

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20030708

1. REQUESTED MOTION: Authorize Chairman to sign the statement of support

ACTION REQUESTED: Endorsement of the Application for Resource Conservation and Development Program Assistance

WHY ACTION IS NECESSARY: Each County of the Service area of this Resource Conservation and Development Corporation needs to endorse the application, or it will not receive funding.

WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: The action demonstrates support for the application

2. DEPARTMENTAL CATEGORY:
COMMISSION DISTRICT #

CIA

3. MEETING DATE:

08-05-2003

4. AGENDA:

- CONSENT ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
- PUBLIC WALK ON
- TIME REQUIRED:

5. REQUIREMENT/PURPOSE:
(Specify)

- STATUTE
- ORDINANCE
- ADMIN. CODE
- OTHER

6. REQUESTOR OF INFORMATION:

- A. COMMISSIONER
- B. DEPARTMENT *Smart Growth*
- C. DIVISION

BY: *Way Swalley*

7. BACKGROUND: The BoCC endorsed the creation of the Southwest Florida RCDC in October. The purpose of the Corporation is to get grants for rural land and water management, with common grants being for fire reduction, water storage, soil conservation, water quality, and disaster preparation or recovery. This application is to the US Department of Agriculture for a staffing grant, with such staff either at the SWFRPC or collocated with a Natural Resource Conservation Service office. No match is required from the endorsing Counties.

8. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

9. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL:

A Department Director	B Purchasing or Contracts	C Human Resources	D Other	E County Attorney	F Budget Services				G County Manager
<i>[Signature]</i>				<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>AM 6/11/03</i>	<i>OM 6/11/03</i>	<i>Risk 6/11/03</i>	<i>GC 6-11-03</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

10. COMMISSION ACTION:

- APPROVED
- DENIED
- DEFERRED
- OTHER

Rec. by CoAtty
Date: *6/11/03*
Time: *11:08 AM*
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6/11/03 114

RECEIVED BY
COUNTY ADMIN. *TD*
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2:15
COUNTY ADMIN.
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**APPLICATION
FOR
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM ASSISTANCE**

**For The
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RC&D AREA**

State of Florida

With Assistance From:

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
P.O. BOX 141510
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32614**

**APPLICATION FOR
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM ASSISTANCE**

DATE: _____

TO: Ann Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture

THROUGH: Bruce I. Knight, Chief
USDA-NRCS
Washington, DC 20013-2890

We, The Southwest Florida RC&D Council, do hereby apply for authorization as a Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area. We have ratified this application, and we agree to support the RC&D program to improve the well being of the people of the area.

By: _____

Title: President

Date: _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	i-ii
Preface.....	1
Summary of Request.....	2
General Description of Council Area.....	2
Application Narrative.....	3
Council Name.....	3
General Description of the Area.....	3
Socio Economic Information for the Area.....	3-4
Area Map.....	5
Area Plan.....	6
Mission.....	6
Vision.....	6
Needs and Opportunities.....	6
Element One – Land Conservation.....	6
Goal.....	6
Strategy.....	6
Objectives.....	7
Element Two – Water Management.....	7
Goal.....	7-8
Strategy.....	8
Objectives.....	8
Element Three – Community Development.....	8
Goal.....	8
Strategy.....	8
Objectives.....	8
Element Four – Land Management.....	9
Strategy.....	9
Objectives.....	9
Council Goal and Objectives.....	10

Community Planning and Organization.....	11
Historical Information on the Southwest Florida RC&D Council.....	11
Council Sponsors.....	11
Board of Directors.....	11
Activities Under Way.....	12
Levels of Support.....	12
Community Representatives.....	12
Required Clauses.....	13
RC&D Application Area Activity Report.....	14
Sponsoring Organizations.....	15-25
Compliance Statement.....	26

PREFACE

The Southwest Florida RC&D was organized by a group of dedicated volunteers and community leaders to address the economic, social and natural resource issues facing their community now and in the future. This RC&D is based on the concept that we must recognize, understand completely and utilize all of our available resources while protecting our environment for future generations. By joining with our neighbors as a regional group, we share ideas, strengths and resources to reach common goals.

We plan to focus on problems common throughout our area and to use the RC&D as a vehicle to promote and produce positive change. We intend to analyze problems and develop solutions that will prevent merely reacting to problems that have already occurred. This RC&D council plans to follow a more traditional approach in identifying and assisting resource based problems. More emphasis will be placed on working with other units of government to assist them in meeting our mutual objectives. The primary goals of this RC&D will concentrate on water quantity and quality issues, land use planning, environmental education and natural resource protection. The Southwest Florida RC&D, through its sponsors, belongs to all of the people of Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties. Participation is encouraged by local citizens since it is vital to the success of the RC&D.

Wayne E. Daltry, President

SUMMARY OF REQUEST
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA
FLORIDA

Date Submitted: _____

Counties:

Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades, Lee (6,090 Acres)

Sponsors: (10)

5 County Governments
5 Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Supporting Organizations:

8 County Departments
5 Private Businesses
5 Florida Representatives
2 Florida Senators
5 Incorporated Cities
4 Federal Agencies
4 State Agencies

General Description of Council Area

The Southwest Florida Resource Conservation and Development Area is bounded on the North by Sarasota, Desoto and Highland Counties, the South by Monroe County, the East by Broward, Dade and Palm Beach Counties and Lake Okeechobee and the West by the Gulf of Mexico. The areas population currently exceeds 910,878 and continues to grow at a rapid pace. Current population centers include the cities of Punta Gorda, Naples, Moore Haven, Labelle, Clewiston, Fort Myers and Cape Coral.

The economy of the coastal counties in the region is dependent on four sectors: services; wholesale and retail trade finance, insurance, real estate and construction. These four sectors accounted for 87.7% of the areas earnings. Tourism and agriculture are important to the economy of the coastal region as well. The economies of inland counties; Glades and Hendry Counties differ somewhat from the rest of the region. In addition to the services sectors, Glades County is dependent upon the agricultural services and transportation/communication/utilities sectors. Hendry County is more reliant on agricultural services, along with manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade and services. Agricultural lands in the region are being lost at an ongoing basis. An ever-increasing population, rapid land development and rapid urbanization places many stresses on society, the land, water and other resources.

Council Primary Contact

Wayne E. Daltry, President
4980 Bayline Drive
North Fort Myers, Florida 33917
(239) 335-2840
(239) 335-2262 (Fax)

U.S. Congressional Delegation

Senators: Bob Graham (D-FL)
Bill Nelson (D-FL)
Representatives: Porter Goss (R-FL-14)
Mark Foley (R-FL-16)

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA
APPLICATION NARRATIVE**

Council Name

The Council decided to name the RC&D area the Southwest Florida Resource Conservation and Development Council since the area encompasses a 5-county area in the Southwest part of the state and expands westward to the Gulf of Mexico,

General Description of the Area

The Southwest Florida Resource Conservation and Development (SWFRC&D) area is composed of five counties, three of which (Charlotte, Collier and Lee), are along the Gulf of Mexico, while the remaining two (Glades and Hendry) are located inland. The RC&D Area covers land area of 5,451 square miles. This is 10.1% of the total land area in the state (53,937 square miles). It is bounded on the North by Sarasota, Desoto and Highlands Counties, the South by Monroe County, the East by Broward, Dade and Palm Beach Counties and Lake Okeechobee and the West by the Gulf of Mexico.

The SWFRC&D areas' climate is sub-tropical in nature, characterized by long, warm, rainy summers and mild, dry winters. Average monthly temperatures range from 64.3 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 82.6 degrees Fahrenheit in August. Average annual rainfall exceeds 52 inches with most of the rain falling between May and October. The predominant soils in the area consist of sand, silt and clay derived from geologic substrata, water and organic matter. All are deep, nearly level and poorly drained with a water table less than ten inches from the surface during at least part of the year. Vegetation varies from mangrove forest located throughout the coastal islands and along the Gulf of Mexico to flatwoods, sloughs and swamps located within the interior portion of the area. The area includes numerous lakes, rivers and canals as well as several beaches along the Gulf.

The SWFRC&D area includes a population exceeding 910,878 with Lee County ranking first with 454,918 people followed by Collier County with 264,475, Charlotte with 144,571, Hendry with 36,302 and Glades with 10,612. Southwest Florida remains a mosaic of populated and unpopulated areas with the greatest growth located primarily in the coastal communities.

Socio Economic Information for the Area

Agriculture, including farming, forestry and fishing was the primary economic activity of Southwest Florida in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Agriculture remains a major land use in the area, but has less economic significance to the coastal area. Agriculture is the major land use to the interior counties. The areas prolonged growing season encourages the farming of sugarcane, citrus, tomatoes and various vegetables, and nursery and greenhouse products. Ranching and tropical fruit groves are also favored by the area's climate.

In recent decades tourism has come to play a vital role in the economy of Southwest Florida. The coastal waters of Southwest Florida are the areas most abundant water resource, providing valuable contribution to the economy. These waters are essential to tourism, recreation and commercial fishing. The coastal areas drive construction in the form of hotels, restaurants, housing, industrial complexes, warehouses and stores. The service sector of the economy employs the largest number of people in the region. This is comprised of business activities including lodging, personal services (e.g., dry cleaners), business services, repair shops, health services, legal services and amusement/recreation service.

Southwest Florida RC&D Area Plan

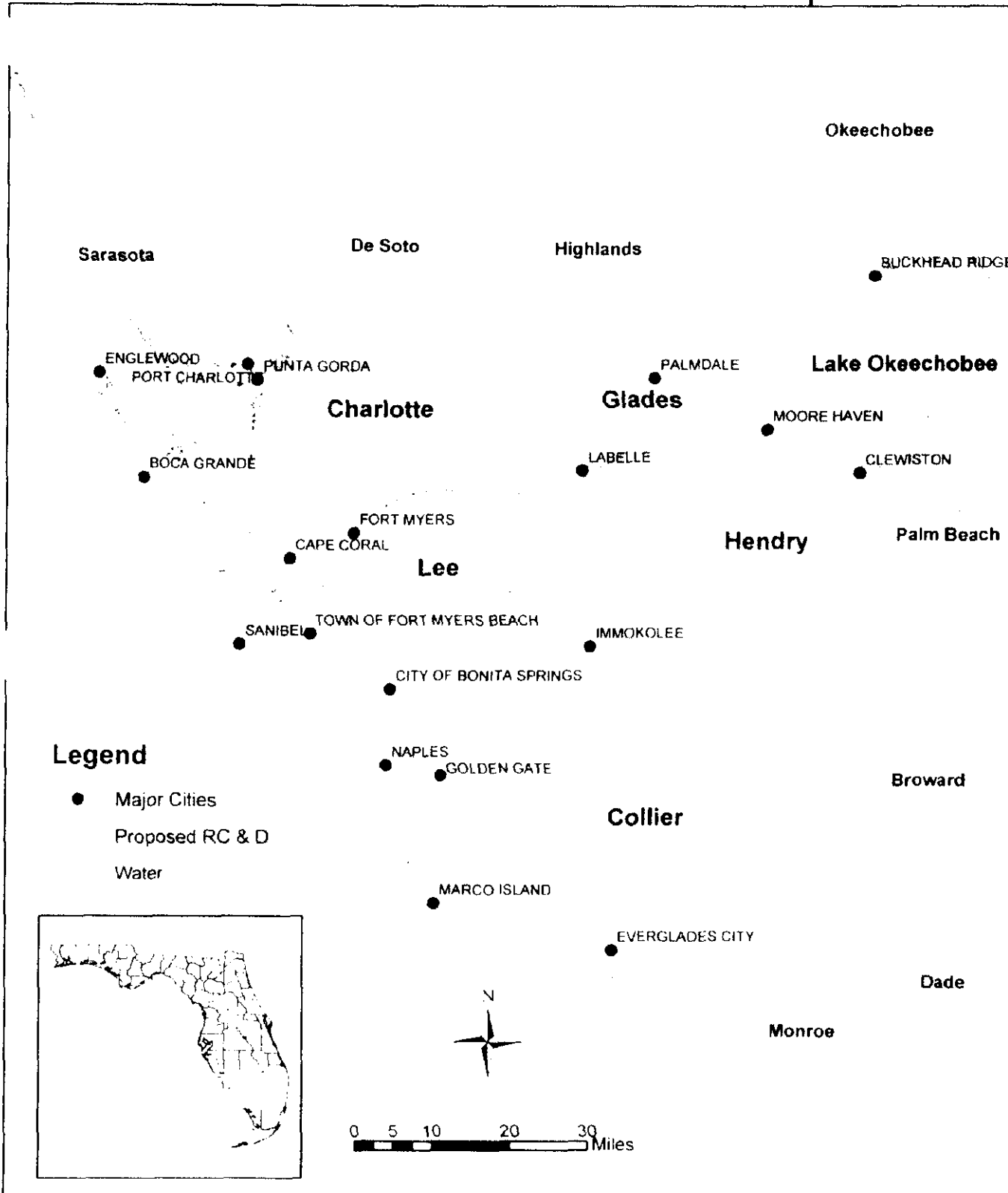
The addition of the Southwest Florida International Airport has attracted various businesses to the area by providing non-stop service throughout the U.S. and Europe. From 1985 to 2000, Southwest Florida International Airport experienced phenomenal growth in total passenger activity (206%), serving more than 5.3 million passengers annually. The area also provides spring training facilities for three professional baseball teams bringing in sports enthusiasts from Boston, Minnesota and Texas.

The areas' subtropical climate draws new residents to the area at a steady rate. Listed below is a summary by county of selected demographic information:

	CHARLOTTE	COLLIER	GLADES	HENDRY	LEE
Population	144,571	264,475	10,612	36,302	454,918
White	90.4%	73.6%	68.6%	44.3%	81.9%
Black	4.3%	4.5%	9.9%	14.1%	6.6%
Hispanic	3.2%	19.6%	15.0%	39.4%	9.5%
Asian	6.0%	5.0%	6.0%	6.0%	7.0%
Median Income	\$36,379	\$48,289	\$30,774	\$33,592	\$40,319
Home Ownership	83.7%	75.6%	81.6%	72.4%	76.5%
Persons below Poverty	8.2%	10.3%	15.2%	24.1%	9.7%
Private NonFarm Emp.	36,054	94,982	3172	9,678	159,321
Minority Owned Farms	1,026	2,583	110	233	3,145
Women Owned Farms	3,013	6,035	91	247	10,578
Local Government Emp.	4,172	8,432	333	1,698	10,169
Persons /Square Mile	204.2	124.1	13.7	31.4	548.6

As Southwest Florida continues to grow, so will the problems associated with a rapidly expanding population. The areas land and water and other natural resources will need to be managed and conserved. Social and economic pressures will increase as will the need for additional public facilities to meet those needs. The promotion of sustainable growth and development patterns will be critical to continue the areas' prosperity and environmental assets. These problems create opportunities for the Southwest Florida RC&D to enter into inter-local agreements and partnerships with local governmental agencies to improve the quality of life to the Southwest Florida area.

Southwest Florida Resource Conservation & Development



**RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION
AREA PLAN**

Mission

To preserve and enhance the natural resources of the area, promote economic stability and improve the quality of life for the residents of the area.

Vision

Create and/or ensure a sustainable environment where both development and conservation can coexist for the benefit of the land and its future residents.

Needs and Opportunities

Needs and opportunities are identified within the four following elements: Land Conservation, Water Management, Community Development and Land Management. The plan briefly describes each of these elements and provides the strategies proposed to address the identified issue.

ELEMENT ONE – LAND CONSERVATION

Land use within the Southwest Florida RC&D varies between the five counties in the area. Land use in the inland counties consist primarily of large ranches intermixed with citrus groves, vegetable/sugarcane production and improved pasture. The land uses in the coastal counties consist of areas of rapid urbanization along with small ranches, citrus groves, vegetable production and improved pasture.

The following table provides estimated acreage information regarding current land usage:

	<i>Charlotte</i>	<i>Collier</i>	Glades	Hendry	<i>Lee</i>
Citrus	39,350	36,500	24,000	118,000	16,900
Cropland	9,650	27,500	51,000	137,000	12,150
Pastureland	69,300	50,000	329,000	376,800	37,450
Rangeland	51,500	118,700	95,000	115,000	57,650
Urban	119,600	481,200	1,000	3,200	247,500
Fed/State Lands	102,350	572,200	76,000	181,000	90,400

Soils in Southwest Florida consist of sand, silt, and clay derived from geologic substrata, water, and organic matter. All soil types are deep, nearly level, and poorly drained, with a water table less than ten inches from the surface during at least part of the year. While most soils in the RC&D area have some suitability for agricultural uses, they act as natural constraints to urban development. Extensive soil preparation is required prior to development in most areas of the Region. For example, in areas with a high water table, many feet of soil must be added vertically to development sites to facilitate drainage and provide flood protection.

Goal

The diversity and extent of the Region’s protected natural systems will increase consistently beyond that existing in 2001.

Strategy

To identify and include within a land conservation easement or acquisition program, those lands identified as being necessary for the sustainability of Southwest Florida, utilizing all land preservation tools available.

Objectives

1. Support continued preservation of lands targeted for conservation and recreation by Private Environmental Land Trust Programs in the Region.
2. Facilitate and assist in the coordination of conservation easements and manage contracts in the restoration of the Everglades CERP projects.
3. Create a map depicting land that has been set aside for conservation purposes within approved developments (existing conservation easements).
4. Create a map depicting regionally significant lands that private landowners agree will be voluntarily managed to maintain their environmental value, yet still provide them with economic benefits, without the need for public acquisition consideration (such lands would be candidates for future conservation easements).
5. Work with the various entities and utilizing the following Criteria and Guidelines, create a non-regulatory gaps planning map of land needed for recreation, hunting/fishing, flood control, forestry activities, etc.; to provide support for future populations and to protect existing ecosystems. Potential gaps may include lands which are not included in any current non-governmental acquisition, conservation easement and/or preservation program, have not already been set aside as conservation areas within approved development or lands which may be within private ownership and may be potentially proposed for future agricultural or urban intensification, which would preclude their environmental value.
6. Work with the various private acquisitions programs identified in this Plan and working with Local Governments and private landowners, develop a strategy to protect gaps lands identified in the above action.
7. Assist in the preparation of applications of existing programs for funding of private land acquisition and/or conservation easements.
8. Work with the various entities, encourage the establishment of management funding at the time of acquisition and refine existing Management Strategies to insure that the lands acquired are managed to improve wildlife habitat and/or for recreation maintained in the natural condition that led to their preservation status. Management strategies should include provisions for fire management and brush control.

ELEMENT TWO – WATER MANAGEMENT

The management and control of water quality and quantity has long been an issue of concern for Southwest Florida. In order to accommodate urban development of the area, the natural hydrologic system was modified to meet the population's desire for drainage for agricultural and urban activities. Recent winter and spring droughts, coupled with inadequate summer rains, have led to year-long water use restrictions for portions of the five-county area. When the natural resource system's hydroperiod is altered it can become stressed and subject to invasion from exotic (non-native) vegetation and eventually disappear. Impact of development and agricultural projects also stress the natural resource systems that effect water quality and quantity.

Goal

The RC&D will assist Water Management Districts (WMDs), Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other local governments in developing or maintaining programs to protect surface water, potable water

wells, wellfields and contributing areas from contamination and to support water conservation programs such as the Mobile Irrigation Labs.

Strategy Use of a readily accessible, understandable water resource modeling tool to evaluate current resource conditions and predict/evaluate future resource conditions.

Objectives

- Assist with coordination between WMDs and political units on planning for water resource development and improvements.
- Work with WMDs and local governments to insure that resource condition evaluation addresses surface and groundwater, quantity and quality, flow, volume, direction and the hydro period cycle.
- Work with Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, and WMDs in maintaining or increasing efforts to sustain water conservation programs such as the Mobile Irrigation Labs for both urban and agricultural uses.
- Provide training and technical assistance to farming and landscaping operations in the use of best management practices
- Assist WMD's with identifying free flowing and salty wells for plugging or decommissioning.

ELEMENT THREE – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The counties included in the RC&D are part of an Economic Development District designed in 1992 and are included in the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's (SWFRPC) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The RC&D will assist the counties and the SWFRPC in meeting the goals and objectives of this strategy which includes the following priorities. Projects will be spread through the area with more intensive efforts focused on the areas that are economically distressed and show high unemployment and low per capita income.

Goal

Continue to protect and enhance the quality of life for residents, businesses and tourists in the five county area served by the RC&D.

Strategy

Take proactive steps to address the challenges of population-driven growth.

Objectives

1. Work with local governments to ensure that through the comprehensive planning process, natural resources are protected and future growth is well-planned.
2. Ensure communities have adequate infrastructure facilities to meet the needs of residents and new development
3. Provide interested communities with assistance in development or expanding ecotourism related programs.
4. Provide technical assistance in planning and management to community based non-profit organizations and individuals.
5. Enter into partnerships with other groups and governmental agencies to promote environmental education among the area's youths.
6. Enter into partnerships with other organizations to provide services to needy persons and outreach programs to underserved populations.

ELEMENT FOUR – LAND MANAGEMENT

Land management is the focal point of maintaining and protecting the area's natural resources. Through the development and implementation of land management plans, the negative impacts of manmade and natural events are minimized and/or controlled.

Strategy

Promote principles of land management that protects the Region's natural resources and provide for an improved quality of life.

Objectives

1. Work in cooperation with agencies and local governments that provide for the disposal of man's liquid and solid wastes in a manner that will not lead to long-term degradation of soil and water resources.
2. Work in cooperation with agencies and local governments to ensure that beaches and inlets that have been altered by human activity are restored/renourished and/or managed in order to have the total system function naturally.
3. Work in cooperation with agencies and local governments to ensure that all mining and borrow operations prepare and implement reclamation programs that restore and ensure long-term sustainability of their watersheds and native habitats.
4. Work in cooperation with agencies and local governments to ensure that agricultural operations are compatible with our identified natural resource protection areas and to ensure the sustainability of agricultural operations through continued natural resource availability.
5. Work in cooperation with agencies and local governments insure that new public facilities, facility expansions and additions avoid designated natural resource protection areas.
6. Work with all levels of government within Southwest Florida to actively plan and prepare for the potential long-term impact of salt water intrusion upon the Region's natural systems.
7. Work with all levels of government within Southwest Florida to actively plan for lands that have been acquired for natural resource purposes to be maintained and managed to preserve their environmental integrity.
8. Insure that opportunities for governmental partnerships and public/private partnerships in preserving wildlife habitats are maximized.
9. Assist and/or facilitate both public and private efforts to provide for recreation lands for hunting, fishing, trail riding, camping, and other sports, and passive uses, and in a way that will promote the conservation of natural resources.

COUNCIL GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The Southwest Florida RC&D identified goals and objectives through a review of existing strategic plans approved by local and regional public and private agencies currently serving the RC&D area. Incorporating these approved goals and objectives into the RC&D area plan enables the council to accomplish its mission of *“to preserve and enhance the natural resources of the area, promote economic stability and improve the quality of life for the residents of the area.”*

The goal of the Southwest Florida RC&D Council is to cooperate and assist other organizations, agencies, and individuals in implementing local and regional plans beneficial to resource conservation and sustainable development of the area.

The following are the objectives identified for the RC&D:

- Improve land and water resources for agricultural, municipal, industrial, recreational, transportation and wildlife uses
- To secure and give support and assistance in developing and implementing a resource conservation and development plan for the area.
- To serve as a clearinghouse for plans proposed by county resource conservation and development committees and to furnish information relating thereto.
- To work with and assist all resource conservation and development sponsors in developing and implementing their objectives and goals.
- Plan and carry out community involvement projects for natural resource protection, economic development and improvement of social conditions in the Southwest Florida RC&D area
- Create public awareness of the need to properly conserve and protect Florida’s natural resources
- Assist the local soil and water conservation district in carrying out their goals and long-range plans
- Help the community leaders and local, state and federal agencies achieve the Everglades Restoration Plan
- Plan and carry out local projects for wet season hazard mitigation, drought/fire protection and wetland water storage

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION

Historical Information on the Southwest Florida RC&D Council

In November 2001, the Vice President of the Florida Association of RC&D Councils visited the USDA/NCRS District Conservationist in Lee County to discuss the concept of RC&D councils. Local district conservationists and planning staff attended the Florida Association of RC&D Council annual conference in May, 2002 to obtain more information on the benefits of developing a RC&D Council in Southwest Florida. In July of 2002, representatives from area local governments, economic development councils, regional planning and conservation agencies met with the Vice President of the Florida Association of RC&D Council and USDA personnel to discuss the criteria and planning process for developing the Southwest Florida RC&D Council. The Executive Committee for the Southwest Florida RC&D was formed and Articles of Incorporation which were filed with the State of Florida on September 5, 2002.

The role of the Southwest Florida RC&D is to cooperate and assist with the implementation of local and regional plans of other organizations and agencies beneficial to resource conservation and sustainable development in the 5-county area. The Board of Directors operates as staff for the Council through working committees which meet as projects demand. Board of Director meetings are held bi-monthly with the majority of work performed at the committee level.

Council goals and objectives are established to coincide with the existing plans and strategies under implementation in the service area, i.e. the Everglades Restoration Plan, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

The RC&D Council serves a diverse area ranging from thriving coastal communities with increased urban development to rural underdeveloped areas requiring a focus on economic development for sustainability. To ensure the representation by each of these areas, the RC&D Council has assigned members to maintain contact and facilitate the implementation of project serving all areas.

The Council consists of 15 Board members. There are two Resource Committees: the Coastal Resource Committee and the Inland Resource Committee. Each of these committees works with the local governments, community-based organizations and individuals to meet the goals and objectives established in this plan. They report their progress to the overall RC&D Board of Directors during bi-monthly meetings. The Council also has a Public Relations Committee which has the responsibility of promoting community awareness and coordinating interagency relationships and a Grants Application Committee. The committees meet on a monthly or as needed basis.

Council Sponsors

5 County Governments (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee)
5 Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board of Directors

President - Wayne Daltry, Smart Growth Coordinator (Lee County)
Vice-President - Debbie Avery, Economic Development Director (Glades County)
Secretary/Treasurer - Alton Cheatham, CEO, Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (Charlotte County)
Director - Norman Todd, President, Grove Crafters (Hendry County)
Director - David Loving, Everglades City Councilman (Collier County)

Activities Under Way

Since the incorporation of the RC& D Council, the following projects have been initiated:

- Review of the Southern Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program for possible projects (multiple counties)
- Hendry County Citrus Best Management Practices Grant (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Hendry County)
- Everglades Restoration Plan (Collier, Hendry and Glades Counties)
- Application to the U.S. D. A., Rural Development Grant Program for the Muse Community Pilot Fuel Reduction Project (Glades County) and Port LaBelle (Hendry County)
- Assistance in facilitating workshops under the Smart Growth initiative (Lee County)
- Technical assistance to the City of Everglades for the submittal of a grant to restore Historic structure and promote tourism (Collier County)
-
- Wetlands Reserve Program (Multiple Counties)
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (Multiple Counties)

Levels of State Support

The state USDA/NCRS has been instrumental in assisting in the creation of the Southwest Florida RC& D Council. They have provided technical assistance in both the development of the RC& D Council as well as providing ongoing assistance in identifying resources for implementing the goals and objectives of the area plan.

The Florida Association of RC& D Councils and other RC& D Councils in the state have also provided assistance in the creation of the Southwest Florida RC& D through presentations to interested local representatives and providing examples of area plans and possible projects.

The Southwest Florida RC&D Council has received over 55 letters of support for the establishment of the council from private businesses, local and state government officials and agencies, and state legislators and federal congressmen.

Community Representativeness

The Southwest Florida RC&D Area Plan was developed through a review of existing approved strategic plans that have been presented to the area's sponsoring organizations and communities through town hall meetings, focus groups and public hearings. Each plan was officially adopted as a working document and the objectives listed in the RC& D area plan are a composite of those objectives that specifically relate to the conservation of natural resources and sustainable development. The RC& D area plan was also presented before each sponsoring agency at a regularly scheduled public meeting for public input and adoption.

REQUIRED CLAUSES

The local sponsors make application for federal assistance under the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 Public Law 97-98, 16 U.S.C. 3452-3461 as amended by Public Law 101-624, Section 1452.

The Southwest Florida RC& D Council's program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A&B) which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial (or technical) assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

The Southwest Florida RC& D Council agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for procurement, suspension, and disbarment.

The Southwest Florida RC&D Council has had this application reviewed by the state. Comments made through the state single point of contact have been considered prior to submission of the application and that all applicable procedures have been followed. An environmental impact statement will not be prepared during the development of the area plan, but an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement will be prepared concurrently with the development of each project, when applicable, in accordance with federal procedures.

RC&D APPLICATION AREA ACTIVITY REPORT

Council Activities During the Past Year – The Council’s fiscal year is October 1 through September 30.

- **How many Council meetings were held?**
4 meetings
- **How many executive committee meetings were held?**
2 meetings
- **How many resource committees have been formed?**
4; Coastal Resources Committee, Inland Resources Committee, Public Relations Committee and Grants Application Committee
- **Did the resource committees hold any meetings? If so, how many meetings were held?**
4

Project Activity

- **How many projects are recorded in your RC&D database?**
9
- **How many projects were adopted during the past fiscal year?**
This is a newly formed RC&D.
- **How many projects were completed during the past fiscal year?**
All project are still in the process of completion
- **What was the Council’s role in each of these projects?**
The Council coordinated meetings of local, regional and state government entities to plan, develop and implement projects. It also provided technical assistance on project development and compliance with existing plans and policies.

Interagency Coordination

- **Were other agencies involved in preparing the Area Plan?**
Yes, each sponsoring agency was involved as well as the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, the Florida Association of RC&D Councils and the South Florida Water Management District
- **How many State and Federal agencies other than NRCS?**
4; Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, South Florida Water Management District and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.
- **What other (but not in the database) activities were agencies involved in with the Council in the past fiscal year?**
Provided in Activities

Incorporation Status

- **Is the Council incorporated?**
Yes

Nonprofit Status

- **Does the Council have nonprofit status under the IRS code?**
Yes

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Attached are signature pages for each sponsoring organization.

Southwest Florida RC&D Area Plan

“We, the undersigned sponsoring local organization, offer the above information in support of our request for designation of RC&D Program Assistance. This application represents a true picture of the conditions in our area. Further, we agree to support this area and Council if designated and to participate in all its undertakings. Witness the signatures of the undersigned on the dates shown below.”

This action authorized at an official meeting of <i>Collier County Board of County Commissioners</i>		
By: _____	Title: _____	, on _____ 2003 at: _____
Address: _____	City: _____	State: _____
Attest: _____	Title: _____	Date: _____

Southwest Florida RC&D Area Plan

“We, the undersigned sponsoring local organization, offer the above information in support of our request for designation of RC&D Program Assistance. This application represents a true picture of the conditions in our area. Further, we agree to support this area and Council if designated and to participate in all its undertakings. Witness the signatures of the undersigned on the dates shown below.”

This action authorized at an official meeting of <u>Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners</u>		
By: _____	Title: _____	, on _____ 2003 at: _____
Address: _____	City: _____	State: _____
Attest: _____	Title: _____	Date: _____

Southwest Florida RC&D Area Plan

“We, the undersigned sponsoring local organization, offer the above information in support of our request for designation of RC&D Program Assistance. This application represents a true picture of the conditions in our area. Further, we agree to support this area and Council if designated and to participate in all its undertakings. Witness the signatures of the undersigned on the dates shown below.”

This action authorized at an official meeting of <u>Hendry County Board of County Commissioners</u>			
By: _____	Title: _____	, on _____	2003 at: _____
Address: _____	City: _____	State: _____	
Attest: _____	Title: _____	Date: _____	

Southwest Florida RC&D Area Plan

“We, the undersigned sponsoring local organization, offer the above information in support of our request for designation of RC&D Program Assistance. This application represents a true picture of the conditions in our area. Further, we agree to support this area and Council if designated and to participate in all its undertakings. Witness the signatures of the undersigned on the dates shown below.”

This action authorized at an official meeting of *Glades County Board of County Commissioners*

By: _____ Title: _____, on _____ 2003 at: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Attest: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Southwest Florida RC&D Area Plan

“We, the undersigned sponsoring local organization, offer the above information in support of our request for designation of RC&D Program Assistance. This application represents a true picture of the conditions in our area. Further, we agree to support this area and Council if designated and to participate in all its undertakings. Witness the signatures of the undersigned on the dates shown below.”

This action authorized at an official meeting of <i>Lee County Board of County Commissioners</i>		
By: _____	Title: _____	, on _____ 2003 at: _____
Address: _____	City: _____	State: _____
Attest: _____	Title: _____	Date: _____

“We, the undersigned sponsoring local organization, offer the above information in support of our request for designation of RC&D Program Assistance. This application represents a true picture of the conditions in our area. Further, we agree to support this area and Council if designated and to participate in all its undertakings. Witness the signatures of the undersigned on the dates shown below.”

This action authorized at an official meeting of *Collier Soil and Water Conservation District*

By: _____ Title: _____, on _____ 2003 at: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Attest: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Southwest Florida RC&D Area Plan

“We, the undersigned sponsoring local organization, offer the above information in support of our request for designation of RC&D Program Assistance. This application represents a true picture of the conditions in our area. Further, we agree to support this area and Council if designated and to participate in all its undertakings. Witness the signatures of the undersigned on the dates shown below.”

This action authorized at an official meeting of <i>Charlotte Soil and Water Conservation District</i>		
By: _____	Title: _____	, on _____ 2003 at: _____
Address: _____	City: _____	State: _____
Attest: _____	Title: _____	Date: _____

Southwest Florida RC&D Area Plan

“We, the undersigned sponsoring local organization, offer the above information in support of our request for designation of RC&D Program Assistance. This application represents a true picture of the conditions in our area. Further, we agree to support this area and Council if designated and to participate in all its undertakings. Witness the signatures of the undersigned on the dates shown below.”

This action authorized at an official meeting of <i>Glades Soil and Water Conservation District</i>		
By: _____	Title: _____	, on _____ 2003 at: _____
Address: _____	City: _____	State: _____
Attest: _____	Title: _____	Date: _____

Southwest Florida RC&D Area Plan

“We, the undersigned sponsoring local organization, offer the above information in support of our request for designation of RC&D Program Assistance. This application represents a true picture of the conditions in our area. Further, we agree to support this area and Council if designated and to participate in all its undertakings. Witness the signatures of the undersigned on the dates shown below.”

This action authorized at an official meeting of *Hendry Soil and Water Conservation District*

By: _____ Title: _____, on _____ 2003 at: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Attest: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Southwest Florida RC&D Area Plan

“We, the undersigned sponsoring local organization, offer the above information in support of our request for designation of RC&D Program Assistance. This application represents a true picture of the conditions in our area. Further, we agree to support this area and Council if designated and to participate in all its undertakings. Witness the signatures of the undersigned on the dates shown below.”

This action authorized at an official meeting of *Lee Soil and Water Conservation District*

By: _____ Title: _____, on _____ 2003 at: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Attest: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

“The Southwest Florida RC&D Council agrees that the RC&D Program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A and B) that provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial (or technical) assistance from the US Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.”

The Southwest Florida RC&D Council agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with Federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for nonprocurement, suspension, and debarment, and State review.

The Southwest Florida RC&D Council hereby adopts this RC&D Area Plan and agrees to use effectively the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlines herein.

Southwest Florida RC&D Council, Florida	
By: _____	Date: _____
Chairperson	
Attest: _____	
Council Secretary	
This action authorized at an official meeting of the Southwest Florida RC&D Council on _____	

U. S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service
The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of the Southwest Florida RC&D Council as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97-98 to receive assistance from USDA.
Acknowledged By:

Date _____
State Conservationist