



ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

"MAKING CONSERVATION WORK FOR YOU"

HIGHLIGHTS FROM A GREAT YEAR

Our partners in USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service have exceeded goals in many of the USDA programs (i.e. Environmental Quality Improvement Program, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program, Forestry Stewardship Program, Agricultural Management Assistance, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans and Conservation Security Program). NRCS has been working on nearly 100 contracts to implement conservation practices. It has been exciting to see so many farmers implementing good conservation measures to enhance and improve the soil and water quality on their property. Job well done, Autumn and Paul!

The success of the work accomplished in 2007 is contributed to the supportive cooperation of a team of resource specialists. Candi, Brian, Adam and Dave have made themselves available to answer questions, provide designs and provide technical assistance. This great team work has made it possible to achieve the goals set for this field office. Thanks to each of you.

Halla has been a great resource in dealing with the issues surrounding the electronic maintenance of the farm records and computer programming needs. Where would we be without your help, Halla?

The Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District project work continues to increase the demand upon the staff workload. In November, the District hired Project Coordinator Megan Wooster. Her primary role is to assist Project Manager Sue Gammon in fulfilling the grant projects' implementation tasks. This has enabled Sue to be more active in securing additional grant funding. The "can do" spirit of both Sue and Megan has proven to be a great asset for the Conservation District.

The District receives only 17% of the District's its operating budget from the Androscoggin and Sagadahoc County Commissioners and Maine Department of Agriculture. Office Manager Jane Heikkinen introduced and coordinated a Conservation Plant Sale offering native plants, Compost Bin Sale and Rain Barrel Sale. We were encouraged with the participation in 2007 and do hope to see these sales expand in 2008.

Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District can be found on the world wide web
Check us out at
www.androscogginswcd.net

PAGE 1

VOUME 24 ISSUE 1
2007 ANNUAL REPORT

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Arthur Dunlap, Chairman
Paul Roseberry, Vice-Chair
John A. Hemond, Secretary
Shirley Hatch, Treasurer
Mark Emmons

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Katie Carville
Ellsworth Chipman
Lionel Ferland
Bill Hatch
Richard Thibodeau
William Varney

DISTRICT STAFF

Project Manager
Susan Gammon
Office Manager
Jane Heikkinen
Project Coordinator
Megan Wooster
Consulting Technician
Adam Paul
Conservation Technician
Scott McLaren
District Consulting Engineers
Ross Cudlitz, PE

NRCS STAFF

Acting District Conservationist
Autumn Birt
Soil Technician
Paul Carmichael
Agricultural Engineer
Candi Benwitz Gilpatric
Ag Engineer Intern
Adam Catrell
Engineering Technician
Brian Stuart
Soil Resource Specialist
Dave Wilkinson
Computer Specialist
Halla Black

Androscoggin Valley SWCD

P O Box 1938
Lewiston, ME 04241

Phone: (207) 753-9400 #3
Fax: (207) 783-4101
www.androscogginswcd.net

The mission of the Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the conservation and stewardship of soil, water, and related natural resources, by providing leadership, technical assistance and educational programming to and with the citizens of Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties.

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STRATEGY 1: Natural Resources

Promote conservation in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties by addressing priority natural resource concerns and issues

1. Applied for and received grant funding to meet public needs or interest
 - a. WIFAP Sabattus Pond Phase II
 - b. Maine Carbon Credit Program
 - c. Groundwater Pilot Project
 - d. Nequasset Lake Watershed Implementation Project
2. Implement grant projects.
 - a. WIFAP Sabattus Pond Phase II
 - b. No Name Pond Implementation—finished work and completed final report
 - c. Nequasset Watershed Survey—finished work and completed final report
 - d. Maine Carbon Credit Program
 - e. Groundwater Pilot Project
3. Supported local watershed groups and land trusts with membership and technical assistance
4. Assisted cooperators with nutrient management application and conservation measures
5. Worked with NRCS, FSA, and local workgroups on USDA programs to develop priorities
6. Offered forestry programming in partnership with State and private groups—canceled due to lack of sign up
7. Assisted with survey for Nequasset Stream and Cathance River and a needs assessment for Kennebec River in Sagadahoc County



Jeff and Ann Nelson participate in Cathance River Survey

8. Provided fee-for-service technical assistance as requested to promote conservation and stewardship of soil, water, and related natural resources
9. Evaluated programs and documented unfilled request for service

STRATEGY 2: Education and Information

Expand educational programs and opportunities.

1. Received statewide funding for staff time to promote MACD Mock, Regional and State Envirothon
2. Worked with youth to promote conservation through service-learning projects with Poland Regional High School
3. Provided staff time for educators and students participation in conservation education for Lake Awareness Day on Thompson Lake
4. Assisted with the Western Maine Regional and with the Mock Envirothon
5. Coordinated with other Districts to produce and staff the Fryeburg Fair Booth.
6. Developed a display for UMCE Garden Day and District Day at Augusta
7. Worked with NRCS, Rural Development, Farm Service Agency and Maine Department of Agriculture's Farmland Protection and Maine Farm Link to hold informational meetings for Maine's Future Farmers that will support Maine agriculture
8. Conducted workshops in response to public requests for Septic Installation and Maintenance, Stormwater Management and Gravel Road Maintenance with a FrontRunner
9. Developed and mailed promotional events for municipal officials for the Fee-for-service Program to address Stormwater Management and the Erosion Sediment Control law

STRATEGY 3: Public Relations

Continue a positive public relations strategy, in order to effectively provide quality service to our clients

1. Published PR stories and efforts in both counties through website, press releases and newsletters.
2. Selected and recognized outstanding conservation achievements with Cooperator of the Year and other special awards
3. Completed the development of the District website.
4. Enlisted new associates and new partnerships to expand outreach
5. Continue demographic analysis of the District and update the resource assessment.
6. Notified Board Supervisors of upcoming community meetings; including county commissioners' budget meetings
7. Updated the mailing list of state representatives
8. Signed up on list serves to promote workshops, need for volunteers and staff opening
9. Investigated costs for insert in *Lewiston Sun Journal* and some of the weekly papers
10. Posted event notices at town halls and municipal offices
11. Submitted a schedule of Board meetings to newspapers and other news outlets

STRATEGY 4: Funding

Maintain current funding sources and seek alternative sources of funding to strengthen our level of programming and service to municipalities and the public

1. Worked on a fundraising strategies to include contributions, sales, auctions, county and state funding, and grants
2. Provided funding to ensure staff and board members are trained in areas where skills are lacking
3. Prepared and tracked the budget, and reviewed the status on a quarterly basis
4. Developed a brochure to solicit contributions and sent thank you notes to contributors
5. Provided MACD Fundraising Committee with a draft proposal to establish a fee-for service program to assist with compliance of natural resource regulations

STRATEGY 5: Partnerships

To improve and enhance District programs strengthen and expand our conservation partnerships with regional and state groups

1. Worked on expanding/increasing our partnership list and program sponsors
2. Continued to reinforce partnerships with county and municipal officials and local stakeholders
3. Continued the Locally Led Conservation process by working with conservation partners and the general public
4. Attended meetings of and communicated frequently with our partners
5. Entered into joint programming to reinforce our partnerships
6. Maintained awareness of partner's programs and activities by inviting representatives to give reports at Board of Supervisor Meetings

STRATEGY 6: Board and Staff Development

Maintain a skilled and diverse District board and staff to effectively serve the conservation needs of Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties

1. Scheduled at least one meeting annually for a job evaluation and a personnel review
2. Assessed work plans and workloads of existing staff,

and expanded staff to be funded through grant projects or the "Fee-for-service" program

3. Planned for setting up a mentoring "buddy" program for new supervisors, associates, and staff
4. Restructured board meeting agenda to allow time for training of board members, discuss natural resource concerns and where appropriate, reduce the number of board meetings
5. Continued to implement the Long Range Plan with partners, contributors, and general public, as appropriate
6. Recruited diverse group of potential supervisors and associates with targeted knowledge and skills
7. Defined training needs and provided resources for staff development
8. Reviewed all District policies, and made changes as needed
9. Developed synopsis of our partnerships, with information, definitions, and missions of our partners, expanding the "cheat sheet" of acronyms
10. Provided an overview of District programs and services, NRCS programs and actions, and discussed periodically in board meetings
11. Provided individualized education for Board members, as requested with NRCS or District staff, to become more familiar with processes and programs

STRATEGY 7: Volunteer Service Program

Develop and implement a volunteer service program to meet workload, and offer internship program

1. Updated volunteer needs list
2. Developed volunteer service recruiting mechanism to use individuals with specific skills for specific tasks
3. Promoted the need for volunteers in the media and list serve medium
4. Networked with University of Maine System to develop internship position
5. Provided necessary orientation and training to volunteers as needed
6. Recognized volunteer contributions of board members and others through Earth Team Program, in Board Minutes, and newsletters

ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Balance	47191.71
-------------------	----------

INCOME

County & State Funding	33405.00
Fundraising Events Net Income	12255.23
Grant Income	34055.00
Misc. Income	212.63
Rental Income	2145.00
Technical Assistance Program Income	2779.78
Urban Development Review Income	10060.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>94,912.64</u>

EXPENSES

Administrative Costs

Equipment Maintenance	861.64
Equipment Insurance	200.00
Dues	2250.00
Grant Writing Services	2806.13
Office Supplies	1697.18
Outreach	272.23
Postage	972.77
Printing Newsletters	1949.76
Professional Fees	97.00
Stewardship Education	59.89
Training Costs	762.50
Travel	1015.44
Supervisor Costs	2865.10
Fundraising & Event Costs	11196.58
Tech Assistance Promotion Costs	271.28
Urban Development Review Costs	7215.00
Personnel Costs (includes Grant & Tech Assist Time)	85733.84
Miscellaneous Cost	
TOTAL EXPENSES	120226.34

Net Loss	-25,313.70
-----------------	-------------------

Ending Balance as of 12/31/07	21,878.01
--------------------------------------	------------------

SUBJECT TO AUDIT

The Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District appreciates the financial support received from our advertisers, donors, Maine Department of Agriculture and County Commissioners in both Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties. The Conservation District also thanks all the local land owners and land users who willingly participated in our programs.