



RC&D

SOUTHERN MARYLAND

NEWSLETTER

January 2009

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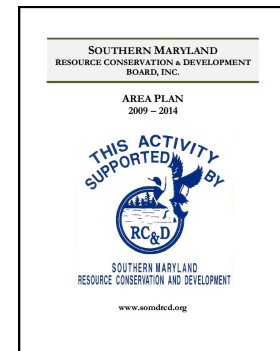
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RC&D Area Plan Completed

The 2009-2014 Southern Maryland RC&D Area Plan has finally been completed. After months of collaboration with community members and partners, in September RC&D submitted a draft plan to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for consideration. NRCS is RC&D's sponsoring agency. By October the Area Plan had been approved by NRCS and put into action by the RC&D Board of Directors.

The planning process is guided by a series of requirements from NRCS. Specifically, the Area Plan is the result of a public-input driven process and is built around Goals, Objectives and Strategies that are SMART, or Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-bound. The planning process is designed to ensure that all RC&D activities are responsive to community identified needs. Without input from our communities, a relevant Area Plan is not possible.

The Area Plan is responsive to emerging needs through the development of the Annual Plan of Work. The Plan of Work prioritizes Area Plan activities for the current



Visit www.somdrcl.org for more information.

fiscal year. Now that the Area Plan has been approved, we are hard at work developing the Annual Plan of Work for Fiscal Year 2009. We hope to have the 2009 Plan of Work finalized at the January Board Meeting.

We thank all of our valued community members and project partners for their voice in completing this important strategic plan. Without their input, the Area Plan would not be relevant to the unique needs and challenges of Southern Maryland.

Mid-Atlantic Conference A Success

The 2008 Mid-Atlantic Conference was held this year in Clinton, New Jersey. Southern Maryland RC&D was well represented with attendance by Board Members Pat Pinnell, Olga Walter, Tom Tudor and Mike Pellegrino, Office Associate Denitra Brawner and Coordinator Jeremy West.

There were many opportunities to share success stories. The assembled RC&D Councils toured numerous local project sites and our own Tom Tudor made a presentation on our 14 year partnership with the U.S. Navy.

Here are some images from the conference. *Continued...*



RC&D Board Members from all over the country visiting a successful RC&D project in New Jersey.

Mid-Atlantic Conference...

More photos can be found at www.sjred.org/ma/confphotos/



A dam notch, part of the Lopatcong Creek restoration project.



Conference attendees visiting the Traditions Farm, part of the "River-Friendly Farm" program



Soil Scientist Ray Archuleta (right) gave an inspiring talk about soil biology. RC&D Chair Pat Pinnell is seen on the right.

Dr. Les Vough To Work Again With RC&D



Dr. Les Vough has over 20 years of forage agronomy experience in Maryland.

In September Southern Maryland RC&D was awarded a Cooperative Agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide professional agronomy assistance to Maryland's agricultural community.

This Cooperative Agreement will help us deliver much needed technical assistance to all agricultural producers throughout Maryland. Through this project RC&D will once again work

with Dr. Les Vough, Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland College of Forestry and Natural Resources.

While most of our projects are confined to the RC&D's Development Area, Dr. Vough will coordinate with Soil Conservation Districts and Cooperative Extension in every county in Maryland assisting as many farmers as possible.

It is our sincere hope that Vough will reach

as many as 1,000 farmers at 47 field visits before October 1st, 2009. In addition to providing technical assistance to farmers, Dr. Vough will also work with staff from the National Plant Materials Center in Beltsville and NRCS, finding ways to further develop their capacity for providing technical assistance to our dynamic agricultural communities.

For information about Dr. Vough's work, please visit our website.

Council To Hire Program Officer

For the last several months RC&D has been planning to hire additional staff to support our diverse project portfolio. The "Program Officer" position will be instrumental to the Board's long-term sustainability and enhance our capacity to deliver important

services to communities in the Southern Maryland Development Area.

The Program Officer will be tasked primarily with supporting Navy projects, implementing the Potomac Heritage Trail project in Charles and St. Mary's Counties, developing the

Agricultural Ombudsman project and working closely with the Board in bringing new grant funded opportunities to the region.

The official position description will be posted on our website soon, so please check the site frequently for additional information.

To apply for the Program Officer position, please visit the Southern Maryland RC&D website at

www.somdrd.org

From the Chair

Forty-five years ago, a brand new program began. It had hopes and dreams of people who believed in the power of community. This was the RC&D program. Here we are forty-five years later launching into a brand new era with a lot of hopes and dreams of Southern Maryland RC&D growing with a lot of new program areas. It has been a very busy month with Navy projects and the development of the Program Officer's position. Many hours have been put into this process. The applications have been received and individuals have been selected for interviews. The excitement of having a full time employee grows more and more as the time gets closer. Southern Maryland RC&D is ready to branch out into new avenues for the betterment of the community.



Patricia Pinnell joined the RC&D Board of Directors in 2001. She has served as Chair since 2008.

Make Things Happen In Southern Maryland!

RC&D is continuing to look for talented volunteers to help us make Southern Maryland a better place to live, work and play. We need you to join the RC&D Board of Directors. By volunteering on our Board you can be a part of projects that positively impact the daily lives of thousands of your fellow Southern Marylanders.

Southern Maryland RC&D is unique in its acceptance of student Board

Members. We currently have four student vacancies on our Board. Our student members gain invaluable experience in conservation, agriculture and community development projects. Many of our students have moved on to pursue careers in conservation, applying the project design and implementation skills they acquired through their activity on the Board.

Please call us at (301) 932-4638 to find out how you can participate.

If you are interested in joining the Southern Maryland RC&D Board of Directors, please visit us at:

www.somdracd.org

or call (301) 932-4638 for more information.



Jeremy West joined Southern Maryland RC&D as their RC&D Coordinator in November 2005.

From the Coordinator

We have accomplished so much in the last twelve months, exceeding our every expectation. And, I think our expectations were pretty high. This year we completed our 2009-2014 Area Plan, moved closer to hiring the Program Officer position you've all heard so much about and accepted many and exciting new projects and programs. Also, remember last year when I proudly announced that we had won the largest Cooperative Agreement of the Board's 36-year history, \$4.8 million? This year we won the largest Cooperative Agreement of the RC&D program's history, \$10 million. However, of all of these accomplishments I'm most proud of our new Area Plan. The plan was developed over several months and involved input from hundreds of Southern Marylanders. As we implement this new Area Plan, know that you have spoken, we have listened and together we'll strive to make Southern Maryland a better place to live work and play.

Dates to Remember...

January 15 - Southern Maryland RC&D Board Meeting, Waldorf.

January 31 - St. Mary's County Science Fair, Great Mills High School.

February 6-7- National Association of RC&D Councils Leadership Forum, Washington DC.

February 27 - St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Cooperators' Dinner.

February 28 - Calvert County Science Fair, Calvert High School.

March 6-7 - Charles County History Day, La Plata High School.

March 28 - Charles County Science Fair, North Point High School.

April 17 - Southern Maryland RC&D Annual Dinner Meeting, location TBD.

Our Sponsors...

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Anne Arundel Forest Conservancy District Board
Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District

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