

SANDHILLS RC&D

PLAN OF WORK

2005



**Sandhills RC&D Council
2005 Annual Plan of Work**

Goal #1 – Protect and Enhance the Quality and Quantity of all Natural Resources.

1. Assist with the SRM Nebraska Range Youth Camp held annually at the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey.
This project is ongoing with a review date - 08/2005
Contact: Mary Reece
2. Assist with the Range Judging Contests held within the eight county region.
This project is ongoing with a review date - 09/2005
Contact: Leah Carson
3. Provide assistance with the Middle Loup River Lake Project in the planning of a reservoir near Mullen on the Middle Loup River.
Planned 11/2004
Contact: Dan Deibler

Goal #2 – Revitalize the Rural Economy with Economic Development Activities.

1. Assist with the Hometown Competitiveness Program by providing technical assistance to the committee as requested.
Contact: Kirk Jacobs
2. Provide technical assistance as needed to the Thedford Development Corp.
Contact: Steve Brown
3. Assist the eight county region in searching and obtaining funding resources through a Grant Writing Course planned for January, February and March 2005.
Contact: Council
4. Provide leadership in the re-organization of the Nebraska Development Networks Old West Region through positive economic growth and networking.
Contact: Tara Hosick
5. Co-host a regional entrepreneurial conference to stimulate economic development activities on regional scale.
Contact: Sharon McBride, eBay, Inc.
6. Assist Thomas County in developing and implementing a Capacity Building Plan.
Contact: Sandy Booth

Goal #3 – Improve Infrastructure and Community Resources.

1. Provide technical assist to the Sandhills Development Corp in obtaining new equipment at the Medical Clinic needed to replace old worn out equipment so higher quality health care can be provided.
Planned: 10/2004
Contact: Dave Sullivan
2. Investigate the need for a Dry Hydrant Program and educate the eight county region about the alternative water sources for community and rural fire protection.
Contact: Cliff Welsh
3. Continue to provide technical assistance with the Nebraska Community Enhancement Program for landscape development at the Mullen Fire Department.
Planned: 10/2004
Contact: Don Earl
4. Expand the Rehab Housing Program to three additional communities in the Sandhills RC&D area.
Planned: 11/2004
Contact: Leigh Alexander
5. Continue to provide assistance to the Mullen, Arthur, Thedford (MAT) Housing Rehabilitation Program.
Contact: Deb Daly

Goal #4 – Increase and Improve Tourism and Recreational Development.

1. Provide assistance to the Sandhills Visitor/Interpretive Center in Thedford as requested.
Contact: Steve Brown
2. Provide technical assistance with the Sandhills Scenic Byway as needed.
Contact: Terri Licking
3. Assist Nebraska Department of Economic Development – Tourism branch develop and strength agri-tourism opportunities in the region. Examples include: bird watching, trail rides, wild flower tours and other agri-based recreation opportunities.
Contact: Sandy Booth
4. Assist ROAR (River On and Along Road) by letting the group utilize the RC&D 501 (C) 3 status to apply for advertising grants to manufacture a web site, brochures and pamphlets. Contact: Sandy Booth

Other Activities:

- 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 citizen awareness – County fairs, farm/home shows, conferences, etc.
- Area Plan of Work – due in 2006 (then every 5 years)
- Annual Plan of Work
- Investigate partnering opportunities that support the Sandhills RC&D mission.

The Sandhills RC&D Council hereby adopts this Plan of Work and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the NRCS-USDA to achieve the goals outlined.

Stan Pettit, President
Sandhills RC&D Council

Date

Steve Chick, State Conservationist
USDA, NRCS, Nebraska

Date

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