

Old Dominion Resource Conservation and Development



Annual Report 2007

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Our Mission

The Old Dominion Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to initiate and coordinate resource development and conservation programs that enhance the social, economic, and environmental quality of the region.

Our Vision

A locally driven organization with a diverse and talented council empowered to work cooperatively within the region to improve the quality of life of its citizenry.

Letter from the Chairman



As my first year as Chair comes to an end, I look back and see that the council has undergone many changes. Several active council members needed to resign because they have taken other positions outside of the

council's area. We have a new secretary who works part-time for the council. The NRCS-funded secretary position has not been filled. Several members and new members as well have stepped forward to become key contributors to the council.

These changes have given the council an opportunity to re-evaluate how we have been conducting business. The council's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws have been updated. Prior to adopting a new project, the council is now reviewing the benefits of taking on the project, and how this potential project would fit into our Annual Plan of Work and our 5-Year Area Plan. These changes will help to keep the council focused on our primary mission of serving the communities in the council's area.

Several exciting new projects were adopted, covering areas such as protecting land from urban development, recycling our trash, and environmental and agricultural education. Work is currently underway on a contract with VA Department of Conservation and Recreation to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan for five watersheds of the Appomattox River.

Two committees have been formed - one for land protection, and the other for forestry. These committees are made up of agency personnel, private citizens and key business persons. Their goal is to develop ideas for potential council projects as well as to obtain funding for demonstrations and pilot projects.

I feel in these last few days of the year that the past year's work has laid the foundation for us to accomplish many beneficial projects in the years to come.

Annual Plan of Work

The Old Dominion Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. The Council is comprised of 10 county sponsors, five soil and water conservation district sponsors, and two planning district sponsors. In addition to these sponsors, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides funding which includes staff, office space and a vehicle. The Council identifies resource needs and develops projects for economic development, land conservation, land management, and water quality and quantity. Many of the projects provide multi-county benefits, while others pertain specifically to one county. Projects and activities worked on in Fiscal Year 2007 were:

Phenix Dixie Youth Ball Field The council worked with Phenix Dixie Youth, Inc. to seek funding for the completion of a field complex in Charlotte County. Funding was obtained through Baseball Tomorrow Foundation, an organization of major league team owners and players. This project was completed and relates to the Community Development element of the Area Plan.

Edmunds Park Sports Hall of Fame and Sports Museum The Council is providing support to raise funds to construct a facility at the Edmunds Memorial Park. When built, the facility will be used to recognize athletes from the area who have been outstanding in their sport. Sports memorabilia will be displayed in the museum portion of the facility. This relates to the Community Development element of the Area Plan.

Biodiesel Workshop: Old Dominion RC&D partnered with South Centre Corridors RC&D to host a Biodiesel Workshop held in Petersburg. The project informed participants of the process of making diesel fuel from products such as used vegetable oil and grease, as well as soybean oil, peanut oil and cottonseed oil. This project was completed and relates to the Land Management element of the Area Plan.

ALIVE by the James: Adventure in Leadership through Investigation and Visitation in the Environment. The council partnered with several agencies and individuals to conduct a 5-day environmental workshop held at James River State Park for high school students from areas throughout Virginia. The children learned various subjects that relate to managing and conserving our natural resources, including soils, water quality, wildlife and forestry. This project was completed and relates to the Community Development and Land Management elements of the Area Plan.

Conservation Strategies Short Course. The council partnered with Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Department of Forestry to conduct a workshop describing many of the different approaches to protecting land from urban development. The various speakers described the advantages and disadvantages of each approach. This project was completed and relates to the Land Management element

(Continued on page 3)

Financial Statements

<p style="text-align: center;">HILL & DAVIS, CPA, PC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1618 Graham Road Farmville, VA 23001 Telephone: (434) 392-1801 Fax: (434) 392-3667 1-800-326-2617</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEMBERS American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Independent Auditor's Report</p> <p>The Board of Directors Old Dominion Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. Farmville, Virginia</p> <p>We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Old Dominion Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. as of September 30, 2007, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.</p> <p>We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in The United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amount and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.</p> <p>In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Old Dominion Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. as of September 30, 2007, and the changes in its net assets and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.</p> <p><i>Hill & Davis, CPA, PC</i></p> <p>Farmville, Virginia October 17, 2007</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Old Dominion Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Statement of Financial Position As of September 30, 2007</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ASSETS</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Cash-operating</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 54,565</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total assets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 54,565</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Liabilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accounts payable</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 2,314</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prepaid dues</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,587</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total liabilities</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,901</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Net Assets</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unrestricted</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30,649</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Temporarily restricted</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19,615</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total net assets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">49,664</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total liabilities and net assets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 54,565</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.</p>	Cash-operating	\$ 54,565	Total assets	\$ 54,565	Liabilities		Accounts payable	\$ 2,314	Prepaid dues	2,587	Total liabilities	4,901	Net Assets		Unrestricted	30,649	Temporarily restricted	19,615	Total net assets	49,664	Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 54,565
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Old Dominion RC&D is authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture, and received \$127,000 in technical support through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Annual Plan of Work (Continued from page 2)

of the Area Plan. Several additional courses and workshops are in the planning for the following years.

Buckingham Sports Park Buckingham County received funds from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for the development of an athletic park outside the town of Dillwyn. The council helped by writing the grant proposal several years back. This project was completed and relates to the Community Development Element of the Area Plan.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day™ The council obtained sponsorship through Progressive Agriculture to hold a Safety Day Camp for children in Halifax County. Focusing on the youth of rural areas, this program is designed to increase their awareness of the potential dangers and safe techniques when using farm equipment, pesticides, ATVs and firearms to mention a few. This project was postponed until next year. This project relates to the Community Development element of the Area Plan.

Recycling Education The goal of this project is to increase awareness of the need to recycle reusable products and materials. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is requiring that counties recycle a percentage of their waste that in the past was sent to landfills. The concept of the project is to hire an Education/Information Specialist to teach children how to recycle and the importance of recycling. This project was started in 2007 and relates to the Land Management element of the Area Plan



Students rinsing net in stream

Old Dominion RC&D provided assistance with ALIVE by the James. This 5-day environmental education camp was the brainchild of Ruth Wallace, Buckingham County Cooperative Extension, her husband Greg, and Sherry Ragland of the Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District. This was an effort to renew an interest in and an appreciation of the environment in children, with the hope that they will pursue a career involving our natural resources. Open to children throughout Virginia, the camp was held at James River State Park, and the campers stayed in the newly constructed cabins overlooking the James River.



Pictured are the nineteen youth and some of their adult group leaders from the 2007 ALIVE by the James.

The course work covered forestry, soils, water quality, and wildlife, and included a hands-on stream bank stabilization of a section of the riverbank along the James River. The children's free time was spent canoeing, tubing, playing volleyball and horseshoes. The council did the majority of the graphic design work for the brochure and other promotional literature. We were also involved in the planning activities. For its first year, the camp was a great success. Plans are underway for next year's camp, which is scheduled for July 21-26, 2008, and the intent is for the camp to become an annual event.

Council is Changing How We Do Business

Over the last couple of years, the RC&D program has been in the process of change, and the Old Dominion RC&D Council is in the midst of this change. The next Farm Bill, which is expected to be approved soon, will include additional changes relating to the program.

RC&D Councils across the nation receive over \$125,000 each in funding from the United States government through the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service. This support from NRCS pays for the Coordinator's salary, office space and equipment, a vehicle, and in the past, an administrative assistant. This funding has remained the same over the last few years even though the cost of energy, fuel, and inflation has increased expenses considerably.

In the past, RC&D Councils have been able to work on projects that the council members considered most worthy for our area. The new Farm Bill, when passed, will require councils to develop projects that improve what is being called the Four Elements: Land Management, Land Conservation, Water Quality and Community Development. Has anything changed over the last couple of years? The answer is: not really; these elements have been there for quite some time. What has changed is that councils need to be addressing each and every one of the four elements, not just one or two as we have in the past. Basically, the federal government wants to see the benefits they are receiving for the funding they provide. Philanthropic organizations and other agencies which provide the majority of the funding for the projects the council develops have always required the council to be accountable for the funds we receive. Now the federal government is interested in having RC&D Councils explain in more detail how they are benefiting the communities they serve.

Two Sports Grants Awarded for Youth Athletic Fields

Two grants were awarded as a result of grant proposals written by the council to construct athletic fields in the council's region. Baseball Tomorrow Foundation awarded Phenix Dixie Youth, Inc. \$36,000 to complete construction of two baseball/softball fields adjacent to the Jeffress Elementary School in Charlotte County. Buckingham County received \$50,000 in matching funding from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to expand their Gene Dixon Memorial Park, located just outside of the town of Dillwyn, by adding two additional baseball/softball fields.

Though both projects are very similar, two entirely different funding sources were required. The Department of Conservation and Recreation awards funding to projects that are publicly owned. The Buckingham Sports Complex is owned by Buckingham County, thus fitting the grant eligibility requirements. Phenix Dixie Youth, Inc. owns the land where their fields are being constructed. Even with the agreement to allow the county's public school system to use the fields, they are not entitled to government funds. Baseball Tomorrow is a private foundation consisting of Major League ball players and the League's owners for the purpose of funding youth baseball and softball programs. They fund both private and public baseball/softball programs around the world, with the concept of introducing children to the game of baseball/softball early to develop their ball playing skills. Typically, only 25 grants are awarded per year. Old Dominion RC&D Council is pleased to be able to contribute to the community's youth.

Council Sponsors Conservation Strategies Course and Other Land Protection Efforts



Course attendees learn about land conservation tools and options

The council partnered with the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Department of Forestry to host a workshop on Conservation Strategies at the Piedmont Experiment Station in Nottoway County. At the workshop, participants learned the different avenues available to landowners to protect their property from urban development in future years. Programs such as conservation easements, purchase/transfer of development rights, land trusts and other land conservation tools were discussed. The advantages and drawbacks of the different programs were explained to allow individuals to select the program that is most suited for their individual needs. Among those attending the course were landowners, USDA and other agency personnel, county planners, and producers engaged in farming and forestry.

The council has been interested in promoting the concept of protecting our valuable rural countryside for several years, and this conservation strategies workshop was the start for several new educational programs the council will take part in hosting. A Land Protection Sub-Committee has been formed which includes community leaders, other agency personnel and council members, and two new conservation workshops are scheduled for next fiscal year. In addition, in November 2007, the Virginia Association of RC&D Councils will host an educational workshop on Green Infrastructure which the council will be helping with. The council will also be working with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to host a Governor's Forum on Land Conservation in December 2007, where the Honorable Governor Timothy Kaine and NASCAR driver Ward Burton will be the keynote speakers who will be discussing the need to conserve our rural lands.

Council and Swinson Receive Awards at VARCDC Spring Meeting



Pictured with awards are Sherry Swinson, left, and Old Dominion RC&D Chair Carlyle Wimbish

Council member and past chair Sherry Swinson was inducted into the Virginia Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils’ Hall of Fame during the April Virginia Association of RC&D Councils’ Awards Banquet ceremony held at the Frontier Museum in Staunton, Virginia. Over the past ten years, Ms. Swinson has served as VARCDC Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer and Delegate. She also served on many of the association’s committees which included: Annual Meeting/Training Committee, Legislative Committee, Executive Committee, Budget Committee and the Council for Rural Development Committee.

The Old Dominion RC&D Council also received the Youth Involvement Award for last year’s Progressive Agriculture Safety Day™, held at the Southside Community College, Alberta Campus. This is a day where children are taught some of the many dangers associated with living and working on farms. Several of the subjects taught were: firearm safety, power equipment, animal safety and pesticide safety. In addition, the police performed demonstrations of rescue canines and drug awareness. Council members who attended the VARCDC spring meeting are: Carlyle Wimbish (Chairman), Eugene Morris (Vice Chair), Susan Adams (Treasurer), Sherry Swinson, and Coordinator Dave Roberts.

The Old Dominion RC&D Council also received the Youth Involvement Award for last year’s Progressive Agriculture Safety Day™, held at the Southside Community College,

Council Sponsors Biodiesel Workshop

Old Dominion RC&D Council worked with our adjacent council, the South Centre Corridors RC&D, to hold a workshop discussing the production of biodiesel from a variety of sources. The course was held at the Dinwiddie Recreational Center outside of Petersburg, and covered how diesel fuel is produced from various plant oils and recycled vegetable oils and grease. In addition, the 85 people who attended learned the challenges of blending bio-diesel with regular diesel (which is derived from crude oil), engine modifications and other factors involved with the use of biodiesel. Experts from Clean Cities and Virginia State University as well as fuel producers were on hand to provide information and answer questions.



Biodiesel—coming soon to a station near you!



Course participants learn about the biodiesel manufacturing process



Reference materials available at biodiesel workshop

Completed Projects

ALIVE by the James
 Biodiesel Workshop
 Buckingham Sports Field
 Conservation Strategies Short Course
 Phenix Dixie Youth Ball Field

Ongoing Projects

Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail
 Conservation Strategies for Landowners Course
 Edmunds Memorial Park Sports Hall of Fame and Sports Museum
 Governor's Forum on Land Protection
 Outdoor Classroom
 Progressive Agriculture Safety Day™
 Recycling Education
 TMDL Implementation Plan for Sub-Watersheds of the
 Appomattox River
 "Woods in Your Backyard" Forestry Course

2007 Executive Council

Chairman, Carlyle Wimbish, Jr.
 Secretary, Cynthia Gregg
 Past Chair, George Ingram

Vice Chairman, Eugene Morris
 Treasurer, Susan Adams
 Member-At-Large, Kenneth Cassada

Sponsors: Council Member and Alternate

Amelia County Board of Supervisors: David Whitaker, Thomas Harris
 Brunswick County Board of Supervisors (inactive): Dorothy Thomas, Charlette Woolridge
 Charlotte County Board of Supervisors: Susan Adams, Philip Staten
 Cumberland County Board of Supervisors: Michael Cooper, Elbert Womack
 Halifax County Board of Supervisors: Carlyle Wimbish, Jr., James Edmunds
 Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors: George Ingram, Catherine Georgetti
 Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors: Wayne Carter, Jim Jennings
 Nottoway County Board of Supervisors: Ronnie Roark, John Prosisie
 Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors: Susie Hampton; Sarah Puckett
 Halifax Soil and Water Conservation District: Kenneth Cassada, Baxter Wilson
 Lake Country Soil and Water Conservation District: Cynthia Gregg, Herbert Ramsey
 Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District: Kelly Jones Snoddy, Sherry Ragland
 Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District: Gary Dillard, Deanna Fehrer
 Southside Soil and Water Conservation District: Eugene Morris, Catherine Garnett

The Old Dominion RC&D Council wishes to express appreciation to all of the groups, organizations, and agencies for assistance given in support of projects during 2007. Active involvement and local leadership were key components toward the successful completion of projects. A special thank you goes to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for providing an office, staff, and supplies to help us carry out our mission.

Member of National Association of RC&D Councils Circle of Diamonds

The National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils has awarded Old Dominion RC&D Council a membership in the National Circle of Diamonds Program.

As a member of the Circle, the Old Dominion RC&D Council has demonstrated its impact on the quality of life within its local area. Circle members are publicly accountable and realize that their accountability directly relates to the Council's structure, process, and outcomes each member of the Circle achieves.



The Old Dominion RC&D Council, in attaining the Circle of Diamonds, has shown and promises to continue to show their ability to reach the specific benchmarks set forth in the program guidelines. This mark of excellence shows the honesty, integrity and strong commitment of the Old Dominion Council to the RC&D mission.

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You may also visit us online at our website: <http://www.olddominionrcd.org>, where you will find the latest information about when council meetings will be held and projects the Council is working on, along with photographs and reports. You will also find links to the other Virginia RC&D councils as well as the National Association and NRCS. The staff welcomes your comments and suggestions on improvements to our site.

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To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.