

*Sabine-Neches Resource Conservation
and Development Area, Inc.*

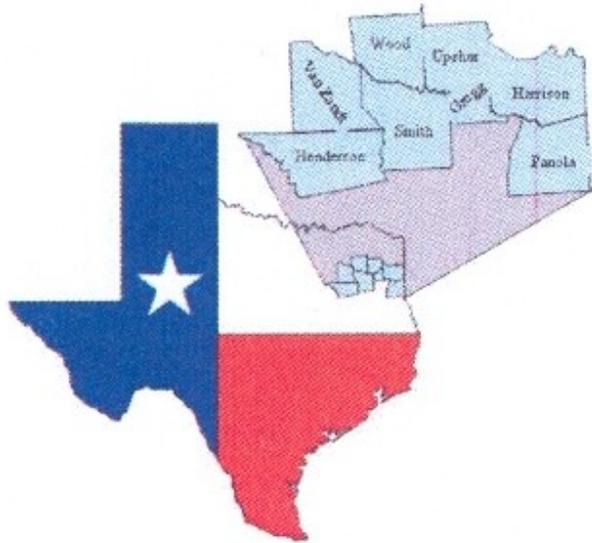
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*Serving Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Panola, Smith, Van Zandt, Upshur
and Wood Counties*

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*Sabine-Neches
Resource Conservation
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2008 Annual Report

RC&D Council

2008 Officers:

Mr. Cary Hilliard.....President
 Mr. Alan Haynes.....Vice-President
 Dr. Frank Glenn.....Treasurer
 Ms. Kristi Boyett.....Secretary
 Mr. John Wade, Mr. Al Harris, Mr. Jim Allison
 Mr. Ronnie LaGrone, Mr. Bobby VanNess.....Members

RC&D Staff:

Steve R. Smith.....Acting Coordinator



Vision Statement

Our most important resource is our people, who have a desire to better themselves and in the spirit of working together, strive to make our area a better place to live.

Mission Statement

Our council will utilize the diversity of our volunteers to tap the resources of Federal, State, and Local Governments and the private sector to achieve our goals.

Financial Statement - 2008 CY

1/10/09	Beginning Balance:	\$1,054.00
	<u>Debits</u>	<u>Credits</u>
2/28/08 Dues		\$800
3/27/08 Dues		\$100
4/11/08 Insurance	\$650	
5/22/08 Tax Prep	<u>\$215</u>	
Totals:	\$865	\$900
	Ending Balance:	\$1,089.02

SEP Project Accounts

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>ENDING BAL.</u>
Wood - 007	\$3,723.18	\$0
Wood - 014	\$6,400.00	\$0
Van Zandt - 010	\$20,479.24	\$0
Van Zandt - 016	\$14,880.00	\$14,880.00
Smith - 009B	\$23,002.27	\$0
Henderson - 008	\$2,250.53	\$2,251.93
Harrison - 012	\$40,850.00	\$40,855.60
Harrison - 013	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.55
Harrison - 011	\$8,800.00	\$803.68
Smith - 009A	\$92,494.30	\$0
Harrison - 016	\$5,222.92	\$5,222.92
Panola - 017	\$48,160.00	\$48,160.00
Harrison - 018	\$976.00	\$976.00

SEP Funds returned to TARCDC: \$1,079.82

Texas Agricultural Technical Assistance Program

The Texas Agricultural Technical Assistance Program is a new project overseen by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), and in partnership with EnSave, Inc., USDA Rural Development, Texas Association of Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Areas, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. This program will provide the agricultural producers of Texas with the technical assistance they need to make cost-effective, energy efficient choices.

Energy-efficient farms reduce energy costs, increase available capital, spur economic growth and improve the working environment. The Texas Agricultural Technical Assistance Program provides Texas agricultural operations with free technical assistance and Energy Assessment Reports (EARs) for farm buildings and facilities. EARs identify and recommend opportunities to save on energy costs such as electricity, propane and diesel fuel within farm operations.

Data Collectors will spend time at each qualifying farm to assess energy usage. It will take approximately six to eight weeks for the final report to be completed. Teresa Griffin of Carthage has been trained by EnSave to serve as a data collector for the Sabine-Neches RC&D Area.

In addition to the free EARs, this program works with agriculture producers to access additional funds to implement energy efficient projects such as grants and guaranteed loan funds available through the USDA's Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program (Section 9006), as well as utility company incentives and loan funds and economic development funds, as applicable.

If you are an agricultural producer in the State of Texas, and would like to sign up to receive a free EAR, please call (800) 732-1399. You can also visit EnSave online at www.ensave.com.



2008 Sponsors

**Harrison SWCD
KVZR SWCD
Panola SWCD
Smith SWCD
Trinity-Neches SWCD
Upshur-Gregg SWCD
Wood SWCD
Gregg County
Harrison County
Henderson County
Panola County
Smith County
Upshur County
Van Zandt County
Wood County**

2009 Corporate Sponsors

Suddenlink Communications

Thank you very much for your support!

Letter from the President

Greetings! 2008 was another successful and busy year for the Sabine-Neches Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area. Once again, Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) were very important to our organization. Projects ranged from the Hazardous Household Waste collection in Smith County to cleanup of illegal trash dumps in Harrison, Henderson, Wood and Van Zandt Counties. SEP funds were also available to several counties to upgrade and install septic systems for individuals who could not otherwise afford them in Smith and Harrison Counties.

One of the most rewarding projects for Sabine-Neches RC&D Area was the Jackson Oaks community in Smith County that has a great need for a community sewer system. Sabine-Neches assisted the community leaders by providing several points of contact and leading discussions at their meetings. Finally, after several months, Jackson Oaks has selected a Board of Directors and has hired an experienced attorney and engineer who has begun the grant application process. Hopefully, this vital project will be funded and provide approx. 300 families a safe, healthy environment.

Since Sabine-Neches is the only un-funded RC&D Area in the state, we began an effort to raise funds through corporate sponsorship. To date, we have one company that has helped us and we are in discussions with several more. We are continuing to pursue Department of Agriculture approval, but in the meantime our corporate sponsors will enable us to expand our projects.

Finally, I would like to thank the volunteers who make up your Sabine-Neches RC&D Area and give so much time and energy to the organization. I especially appreciate the effort and guidance of Steve R. Smith, who spends many hours travelling throughout the Sabine-Neches RC&D eight county area. While this additional duty is over and above his job as the Natural Resource Manager for the NRCS Paris Team, Steve always gives 100% and we are truly grateful.

In summary, 2008 was a very good year for the Sabine-Neches RC&D Area and 2009 promises to be even better!

Cary Hilliard
President

Completed SEP Projects



SEP funds in the amount of \$92,494.30 were granted to SN RC&D for Household Hazardous Waste cleanup. Kristi Boyett, Secretary of the SN RC&D council, worked closely with the City of Tyler and Keep Tyler Beautiful to complete this project on April 26, 2008. The project was extremely successful with more than 119,000 lbs of Household Hazardous Waste collected and disposed of properly by Effective Environmental of Mesquite, Texas.



SEP funds in the amount of \$23,002.27 was granted to SN RC&D for Waste Water Treatment in Smith County. There were seven projects completed in 2008 with the replacement of failing waste water systems for limited resource homeowners in Smith County.

2009 Meetings

The Texas State Association of RC&D's Annual Training Conference will be held April 19-21, 2009 in Paris, Texas. This event will be hosted by the Northeast Texas RC&D Area, Inc. The regular annual meeting of the Northeast Texas RC&D Area will be held in conjunction with the State Meeting.

The Southwest States RC&D Conference is scheduled to be held June 14-17, 2009 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Completed SEP Projects



Illegal trash dumping is a big problem in the Sabine-Neches RC&D eight county area. Whether big or small, illegal dumping creates health risks, lowers property values and is expensive to clean up later. Through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP), our Council has received funds to clean up illegal sites such as this one above in Wood County (Quitman) in the amount of \$3,723.18 and below in Henderson County (Gun Barrel City) in the amount of \$2,250.53. Harrison County (Marshall) also received SEP funds in the amount of \$8,800 and cleaned up two illegal trash dump sites. Van Zandt County received SEP funds in the amount of \$20,479.24 and cleaned up two illegal trash dump sites. Thanks to the many county officials for assisting the Sabine-Neches RC&D in identifying the dump sites for cleanup.



What is Sabine-Neches Resource Conservation and Development?

The RC&D Council is a voluntary, local, membership-based, nonprofit entity that represents the eight counties in our area: Smith, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Panola, Upshur, Wood and Van Zandt. The purpose of the council is to advise, plan, implement and develop programs: to ensure the wise use of funds that are intended to protect the environment, improve community infrastructure, enhance rural economies and to improve local communities' environmental planning and projects.

Unlike the other 23 RC&D Councils in Texas, the Sabine-Neches Council is the only one not funded in Texas by the US Department of Agriculture. This fact limits only federal financial assistance. Sources of funds for our Council's projects come from: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), environmental enforcement fines, the participation of county and city governments, and sponsors. Every cent of TCEQ grant funds must be spent on projects. None of the money can be used for Sabine-Neches Council's operational expenses. Our council has no paid staff, and all initiatives are managed by competent volunteers from the membership body. Our Council does have unfunded basic operational expenses, which must be funded for proper management of the Council as an incorporated 501c3. These expenses include: legal, accounting, communication, travel, reporting and audit requirements.

Sponsorship and financial assistance is vital to fund these operational expenses and will enable the Sabine-Neches Council to continue our important work throughout our area.

NRCS

District Conservationists

Robbie Clemens.....	Gilmer/Longview
Ross Brown.....	Marshall
Julie Moore.....	Athens/Canton
Matthew Feno.....	Carthage
Darin Smith.....	Tyler
John Stone.....	Quitman

2008 SEP Projects

Completed & Ongoing

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>PROJECT COST</u>
Smith	Household Hazardous Waste Collection	\$92,494.30
Wood	Trash Cleanup	\$3,730.36
Wood	Trash Cleanup	\$6,400.00
Van Zandt	Trash Cleanup	\$20,477.00
Smith	Septic Systems	\$23,002.27
Henderson	Trash Cleanup	\$2,250.53
Henderson	Septic Systems	\$4,296.00
Harrison	Trash Cleanup	\$8,800.84
Harrison	Septic Systems	\$40,850.00
Harrison	Septic Systems	\$4,000.00
Harrison	Septic Systems	\$5,222.92
Van Zandt	Septic Systems	\$14,880.00
Panola	Household Hazardous Waste Collection	\$48,160.00
Harrison	Septic Systems	\$972.00

