



Resource Conservation and Development in Alabama

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS BOARD**

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Association of Resource Conservation
and Development Councils*

*P. O. Box 3128
Montgomery, AL 36109*

Office: 334.240.3863

Web: www.alabamarc.org

INTRODUCTION

RC&D in Alabama depends on the leadership abilities and unique skills within the communities it serves. That is why so many worthwhile projects have been undertaken and accomplished throughout the state.

A significant accomplishment of RC&D is the rekindling of community spirit. There are so many ways to describe RC&D; however it is basically people doing things for other people.

In essence, it is local people identifying their problems and opportunities and dealing with them, with a little help from the government and from others.

The RC&D Councils in Alabama are proud of their accomplishments; but there is much yet that can be done to make our communities a better place to live.

The Association is dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and developing the state's natural and human resources.

**ALABAMA'S MOUNTAINS,
RIVERS AND VALLEYS**

Bill Latimer, Chair
Mike Roden, Exec. Director
5514 US Highway 31 S
Hartselle, AL 35640
256.773.8495
Page 3

COOSA VALLEY

H. Larry Raughton, Chair
Eddie May, Exec. Director
8119 Hwy 431
Heflin, AL 36264
256.253.2454
Page 15

NORTHWEST

Roger Hayes, Chair
Charlie Meek, Exec. Director
1101 Hwy. 72 East, Suite 17
Tuscumbia, AL 35674
256.383.1446
Page 27

ALA-TOM

Leonard Millender, Chair
Marie Lowder, Exec. Director
Post Office Box 355
16 W Front Street South
Thomasville, AL 36784
334.636.0120
Page 7

GULF COAST

Raymond Wiggins, Chair
Janice Godwin,
Exec. Director
104 W Ridgeley Street
Atmore, AL 36502
251.368.1606
Page 19

TOMBIGBEE

Don Sherrod, Chair
Susan Wesson, Exec. Director
2501 7th Street, Suite 300
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
205.469.6463
Page 31

CAWACO

Paul McCaleb, Chair
Kellie Johnston,
Exec. Director
2112 11th Avenue South,
Suite 541
Birmingham, AL 35205
205.623.0457
Page 11

MID-SOUTH

Patty Lambrecht, Chair
Rebecca Wood,
Executive Director
6334 Woodmere Blvd.
Montgomery, AL 36117
334.356.1855
Page 23

WIREGRASS

Kurt McDaniel, Chair
James Currington,
Exec. Director
211 North Union Avenue
Ozark, AL 36360
Office 334.774.2334
Page 35

ALABAMA'S MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND VALLEYS RC&D COUNCIL

The Alabama's Mountains, Rivers and Valleys RC&D Council covers the following Alabama counties: DeKalb, Cullman, Jackson, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan. The office is located in Hartselle.



PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

Little Hands Big Heart: This intergenerational community project in Limestone and Madison Counties has children provide textile art that is transformed into quilts by a group of ladies. The quilts were distributed to those in the community who were experiencing health issues.

Small Farm 101: Provided educational programs for new farmers on best management practices regarding natural resources and fruit, vegetable small ruminants, poultry and beef cattle production.

Environmental Education Workshops: Workshops instructed teachers about environmental responsibility and provided different ways to engage students outside.

Property Maintenance: Assist with the upkeep, maintenance and improvements to the WaterWorks Education Center and the Wildlife education area.

Tree Canopy: Provide finishing touches for Forestry Education canopy project. Assisting with the bridge, safety equipment, educational materials and supplies.

Board Staff Training: Keeping our Board members apprised of their roles and responsibilities is important. Non-profit training was held throughout the year.

Interactive Water Garden: North Sand Mountain High School created an outdoor learning space around a water garden to help students learn about ecosystems and their integral part of our world.

Sustainable Ag Curricula: Paint Rock Valley High School purchased a greenhouse and developed complementary curricula to help keep students on the cutting edge.

Research Library: Skyline Farms Heritage Rock Store/Museum is in the "hub" of Skyline Mountain. The historic building was in great need of energy retrofits to make it useable as a research library in the near future.

Clicker Technology: Learning methods are changing. Keeping student attention is key to learning. Quizdom audience response systems are a great way to do that.

Speake Community Greenhouse: This greenhouse construction changed the dynamics of "how we do school." Positive intergenerational relationships through cooperative learning between seniors and students of the community were built.

continued

2015 OFFICERS AND STAFF

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Bill Latimer

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Jeff Clark

Secretary/Treasurer
Phyllis Seymore

Executive Director
Mike Roden

Projects Manager
Jay Grantland

Programs Manager
Renona Seibert

OFFICE LOCATION:

Alabama's Mountains, Rivers and
Valley's RC&D Council
5514 US Highway 31 S
Hartselle, AL 35640
256.773.8495
www.amrvrcd.com

COUNCIL MEMBERS

CULLMAN

Jackson Buchanan
 Edwin Carter
 Tim Compton
 Sammie Danford
 Melba Ferderer
 Johnny Grantham
 Murray Griffin, Advisor
 Cherrie Haney
 Robert Harbison
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 Tammy Roden
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ALABAMA'S MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND VALLEYS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Teaching Animal Science: West Limestone High School took advantage of the opportunity to expand the Agriscience curriculum to Livestock Production. This grant offered the opportunity to purchase supplies for a cattle catch pen.

Tunnel House: East Limestone High School FFA expanded an existing program through the building of a tunnel house. The agribusiness students were able to grow and market a crop of plants, fish and other marketable commodities.

CASA Community Garden: This perennial successful garden needed a new approach to pest management. The funds helped to purchase supplies to implement an Integrated Pest Management approach. In 2015 over 11,000 pounds of fresh vegetables were delivered to elderly and home bound clients.

CASA Ramps: CASA provides wheelchair ramps to all ages in Madison County, allowing clients to safely and independently remain in their own homes. In 2015 CASA volunteers built 111 ramps for wheelchair bound neighbors.

Raised Bed Gardening: Workshops teaching best management practices and new ideas on how to grow in raised beds were held across Marshall County.

Small Farmers Rainwater Collection: Raincatch systems were designed and installed in all eight counties in the council area. These systems educate small farmers about money savings alternatives and facilitate organically grown certifications.

American Indian Resources: The UCAN have been working on being sustainable for many years. This project was another piece of that puzzle. They purchased software consultant services to help with internet marketing and to help them get their herb store started online and as a walk in business.

Farm Food Collaborative: Selling locally grown food to schools, grocers, and distributors is one of the focus priorities of the Food Bank of North Alabama. One of the main challenges is securing liability insurance. This grant allowed the Food Bank to purchase the insurance which in turn facilitated 454 transactions among 15 farmers and buyers for sales of \$195,011.00.

Environmental Education: Cullman County SWCD conducted education programs in the county school system. They taught about agriculture and our environment. Several programs were held such as FAWN, Earthday and the Drinking Water Festival that benefited from the grant.

Logan Rural Volunteer Fire Department: Logan fire department had two tanker trucks with malfunctioning pumps that were out of service with no funds to make repairs. This grant allowed for the immediate repair of one truck.

Outdoor Classroom Extension: West Point Elementary School added new stations to existing outdoor classroom. New signs were added along with a turtle habitat, a weather station and raised flower beds.



*Barkley Bridge
Playground*

*Senator Orr
showcasing our
Tree Canopy
project*



Food for Life: VISTA workers created a food redistribution network to increase gleaning of crops and promotion of fresh local foods. Classes were taught at the Agriplex Center on marketing, preparing and storing fresh foods.

Rain Barrels at riding center: A raincatch system was installed to capture the rainwater from the facility. The water is used to water down the arena as well as landscaping saving the facility much needed funds.

Fruit and Veggie Production: Fort Payne High School learned how to start a container garden in their greenhouse. Broccoli was grown in fall. Potatoes were harvested in spring. The students then prepared broccoli soup and potato soup and served meals to about 245 guests at a local soup kitchen. Over 900 pounds of potatoes were harvested and donated to those in need throughout the community.

Purchase “Ironworker”: Sylvania High School purchased this equipment for the Agriscience department. Found in industrial welding shops, it provided for a safer work zone for students while teaching them how to properly use the iron worker.

Wisconsin Fast Plants: These plants grow fast! This enabled the students to do many different types of studies....life cycles, disease, genetics....etc.

Woodville Park Update: The park furnishings had weathered over time leaving them in need of repair and fresh paint. With the help of local volunteers additional lighting was added and the park received a fresh coat of paint.

Improving Energy Efficiency: Woodville Library replaced lights and windows making the building energy efficient reducing cost in the utility bills. Also the patrons are more comfortable with better lighting.

Area I DAC Training: Assisted with training materials for the DAC’s.

Life Enhancement: Classes for individuals struggling with poverty and self-destructive life styles were held in this Lawrence County community. Leadership skills, job search assistance, and healthy life styles were taught throughout the year.

Park Improvements: This grant allowed Hillsboro citizens to add recreation areas to their park.

KY Farm Tour for FFA: Students in Limestone County FFA took a trip to KY touring different farms and attended the North American Livestock Expo.

Water Festival: The annual Madison County Water Festival educates 4th graders about surface and groundwater through enlightening hands-on activities. The grant assisted with transportation costs for the festival.

Environmental Education Teacher Workshop: Madison County SWCD sponsors a week long Teacher Workshop. Teachers from across north Alabama and TN participated. Purchased items for environmental education teacher kits.

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

Henrietta Taylor
Janetta Thompson

LIMESTONE

Ben Harrison
Joyce Lane, Advisor
Bill Latimer
Jack Gilbert

MADISON

Ann Anderson
Albert Butler
Rahonda Everett
Karen Jones
Roger Jones
Nell Long
Peggy Long
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MARSHALL

Jennifer Childers
Ricky Cornut
Shawn Manning, Advisor
Jerrel Smalley
Stanley Sumners
Gina Williamson

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Travis Badger
Brad Bole
Brian Brown
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Foy Kirkland, Advisor
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BOARD MEMBERS

- Bill Latimer
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- Jerrel Smalley
- Scottie Bolden
- Janetta Thompson
- Brian Brown
- Roger White
- Allen Pickens



Fort Payne High School: students grew produce, harvested and then cooked for the homeless at a local shelter...two times....fall and spring!

ALABAMA'S MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND VALLEYS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Sharon Johnston Park Campground: A NE Madison Co. park has more peak season demand for campsites than available. This grant helped add eight camp sites.

FFA Livestock Program: Albertville FFA purchased mobile livestock pens for use at different locations. This allowed the students to set up at the County Fair, Farm Day at local elementary schools and other events.

Multi Use Covered Pavilion: Union Grove Elementary School serves as the hub for their community. A pavilion was built for use as an outdoor classroom & community activity center. A public garden was started next to the pavilion. The students assisted with the garden giving the produce to needy community members.

Classroom w/o Walls: West Morgan Elementary School added gardens to the existing outdoor classroom. A handicap accessible walkway was added to the gardens. The students along with volunteers did the majority of the work.

4-H County Roundup: Morgan County 4H sponsors a student throughout the year. Funds helped with the annual 4H Roundup and the Robotics Program.

Landscape/Greenhouse Improvement: Sparkman Junior High School improved school grounds while teaching horticulture. The students planned and planted annuals in the greenhouse and transplanted them into beds they had prepared, improving landscaping and giving students great pride in the finished product.

The R.O.C.: The Researchable Outdoor Classroom at Leon Sheffield Elementary School came to life with the construction of an outdoor classroom. The students were heavily involved in planning and constructing the gardens.

Softball Field enhancements: West Morgan High School was able to renovate the softball infield bringing the playing surface up to safer standards.

Softball Dugout: Danville High School built new dugouts for softball field.

Imagination Library: City of Rainsville was able to continue the Dollywood Imagination Library. Books are mailed to homes for the children.

Special Needs Accessible Playground: Assist with the construction of the final phase of an ADA accessible playground. With over 2500 special needs children in the county this all-inclusive park accommodate all children.

Barkley Bridge Playground: The school was selected to host a pre-k program. The existing playground was not adequate for the younger children.

Moore's Mill VFD: The VFD held EMT training classes for 20 volunteers.

Tuesday Farmers Market: Meridianville used funds to market the Farmers Market.

Town of Hillsboro Roads: Harsh winter conditions significantly damaged area roads. Funds paid to dredge and expand ditches and to resurface the roads.

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL

The ALA-TOM RC&D Council covers the following nine Southwest Alabama counties: Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Washington, and Wilcox. The office is located in Thomasville.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

Choctaw Heritage Festival: Funds provided sound & lighting for the festival.

Silas Auditorium Parking Lot: Funds will be used to build steps up sloping hillside to ensure safety and inclement weather.

Chilli Cookoff 2015: To bring Choctaw County citizens and surrounding areas together for a fun family and boost local tourism.

Continuous School Improvement: Funds will be used to convert a room to a kitchen, including additional wiring, water access and cabinets with counter tops.

Shower for Clarke County Emergency Communication Center: The funds will be used to build an onsite shower to enable the continued operation of the center and give refreshment to those who work around the clock.

JIS Young Gentlemen Club: A character building program established in an effort to positively shape the minds of young boys.

Thomasville Sports Hall Of Fame: The goal of this project is to honor natives and/ or citizens, past, and present of Thomasville who have brought honor and glory to Thomasville through their achievements in the world of sports.

Art Supplies for Boys & Girls Club: Funds to purchase canvas, brushes, paint, etc. so students can participate in Art classes taught by Linda Edwards.

Clarke County- ARC Ice- Smith Greenhouse: Aquaponics project designed as a learning experience to develop a new ways to grow vegetables and herbs.

T&K Hall Farms Equipment: Field Days at T&K is an event that will take young children in grades 3rd-5th on an environmental journey.

Cogongrass Educational & Assistance: Help land owners remove Cogongrass.

Outdoor Basketball Court: To provide exercise and recreational activities for youth and avoiding basketball playing in the streets.

Scare Crow Convention: Purchase items for students to build their scare crows.

Selma PAL After School Enrichment Program: Projects help students learn new skills, respect others, and understand those who are different from you.



Choctaw County Welding Program

2015 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

Leonard Millender

Vice-Chairman

Aubrey Carter

Treasurer

Rhondel Rhone

Executive Director

Marie Lowder

Program Manager

Jennifer Chapman

Urban Forester

Jack Rowe

OFFICE LOCATION:

Ala-Tom RC&D Council, Inc.
Post Office Box 355
16 West Front Street South
Thomasville, Alabama 36784

Telephone: 334.636.0120
Fax Number: 334.636.0122
www.ala-tomrcd.org

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHOCTAW COUNTY

Michael Armistead
 Wilma Newton
 Kenneth Johnson

CLARKE COUNTY

Rhondel Rhone
 Charles M. Rotch
 Steve James

CONECUH COUNTY

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 Danny Golson
 Lula Palmer

DALLAS COUNTY

Johnny Jones
 Kristen Duke
 Aubrey Carter

MARENGO COUNTY

Max Joiner
 Roy Jordan
 Cindy Neilson

MONROE COUNTY

Joe Mckissick
 Dan McDaniel
 Jane Ellen Clark

PERRY COUNTY

Albert Turner
 Charles Holmes
 Johnny L. Flowers

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Lettuce Raise It: Students will participate in hands-on garden based activities that will result in better eating habits.

Something Old Something New and Something Blue!: To bring the current Community Center up to date along with making more functioning and appealing to meet the needs of the patrons.

Shape it Up!!!!: Help our youth in the battle of obesity and childhood diabetes.

Farm Fresh Initiative: This will allow COA to purchase more farm-fresh food to supplement in the bags for the needy.

Cammack Gardens: This project improves the physical environment of the arts districts and the neighborhood adjacent to downtown.

Camp Grist Revitalization: The ‘Doc in a Camp’ project is a volunteer partnership with the director and young professional medical staff of the UAB Selma University Family Medical Residency training program, and the YMCA of Selma-Dallas County.

MCEDA Small Business Incubator: To provide training and assistance to entrepreneurs and small business as well as the general population within our area.

Sweet Water Babe Ruth Backstop: This project will make the playing field safer and spectators stay more enjoyable by replacing the worn fence.

Sweet Water Pre-K: Help establish a new Pre-K program & purchase equipment.

Downtown Light Renovation: The town of Excel will renovate the sidewalk in downtown Excel and main street.

The Jones House: The Jones House and Park will hold art classes, computer classes, weldings and receptions.

Excel High School Concession Stand: Improve the concession stand.

A Celebration Of Reading Bronze Marker: Bronze sculpture and its title, and provide information on Monroeville, Alabama and literacy capital.

National Registry Historic District: To commission a bronze marker describe Monroeville’s National Register Historic District.

Marion Gateway Renewal: This mission of Renaissance Marion (RMI) is to address underlying issues of light and deterioration in the Marion area.

Pernell Community Playground: Expand playground & add a basketball court.

Perry Co. Courthouse Landscape Project: Will purchase trees, shrubs, and flowers to plant and help bring Marion to life.

Blue Porch: Coffee and Ice Cream Shop: A place for students to come and

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Joe Abston
Mark Platts
Nick Williams

WILCOX COUNTY

Marion McIntosh
McDuffie Stallworth
Roberta Jordan

work, while building knowledge and real world experience.

St. Stephens Park Cabin: Purchase a rental cabin.

Washington County Outreach: Purchase new equipment, tables, banners to update the Chamber.

Archive Preservation Project: Preserve and store artifacts, documents, photos and other items pertaining to our heritage in the MOWA museum.

Prairie School Museum & Help Center: Repair damage to museum floors.

Working to Build a Zero Waste Community: Purchase storage buildings.

Family – Friendly Library Books: Purchase kindergarten through 6th grade books for the friends of the Silas library.

Coffeeville & Fulton School Readiness: Provide consumable materials (paper, copier toner, etc.) and equipment which will utilize deliver information to parents /guardians of enrolled children.

Clarke Co. 4-H Archery Program: Purchase bows & arrows for 4H children.

Hippy Conecuh: To provide curriculum, storybook, crayons, glue, scissors and much more for hippy children during their home learning.

T&K Farms: Conecuh Co Soil & Water carried students to the farm for a great outdoor experience.

Tale Tellin': World known story tellers come to area schools to speak to students.

Leadership Selma Dallas County: Provides leadership in the community and personal training to a diverse group of citizens.

Earn While You Learn: An educational program with classes for expectant families.

Sweet Water VFW Training: To do interior fire training and safety classes.

Notes in Nature: Install free notes Harmony Park Outdoor Music Instruments in Riverside Park in Demopolis.

Highway 80 Songwriter's Festival: Tourist and interested parties will come listen to original music and tour the sites of the cities.

FAWN Monroe Co: Purchase shirts for students when they attend Forestry Awareness Week Now.

Educational Outreach: The Monroe County Heritage Museum mission is to bring people and history together.

Playground Mulch: Disburse fresh mulch on the playground for child safety.



Dallas County Check Presentation with Representative Darrio Melton, Senator Hank Sanders, Vice Chair - Aubrey Carter, Ala-Tom RC&D Executive Director- Marie Lowder

YMCA Afterschool Program



continued



SOUTHWEST ALABAMA TOURISM:

Nature and heritage based tourism provides a positive economic impact in our region and statewide. A project of the University of Alabama Center for Economic Development highlights all the things to see and do in our region, promoting civic pride within the area and attracting tourists and their dollars from outside the region.

ALA-TOM RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Southwest Alabama Tourism: Utilizing nature and heritage based tourism is an important economic development strategy, UACED will develop and distribute promotional material for the area. (All 9 counties)

Furniture and Equipment for Uniontown Library: Purchase chairs for adequate seating, tables for workspace, and printing capabilities.

Fatherhood Initiative: Strengthen families in our community by encouraging fathers to play a more active role in nurturing and raising their children.

Textbooks for AL Vol FF 160 Course: Purchase text books for the purpose of training fire fighters.

WC History: Digitized And Preserve: This micrographic machine will allow our citizens and visitors to view records print documents as on a high resolution screen.

Wilcox Works: Provide one stop shop that coordinates resources in order to create skilled workforce.

Bama Kids Education: To provide tutoring and academic enhancement.

Wheels for Learning: Provides educational support and enrichment during the school year.

Community that's Moving: Provides nutritious meal for the elderly three days a week.

Central AL Regional Child Advocacy Center Phase 2: Administering the program of work for the center.

Senior RX Program: This program makes prescription medication for senior residents affordable.

Tag Engraving Machine: Purchase an engraving machine for the rescue center.

Equipment Fire Truck: Purchase new equipment for the truck.



Selma Pal Afterschool

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL

Located in central Alabama, the Cawaco RC&D Council serves the five following counties: Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

Black Warrior and Cahaba River Clean Water Partnership Facilitation:

Facilitate meetings with stakeholders to identify collaborative approaches in solving water quality issues within the Black Warrior and Cahaba River Basins. This project is a cooperative initiative with the Alabama Clean Water Partnership.

iPads for Oak Mountain Elementary: Provided iPads to introduce technology, build math and reading skills, preparing students to thrive in an increasing technology-driven society.

Energy Efficient Lighting for Graysville Walking Track: Install energy-efficient lighting at Graysville Southeast Park to replace lighting destroyed by a tornado. This enables citizens to utilize the Park at night, promoting health, wellness and a safe community.

Eco Drum: Purchase of equipment by the Birmingham Zoo that recycles animal waste, allowing for a “full-circle” Eco-Garden (from waste to compost; from compost to harvest). This will reduce landfill costs by \$25,000 per year.

USDA/NRCS Beginning Farmer & Rancher Outreach: Host (10) outreach meetings for beginning farmers and ranchers and small farmers in an effort to make them aware of USDA funding programs and introducing sustainable farming concepts, promoting agriculture as a career.

North Jefferson Regional Library: Reclaim a 1957 armory as an energy-efficient regional library and arts center serving the citizens of North Jefferson and Blount Counties. The Library will provide educational opportunities for area residents, the majority of which are at the poverty level or at-risk.

Education and Therapeutic Technology: Upgrade current equipment that engages children with disorders in therapeutic tasks. ARC of Walker County provides services for persons with intellectual and development disabilities in three counties and currently serves over 200 families.

Appalachian Community Park: Build a walking trail around a community-built sports park to promote youth sports and healthy activities.

Summer BASIC Program: Prevents summer learning loss in reading and mathematics among under-served children in Central Alabama so that, on average, there will be a gain of two months in reading and two months in math. Summer



*Tibor Horvath, USDA/NRCS
Agronomist talks about
soil health at the Beginning
Farmer & Rancher Workshop*

2015 OFFICERS AND STAFF

President
Paul McCaleb

Vice-President
Joe Love

Executive Director
Kellie Johnston

Program Manager
Patti Pennington

OFFICE LOCATION:
Cawaco RC&D, Inc.
2112 11th Avenue S., Suite 541
Birmingham, AL 35205
205.623.0457
www.cawaco.org

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS

BLOUNT COUNTY

Chris Green
Doug Smith
Nell Miller

CHILTON COUNTY

Fred Crawford
Gerald Arrington
Jim Pitts
Kurt Wallace

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Paul McCaleb
Sheila Baker
Jim Phillips

SHELBY COUNTY

Gary Crowson
Chad Scroggins
Corley Ellis
Jon Harrison

WALKER COUNTY

Paul Kennedy
Joe Love
Keith Pike
Billy Luster

Students learn to spell on iPads at ARC of Walker County



CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

BASIC is a 4-week program for under-served children ages, 7 to 13.

City of Snead Baseball/Softball Field Renovation: Renovation of outdated facilities to address safety risks and issues. The park serves nine youth baseball and t-ball teams in Blount County.

Shelby Ironworks Site Preservation: Clear 12-acre historical site of the Shelby Iron Company furnaces (1840's) and Shelby Chemical Company (1900's) for public access. Install trails, signage and protective structures to keep the public safe while viewing structures.

Coosa River Science School: Provide scholarships to limited income students to participate with their school in single day and overnight outdoor field trip experiences. (800 students)

Expanding Horizons: Provide summer programs in Blount County that reduce student summer learning regression. Forty (40) camps were held exposing 1,108 students to music, art, hands-on science and math activities, environmental and safety education, cooking, broadcasting and leadership skills.

Maplesville Students at Work and Play (K-12): Replace unsafe and outdated playground equipment with state of the art new playground equipment.

Blount-Oneonta Agribusiness Lighting: Replace inefficient arena lights at the Oneonta Agribusiness Center to save on utilities. This facility hosts community events such as Special Needs Rodeo, Farm City Banquet & the Blount County Fair.

Well Restoration: University of Montevallo reestablished an abandoned well located on campus as a non-potable water source to deliver water that will be used at UM's steam plant. This action will reduce utility costs for UM and be an example of a sustainable option for heating and cooling.

STEM Robotics at LeCroy CTC: Equip two classrooms at the Chilton County Technical Center to enable teaching of engineering, computer science, critical thinking skills, teamwork and math. The program serves all six county schools.

Meadowlawn Greenway: Assist the City of Vestavia to establish a greenway trail for recreation and restore a wetland to reduce repeated flooding in the Cahaba Heights community.

Shelby County Water Festival: Shelby County Soil & Water Conservation District coordinates conservation education on the importance of water quality and quantity to fourth grade students in Shelby County. Over 2,000 students attended.

Alabama Theatre Red Carpet Roll Out: Assist with historic renovation of front staircase, dress circle short staircase, lobby grand staircase, and the restroom staircase. The Theatre hosts over 300 events a year with attendance of over 500,000.



5th grade Cornerstone student self-portraits using recycled materials

Clanton/Goosepond Park Fitness Signage: Chilton County YMCA installed signage along the popular walking trail that outlines various stationary exercises an individual can incorporate into their physical fitness routine.

Cawaco Project Development: Cawaco staff assists communities in developing and locating resources for local projects. 2015 projects included Tannehill waste water treatment and Walker County Lake.

Thorsby Walking Trail/Outdoor Classroom: The Thorsby Parent Involvement Team purchased signs, benches, plants and other materials needed to develop a bird watching nature trail in Thorsby at the site of the historical Thorsby Institute.

Horse Creek Rails to Trails: The City of Dora refurbished amenities along a 3.2 mile trail. The trail is used daily by the community and visitors.

Chilton Ag Farm: Isabella Agriscience Department purchased a plasticulture unit to create a county- wide farm that teaches existing and innovative agriculture practices. Surplus produce on the farm is donated to local community organizations.

Minooka Park Playground Equipment: Replace outdated equipment with safe playground equipment and surfaces. This enhances the amenities of Minooka Park which receives over 7,500 visitors per year.

Seeds for Gardens: Seeds donated by a local feed and seed store are distributed by Cawaco personnel to community and school gardens in the five-county service area and shared with other RC&D Councils throughout the State.

Lean & Green Energy Machine: Thompson High School Engineering Academy purchased a 1974 VW Beetle for students to convert to an electric car. The program teaches critical thinking skills through hands-on experiences and sustainability applications with real world applications.

Tool Trailer for Trails: Cawaco RC&D makes trail equipment available to assist volunteers in establishing or maintain area trails. The project supports statewide initiatives for outdoor recreation and trail development.

Observatory Water Supply: The University of Montevallo restored historic infrastructure (1900's) to deliver water from a natural spring to areas around John Wylie Shepherd Observatory, located 3 miles from campus, which had no water supply. The reconnected water allows for irrigation and non-potable water uses.

Kayaks for Kids: Cawaco makes available kayaks (provided by Alabama Scenic River Trail) for outdoor educational and recreational activities to Alabama's underserved children. Boating safety, paddling and self-sufficiency curriculum is provided by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

STEM ROBOTICS AT LECROY CTC:

Equip two classrooms at the Chilton County Technical Center to enable teaching of engineering, computer science, critical thinking skills, teamwork and math. The program serves all six county schools.



Students at the Lecroy Academy

continued



Children at Cornerstone learning about herbs



Employees of the Alabama Theatre stand on Carpet funded by Cawaco

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Higgins Ferry Park Amenities: Lake Mitchell HOBBO Association built a walking trail, installed park benches and added fire rings to campsites. Higgins Ferry Park is visited by approximately 35,000 citizens per year.

Walker County Career Development: Walker County Community Action Agency assists low-income families with career development, crisis assistance and emergency support. Support assisted clients in receiving internet certification for basic computer skills and completing applications for employment.

Cornerstone Wonder Stations: Cornerstone School plant trees to help urban children learn and experience nature. This project enhances the year-round curriculum studies of trees, plants, animals and weather.

Providing Low-Cost Greenhouses for Community Benefit: Cawaco has available commercial greenhouses to 1) assist with education and outreach to schools, 2) lower the cost of market entry for beginning farmers, 3) encourage the growth of local markets, and 4) assist with expansion of jobs with current growers.

Ruffner Special Needs Nature Camp: The Greater Alabama Boy Scouts of America hosted a special needs camp at Ruffner Mountain. Young people with special needs were able to experience and enjoy outdoor activities with their peers.

Invasive Species Identification & Eradication Workshop: Cawaco received a grant from the Alabama Invasive Plant Council to host a training on invasives. The curriculum was provided by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and attended by 22 participants. Benefits of the workshop included reclaiming an invasive area for picnicking at Turkey Creek Nature Preserve.

Chilton County Farmer's Expo: ½ day hosted by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System Research Center exposes the public to activities at the Chilton County Research Station. Educational stations included beekeeping, integrative pest management, field dog exhibit, and wildlife and farm animals.

Biodiesel Propels Education: Thompson High School purchased equipment to teach hands-on biodiesel production and alternative energy. The class is mentored by the City of Alabaster who is currently producing biodiesel for municipal equipment.

FIRST RESPONDER SUPPORT: Provide equipment to increase response times, comply with ISO standards, and reduce homeowner's insurance costs. North Smithfield Manor/Green Leaf Heights Fire District; Summit VFD; Maplesville VFD; Palmerdale Fire District; Hay Valley VFD; West Jefferson Fire & Rescue.

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL

The Coosa Valley RC&D Council covers an eleven county area located in east central Alabama which includes the following counties: Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair, Talladega and Tallapoosa. The office is located in Heflin, Alabama.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

Equipment Purchase for Calhoun County Youth Ag Fund (Calhoun):

Purchased a turn table for holding cattle while trimming hooves and taught students how to prepare their heifers and steers for showing.

Cane Creek Community Garden Plastic Culture Demonstration

(Calhoun): Re-installation of a 7-year plasticulture demonstration.

Fencing Upgrade for Community Garden (Calhoun): The primary purpose of the fence is to protect the garden and demonstration areas from wildlife browsing.

Tables for Certified Outdoor Classroom at Weaver Elementary School

(Calhoun): Replacing old tables so students can work safely in outdoor classroom.

Flood Control for Nature Explore Classroom (Calhoun): Removed pipe that obstructed creek during heavy rainfall and replaced with bridge.

Choccolocco Creek Watershed Education Program (Calhoun): The

Enviroscape model is a perfect tool to enhance educating the public on how important it is to protect water within the entire watershed.

The Development of the Freedom Riders Park (Calhoun): Funding allowed for the Development of the Freedom Riders Park, Inc. to be developed.

Chambers County Agricultural Park Expansion Phase III (Chambers):

Constructed a unisex accessible restroom per ADA standards and secured storage space for educational supplies and equine event equipment for 4-H Club, Saddle Club and other equine and livestock related programs.

Pratts Cemetery (Cherokee): Funds allowed the preservation of Pratt Cemetery by installing a fence along dirt road to limit vehicle access; placed a sign on property identifying cemetery; and mechanical/chemical maintenance of grounds.

Gaylesville School Baseball Field (Cherokee): A drainage system was installed. This included installation of piping with gravel and placement of sod.

Cherokee County High School Baseball Field (Cherokee): Replaced existing backstop with new net to reduce a safety hazard.



*U.S. Congressman
Mike Rogers attended a Clay
County forestry field day event*

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Chairman

Larry Raughton

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Secretary/Treasurer

Perry Poe

Executive Director

Eddie May

Office Manager

Deborah Lindley

Programs Assistant

Heidi V. Richards

WSI Coordinator/Contractor

Justin Bailey

OFFICE LOCATION:

Coosa Valley RC&D Council
8119 Hwy 431
Heflin, AL 36264

Phone: 256.253.2454

Fax: 256.253.2455

coosavalleyrcd.org

eddie.may60@yahoo.com

coosa.deborah@yahoo.com

heidivrichards@outlook.com

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS**CALHOUN**

Tim Hodges
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Dr. David West

CHAMBERS

Joe Blanks
W. E. Thomas
Chris Langley

CHEROKEE

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Dewandee Neyman

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Todd J. Adams
Sally Holland
Joseph McKinney

ETOWAH

Sharron Gross
Jennifer Childers

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Centre Middle School Outdoor Classroom (Cherokee): Foundation work and gutters needed for the outdoor educational pavilion to prevent erosion.

Clay County Leadership Academy (Clay): Business and social manners, public speaking, entrepreneurship for Clay County, local economics, and “job hunting” skills were taught to students grades 9th-12th.

Plasticulture for Ashland Community Garden (Clay): 1,000 ft. of plasticulture was installed for the Ashland Community Garden. The garden benefits all Clay County residents but targets low-income families.

Algebra with Finance Project for Central High School Students (Clay): Included business math for students pursuing a technical degree or joining the workforce after graduation. Students become better employees with an understanding of how math is applied in everyday life particularly, on-the-job.

Installation of Drainage System on Football Field (Clay): Installed drains which included piping with gravel, backhoe work, and laying of sod.

Stream Crossing—USDA-NRCS (Clay): Partnered with USDA-NRCS to install a stream crossing to be used as a model for area forest landowners.

Archery Club (Cleburne): Youth were taught responsibility, teamwork, patience, communication skills, and leadership through the archery program.

Cleburne County Career Technical School Re-Gravel of Drive (Cleburne): Topsoil and gravel were applied to school driveway to prevent erosion.

Cleburne County Forestry Judging (Cleburne): Equipment was purchased for Forestry Judging Team to use for practice and state competition.

Backyard Bird Feeding for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities (Cleburne): Provided a natural habitat for birds to feed. Planted plants and added bird feeders and a sitting area at the Fruithurst Activity Center.

Pleasant Grove Elementary School Pre-K Playground (Cleburne): #57 stone was applied to area adjacent to playground to control water runoff.

Replacement of Floor Coverings for the Fruithurst Group Home (Cleburne): Improved resident quality of life by replacing old flooring. New coverings are more uniform, lower maintenance and improve mobility and safety.

Cleburne County EMS Bay Septic Replacement (Cleburne): Replaced holding tanks which received drainage from ambulance bay drain with a septic system with dispersal field and intercept for motor oil and road grime.

Addressing Unmet Needs of Fruithurst Group Home Residents & Training Center Participants (Cleburne): This project met some of the

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Dean Wysner

Larry Raughton

ST CLAIR

Paul Manning

Perry Poe

Lee Ann Clark

TALLADEGA

Tony Haynes

Jay Watson

Frank Bannister

TALLAPOOSA

Tommy Futral

Terry Martin

unaddressed needs not provided by state and federal assistance.

Equality Volunteer Fire Department Equipment/Communications (Coosa): Purchased radios and chain saw for station.

Hanover Volunteer Fire Department Building Improvements (Coosa): Lowered utility bills while improving Fire Department and Voting Poll appearance by covering bare interior walls.

Richville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Equipment (Coosa): Purchased a 6' x 12' utility trailer and a UTV skid sprayer for fighting woodland fires.

In The Line of Duty (Coosa): Equipped Coosa County Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit Meeting/Training Room with laptop computer and wall mounted screen for viewing training videos and footage captured from body cameras worn in the field.

2015 Annual Adopt A School Program (Coosa): Multiple agencies hosted a field day for approximately (120) 4th grade students on a local landowner's property. Teaching stations included: Wildlife, Soils, Water, Tree Identity and Enviroscape.

HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) (Coosa): Re-established the HIPPY Program for Coosa County.

Ag in Action Transportation (Truck) (Etowah/Area Wide): Purchase of truck to bring the "Ag in Action" trailer to and from educational agricultural events.

Electric Car (Randolph): Purchased an electric car kit and accessories to teach automotive mechanics to students.

Youth Leadership Randolph County (Randolph): The leadership program participants were trained, educated, and informed in the knowledge and skills needed to assist their communities in determining and achieving desired goals and plans. Participants learned the many areas that make up the community's personality.

Catwalk Extension (Randolph): A 12' extension was applied to the catwalk that connects the cafeteria to the gym. This will allow students to stay dry when entering gym for P.E. classes.

Woodland High School Drainage Ditch Phase 3 (Randolph): Concrete flume & drop box were installed to prevent flooding of the road & football stadium.

Randolph County Ag Center (Randolph/Area Wide): Purchased holding pens for goats, sheep, lambs, and pigs for FFA and 4-H students while enhancing educational clinics at livestock shows.

St. Clair Co. Extension Interactive Education Kiosk (St. Clair): Through a touch-screen, the kiosk allows easy access to "cutting edge" information as well as upcoming classes, workshops, programs, and etc. to the local folks.

continued

The "Gardening for Growth Project" at Benjamin Russell High School in Alexander City.





“Harold Banks Canoe Trail” at Horseshoe Bend, part of the Alabama Scenic River Trail.



Heidi Richards-Coosa Valley RC&D Programs Assistant conducts Enviro-Scape workshop at Oxford Elementary School.



Justin Bailey-Coosa Valley RC&D Watershed Contractor is shown performing operations and maintenance on one of the 105 watershed structures that are maintained by the council annually.



Coosa Valley holds “NRCS High Tunnel House Outreach Workshop” for limited resources producers in Randolph County.

COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Ragland Library Paving Project (St. Clair): Paving this parking lot allowed easy access to the public library. The lot was marked/stripped including handicap spaces.

Lincoln High School Outdoor Classroom (Talladega): Helped develop an outdoor classroom for Lincoln High students as well as for Drew Middle School.

Lincoln High School Greenhouse (Talladega): The grant allowed the purchase of supplies to start new greenhouse. (pots, fertilizer, soil, seeds, plugs).

Technology Enhancement Project Phase I & II (Talladega): Helped school transform current library into the model 21st Century Media Center. Ipads, White Board, & Interactive Projector help students with research, testing, and presentations.

Quality of Life Health Services Brochure (Talladega): Updated educational information in their brochure about services provided to the medically underserved.

Gardening for Growth (Tallapoosa): Students in special education planned, constructed, planted, harvested & sold produce grown in 8 raised beds & greenhouse.

Brochures/Maps for the Tallapoosa County Canoe/Kayak Trail (Tallapoosa): The brochures provide details needed to successfully paddle the navigable waterways in Tallapoosa County. Details include access points, campsites, water level guidelines, safety tips, color photos of flora and wildlife, and historic sites.

Clay County Junior Cattlemen (Area Wide): Funding allowed the organization to sponsor a multi-county show for eleven counties in east central Alabama.

Coosa Valley RC&DC Capacity-Training Meeting Grant (Area Wide): Funds used to purchase office supplies and equipment, pay dues, mileage, and expenses associated with workshops and meetings.

Coosa River Clean Water Partnership Project Support (Area Wide): Support the Coosa Basin Facilitator under Alabama Clean Water Partnership with mileage and educational activities.

NRCS Outreach (Area Wide): Conducted 14 USDA-NRCS outreach workshops to increase awareness and accessibility of USDA-NRCS conservation programs to traditionally underserved populations in the Coosa Valley RC&D area.

Coosa River Bacteriological Monitoring Program (Area Wide): Funds purchased lab equipment used to test samples at different sites along the river.

WSI (Watershed Structure Improvement) (Area Wide): Provided Operations and Maintenance on 105 watershed structures throughout Alabama.

Community and Home Gardening Seed and Plant Distribution Program (Area Wide): Provided seedlings and seeds to more than 45 community/home garden producers.

GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL

The Gulf Coast RC&D Council serves Baldwin, Escambia, and Mobile Counties. Its Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from the County Commissions and Soil and Water Conservation Districts from each of the three counties and the Poarch Band of the Creek Indians. The office is located in Atmore.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

16th Annual Baldwin Catfish Roundup: The Catfish Roundup is where people with various disabilities come together with volunteers and family to fish, play various games and have fun. This event has grown from 150 to over 1200 participants over the years.

African American After School Program: This after school program was geared toward helping low-income at risk children and youth in providing a safe, nurturing environment during after school hours, where students could excel in their academic and extracurricular activities.

Stockton Heritage Open the Doors: Open the Doors was used to replace windows and doors in the Stockton Museum which houses artifacts from the area that was occupied by Native American Indians as well as Spanish, French, English and African settlers.

2015 Baldwin County Water Festival: The 2015 Water Festival allowed over 900 Baldwin County fourth grade students to experience fun and educational lessons on water, conservation and the environment.

Baldwin and Escambia School Readiness: This grant provided equipment, materials and supplies that were utilized to foster the development of enrolled Head Start and Pre-K children through hands on learning.

Wheel and Outdoor Hunting Blinds: Hunting blinds were purchased so that wheel chair bound participants could stay out of the elements while hunting and fishing. Events included deer hunts, lake fishing and picnics.

Escambia County Progressive Agriculture Safety Day: Materials and supplies were purchased for shade, seating and etc. This an annual education event held for three days for all of Escambia County 5th graders. There are approximately over 500 students that attend and learn about safety in the areas of chemical, electrical, drugs, tractors, fire internet and being home alone.



Mobile County Recycling

2015 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman

Raymond Wiggins

Vice-Chairman

Otis French

Treasurer

Frank Nalty

Secretary

Tracy Sells

Executive Director

Janice Godwin

Administrative Assistant

Darnisha McCants

OFFICE LOCATION:

Gulf Coast RC&D Council

Physical Address

104 W Ridgeley Street
Atmore, AL 36502

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 281
Atmore, AL 36504

Phone: 251.368.1606

Fax: 251.368.2054

gulfcoastrcd@frontier.com
[facebook.com/gulfcoastrcd](https://www.facebook.com/gulfcoastrcd)

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS

BALDWIN COUNTY

Ron Cink
 Otis French
 Randall Hastings

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Larry White
 Raymond Wiggins
 Nell Wiggins
 Frank Nalty

MOBILE COUNTY

John Pfafenbach
 Bill Smith
 Darrell Driskell
 Dr. Brenda Litchfield

POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

Tracy Sells
 Billy Smith



*Mount Vernon
 Senior Citizen Center*

GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

East Brewton Senior Citizen Center Update:

This center is home away from home to about 100 seniors. Financial assistance was provided to help purchase products and items geared to enlighten seniors in technology, physical strength with exercising and dancing and also to stimulate their minds with games and crafts.



Healthy Food Distribution

Rooftops at the Brewton YMCA: Rooftops addressed issues with inclement weather which adversely affected participants in Summer/Spring youth programs. A new roof is allowing more youth to be able to participate in these programs.

A Little Shade Goes a Long Way: Youth programing in Escambia County has exploded over the last years from 150 youth four years ago to an estimated 1200 traditional in-school enrollees. When the numbers take into account after-school, community club, special interest club and group enrollments, Escambia County 4-H reaches well over 2000 youth. Large portable shade structures were purchased with this grant to enhance and expand youth programming in Escambia County.

Oaks Common Park Playground: Located in the Town of Flomaton, playground equipment was purchased and installed at this park which is mainly used for children from the ages of 0-12 years. This improved the overall park and gives children and their families a great place for outdoor recreation.

7th Annual Mobile County Water Festival: Mobile County's annual water festival is an annual field trip for 4th graders throughout the area. The water festival educates 4th graders in regards to the importance of water quality, conservation and the environment, through hands-on learning experiences.

Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation Tillage: MCSWD purchased a No Till Grain Drill which is used to limit erosion on agricultural fields, which will in turn drastically decrease sediment loads to local waters. The pollutants that wash into waters with sediment for example are fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.

Take It To The Streets: Along with GCRCD and other groups Good Will Easter Seals was able to distribute educational materials to the citizens about recycling in new areas in the city of Mobile. The funds were used to purchase a recycling trailer and fencing and signage for a new recycling collection point.

New Roof – Fowl River Community Center: Built in the later 1930's, this building is on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage of Alabama Historical Commission. With financial assistance from GCRCD a new roof and bathroom was completed allowing meetings to resume at the building so that citizens will no longer have to travel a far distance to hold meetings.

Playground at Taylor – White School: A new playground with new equipment was erected, giving students a safe environment where they can gather to play. It will also be an integral part of the physical education program and will be used to promote health and physical fitness to the 335 students enrolled.

Project Lifesaver: This grant allowed Baldwin, Escambia and Mobile counties sheriff departments along with Alabama State Troopers to educate the public about the benefits where law enforcement from each county lend a hand in helping loved ones with Alzheimer's, dementia, autism and other disorders. Subjects with any of these disorders wear a tracking device in the event they wander off.

Do It Yourself Bicycle Maintenance Station: GCRCD partnered with the Delta Bike Project and One Mobile to purchase and install four DERO Fix-it Stations and Pumps that will be available for people who have basic repair or maintenance needs. These stations are located in downtown Mobile and are free of charge.

Mobile County Progressive Farm Safety Day: Two hundred and Two fourth graders gathered for a full day of learning about hazards in daily life. They were taught by professionals in different areas. Some examples were weather safety, fire safety, water safety, tractor safety, dog safety, and chemical and germ safety.

Bay Area Food Bank Food Distribution: With a grant from GCRCD the Food Bank's Produce Drop Program was able to distribute over 33,834 pound of food in Mobile County and 16,165 pounds in Baldwin County.



Agriculture Safety Day



WATER FESTIVALS:

The 2015 Water Festival allow fourth grade students to experience fun and educational lessons on water, conservation and the environment.

continued

2015 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

These funds were used to provide grant training education for council members and others who are involved with getting the Resource and Conservation message out.

GULF COAST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Mount Vernon Senior Center: This new 2,800 square ft. was furnished with monies provided by the Mobile County Commission, GCRCD, and private donations.

Phase III of GCRCD Development Complex: This project allowed GCRCD to continue to update the 309 West Ridgeley Street building.

2015 Education and Outreach: These funds were used to provide grant training education for council members and others who are involved with getting the Resource and Conservation message out.

Delta Bike Project



No Till Drill

MID-SOUTH RC&D COUNCIL

The Mid-South RC&D Council covers the following counties: Autauga, Bullock, Butler, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, and Montgomery. The office is located in Montgomery.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

PHS Track & Field Construction (Autauga): The PHS Track Booster Club is working with the Autauga County BOE to construct a regulation Track & Field behind Prattville High School.

Autauga County Water Festival (Autauga): To teach approximately 850-900 4th grad students about the importance of our natural resources and how to conserve and protect them.

Red Door Theatre Support (Bullock): To build a lobby in the auditorium and to buy promotional and marketing supplies.

Spark The Park (Bullock): Spark the Park is the Union Springs Recreational Centers initiative focused on equipping one of the city's parks with the necessary equipment to encourage the community to visit and utilize the park. The plan is to provide a pavilion style sitting area with picnic tables and shrubbery.

Guerryton Community Garden (Bullock): To construct a wiregrass tunnel house kit to increase production capacity.

Smuteye Volunteer Fire Department (Bullock): To purchase an auxiliary 2" water pump to put on the fire truck so fireman can extinguish house fires and brush fires.

Purchasing a Backhoe (Bullock): To purchase a new backhoe.

Preserving Searcy School House (Butler): To restore the Searcy Schoolhouse to the original and architectural design.

Old Time Farm Day-Dig Deeper (Butler): To promote soil conservation and the awareness of the importance of soil in our daily lives.

Sammy Soil Costume (Butler): To purchase a Sammy Soil Costume for educational programs.

Freezer Acquisition (Elmore): To purchase a new 3 door freezer.

Kids 'N Ag (Elmore): To provide 4-6 grade students the opportunity to learn about agriculture.



*Building Resources
Public Library Project*

2014 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman
Patty Lambrecht

Vice Chair
James Chambliss

Secretary/Treasurer
Sharon Redd

Executive Director
Rebecca Wood

Project Manager
Elizabeth McClain

OFFICE LOCATION:

Mid-South RC&D Council, Inc.
6334 Woodmere Blvd.
Montgomery, AL 36117
Phone: 334.356.1855
Fax: 334.356.1865
www.midsouthrcd.org

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS

AUTAUGA

Joan Smith
Paula Adams
Jack Wadsworth

BULLOCK

Ronald Smith
Saint James
Kara Carr

BUTLER

Phyllis Dantzler
Ted Tindal

ELMORE

Stephanie Smoke
Patty Lambrecht

LEE

Juanita Gardinski
Andre' Richardson
Clifford Jones

LOWNDES

Jackie Thomas
Tyson Howard
Carnel McAlpine
James Chambliss

MID-SOUTH RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED



Waters to the Sea: Discovering AL (Elmore): To provide copies of the newly released interactive DVD “Water to the Sea.”

Leadership Elmore (Elmore): To distribute brochures highlighting outdoor activities in Elmore County to attract Tourism.

Technology Update Loachapoaka Library (Lee): To purchase ipad airs for Loachapoka Library.

Connecting People and Food (Lee): To provide information and hands on activities that promote a healthy lifestyle for children and adults.

Lee County Water Festival (Lee): Festival to educate children on the role of surface and groundwater cycle.

Building Resources Through Library Improvement (Lowndes): To improve literacy rate by increasing the children and adult services by adding new books and labeling rows of our collection.

Lowndesboro Volunteer Fire Department (Lowndes): To purchase materials for a building.

Calico Fort (Lowndes): Re-roof restrooms and country store.

Civil War Lecture Symposium (Lowndes): The Lowndesboro Landmarks Foundation, Inc. requests financial assistance to host a symposium on the 150th anniversary of the Wilson Raiders.

Senior Center Project (Lowndes): Demolition and removal of debris of existing structure to prepare for the construction of the Senior Center Project.

Supporting Our Students (Lowndes): To purchase book bags to low-income students.

Lowndesboro Volunteer Fire Department (Lowndes): To purchase materials for a building.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

MACON

Miles Robinson
 Kathryn Story
 William Hodge

MONTGOMERY

Teresa Smiley
 Raymond Boykin
 John Mitchell

AT LARGE

Bea Forniss
 Sharon Redd
 Michael Jordan

Children Changing the World (Lowndes): Support for the children of Lowndes County.

Lighting the Path of the Trail (Montgomery): To provide solar powered lights on the Civil Rights trail through the rural, impoverished short segments nearby Selma, White Hall, and Montgomery, AL.

Campsite 4 Experience (Montgomery): To purchase photographs from the Spider Martin Civil Rights Collection to be displayed at the museum.

Seeds of Plenty Community Garden (Montgomery): To create a community garden a community garden.

Grain Drill for Montgomery County Underserved Farmers (Montgomery): To help underserved farmers have access to a grain drill.

Family, Food & Fortitude (Montgomery): To provide family advocacy strategies which improve the health and economic well being of limited resource families.



Bullock County Groundwater Festival

continued



**GRAIN DRILL FOR
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY
UNDERSERVED
FARMERS
(MONTGOMERY):**

To help underserved farmers have access to a grain drill.

MID-SOUTH RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Technology Talk (Montgomery): To teach students and adults how to utilize current technology at school, home and the work place.

Urban Sprawl Meets Wildlife (Montgomery): To develop a signature “spotlight” program entitled “Urban Wildlife 101” that will couple notable wildlife curriculum with a hands-on Urban Wildlife Educational Resource Kit to be used in Autauga, Elmore, & Montgomery Counties.

Urban Sprawl Meets Wildlife



NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL

The Northwest Alabama RC&D Council consists of five counties: Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Marion, and Winston. The office is located in Tuscumbia.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

A-Z Project: Grant funds were used to purchase subscriptions to Learning A-Z for 13 teachers at Hackleburg Elementary School to benefit students' reading/language arts skills.

Addison High School Baseball/Softball Concession Building: Grant funds used to purchase building materials for the new concession building with restrooms.

Amphitheater & Riverbank Erosion Control: Purchase and install materials including an amphitheater to improve the riverbank below the Old Railroad Bridge.

Art Carts for Schools: Funds used to stock art carts for Winston County Schools to promote fine arts, proven to help students perform better in academic subjects.

Barn Quilts: Funds used to start a Quilt Trail promoting agri-tourism.

Brilliant Elementary School Campus Beautification/Landscaping: Grant funds were used to purchase landscaping materials, wood materials for a privacy fence, and paint/supplies to make the campus more appealing.

Brilliant High School/Technology Science Department: Buy technology to upgrade the Science Department.

Change is in the "Air" Project: Grant funds were used to purchase 12 iPads and protective cases for Hamilton Elementary students.

Classroom Document Cameras: Purchase 16 document cameras to be used in Russellville High School classrooms.

Colbert County Forestry – Smokey Bear Project: Purchased educational supplies to hand out at schools & events to teach kids how to prevent forest fires.

Colbert County Road Department Advisory Signage: Purchase materials to replace 140 advisory signs and 57 support posts around Colbert County.

Computer Lab Upgrade: Purchase 4 desktop computers for the Brilliant Elementary School students to use in their computer lab.

Communication and Information Storage: Purchase technology that enables the One Place of the Shoals investigators to better communicate and process information more quickly.

continued



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Board Member

Ken Sunseri

Board Member

James Bingham

Board Member

Bill Taylor

Executive Director

Charlie Meek

Office Manager

Marianne Leigh

Programs Assistant

Brianna Coleman

Senior Aid

Oppia Burke

Volunteer

Sheri Chavez

OFFICE LOCATION:

Northwest AL RC&D Council
1101 Highway 72 East, Suite 17
Tuscumbia, AL 35674
Phone: 256.383.1446
Fax: 256.381.3318
nwalrcd@yahoo.com
Follow us on Twitter: @nwalrcd

COUNCIL MEMBERS

LAUDERDALE

D. C. Thornton
Nancy O’Neal

COLBERT

Charles Hovator
James Bingham
Bill Taylor

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Frank Mitchell
Joel Pounders

MARION

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Charles Stone
Doug Gunnin

WINSTON

Ken Sunseri
Roger Hayes
James Peak



Northwest Alabama RC&D staff and board with Senator Greg Reed & Representative Lynn Greer

NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Courthouse Clock Tower: Purchase replacement parts and to pay for installation of the parts for the historic courthouse clock tower in Winston County.

Double Springs Playground Equipment: Grant funds were used to purchase a new playground structure for Double Springs Elementary School.

FOOD TEAM for At-Risk Youth: Hired a professional chef to teach culinary classes to SPAN students.

Foster Grandparent Parent Program of Franklin County: Grants funds were used to place senior volunteers (55+) into Franklin County Schools to work one-on-one with special needs students by covering costs, supplies, travel, etc.

Franklin County Envirothon: Grant funds were used to purchase t-shirts and materials in support of the Envirothon events which benefit high school age students as it tests their knowledge and skills in a competition.

Greenhill Community Center Ceiling: Grant funds were used for the purchase and installation of a new ceiling in the Greenhill Community/Senior Center.

Growing Students through Outdoor Classrooms Weeden Elementary: Grant funds were used to purchase materials to build outdoor classrooms for students to learn how to plant and grow fruits and vegetables.

Haleyville 9-1-1 Festival: Grant funds were used to help cover the expenses associated with this free, annual event that positively impacts the community.

Hamner Park & Memorial Fields Erosion Project: Purchase and installation of materials to help resolve the erosion issues in the Town of Arley sports complex.

Hatton Elementary – Technology Grant for iPads: Purchase 3 iPad minis, protective covers, and app cards for special needs students to use at school.

Imagination Library: Purchase books to mail to young students in Franklin County participating in the Imagination Library program to encourage reading.

Indian Mound Clean-Up: Grant funds were used to clean up the Indian Mounds after storm damage that occurred in late 2014 in Hamilton, Alabama.

Kirby Park Clean Up: Purchase dirt for ball fields to correct major flood damage.

Lagrange Living Historical—Lightning Rod: Purchase and installation of lightning rods on top of old, historic buildings located on the LaGrange College site.

Landscaping Project: Purchase concrete, tables, and a sign to develop a landscaping rest area in front of the Hackleburg High School stadium.

Lexington Public Library: Purchase and install new shelving in children’s section of the Lexington Public Library so the children’s books could be properly displayed.

Literacy with Technology: Grant funds were used to purchase 16 Nooks, 4 iPad minis, eBooks, and an electric piano to benefit the seventh grade Reading, English, and Voice classes at Tharptown High School.

Littleville Senior Center Update: Grant funds were used to buy new chairs and tables as well as update the floors for the senior citizens.

Lovers Lane Public Park Upgrades: Grant funds were used to purchase new playground equipment and provide for continued maintenance.

Lynn High School Upgrade & Safety Project: Grant funds were used for the purchase and installation of new security cameras.

Marion/Winston County Cogongrass Project: Grants funds were used to purchase sprayers and herbicides that will be available to treat cogongrass infestations on private property in Marion and Winston counties.

North AL African Heritage Festival: Grant funds were used to pay for materials needed at the festival, including audio and lighting for performers, and to help pay the fee for the Uhuru Dancers that performed at this educational event.

Northwest AL Lamb by the River: Cover the costs of an outreach event educating attendees about lamb meat and local food and providing a meal made of local lamb and other ingredients.

NW AL RC&D Eco Cold Storage Trailer Support: Retro fit Northwest Trailer.

NW AL RC&D Local Food Promotion (State Meeting): Sponsor local farmers & artisans to be able to display educational materials on farms & local food.

NW AL RC&D Tailgating With Local Food: Grant funds were used to purchase local meat and produce and to pay a professional chef to prepare a meal with the local ingredients for an outreach event promoting local food at UNA's Preview Day during the football game.

Oka Kapassa Native American Festival (Council-Wide): Implement a 2 day Native American Festival. One day is dedicated to elementary students learning about Native American culture and the second day is open to the public. This festival received several tourism awards for its effective delivery. okakapassa.org.

One on One Mentoring Services Technology Support: Grant funds were used to purchase 4 new laptops for the Big Brothers Big Sisters staff, accounting software, and to pay for the BBBS of the Shoals website fees.

One Place of the Shoals Building Security and Technology Project: Purchase building security and technology including a card reading system, a panic button, and a strobe light from Certified Alarm; televisions and wall mounts used to monitor the security cameras; and phones for One Place investigators.



*Franklin County Foster Grandparent
Mentoring a Child*



*Hamilton Elementary Students
Trying Out Their New iPads*

continued

NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED



Y Grow Project Participants Weeding their Gardens



Hackleburg Elementary Students Thanking RC&D

Operation GROW: Cover expenses accrued for the educational Operation GROW classes which were designed to educate veterans on agriculture to give them opportunities to pursue agriculture as employment.

Overton Farm Restoration: Begin restoring Overton Farms to allow students and groups to have access to the area again.

Playground Equipment at Alloys Park: Grant funds were used to purchase and install playground equipment at Alloys Park in Colbert County.

Renovating Former Nat'l Guard Armory Building: Grant funds were used to renovate the floor, ceiling, and entryways of the former National Guard Armory Building in the Town of Guin.

Russellville Middle School—Social Studies Technology Initiative: Purchase tablets for the Social Studies classrooms to be used for educational research.

Safe Center Communications: Grant funds were to purchase a computer system to help communication about weather situations for the City of Haleyville.

Science Activities/Labs across Grade Levels & Curriculums: Purchase lab supplies & safe storage space for students studying science at Haleyville High School.

Senior Center/Central Unit Project: Grant funds were used to help pay for the purchase and installation of a new central unit at the Lexington Senior Center.

Spring Park Cleanup and Repair: Grant funds were used to purchase new picnic tables and to pour a new concrete slab.

Technology Grant for Smartboard: Grant funds were used to purchase a SMART Board and all of the mounting hardware for special needs students at Hatton Elementary in grades ranging from K-6.

Technology in the Classroom (Smart Boards): Grant funds were used to purchase 2 eBeam interactive boards for classrooms in Phillips Elementary School.

Town of Waterloo Technology: Grant funds were used for the purchase and installation of a security camera and a system to record the images transmitted from their community camera.

Upgrade to Russellville High School Softball Field and Track Software: Grant funds were used to purchase a tarp and field work for the softball field as well as new equipment for timing runners during track meets.

Winfield Elementary Upgrades to Classroom: Grant funds were used to purchase a Promethean Board for the classroom, new music curriculum, and various necessary classroom supplies.

Y Grow!: Purchase a greenhouse, rain barrel, plants, seeds, etc. to build raised beds for year-round gardens for students the YMCA of the Shoals to learn about gardening, food choices, etc.

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL

Tombigbee RC&D serves an eight county area: Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

Technology Based Learning for Senior Citizens: Desktop computers and accessories were purchased to help seniors learn computer skills.

Lillie Star Technology for Seniors: Laptops, Uverse internet and instructor time were provided to help seniors learn computer skills.

Cahaba River Way Finder: A durable, easy-to-access water traveler's guide containing maps and information on put-in and take-out sites, public versus private land and points of interest.

Cahaba Lily Center Improvement: A 5-ton HVAC unit was installed at the Cahaba Lily Center.

Walking Track at Cahaba Ball Field: Research and create plans for a walking track at the Cahaba ball field.

Tourism Development in West Alabama: A brochure was created and printed that highlights areas of interest to visit in West Alabama.

The Author's Edge: Alabama author Cassandra King spoke to Fayette county area juniors about the importance of literacy. Grant funds were used to provide books which were given to students and bus travel from schools to venue.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day: A station to collect household hazardous waste was set up at the Fayette Extension Office to allow citizens to safely and properly dispose of unwanted dangerous items.

Feral Hog Management Workshop: A workshop with information on the dangers of feral hogs and ways to exterminate them was presented. Trap gates were also used in the workshop.

Fayette County High School Greenhouse Facility: Installed a greenhouse at Fayette County High School to educate students about plant science topics.

Fayette County Extension Office Security: Two walls will be installed in the extension office for security and storage.

SCORE Community Internet Center: Hot spots, internet service, and electronic classroom equipment were purchased to help youth with homework and after school projects.

Imagine Me – Enhancement: Books, supplies, internet access, and instructors to keep the Imagine Me program in operation.



Tombigbee logo in TMSE garden

2015 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman
Don Sherrod

Vice-Chairman
Craig Sizemore

Secretary/Treasurer
Farrington Snipes

Executive Director
Susan Wesson

Office Manager
Collette Ray

OFFICE LOCATION

Tombigbee Resource Conservation & Development Council
2501 7th Street, Suite 300
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
Phone: 205.469.6463
205.464.8313
Email - swesson@tuscco.com or
cray@tuscco.com
www.tombigbeercd.com

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS

BIBB COUNTY

Joe L. Owings
Sammy Holdsambeck
James Martin

FAYETTE COUNTY

John Gordon
Warren Griffith
Wayne Meherg

GREENE COUNTY

Tennyson Smith
Willice Lashley
Earlean Isaac

HALE COUNTY

Roland Perry
Arthur Crawford
Tommy Martin

LAMAR COUNTY

Craig Sizemore
Johnny Rogers
Harold Jordan

PICKENS COUNTY

Don Sherrod
Frederick Kennedy
Linda Forte

SUMTER COUNTY

Anthony Crear
Edward "Gump" Ozment
Micky Smith

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Girl Scout Troop 408 – Cultural Adventures: Technology equipment, supplies, print material, and transportation to help girls in this rural area attain a sense of other cultures and technology.

New Horizon Youth (Farm Tech the Future): Internet service, classroom equipment, technology equipment, and gardening supplies were used to create awareness of healthy choices.

Committed to Students, Committed to the Future: Moundville Elementary School purchased Pen and Touch Tablets so students could have the ability to access the internet wirelessly while sitting in the classroom.

The GMS Strong Campaign, Red Ribbon & Anti-Bullying Campaign, and Student Government Association: Supplies were funded to assist the Strong Campaign with preparing students for transition from grade to grade and to support the decision to live a healthy, drug- free lifestyle.

Moving into the 21st Century: Southern Academy purchased updated non-fiction books for the library.

School Data Management Upgrade: New office administration computers were installed at Southern Academy.

Replace Drain on Football Stadium: A new drainage system will be constructed at the football stadium at Southern Academy.

Counselor Services: Wall art, posters, and books for all grade levels were supplied for counseling services at Southern Academy.

Life Skills: Southern Academy used grant funds to purchase manikins and toasters for the new "Life Skills" class.

Visual Learning Opportunities: Funds will be used to purchase a document camera and a classroom wireless tablet for the junior high school Social Studies, Geography and Civics class at Southern Academy.

Smarter with Smart Boards: A smart board, Elmo Projector and a ceiling mount for the projector was purchased for third graders at Southern Academy.

Firefighter Equipment for Akron Volunteer Fire Department: Funds were used to purchase a K-12 saw for the fire station.

Firehouse Equipment for Greensboro Fire Department: A piercing nozzle was purchased with grant funds.

Hydroponic Green House: The Boys and Girls Club installed a hydroponic greenhouse in order to teach members how to raise food and sell plants.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

Hardy McCollum

Dupree Galloway

Farrington Snipes

Greensboro Farmers Market: Market signs, printer and supplies will be procured with grant funds.

School Safety with upgrade to Handicapped Accessible: Deteriorated flooring was replaced in classrooms and bathroom was renovated at Sulligent Elementary School.

South Lamar School Classroom iPad & Technology Infrastructure Initiative: South Lamar School will update classrooms with iPads for each classroom.

Language Arts Common Core Resources Project: Funds will be used to provide English Language Arts materials at Lamar County High School to ensure that every student is being taught Alabama Common Core Standards.

Sulligent High School Gym Floor Cover: Floor covering for the gym was purchased. This covering will protect the gym floor during special events.

Sulligent High School Press Box Renovation: The press box at the Sulligent High School football stadium was repaired and upgraded.

Sulligent Elementary Flooring: Flooring was replaced in two classrooms at Sulligent Elementary School.

New Metal Roof: Metal roof was installed on Crossville Fire and Rescue building.

Discover Art Summer Program: Funds will be used to expose youth to art skills and techniques used by professional artists in order for students to develop their creativity, improve their skills and expand general knowledge of art.

AMS College Career Ready: Funds will be used to provide iPads and Otterboxes to middle school students at Aliceville Middle School in order to prepare them for a college education and/or employment.

Aliceville High School Football Stadium Safety Upgrade: The playing surface of the football field will be enclosed, which will provide a safety fence for the safety of the players and coaches.

Gordo Dixie Youth Baseball Concession Stand Remodel: The concession stand at the baseball field will be remodeled.

Pickens County Community Action Head Start Computer Lab: Computers and printers will be acquired for the start-up of a computer lab for low-income children.

Aliceville Youth Football League: Purchased uniforms for football league.

Sickle Cell Disease Association: A new air conditioning unit was installed.



TOURISM

DEVELOPMENT IN

WEST ALABAMA: A

brochure was created

and printed that

highlights areas of

interest to visit in West

Alabama.



Moundville Elementary EnviroScape

continued



AMS COLLEGE

CAREER READY:

Funds will be used to provide iPads and Otterboxes to middle school students at Aliceville Middle School in order to prepare them for a college education and/or employment.

TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

UWA Campus Interpretive Project: Historical clothing and items will be purchased to reinterpret history for education at Sumter County area schools and venues.

Hands Up for Hands On!: Science kits were purchased for K5-6th grade students at Sumter Academy.

West Alabama Environmental Services Center: Funds will be used to provide quality audio-visual instruction in the classroom and laboratory for wastewater education and training.

A Watershed for Education: Increasing Wetland Classrooms across Campus: Grant money will be used to engineer and build a weir, purchase gravel for nature trails, and purchase material for a boardwalk.

Coleman Center for the Arts Community Garden: Funds will be used for the upkeep of the Community Center Garden and for additional education.

North River Baseball Complex: Water pooling on the baseball field will be corrected.

Holt Community New Foundry Development Project (General Fund): A safe and secure facility for senior citizens will be established.

Friends of Historic Northport Initiative for Schools: Students were provided with hands-on historical information and experiential activities that relate to the fourth grade curriculum.

Holt Community New Foundry Development Project (Education): Funds will be used to assist in the expansion of educational opportunities for senior citizens in the Holt community.

Batting Cages at the Town of Vance Park: Two batting cages will be installed at the park.

NRCS Outreach: Tombigbee partnered with NRCS to provide education about farming and small scale vegetable production, and to furnish information about programs that provide assistance.

Conservation Education Outreach: Funds will be used to sponsor educational demonstrations at schools in Tombigbee's eight county area.

Discovering Alabama: Dr. Doug Phillips with Discovering Alabama filmed a show about the North River Watershed.

WIREFRASS RC&D COUNCIL

The Wiregrass Resource Conservation and Development (WRC&D) Council serves the following Southeast Alabama counties: Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Pike and Russell.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

Nature Teaches Barbour County Students: Auburn University Environmental Institute will bring appreciation for the natural environment to students in Barbour County, promote environmental stewardship and generate enthusiasm for scientific study. The sessions will be held at the Wehle Nature Center.

Barbour County Groundwater Festival: Fourth graders will learn about all aspects of water and other natural resources and to instill in them a general environmental and stewardship ethic.

Barbour County Youth Leadership Academy: This project will impact youth in a positive way by developing leadership qualities among teens and pre-teens.

Restoration of Clayton Walking Trail: This project helped to repair erosion along the Clayton walking trail.

TVFD-HVAC Replacement: The Texasville VFD replaced a broken air conditioning unit in the firehouse.

Coffee County Groundwater Festival: The Coffee County Groundwater Festival Committee purchased materials used to conduct education activities focusing on water conservation to all 4th graders in the Coffee County schools.

Coffee County Forestry & Wildlife Field Day: The mission of the Coffee County Forestry & Wildlife Field Day is to educate children on the benefits of proper forest management while developing a desire to protect and conserve our forest land. Approximately 250 students from Coffee County Schools will attend.

Drainage Rehabilitation: Four locations at the Johnny Henderson Park in Enterprise were damaged by heavy rainfalls around the controlled drainage structures in the park. All four areas will be repaired so no further erosion will occur.

Pollinator-Habitat Contest & Classroom Enrichment: This project will reach out to 3rd grade students in the Covington County Schools to teach environmental education and conservation concepts.

Walk in the Forest: This will be a day for students to have a forestry and wildlife field day. They will learn about forestry practices, forestry stewardship and wildlife.



Honoraville VFD installed a new fire hydrant to train firefighters

2015 OFFICERS AND STAFF

Chairman
Kurt McDaniel

Vice Chairman
Dean Smith

Secretary/ Treasurer
Carolyn Riley

Executive Director
James Currington

Program Manager
Deborah Childree

OFFICE LOCATION:

Wiregrass RC&D Council
211 North Union Avenue
Ozark, AL 36360
Office 334.774.2334

www.wiregrassrcd.org

continued

COUNCIL MEMBERS

BARBOUR COUNTY

Ann Adams
 Carol Threatt
 Earl Gilmore
 Patrick McDougald

COFFEE COUNTY

Shirley Bryan
 Mike Newman
 Dean Smith
 Al Britt

COVINGTON COUNTY

Mike Birge
 Patricia Gable
 Darren Capps
 Ken Northey

CRENSHAW COUNTY

Pat Folmar
 Ricky McElwain
 Benjie Sanders
 Troy Hudson

DALE COUNTY

Dawn Peters
 Monica Carroll
 Kurt McDaniel
 Doug Williamson

GENEVA COUNTY

W. M. Donnell
 Steve Dunn
 Henley Hicks
 Justin Barfield

WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Pleasant Home Envirothon Team: Provided students with instruction in soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues. If they win the local contest they will go on to the state contest.

Groundwater Demonstration: The Covington County Education Coordinator will go into classrooms and teach different aspects of groundwater to the students.

A Brighter and Greener Future for Aquaculture: The Florala High School will replace the existing tin roof with Solexx greenhouse material and add an exhaust fan.

Crenshaw County 4-H Program: Crenshaw County Extension Office will conduct classes to educate students and their families about forestry, wildlife management, natural resources and water quality.

Multi-Purpose Shed: The Crenshaw County Forestry Planning Committee will build a 30 x 40 pole barn to house two tour trailers used for educational projects and demonstrations.

Tom Harbin Ag Center: Infrastructure repairs will be made to the Ag Center. The center gets multiple uses from the community to hold meetings and events.

Honoraville Fire Hydrant Installation: Honoraville VFD installed a fire hydrant at the firehouse for training in the proper use of fire hydrants to new firemen.

Crenshaw County Association of VFD: Two GPS units per department in Crenshaw County were purchased. The GPS units will aid in locating residents in an emergency.

Dale County FFA: Dale County High School will purchase needed equipment to maintain a working orchard and farm the students use to learn about agriculture.

Dale County SWCD Education: Dale County SWCD will host the annual groundwater festival. Materials and supplies for the festival will be purchased with this grant.

Ariton Baseball Field Upgrade: Ariton High School repaired erosion and redirected runoff water to prevent additional erosion on the field.

Hero's Memorial Park Sign: Erected a sign at the City of Newton Park honoring war heroes. Picnic tables were added for the physically handicapped.

East Gate Summer Program: The building that is used for underprivileged children and teens as a summer program will be cleaned and painted.

Billy Adkins Community Park and Garden: The basketball courts will be resurfaced and new goals erected. Picnic tables, benches and native landscaping will be added.

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

HENRY COUNTY

Andy Williams
 Carolyn Riley
 Pam Ward
 Franklin Swann

HOUSTON COUNTY

Jared Forrester
 William Holman
 Mark Culver
 Doug Sinuefield

PIKE COUNTY

Roy Kendrick
 Herb Huner
 Homer C. Wright
 Russell Oliver

RUSSELL COUNTY

John Rudd
 Greg Glass
 Cattie Epps
 Johnnie Robinson

Holman House Beautification Project: The City of Ozark will plant native flowers and bushes at the Historical Holman House.

Geneva County Groundwater Festival: Geneva SWCD will provide hands-on teaching to students to learn about groundwater, conservation and recycling water for irrigation.

Slocomb Guard Armory: This project will update and renovate the National Guard Armory where the community holds many events and meetings.

Samson Elementary School: Repair erosion on school grounds to make it safer for the students.

Samson High School: Repair erosion on school grounds for the safety of the students.

Henry County GWF: WRC&D will provide financial assistance to the Henry County Extension office to purchase supplies and materials to provide educational opportunities to 4th grade students to learn about groundwater.

Henry County 4-H: WRC&D will provide financial assistance to Henry County Extension Office for the purpose of carrying out the 4-H program in Henry County Schools.

Girard Park: Six outdoor benches will be placed in the park for people to have a place to rest and relax.

Boys & Girls Club of Lake Eufaula: Funding provided will be used to assist with the initial setup of the Boys and Girls Club with computers, phones, and copier, art and music supplies.

Houston County GWF: WRC&D will provide financial assistance to Houston Co. SWCD for the purpose of purchasing supplies and materials to conduct a groundwater festival to 1200 4th grade students in Houston County Schools.

Provide Children Healthy Living: WRC&D will provide financial assistance to The DuBois Institute to purchase supplies and materials to provide a community garden.

Girard Middle School: WRC&D will provide financial assistance to Girard Middle School to purchase docking stations for tablets that the students use during the lessons.

Honey Bee Swarm Trapping Program: Provide assistance to ACES to protect and preserve feral honeybee colonies from extermination by using swarm traps to help prevent their occupation of residential dwellings. Honeybee swarms caught in traps will be relocated to Houston County Extension Apiary Facility.

continued

Houston County conducting a groundwater festival for fourth graders





**GENEVA COUNTY
GROUNDWATER
FESTIVAL:** *Hands-on teaching to students to learn about groundwater, conservation and recycling water for irrigation.*

WIREGRASS RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Community Garden at Landmark Park: Landmark Park will construct a community garden for local people to raise vegetables and harvest and eat the food.

Columbia Historical Society: A new roof will replace the worn out roof that is presently on the Bank of Columbia.

CR 2201 Ditch Stabilization: WRC&D will provide financial assistance to the Pike County Commission for the purpose of the installation of rock flumes to adequately control concentrated runoff water.

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program for Pike 4-H: Provided financial assistance to Pike County Extension Office for the purpose of implementing educational programs for over 1700 4-H'ers in each school in Pike County.

St. John AME Church Erosion: St. John AME Church repaired severe erosion running off the side of a steep drive that runs into the street.

Community Education and Awareness Program: WR&D will provide financial assistance to hold a community kick off for students who need help with school supplies and speakers to encourage kids to stay in school and do their best.

4-H Youth Leadership: Grant funds provided financial assistance to the Russell County ACES to help carry out the 4-H program in Russell County Schools.

Capacity Building: Grant funds provided financial assistance for council members and staff to attend training meetings, staff development and conventions designed to share information and distribute materials and resources to other councils.

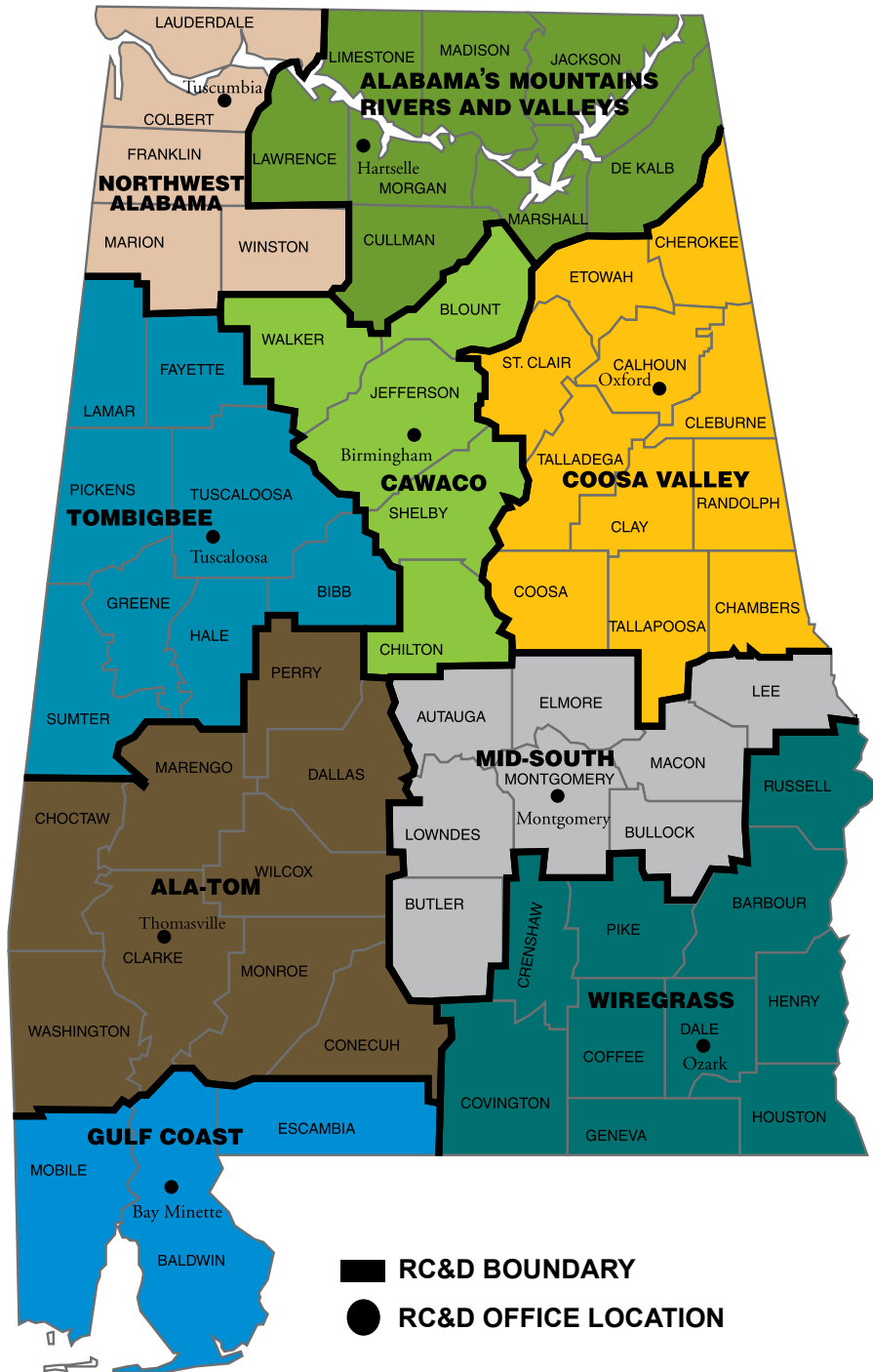
Water Conservation Workshop: Landmark Park hosted two outreach workshops to provide education and training to FFA students in the Wiregrass on the wise use of agricultural production methods, scholarships, internships and careers for students in ag related fields.

Tunnel House Training: Workshops were held to train all RC&D Councils in Alabama to build tunnel house kits and construct tunnel houses.

Wiregrass Education and Outreach: Provide travel and expenses for the Alabama Clean Water Partnership facilitator to conduct educational activities as directed by the ACWP and assist with WRC&D educational activities.

Website/Training: Wiregrass RC&D will update their website and receive training for staff.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS



NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Alabama Association of RC&D Councils prohibits discriminate in all of its programs against race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Association will take affirmative action to ensure that its programs are delivered without regard to their race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs and marital or family status. For additional information or to file a discrimination complaint write to:

The Alabama Association of RC&D Councils
 P. O. Box 3128
 Montgomery, AL 36109
 Office: 334.240.3863

Web: www.alabamarcd.org

