm/Rural Vitality Committee	Rural Vitality	SARE
	The Future of Agriculture in the Shenandoah Basin: workshop/summit/study?		E&I Committee/Lawrence/Holm/Schertz	Rural Economic Vitality/Education	Numerous grant possibilities
Activity	Review report from Agua Fund sustainable ag session for further exploration turning ideas to projects, such as Shenandoah Valley branding		Rural Vitality Committee/Nichols/ Holm/Lawrence	Rural Economic Vitality	
Activity	Explore McGaheysville Dam site plan and education center/Blueway for conservation and RC&D possibilities		Water Quality committee/Benzing/Greene/Holm	Water Quality	NFWF and others
	Explore Rockingham County Fair Association Water Management Plan for Conservation Opportunities		Water Quality/Quantity Committee/Holm/Benzing/Talley	Water Quality	CVI, TNC funds?, others
	Explore Possibilities for having a Shenandoah River Waterkeeper		Water Quality/Greene/Holm/Benzing	Water Quality	Keith Campbell/VEE/others
	Explore offering a workshop on forest management in the urban interface in		Forestry Subcommittee/Comanor/Holm/	Water Quality/Forestry Conservation	DOF

	conjunction with the 2005 Community Fire Protection Project, along with training as requested or other workshops as needed		Worrell		
Activity	Pursue "Circle of Diamonds" certification through NARCDC		Council	Capacity building/recognition	Administrative fees
Activity	Work with partners, including Sandy Greene, Headwaters SWCD, to explore agritourism possibilities for the Area launched for Jamestown 2007, but pursued beyond.		Council/Holm/Greene	Rural Vitality/Open Space	

Fiscal Year 2006 Council Meeting Dates

Monday, September 12, 2005

Monday, November 14, 2005

Monday, January 9, 2006

Monday, March 13, 2006

Monday, May 8, 2006

Monday, July 10, 2006

Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

Mission, Goals, and Objectives, and Potential Related Activities

Mission: to enhance the quality of public and private decisions and programs in the Shenandoah Valley as they affect the care and use of natural resources.

Goal A: Plan for the wise use of natural resources to improve their quality and value.

- Objective 01. Provide assistance to the NRCS and Conservation Districts in the implementation of locally led conservation.
- Objective 02. Work with local agricultural groups to protect and improve agricultural lands and assure a strong agricultural sector in the state.
- Objective 03. Seek ways to improve local, state, and federal planning activities and promote sound land use decisions.
- Objective 04. Improve forestry productivity and income potential through better forestry management.
- Objective 05. Work with local governments and groups to reduce flooding, stop water pollution, reduce soil erosion, and improve water quality.
- Objective 06. Increase the awareness of the importance of proper lawn management techniques for suburban and urban homeowners.
- Objective 07. Promote Civil Rights Outreach activities as they relate to agriculture and natural resources management.
- Objective 08. Promote conservation partnership activities through conservation tours, workshops, conferences, etc.

Goal B: Strengthen the overall operations of the Shenandoah RC&D Council

- Objective 01. Update the Council's Annual Plan
- Objective 02. Manage finances and resources to ensure the sustainability of the Shenandoah RC&D Council.
 - Develop a fund raising plan and be accountable to funders.
 - Ensure current sources of revenue are stable.
 - Develop and approve the annual budget.
 - Monitor budget implementation.
 - Ensure adequate financial controls.
 - Conduct an annual audit by a CPA with nonprofit experience.

- Annually submit 990 to the IRS.
 - Maintain 501(c)(3) status.
 - Annually review Council insurance needs.
 - Establish and update policies to facilitate Council operations.
 - Monitor operations.
 - Install and use Quickbooks to monitor project status and expenditures.
 - Strengthen programs and services.
 - Ensure legal and ethical integrity.
- Objective 03. Conduct outreach to local governments, organizations, and individuals to enforce the presence of the Shenandoah RC&D and inform others of the Council's role and services available.
 - Ensure community input is solicited, heard and incorporated in all RC&D plans.
 - Objective 04. Provide materials for Council members and associate members in a Director's notebook that outlines participation in Council activities and additional opportunities.
 - Objective 05. Maintain Shenandoah RC&D Council's website.
 - Objective 06. Submit nominations for regional and national RC&D awards as appropriate.
 - Objective 07. Seek ways to improve and strengthen the RC&D program.
 - Objective 08. Plan for the Shenandoah RC&D FY 2006 Area Plan Update.
 - Objective 09. Help enhance media and public awareness of Shenandoah RC&D.
 - Objective 10. Establish and maintain working relationships across the whole Area, including with local governments.

Goal C: Optimize nutrient management and utilization in the Valley

- Objective 01. Develop a poultry litter collection and redistribution program.
 - A. Foster awareness of bio-security issues as they relate to litter collection, redistribution and disposal; assist in preparedness for large-scale food/animal disease outbreaks.
 - Explore issues related to composting and incinerating dead animals, including on-farm systems.
 - Explore public/private on-time litter transport business with Poultry Federation and other partners.
- Objective 02. Optimize nutrient recycling in the Valley and throughout Virginia where possible with animal and other organic wastes to improve soil quality.
 - Help make SWCD and Extension more aware of what Shenandoah RC&D does and ensure SWCD directors inform Shenandoah RC&D Council of issues and opportunities.
 - Solicit projects that promote soil quality since production agriculture is losing soil carbon at a rate greater than it is being replenished.
 - Ensure the need to improve soil quality is considered in projects since it ties in with water use efficiency in crop production.
 - Monitor the state of agriculture in the Valley.

- Develop education and information programs on environmental issues related to nutrient management.
- Foster applications for projects that deal with recycling organic wastes.
- Objective 03. Explore emerging options related to nutrient management and disposal including waste to energy options.
 - Consider bio-solids issues.
 - Determine what support Shenandoah RC&D can offer to Waste Solutions Forum follow-up and implementation of final plan.

Goal D: Conserve open space, forestland and farmland in the Valley; assist with community development

- Objective 01: Address issues of farm transition and estate planning within the farming community.
- Objective 02: Provide support to counties that are developing Purchase of Development Rights Programs, in conjunction with public and private partners.
 - Offer key local governments training in PDR programs, especially funding options.
- Objective 03: Look for ways to conserve and improve forestland, woodlots on farms, and reduce farm and forest fragmentation.
- Objective 04: Encourage planning and low impact development concepts that minimize sprawl and protect working rural lands and water resources.
 - Ask area Planning District Commissions how RC&D can support better management of urban, suburban, and rural lands; address their board meetings.
- Objective 05: Establish a Community Development Subcommittee to specifically address community development issues.

Goal E: Encourage diverse and healthy rural economies

- Objective 01. Develop value-added marketing strategies for local products.
 - Explore possibilities for introducing local food(s) in schools or similar institutions.
 - Review report from Agua Fund sustainable agriculture session for further exploration turning ideas, such as Shenandoah Valley branding, to projects.
- Objective 02. Enhance local business economic development.
 - Meet with key city and county representatives to let them know about RC&D.

Goal F: Improve water management in the Valley

- Objective 01. Protect and improve surface and ground water resources to ensure its quality and quantity for drinking, agricultural, industrial, household and recreational purposes.
 - Work with Nutrient Management Committee on animal waste issues that affect water quality. Meet with them at least annually.

- Identify up to three locally led watershed groups and foster their efforts, assist with identified projects. For FY 2006: Black's Run Greenway; Friends of the Shenandoah River; and either Riverfest or the Lewis Creek Water Quality Advisory Committee.
 - Explore McGaheysville Dam site plan and education center/Blueway for conservation and RC&D opportunities.
 - Explore possibilities for having a Shenandoah River Waterkeeper.
 - Look for ways to fund recommendations and action items from the Waste Solutions Forum that relate to water quality.
 - Explore conservation possibilities for a Rockingham County Fair Association Water Management Plan and demonstration site.
- Objective 02. Support the Shenandoah Valley Regional Water Resources Policy Committee in developing a water supply action plan.
 - Look for action points where RC&D might fit in with the Regional Water Policy Committee when it releases a final report.
 - Look for homeland security links and funding to ensure a complete effort for water quantity data through the SVRWRPD Water Supply Action Plan process. Review data in December when it becomes available, prior to plan finalization in April 2006.
 - Objective 03. Support the Pure Water Forum and associated partners in collecting and communicating water quality data.

Goal G: Provide information and education and assist with homeland security efforts

- Objective 01. Enhance the quality of public and private policy decisions in the Shenandoah River Valley, particularly with respect to how these decisions affect the care, use, and security of natural resources.
 - Biofuels Forum: Explore options for educating and promoting biofuels and alternative energy for home and on-farm use in the Valley.
 - Find Homeland Security \$\$ sources related to natural resources.
 - Pose the question of homeland security to our committees – what is needed? What are other RC&Ds doing with homeland security projects/funding?
- Objective 02. Help facilitate coordination between the RC&D Council, organizations, and local governments and ensure awareness of the RC&D role; communicate regularly with RC&D members and associate members.
 - As RC&D members brief the Council on their organizations, ask them to also educate on one issue their organization address that affects the RC&D region.
 - Inform the Council about particular subject areas that affects RC&D work.
 - Review criteria for review of proposals/tracking.
 - Help identify, clarify and define what RC&D strengths and assistance capacity are, what RC&D has to offer, and communicate that more clearly.
 - Reach out to each member organization, NGO's, and stakeholder groups, and get them to talk to their local governments about RC&D