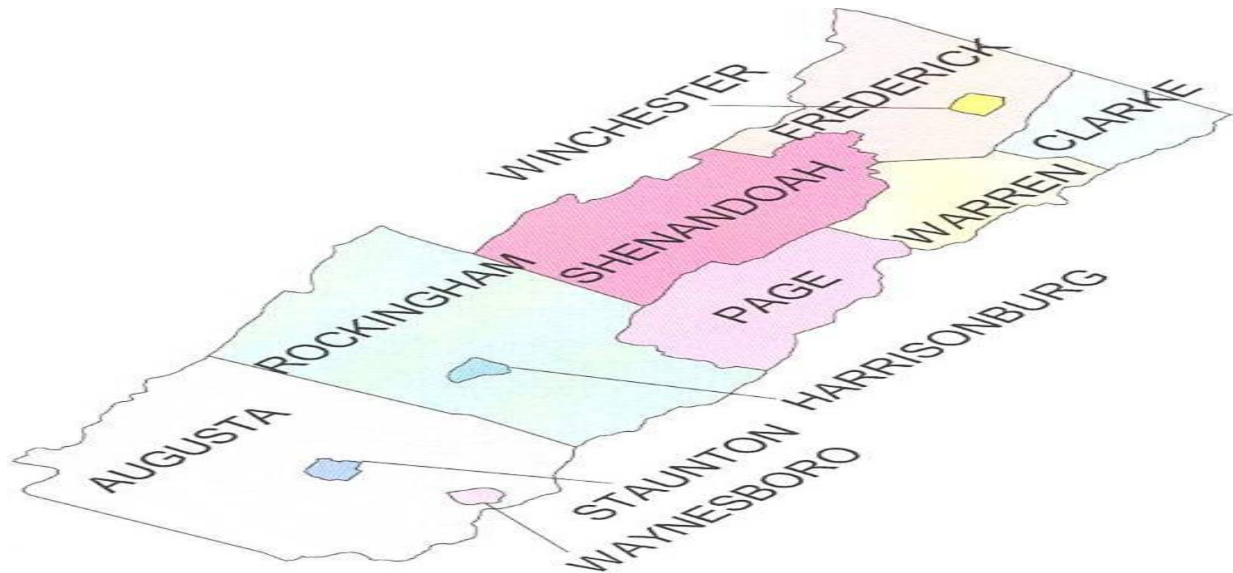


Shenandoah Resource Conservation & Development Council

**Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Plan of Work
July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008**



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 independent 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 2008 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 2008 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 9, 2007.

Shenandoah RC&D Council Chair

Date

Shenandoah RC&D Secretary/Treasurer

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 protection and enhancement 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 or could serve as a model to 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 mid-year and updated as projects are completed or otherwise modified in any major way. Progress documentation will be handled through Council meeting minutes, the NRCS POINTS database, and project updates provided as appropriate at Council meetings. The annual plan and POINTS database will be adjusted to reflect completed/cancelled/withdrawn projects and major project modification.

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 the following 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.

To ensure adequate review, it is recommended that project proposals be received at least two weeks before the scheduled Council meetings.

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. These percentages may vary in any given year.

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); NSVRC: Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission; and CSPDC: Central Shenandoah Valley Planning District Commission

FISCAL YEAR 2008 WORK PLAN: PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008

Goal 1: Promote managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space.

Project/ Activity	Action Items	Status	Responsible Committee	Funders and Partners	Estimated Cost
Project	Community Financing for Local Land/Water Protection	October 31, 2007	Growth Management and Land Protection Committee	Technical Assistance, VEE, Agua Fund, EFC, ECA, VCC, localities	\$25,200
Activity	Develop plan to sponsor 3 info/awareness events related to growth and development. Sponsor 3 events by 2011.	By Dec. 31, 2008	Growth Management and Land Protection Committee	N/A	N/A
Activity	Explore if there is an appropriate niche/role for the Shenandoah RC&D Council to play in affordable housing	By Dec. 31, 2012	Community Development Committee	N/A	N/A
Activity	Identify an appropriate niche/role to play for RC&D Council concerning transportation and land use, roadways, mass transit, and related transportation opportunities.	By Dec. 31, 2010	Growth Management and Land Protection Committee	N/A	N/A
Activity	Consider offering Green Infrastructure educational events over the coming year, to the Council and to VARCDC and each Council in VA.	By Dec. 31, 2008	Growth Management and Land Protection Committee	DOF UCF: \$5,000	\$19,500
Activity	Promote Low Impact Development (LID) and compatible economic development	By Dec. 31, 2011	Community Development Committee	N/A	N/A
Activity	Support Virginia's initiative to preserve 400,000 acres	By Dec. 31, 2011	Growth Management and Land Protection	N/A	N/A

Project/ Activity	Action Items	Status	Responsible Committee	Funders and Partners	Estimated Cost
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	Growth Management and Land Protection Committee	N/A	N/A

Goal 2: Promote a sustainable agricultural sector.

Project/ Activity	Action Items	Status	Responsible Committee	Funders and Partners	Estimated Cost
Project	Harrisonburg Farmers Market	December 30, 2007	Sustainable Ag Committee	Agua Fund	\$5,000
Project	Organic Dairy Systems	September 30, 2008	Sustainable Ag Committee	Agua	\$3,000
Project	Farming Fridays	September 30, 2007	Sustainable Ag Committee	Agua	\$1,500
Project	Steele's Tavern Research Farm	March 31, 2008	Sustainable Ag Committee	Agua Fund	\$3,000
Project	SV Sustainable Cropping Systems Research Study II	June 30, 2008	Sustainable Ag Committee	Agua Fund	\$5,658
Project	SV Sustainable Cropping Systems Research Study I	September 30, 2007	Sustainable Ag Committee	Agua Fund	\$2,500
Project	Dairy Parlor Demonstration Project	December 31, 2008	Sustainable Ag Committee	Agua Fund	\$3,200
Project	On-farm and Rural Production of Biodiesel –	March 12, 2009	Sustainable Ag Committee	Agua Fund	\$10,000

Project/ Activity	Action Items	Status	Responsible Committee	Funders and Partners	Estimated Cost
Project	Crossing Creeks	June 30, 2007	Sustainable Ag Committee	Agua Fund	\$2,150
Project	Farmers Market Workshop	March 31, 2008	Sustainable Ag Committee	Agua Fund	\$1,000
Project	Crop Tree Release with Shiitake Mushrooms	September 30, 2007	Forestry Committee	Agua Fund	\$ 1,625.35
Activity	Continue to promote alternative biomass-related energy. Sponsor at least one workshop or event per year on alternative fuels.	By Dec. 31, 2008	Sustainable Ag Committee	DMME/Blue Ridge Clean Fuels/JMU	
Activity	Monitor Ag Task Force recommendations (Augusta and Shenandoah) and provide support for implementing those recommendations	By Dec. 31, 2008	Sustainable Ag Committee	N/A	N/A
Activity	Increase direct marketing opportunities for farm fresh, local products	By Dec. 31, 2009	Sustainable Ag Committee		

Goal 3: Promote the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water and air quality.

Project/ Activity	Action Items	Status	Responsible Committee	Funders and Partners	Estimated Cost
Project	Roller Crimper Research	September 30, 2007	Natural Resources Committee	Agua Fund	\$4,407.71
Project	North Fork Shenandoah CREP workshop	July 30, 2007	Natural Resources Committee	Agua Fund; FNFWR; LFSWCD	\$750
Project	Pilot Research Project: Livestock Exclusion	December 30, 2010	Natural Resources Committee	Chesapeake Bay Funders Network	\$250,000
Project	Waste Solutions Forum II	October 31, 2010	Natural Resources Committee	NFWF/Agua Fund	\$157,000

Project/ Activity	Action Items	Status	Responsible Committee	Funders and Partners	Estimated Cost
Project	Waste Solutions Forum Intern	July 30, 2007	Natural Resources Committee	Keith Campbell Foundation	\$12,500
Project	Roller/Crimper Promotion	September 30, 2007	Natural Resources Committee	Agua Fund/NRCS/SVSWCD	\$3,000
Project	Field Crop Summer Intern II	September 30, 2007	Natural Resources Committee	Agua Fund	\$3,000
Project	Community Fire Protection Program Partner	September 30, 2007	Natural Resources Committee	Stevens Amendment Funding % \$200,000	\$200,000
Activity	Consider more effective ways to do recycling on a regional scale	Ongoing	Natural Resources Committee	N/A	N/A
Activity	Develop a plan to sponsor 3 info/awareness events related to conserving natural resources.	By Dec. 31, 2008	Natural Resources Committee	N/A	
Activity	Work with SWCDs and other partners to prepare biannual articles summarizing major conservation challenges in the Valley and how they can be improved	By Dec. 31, 2007; 2009; 2011	Natural Resources Committee		
Activity	Look for ways to fund recommendations and action items from Waste Solutions Forum that relate to water quality	Ongoing	Natural Resources Committee	NFWF/Agua Fund/Keith Campbell Foundation	Unlimited
Activity	Assess storm water management efforts by counties and towns and identify specific actions Shenandoah RC&D should take to promote effective storm water management.	By Dec. 31, 2008	Natural Resources Committee		

Project/ Activity	Action Items	Status	Responsible Committee	Major Funders	Estimated Cost
Activity	Promote more intensive water quality monitoring.	By Dec. 31, 2008 (data already collected?)	Natural Resources Committee		
Activity	Undertake 1-2 new forestry projects in FY 2008 related to invasives and community forestry	By Dec. 31, 2008	Natural Resources Committee		

Goal 4: Promote community development and diverse rural economies.

Project/ Activity	Action Items	Status	Responsible Committee	Major Funders	Estimated Cost
Activity	Develop a plan to sponsor 3 events re: community development and diverse rural economies.	By Dec. 31, 2008	Community Development Committee		
Activity	Help bring more environmentally compatible, high wage, high skills jobs to the Valley	By Dec. 31, 2010	Community Development Committee		
Activity	Promote agriculture-based tourism and alternative ag enterprises	By Dec. 31, 2008	Community Development Committee		

Goal 5: Strengthen Shenandoah RC&D Council operations.

Project/ Activity	Action Items	Status	Responsible Committee	Funders and Partners	Estimated Cost
Activity	Increase Council member understanding and build sponsorship support for RC&D	By Dec. 31, 2011	Executive Committee		
Activity	Review and make a plan for holding at least one Council event in each county of the Area	By Dec. 31, 2008	Executive Committee		
Activity	Develop a plan for at least one project	By Dec. 31, 2008	Executive		

	in partnership with each Council sponsor organization		Committee		
Project/ Activity	Action Items	Status	Responsible Committee	Funders and Partners	Estimated Cost
Activity	Review project proposal/pre-proposal stages: are they appropriate?	Ongoing	Executive Committee	N/A	N/A
Activity	Establish and implement a dues policy	By Dec. 31, 2008	Executive Committee	N/A	N/A
Activity	Realign committee structures to reflect Area Plan Goals	By Dec. 31, 2008	Executive Committee	N/A	N/A

Fiscal Year 2008 Council Meeting Dates

(Note: This year, the September and November meetings are the third Monday of the month due to SE Association meeting September 10 and Federal holiday on November 12)

Monday, September 17, 2007

Monday, November 19, 2007

Monday, January 14, 2008

Monday, March 10, 2008

Monday, May 12, 2008

Monday, July 14, 2008