

Application for Resource Conservation and Development Program Assistance

Town and Country RC&D Area
State of Wisconsin
October 28, 2002
Update: March 25, 2003



Submitted by the people of:

**Columbia County
Dane County
Dodge County
Green Lake County
Jefferson County
Kenosha County
Milwaukee County**

**Ozaukee County
Racine County
Rock County
Walworth County
Washington County
Waukesha County**



With assistance from:

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
6515 Watts Road, Suite 200
Madison, WI 53719-2726

University of Wisconsin Extension-
Cooperative Extension
923 South 60th Street
West Allis, WI 53214

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

TO: Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture

THROUGH: Bruce I. Knight, Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA
Washington, DC 20013-2890

DATE: October 28, 2002

UPDATE: February 28, 2003

We, the Town and Country RC&D interim Council, do hereby apply for designation as a Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) area and have ratified this application. We agree to support the RC&D program to improve the well being of the people of our area.

By: _____

Title: Interim Council Chairman

Date: _____

Update: _____

Preface

The mission of the Town and Country RC&D is to enhance and improve the quality of life in the 13-county area of southeast Wisconsin by promoting healthy communities, a healthy environment and sustainable economic growth. To accomplish these goals, the Town and Country RC&D will:

- Improve the standard of living in the region.
- Strengthen the rural economy in the region.
- Advance the development of sustainable communities.
- Work on a regional basis with citizens, agencies and organizations.
- Fill the gaps where needed and ensure that efforts are optimized rather than duplicated.
- Seek to fill a niche of service to underserved populations—both in cities and the countryside.
- Garner resources to address local concerns.
- Help urban and rural citizens work together toward their common goals.

The Town and Country RC&D is in a strong position to assist communities throughout southeast Wisconsin to:

- Balance development with resource conservation.
- Approach problems without a particular bias.
- Work across county lines.
- Work with both the public and private sectors, and help them work successfully with each other.
- Consider issues on a regional scale.
- Help existing groups form alliances to be more effective.
- Help new groups get established.
- Take projects from identification of the problem to implementation of the solution.
- Empower underserved groups to improve their communities.

This application is a collaborative effort by people who are committed to RC&D in southeast Wisconsin.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION
Town and Country Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. Area
Wisconsin

Date Submitted: October 28, 2002 Update: March 25, 2003

Counties: (13) Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green Lake, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha (4,700,936 acres).

Sponsors:

Unlike traditional Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Wisconsin's County Land and Water Conservation Committees administer their own programs and budgets, and have taxing authority. After approval by the County Land and Water Conservation Department, the County Land and Water Conservation Committee and County Executive request County Board sponsorship for RC&D. As this local process continues, sponsors will be added.

- Columbia County Board
- Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Committee
- Dodge County Board
- Dodge County Land Conservation Committee
- Jefferson County Board
- Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Committee
- Racine County Board
- Racine County Land Conservation Committee
- Washington County Land Conservation Committee
- Dane County Board passed a resolution to support the creation of the Town and Country RC&D. Resolution for sponsorship will be presented within six months.
- Green Lake County Board passed a resolution to support the creation of the Town and Country RC&D. Resolution for sponsorship will be presented within three months.
- Two County Land and Water Conservation Committees will consider resolutions to their County Boards for support/sponsorship within four months.

Supporting Organizations:

- Camp Lake and Center Lake Rehabilitation District
- Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department
- Dane County Board
- Dane County Land Conservation Committee
- Dane County Land Conservation Department
- Dodge County Land Conservation Department
- Green Lake County Board
- Green Lake County Land Conservation Committee
- Green Lake County Land Conservation Department
- Growing Power
- Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department
- Little Muskego Lake Association
- Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
- Ozaukee County Land Conservation Committee
- Ozaukee County Land and Water Conservation Department
- Rock River Coalition
- University of Wisconsin Extension –Cooperative Extension, Washington County
- University of Wisconsin Extension –Cooperative Extension, Southeast Basin Educator
- Washington County Land Conservation Department
- Washington County Planning and Parks Department
- Woods & Waters Enterprises Inc.

Summary Description of the Council Area:

The Town and Country RC&D area is comprised of the 13 counties in the southeast corner of Wisconsin, as shown in Figure 1 (page 4). The area is bordered by Lake Michigan to the east, and the State of Illinois to the south. The population of the area is 2.7 million, which is half of Wisconsin's total population. Forty-five percent of the people live in rural and suburban communities and 55 percent live in urban areas. The largest population centers are the cities of Milwaukee, Racine, Janesville, Waukesha, Kenosha, and Madison, which is the capitol of Wisconsin. The Town and Country RC&D area is home to the largest population of traditionally underserved and underrepresented groups in Wisconsin (Refer to Table II, page 3). Dane, Dodge and Rock Counties are the dominant agriculture counties. In addition to agriculture, the major employment sectors include: professional services, manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, healthcare, educational services, construction, utilities, scientific, technical, hospitality, social assistance and government.

Council Primary Contact:

Lisa Conley, Interim Council Chair, 516 Lac LaBelle Drive, Oconomowoc, WI 53066
Phone: 262-567-5947, FAX: 262-567-5948. E-mail: lconley@usa.com

Congressional Delegation:

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Senators: | Representatives: | Governor: |
| Herbert H. Kohl (D-WI) | Paul D.Ryan (R-WI-1) | Jim Doyle (D-WI) |
| Russell D. Feingold (D-WI) | Tammy Baldwin (D-WI-2) | |
| | Gerald Kleczka (D-WI-4) | |
| | Thomas E. Petri (R-WI-6) | |
| | F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI-5) | |

Town and Country RC&D, Inc.

COUNCIL NAME

Citizens and community leaders serving on the Steering Committee have selected the name Town and Country in order to describe the communities that have come together to form the RC&D. The region is home to half of Wisconsin's total population, with 45 percent of the people living in rural and suburban communities, and 55 percent living in urban areas. The people who live in the towns, cities and countryside of southeast Wisconsin are culturally diverse, hard working, compassionate and civic minded. We are united in the opportunity to work together to solve common problems and share solutions. Through the experience of coming together to share natural resource, agricultural, community and economic concerns and solutions, we have discovered we have more in common than first thought. Together we can accomplish more than we can alone. The Town and Country name defines our vision of a region where rural and urban communities are able to thrive and support each other to enhance the region's economy, environment, and quality of life.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The Town and Country RC&D area is comprised of the following 13 counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green Lake, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha. (Refer to Map A, page 9 for an illustration of the region's land cover). The area contains 109,500 acres of inland lakes, and each county contains waters on the Impaired Waters 303(d) Clean Water Act list. The area contains 14 percent of the land area in the state and is home to 50 percent of Wisconsin's total population. The largest population centers include the cities of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha, Janesville, and the state capitol, Madison. The Town and Country RC&D area is home to the largest population of traditionally underserved and underrepresented groups in Wisconsin. (Refer to Table II, page 3). The region contains 15,000 farms and 3 million acres of farmland. Agriculture is an integral part of the local economy. Dane, Dodge, Rock, and Walworth counties rank in the top five in Wisconsin for production of corn and soybeans. Small grains and livestock are important in some parts of the area. (Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics – 2002.)

A large portion of the Town and Country RC&D area was most recently glaciated by two lobes of the Laurentide Ice Sheet which retreated out of Wisconsin 10,000 years ago. The exception is western Dane County, which is part of the Driftless (unglaciated) Area. The glaciers left an impressive suite of landforms including moraines, drumlins, eskers, and moulin kames. Geologist William C. Alden wrote in 1919, "This great kettle inter-lobate moraine is the master topographic feature of the whole series of glacial deposits in eastern Wisconsin. It was this which first attracted the attention of early explorers and led eventually to the refinement of glacial studies of the present day throughout the whole region." (The Quaternary Geology of Southeast Wisconsin, William C. Alden, 1919.) (Refer to Map C, page 11).

These landforms not only dominate the landscape today, but also control surface water drainage. Glaciers produced the lakes that abound in many areas, formed the prominent hills of the Kettle Moraine, produced the rich soil base to support agricultural, and left behind sand and gravel which are major commodities in this rapidly urbanizing area. The Niagara Escarpment landforms run from the northeast and generally southwesterly. These linear, discontinuous, dolomite bedrock features serve as habitat for many unique and endangered species in the region.

Many communities and some residences obtain their water supply from aquifers in the underlying sandstone and dolomite bedrock; many domestic wells derive water from Pleistocene deposits above the bedrock. Several areas in the region have fractured dolomite bedrock at or near the surface. These areas are especially vulnerable to groundwater contamination. Most of the recharge areas for these aquifers are agricultural land.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFORMATION

The proposed RC&D area was named Town and Country because it is a mixture of existing large metropolitan areas, changing suburban/rural areas and larger, less populated landscapes still dominated by agriculture. The 13 counties making up this RC&D account for over 2.7 million people, which is half of the entire State of Wisconsin population of 5.4 million people. More heavily populated counties such as Waukesha (367,065), Dane (432,654) and Milwaukee (932,012) contrast with lesser populated counties such as Columbia (53,365) and Green Lake (19,260). Population and growth information shows us that citizens within the RC&D area are moving to commuting rural areas adjacent to the larger metropolitan areas around Madison, Milwaukee, Racine, Janesville, Waukesha and Kenosha. Many of the surrounding, more rural counties have experienced substantial growth rates over the last ten years. Washington County's population is up 23.3 percent, Walworth County is up 25 percent, Dane and Columbia Counties are up just over 16 percent.

It is obvious that this 13-county area will continue to grow. As the number of farm income related occupations declines, people will be forced to search out more industry- and service-related work. This in itself will continue to draw people within commuting distance of the larger metropolitan areas. Availability of land and costs associated with land directly adjacent to metropolitan areas will continue to change land use within this area. Counties which were once considered rural agricultural communities such as Ozaukee and Washington have already been and will continue to be challenged by changing land uses.

Based on the 1990 to 2000 U.S. census information, Milwaukee County has had a negative 2 percent growth rate. Milwaukee County supports the highest poverty rate in Wisconsin at 16.5 percent, followed by Kenosha and Racine counties at just over 9 percent. Ozaukee County supports the lowest poverty rate (2.7 percent) which is well below the state average of 9.2 percent.

TABLE I: Socio-Economic Statistics for the Town and Country RC&D Area

| COUNTY | POPULATION | POPULATION % CHANGE 1990-2000 | MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME \$ | PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE | POVERTY % RATE | % POP < 5 YRS | % POP > 65 YRS |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| COLUMBIA | 53,365 | 16.40% | 39,936 | 67.8 | 6.40% | 6.10% | 14.40% |
| DANE | 432,654 | 16.20% | 47,607 | 354.8 | 7.20% | 6.10% | 9.30% |
| ROCK | 153,324 | 9.20% | 41,802 | 211.4 | 8.90% | 6.70% | 12.70% |
| DODGE | 86,447 | 12.20% | 42,443 | 97.4 | 6.10% | 5.90% | 14.00% |
| JEFFERSON | 74,588 | 9.20% | 42,567 | 132.9 | 5.30% | 6.30% | 12.60% |
| WALWORTH | 95,605 | 2.50% | 41,584 | 168.9 | 6.60% | 5.90% | 12.70% |
| WAUKESHA | 367,065 | 18.40% | 61,562 | 648.9 | 3.10% | 6.40% | 12.00% |
| WASHINGTON | 119,829 | 23.30% | 53,937 | 272.6 | 3.50% | 6.80% | 11.20% |
| OZAUKEE | 83,555 | 12.90% | 62,427 | 354.8 | 2.70% | 6.20% | 12.60% |
| MILWAUKEE | 932,012 | -2.00% | 37,229 | 3,885 | 16.50% | 7.10% | 12.90% |
| RACINE | 189,613 | 7.90% | 44,675 | 567 | 9.10% | 7.00% | 12.30% |
| KENOSHA | 152,524 | 16.70% | 42,529 | 547.9 | 9.10% | 6.90% | 11.50% |
| GREEN LAKE | 19,260 | 2.40% | 36,015 | 54 | 7.90% | 5.60% | 18.80% |
| WISCONSIN | 5,401,906 | 9.60% | 39,800 | 98.8 | 9.20% | 6.40% | 13.10% |

1990-2000 Census Information – U.S. Census Bureau

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFORMATION (continued)

The State of Wisconsin median household income is \$39,800. Green Lake County is the only county within the Town and Country RC&D area that falls below the state median at \$36,015 Other median incomes within the area range from \$62,427 in Ozaukee County down to \$37,229 in Milwaukee County. Population density within the area ranges from 54 persons per square mile in Green Lake County to 3,885 persons per square mile in Milwaukee County. Such a range in population density shows just how diverse and true-to-its-name the Town and Country RC&D really is.

The area has the most racially diverse population in Wisconsin. The region is home to many underrepresented and underserved groups with 95 percent of Wisconsin's black population, 26 percent Indian, 58 percent Asian and 79 percent Hispanic origin. (Refer to Table II below.)

| TABLE II: Town and Country RC & D Area Population – 2000 Census | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| By Race and Hispanic Origin | | | | | | |
| COUNTY | POPULATION | WHITE | BLACK | INDIAN, ESKIMO, | ASIAN | HISPANIC ORIGIN |
| | | | | ALEUT | | (OF ANY RACE) |
| COLUMBIA | 53,365 | 50,990 | 460 | 185 | 187 | 827 |
| DANE | 432,654 | 379,447 | 17,069 | 1,404 | 14,868 | 14,387 |
| ROCK | 153,324 | 138,610 | 7,048 | 422 | 1,252 | 5,953 |
| DODGE | 86,447 | 81,843 | 2,142 | 345 | 321 | 2,188 |
| JEFFERSON | 74,588 | 71,309 | 210 | 249 | 347 | 3,031 |
| WALWORTH | 95,605 | 88,597 | 790 | 219 | 636 | 6,136 |
| WAUKESHA | 367,065 | 345,506 | 2,646 | 788 | 5,468 | 9,503 |
| WASHINGTON | 119,829 | 114,778 | 465 | 296 | 709 | 1,529 |
| OZAUKEE | 83,555 | 79,621 | 765 | 162 | 896 | 1,073 |
| MILWAUKEE | 932,012 | 616,973 | 231,157 | 6,794 | 24,567 | 82,406 |
| RACINE | 189,613 | 156,796 | 19,777 | 687 | 1,440 | 14,990 |
| KENOSHA | 152,524 | 132,193 | 7,600 | 564 | 1,438 | 10,757 |
| GREEN LAKE | 19,260 | 18,687 | 29 | 38 | 66 | 393 |
| 13-County Total | 2,759,841 | 2,272,353 | 290,158 | 12,153 | 52,195 | 153,173 |
| Wisconsin Total | 5,401,906 | 4,769,857 | 304,460 | 47,228 | 90,393 | 192,921 |
| Percent | 51% | 48% | 95% | 26% | 58% | 79% |

State of Wisconsin Blue Book, 2001-2002

Figure 1

Town and Country Resource Conservation and Development Area



AREA PLAN – RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION PLAN

Land Conservation, Water Management and Water Quality

Opportunity: Restoring and protecting the area's land and water. The surface water, groundwater and soil resources in the Town and County RC&D area are plentiful but susceptible to degradation, contamination and erosion. Sedimentation, nutrients and pesticides are and will continue to be a threat to water quality. Changing agricultural practices have resulted in fewer acres planted to soil conserving crops such as alfalfa. As a result, sedimentation has increased in already degraded streams, rivers and lakes. The sediment buildup blocks agricultural drainage systems, and negatively impacts water quality, fisheries and water-related recreation. Lack of nutrient management planning has led to over-application of phosphorous. Phosphorous laden sediment has caused eutrophication of our surface waters, making them less desirable to native fish and plant species. All 13 counties within the Town and Country RC&D area have impaired water on the 303(d) Clean Water Act list. (Refer to Map B, page 10).

Residential and commercial development within the Town and Country RC&D area has brought about growing concern over construction site erosion and storm water runoff. The act of converting agricultural lands into impervious surfaces is a major threat to the surface and groundwater resources of the area. Many of the larger metropolitan areas have been forced to deal with these issues through local regulation. Many of the outlying areas are facing the same challenges from development and will have to work toward controlling these serious sources of sediment and stormwater pollution.

Over the last 25 years, many of the point sources of pollution in the industrial and commercial areas have been addressed through state regulation. Nonpoint source pollution control is and will continue to be the greatest land and water conservation challenge in the Town and Country RC&D area.

The Town and County RC&D Council realizes what a unique and diverse area this is. We have large metropolitan areas that provide regional economic support adjoining rural areas within easy commuting distance. We are fortunate to have high quality natural areas and some of the most productive agricultural land in Wisconsin. We understand that social and economic forces will continue to put pressure on our natural resource base. The Town and County RC&D will be a valuable tool to help communities plan ahead, partner, and share ideas. We want to maintain our productive land and monitor and enhance our water quality and quantity. We want to provide the missing mechanism to make this growing area into a regional model for the state--one that promotes and supports economic growth yet successfully protects and enhances its natural resources for present and future generations.

The Town and Country RC&D Council will:

- Work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, NRCS, and County Land and Water Conservation Departments to achieve water quality goals.
- Increase landowner awareness of land and water conservation programs.
- Create new opportunities to help rural and urban landowners improve their drinking water.
- Promote crops that protect soil and improve water quality.
- Promote native wetland and wildlife habitat.
- Promote implementation of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Performance Standards, tolerable soil loss plans and nutrient management plans.
- Promote buffers along waterways.
- Promote streambank and shoreline protection.
- Monitor water quality.
- Promote proper yard waste management.
- Promote environmental education throughout the school systems.
- Educate people about the effects of construction and storm water runoff.
- Promote proper abandonment of unused wells.

Community and Economic Development

Opportunity: Maintaining the region's agricultural heritage. As citizens gathered to share their vision of the future for the Town and Country RC&D area, the strong desire to maintain the region's agricultural heritage was shared by rural and urban communities. The majority of the Town and Country RC&D area is rural in character. The rural landscape consists of natural areas and 3 million acres of farmland dotted with villages and towns. The region boasts an agricultural heritage dominated by small, family-owned dairy farms. There are 2,199 registered century farms and 225 sesquicentennial farms in the area. People of the area appreciate how agriculture beautifies the landscape with pastoral views and historic farmsteads, serves as an integral part of the local economy, maintains a lifestyle centered on the importance of family, and ensures the security of local food. We would like to help preserve this way of life.

Unfortunately, due to the decreasing profitability of agriculture, much of the Town and Country RC&D area is losing the farmland, farmsteads, natural areas and rural towns that define the region's agricultural heritage. The cost of farm inputs continues to rise, while profits decline. The decreased profitability of agriculture is evidenced by the number of farmers who must hold jobs off the farm to make ends meet.

Due to development pressure near urban and suburban areas, agricultural land is priced according to its value for residential and commercial development. Farmers are forced to pay these high land prices in order to expand or begin an agricultural operation. It is more profitable to sell agricultural land for development than to continue farming. (Refer to Table III below).

| TABLE III: Agricultural Land Sales - 2002 (Land Without Buildings and Improvements) | | |
|--|--|---|
| Dollars per Acre | | |
| COUNTY | Town and County RC & D AGRICULTURAL LAND CONTINUING IN AGRICULTURAL USE | AGRICULTURAL LAND BEING DIVERTED TO OTHER USES |
| DANE | \$ 3,287 | \$ 13,399 |
| WALWORTH | 3,273 | 6,564 |
| WAUKESHA | 11,922 | 13,111 |
| WASHINGTON | 3,305 | 7,887 |
| OZAUKEE | 3,379 | 19,150 |
| MILWAUKEE | 6,014 | 26,025 |
| RACINE | 4,609 | 9,281 |
| KENOSHA | 5,661 | 10,257 |

Counties listed contain urban/suburban centers.
Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics - 2002

The Town and Country RC&D Council will promote:

- Direct marketing of farm products to provide opportunities for farmers to increase profits.
- Profitable, alternative specialty systems, such as: rotational grazing, organic farming, and agritourism.
- Value-added agriculture for increased profitability.
- Profitable, alternative specialty products, such as:
 - hazelnuts, honey, composted manure
 - biofuels such as switchgrass to provide cleaner-burning fuels and decrease dependence on foreign energy
 - plants that sequester carbon

The Town and Country RC&D will partner with the University of Wisconsin Extension-Cooperative Extension, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, Pathways Stewardship Center, Growing Power and other groups who are deeply invested in improving the profitability of agriculture and have identified a need for additional support to achieve their goals.

Opportunity: Reconnecting Urban and Rural Communities. Today, there is little connection between urban centers and rural communities in the Town and Country RC&D area. People living in urban centers and those living in farming communities have not had the opportunity to develop mutually beneficial relationships.

One result of this disconnection is the lack of fresh, healthy food in urban centers. Grocery stores near urban centers do not carry locally grown food. People have few choices but to eat poor quality foods that are no longer fresh because they have been transported across the country, or have been processed and canned. Compared to locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, these foods lack flavor and nutrition and provide people no incentive to include fruits and vegetables in their diet. And they are packaged in countries that do not adhere to United States Department of Agriculture standards. The Wisconsin Citizen Action Program (a program that addresses concerns of groups defined as underserved) has identified the lack of fresh, locally grown food in urban centers as one of the most urgent concerns for underserved groups.

In the Town and Country RC&D area, people are moving from urban centers to rural communities at an ever-increasing rate. (Refer to Map D, page 12, which illustrates urban development near Milwaukee, the largest city in the area.) As a result, conflicts over land use and management are occurring. Complaints about the smell of manure, the sounds of late night crop harvesting, and traffic congestion caused by slow moving farm machinery are increasing in rural areas. Confrontations have also identified opportunities for some farmers to adopt natural resource conservation practices.

The Town and Country RC&D Council will:

- Promote education on the value of agriculture and understanding of the rural lifestyle.
- Promote relationship-building to strengthen communities.
- Facilitate interaction of agricultural producers and new rural residents by promoting direct marketing, farm tours, urban farmers markets and harvest festivals.
- Promote agri-tourism.
- Investigate problems shared by both farmers and new rural residents and seek common solutions.
- Develop infrastructure to make fresh, local food available to urban centers and underserved groups.
- Continue to work with Growing Power to promote healthy, affordable food for all people.

When people from the Town and Country RC&D area first gathered to share concerns that affected their communities, they believed rural and urban communities had little in common. However, people quickly discovered that they have many concerns in common. They also discovered that by establishing cooperative relationships through the Town and Country RC&D, the unmet needs of one community can be answered by another community. For example, the need to provide fresh, locally grown food to urban centers can be met by direct marketing of local agricultural products there. This solution will also help maintain the region's agricultural heritage by increasing the profitability of farming.

The Town and Country RC&D will investigate and promote mutually beneficial relationships between rural and urban communities so that, as we say in our Vision, the area can “become a place where rural areas and urban centers are able to thrive and support each other to enhance the region's economy, environment, and quality of life.”

Land Management

Opportunity: Planning for wise resource use.

Both rural and urban communities in the Town and Country RC&D area express a strong desire to conserve the region's natural and geological resources. The rural areas are a beautiful patchwork of farmland, forests, rivers, lakes, wetlands and glacial landforms. (Refer to Map A, page 9). These resources attract residents as well as visitors from around the world. Outdoor sports such as hunting, fishing, bird watching and hiking are important to the economy of the region.

In the past, people were content to drive some distance in order to enjoy these valuable resources. Beginning in the 1980's, residents and visitors began building homes and summer cottages in the rural areas in order to live in the natural areas they so enjoyed. Unfortunately, unplanned residential development has led to the degradation and disappearance of many of the region's natural resources and unique geological features. Wetlands are filled, woodlands fragmented, drumlins disturbed and agricultural land lost in order to build homes. In 2002, 35,000 acres of agricultural land in the Town and Country RC&D area were converted to residential and commercial development. (Refer to Map D, page 12, which illustrates urban development near Milwaukee, the largest city in the area.) The North American Wetland Conservation Act and the Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Joint Venture have identified southeast Wisconsin as one of the two priority areas for wetland restoration. This priority rating is due to the continued loss and degradation of wetlands caused by rural development in southeast Wisconsin.

To support planning that ensures wise resource use, the State of Wisconsin passed legislation, known as "Smart Growth," in 1999 which requires all counties, villages, cities and towns to have a comprehensive land use plan in place by January 1, 2010. Many communities in the Town and Country RC&D area have completed land use plans, but are not in compliance with the 1999 Comprehensive Planning Law ("Smart Growth") which considers economic development, agriculture, natural resources, housing, transportation, and intergovernmental cooperation in addition to land use. Money and technical assistance available to meet this planning goal is limited compared to the number of local governmental units required to complete a plan. In addition, five counties within the Town and Country RC&D area have no access to regional land use planning assistance.

The Town and Country RC&D Council will:

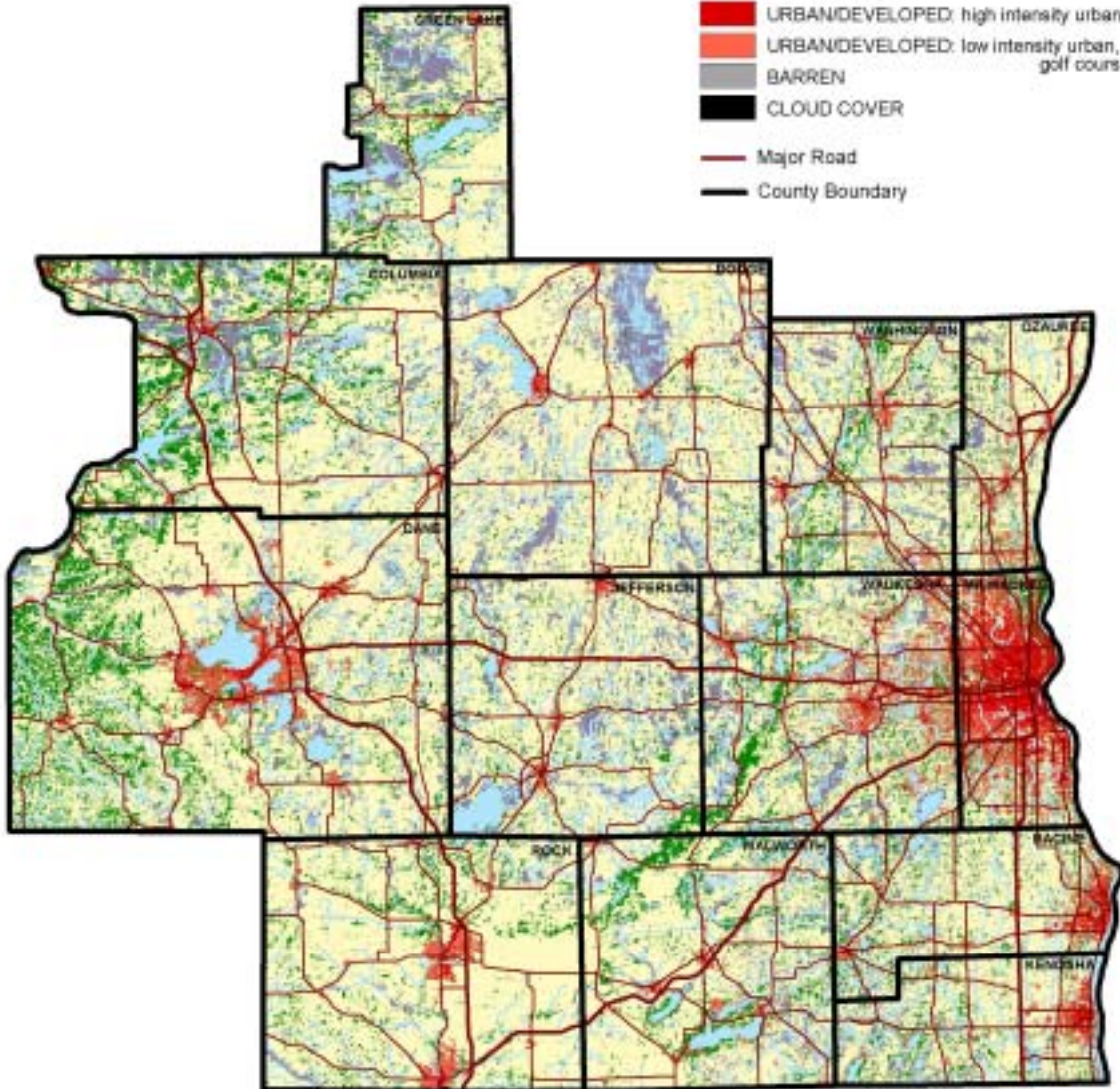
- Partner with Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, University of Wisconsin Extension-Cooperative Extension and others to provide planning assistance to communities.
- Promote the federal Farmland Protection Program.
- Provide communities with land use decision-making tools, including NRCS soils database and the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment model.
- Promote the Wetland Reserve Program by securing North American Wetland Conservation Act grants and forming partnerships.
- Provide resources for communities to carry out comprehensive land use planning on a regional basis.
- Promote the protection of:
 - Fish and wildlife habitat.
 - Threatened and endangered species and communities.
 - Forests from fragmentation.
 - Unique cultural, natural and historic features.
 - Unique glacial landforms.
 - Open space.
 - Agricultural land.
- Educate homeowners on the importance of preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species.
- Promote intergovernmental cooperation and communication.

MAP A

Land Cover Map of the Town and Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area

Explanation

- AGRICULTURE, GRASSLAND, SHRUBLAND
- FOREST
- WETLAND
- OPEN WATER
- URBAN/DEVELOPED: high intensity urban
- URBAN/DEVELOPED: low intensity urban, golf course
- BARREN
- CLOUD COVER
- Major Road
- County Boundary

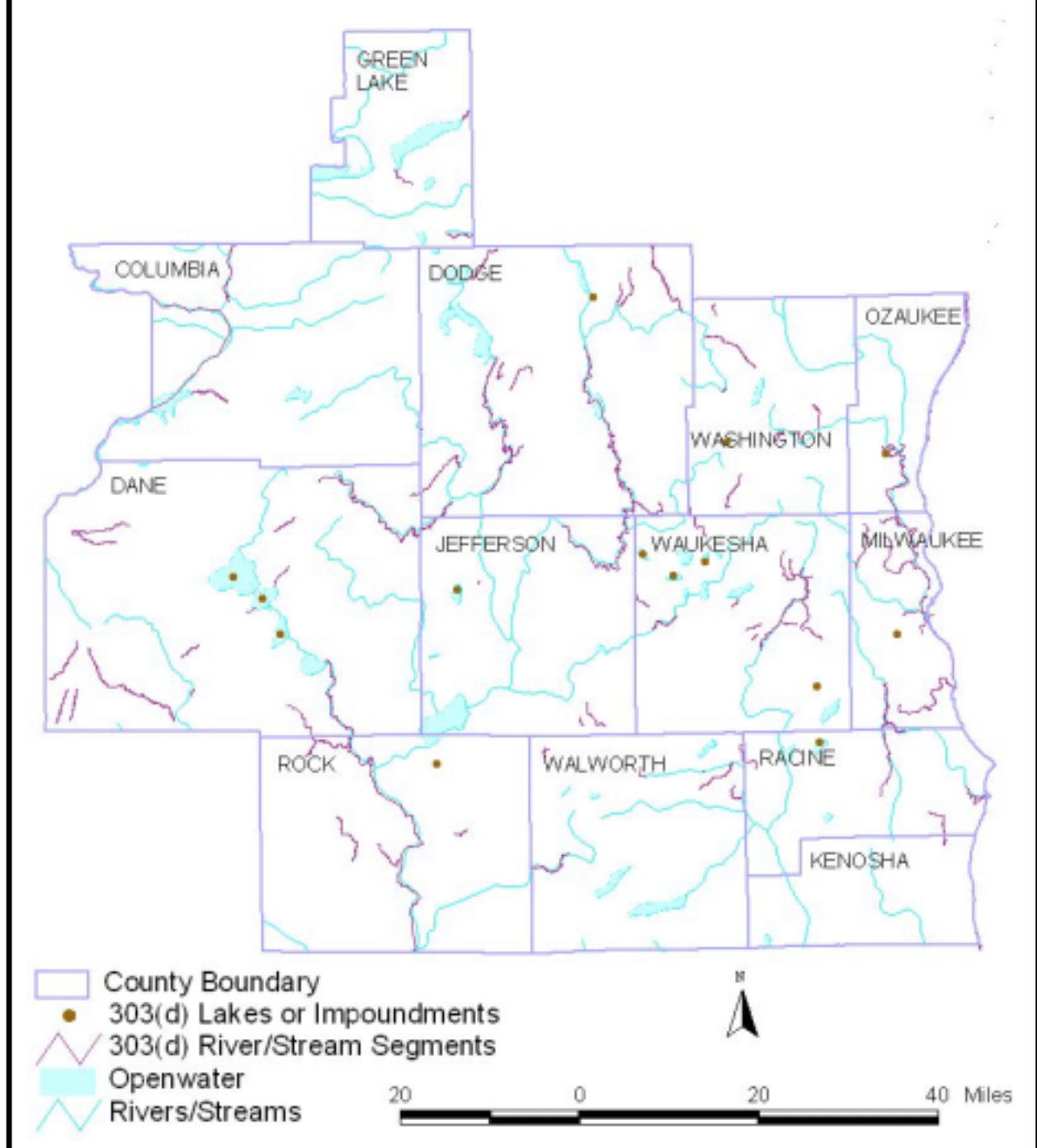


Land cover data are from the WDNR WISCLAND project – Landsat Thematic Mapper scenes from 1991 - 1993 with a 30-meter square pixel resolution were classified. In general, the data have a minimum mapping unit of 5 acres. Roads are from 1:100,000-scale Roadway Chain data from WisDOT. Hydrography is from 1:24,000-scale WDNR data.

Map created October 2002 by the Base Co. LLC.

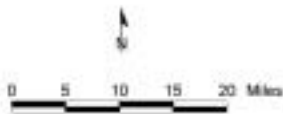
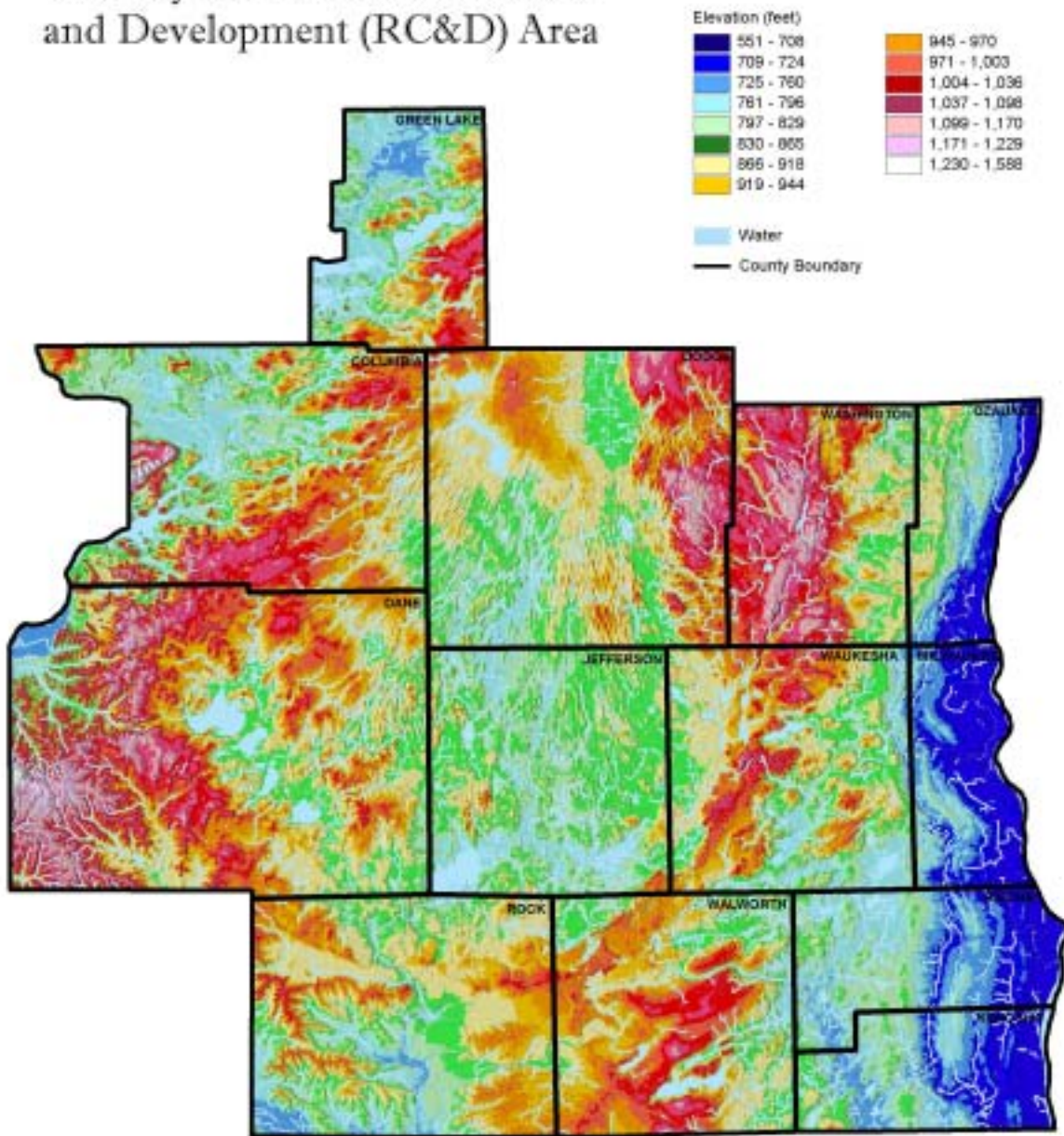
MAP B

Town and Country RC&D: Impaired Waters s.303(d) Clean Water Act Map B



MAP C

Shaded Relief Map of the Town and Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area



Elevation data from WDNR Digital Elevation Model (DEM) with a 30 meter cell size. Relief is exaggerated 10 times. Hydrography from 1:24,000-scale WDNR data.

Map created October 2002 by the Dase Co. LLC

MAP D

**INCREMENTAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION
ATTACH MAP FROM SEWRPC**

PURPOSE FOR CREATION – MISSION AND VISION

The Town and Country RC&D Interim Council has put a lot of time and thought into our “purpose for creation.” We set forth our mission statement and vision, but we determined that the real reason for our existence in the simplest terms is this: to do projects. And so we also gave careful consideration to our organizational structure, with the idea that we want to be able to receive, consider, execute and complete the greatest number of projects in the most efficient way. We feel we have come up with a unique and effective way to organize. Our plan was formed after reviewing the experiences of other RC&D’s, and is patterned after the organizational structure of the United Way - Dane County. (Refer to Town and Country RC&D, Inc. Organization Structure, page 15.)

One benefit of our plan is the **inclusiveness of the Council**. Having no limit on the number of members nor who they represent allows us to reach out to all citizens in the area. We will be able to target and recruit underrepresented populations and minority groups. And, we can identify individuals with needed expertise and ask them to join. What is more, unlimited membership means a larger pool of volunteers to complete projects.

Volunteers in our organizational structure are swept up into activity right away through the second unique feature: the **Project Teams**. Members decide where they want to fit in on one or more of the goal-focused Teams. This Team structure is flexible, easy to change as needs change, and allows for work to progress on many projects at once.

Finally, the **Vision Team**—which gives equal representation to elected officials and private citizen members—is able to look at the big picture while keeping our organization focused on its mission.

The Mission and Vision reflect the things that the communities in the Town and Country RC&D area feel are important, and are addressed in the Council’s goals and objectives.

Mission: To optimize opportunities for sustainable economic growth, healthy communities, and a healthy environment in the Town and Country RC&D Area through the support and coordination of our region’s agencies, municipalities and organizations.

Our Vision: The Town and Country RC&D will facilitate the development and coordination of existing and innovative projects, and will assist in finding funding to implement them. Our efforts will help the Town and Country RC&D Area become a place where rural areas and urban centers are able to thrive and support each other to enhance the region’s economy, environment, and quality of life.

The Town and Country RC&D has been created to:

- Improve the standard of living in the region.
- Strengthen the rural economy in the region.
- Advance the development of sustainable communities.
- Work on a regional basis with citizens, agencies and organizations.
- Fill the gaps where needed and ensure that efforts are optimized rather than duplicated.
- Seek to fill a niche of service to underserved populations—both in cities and the countryside.
- Garner resources to address local concerns.
- Help urban and rural citizens work together toward their common goals.

The Town and Country RC&D is in a strong position to assist communities throughout southeast Wisconsin to:

- Balance development with resource conservation.
- Approach problems without a particular bias.
- Work across county lines.
- Work with both the public and private sectors, and help them work successfully with each other.
- Consider issues on a regional scale.
- Help existing groups form alliances to be more effective.
- Help new groups get established.
- Take projects from identification of the problem to implementation of the solution.
- Empower underserved groups to improve their communities.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY RC&D
ORGANIZATIONAL DESIGN**

COUNCIL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Promote comprehensive land use planning and sustainable communities throughout the Town & Country RC&D area.

To meet this goal, we will

1. Promote mixed-use development for livable communities while minimizing transportation needs.
2. Promote and facilitate groundwater and surface water protection planning.

Value and build a strong, sustainable agricultural community for the benefit of the local economy, farming business, the environment, and for the protection of our food sources.

To meet this goal, we will

1. Promote value-added agriculture and direct marketing of agricultural products.
2. Diversify the agricultural economy by promoting alternative and non-traditional products and systems.
3. Facilitate public understanding of the value of agriculture and where food comes from.
4. Research and develop ways to help farmers stay in agriculture and new farmers to start farming.
5. Facilitate the exchange of agricultural and natural resource information and solutions on a regional level.
6. Provide educational opportunities regarding best practices, land use, product and by-products of agriculture.

Promote the protection, enhancement and restoration of natural resources for present and future generations.

To meet this goal, we will

1. Develop alternative and renewable fuel sources.
2. Facilitate the protection and restoration of surface water and groundwater resources.
3. Conserve, enhance and restore native species and communities.

Promote tourism and recreation that considers the wise use of natural resources as a basis of improving the regional economy.

To meet this goal, we will

1. Identify and create land use and marketing opportunities which promote agri-tourism.
2. Identify and inventory unique cultural and natural features.

Build understanding and cooperation between urban and rural constituencies to maintain and improve the regional economy and quality of life.

To meet this goal, we will

1. Facilitate understanding and conflict resolution between agricultural residents and rural newcomers with regard to agricultural practices.
2. Develop markets for the distribution of local, fresh food into the urban community.
3. Develop a medium to inform urban communities of available agricultural products and locations.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION

There is much work to be done to improve the quality of life in the 13-county region. Citizens of the area recognize the need for an entity that will enhance the activities of the many organizations at work in the region, and also fill in the gaps not covered by existing funds and planning strategies. The Town and Country RC&D will *be* that entity.

Organized RC&D or Community Group

Community Support: Citizens, organizations, federal, state and local government agencies in southeast Wisconsin have been interested for many years in joining together to organize an RC&D to serve their communities. In response to this interest, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service dedicated a full-time staff person to facilitate the collection of community concerns in the 13-county area, to form an RC&D Council and apply for RC&D program assistance. An extensive informational and issue-gathering campaign called “Partnerships Promoting RC&D in Southeast Wisconsin” was begun in February 2002. This campaign reached citizens, corporations, elected officials, NRCS, Land Conservation Departments, University of Wisconsin Extension, Wisconsin DNR, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and others throughout southeast Wisconsin. A special effort was made to reach under-represented groups such as minorities, ethnic groups, and poor people, both urban and rural.

Steering Committee: In July 2002, a diverse group of citizens, local officials, organizations and agency staff representing all 13 counties came forward as volunteers to form a Steering Committee. All decisions made by the Steering Committee were based on the issues and concerns collected from the communities within the 13 counties. These resulted in the vision, mission statement, goals, objectives, area and annual plans. A trained University of Wisconsin Extension-Cooperation Extension agent facilitated all meetings, assuring that all members had input into decision making. In the period of time since the goals and objectives were established, numerous citizens have come forward with project suggestions that reflect these goals, confirming our belief that our goals are appropriate ones.

Interim Council: From the Steering Committee, an Interim Council was formed and Board of Directors/Officers have been nominated and elected. The Interim Council is progressing with the dedication and commitment of its members to work on the behalf of the communities in the Town and Country RC&D area.

Interim Board of Directors: The Board is actively leading the way in developing and governing the organization. An attorney has offered his services pro bono to review the Board’s activities and the constitution and bylaws.

The Town and Country RC&D hosted the Wisconsin State Association of RC&D’s quarterly meeting. Twelve Council members and sponsors garnered enhanced support for the Town and Country RC&D by the Association, including \$1,600 in seed money. Town and Country RC&D is now an active member of the Wisconsin Association of RC&D’s.

Sponsors:

Unlike traditional Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Wisconsin’s County Land and Water Conservation Committees administer their own programs and budgets, and have taxing authority. After approval by the County Land and Water Conservation Department, the County Land and Water Conservation Committee and County Executive request County Board sponsorship for RC&D. As this local process continues, sponsors will be added.

- Columbia County Board
- Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Committee
- Dodge County Board
- Dodge County Land Conservation Committee
- Jefferson County Board
- Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Committee

- Racine County Board
- Racine County Land Conservation Committee
- Washington County Land Conservation Committee
- Dane County Board passed a resolution to support the creation of the Town and Country RC&D. Resolution for sponsorship will be presented within six months.
- Green Lake County Board passed a resolution to support the creation of the Town and Country RC&D. Resolution for sponsorship will be presented within three months.
- Two County Land and Water Conservation Committees will consider resolutions to their County Boards for support/sponsorship within four months.

Supporting Organizations:

- Camp Lake and Center Lake Rehabilitation District
- Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department
- Dane County Board
- Dane County Land Conservation Committee
- Dane County Land Conservation Department
- Dodge County Land Conservation Department
- Green Lake County Board
- Green Lake County Land Conservation Committee
- Green Lake County Land Conservation Department
- Growing Power
- Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department
- Little Muskego Lake Association
- Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
- Ozaukee County Land Conservation Committee
- Ozaukee County Land and Water Conservation Department
- Rock River Coalition
- University of Wisconsin Extension –Cooperative Extension, Washington County
- University of Wisconsin Extension –Cooperative Extension, Southeast Basin Educator
- Washington County Land Conservation Department
- Washington County Planning and Parks Department
- Woods & Waters Enterprises Inc.

Interim Board of Directors

- Lisa Conley, Rock River Coalition - Chair
- JoAnn Pipkorn, Ozaukee Co. dairy farmer - Vice-Chair, Treasurer
- Bernice Popelka, Milwaukee Co. citizen - Director

Interim Council

- Steve Bertjens, Consultant, Southwest Badger RC&D
- Mary Ellen Besaw, Advisor, Glacierland RC&D
- Marc Bethke, Dodge Co. LCD
- Kurt Calkins, Columbia Co LWCD
- James Congdon, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Kevin Connors, Dane Co. LCD
- Greg David, Jefferson Co. Board Supervisor
- Diane M. Georgetta, USDA-NRCS, RC&D
- Jim Hebbe, Green Lake Co. LCD
- Greg Hines, Advisor, Glacierland RC&D
- Ellen Hohenfeldt, Waukesha Co. citizen
- Ruth Johnson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Kevin Kesterson, Dane County Board Chairman
- Gary Korb, Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and UWEX
- Howard Kriewald, Dodge County Board Supervisor
- Robert Krueger, Dodge Co. Board Supervisor, farmer
- Ron Lowery, USDA-NRCS, Assistant State Conservationist for Operations
- Bob O'Donnell, Forage Genetics International
- John Pipkorn, Ozaukee Co. dairy farmer
- Ted Pyrek, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Area Forestry Leader
- Peg Reedy, Walworth Co. UWEX
- Dave Roberts, Advisor, USDA-NRCS
- Heather Ryan, Milwaukee Co. citizen, graduate student
- Mike Salinas, Milwaukee Co. citizen
- John Stern, Washington County Board Supervisor
- Teresa Scollon, Pathways Stewardship Center, non-profit
- Rose Skora, Racine/Kenosha UWEX
- Barbara Vass, Kenosha/Racine Land Trust
- Andy Yencha, Facilitator, UWEX-Southeast Region
- Matt Zoschke, Washington Co. LCD

Activity Underway that Implements the Goals in the Area Plan

Through an ever-enlarging network of relationships, Town and Country RC&D is reaching out to inform citizens about RC&D and how it can benefit their communities. To recruit and maintain a volunteer workforce, we represent Wisconsin RC&Ds on the Earth Team Volunteer Committee. We will continue these outreach efforts, seeking additional input from interested citizens and using this feedback to inspire future projects in furtherance of our goals. So far, our efforts have been so successful that numerous citizens have stepped forward with suggested projects. In order to process these suggestions, a Project Review Team has formed to develop a project request procedure and establish criteria to evaluate and select projects.

Levels of Support

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service Wisconsin State Office and Midwest Regional Office have been extremely supportive of the effort to create the Town and Country RC&D and to support the operation of the Council. To show their support, the State Office dedicated a full-time staff person and an intermittent administrative assistant to the effort. In addition, an Assistant State Conservationist for Operations serves as advisor and oversees the development of the program in southeast Wisconsin. Additional Wisconsin NRCS staff committed to assisting in the effort include, six RC&D Coordinators and Coordinator Assistants, a State Resource Soil Scientist, an RC&D Program Manager, a Visual Information Specialist, and District Conservationists in the 13-county area. Assistance and support was also received from University of Wisconsin Extension-Cooperative Extension, and two UWEX Agents serve on the Interim Council.

Community Representativeness

An intensive effort was made to spread the word about RC&D to all groups including citizens both rural and urban, traditionally underserved groups, corporations, elected officials and government agencies. More than 800 people were reached through news releases, radio spots, and PowerPoint presentations, displays, and personal contacts. Presentations were made at Bread for World International conference, three Wisconsin Association of RC&D Council meetings, USDA-NRCS, USDA-Rural Development, Land Conservation Departments, Land Conservation Committees, County Boards of Supervisors, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs in the 13-county area. The public was invited to 17 of these meetings.

At each venue, issues and concerns were solicited from the local citizens; more than 250 were carefully collected and recorded. These issues, along with those identified in each county's Land and Water Resource Management Plan, were used to develop the RC&D's name, vision, mission, goals, objectives, area and annual plans. A strategy has been developed for continuing the educational and promotional effort. Support continues to grow as more new people come to every Steering Committee meeting and activity. The Interim Council is committed to continuing to be inclusive and build our constituency among traditionally underserved and underrepresented groups. Several of the stated objectives of the Council speak directly to the needs of urban centers where the diversity of the population is the greatest. The council will continue to invite underserved and underrepresented groups to assure access to decision-making on the Council. We have formed a partnership with USDA Rural Development and University of Wisconsin Extension to find ways to identify and involve members of the minority community.

Since completion of the Area Plan, a Marketing Team was established to continue the outreach effort. So far the team has produced a marketing package that consists of several printed informational pieces and a traveling exhibit. These materials are being used by Council members to promote Town and Country RC&D.

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 Town and Country 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 (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 subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial (or technical) assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

The Town and Country 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 Town and Country 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 APPLICANT AREA ACTIVITY REPORT

Council Activities During the Past Year: In the past year, the Town and Country RC&D has executed an extensive campaign to promote RC&D. A PowerPoint presentation and informational talk were given to numerous citizen groups and governmental agencies. A diverse group of interested private citizens and public officials then formed a Steering Committee. In the course of four full-day meetings, the Steering Committee directed and supervised all activities of the RC&D, including selecting a name and logo, and determining the goals, objectives, mission, vision and Annual Plan of Work for the group. A strategy has been developed for continuing the educational and promotional effort. In addition, two subcommittees were formed. The Constitution Subcommittee has successfully completed a draft of the RC&D constitution and by-laws. The Application Subcommittee cooperated to draft and write this application. Also active are a Marketing Team, Procedure and Organization Committee, and Project Review Team. Finally, an Interim Council was selected and Board of Directors/Officers nominated and elected. The Interim Council and Board of Directors continue to meet on a monthly basis. Members have coalesced into a close-knit working team that has taken ownership of the Town and Country RC&D and its mission.

Project Activity: To date, four projects are complete and three have been adopted:

The **Woods, Waters and Recreation: Outdoor Fish Farming Workshop** was hosted by a local landowner and featured information and advice from eight professionals in the fields of fish farming and marketing, resource conservation, and environmental considerations of a fish farming business. Seventy farmers and landowners gained first first-hand experience on income options that will help them maintain their land in agriculture and wildlife habitat in the face of increasing development pressures from the surrounding area. In fact, after the workshop the host family, who had considered establishing a fish farming and tree planting business for years, took action and began building the business as a secondary income. Town and Country RC&D co-sponsored the event with Glacierland RC&D and partnered with Dodge County Land Conservation Department (LCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&W), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), U.W. Extension (UWEX), and the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association to provide technical expertise. Town and Country was responsible for planning and facilitating the workshop, along with all follow-up after the event.

The **Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Plant Coordination Meeting** was sponsored by the Town and Country RC&D at the request of-and in partnership with-local citizens, the WDNR, NRCS, USF &W, UWEX, Milwaukee County Park People and the newly formed Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin (IPAW). Town and Country RC&D brought together invasive plant organizations, 50 citizens and invasive plant experts to spearhead the organization of the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Invasive Plant Coalition. The Town and Country RC&D was responsible for planning, advertising, finding co-sponsors, coordinating displays, facilitating the meeting, and all follow-up after the event, including the formation of a steering committee. The meeting resulted in an organized group and a strategic plan to address 20 priority issues defined by the group. The coordination achieved assures leadership and purposeful action to enhance invasive species control, education and research activities in the Town and Country area.

The **Fall Tree Workshop** showcased field demonstrations by forestry experts on management practices such as tree pruning, disease prevention and pest management. These practices are seldom taught in our area. Town and Country co-hosted the workshop and secured speakers on a variety of topics. Fifty farmers and landowners learned how to manage their woodlots to produce quality forest products as well as wildlife habitat. WDNR, NRCS, Pro Source One, and Woods & Waters Enterprises, Inc were co-sponsors.

Contributing to the Success of the Camp and Center Lakes Rehabilitation District. Town and Country RC&D is improving water quality through a partnership with the Camp and Center Lakes Rehabilitation District, NRCS, WDNR and Southwest Badger RC&D. By securing a \$280,000 WDNR grant, a Council employee was hired to assist landowners in the Camp and Center Lakes Watershed. We

have received our first installment of \$55,000. This five-year project will build on the success of seven years of conservation work and documented water quality improvements made by the partners.

Working for Wetlands. Town and Country RC&D, along with Glacierland RC&D and Golden Sands RC&D, have collaborated to hire a biologist to help restore degraded wetlands in a six-county area through the USDA Wetland Reserve Program. The biologist will help alleviate the backlog of 59 landowners waiting to enroll in the program. The backlog was created when three biologist positions funding by WDNR and Ducks Unlimited were lost due to budget cuts. A grant request to the Joyce Foundation is being drafted to fund the biologist position.

The **Utility-Scale Wind Energy Workshop** is a multi-state event providing farmers, rural landowners and small businesses with options on how to develop wind sites that provide clean energy and income. The workshop is presented by Town and Country RC&D, Southwest Badger RC&D, and Blackhawk Hills RC&D, Illinois, and funded by US Department of Energy, Focus on Energy, Wisconsin Division of Energy and Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.

Turning Tanfields into Green Town and Country RC&D, in partnership with Growing Power, is researching tanfield remediation techniques and developing curriculum and hands-on training to teach homeowners and community groups how to remediate their own tanfields using low-cost, low tech methods.

Interagency Cooperation

The number and diversity of the agencies, organizations and individuals involved in the preparation of the Area Plan reflects the rich diversity of the Town and Country RC&D area:

- 2 Federal Agencies other than NRCS:
University of Wisconsin Extension-Cooperative Extension, USDA-Rural Development
- 1 State Agency: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- 13 County Land and Water Conservation Departments
- 8 County Land and Water Conservation Committees
- 6 County Board of Supervisors
- 13 USDA-NRCS offices
- 6 Citizens
- 1 Corporation: Forage Genetics International
- 6 Non-profit organizations: Growing Power, Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin, Kenosha/Racine Land Trust, Inc., Milwaukee Urban Gardens, Pathways Stewardship Center, Rock River Coalition
- 3 Wisconsin RC&D Councils
- Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Land Use and Parks Department – Washington County

Activities involving other agencies:

Tour and Information Meeting. Members of the Southeast Area Land and Water Conservation Association (SEALWCA) were invited to a Town and Country RC&D-sponsored tour of Growing Power, a multifaceted organization that coordinates the dissemination of food from local growers into the inner city and trains inner city residents and others in methods of achieving food self-sufficiency. Participants saw demonstration projects including worm casting fertilizer production and indoor fish farm/hydroponic vegetable production systems. The Growing Power organization is anxious to partner with Town and Country RC&D on additional innovative projects concerning sustainable food production in urban centers. Information about the Town and Country RC&D was presented. Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Havenwoods Environmental Center, SEALWCA, and Will Allen of Growing Power partnered with Town and Country RC&D to make the event a success. As a result, people from rural and urban communities got a chance to see firsthand how cooperation might benefit them both.

Incorporation Status: The Town and Country RC&D, Inc. was classified as a non-stock corporation with the State of Wisconsin in November, 2002.

Nonprofit Status: The Interim Council has begun applying for 501(c)(3) status. The effort is ongoing.

Town and Country RC&D, Inc.