

Albemarle Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

2005-2006 Annual Report & 2006-2007 Annual Plan of Work

Albemarle RC&D



~~ Making Things Happen ~~

Conserving Natural Resources, Creating Jobs & Increasing Incomes

Albemarle Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. **FY 2005 - 2006 Annual Report**

The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is to encourage and improve the capability of volunteer, locally elected, and civic leaders in designated RC&D areas to plan and carry out projects for resource conservation and community development. The RC&D program, first authorized by the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962, P. L. 87-703, received permanent authorization as part of the 2002 Farm Bill. The Albemarle RC&D Council, Inc. has been encouraging the citizens of its ten-county area to care for their natural resources and improve the quality of life in their communities since receiving its official designation by the USDA-Secretary of Agriculture in 1975.

Please take a moment to read this year's Annual Report, which describes innovative and successful projects that the Council helped implement in its ten-county area. The Council was fortunate to have had the opportunity to partner with State and local governments and agencies, non-profit organizations, community volunteers, grassroots leaders, and others, to help achieve its mission.

Mission: The Albemarle RC&D Council is committed to improve economic, environmental and recreational opportunities in our ten-county area. We work in partnership with private citizens, community groups, businesses, and local, state, and federal units of government or agencies to ensure a better place for our citizens to live, work and play through implementation of our projects.

Vision: To improve the quality of life for all our citizens through intelligent and informed decision making and high quality projects.

Goals: To accomplish its mission, the Council has adopted the following goals:

Goal A. Better natural resources management and improved water quality

Goal B: Increased land and water recreation opportunities in support of tourism in the Albemarle Region

Goal C: Assist with economic and community development to provide better community facilities, services, and beautification

Goal D: Improve awareness of the RC&D program through outreach and information/education opportunities to internal and external customers

Officers and Staff

Albemarle RC&D operates under the guidance and direction of a five-member Executive Board. These members and their contact information are:

Officers

<i>Chairman,</i> Nelson Smith	252-797-4150
<i>Vice-Chairman,</i> Mike Doxey	252-232-3360
<i>Secretary/Treasurer,</i> Sam Cox	252-482-8749
<i>At-Large Member,</i> Jacob Parker	252-482-7437 Ext 4
<i>Past Chairman,</i> Wayne Howell	252-426-7844

Staff

Coordinator, Mark Powell 252-482-7437 Ext 4

Administrative Assistant, Scarlet Colombo 252-482-7437 Ext 4

Declaration of the Area Operation

The Albemarle RC&D area includes ten counties in northeastern North Carolina: Chowan, Gates, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, Washington, Tyrrell, Hyde and Dare. The region contains diverse resources: coastal ecosystems with sounds, rivers and lakes; extensive agricultural lands; significant historical sites; numerous wildlife refuges and State game lands; a strong ecotourism industry; and community grassroots leadership. Through a five-year Area Plan of Work, the Council implements projects that conserve natural resources, create jobs and increase local incomes.

Major Projects, Activities, and Impacts

The following sections describe some of the projects implemented by the Albemarle RC&D Council and its partners during the past fiscal year.

On-Going and New Projects

The following projects meet Goal A: *Better Natural Resources Management and Improved Water Quality*



Perquimans County High School Constructed Wetland, Phase I. Jennies Gut was a man-made drainage ditch 1000 feet long located on the grounds of the Perquimans County High School in Hertford. Emptying into the Perquimans River, it had been a physical hazard and water quality problem for the school, county and region for years. Before the project, Jennies Gut was a straight drainage ditch choked with weeds, debris and stagnant water.

Through a partnership between the Perquimans County High School, the Perquimans County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP), and the Albemarle RC&D, Jennies Gut has been converted into a working wetland and outdoor education area. This dramatic transformation is improving water quality, and increasing the sense of local and regional stewardship for wetlands and natural habitats. This project has allowed the 570 students, their teachers and the general public to observe and learn from a natural wetland. APNEP provided a \$19,927 grant for the project. The N.C. Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation provided a \$1,000 grant.

Perquimans County High School Constructed Wetland, Phase II. APNEP awarded a \$11,500 grant to Perquimans County High School to construct an enhanced wetland on the east side of Jennies Gut, build a wooden bridge and observation platform over the wetland, and construct a walkway from the high school to low-income neighborhoods adjacent to the school. The Albemarle RC&D provided \$1,500 from a State grant for the project.

Town of Gatesville Water Quality Project, Gates County. With a \$50,000 grant from APNEP, the Town of Gatesville and the Gates County SWCD have cleaned out and improved drainage ditches through the middle and lower sections of town. A constructed wetland has also been completed, which will help clean stormwater before it enters Bennett’s Creek. Drainage ditches in the upper part of town will be cleaned out and improved after the N.C. Department of Transportation replaces a main culvert under Highway 37.



Gates County High School Outdoor Environmental Learning Site.

With a \$17,215 grant from APNEP, and technical assistance from the Gates County SWCD, students and teachers from the High School carpentry class began constructing a boardwalk and observation platform in a natural wetland area adjacent to the science building. This project will result in hands-on learning opportunities in environmental education, biology, and earth sciences for over 640 students, as well as the general public of Gates County.

Hurricane Isabel Clearing and Snagging Phases II & III, Area Wide

DENR, Division of Water Resources continues to be a strong partner in funding clearing and snagging projects in our ten-county area. The Hurricane Isabel Emergency Stream Cleanup – Phase II provided \$820,732 to remove storm debris from streams and drainage canals in the 10-county area. Washington County and Pasquotank County submitted proposals for Phase III, for \$204,603 and \$49,896, respectively.



Alligator and Goat Neck Communities Drainage Project, Tyrrell County

Two tide gates have been installed in the Alligator and Goat Neck Communities to help control chronic flooding. The N.C. Department of Transportation has agreed to dip out drainage ditches in the area. DENR, Division of Water Resources provided a \$66,700 grant for the project.

Completed Projects

The following project meets Goal B: *Increased Land and Water Recreation Opportunities in Support of Tourism in the Albemarle Region*

Belvidere Canoe Access, Perquimans County
Construction was completed on a canoe and small-boat launch on the Perquimans River in Belvidere. Volunteers from the Belvidere Ruritan Club and the local community donated their time and energy to complete the project. The North Carolina Adopt-A-Trail Program provided a \$5,000 grant. The Albemarle RC&D provided \$2,000 from a State grant.

The canoe launch is an important component of a larger nature tourism development project that is focusing on the Perquimans River and heritage and cultural sites in Perquimans County.



The following project meets Goal C: *Assist with Economic and Community Development to Provide Better Community Facilities, Services and Beautification.*



Weeksville Nature Trail and Boardwalk, Pasquotank County

A 300 foot boardwalk and observation platform is providing students of Weeksville Elementary School and other residents of the Weeksville Community with access to New Begun Creek. Students and faculty are utilizing the wetland boardwalk and outdoor classroom for their science and biology studies. The North Carolina Coastal Management Program provided a public access grant of \$29,925.

The following projects/activities meet Goal D: *Improve awareness of the RC&D program through outreach and information/education opportunities to internal and external customers.*

The RC&D began producing a digital newsletter in March, 2006. The newsletter is distributed by email, which allows a greater distribution at less cost than a hard-copy newsletter.

The RC&D also applied for and was accepted into the National Association of RC&D Council's, Circle of Diamonds. This program recognizes RC&D Councils that achieve the highest standards in administration and project management.

The Council adopted eight projects during the year:

John's Island Regional Camping Platforms	471	(Chowan Co.)
Pasquotank River Trail & Camping Platforms	472	(Pasquotank Co.)
Perquimans River Nature Tourism Development	473	(Perquimans Co.)
Albemarle Hospital Regional Fitness Trail	474	(Pasquotank Co.)
Tailwater Capture and Reuse	475	(Hyde Co.)
Red Banks Farm Park	476	(Chowan Co.)
Cape Colony Neighborhood Park	477	(Chowan Co.)
Plymouth Waterfront Project	478	(Washington Co.)

This was another good grant year due to the outstanding assistance of Mrs. Dabney Narvaez, part-time grants writer. Nine (9) grants totaling \$852,339 were written with RC&D assistance. As of June 30th, grants received directly or indirectly totaled \$178,960.

Project Title	Grant Agency	Total Proposal Amount
Perquimans Commerce Park	Clean Water Management Trust Fund	\$ 341,750
Technical Assistance for Community Development and Water Quality Projects	N.C. State Legislature	\$ 25,000
Pasquotank River Canoe Trail and Camping Platforms	NC Recreational Trails Program	\$ 52,660
John's Island Camping Platforms	NC Recreational Trails Program	\$ 34,800
Albemarle Hospital Regional Fitness Trail	NC Recreational Trails Program	\$ 55,000
Perquimans County High School Constructed Wetland Phase II	Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP)	\$ 25,000
Isabel Clearing and Snagging Phase III, Washington, County	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Water Resources Division DENR Water Resources	\$ 204,603
Cape Colony Park and Canoe/Kayak Access	DENR, Water Resources Division	\$ 63,630
Isabel Clearing and Snagging Phase III, Pasquotank County	DENR, Water Resources Division	\$ 49,896
TOTAL		\$ 852,339

Summary of Revenues and Expenses for 2005-2006

Support and Revenue	
County Grants	\$7,000
Administrative/Grant Writing Fees	\$17,570
Miscellaneous (Sales Tax Refund, Sponsorship, etc.)	\$3,657
Projects (Income - Grants) :	
State Funds	\$25,000
Gatesville Water Quality Project	\$36,368
Balance Forwarded	\$7,232
Total Support and Revenue	\$96,827
Expenses	
Dues	\$1,600
Grants Writer	\$2,358
Insurance	\$143
Council Meeting Expenses	\$1,840
Other RC&D Meeting Expenses	\$1,419
Travel and Registration	\$883
Operating Expenses:	
Office Supplies	\$1,611
Postage	\$432
Miscellaneous (awards, etc.)	\$1,512
Professional Fees	\$175
Project Expenses:	
State Funds	\$15,248
Gatesville Water Quality Project	\$36,368
Total Expenses	\$63,586

The Albemarle RC&D Council, with outstanding support of USDA-NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation Districts, had an extremely productive year toward conserving natural resources, creating jobs and increasing incomes in its 10-county area. This work would not have been possible without the help of the many excellent partners in each county.



Nelson Smith, Chairman



Mark Powell, Coordinator

Annual Plan of Work
July 1st , 2006 – June 30th , 2007

The Albemarle RC&D carries out activities in its ten-county area based on an Area Plan of Work, which the Council revises every five years. The current Area Plan of Work covers the period 2002 through 2007. The Annual Plan of Work flows from the Area Plan of Work and is used as a tool for planning and implementing projects each Fiscal Year.

GOAL A. BETTER NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVED WATER QUALITY.

Objective #1: Improve water management for public facilities and rural communities.

Strategies:

- a) Prepare designs upon request for any public facility with drainage and flooding problems.
- b) Prepare plans and designs for rural communities on a priority basis.
- c) Encourage proper water management principles including clearing and snagging and water control.
- d) Encourage units of government to inventory their water management capabilities.
- e) Seek grants to provide project funding.

<i>Project Activity</i>	<i>Completion date</i>	<i>Project #</i>
1. Macedonia Community Drainage Project	7/06	433
2. Hurricane Isabel Phase III	3/07	460
3. Currituck County Drainage Study	8/07	400
4. Alligator & Goat Neck Communities Drainage	9/06	455

Objective #2: Improve water quality in all waters.

Strategies:

- a) Research existing water quality data on streams in the Albemarle area.
- b) Determine sources of pollution.
- c) Develop a plan of action for highest priority watershed.
- d) Seek grants to install needed improvements.
- e) Develop educational materials on nutrients from golf courses and home lawns.

<i>Project Activity</i>	<i>Completion date</i>	<i>Project #</i>
1. Jennies Gut Constructed Wetland Phase II	1/07	461
2. APNEP Water Quality Project Gatesville	9/06	449
3. Perquimans Commerce Park Shoreline Restoration	6/07	470
4. Pasquotank County Wide Drainage Study	8/06	415

Objective #3: Improve management of natural resources, such as trees, wildlife, soil, air, etc.

Strategies:

- a) Utilize forestry improvement grant programs for tree planting and timber management.
- b) Integrate wildlife enhancements into project activity.
- c) Project planning will be based on soils information and needs.
- d) Stay prepared to address air quality needs of the area.

<u>Project Activity</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Project #</u>
1. Gates County High School Outdoor Classroom	9/06	467

GOAL B: INCREASED LAND AND WATER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN SUPPORT OF TOURISM IN THE ALBEMARLE REGION.

Objective #1: Assist each county to establish recreation facilities.

Strategies:

- a) Inventory existing recreation facilities.
- b) Determine additional recreational needs.
- c) Develop a plan of action for implementing new facilities.
- d) Seek grants to provide project funding.

<u>Project Activity</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Project #</u>
1. Red Banks Farm Park	6/07	476
2. Cape Colony Park	6/07	477
3. Colombia Town Park	7/06	454
4. Camden Community Recreation	12/06	465
5. Albemarle Hospital Regional Fitness Trail	2/07	474
6. Scranton Boat Access	6/07	432

Objective #2: Increase eco-tourism and agri-tourism in the ten-county region.

Strategies:

- a) Research tourism studies and determine area needs.
- b) Prioritize additional needs and develop plans.
- c) Network with other groups and make it happen.
- d) Promote and maintain canoe trail system.
- e) Seek grants to provide project funding.

<u>Project Activity</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Project #</u>
1. Perquimans River Nature Tourism	6/07	473
2. John's Island Camping Platforms	3/07	461
3. Pasquotank River Trail	6/07	472
4. Update Canoe Trail Brochure	6/07	469
5. Assist NCPTA with Annual Paddle Events	6/07	468

GOAL C: ASSIST WITH ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE BETTER COMMUNITY FACILITIES, SERVICES, AND BEAUTIFICATION.

Objective #1: Assist with development of economic improvement opportunities for citizens in the Albemarle region.

Strategies:

- a) Explore economic development ideas with local governments and Chambers of Commerce.
- b) Assist with developing wellness centers for underprivileged and ageing population.
- c) Seek grants to provide for project funding.

<i>Project Activity</i>	<i>Completion date</i>	<i>Project #</i>
1. Plymouth Waterfront	6/07	478
2. Capacity Building & Grant Writing (Areawide)	12/06	456

GOAL D: IMPROVE AWARENESS OF THE RC&D PROGRAM THROUGH OUTREACH AND INFORMATION/EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS.

Objective #1: Increase awareness of RC&D program.

Strategies:

- a) Continue to publish quarterly newsletter.
- b) Publish articles on council activities and projects in local newspapers.
- c) Present PowerPoint presentations to county commissioners, civic groups, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and others as requested on our RC&D program.
- d) Place RC&D signage at project sites.

Objective #2: Will use training and leadership opportunities to promote mission of RC&D.

Strategies:

- a) Provide training opportunities for council members and staff.
- b) Partner with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and others on environmental education activities.
- c) Seek grants to provide project funding.

Objective #3: Increase partnerships with other USDA agencies on projects.

Strategies:

- a) Develop list of USDA agencies in this area.
- b) Contact resource persons with each agency on opportunities.
- c) Implement joint ventures on projects with these agencies.

Albemarle RC&D Budget			
July 1, 2006 - June 30th, 2007			
Revenues			
	Unit Amount	Unit	Total
Carry Forward from 05-06			
Restricted			
State Funds			\$ 4,752.01
Conference Sponsorships			\$ 850.00
Unrestricted			
			\$ 27,638.16
Total Carry Forward 05-06			\$ 33,240.17
Revenue 06-07			
Project Grants			
State Funds 06-07	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00
Gatesville Water Quality 05-06	\$ 13,632.37		\$ 13,632.37
Subtotal Project Grants			\$ 33,632.37
County Dues			
Tier 1	\$ 750.00	5	\$ 3,750.00
Non Tier 1	\$ 1,200.00	5	\$ 6,000.00
Subtotal County Dues			\$ 9,750.00
Project Management			
Isabel Projects	\$ 4,476.00		\$ 4,476.00
New Projects	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Subtotal Project Management			\$ 9,476.00
Contributions			
Conference Sponsorships	\$ 690.00		\$ 690.00
Subtotal Contributions			\$ 690.00
Subtotal Revenue 06-07			\$ 53,548.37
TOTAL REVENUE			\$ 86,788.54
Expenses			
Staff	Unit Cost	Units	Total
Administrative Assistant			
Salary & Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,475	9	\$ 13,277.43
Travel	\$ 800.00	1	\$ 800.00
Subtotal Staff			\$ 14,077.43
Operating			
Dues (NCRC&D, NARC&D, SEARC&D)	\$ 1,600.00		\$ 1,600.00
Insurance	\$ 143.00		\$ 143.00
Quarterly Council Meetings	\$ 650.00	4	\$ 2,600.00
Conference Travel, Registration, Hotels, Food	\$ 600.00	5	\$ 3,000.00
Other Conference Expenses	\$ 2,540.00	1	\$ 2,540.00
Office Supplies	\$ 800.00		\$ 800.00
Computer	\$ 1,500.00	1	\$ 1,500.00
Postage	\$ 600.00		\$ 600.00
Miscellaneous (Awards, etc.)	\$ 600.00		\$ 600.00
Professional Fees (Accounting and Audit)	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Subtotal Operating			\$ 13,683.00
Project Grants (Restricted)			
State Funds 06-07	\$ 18,000.00		\$ 18,000.00
State Funds 05-06	\$ 4,752.01		\$ 4,752.01
Gatesville Water Quality 05-06	\$ 13,632.37		\$ 13,632.37
Subtotal Project Grants			\$ 36,384.38
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$ 64,144.81
TOTAL REVENUE			\$ 86,788.54
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$ 64,144.81
CARRY FORWARD 07-08			\$ 22,643.73

**Albemarle RC&D Council
2006-2007 Meeting Schedule**

2006

July 13 th	Executive Committee	RC&D Office
August 15 th	Council Meeting	Agricultural Building
October 19 th	Executive Committee	RC&D Office
November 28 th	Council Meeting	TBD

2007

January 4 th	Executive Committee	RC&D Office
February 20 st	Council Meeting	Agricultural Building
April 12 th	Executive Committee	RC&D Office
May 15 th	Council Meeting	Agricultural Building

COMPLIANCE WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

“The RC&D Program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Pub. 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 & B) which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, 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 Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.”

PROJECTS FUNDED WITH FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES

“The Natural Resources Conservation Service has only limited over-sight responsibilities for these projects in assuring that they address the council’s objectives and goals, are nondiscriminatory, and are appropriate actions under the RC&D program. Planning and implementation are the responsibilities of the corporation and should follow requirements of the funding group.”

Prepared with assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Cooperating Agencies.



Nelson Smith, Chairman

7-13-06

Date

Mary Combs, State Conservationist

Date