

# **SANDHILLS RC&D**

## **PLAN OF WORK 2010**



## Sandhills RC&D

### FY2010 Budget

#### Income

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Interest Income                                    | \$70             |
| Membership Dues                                    | \$900            |
| Project Income                                     | \$156,000        |
| Other Income (includes NRCS Cooperative Agreement) | \$20,000         |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                | <b>\$176,970</b> |

#### Expense

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Association Dues                |                  |
| State                           | \$500            |
| Western                         | \$200            |
| National                        | \$450            |
| Accounting                      | \$300            |
| Treasurers Bond & D&O Insurance | \$670            |
| Meeting Expense                 | \$100            |
| Office Supplies                 | \$500            |
| Travel Expense for Council      | \$2,000          |
| Project Expense                 | \$150,000        |
| Misc. (includes petty cash)     | \$250            |
| Employee Expense                | \$17,000         |
| Endowment Fund                  | \$5,000          |
| <b>Total Expense</b>            | <b>\$176,970</b> |

## **GOAL 1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF ALL NATURAL RESOURCES**

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D Rangelands Resources Committee will educate 50 agricultural producers in the management of sustainable rangeland.*

**Strategy** Develop a plan of action with appropriate partners to offer Range Management Workshops for ranchers in the west central Nebraska region in 2009.

Project: Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition Partnership

Contact: Jim Carr

**Strategy** Support the SRM Youth Range Camp at the 4-H Camp at Halsey by developing grant proposals for funding assistance to the camp (2007-2010).

Potential Project: Youth Range Camp Grant Support

Contact: Mary Reese

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will educate 200 land owners regarding potential threats to natural resource sustainability.*

**Strategy** Facilitate the formation of a Weed Management Area in the counties of Lincoln, Keith, Arthur, McPherson and Logan in 2006-2007.

Project: Platte River Habitat Restoration

Contact: Bill Carhart

Project: 2010 Cedar Tree Removal Workshop

Contact: Kevin Hood

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will educate 100 producers on the economics of producing alternative agricultural commodities and adding value to current agricultural production.*

**Strategy** Develop a plan of action with appropriate partners to offer educational opportunities about direct marketing and sustainable alternative agriculture.

Project: Carbon Sequestration Education

Project: Agri-tourism Workshop

Contact: Scott Cotton

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will increase the use of residue management techniques and practices on 5% more acres in the RC&D area.*

**Strategy** Co-sponsor three workshops to educate agricultural crop producers about the benefits of increased residue farming practices (2007-2010).

Project: No-till Field Tour Workshop

Contact: Mary Reese

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will initiate a forestry conservation program in its rural communities.*

**Strategy** Develop a plan with community tree boards to strengthen community forestry programs by identifying funding sources appropriate to propose grant requests to inventory community forestry needs (2007-2008).

Project: Retree Ogallala

Contact: Rod Ruzanic

## **GOAL 2: REVITALIZE THE RURAL ECONOMY WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will strengthen the regional economy by sponsoring business development programs.*

**Strategy** Maintain fiscal sponsorship of the Sandhills Enhancing, Developing and Growing Entrepreneurs (EDGE) Coalition to offer business training annually in the central Sandhills region (2006-2010).

Project: Sandhills Business Development Training  
Contact: Melissa Garica

Project: Aronia Production Feasibility  
Contact: Jan Jorgensen

**Strategy** Develop a plan of action with the appropriate partners to move renewable energy development forward in the west central Nebraska region.

Project: Renewable Energy Development & Energy Efficiency Project  
Contact: Mary Gambill, Lory Cappel

Project: Mullen Nursing Home Energy Efficiency Improvements  
Contact: Dee Arends

### **GOAL 3: IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES.**

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will develop a resource network to assist communities with development needs.*

**Strategy** Build capacity in Old West Regional Network and providing grant writing education to the RC&D area through grant writing courses hosted by Sandhills RC&D (2009-2010).

Potential Project: Old West Regional Network Reformation

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will develop a plan of action with communities to offer safe and affordable housing within the RC&D area where these services are not currently provided.*

**Strategy** Continue Phase III of housing rehabilitation for residences of Arthur, Grant, Hooker, Logan, McPherson, and Thomas in 2009.

Project: Housing Rehabilitation Phase IV  
Contact: Leigh Alexander  
Estimated Cost: \$150,000

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will assist communities to develop funding strategies that address community infrastructure needs.*

**Strategy** Develop a plan of action with the Mullen committee to fund and build a new Community Building (2007-2010).

Project: Mullen Community Building  
Contact: Lyle Phillips  
Estimated Cost: \$500,000

Progress: Committee has identified potential building site. Floor plans and details are in progress. Discussion in progress with Hooker County and the Village of Mullen as to who would own facility.

Project: Mullen Park Improvements  
Contact: Barb McIntosh  
Estimated Cost: \$15,000  
NRCS Contribution: 4 hours

Progress: Potential funding sources identified. Applications are in progress.

**Strategy** Develop a plan of action with the Upper Loup NRD to implement an NRD area recycling project in 2009.

Project: Upper Loup NRD Recycling Project  
Contact: Denise Vinton

**Strategy** Develop a plan of action with the Hooker County Library Board to replace the existing roof on the library.

Project: Hooker County Library Roof  
Contact: Julie Pfeifer

**Strategy** Develop a plan of action with Rural Fire Protection Districts to improve the capacity of their districts.

Potential Project: Mullen Rural Fire Protection District Upgrades  
Contact: Don Earl

**Strategy** Assist the Village of Sutherland with a funding plan to replace the community swimming pool.

Project: Sutherland Pool Project  
Contact: Tammy White

**GOAL 4: INCREASE AND IMPROVE TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will assist the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway organization to improve awareness of the economic benefits of tourism in the central Sandhills region.*

**Strategy** Develop a grant proposal with Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway organization to receive marketing funds to promote the highway #2 byway and the uniqueness of the Sandhills region.

Potential Project: Byway Tourism Marketing Grant 2010  
Contact: Twila Phillips  
Estimated Cost: \$12,500

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will increase recreational opportunities within the RC&D Area.*

**Strategy** Implement an action plan with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and Nebraska Department of Roads to improve canoe access to the Dismal River off Highway 97 and control erosion at the site (2007-2009).

**Strategy** Continue tourism pilot project.

Project: Hooker County Tourism Pilot  
Contact: Mitch Glidden  
Estimated Cost: \$16,000  
NRCS Contribution: 16 hours  
Progress: Contracted agreement in place with Hooker County. Lodging committee is developing strategic plan. Grant application for website upgrades has been submitted. Website is in development.

**GOAL 5: STRENGTHEN RC&D PUBLIC RECOGNITION AND THE SANDHILLS RC&D PROGRAM**

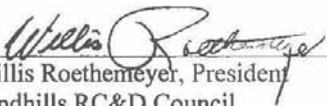
**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will establish an outreach program that will increase awareness of the RC&D program through strategic promotional campaigns and activities*

**Strategy** Develop a plan of action with the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation to implement an affiliated fund that will build an endowment to support Sandhills RC&D future operations (2008).

Endowment Committee: Eric Hansen, Cliff Welsh, Steve Boyer  
Progress: Committee formed in 2007 and developing fund guidelines.

**OBJECTIVE** *The Sandhills RC&D will support and assist the Nebraska RC&D Association with state wide projects such as the Meth Awareness program as it relates to the Sandhills RC&D area.*

The Sandhills RC&D Council hereby adopts this 2010 Plan of Work and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the NRCS-USDA to achieve the goals outlined.

  
Willis Roethemeyer, President  
Sandhills RC&D Council

January 26, 2010  
Date

  
Steve Chick, State Conservationist  
USDA, NRCS, Nebraska

2-4-2010  
Date

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