



SABINE-NECHES RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

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Want to Get Involved?

We could use your help! We are looking at moving into some areas where your expertise would be valuable.

If you have experience or know someone with experience in *web-site development, accounting, wireless technology, business, and finance*, give us a call.

We will put you to work!

Board of Directors

Jim Allison, Chairman, Henderson County

Pam Reeves, Vice-Chairman, Wood County

Corrin McGrath, Secretary, Henderson County

Ronnie LaGrone, Treasurer, Panola County

Charles Davis, Member, Gregg County

Don Jarred, Member, Wood County

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Jeff Thompson, Member, Harrison County

Jerry West, Member, Henderson County

Cary Hilliard, Member, Van Zandt County

Bill Price, Member, Smith County

Greg Clary, Member, Smith County

A Note to our Sponsors

Thank you so much for your support and participation over the past 10 years. We hope you will continue to support the Sabine-Neches RC&D. RC&D cannot function without you and your input. You are vital to our success and you are appreciated.

Perhaps you know someone who you feel would be interested in RC&D. Talk to them, let them know what we are doing. If you need some help, please call on us. Perhaps you have a project in mind. Let us know how we can help.

We are always looking for new sponsors. We have different levels of sponsorship and there is a place for you and your organization in Sabine-Neches.

Again, Thank You!

August 11, 2004

Special points of interest:

- Smith County SEP \$56,125.00 Strategic Planning The newly elected Board of Directs

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Summer 2004 Newsletter

10 Years and Sabine-Neches Still Up and Running

Well, hot and muggy summer is here in East Texas.

10 short years ago, a group of individuals got together and formed up the Sabine-Neches Resource Conservation and Development Area.

The past 10 years, Sabine-Neches has made a significant impact in our 8 county area.

Over \$300,000 has been spent under the SEP program to assist low-income families with their waste-water treatment needs. This had a significant impact on their quality of life.

The Sabine-Neches RC&D is the only remaining applicant area in Texas. Despite lack of funding, Sabine-Neches has and will continue to improve the quality of life in East Texas.



In October 2003, Darin Smith, District Conservationist in the Tyler Field Office, took over responsibility as Acting Coordinator.

In December 2003, Sabine-Neches held a reorganizational meeting and have been meeting monthly ever since. Some of the original members have stayed on and some new members have brought a fresh perspective to RC&D.

In March of 2004, we held our Annual Meeting and new officers were elected. We have a strong group of individuals representing counties, cities, soil and water conservation districts, non-profits, and private citizens.

The NRCS in Texas has pledged full support to Sabine-Neches and we are moving ahead.

Letter from the Chairman

My name is Jim Allison and this past March, I was elected as Chairman of Sabine-Neches.

I moved back home to Eustace a few years ago and am currently in the farm and ranch business.

My first experiences with RC&D was in Nebraska. I was on an RC&D board up there and enjoyed it. I got to know Darin and

when he recently took over Sabine-Neches, I volunteered to help him with it. Sabine-Neches is the last applicant area in the State and we hope to remedy that situation.

In April, we attended the State Meeting in Corpus Christi. It was a great meeting and we got to meet lots of people.

We have a great group of people who are serving on our council and executive board.

We are moving ahead and are planning on submitting our application for approval hopefully this fall.

We are involved in several worthwhile projects and keeping Darin busy.



“Do you have a project that Sabine-Neches RC&D could help you with?”

Current Projects

Much of our time the past 10 months has been devoted to reenergizing and reorganizing the Sabine-Neches RC&D Board. In addition, we have completed several worthwhile projects.

- Sabine-Neches participated in the East Texas Banking and Agricultural Conference in Tyler, TX. Sabine-Neches had a booth and provided information on RC&D. Over 250 people attended and it was a great conference.
• Sabine-Neches co-sponsored a workshop titled “Growing My Town”. Other sponsors included the Texas Department of Agriculture, Office of Rural Community Affairs, East Texas Council of Governments, and Henderson Chamber of Commerce. Over 115 people attended, representing 40 different counties. Sabine-Neches gave a 20 minute presentation, provided information on the RC&D program in Texas, and answered questions.



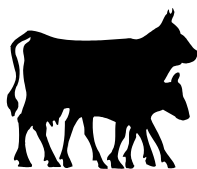
- Sabine-Neches is still promoting the use of dry fire hydrants to assist rural communities with fire and emergency management. We have been assisting 3 homeowners associations and several individuals in the design and installation of hydrants.

Smith County SEP

Sabine-Neches has recently received \$56,125.00 in Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) funds. SEP is a unique program that allows companies or organizations that have been fined to designate up to half of the fine amount back to the affected community and select from a list of projects approved by the Texas Council on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

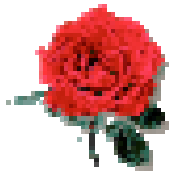
The \$56,125.00 has been designated to assist low-income families with failing on-site waste-water treatment facilities.

Since, the late 1990’s Sabine-Neches has received over \$300,000 from the SEP program and has completed 41 projects. SEP is a wonderful tool that RC&D’s can use to improve the quality of rural life.



Future Projects

- Panola County Cattlemens Association-We are currently assisting the Association by looking for funds to cover their Arena. The Arena is a major point of interest in Panola County.
• Canton City Park-This 80 acre facility located in the heart of Canton is a wonderful opportunity to enhance tourism and quality of life in Canton. Plans are being developed and avenues for funding being researched.
• Small Acreage Landowners Workshop-Education is a vital part of our RC&D. Urban sprawl and land fragmentation are a concern in East Texas.
• Community Resource Team-Gun Barrel City
• Rural Emergency Protection Program
• Enhancing Rural Technology



Our Sponsors

- Henderson County
Van Zandt County
Smith County
Wood County
Upshur County
Gregg County
Harrison County
Panola County
Trinity-Neches SWCD
Kaufman-Van Zandt Rock-wall SWCD
Upshur-Gregg SWCD
Wood County SWCD
Smith County SWCD
Harrison County SWCD
Panola County SWCD
Apogee RDI

Area-Wide Strategic Planning

In the coming months, Sabine-Neches will be reviewing and updating our Strategic Plan. Our current plan is roughly 10 years old and in need of updating. Very soon, you and your organization will be receiving a survey. We are also planning several public participation meetings. Your input and participation is desired and needed. Information about you and your community helps the RC&D focus its efforts. As we gather information, we will assemble into a comprehensive plan for the Area. This plan will serve as background documentation and will aid our application the U.S. Department of Agriculture for consideration in funding the Area. Your input and participation is essential to developing a sound and comprehensive plan. RC&D cannot function without you and your input!

What is RC&D?

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a national U.S. Department of Agriculture program administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). RC&D is unique in that it is directed by a locally-led and locally directed council. The council sponsors represent county and community elected officials, local organizations, and individuals. Each RC&D Council develops and adopts a long range plan and annual plan of work. These plans address local needs.

The purpose of RC&D is to promote conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources; to improve the general level of economic activity; and to enhance the environmental and standard of living in all communities. The aim is to provide a system of rural development, encourage the wise use of natural resources, and improve the quality of life in rural America.

The Sabine-Neches RC&D Area is composed of Henderson, Van Zandt, Smith, Wood, Upshur, Gregg, Harrison, and Panola Counties.

