

2006 – Year in Review

Thanks to our Funders!

Some of Shenandoah RC&D Council's highlights from the past year:

- Provided funding for Agricultural Task Forces, in Augusta and Shenandoah Counties, to gather necessary resources to make recommendations to their Board of Supervisors on how to strengthen agriculture in their counties. Augusta County is implementing their report. Shenandoah County's Task Force expects to complete its report in October 2006;
- Provided small grants to various organizations totaling approximately \$50,000 for projects that promote sustainable agriculture in the region such as long-term studies to examine no-till versus conventional tillage on soil quality on Valley farms, funding for workshops on farm estate planning, Farming 101, and producer education for growers to the Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction;
- Helped compile and distribute 1,000 copies of a Local Producers' Guide directing people to agricultural products produced in the Shenandoah Valley;
- Provided funding for a field crop summer intern to work with Virginia Cooperative Extension in Shenandoah County to assess nitrates in soil and identify ways to reduce excessive fertilizer use;
- Sponsored and coordinated two free public workshops
 - Intensive Cover Crop Management attended by nearly 100 people which included site visits to three farms in Rockingham County;
 - Biodiesel for Municipal and County Fleets attended by approximately 70 people who heard from three experts on biodiesel feasibility;
- Continued work with Waste Solutions Forum (WSF) to help solve issues related to excess nutrients from animal agriculture in the Valley and assist with water quality improvements;
- Assisted Volunteer Farm with hiring a Farm Manager to increase vegetable production to donate to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank;

Agua Fund, Inc.
Virginia Environmental Endowment

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Keith Campbell Foundation



Volunteer Farm

- Secured funding from the Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment to hire a Waste Solutions Forum intern to help implement WSF recommendations;
- With funding from the Virginia Environmental Endowment, met with officials from seven counties and four independent cities to find out local land and water protection priorities and financing needs. Will provide expertise on specific approaches for financing solutions in 2007;
- Provided funding for research on turning poultry litter into bio-oil and char fertilizer through pyrolysis technology. Initial results showed the technology's feasibility and has led to subsequent funding to scale up the project for farm scale trials;
- Secured funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to hire a full-time marketer for organic waste in the Shenandoah Valley for three years;

- Completed the Area Plan that set Council goals and objectives for the next five years. An at-large member was added to diversify Council representation of the Valley's population;
- Made two pieces of on-farm equipment available to local farmers through partnerships with other organizations:
 - Cover crop roller-crimper
 - Portable scales



Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction



Portable Scales



Roller/Crimper

The Shenandoah RC&D Council's mission is to sponsor and promote projects and programs that improve the quality of life and sustainable use of natural resources, primarily in the Shenandoah River Watershed, by providing volunteer leadership, technical resources, and financial assistance.

Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council

Introduction:

The Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area lies between the Allegheny and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the northwestern section of Virginia. It includes the independent cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester as well as the counties and towns of Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren. The seven counties in the RC&D Area comprise Virginia's Shenandoah River watershed which drains to the Chesapeake Bay. The headwaters for two major watersheds reside here, the Shenandoah and the Upper James.

The Valley boasts four of the top five agricultural counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia in terms of agricultural receipts. In addition to agriculture, the Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area is rich in natural resources including water.

The Shenandoah RC&D Council was formed in 2001 to pull together resources to address a variety of regional concerns too big for any one organization to undertake. The RC&D provides a community-based vehicle for assisting in the regional management and development of the natural, social, and economic resources of the Valley. The Shenandoah RC&D Council, in fulfilling its mission and vision, can serve as a catalyst and partner with others to strengthen resource protection and enhancement over time.

Vision:

The Shenandoah RC&D Council works with partners to make the Valley region a world class example of efficient and equitable conservation, sustainable development, and stewardship.

Shenandoah RC&D's 2006 Preliminary Financial Report (Unaudited)

Carryover from FY2005

Projects:	\$27,552
Admin.:	\$16,153
Total	\$43,705

Income during FY2006

Projects:	\$143,700
Admin:	\$5,000
Total	\$148,700

Expenses during FY2006

Projects:	\$47,472
Admin.:	\$11,646
Total	\$59,118

Carryover to FY2007

Projects:	\$123,780
Admin.:	\$9,507
Total	\$133,287

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Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council



2006

Annual Report