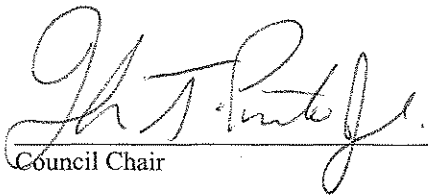




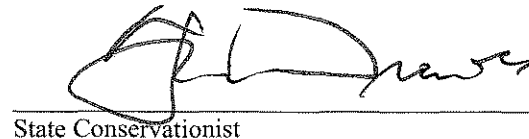
North Jersey
Resource
Conservation
and
Development

PLAN OF WORK July 2008 - June 2009



Council Chair

June 4, 2008
DATE



State Conservationist

6-5-08
DATE

North Jersey RC&D verifies that this FY 2008-2009 Plan addresses the Chief's Priorities.

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VISION

North Jersey RC&D will be a universally recognized and respected leader in advancing natural resource conservation and building partnerships throughout the region.

THE MISSION

North Jersey RC&D works to facilitate the transition to sustainable use and protection of the region's human and natural resources through partnerships, education and innovation.

	GOAL 1:	Improve water quality through use of appropriate agricultural best management practices.		Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES				
Water Management	1.1	Promote the use and adoption of Integrated Crop Management (ICM) annually with 15 farmers covering 6,000 acres by 2011				
		1.1.1	Set up displays about the RC&D programs at County fairs, agricultural meetings/events	8/08	Staff	
		1.1.2	Assist Hunterdon County SCD and other service providers in the expansion of ICM program services to underserved areas within the Council region. Work with Highlands Council to expand services into the Highlands region	2/09	Staff, HCSCD	
		1.1.3	Work with partners to develop educational programs, such as Crop Master, to educate and train producers on topics such as ICM. Begin search for potential funding sources.	1/09	Staff	
Water Management	1.2	Certify 50 farms as River-Friendly by 2011				
		1.2.1	Implement all action items identified in the two existing River-Friendly Farm grant programs**	6/09	Staff, NJWSA, NJIT	
		1.2.2	Build partnerships and seek stable funding sources to expand the River-Friendly Farm program throughout the RC&D area and the State**	1/09	Staff	
Water Management	1.3	Complete one regional livestock manure composting project by 2011				
		1.3.1	Conduct focus group meetings with interested parties to develop a project design. The first focus group will target the Neshanic watershed	7/08	Staff, RCE, NRCS	
		1.3.2	Work with agricultural agencies and support organizations to identify areas where regional composting facilities would be feasible	8/08	Staff	
Water Management	1.4	Develop a comprehensive riparian restoration plan for agricultural lands in the Raritan Basin watershed by 2008				
		1.4.1	Implement project plan as outlined in the 2006 NRCS, Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, <i>Riparian Restoration Plan for Agricultural Lands in the Raritan Basin</i> **	2/09	Staff, NJIT, NJWSA	

	GOAL 2	Improve water quality and quantity in the region		Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES				
Water Management	2.1	By 2011 complete water quality testing, implement strategies, and remove 2 stream reaches or lakes from the integrated list of impaired waterbodies				
		2.1.1	Implement all action items identified in the <i>Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan for the Musconetcong Watershed – Hampton to Bloomsbury</i> and the <i>Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan for the Neshanic Watershed</i> grant programs**	6/09	Staff, RCE, NJIT, Musconetcong Watershed Association, NJDEP	
		2.1.2	Continue and expand nonpoint source pollution reduction programs such as the riparian restoration, integrated crop management, prescribed grazing, and educational workshops for municipal officials and residents**	6/09	Staff	
		2.1.3	Implement all action items identified in the <i>Protection of Critical Source Areas for Achieving Long-term Sustainability of Water Resources</i> project**	4/09	Staff, NJIT, MLUC	
		2.1.4	Utilize Total Nutrient TMDL data to target River-Friendly Farm outreach and BMP implementation in the Raritan Basin	9/08	Staff, NJWSA	
Community Development	2.2	Expand the range of information and tools available to officials in 25 municipal or county governments relating to land use impacts on water quality				
		2.2.1	Work with groups such as the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension, Soil Conservation Districts and the Municipal Land Use Center to develop and disseminate resources**	9/08	Staff	
		2.2.2	Through presentations and mailings, educate municipal officials and professional planners about the RC&D model limestone ordinance**	6/09	Staff	
		2.2.3	Continue to disseminate the Wetland Easement Resource toolkit	6/09	Staff, ANJEC	
		2.2.4	Implement all action items identified in the <i>Protection of Critical Source Areas for Achieving Long-term Sustainability of Water Resources</i> project**	4/09	Staff, NJIT, MLUC	
		2.2.5	Through the <i>Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan for the Musconetcong Watershed – Hampton to Bloomsbury</i> work with municipalities in that watershed to inform them of current water quality status and the relationship to land use in the community	3/09	Staff, MWA, RCE	
		2.2.6	Conduct Web Soil Survey workshops	9/08	RC&D Coordinator, NRCS	
Water Management	2.3	Conduct a Rapid Watershed Assessment of the Delaware River tributaries from Sussex County to Hunterdon County by 2008				
Water Management	2.4	Serve as a stormwater management resource to 50% of the RC&D municipalities				

		2.4.1	Work through 2 County planning boards to identify areas where municipalities could use RC&D assistance in meeting their stormwater management plan	4/09	Staff	
		2.4.2	Continue working with Raritan Township, Hunterdon County to make improvements to the Walnut Brook, which has been identified as a stormwater mitigation site in their municipal stormwater plan.**	10/08	Staff, NRCS, Princeton Hydro, Raritan Twp, Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, Hunterdon SCD	
		2.4.4	Work with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Water Resources Program to implement rain gardens on agricultural land	12/08	Staff, RCRE-WRP	
	GOAL 3	Protect and improve riparian corridors through the implementation of stream restoration techniques		Target Date	Key People	Accomplish ments
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES				
Land Conservation	3.1	By 2011 successfully implement 2 miles of stream restoration projects				
		3.1.1	Implement all action items identified in the <i>Protecting and Improving Wildlife Habitat through Riparian Restoration</i> grant program **	6/09	Staff	
		3.1.2	Implement all action items identified in the <i>Walnut Brook Riparian Restoration</i> project proposal**	6/09	Staff, NRCS, Princeton Hydro, Raritan Twp, Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, Hunterdon SCD	
		3.1.3	Secure additional funding to continue restoration efforts in Mine Brook Park, Raritan Township, Hunterdon County	9/08	Staff	
		3.1.4	Serve as a technical resource for landowners interested in stream restoration and help guide them to the appropriate funding source for their project**	6/09	Staff	
		3.1.5	Coordinate between different groups to implement projects and secure project funding**	6/09	Staff	
		3.1.6	Reassess and evaluate past projects for maintenance plan implementation and success of techniques used to aid in future project designs**	7/08	Staff	
		3.1.7	Work with local Fire Departments to implement a dry hydrant program so that buffers can be installed at sites that are currently being used for firetruck access to water supply**	10/08	Staff	
		3.1.8	Work with the Borough of High Bridge in Hunterdon County to develop a plan and funding mechanism for the remove of the Lake Solitude dam and restoration of the South Branch Raritan through the current 14 acre lake.	2/09	Staff	
		3.1.9	Work with the Hackettstown Economic & Industrial Development Commission to develop a plan and funding mechanism for the creation of a walking promenade along Bowers Brook.	2/09	Staff	

		3.1.10	Implement all action items identified in the Morris Canal Rehabilitation Project proposal	6/09	Staff, Warren County Planning Department	
Water Management	3.2	By 2009 define the scope of restoration and protection needs and priorities for the Upper Delaware, Walkkill and Raritan Basin Watersheds				
		3.2.1	Update the Riparian Health Assessment Model for these three watersheds utilizing the 2002 land use / land cover, as well as other update data sources. Update Raritan Basin model in 2008	7/08	Staff, NJWSA, NJIT	
		3.2.2	Continue to participate in the Raritan Basin Watershed Alliance Stream Restoration Initiative**	6/09	Staff	
		3.2.3	Develop a comprehensive riparian restoration plan for agricultural lands in the Raritan Basin Watershed as outlined in the 2006 Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative project plan**	2/09	Staff, NJWSA, NJIT	
		3.2.4	Continue dialogue with DEP to streamline permit requirements for beneficial stream restoration projects.	11/08	Staff	
		3.2.5	Through the Musconetcong and Neshanic Watershed Restoration and Protection projects, identify through visual assessments and air photo interpretation sites for stream restoration	5/09	Staff, NJIT, MWA, RCE-WRP, SBWA	
		3.2.6	Implement action items identified in the Paulins Kill Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan	6/09	Staff, Sussex County MUA	
Community Development	3.3	Educate 200 landowners, professionals, and local government officials on stream corridor protection and restoration techniques				
		3.3.2	Begin planning for a workshop targeting environmental commissions, planning boards, and local and county elected officials to disseminate information on land use regulations available to protect stream corridors and funding opportunities available for restoration projects.	4/09	Staff	
		3.3.3	Host field training sessions during construction of the Walnut Brook Riparian Restoration Project	10/08	Staff, NRCS, RCE, NJWSA	
		3.3.4	Educate NJ high school students on stream corridor management and other aquatic life issues through participation in the NJ Envirothon	5/09	Staff, Council	
	GOAL 4	Sustain the agricultural industry by implementing programs which enhance farming operations and economic viability		Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES				
Land Management	4.1	By 2011, through ICM and other programs, increase efficiencies/profits while decreasing expenses, saving producers \$500,000 dollars				
Community Development	4.2	Improve marketing options for agricultural producers in 3 watershed areas by 2009				
		4.2.1	Develop River-Friendly Farm branding options for certified farms	6/09	Staff	
Community Development	4.3	Decrease manure disposal costs on 10 farms by 2011				

		4.3.1	Complete a regional livestock manure composting facility that will take waste from participating farms. Investigate opportunities for this approach in the Raritan watershed	8/08	Staff	
		4.3.2	Work with Santini Farms to find funding to convert methane gas from their on-farm anaerobic digester to energy	5/09	Staff	
Water Management	4.4	Assist farmers in attaining compliance with federal, state, and local regulations				
		4.4.1	Assist landowners in developing animal waste management plans to comply with state regulations**	6/09	Staff, NRCS, NJDA, RCE	
Land Management	4.5	Work with 15 municipalities to promote the agriculture industry in their community				
		4.5.5	Work with Sylvia Kovacs to secure funding for the development of a Highlands Healthy Farm and Food Network feasibility study	9/08	Staff	
		4.5.6	Work with Sylvia Kovacs to secure funding for the development of a Highlands Native Plant Nursery feasibility study	9/08	Staff	
		4.5.7	Investigate the potential for biofuel production and use.	10/08	Staff, NRCS, RCE	
	GOAL 5	Promote the proper use and maintenance of onsite wastewater treatment systems, including alternative designs and use of new technologies		Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES				
Community Development	5.1	Establish a working relationship to provide technical assistance to 20 municipalities by 2011				
		5.1.2	Distribute educational materials on septic management.	4/09	Staff	
		5.1.3	Offer septic management workshop sessions to communities included in our watershed management planning projects. Focus outreach efforts through the Musconetcong Watershed Management grant	4/09	Staff, MWA, RCE	
		5.1.4	Work with Jefferson Township to implement their septic management outreach program	2/09	Staff	
Community Development	5.2	Complete 1 pilot project, establishing a community septic management program by 2011				
		5.1.3	Continue working with Jefferson Township to implement their septic management outreach program	2/09	Staff	
	GOAL 6	Promote natural resource management on publicly owned land		Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
Land Management	6.1	Work with 1 county on the active management of their open space by 2011				
		6.1.1	Continue working with White Lake team to implement management plan developed for that project**	6/09	Staff	

		6.1.2	Meet with county to discuss needs and opportunities for open space management	2/09	Staff		
		6.1.3	Work with Conserve Wildlife Foundation to develop a feasibility study funding proposal for the implementation of open space management program.	12/08	Staff, CWF, NJDFW, NRCS		
	GOAL 7	Improve the region's ability to maximize the use of its human and economic resources			Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
Community Development	7.1	Work with 30 groups to improve their ability to design projects, obtain funding and successfully manage those projects by 2011					
		7.1.1	Provide funding search assistance and grant proposal review services to local groups**	6/09	Staff		
		7.1.3	Work with Sylvia Kovacs to secure funding for the development of a Highlands Healthy Farm and Food Network feasibility study	9/08	Staff		
		7.1.4	Work with Sylvia Kovacs to secure funding for the development of a Highlands Native Plant Nursery feasibility study	9/08	Staff		
		7.1.5	Work with the Borough of High Bridge in Hunterdon County to develop a plan and funding mechanism for the remove of the Lake Solitude dam and restoration of the South Branch Raritan through the current 14 acre lake.	2/09	Staff		
		7.1.6	Work with the Hackettstown Economic & Industrial Development Commission to develop a plan and funding mechanism for the creation of a walking promenade along Bowers Brook.	2/09	Staff		
Community Development	7.2	Provide support to 20 rural communities to improve their rural fire protection capacity by 2009					
		7.2.1	Install 20 dry hydrants in the 6 county region	10/08	Staff		
		7.2.2	Begin developing a GIS coverage detailing all rural fire protection water sources	10/08	Staff, County Fire Coordinators		
Water Management	7.3	Provide training to 20 agriculture support agency staff to improve their ability to provide assistance to the farm community by 2009					
		7.3.1	Work with RCE to Apply for grant funding through SARE to develop and implement a training program that could include topics such as: integrated crop management, whole farm planning, and integrated pest management	4/09	Staff		
Community Development	7.4	Successfully host the 2008 Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association Conference in September 2008					
		7.4.1	Finalize conference program and secure speakers	7/08	Staff		
		7.4.2	Finalize sites for project tours	7/08	NJRCD Council		
		7.4.3	Determine staffing needs for the actual conference (registration table, silent auction, moderators, etc.) and develop a schedule for volunteers and staff	7/08	Staff		

		7.4.4	Develop a list of local attractions including opportunities for attendees arriving on Sunday and options for Monday – Wednesday for spouses.	7/08	Staff, NJ & SJ RCD Councils, Mid-Atlantic RC&D Councils		
		7.4.5	Host Mid-Atlantic RC&D Conference	9/08	Staff, NJ & SJ RCD Councils		
Community Development	7.5	Improve the organizational capacity of the North Jersey RC&D					
		7.5.1	Continue development of the fundraising plan and complete the first draft	10/08	Staff, NJ & SJ RCD Councils		
		7.5.2	Complete the 2007-2008 Annual Report and distribute	9/08	Staff, NJ & SJ RCD Councils		
		7.5.3	Conduct performance appraisals on all Council Employees	11/09	Staff, Council		
		7.5.4	Work with accounting firm to conduct annual audit	10/08	Staff, Council		
		7.5.5	Prepare Council budget for fiscal year 2009-2010	6/09	Council		
		7.5.6	Review employee benefits package to ensure Council is providing comparable benefits to other small non-profits	12/08	Staff, Council		
		7.5.7	Update RC&D website	8/08	Staff, Council		
		7.5.8	Develop and publish brochure	1/09	Staff, Council Treasurer		
		7.5.9	Update Council Display	1/09	Staff, Council Treasurer		
		7.5.10	Finalize Personnel Manual	7/08	Personnel Committee		

** - denotes ongoing multiyear projects