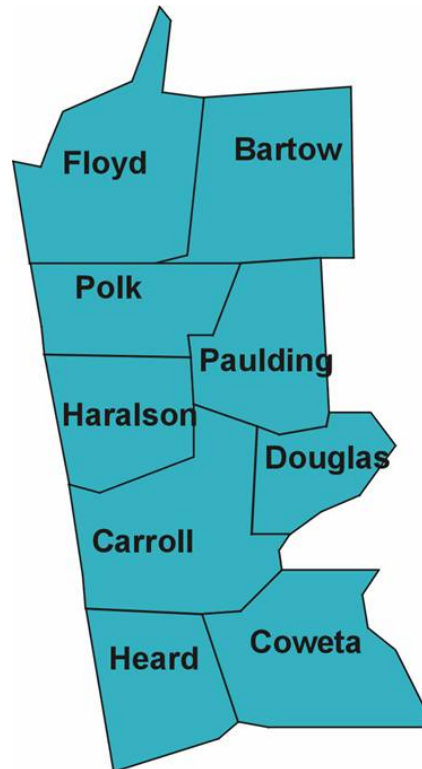


Rolling Hills Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

2008-2009 Plan of Work



The Rolling Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council has a mission to provide leadership in protecting and improving the economic, social, and natural resources of residents in the RC&D Area.

We have a vision of a region that is greener and cleaner than ever before, where individuals value the natural resources and strive to protect them, and where urban and rural communities can co-exist in harmony.

Background

Rolling Hills RC&D was organized in 1994 by a proactive group of citizens that desired to have coordinated resources and assistance available for this region to address natural resources. The Council incorporated and received 501-c-3 designation from the Internal Revenue Service in 1994, establishing them as a non-profit organization. The Council received full authorization from NRCS in 1998. The Council serves citizens from a nine county region of northwest Georgia covering an area of over 2,000,000 acres. This region includes the counties of Bartow, Carroll, Coweta, Douglas, Floyd, Haralson, Heard, Paulding, and Polk. The program offers a unique vehicle for communities to plan for desired future conditions, develop strategies, secure necessary funding, and implement projects for local citizens.

The Area Plan of Work is developed annually based upon the Rolling Hills Resource Conservation & Development Council's 5 year Area Strategic Plan. This Plan of Work is a dynamic document used to guide the Strategies of the RC&D Council annually.

Signatures

Council President

Date

NRCS State Conservationist

Date

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GOAL 1: ASSIST NINE COUNTIES IN REDUCING THE EFFECTS OF SOIL EROSION FROM URBAN AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN 2008-2009.

Auth Element: Land Conservation

OBJECTIVE 1

Provide conservation education and conservation tillage assistance for nine member counties.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est Time	Accomplishments
Provide ten (10) no-till drills to encourage conservation tillage in the RC&D area.	2008-09	T. Rush	None	16 hours- oversight	Twelve drills maintained in 2008
Work with five (5) local agribusinesses to promote the no-till program.	2008-09	T. Rush/ D. Nelson	None	20 hours/year	Completed 08
Promote conservation tillage through speaking engagements to five (5) farm related groups.	2008-09	Haygood	None	5 hours each= 25 hours	2008- 3 presentations
Expand no-till committee to manage conservation equipment program.	2008-09	T. Rush	None	10 hours/year	Completed 5/08 Rush, Nelson, Rutland
Provide one pasture aerator to encourage proper land conservation.	2008-09	T. Rush	\$15,000	0 hours	Established (Polk)-2008
Coordinate with West GA SWCD and Coosa River SWCD to host two (2) educational events to highlight conservation tillage	2008-09	Rush	\$500 each	20 hours each= 40 hours	Field Day- (Floyd) Apr. 19

OBJECTIVE 2

Educate 100 citizens, professionals, and local government officials on best management practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion and sedimentation.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est Time	Accomplishments
Conduct four (4) Erosion and Sediment Control Certification and/or Awareness workshops.	Dec 08		None	8 hours	completed July 8, 29- Paulding August 5, 2008 Sept 16, 2008

OBJECTIVE 3

Provide technical assistance to one county in reducing sediments from dirt roads.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est Time	Accomplishments
Monitor Douglas County demonstration dirt road stabilization project.	Dec 08	Westbrook	None	40 hours	
Conduct one (1) dirt road management workshop.	Oct 09	Westbrook	Est \$1000	40 hours	

OBJECTIVE 4

Provide education and technical assistance to landowners in five counties to promote proper land conservation and best management practices for landowners.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est Time	Accomplishments
Conduct two (2) farm bill training workshops for landowners.	October 2009	Haygood	Grant secured from NRCS	40 hours	1 completed- Wildlife and Farm Bill Field Day- April 19, 2008 (Floyd Co) 1 scheduled – Bartow 09
Conduct two (2) equine landowner training workshops/field days.	October 2009	Haygood Extension	Grant secured from NRCS	80 hours	1 completed- Master Equine Program- May 8-June 12, 2008 (Bartow) Trained- 55 individuals
Provide nutrient management planning (CNMPs) for eight (8) poultry landowners. (Polk/ Floyd/ Bartow)	October 2008	Pullen	Funding secured from NRCS	16 hours	Completed (Sept. 2008)

GOAL 2: CONSERVE AND PROTECT WATER RESOURCES IN THREE (3) WATERSHEDS BY 2013.

Auth Element: Water Management

OBJECTIVE 1

Implement the provisions of the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Plans for the Upper Middle Chattahoochee Watershed to reduce fecal coliform related to poultry waste.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Secure funding through the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's 319(h) funds to address water quality concerns related to poultry farms.	Jan 2008	Pullen	319 Grant secured	20 hours	Completed
Conduct water quality modeling to estimate water quality improvements and post-project runoff conditions on participating farms.	Sept. 2012	Pullen	319 Grant secured	20 hours	
Develop agreements with a minimum of five (5) poultry farms to install conservation practices.	Sept. 2009	Pullen	319 Grant secured	0 hours	
Support a watershed Project Manager position to provide technical assistance to poultry producers on land management and litter management.	Throughout	Exec. Committee	319 Grant secured	40 hours	Completed
Develop CNMPs on five (5) poultry farms.	Sept 2009	Pullen	319 Grant	8 hours	
Determine the feasibility of the purchase of in house composting equipment to manage litter and bedding in poultry houses.	April 2008	Pullen D. Rogers	UGA Match	20 hours	Completed
If in house composting equipment program is feasible, secure funding for purchase.	Oct 2009	Pullen D Rogers	\$20,000	40 hours	
Schedule tour or demonstration of poultry in house composting equipment.	April 2008	Pullen	\$500	20 hours	Completed (June 2008)

Conduct educational workshop	Dec 2009	Pullen	\$300	20 hours	
Publish semi-annual newsletter available to poultry growers within watershed and other interested parties	2008-09	Pullen	319 Grant	0 hours	
Prepare semi-annual reports for EPD	Mar/Sept 08 Mar/Sept 09	Pullen	319 Grant	8 hours	Completed -08

OBJECTIVE 2

Implement the provisions of the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Plans for the Lower Little Tallapoosa Watershed to reduce fecal coliform.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Secure a contract with GA EPD for 319 grant.	Dec 2008	Pullen	None	8 hours	Completed
Conduct Septic Contractor's Training	May 2009	Pullen	319 grant secured	24 hours	Completed
Establish working relationship with Environmental Health Department to facilitate septic repair order and inspection process	March 2009	Pullen	319 grant secured	24 hours	Completed
Conduct landowner workshop on septic maintenance	November 2009	Pullen	319 grant secured	24 hours	
Conduct workshop on well maintenance	November 2009	Pullen	319 grant secured	24 hours	
Coordinate water quality monitoring with University of West Georgia	November 2009	Pullen	319 grant secured	16 hours	

OBJECTIVE 3

Implement the provisions of the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Plans for the Big Cedar Creek watershed to reduce fecal coliform.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Secure a contract with GA EPD for 319 grant.	Dec 2008	Pullen	None	8 hours	Completed
Conduct Septic Contractor's Training	May 2009	Pullen	319 grant secured	24 hours	Completed
Conduct Ag Landowners informational meeting	May 2009	Pullen	319 grant secured	24 hours	Completed- may 09
Establish working relationship with Environmental Health Department to facilitate septic repair order and inspection process	March 2009	Pullen	319 grant secured	24 hours	
Conduct landowner workshop on septic maintenance	November 2009	Pullen	319 grant secured	24 hours	
Conduct workshop on well maintenance	November 2009	Pullen	319 grant secured	24 hours	
Contact Berry College to discuss water quality monitoring	November 2009	Pullen, Haygood	319 grant secured	16 hours	

OBJECTIVE 4

Facilitate water conservation and water quality initiatives in two counties.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's est Time	Accomplishments
Determine the feasibility of a rain barrel program to promote water conservation—working with local partners to support local efforts.	June 2008	Davis Nelson, Watson		10 hours	Others providing this service- recommend cancelling project
Initiate a storm drain stenciling program in two (2) communities to promote water quality education.	August 2009		\$300	10 hours	1 completed-Rockmart
Support the Georgia Water Management Plan as opportunities provide.	Ongoing			24 hours (unknown)	

GOAL: 3 ASSIST NINE (9) COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNCIL REGION TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE AND BENEFIT CITIZENS.

Auth Element: Community Development

OBJECTIVE 1

Assist with the development of one (1) pedestrian friendly community.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est Time	Accomplishments
Secure funding for landscape architecture assistance for community based planning.	Oct 2009	Haygood	\$10,000	40 hours	
Provide conceptual landscape architecture design assistance to one community.	Oct 2009			80 hours	
Develop a regional trail guide for the nine county region. (Highlighting hiking, biking and/or horseback riding.)	November 2009	Pullen, Haygood	\$10,000	120 hours	Initial meeting- 2008

OBJECTIVE 2

Assist with employment and job retention for low-income, working individuals in five (5) counties.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's est. Time	Accomplishments
Maintain Wheels to Work program to provide transportation to work for ten (10) needy individuals.	Dec 2009	Patterson C. Westbrook	Secure grant funds for vehicle purchase	8 hours	\$37000 grant funds secured
Employ one (1) individual to manage transportation and job retention program.	Throughout	Exec Committee	\$25,000 +	20 hours	Completed- Kevin Patterson, Program Manager
Provide semi-annual car maintenance classes and budgeting classes for 50% of clients.	Dec 2009	Patterson C Westbrook	\$500	0 hours	
Assist with job placement/retention for five (5) individuals annually.	Dec 2009	Patterson	none	0 hours	Assisted 6 clients with job retention/place.-08
Provide quarterly classes each year addressing job readiness for 100% of new clients.	Dec 2009	Patterson	\$500	0 hours	6 presentations- 08
Increase outreach to solicit program support through ten (10) outreach Strategies.	Dec 2009	Patterson C. Westbrook	none	0 hours	

OBJECTIVE 3

Create and/or enhance five (5) local food projects to promote food security and support local agribusiness.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Conduct <u>five (5)</u> education and outreach Strategies for sustainable agriculture practices and direct marketing.	Dec 2009		\$1000	80 hours	
Partner with the Bartow County Environmental Department on their agriculture conference in 2008.	Mar 2008	Haygood	None	24 hours	Completed 3/4/08
Host two (2) Sustainable Growers Schools training a minimum of twenty (20) growers.	Dec 2009	Haygood W Crager	NRCS funding secured	80 hours	Carroll Co Feb -May 2008 Bartow County- Aug 8-9
Determine the feasibility of a local farm transition network to link potential farmers with landowner.	June 2008			120 hours	Grant applied for 3/2008- not funded reapply in 2009
Determine the feasibility of a small business loan program to support small and emerging natural resource based and agricultural businesses.	Nov 2009			80 hours	

OBJECTIVE 4

Support youth education and youth leadership opportunities in five (5) counties.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Sponsor and manage annually the West Region Envirothon Competition for the Georgia Envirothon.	March 08 March 09	Haygood	Funding for lunch	60 hours	Completed 3/08
Coordinate the State Envirothon Competition in Floyd County for 2008.	April 08	Haygood	None	60 hours	Completed 4/11-12/2008

OBJECTIVE 5

Assist with nine (9) jobs and/or business development opportunities through implementation of RC&D projects.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Continue to provide six (6) no-till custodian positions annually.	2008-09	Rush		20 hours	Completed-08
Provide a full-time RC&D Project Administrator.	2008-09	Exec Committee		16 hours/month – program direction	Completed- Kevin Patterson
Secure funding for a Certified Arborist position.	2008-09	Exec Committee	UNCF grant 08-09	16 hours/month – program direction	Ginger Watson, Certified Arborist -08 John Hendrickson -09
Maintain one watershed Project Manager.	2008-09	Exec Committee	319 Grant	16 hours/month – program direction	Completed – Susan Pullen, Project Mgr

OBJECTIVE 6

Support the horse industry in two (2) counties.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Conduct two (2) equine management training courses, emphasizing land and resource management.	Dec 2009	Haygood	NRCS grant secured	80 hours	1 completed Bartow May 8-June 12 (55 partic)
Develop a regional trail guide for the nine county region to support horse riding.	Nov 2009	Pullen, Haygood	\$10,000	120 hours	Initial meeting 2008

GOAL 4: PROMOTE AND IMPROVE ENERGY CONSERVATION, LAND PRESERVATION, AIR QUALITY, AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT IN NINE (9) COUNTIES BY 2013.

Auth Element: Land Management

OBJECTIVE 1

Assist three (3) counties with land preservation.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Provide one council member to serve on the Georgia Agricultural Land Trust board annually.	2008-09	Abercrombie	None	8 hours	completed
Assist Carroll County, Bartow County, and the Georgia Agricultural Land Trust with existing conservation easements through FRPP annually.	2008-09	Haygood Abercrombie Pullen	None	40 hours	
Provide baseline documentation on three (3) farms going under conservation easement in Carroll County.	2008-09	Pullen	None	20 hours- review and oversight	

OBJECTIVE 2

Promote composting in the nine (9) county region.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Purchase a minimum of 450 of backyard composters for discount sale and demonstration projects.	Jan 08	Crager	Revolving loan	24 hours	Completed 1/2008

OBJECTIVE 3

Facilitate a regional urban and community forestry program for the purpose of proper tree care, improved quality of life, energy conservation, and local economic development.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Provide professional Certified Arborist assistance to four (4) communities through a Council Arborist.	2008-09	G. Watson	UNCF grant secured 08	40 hours- oversight	Completed- Rockmart, Cedartown, Dallas, Rome
Provide Certified Arborist classes to train local government staff on proper arborist practices.	Dec 08	Watson	UNCF Grant	20 hours- oversight	Class March 7, 2008
Train twenty five (25) individuals in proper arborist practices.	May 08	Watson/ Hendrickson	UNCF Grant	20 hours- oversight	2008- 23 attendees 2009- 19 attendees
Provide tree inventory service to three (3) communities utilizing I-Tree and Stratum software.	Oct 08	Watson	UNCF Grant	16 hours- review	completed

OBJECTIVE 4

Establish a regional energy conservation initiative.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's est. Time	Accomplishments
Establish an Energy Committee to meet semi annually.	April 2008 Oct 2008		None	40 hours	One meeting held
Host a farm energy conference.	Nov 2009	Energy Committee	\$1000	80 hours	
Develop a farm energy audit service.	2008-09	Energy Committee	Grant secured	40 hours	Grant approved- planning underway
Provide one speaker to address energy at one quarterly Council meeting.	Nov 2009	Energy Committee	\$200	20 hours	
Utilize I-tree software in three (3) communities to promote tree resources and energy conservation	Nov 2008	Watson	Grant secured	24 hours- oversight	completed

GOAL 5: ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF ROLLING HILLS RC&D.

OBJECTIVE 1

Promote Council programs throughout nine (9) county region annually.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Conduct four quarterly Council meetings annually (the fourth to be the Annual Meeting).	2008-09	Haygood	\$100/meeting	24 hours/meeting	Jan 17, 08 Apr 10, 08 July 10, 08 Nov 7, 08 Jan 22, 09 June 4, 09
Host an Annual Meeting in the fall of each year to highlight annual successes and interact with partners.	Nov 08, 09	Haygood Westbrook	\$1200/meeting	40 hours/meeting	November 2008
Promote annual success through an Annual Report each year.	2008-09	staff	\$800 each	80 hours	07 report completed 08 report completed
Print and mail a Council newsletter three times each year.	2008-09	staff	\$200 each	24 hours/ newsletter	April 08 Oct 08 Mar 09
Maintain a professional Council website annually and promote through partner links.	2008-09	staff	\$120/year	8 hours/month	Ongoing
Ensure that all programs are provided equitably by providing equal employment opportunities and civil rights in program delivery annually.	Throughout	Haygood Exec Committee		continuous	Ongoing
Participate in two (2) community events each year (fall festivals, fairs, EMC meetings, etc.).	2008-09	all	\$200	24 hours	Mayfest-Carrollton 08

OBJECTIVE 2

Expand participation in Council programs.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Conduct an interest survey among Council Members to solicit input on project interest and committee assignments annually.	2008-09	Haygood	None	8 hours	Completed Jan 08
Develop an outreach plan by 2008 for underserved groups and minorities.	Dec 08	all	None	24 hours	Underway
Enlist two (2) Earth Team volunteers to work with Council Projects by 2008.	Dec 08	all	None	40 hours	Completed

OBJECTIVE 3

Establish long range funding to support Council.

Strategies	Target Date	Responsible Party	Funding Needs	Coordinator's Est. Time	Accomplishments
Establish Council membership in National RC&D's "Circle of Diamonds" program by 2008.	June 08	Council	None	40 hours	Completed May 2008