

Little Kanawha Resource Conservation & Development Council

2005-2010

Area Plan



In Partnership:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1014 Volcano Road
Waverly, West Virginia 26184

With assistance from Cooperating Federal, State, local governments and other groups

Prepared under authority of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture under the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, Public Law 97-98, 16 U.S.C. 3451-3461 as amended by Public Law 101-624, section 1452.

Mission

“Assist local communities to manage their natural resources in ways that improve the areas economy and environment.”

Vision

“Leading our communities through partnerships to make things happen”



Little Kanawha Resource Conservation & Development

Little Kanawha RC&D Council, Inc.

Area Plan

Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wetzel, Wirt and Wood Counties encompasses 2,944 square miles. The 2000 US Census shows a population of 190,029. The center of the population lies in the west central section of the area near Parkersburg.

General Description

The Little Kanawha Resource Conservation and Development Area, LKRC&D, encompasses nine counties that are in the western portion of West Virginia. The Mid-Ohio Valley Region consists of Jackson, Roane, Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie, Wood and Wirt Counties. This region features a unique blend between the western frontier of 1800 and the Victorian legacies of the nation's oil and gas boom. Country roads wind through the rolling foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and through quaint villages nestled along the Ohio River. It is also rich in fine handicrafts, galleries, festivals, parks and historic sites. There are natural benefits to fish the rivers and streams, hike and bike the trails and back roads, hunt the thousands of acres of wildlife areas and enjoy the tranquility of the unblemished mountains. Wetzel and Tyler Counties are in the Northern Panhandle Region. This area remembers its history; the ancient Adena people who built a conical mound more than 2,000 years ago; pioneer families making their way west along the National Road; and the boom that spawned magnificent Victorian homes in Sistersville. That history combines with the new excitement of today; great country music, family resorts and parks, outdoor adventure on the rivers, arts and culture, fabulous dining and hotels.

Funding for projects and operations come from multiple sources including USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Partners, West Virginia State Conservation Agency, State Agencies, State and Federal Legislators, Sponsors, Businesses, Individuals and partnering groups and organizations.

There are 12 sponsors representing the nine counties and they include the County Commissioners from each of the nine counties and the Little Kanawha, Upper Ohio and Western Conservation Districts.

LKRC&D is made up of a council that has representatives from each county that consists of one county commissioner, a soil conservation district representative and a community 'at large' person.

Little Kanawha RC&D Council Members 2005

CALHOUN CO.	
SOIL CONSERV. DIST.	Marvin Stemple
COUNTY COM.	William Morrison
MEMBER AT LARGE	Donald Pitts
JACKSON CO.	
SOIL CONSERV. DIST.	Oscar Harris
COUNTY COM.	James Waybright
MEMBER AT LARGE	
PLEASANTS CO.	
SOIL CONSERV. DIST.	Jim McFarland
COUNTY COM.	Jim Cottrill
MEMBER AT LARGE	Tammy Hammett Smith
RITCHIE CO.	
SOIL CONSERV. DIST.	Jack Cunningham
COUNTY COM.	Floyd Hodge
MEMBER AT LARGE	Mona Region
ROANE CO.	
SOIL CONSERV. DIST.	Jim Wood
COUNTY COM.	Terry Williams
MEMBER AT LARGE	Robert Ashley
TYLER CO.	
SOIL CONSERV. DIST.	Ronald Fletcher
COUNTY COM.	Edwin Weigle
MEMBER AT LARGE	Jim Ash
WETZEL CO.	
SOIL CONSERV. DIST.	Carroll Cumberledge
COUNTY COM.	Robert Gorby
MEMBER AT LARGE	Shirley Michael
WIRT CO.	
SOIL CONSERV. DIST.	Paul Sommerville
COUNTY COM.	Lenton Offutt
MEMBER AT LARGE	
WOOD CO.	
SOIL CONSERV. DIST.	Freddie Fields
COUNTY COM.	
MEMBER AT LARGE	

Legislators

Congressional Delegation

Senators: Robert C. Byrd
John D. Rockefeller IV

Representatives: Alan Mollohan
Shelly Moore Capito
Nick Joe Rahall II

State Legislators

Senators: Larry J. Edgell District #2
Jeffery V. Kessler District #2
Donna J. Boley District #3
J. Frank Deem District #3
Lisa D. Smith District #4
Karen Lynn Facemeyer District #4

House of Delegates: Dave Pethtel District #5
Roger Romine District #6
Otis A. Leggett District #7
E.W. Bill Anderson District #8
Larry Border District #9
John Ellem District #10
J.D. Beane District #10
Tom Azinger District #10
Bob Ashley District #11
Mitch Carmichael District #12
Dale Martin District #13
Brady Paxton District #13
William F. Stemple District #33

Governor: Joe Manchin III

Introduction and History

The Little Kanawha Resource Conservation & Development Area was formed out of public concern with the intent “to conserve and develop natural resources for the use and benefit of the general public”.

It was the first RC&D Area in West Virginia and the thirteenth in the nation. The original Little Kanawha RC&D Area was made up of five counties that included Calhoun, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood was formed in October 1966. In 1973 efforts were made to expand the RC&D area, by adding Jackson, Pleasants and Tyler Counties. This expansion was approved by the United State’s Department of Agriculture on April 23, 1974. Wetzel County was later added in 1990 to make up the existing nine county region served by the Little Kanawha RC&D area.

Needs and Opportunities

The original Area Plan created in the early 1970’s provides some useful insights into some of the needs and opportunities for the region that still exist today. More recently, the RC&D Council has identified current issues during local planning meetings that will help guide the Councils efforts over the next several years.

Little Kanawha RC&D obtained input from local citizens through public meetings, interviews, small group participation, and questionnaires throughout the 2004 calendar year. Information gathered will establish a baseline for the Councils Area Plan of Work for the upcoming five years beginning in 2005. Questions asked during the survey period relate to what citizen’s view as the pressing needs for the area and what opportunities exist to make our region a better place to live.

Issues from the public based on needs and opportunities for the RC&D Area were categorized into four major topical areas. These areas include: Land Conservation, Water Management, Community Development and Land Management. Public comments from each of these four categories were then formulated in to goals, objectives and strategies for projects to be worked on in the coming years.

Goals are defined as a broad end statement that, when attained collectively, will result in the achievement of the vision for the planning period. Objectives are defined as specific, measurable achievements that when obtained result in the accomplishment of a goal. Strategies are defined as the kinds of activities and individual projects that the RC&D Council envisions pursuing in order to accomplish objectives.

Goals & Objectives & Strategies

Land Conservation

Goal A. Enhance opportunities for land conservation by providing means for the control of erosion and sedimentation.

Objective 1a: Join with Conservation Partners to promote better stewardship on lands with Best Management Practice that reduce erosion on 5,000 acres.

Strategies: Conduct three workshops on best management practices for timber harvest professionals to train them in erosion control techniques.

Locate \$2,000 in funding to provide soil stewardship materials to 5th grade students in all school districts in the nine county areas.

Provide \$2,500 of RC&D funding to dredge sedimentation near the boat dock facilities at Mountwood Park.

Provide guidance to County Planning Commissions on erosion control regulations for five development sites.

Assist conservation groups to plant 500 acres of trees on steep lands to help reduce erosion.

Work with three local watershed groups to assist them with the development of comprehensive watershed management plans.

Assist Brisco Run Watershed with capacity building to gain public support and increased volunteer efforts to reduce erosion and sedimentation.

Support Conservation Districts efforts to reduce soil erosion on steep lands through two educational workshops or field days.

Water Management

Goal B. Improve water quality by assisting with rural water supplies and flood prevention programs that encourage better water management and utilization.

Objective 1b: Improve water quality through the development of two watershed projects that address flooding and household sewage treatment systems.

Strategies: Work with local officials and residents of Boaz to find a solution to the flooding and implement one new drainage system to solve problem.

Support Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council to expand rural water efforts with the Hughes River Water Board, by providing assistance to communities within the district to identify areas of need for 30 miles of rural water expansion.

Select one targeted watershed as a pilot project for House Hold Sewage Treatment System upgrades in partnership with local Health District, Department of Environmental Protection and US EPA. Intent is to upgrade 50% of failing HSTS within the targeted area to improve water quality.

Conduct one workshop in partnership with educational and conservation entities to focus on alternative uses for applying waste water and other organic wastes to the land.

Design and conduct a volunteer canoeing program that enhances litter pickup and prevention programs to aid in water quality efforts.

Community Development

Goal C. Enhance the development of resource based industries; recreational facilities; rural housing; the provision of adequate health and education facilities; economic development and education by providing \$18,000 per year as seed money for community projects.

Objective 1c: Implement a Revolving Loan Fund program that focuses on assisting small natural resource based business expand and create jobs in the region.

Strategies: Work with USDA Rural Development to establish baseline funding of \$250,000 to start a micro revolving loan fund program that focuses on small natural resource based business needing low interest rate loans for business start ups or expansions.

Provide 15 micro loans to small natural resource based business startups or expansions with an emphasis on creating jobs.

Create 50 new jobs through the development of a Micro Revolving Loan Fund Program, with emphasis on businesses that utilize local natural resources.

Focus on assisting 5 businesses expand operations to include the utilization of secondary wood or the utilization of small diameter and waste wood for biomass purposes.

Objective 2c: Develop a Heritage Tourism program that enhances historical and natural features within the region.

Strategies: Assist Roane County with heritage tourism through the development of a Civil War Memorial in Spencer.

Assist three communities with historic building preservation projects that show case cultural history.

Finalize construction of the designed campgrounds and boat marina at North Fork State Park with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and North Bend State Park officials.

Start a quilt barn heritage tourism program that paints quilt squares on at least 20 historical barns and have quilting groups make quilts that correspond with travel route of barn paintings.

Objective 3c: Initiate at least five new recreational and educational opportunities in the region with projects that promote outdoor education and fitness opportunities.

Strategies: Construct one new pavilion at the Wirt county wetlands site for educational purposes.

Develop water recreation opportunities through the creation of 2 canoe or boat accesses to public waters systems.

Enhance the Williamstown Wetland by contracting with a consultant for wetland enhancement and beautification planning to make the wetland more attractive and acceptable to the public.

Construct 1,000 feet of board walk around and near the Williamstown Wetland for recreational, educational and tourism purposes.

Assist Ritchie County officials with efforts to re-open the YMCA for recreational and wellness opportunities.

Enhance the Wood County Arboretum at Edison School with the construction of 1,000 additional feet of trail and by posting signage through the existing trail system.

Promote Elk Fork Lake and other Fishing and Recreational areas by sponsoring three “hooked on fishing not on drugs” fishing derby’s to local youth organizations.

Continue to improve the rails to trails system throughout the region. Install at least three new sections of trail over the next five years.

Objective 4c: Provide opportunities for rural communities to learn more about philanthropy by conducting workshops on grant writing and fundraising.

Strategies: Conduct at least five grant writing workshops with at least 20 students each to enhance opportunities for groups to obtain funding for projects.

Conduct a forum in counties that currently do not have Community Foundations and encourage the start up of at least three new Charitable Giving Foundations.

Conduct at least two fundraising workshops to teach communities how to develop capital campaigns for specialized projects.

Establish a Grants Research Center in the RC&D office for Public Use.

Objective 5c: Enhance the development of youth programs in the region to promote citizenship and job training for the regions youth.

Strategies: Develop a mentor Protégé program for high school students with business leaders in order to provide quality training opportunities for vocational students.

Support the Mid Ohio Valley Youth Work Camp outreach efforts to brighten up neighborhoods by painting 40 homes of needy people. Program helps the under privileged, senior citizens, cleans up deteriorating homes and provides capacity building for youth.

Land Management

Goal D. Promote conservation that includes the production of energy crops; livestock; the protection of agricultural land as appropriate from conversion to other uses; farmland protection; and the protection of fish and wildlife habitats and rural fire protection.

Objective 1d. Reduce potential hazards through the promotion of alternative energy sources from waste products that improve land management.

Strategies: Serve on National Biomass Committee to seek alternative energy sources from existing natural renewable resources.

Assist Jackson and Wood County Planning Associations with a brainstorming session on farmland preservation efforts.

Assist local fire departments with the installation of 10 dry fire hydrants to assist in rural fire protection efforts.

Assist Waverly, Pond Creek and Lubeck Fire and Rescue Departments with enhanced technologies by assisting with the upgrade to satellite tracking systems.

Install two road signs along the Williamstown wetland to promote wildlife habitat and environmental education.

Work with counties to find alternative sources of revenue and markets for recycled products to help with litter prevention on recycling efforts.

Objective 2d. Showcase alternatives for locally raised produce, plants and livestock products through the development of regional markets.

Strategies: Sponsor one field day to promote the raising of meat goats for outreach and sales to ethnic markets.

Expand farmer markets opportunities with the creation of one new market or produce auction.

Host an annual lawn and garden show beginning in the spring of 2006 in conjunction with the Interstate Fair in Wood County.

Showcase USDA Partnerships in at least three county fair displays each year, identifying services provided by each agency as it strives to outreach to the underserved populations in the area.

Compliance Statement

“The Little Kanawha RC&D Council agrees that the RC&D Program will be conducted in compliance with the non-discrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A and B) that provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial (or technical) assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.”

The Little Kanawha RC&D Council agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with Federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug free workplace, and responsibilities for non-procurement, suspension, and debarment, and State review.

The Little Kanawha RC&D Council hereby adopts this RC&D Area Plan and agrees to use effectively the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlined herein.

Little Kanawha RC&D Council, West Virginia

By: _____ Date: _____
Carroll Cumberledge – President

Attest: _____ Date _____
Shirley Michael – Secretary

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Little Kanawha RC&D Council on February 23, 2005.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of Little Kanawha RC&D meeting the requirements under Public Law 97 – 98 to receive assistance from USDA.

Acknowledgement By: _____ Date: _____
Lillian Woods – State Conservationist