

CAWACO RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
PLAN OF WORK  
2013



Our Mission:

*Leading Central Alabama in the wise use of natural and human resources*

Our Vision:

*To empower people to help themselves*

**CAWACO RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**  
**ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK**  
**2013**

**PURPOSE**

**Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council**, established by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1979, is a 501-C-3 nonprofit serving the people of Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker Counties. As such, the council strives to lead central Alabama in the conservation and wise use of our natural resources. Acting as a catalyst, the council identifies common needs among the counties, cities and rural areas and acts to find viable solutions.

**Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.** has developed this plan to direct its efforts in carrying out objectives in an orderly and efficient manner. The following plan is a reflection of the Cawaco RC&D 5-year Area Plan.

**BACKGROUND**

Cawaco Resource Conservation and Development Council plans and supports activities that increase conservation of natural resources, encourage economic development and enhances the environment and standard of living within the Council area. The Cawaco RC&D Council is actively involved in the management of multi-county, cross-jurisdictional projects that address natural, financial, and/or human resource opportunities within Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby, and Walker Counties. Many of these projects involve partnerships between local businesses, governmental agencies and citizen volunteers.

The Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council exists to assist people and institutions to conserve, protect and develop the natural resources within its five county area. Under the terms of its charter, Cawaco RC&D can distribute grants to qualified public entities or 501(c)(3) charities serving the people of Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker Counties of Alabama.

These grants are awarded in three categories:

- **Natural Resources:**
  - Forestry
  - Agriculture
  - Sustainability
- **Conservation:**
  - Improvements and Retro-fits
  - Conservation of land or historic treasures
  - Wise development of natural resources
- **Development:**
  - Economic Efficiency
  - First Responder Support

**Within these initiatives, there are currently three priorities:**

1. Natural Resources
2. First Responder Support
3. Other projects supporting our Mission

**Cawaco provides educational grant funds through its competitive educational grants program. Funds for this program are allocated to focus specifically on the following areas:**

- Natural Resource Education
- Job Development
- Broad Public Education

## **ORGANIZATION**

The Board of Directors of Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. is comprised of a representative from each County Commission and Soil & Water Conservation District within the program area, and two at-large members approved by the Commission and District. In order provide input to the Staff regarding direction and goals of the Council, members of the Board of Directors serve on working committees which include Grants, Finance, Executive and Personnel Committee. Working Committees meet periodically as necessary to conduct business. The Council conducts quarterly meetings in order to discuss the status of the RC&D program and to identify opportunities for cooperative projects.

**Executive Committee:** Comprised from Board Members representing the County Commission or other government position, the executive committee makes final decisions and approvals.

**Grant Committee:** The Grant Committee reviews Challenge and Educational Grants for approval. Submitted grant applicants must meet Cawaco goals. Recommendations for approval of grants are then submitted to the Executive Committee for final consideration.

**Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee reviews periodic financial statements and makes decisions regarding investments and expenditures. Recommendations of the Finance Committee are submitted to the Executive Committee for final consideration.

**Personnel Committee:** The Personnel Committee periodically reviews Staff performance and reviews job descriptions and resumes for open positions. Recommendations of the personnel committee are submitted to the Executive Committee for final consideration.

### **Salaried Staff-**

Kellie Johnston- Executive Director/ Black Warrior Clean Water Partnership Facilitator  
Patti Pennington- Programs Manager/ Administrative Assistant

### **Contracted Staff-**

Mary Wallace Pitts- North River Watershed Management Plan Coordinator  
Glenn Littleton- Cahaba Clean Water Partnership Facilitator

<b>CAWACO RC&amp;D BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>					
FIRST	LAST	COUNTY	COUNCIL POSITION	COMMITTEE	AFFILIATION
Sheila	Baker	Jefferson	At Large	Personnel	M4A
Tracia	Bussey	Chilton	At Large	Finance and Grant	Town of Thosby
Doug	Smith	Blount	At Large		Blount County EMA
Vacant		Chilton	Soil & Water Conservation District		
Gary	Crowson	Shelby	Soil & Water Conservation District		Shelby County SWCD
Vacant		Jefferson	County Commission		
Allen	Caton	Chilton	County Commission	Executive	Chairman, Chilton County Commission
Paul	Kennedy	Walker	At Large		At-Large
Corley	Ellis	Shelby	County Commission	Executive	Shelby County Commission
Doris	Hamby	Blount	At Large		At-Large
Robert	Kelley	Shelby	At Large	Finance	City of Montevallo
Joe	Love	Walker	Soil & Water Conservation District	Vice President & Finance	Walker County SWCD
Allan	Lowe	Shelby	At Large	Grant	City of Columbiana
Paul	McCaleb	Jefferson	At Large	Executive	Jefferson County Commission
Vacant		Walker	County Commission		
Nell	Miller	Blount	Soil & Water Conservation District	Grant	Blount County SWCD
Keith	Pike	Walker	At Large	Executive	City of Jasper
Jim	Pitts	Chilton	At Large	Personnel	Chilton Regional Research & Extension Center
Chris	Greene	Blount	County Commission	Executive	Blount County Commission
Jim	Phillips	Jefferson	Soil & Water Conservation District		Jefferson County SWCD

### **Compliance with the Civil Rights Act**

The Cawaco RC & D program is conducted in compliance with the non discrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and amended, The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Pub. 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 subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial (or technical) assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

### **Drug-Free Workplace**

The Cawaco RC & D Council agrees that the Council complies with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 requirements (7CFR Part 3017, Subpart F 3017.60), and will ensure a working atmosphere free from alcohol and drug abuse. Council members and Council employees are strictly prohibited from (1) possessing, furnishing, or selling alcoholic beverages or scheduled drugs (as defined in Title 17A, Section 1101) at any Cawaco RD & D facility or Cawaco RC &D event and (2) being under the influence of or using such substances at any such place or event.

### **Conflict of Interest**

Cawaco RC&D requires all any member of the Cawaco RC&D Council Board, any Committee or Staff who is an officer, board member, a committee member or staff member of a borrower organization or a loan applicant agency to identify his or her affiliation with such agency or agencies, and sign a conflict of interest statement. These records are maintained on file at Cawaco headquarters.

### **Cawaco RC&D Council Goals:**

1. Assist/develop projects that preserve, enhance, and/or expand heritage and/or recreational/natural assets.
2. Assist with development/improvement of public services and/or facilities.
3. Provide educational and /or workforce development opportunities.
4. Assist communities in the development, protection and management of the area's natural resources.
5. Participate in initiatives that protect and improve the area's air and water quality.

### CAWACO RC&D projects to be completed in 2013:

These are grant projects funded through the AARC&DC

Project Title	Applying Organization	Amount Awarded	Project Description
Repair Center Point Playground	Center Point Civic Association	\$10,000.00	Area was damaged in January 2012 tornado. Grant will enable us to remove border and concrete slab; Build new border; Erect new metal slide; Provide safe area for children to play.
Alternative Wastewater Treatment for Tannehill SP	Cawaco RC&D	\$10,000.00	Install two new wastewater treatment units so that the park can meet its NPDES permit requirements.
Equipment for Morris FD	Morris Fire Dept.	\$4,967.95	To purchase equipment that is needed by the Morris Fire Dept. Hose roller, relief valve, hose clamp, all purchased from the Gardendale Fire Dept.
Cahaba & Black Warrior CWP Support	Alabama CWP	\$6,500.00	Support of Cahaba and Black Warrior Clean Water Partnership in order to promote the sharing of information between stakeholders, provide a forum for technological transfer and identify cooperative opportunities to improve water quality.
On the Right Track	Skilled Knowledgeable Youth	\$10,000.00	Electrathon project expansion through purchase of Electric vehicle kits, bringing young engineers from across Alabama together for an electrathon race to be held at Barbers Motorsports Park. Three kits will be purchased and distributed to STEM programs at Oak Mountain, Parker High School and Carver High School.
Project Lifesaver	Cleveland VFD	\$5,000.00	Purchase new and upgraded equipment for Alzheimer patients. All funds will be spent to purchase new tracking equipment and tracking devices.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Applying Organization</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
2012 Jefferson County Water Festival	Jefferson County SWCF	\$3,150.00	Educate 4th grade students and teachers about water and our related natural resources to instill in them a general environmental awareness and stewardship ethic.
Support for Alabama Naturalist Program	Birmingham Southern College Urban Environmental Studies	\$4,000.00	Support pilot project of ACES Alabama Master Gardner program in central Alabama. Objective is to pilot a public education program similar to the Master gardener program to promote knowledge of the unique outdoor life in Alabama. Students will pay a nominal fee to attend up to 10 workshops on subjects ranging from geology to birding to water resources.
Outdoor Learning Center	Oliver Elementary School	\$5,000.00	To create a natural education space in the back courtyard of Oliver Elementary School. This will serve as an outdoor learning center for 480 children grades k-5. Phase I of the project will include site design, site development, purchase of activity items and labor cost.
Rapid Prototyping and 3D Printing	Science Engineering & Math Academy	\$5,000.00	Teach students engineering prototyping methods by purchasing a 3D printer. Train the students to print replacement parts for both the robotics and aeronautics classes.
McAdory High School Greenhouse Restoration	McAdory HS	\$6,739.39	To restore greenhouse damaged by April 27 tornadoes. Restoration of the greenhouse would enable the McAdory Feeder Pattern access to plants throughout the school year. The McAdory Feeder Pattern includes these schools: McAdory High, McAdory Middle, Lipscomb Elementary, Greenwood Elementary, and McAdory Elementary. Our plan is to have prepared instructional labs that will enhance the learning of our school community.
Aldridge Gardens Education Programs	Aldridge Gardens	\$5,000.00	Educational programs for elementary students focused on grades 5K – 3rd grade through field trips and summer



<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Applying Organization</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Expanding Horizons	Blount County Education Foundation, Inc.	\$5,000.00	camps To provide summer learning opportunities to students of Blount County schools, helping to negate summer learning regression with summer library access and summer camps.

### **CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP CONTRACTS**

The Alabama Clean Water Partnership (ACWP) contracts with Cawaco to facilitate stakeholder meetings and coordinate projects in the Black Warrior and Cahaba River Basins. Funds are provided by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to remove streams from the State's waterbody impaired list, provide education regarding nonpoint source runoff and provide opportunities for federal, state and local cooperative projects. Facilitators assist with project development, identification of funding opportunities, networking opportunities and promote projects within their respective watersheds.

#### USDA/NRCS Watershed Prioritization

The USDA/NRCS has contracted with the ACWP to assist in identifying high-priority watersheds (12 digit HUC) in which NRCS and partner efforts can have a significant impact on reducing negative agricultural water quality impacts through a focused funding and effort.

Facilitator Role: Identify a number of watersheds meeting prioritization criteria and present to stakeholders for comments.

### **Black Warrior Clean Water Partnership Projects**

#### Renew Our Rivers Clean Ups

Renew Our Rivers Clean Ups are hosted by a coalition of local citizens and businesses, and supported by corporations, County, State and Federal agencies including the US Army Corps of Engineers. This effort is also supported by Alabama Power's Renew Our Rivers campaign, a national award-winning initiative and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

- June 1, 2013: Bankhead Lake Clean Up, Quinn's Landing, Adger, AL
- August 10, 2013: Holt Lake Clean Up, Rocky Branch Park, Peterson, AL

### Water Runs Downhill – Public Service Announcement

Developed with limited funding, the PSA's goal is to educate the general public about nonpoint source pollution.

Discovering Alabama provided images and produced the PSA.

Facilitator Role: The facilitator will work with ROAM Projects to place PSA and report progress to ACWP and Alabama Rivers & Streams Network. Additionally, the facilitator will seek sponsors to direct place the PSA in targeted time slots and markets.

### North River Watershed Management Plan Implementation

The North River Watershed Management Project is a coordinated effort between local county governments and Federal and State agencies to improve water quality in the North River Watershed. Project components include installing BMPs to reduce erosion and nutrients and educational opportunities for students and the general public.

Facilitator Role: Provide grant administration and project support.

\*\*\* Cawaco RC&D received and is managing an ADEM 319 grant in the amount of \$496,290 to support this project and has contracted Mary Wallace-Pitts as a watershed coordinator.

Grant Components include:

- Installing BMPs to reduce erosion, sedimentation and nutrients.
- Public education:
  - Lake Tuscaloosa Clean Up, May 5, 2013
  - Watershed Festival, May 4, 2013
  - Alabama Dirt & Gravel Road Workshop, February 27, 2013

### Projects Under Development

- Jimmy Branch Acid Mine Drainage Remediation
- Cribbs Mill Creek Stakeholder Support
- Hanceville Greenway & Outdoor Classrooms

## **Cahaba Clean Water Partnership Projects**

### Tannehill Wastewater Treatment

Tannehill processes on-site wastewater utilizing a two-lagoon, aerated system. The facility currently discharges treated wastewater from a point source into Mud Creek, under the Alabama Department of Environmental Management NPDES permit number AL0056359.

The Park consistently met NPDES permit discharge limits until September 1, 2010. On that date, The Park's discharge limit required by the permit was lowered from 4.5 mg/l Total Phosphorous to 0.3 mg/l Total Phosphorous. The Park's wastewater treatment plant typically produced wastewater within permit standards. However, the treatment plant was not designed to remove phosphorus. Following the change to the lower Total Phosphorous discharge limit, the facility has been out of compliance with Total Phosphorous discharge. On February 14, 2012, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management issued an Administrative Consent Order (12-077-CWP) citing the Park for violations to the permit.

The facilitator is working with the Park and other cooperators to install a drip-irrigation wastewater system. This option removes the treated discharge from entering Mud Creek and land-applies the treated wastewater. Through this method, the cost updating the existing plant to treat phosphorus was reduced from \$600,000 to \$300,000. The Partnership identified and the Park acquired wastewater treatment units from Alabama Surplus Property further reducing the cost to \$100,000. Cawaco RC&D is providing a challenge grant in the amount of \$10,000 to support the project. Tombigbee RC&D has also provided matching funds in the amount of \$4,200.

### Chilton County Water Festival

The Cahaba facilitator is coordinating the First Annual Chilton County Water Festival, March 15, 2013. This is one day free event for all 4<sup>th</sup> graders in the County (approximately 700) that utilizes hands-on activities to teach the importance of water and water conservation and protection. Jefferson State Community College will provide the facilities. This is a joint project between the Cahaba CWP and Coosa CWP.

### Shelby County Stormwater Phase I Support

The Cahaba facilitator is housed at the offices of Shelby County Environmental Services (SCES). SCES is responsible for administering the Shelby County Stormwater Phase I program. The facilitator provides support and coordination for educational projects that assist SCES in complying with the Stormwater Phase I permit.

### **Seeds for Community Gardens**

Since December 2012, Cawaco has distributed several hundred pounds of garden seed throughout its five-county service area, and even beyond its area. Seeds were distributed to the Shelby County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Chilton County Research Station, the PLANT project for school gardens in the greater Birmingham area, Tombigbee RC&D, Druid City Garden Project in Tuscaloosa County, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Jones Valley Teaching Farms, Walker County Soil & Water Conservation District, Coosa Valley RC&D, and the Walker Area Community Foundation. The recipients of these seeds will further distribute them to community gardens within their areas. This valuable community service was made possible by the generous donation of out-of-date seeds given to Cawaco by Whitley Feed and Seed in Blount County. Whitley donates their leftover seeds to Cawaco each year, providing a much needed jump start to many gardens in Alabama.

### **In-Lieu Fee Program**

The Black Warrior-Tombigbee In-Lieu Fee Program (BWT-ILF) is a program currently under development by Cawaco RC&D. The purpose of the ILF program is to provide meaningful stream improvement projects to satisfy US COE permit requirements. In-Lieu Fee Programs are funded by US COE permittee fees where the land disturbance created by the permit requires the permittee to perform mitigation. Cawaco RC&D would be responsible for performing the mitigation work and maintaining the project until the US COE deems the project complete.

When a stream or wetland is disturbed through development, mining or transportation activities, companies (permittee) must obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE). The USCOE can require the permittee to restore another stream equal to or greater than the stream or wetland functions lost. The BWT-ILF provides an opportunity to improve streams and wetlands close to the permitted site. The benefit of this objective is to have "no net loss" of stream function in the stream system. Additionally, the project provides economic benefits by assisting local companies that are required under their US COE permit to perform stream and habitat restorations.

The BWT-ILF must be approved and recognized by the US COE in order to begin accepting fees and performing work. Cawaco is currently working with the US COE to develop an acceptable program and is being assisted by Goodwyn Mills & Cawood LLC and the Alabama Surface Mining Commission

**APPROVAL**

This plan may be amended, revised or terminated by mutual agreement of the parties hereto, except for cause.

**ACTION AUTHORIZED AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL MEETING IN BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA ON**

**THE \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Paul McCaleb, President**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

