

Sandhills Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council
PLAN OF WORK
2003-2004

Current Projects and Activities

Goal #1 – Protect and Enhance the Quality and Quantity of All Nature Resources

<u>OBJECTIVE A</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Planned/Completed</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Collaborate with other agencies and Organizations to educate the public on the Uniqueness and stewardship of the Sandhills	Nebraska State Environthon	Planned 05/02	Council	The Council had volunteers assist with the judging of the State Environthon Contest. Over 70 youth participated in the contest.
<u>OBJECTIVE B</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Planned/Completed</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Promote Best Management Practices	Middle Niobrara/Nebraska Sandhills Fire Learning Network	Planned 10-01 Completed 9/30/04	Council	The Fire Learning Network is being established to provide training to Rural Fire Departments and landowners on the benefits of using fire as a management tool.

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Goal #2 – Revitalize the Rural Economy with Economic Development

<u>OBJECTIVE A</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Planned/Completed</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Support Existing programs that provide leadership development	Sandhills Community Builders	Planned 10/01	Council	Council members & acting coordinator participated in Community Builders meetings. Presentations about RC&D and what the RC&D Council could assist the community with was done at each meeting. Seven meetings – 250 in Attendance.
<u>OBJECTIVE B</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Planned/Completed</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Encourage communities to initiate development	Thomas County Community Planning and Revitalization	Planned 06/02 Completed 09/04	Council	Co-sponsored with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development a meeting to determine strengths and areas needing improvement. Forty people attended and three committees were formed. A tourism, community center and prospect team committees were formed.

<u>OBJECTIVE C</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Planned/Completed</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Cooperate with organizations to provide Information about entrepreneurship programs	Sandhills Entrepreneur Development Class (EDGE)	Planned 10/01	Council	The Council co-sponsored this class. Twelve entrepreneurs started and finished the class. Business plans and financial plans were part of the focus of class.

Goal #3 – Promote conservation and improvement of environmental resources

<u>OBJECTIVE A</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Planned/Completed</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Cooperate with local Emergency Providers	Thedford Rural Fire Department FEMA FIRE grant Application	Planned 04/02 Completed 10/15/02	Council	Developed and submitted grant proposal of \$96,000 for Primary Response Vehicle. This application was not funded.
	Mullen Rural Fire Department FEMA FIRE grant application	Planned 04/02 Completed 10/15/02		

City of Mullen FEMA FIRE grant application	Planned 04/02 Completed – ongoing	Council	Reviewed and provided comments on grant proposal of \$20,000 for Rescue Equipment. This application is still pending.
Arnold Rural Fire Department FEMA FIRE grant application	Planned 04/02 Completed – ongoing	Council	Reviewed and provided comments on grant proposal of \$40,000 for Bunker Gear and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. This application is still pending.
Tryon Rural Fire Department FEMA FIRE grant application	Planned 04/02 Completed 11/5/03	Council	Reviewed and provided comments on grant proposal of \$25,000 for Bunker Gear. This application was not funded.

Goal #4 – Improve and Increase Tourism and Recreational Development

<u>OBJECTIVE A</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Planned/Completed</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Promote Tourism	Highway 83 – Veterans Highway	Planned 03/01	Council	Reviewed grant application and provided a letter of support for the Highway 83 Association for a grant to produce a video promoting business's on Highway 83 through Nebraska. This grant has been funded.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Letters to communities on hosting RC&D office	October – 2002
Review Proposals from communities on office location	December – 2002
Recommendation of 3 communities to State Conservationist	January – 2003
Annual Council Elections	January of each year
Attend State Association Annual Meeting	Held annually in September or October in a host RC&D area
Hold an annual meeting	January of each year
RC&D display at area events to increase citizens' awareness	County fairs, farm/home shows, conferences, etc.
Received income tax exemption 501 (c) 3 status	September 2004

The Sandhills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council hereby adopts this RC&D Plan of Work and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by NRCS-USDA to realize the goals and objectives outlined.

Sandhills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Nebraska

By: _____ President

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Sandhills RC&D Council on _____.

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

Approved by: _____ Date _____.
State Conservationist