

BLAINE'S FAREWELL

After 15 years as Black Diamond's Coordinator, I'm taking off my "RC&D boots" for the last time. Many of you knew that I was trying to get a transfer with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) over the past 18 months to rejoin my family in Richmond. My wife Tara moved to Richmond in April 2008 when she received a promotion with USDA-Rural Development. I began my new NRCS job in Richmond on September 14, 2009 as their Watershed Program Coordinator. To say I will miss all of the friends and partners in Southwest Virginia that I have worked with over the years is an understatement. I have been thoroughly blessed to have known you and to have had many wonderful opportunities to do good work together over the years. Serving as your RC&D Coordinator was much more than just a job, it was a labor of love for me. A few of my favorite RC&D initiatives over the years were: (1) - forming the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable and the Big Sandy River Basin Coalition; (2) - facilitating the development of the Big Sandy River Interstate Agreement; (3) - launching the 9-county/2-city "War on Litter" that led to the formation of Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful; and (4) leading a statewide effort to form the Council for Rural Virginia. In addition, we did lots of work together on improving water quality, promoting environmental education, such as through Kids in the Creek programs and working to establish more trails for hiking, cycling, equestrian and ATVs. I hope you welcome the next RC&D Coordinator as warmly as you welcomed me back in 1994. I look forward to hearing of your many future successes as you work together to keep improving the quality of life and economic opportunities for Southwest Virginians. Take care everyone.

Blaine Delaney

STAFF:

Vacant, RC&D Coordinator
Robin Smith, RC&D Secretary

MISSION

The mission of the Black Diamond RC&D is to initiate and coordinate projects that improve the quality and quantity of our water supplies; educate the public on environmental issues and to foster sustainable economic development of our natural resources.

OFFICERS

Karen Hartsock, Chair

Carolyn Baker, Vice Chair

Jerry Ingle, Secretary

Edna Justus, Treasurer

Jeff Neal, Past Chair

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total Assets	\$143,773
Total Liabilities	0
Net Assets	\$143,773
Total Revenues	\$104,811
Total Expenses	\$55,281

Black Diamond RC&D filed an Internal Revenue Service Form 990 as a statement of their financial activity in fiscal year 2007. They received a favorable auditor's opinion from Larry D. Sturgill, Certified Public Accountant, for fiscal year 2008.

Black Diamond RC&D is authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture and received \$127,000 in technical support through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This support is not reflected in their nonprofit's budget.

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance (staff, office, vehicle, etc.) to the Black Diamond RC&D. Our locally led 501-c-3 nonprofit seeks funding for projects from foundations, state and federal agencies, and corporations.

SPONSORS & AREAS SERVED

Buchanan County

Dickenson County

Lee County

Russell County

Scott County

Wise County

City of Norton

Planning District Commissions

Cumberland Plateau PDC

LENOWISCO PDC

Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Big Sandy SWCD

Clinch Valley SWCD

Daniel Boone SWCD

Lonesome Pine SWCD

Scott County SWCD

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"To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-5964 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

FY2008

(July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009)

Annual Report



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Chair's Report

It has been another good year for the Black Diamond RC&D. One of our best accomplishments has been our work with litter control ordinances. (Project 149) Wise County adopted the first litter control ordinance in 2005. Since we adopted the project in 2006, Buchanan and Dickenson counties have adopted some form of the litter control ordinance. We will continue working to get Lee, Scott and Russell counties and the City of Norton to adopt a litter control ordinance.

As you all know, we lost half of our "dynamic duo" when Blaine left us for the city (Richmond). We still have Robin and hope to have a new coordinator possibly by October. Good luck and best wishes to Blaine in his new position.

I look forward to working with everyone in the coming year and know we can accomplish even more this year.

Please take time to read some of our accomplishments over the past year and contact us if you have any questions or need information.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Baker
Carolyn Baker

The RC&D help coordinate the **Southern Appalachians Greenways Alliance (SAGA) Trails & Greenways Conference (#130)** Major themes for this conference were sustainable development, trails, greenways & wellness. It was held on October 24, 2008 at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, VA. Approximately 100 people attended this conference. The Southern Appalachian Greenways Alliance (SAGA) wants to create a network of interconnected trails for walking, cycling and horseback riding.

2009 Farm Bill Outreach (#169) the RC&D provided technical assistance to three of the local Natural Resources Conservation Service field offices to help the local District Conservationists promote the Farm Bill to their customers. Three landowner workshops were held between February - April 2009 to develop annual promotional programs to generate a 10% increase in sign-up for at least five targeted watersheds.

The RC&D hosted 2 **Forest Land Conservation (#160)** workshops the first was held on June 23rd in Clintwood, Virginia. The second workshop was held on June 25th in Grundy, Virginia. The workshops were free to forest landowners and covered topics like:

- Sustainable forest management: increasing forest health and productivity

- Cost-share programs for forest management
- Carbon sequestration
- Conservations easements
- Best Management Practices
- Socio-Economic Benefits

Black Diamond RC&D was asked by Southwest Regional Recreation Authority to assist their "Friends" group get started in their early years. The first phrase of the project was to help **develop Spearhead Trailblazers Strategic Plan (#170)** in the spring of 2009.

The RC&D is assisted the Department of Environmental Quality and MapTech Inc in hosting 3 sets of public meetings to **Develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Levisa, Powell and North Fork Holston Rivers watersheds (#163)**. The first round of public meetings were held in the fall of 2008.

The RC&D administered the **TVA Funds for the Clinch-Powell FY2009 (#165)**. Funding is used for water quality improvement projects and for educational purposes. During FY2009 the following TVA funded projects were accomplished: green roof project, Coeburn High School Stormwater Project, OSM/VISTA cost-share; funding for the RC&D Environmental Education Publication, Southwest Virginia Growth Readiness Conference, 2009 South Holston Cleanup, plants for the Tazewell Rain Garden, funding to complete (50%) the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable Work Plan,

and Cedar Bluff and Tazewell signage for conservation projects, such as a rain garden.

AREA PLAN PROGRESS

Land Conservation -Goal 1

To reduce soil loss on agricultural and forest land by cooperating with USDA agencies, soil and water conservation districts and watershed groups to develop annual promotional programs to generate a 10% increase in sign-up for at least five targeted watersheds by 2013.

Water Management – Goal 5

Increase protection of water quality within the RC&D Area by promoting the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in all of the major river basins within the six-county area by 2013.

Water Management – Goal 7:

Improve water quality by 5% within at least three targeted watersheds within the Clinch-Powell River Basin by 2013.

Community Development - Goal 1:

Increase enforcement of Virginia's litter laws within the RC&D Area through an additional 100% increase in civil and criminal convictions by 2012.