

CAWACO RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

PLAN OF WORK
2007



Our Mission:

To help people protect and develop their economic, natural, and social resources in ways that improve their area's economy, environment, and way of life

Our Vision:

To empower people to help themselves

CAWACO RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK
2008

PURPOSE

Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. has developed this plan to direct its efforts in carrying out objectives in an orderly and efficient manner. Measures listed are based upon the Sponsor's willingness to carry out their collective responsibilities, as well as the availability of technical and financial assistance.

BACKGROUND

Cawaco Resource Conservation and Development Councils help plan and carry out activities that increase conservation of natural resources, support economic development and enhance the environment and standard of living in its Council area. The Council is actively involved in the management of multi county, cross-jurisdictional projects that address natural, financial, and/or human resource opportunities within Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby, and Walker Counties. Many of these projects develop into partnerships between local businesses, governmental agencies and citizen volunteers. Aggressive grant management has enabled the Council to do a wide array of projects such as:

- Watershed Management
- Historic Preservation
- Quality of Life Enhancements
- Environmental Education
- Community Development
- Economic Development

ORGANIZATION

The Board of Directors of Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. is comprised of a representative from each County Commission and Soil & Water Conservation District in the program area and two at-large members agreed upon by the Commission and District. To provide optimal input to the Staff regarding direction and goals of the Council, members of the Board of Directors serve on working committees which include Grants, Finance, Personnel and Executive Committee. Working Committees meet periodically as necessary to conduct business. The Council meets quarterly to discuss the status of projects and programs and identify opportunities for cooperative projects.

Grant Committee – The Grant Committee reviews Challenge and ACES Educational Grants for approval. Grants submitted must state how their project meets Council goals. Recommendations for approval of grants are then submitted to the Executive Committee for final consideration.

Finance Committee – The Finance Committee reviews periodic financial statements and makes decisions regarding investments and expenditures. Recommendations of the Finance Committee are submitted to the Executive Committee for final consideration.

Personnel Committee – The Personnel Committee periodically reviews Staff performance and reviews job descriptions and resumes for open positions.

**CAWACO RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Name	County	Affiliation
Charles Carr,	Blount County	At Large
Doris Hamby	Blount County	At Large
Nell Miller	Blount County	Soil & Water Conservation
David Standridge	Blount County	County Commission
Betty Benson	Chilton County	At Large
Betty Giles	Chilton County	Soil & Water Conservation
Allen Caton	Chilton County	County Commission
Joy Littleton	Chilton County	At Large
Bruno Tropeano	Jefferson County	Soil & Water Conservation
Paul McCaleb	Jefferson County	County Commission
Preston Scarber	Jefferson County	At Large
Vasha Rosenblum	Jefferson County	At Large
Allan Lowe	Shelby County	At Large
Amy Feager	Shelby County	At Large
Jamie Cates	Shelby County	Soil & Water Conservation
Corley Ellis	Shelby County	County Commission
Bruce Hamrick	Walker County	County Commission
Dennis Cooper	Walker County	At Large
Joe Love	Walker County	Soil & Water Conservation
Robin Reed Allen	Walker County	At Large
Kellie Johnston, Operations Manager		Heidi Richards, Coordinator

FINANCE

The Council's fiscal year begins October 1st and ends September 30th, 2006. A Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) is filed annually with the Internal Revenue Service. A copy is available at the office for public inspection. Additionally, an audit of the financial statements is performed each year by Haynes, Downard & Cooper, a local CPA firm specializing in non-profit support .

Cawaco does not perform any type of formal fundraising. The majority of funding for staff salary and program support comes from program grants in support of the Council's mission.

Each member County contributes \$2,000 annually toward the operation of the Council. Board Members contribute time, donated materials, travel and expertise to individual projects and to the supervision of the Council operations.

The USDA/NRCS provides \$14,000 in administrative support to support the Project Coordinator and projects supporting USDA/NRCS goals.

GOALS

Council sponsored programs are activities on which the Council agrees to commit funds, human resources, or technical assistance. Priorities are normally based on measure of sponsors interest, local needs, county committee recommendation and available resources. These project measures are based on Council and USDA-NRCS Goals.

Council Goals

- A. Develop adequate public utilities, facilities and services including recreation, housing, roads, water fire protection, etc., for all towns and rural areas.
- B. Accelerate and expand economic, industrial, and rural development to meet the area's needs.
- C. Protect and improve the area's water and air quality.
- D. Apply sound management practices on the area's agricultural and other lands to preserve and
- E. Enhance the soil and water resource base while increasing economic returns.
- F. Maximize the development, protection, and management of the area's forest lands.
- G. Assist small family farms enabling them to remain a vital link in the area's agricultural system.

USDA-NRCS Goals

- A. **Land Conservation** – The purpose of which is to provide adequate open space for environmental and societal benefits.
- B. **Water Management** – Provides one or more clear environmental or conservation benefits, the purpose of which is to provide for the conservation, use, and quality of water, including irrigation and rural water supplies; the mitigation of floods and high water tables; the repair and improvement of reservoirs; the improvement of agricultural water management; and the improvement of water quality.
- C. **Community Development** – The purpose of which is to improve the development of resources based industries; the protection of rural industries from natural resource hazards; the development of adequate rural water and waste disposal systems; the improvement of recreational facilities; the improvement in the quality of rural housing; the provision of adequate health and education facilities; the satisfaction of essential transportation and communication needs; and the promotion of food security, economic development, and education.
- D. **Land Management** – The purpose of which is energy conservation, including the production of energy crops; the protection of agricultural land, as appropriate, from conversion to other uses; farmland protection; and the protection of fish and wildlife habitats.

PROGRAMS

In support of USDA/NRCS and Council Goals, the Council supports the following programs:

- Challenge Grants
- ACES Educational Grants
- Grants and Contracted Services
- Technical Assistance
- Legislator's Community Development Funds

Challenge and ACES Educational Grants

The Council offers small Challenge Grants (\$1,000 - \$5,000) to assist public and other 501(c)(3) agencies in their efforts to serve community needs in Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby, and Walker Counties. ACES Educational Challenge Grants are provided through the State's Educational Trust Fund, administered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. The ACES Educational Grant Program is a partnership between the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and are set up for the education of children and adults and must have a clearly defined educational objective.

County	Project	Amount	Description
Walker	Nature Trail Revitalization, Sumiton Elementary Middle School	5,000.00	Sumiton Elementary / Middle School will re the 3/4 mile School Nature Trail in a four-ph project: 1) Cleaning and clearing the natur path 2) Surfacing the trail with gravel 3) Constructing seating areas and bridges 4) Decorating the area with Alabama native pl and identifying the plants. The Nature Trail serve as an outdoor nature laboratory for st to observe and study a diversity of plants a animals in their natural habitat
Area Wide	Greenways Showcase	1,400.00	The goal of the Greenways Showcase is to 1) increase awareness of greenway projects and their benefits, 2) allow for the sharing information and resources between greenway groups and 3) provide connectivity between greenway projects.
Chilton	Outdoor learning center- Maplesville High School	4,000.00	The Maplesville High School, Family & Consumer Sciences and Agriculture Department will develop an unused outdoor area on the school campus into a high tech educational learning center for elementary and high school students. This area will illustrate the importance of nature and living things in the environment.

County	Project	Amount	Description
Area-Wide	The Olmstead Vision- A system of Parks for Birmingham	5,000.00	The Birmingham Historical Society will republish the Olmsted Brothers report of 1925, Plan for Systems of Parks and Playgrounds for Birmingham, together with a 96-page illustrated publication providing correspondence between the landscape firm and local park advocates and an analysis of park development in the 1920s and 1930s. As successors to the landscape planning practice of Frederic Law Olmsted, the principal designer of Manhattan's Central Park and founding father of urban parks and landscape architecture in America, the Olmsted Brothers provided Birmingham park advocates park planning advice in the 1920's and 1930's. The Birmingham Historical Society will exhibit drawings showcasing recent park and greenway projects at the Birmingham Public Library Gallery.
Shelby	Shelby County Water Festival	2,500.00	The Second annual Shelby County Water Festival is scheduled for December 9, 2005 at the University of Montevallo. The event is tailored for fourth grade students and teachers. Three activities will help teach students about the importance of water and keeping it safe and clean. Approximately 900 students will be invited to participate from the Shelby County School System.
Jefferson	Jefferson County Water Festival	2,500.00	The Jefferson County Water Festival provides water quality and conservation educational activities for 1,600 4th grade students in 76 classes from 25 schools throughout Jefferson County. Participants learn about: the watershed where their school is located; the parts of the water cycle; the importance of aquifers; and the importance of nature's filters in preventing pollution.
Jefferson	Historical Beehive Coke Ovens Park- Fultondale	3,000.00	The City of Fultondale will create a passive park at the site of the Mary Lee Mines historic beehive coke ovens. The park will include the restoration of the coke ovens and construction of walking trails, providing residents and tourists with a cultural and recreational amenity.

County	Project	Amount	Description
Jefferson	Graysville Downtown revitalization Project	5,000.00	Visually improve community's appearance by revitalizing infrastructure in the downtown common area. Landscape the median and circle of 3rd Avenue S.W. and the area around the sign to be more attractive to the citizens and the public in order to attract economic development.
Jefferson	Wet and Wild Living Lab Pinson Valley High School	2,550.00	To build a stationary, T-shaped, wheelchair accessible pier to give the students the ability to use the lake as an outdoor classroom. This will affect 1,200 9th-12th grade students and approximately 3,000 students in neighboring 8th grade classes.
Blount	Landscape Cleveland Elementary School	5,000.00	Provide landscaping between the walks and side of existing building to improve the functionality of the exterior of Cleveland Elementary School by installing concrete walkways and aluminum canopies to prevent students from getting wet as they arrive and depart from school.
Area Wide	Sketch Plans for Cawaco Counties	5,000.00	A Community Development Challenge Grant to provide communities with financial incentive to begin steps toward proactive community planning and design; to assist communities in the preparation of a Preliminary Community Plan, a precursor to a Comprehensive Plan.
Blount	Methamphetamine Awareness Program	2,800.00	The District Attorney's Office is seeking to educate Blount County citizens concerning the dangers of methamphetamine use. Trained staff will teach citizen and student groups how to recognize meth use and the signs of methamphetamine labs which endanger the lives of citizens and place the area's water and air quality at risk
Jefferson	Preparing Students for Prosperity-Economics Training & Materials for Under-served and Rural Schools	5,000.00	ACEE (Alabama Council on Economic Education) will: 1> Provide and co-sponsor with UAB 10 workshops that train 15-30 K-12 teachers per workshop in teaching economics concepts; operate and co-sponsor with Sterne Agee the Alabama Stock market Game, on-line, real-time, stock trading teaching tool; 3> co-sponsor with the Federal Reserve "Color the Concepts!" economics poster coloring contest.

Grants and Contracted Services

From time to time, Cawaco, in support of the stated goals, applies for and receives grant funding from federal, state, and local sources to perform specific tasks. These are used by the Council to address opportunities in the Council Area that address an issue within the scope of our mission. Priority is given to environmental issues linked to natural resources.

County	Project	Description
Walker, Jefferson, Shelby	Firewise	The objective of the Firewise Community Development Project (FCDP) is (1) educate homeowners living within the wild land urban interface of proactive steps that they can take on their own to reduce their vulnerability to wild land fires, (2) motivate those homeowners to take action in making these changes, and (3) identify and enlist influential local professionals and community members to encourage others to learn more about Firewise Communities.
Area Wide	Your Town Mentoring Program	The Your Town Mentor Program will conduct one Your Town workshop per year for 2 years and provide one-on-one follow-up technical assistance in two ARC communities in which substantial changes will be taking place in the future and/or which need substantial redevelopment for continued survival. Funding includes a provision for scholarships for small communities that would not otherwise be able to have key citizens attend.
Jefferson	Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership Facilitator	The Five Mile Creek Coordinator provides neutral facilitation in coordinating projects across multi-jurisdictional, multi-interest boundaries. The Coordinator supervises interns from VISTA and the Office of Surface Mining; continues the Five Mile Creek Newsletter and Clean Ups; assists with the UAB Fish Study; coordinates three Metropolitan Planning Organization corridor studies to establish a base trail system for the Greenway; and performs other duties related to the Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership.
Area-Wide	Black Warrior Clean Water Partnership Facilitation	The purpose of the Partnership is to maintain and restore the biological integrity of the Black Warrior River Basin by providing Basin Facilitation.
Area-Wide	Cahaba CWP Facilitation	The purpose of the Cahaba CWP is to maintain and restore the biological integrity of the Cahaba River Basin by providing Basin Facilitation: conducting stakeholder/public outreach concerning water quality needs, with priority focus on AL Section 303(d).

Legislator's Community Development Grants

From time to time Alabama Legislators provide funds directed for community development projects. Through contact with local communities, Cawaco is able to keep and work through an inventory of projects that are needed for community development. Cawaco provides due diligence, project management, and provides a final report back to the Legislator.

Technical Assistance

Drawing upon the expertise and experience of staff and board members, the Council provides assistance to communities or groups upon request. The projects must have a strong correlation with Council Goals.

County	Project	Description
Area-Wide	BUGS Community and School Garden Project	Birmingham Urban Garden Society (BUGS) assists in developing urban agriculture for the public good; develop a network of community and school gardens and develops a sense of community while empowering Citizens.
Jefferson	McWane Citizen Advisory Panel	The McWane Citizens Advisory Panel was formed to assist McWane Industries with community development and environmental project. The Council provides technical assistance in promoting project ideas. An example is the CAP's support of the urban canopy restoration project for the Norwood Neighborhood.
Area-Wide	Woody Biomass Utilization on National Forest Service Lands to Achieve Unmet Management Needs	The purpose of this project is to establish viable harvesting techniques and sustainable markets for small diameter stems and un-merchantable woody material. This will enable the National Forest in Alabama (NFAL) to increase efficiencies in rehabilitating lands from Condition Class 2 and 3 to Condition Class , and the possible creation of 400 new jobs in Alabama.

D. APPROVAL

This plan may be amended, revised or terminated by mutual agreement of the parties hereto, except for cause.

ACTION AUTHORIZED AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL MEETING IN BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA ON THE ----- DAY OF ----- --- 2007.

Paul McCaleb, President

Date

CONCURRED BY:

Charles Ramsey, ASTC-FO- Central

Date

Gary Kobylski, USDA/NRCS State Conservationist

Date