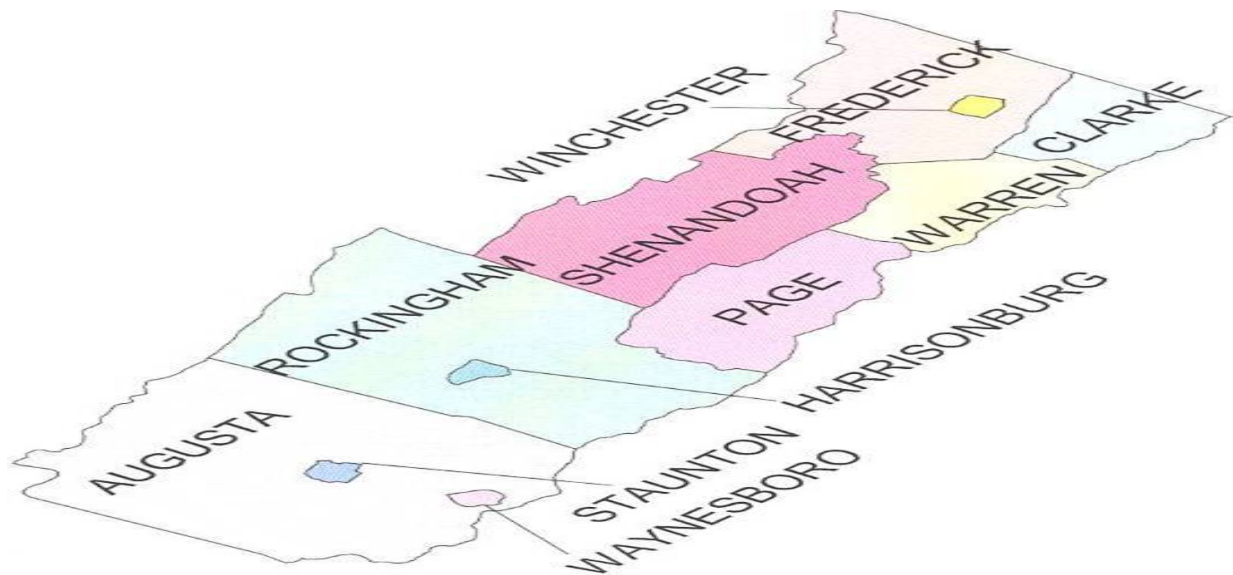


# **Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council**

**Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Plan of Work  
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007**



Administered by

**Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council**

♦P.O. Box 60, Verona, VA 24482 ♦Phone: (540) 248-3321 ♦Fax: (540) 248-5502

**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 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.**

The Shenandoah RC&D Council focuses on:

- Promoting managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space;
- Promoting a sustainable agricultural sector;
- Promoting the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water and air quality;
- Promoting community development and diverse rural economies;
- Strengthening Shenandoah RC&D Council operations.

To achieve this mission, the Shenandoah RC&D Council has adopted this Fiscal Year 2007 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 2007 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 10, 2006.

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Shenandoah RC&D Council Chairwoman

Date

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Shenandoah RC&D Secretary/Treasurer

Date

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

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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.”**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b><u>SERVICES</u></b>	<b>p. 4</b>
<b><u>ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK OVERVIEW</u></b>	<b>p. 4</b>
<b><u>NEW PROJECTS</u></b>	<b>p. 4</b>
<b><u>FISCAL YEAR 2006 WORK PLAN: PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES SUMMARY</u></b>	<b>p. 6</b>
<b><u>COUNCIL MEETING DATES</u></b>	<b>p. 10</b>

## **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 Area 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 Area 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.

The annual plan will be reviewed at least quarterly and updated as projects are completed or otherwise modified in any major way. Progress documentation will be handled through Council meeting minutes and project updates provided as appropriate at Council meetings. The annual plan will be adjusted to reflect completed/cancelled/withdrawn projects and major modification of projects.

## **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, non-profits, 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.

## **BUDGET**

The budget associated with the Council's annual plan of work and administrative obligations is a separate document that is approved annually at the same meeting as the Annual Plan of Work. When separate project proposals are received and approved and grant funds are sought and received, then each project has a separate budget associated with it.

## **COORDINATOR TIME OBLIGATIONS**

A rough estimate of coordinator time obligations to carry out all coordinator duties and responsibilities based on a workload analysis is as follows: 34% of time spent on projects; 34% of time spent on Council duties and administration; 6% of time spent on Virginia Association of RC&D Councils responsibilities; 26% of time spent on NRCS duties.

## **PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

Partners organizations to carry out RC&D work include, but are not limited to: AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA); DCR: (Virginia) Department of Conservation and Recreation; DEQ: (Virginia) Department of Environmental Quality; DMME: (Virginia) Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy; DOE: United States Department of Energy; DOF: (Virginia) Department of Forestry; EPA: Environmental Protection Agency; ECA: Evergreen Capitol Advisors, Inc.; EFC: Environmental Finance Center (University of Maryland); FB: Farm Bureau; FSA: Farm Service Agency (USDA); JMU: James Madison University; NASS: National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA); NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA); PC: Potomac Conservancy; PWF: Pure Water Forum; RD: Rural Development (USDA); SWCDs: Soil and Water Conservation Districts; USFS: United States Forest Service; Va Tech: Virginia Tech; VCC: Valley Conservation Council; VCE: Virginia Cooperative Extension (Virginia Tech)

# FISCAL YEAR 2007 WORK PLAN: PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

July 1, 2006

	Proposals Under Consideration for Fiscal Year 2007					
Project/ Activity	Action Items	Status	Responsible Person	Purpose	Major Funder(s)	Estimated Project Cost
Project	Community Fire Protection Program Partner	In progress	Comanor/Holm/NR Highlands RC&D	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality	Stevens Amendment Funding % \$200,000	\$200,000
Project	Rockingham County Produce Auction	In progress – need report from Eric Bendfeldt	Bendfeldt/Stanley/Holm/Nichols	Promote sustainable ag sector	Agua Fund	\$6,500 Shen RC&D share
Project	Winchester City Market	Changed to Farmer's Market Workshop	Kearns/Holm/Bendfeldt	Promote sustainable ag sector	Agua Fund	\$1,000
Project	Biodiesel for Municipal and County Fleets	In progress	Nichols/Holm	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality	Agua Fund	\$700
Project	Community Financing for Local Land/Water Protection	In progress	Comanor/HolmLawrence/Eck	Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space.	Technical Assistance, VEE, Agua Fund, EFC, ECA	\$30,000 or more
Project	Field Crop Summer Intern	In progress	Luebben/Clark/Holm	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality	Agua Fund	\$4,100
Project	On-farm and Rural Production of Biodiesel	In progress	Nichols/Holm/Lawrence	Promote sustainable ag sector	Agua Fund	\$500
Project	Roller/Crimper Promotion	In progress	Luebben/Holm Phillips/Jones/	Promote conservation of natural resources, inc. water and air quality	Agua Fund/NRCS/SVSW CD	\$12,000 plus in-kind

<b>Proposals Under Consideration for Fiscal Year 2007</b>						
<b>Project/ Activity</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Major Funders</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Project	Shen Cty Sust Ag Task Frc	Ongoing	Comanor/Clark	Promote sustainable ag sector	Agua Fund	\$3,700
Project	Soil Quality: Long Term Field Testing Plots	Ongoing	Jones/Holm/	Promote sustainable ag sector	Agua Fund	\$2,500
Project	Waste Solutions Forum II	Ongoing	Holm/Bendfeldt	Promote sustainable ag sector	NFWF/Agua Fund/Campbell	\$1,006,250
Activity could be project	Continue to explore alternative fuels including biodiesel and ethanol. Consider offering further seminars.	Ongoing	E&I Committee/ Rural Vitality Lawrence / Holm/Nichols	Promote sustainable ag sector	DMME/Blue Ridge Clean Fuels/JMU	N/A
Activity	Maintain Shenandoah RC&D Website	Ongoing Maintenance – Web Site Completed	E&I Committee/ Cormier/Holm	Strengthen RC&D Council operations	N/A	N/A
Activity	Continue to monitor Ag Task Force recommendations (Augusta and Shenandoah) and consider the committee's role	Ongoing	Rural Vitality Committee/ Comanor/Holm/	Promote sustainable ag sector	N/A	N/A
Activity	Consider sponsoring a seminar for local foods to schools/other institutions. Ensure USDA guidelines are followed.	Ongoing	Rural Vitality Committee/ Bendfeldt/ Holm	Promote sustainable ag sector	Agua Fund?	N/A
Activity	Establish a Community Development subcommittee	Coming out of Area Plan	Open Space/Eck Comanor/Holm	Promote community development and diverse rural economies	N/A	N/A

<b>Proposals Under Consideration for Fiscal Year 2007</b>						
<b>Project/ Activity</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Major Funders</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Activity	Shen-Air/JMU – Keep committee apprised of progress and see where RC&D may fit in and partner on projects/workshops.	Ongoing	Council/Holm/Benzing/Kerr	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality	N/A	N/A
Activity	Consider more effective ways to do recycling on a regional scale	Ongoing	Rural Vitality/Nichols/Comanor/Holm	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality	N/A	N/A
Activity	Assist Augusta County in working on “Assign a Highway” project, seminar in August	Ongoing	Open Space/Rural Vitality committees	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality	N/A	N/A
Activity	Consider how RC&D might assist in getting the “Regional Urban Low-Impact Design Manual: A Natural Approach,” into the hands of developers	Ongoing	Rural Vitality Committee/ Education and Information Committee/Kerr/Crenshaw	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality	N/A	N/A
Activity	Consider other “trails” we might make in the Valley related to tourism/local products/wineries/etc., to promote tourism and agriculture. For example, the northern Valley has the apple trail; how might RC&D find and name others.	Ongoing	Rural Vitality Committee	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality	N/A	N/A

<b>Proposals Under Consideration for Fiscal Year 2007</b>						
<b>Project/ Activity</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Major Funders</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Activity and Project(s)	Look for ways to fund recommendations and action items from Waste Solutions Forum that relate to water quality	Ongoing	Water Quality Committee/ Nutrient Management/ Benzing/Holm/Lueben	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality	NFWF/Agua Fund/Keith Campbell Foundation	Unlimited
Project	Work with localities to support the Community Financing Project, specifically supporting greenway financing charrettes for cities and towns, including Harrisonburg, Waynesboro, Staunton, and Winchester.	Ongoing	Water Quality Committee/ Benzing/Holm/Open Space Committee	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality; Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space.	VEE/Agua Fund	\$29,000
Activity	Consider educational role RC&D can play in terms of statewide groundwater protection ordinances and legislation. Look to NARCDC for guidance.	Ongoing	Water Quality Committee/ Benzing/Holm	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality	N/A	N/A
Activity	Explore opportunities for education on stormwater management (including MS4 permits) starting in Harrisonburg.	Ongoing	Water Quality Committee/ Benzing/Holm	Promote conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on protection of water and air quality	N/A	N/A
Activity	See how VCC's "Size and Scale of Industrial Development" Forum works out and consider partnering with VCC to offer others.	Ongoing	Education and Information Committee (E&I)	Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space.	N/A	N/A

<b>Proposals Under Consideration for Fiscal Year 2007</b>						
<b>Project/ Activity</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Major Funders</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Activity	Consider offering Green Infrastructure educational events over the coming year, to the Council and to VARCDC and each Council in VA.	Ongoing	E&I Committee/ Open Space Committee	Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space	N/A	N/A
Activity	Tie Green Infrastructure educational events to local Comp Plan updates; start with Page County	Ongoing	E&I Committee	Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space	N/A	N/A
Activity	Do preliminary preparation work for the 2007 VARC&DC meeting, hosted by Shenandoah RC&D	Ongoing	Lawrence/Comanor/ Holm/ Nichols	Strengthen RC&D Council operations	FSA, Forest Service, Agua Fund, CVI?	???
Activity	Review information sheets in light of new Area Plan	Ongoing	Lawrence/E&I Committee/ Comanor/Holm	Strengthen RC&D Council operations	N/A	N/A
Activity/ Project	Promote roller/crimper and field days that support sustainable agriculture including fact sheets; fairs; letters, etc.	Ongoing	Nutrient Mgmt Committee/ Luebben/Holm/ Jones/Phillips	Promote a sustainable agricultural sector	NRCS/Agua Fund/in-kind	\$3,000
Activity	Support and help implement WSF energy expo focusing on alternative energy created from organic resources	Ongoing	Nutrient Mgmt Committee	Promote a sustainable agricultural sector	Various sponsors/WSF residual funds	\$4,000
Activity	Provide updates and data on pyrolysis project	Ongoing	Nutrient Mgmt Committee	Promote a sustainable agricultural sector	N/A	N/A
Activity	Work w/VCE on RC&D role in transition to organics	Ongoing	Nutrient Mgmt	Promote sustainable ag sector	N/A	N/A

<b>Proposals Under Consideration for Fiscal Year 2007</b>						
<b>Project/ Activity</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Major Funders</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Activity	PDRs: Push education on PDRs because of Governor's initiative. Consider co-sponsoring educational workshops in our Area; have Council members speak to local legislators. Participate fully in statewide RC&D initiative to support protecting an additional 400,000 acres in VA; consider PDR education at BOS worksessions; incorporate green infrastructure	Ongoing	Eckman/ Comanor/ Lawrence/Open Space Committee/ VARCDC	Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space.	N/A	N/A
Activity	Review project proposal/pre-proposal stages: appropriate?	Ongoing	E&I Committee/ Holm	Strengthen Shenandoah RC&D Council operations	N/A	N/A

**Fiscal Year 2007 Council Meeting Dates**

Monday, September 11, 2006

Monday, November 13, 2006

Monday, January 8, 2007

Monday, March 12, 2007

Monday, May 14, 2007

Monday, July 9, 2007