

**ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PARTNERING WITH NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STRATEGY 1: Natural Resources

Promote conservation in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties by addressing priority natural resource concerns and issues

Potential Grant Writing & Fee-For-Service Work

Requests for Grant Projects

National/State Grant for Carbon Credit Program

State Conservation Innovation Grant, Carbon Credit Phase II, RMA/FEPN concept letter, Oak Foundation, Northeast Ag Farm Credit, SARE grant proposal, Roy Hunt Foundation inquiry letter

Groundwater Project from Davis Foundation

319 Grant proposal for Sabattus Pond Watershed

Outreach/Education

Find grant funding

Groundwater Education for Schools –researched sources

Capacity Building

Find funding

Database Building -- researched sources

Expand Fees-For-Service Program – 11 clients, mailing to all municipalities and all banks in this district

Urban Development ESC Reviews – consultant laid up from heart bypass surgery –only 3 reviews

Stormwater Management Inspections offered

NPDES Compliance Monitoring, audits and inspections of Phase I and II MS4's offered
—Lewiston/Auburn, Bath and Topsham

Lake Smart Evaluations – Taylor Pond

Contractor Certification Inspections – two contractors

Landowner and Municipal land use or conservation practice assistance requests – 8 serviced as requested

Water Quality—Lakes, Ponds

Grant Projects

Sabattus Pond Watershed Implementation—all but on construction site and final report completed

Nequasset Lake Watershed Implementation – first field season completed

Assisted City of Lewiston with Hart Brook Watershed Survey and Thompson Lake

Environmental Association with watershed survey

Water Quality—Rivers, streams

Rapid Watershed Assessment –Lower Androscoggin planning for 2009

Kennebec River— assessed survey report

Assisted City of Lewiston with Hart Brook Survey

USDA programs administered by NRCS in compliance with Locally Led Priorities

Environmental Quality Improvement Program

Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program

Wetland Reserve Program

Farmland Protection

Conservation Security Program

Emergency Watershed Protection Project

STRATEGY 2: Education and Information **Expand educational programs and opportunities.**

Youth Education

Mock Envirothon and assisted with Regional Competition Events – hosted Mock at Beaver Park
Promoted Envirothon to non-participating schools—one new contact

Educational/Informational Handouts for workshops, walk-ins, public relations or outreach events or activities

Brochures and other materials developed and printed – donation brochure developed and distributed – fee-for-service flyer developed and distributed
Photocopying fact sheets and other materials for carbon credit and groundwater farm-a-syst programs

Agriculture

MOFGA Conference - Carbon Credit presentation, Farm-A-Syst Groundwater protection, Conservation Farm Energy Workshop and New Farm Bill Information Meeting

Forestry

Forestry Management—Workshop Opportunities
GPS use (co-sponsor and host) – 3 workshops
Terrestrial Invasives—offered by Maine Forest Service – 2 workshops
Managed Forestry for carbon credits with Delta Institute

Water Quality

Advanced Wastewater Workshop 1 workshop hosted

Soil Erosion Control/Water Quality

Gravel Road Maintenance and Front Runner Operation Workshop in conjunction with
Yardscaping Workshop conducted with City of Auburn
Maine Watershed Conference--Groundwater display
Maine Garden Day – Rain Barrel display

Planning begun for 2009

Yardscaping and Gravel Road Maintenance with Front Runner in Nequasset Lake Watershed

STRATEGY 3: Public Relations

Continue a positive public relations strategy, in order to effectively provide quality service to our clients

Public Relations/Outreach

Enlist new customers to work with and promote conservation land use decisions
Envirothon students and advisors, municipal officials in Lisbon and Turner, GPS and terrestrial invasive workshop attendees, yardscaping and advanced wastewater workshop attendees
Enlist federal and state legislative support for District's mission, goals, and program work
Talked with or wrote to legislators about natural resource and land use issues.
Enlist new associate supervisors to assist in providing a diverse representation of the District's geographical conservation needs – one new associate and another associate became a Board Supervisor
Updated District Profile
Reconstruction and Regular updates for Website, 14 press releases, annual report and 2 newsletters
Display Theme/PowerPoint presentations to use at
Ag Trade Show for farmers primarily
Maine Garden Day for Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners primarily--
Promote rain gardens and Conservation Plant Sale
Fryeburg Fair Booth—alternative energy was theme, provided handouts

District Day at Augusta for Legislators (prepared but didn't attend)
Municipal Offices for general public
County Commissioners and Budget Committees
Grant project related presentations – Carbon Credit, Groundwater, Nequasset Lake

STRATEGY 4: Partnerships

To improve and enhance District programs strengthen and expand our conservation partnerships with regional and state groups and to develop and implement a volunteer service program to meet workload, and offer internship program

Enhance a better working relationship with federal, state, county, local municipal officials
Re-establish or maintain communications and relationships with local lake and stream associations, public and private road associations, conservation commissions, cooperative extension, land trusts, and other environmental groups

Seek to expand and find new working partnerships where appropriate -- New partnerships with Risk Management Agency through Farm Energy Partners Network, City of Auburn, City of Lewiston, Resources First Foundation

Improve alliances and joint programming with NACD, MACD, SWCDs, and RC&D --

Enhancing working relationship with Time and Tide RC&D, Oxford County SWCD, Kennebec County SWCD, Cumberland and Aroostook County Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Network with College Systems to develop internships or service-related training –Used intern from University of Southern Maine L/A and Gorham campus for watershed work and carbon credit data modeling.

Promoted volunteer service opportunities through united way, website, newsletter and press releases

Select and recognize voluntary participation and outstanding achievements through award program –recognized outstanding cooperator for 2008 and planning others

Partners include: Maine Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), Maine Forest Service (MFS), Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), Maine Department of Agriculture (MDOA), Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Services Agency (FSA), Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), Risk Management Agency through Farm Energy Partners Network, Southwestern Conservation Alliance (SWCA), Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce, Resources First Foundation, Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP), University of Maine Cooperative Extension (UMCE), Kennebec River Initiative, Cathance River Coalition, Nequasset Lake Watershed Stakeholders, Sabattus Pond Watershed Partnership, Lake Auburn Watershed Commission, lake associations, conservation commissions, land trusts, and others

STRATEGY 5: Funding

Maintain current funding sources and seek alternative sources of funding to strengthen our level of programming and service to municipalities and the public.

Cooperate with MACD to secure increased base funding – submitted a resolution to MACD

Solicit auction items for MACD education committee funding – assisted with raising over \$3000

Submit proposals for District projects or programming from government/private foundations – 9 formal proposals submitted

Develop corporate and small business donation campaign – two donation campaign mailings sent out

Consider membership fee for cooperators or serviced groups—plan to be implemented in 2009
Continue to promote and expand the “Fee-for-Service” opportunities provided – two new towns inquired about our service and a third town took advantage of the program
Consider specific fundraising events for 2008

Sales — had compost bin, conservation plant and rain barrel sale – offered advertising for the website

Fulfilled budget, tracking and reviewing status of projects and operational funding duties

Downsized district staffing and joined agreement with Oxford County SWCD to provide staff for their workload needs

STRATEGY 6: Board and Staff Development

Maintain a skilled and diverse District board and staff to effectively serve the conservation needs of Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties

Restructure Board meeting agenda to promote action, productivity, training, discussions, Presentations from partners – speakers from Cooperative Extension, Maine Department of Agriculture, Androscoggin Council of Governments, Time and Tide RC&D – two open discussion of natural resource issues

Reviewed policies and development strategy

Conducted personnel reviews

Reviewed technical assistance, education, public relations/outreach programming

Discussed priority wish list for the Annual Work Plan

Identify supervisor and associate skill sets available and still needed

Appointed one new supervisor and one new associate member to promote Conservation District

Prioritized staff workload