

2016

# **Hiawatha Valley RC&D Council, Inc.**

## **Annual Plan of Work**

3936 E Frontage Road, Suite 114  
Rochester, MN 55901

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# HIAWATHA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

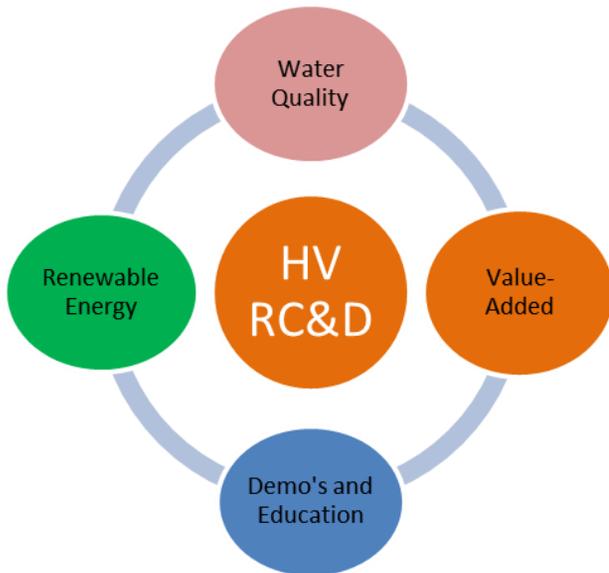
## Strategic Plan Summary 2010 - 2016

### Organization Summary:

Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. (RC&D) is a 501(c)3 organization with the mission **“to empower people to balance environmental and economic needs through leadership, collaboration and project development.”**

Hiawatha Valley RC&D is governed by a board of directors representing our eleven county service area: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha and Winona Counties.

Hiawatha Valley RC&D accomplishes its vision of **“a productive economy and good standard of living in balance with a quality environment”** through collaboration with local, state and federal agencies along with other non-government and individual partnerships. Key sponsors and partners include the area’s County Commissioners, County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, State natural resource agencies, and agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture.



<b>WATER QUALITY</b>	Working with others involved in water quality improvement, Hiawatha Valley will collaborate with local leaders, groups to seek new and innovative solutions to assist with project type management.
<b>VALUE ADDED BUSINESSES</b>	Identifying the diversity of resources in our service area presents business opportunities. Local foods; forest products; under-utilized vegetation and alternative ag products are viewed as potential opportunities.
<b>RENEWABLE ENERGY</b>	Identification of and promotion of renewable energy sources is a priority for Hiawatha Valley, as well as encouraging energy conservation practices throughout the area.
<b>EDUCATION &amp; MANAGEMENT</b>	Hiawatha Valley has been involved with a variety of projects involving local leaders, state and federal agencies, businesses, and not for profit groups to address the three listed elements in the way of organization, business development and demonstration. Management of is needed to assists the sponsoring members.

# WATER QUALITY

Working with private and public vendors involved in water quality improvement, Hiawatha Valley will work to improve collaboration, offer new and innovative solutions, and assist others with project management.

Action	Timeline	Results	Comments
<b>Bee-Duck Watershed (Waterloo Creek) – Director Leadership: Roger Stenhoff</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine funding availability for water retention structures that will move toward a 50% reduction in peak flows during storm events.</li> </ul>	Jan. –Aug. 2016		
<b>SE MN Forest Landscape Plan Implementation – Water Quality Components, Director Leadership: Jake Gillen, Terry Helbig, Larry Thomforde</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue working with the Regional Landscape Committee on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Strategy 5: Protect and manage forests and associated habitats for water resources</li> <li>Social Strategy 14: Protect drinking water quality and trout stream health through mitigation of regional nitrate/nitrite pollution via landowner education and forest/other land use management and protection.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	January-December 2016		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest Bank               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with SE Landscape Committee and MFRC on possible actions to promote a Forest Bank and related forest management actions for SE MN.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	January – July 2016		

# VALUE ADDED BUSINESSES

This diversity of resources in our service area presents diversity in business opportunity as well. Local foods; forest products; and alternative ag products are a few of the potential opportunities.

Action	Timeline	Results	Comments
<b>SE MN Forest Landscape Plan Implementation – Value Added Business Components, Director Leadership: Richard Samuelson, Lonny Dietz</b>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Strategy 10: Encourage private landowner participation in provision of forest-based recreation to the public</li> <li>• Social Strategy 13: Promote interest and participation among Southeast Minnesota citizens in angling, hunting, and outdoor recreation.</li> <li>• Economic Strategy 3: Promote forest businesses that support sustainable management of forests.</li> <li>• Economic Strategy 4: Establish non-traditional forest product markets (e.g., decorative greenery, dried floral arrangements and ornamentals, herbs and medicinal plants, decorative woods, cones, and smoke-woods/flavor-woods.</li> <li>• Economic Strategy 5: Strengthen public/private sector relationships that support viable and diverse natural resources-based businesses which advocate the long term stewardship of the resources and that engage landowners in southeast Minnesota's forest products industry</li> </ul>	Jan. to Dec., 2016		
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## BIO-MATERIALS

Promotion of bio-mass energy sources combined with wind, solar, geo-thermal, and bio-mass in the form of product development is a priority for Hiawatha Valley, as well as encouraging energy conservation practices throughout the area.

Action	Timeline	Results	Comments
<b>Renewable Energy, Director Leadership: Mark Ihlenfeld, George Poch</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate potential projects in support of the Rochester 2031 initiative</li> </ul>	By September 2016		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a project plan to involve Hiawatha Valley RC&amp;D in local, mid to small, conservation or renewable energy projects. This will focus on ag, residential or small industry/institution projects.</li> </ul>			

# DEMONSTRATIONS AND EDUCATION

Whether a pasture walk, invasive species control, or well sealing demonstrations, the Hiawatha Valley supports area-wide information sharing.

Action	Timeline	Results	Comments
<b>SE MN Forest Landscape Plan Implementation – Demonstrations and Education Components, Director Leadership: Terry Helbig</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Strategy 3: Manage invasive species (e.g. buckthorn, garlic mustard, emerald ash borer, reed canary grass) with the goal of protecting biodiversity.</li> <li>• Environmental Strategy 7: Develop and support laws and mechanisms to increase forest land on ecologically appropriate sites and protect the forest land base in the long-term.</li> <li>• Social Strategy 2: Increase capacity of natural resources professional community to meet current and future demand for technical advice and assistance in the private landowner community.</li> <li>• Social Strategy 5: Provide unique outreach activities such as field days, workshops, and discussion forums to various stakeholder groups, including: private woodland owners, agriculturists that own woodland or operate farms near forests, marginal cropland owners, seasonal residents and absentee owners, loggers, and elected officials.</li> <li>• Social Strategy 11: Encourage private landowner participation in private landowner education (e.g. property tours).</li> <li>• Social Strategy 12: Support environmental education activities for Southeast Minnesota citizens to foster informed environmental and natural resources decision-making.</li> <li>• Social Strategy 15: Support implementation of the Big Woods Heritage Forest legislation in Le Sueur, Rice, and Waseca Counties; encourage continued work and renewed efforts toward registry of heritage forests and implementation of associated protection and restoration goals.</li> </ul>	<p>Jan. to Dec. 2016</p>		

Action	Timeline	Results	Comments
<b>Fugle's Mill site, Director Leadership: Terry Helbig, Larry Thomforde</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop project plan and seek funding in support of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Infrastructure improvements</li> <li>○ Undesirable species removal</li> <li>○ Improved visibility and publicity</li> <li>○ Improved plant materials through removal of invasive and undesirable plant in favor of native plants.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Promote use of site as a demonstration site for landowners and professionals related to native plant communities, pollinators, and control of invasive species.</li> </ul>	Jan. to Dec. 2016		
<b>Invasive Species Control, Director Leadership: Jim Purfeerst</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement LCCMR project for utilizing grazing to control invasive terrestrial plants</li> </ul>	July 2013-May 2017		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Report and Outreach on results including 2 field days and a written report</li> </ul>	September 2016		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop project and funding for business plan template related to grazing business development</li> </ul>	Jan – June 2016		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Goat Dispatch to complete winter grazing of terrestrial invasive plants through the SARE grant</li> </ul>	April 2016 – March 2019		

# RC&D COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT

Axel of the wheel Work together to build leadership within the Hiawatha Valley RC&D Council and individuals and partners working with the Council. This includes improving the governance of the council as well as individual leadership skills.

Action	Timeline	Results	Comments
<b>Staffing need</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solicit and encourage volunteers, focus on program and funds development</li> </ul>	Ongoing		
<b>Strategic Planning</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update annual plan</li> </ul>	January/ February 2016		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update the HVRC&amp;D Strategic Plan</li> </ul>	By October 2016		
<b>Orientation Training for new Council Members</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with MN Association of RC&amp;D Councils to provide orientation training for new members</li> </ul>	April 2016		
<b>Implement committee structure of sponsoring members supporting priority areas of concern</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update committee structure as needed to address priority concerns and effectively lead and manage HVRC&amp;D</li> </ul>	January 2016		
<b>Governance</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update By-Laws, if needed.</li> </ul>	By September 2016		
<b>Communication</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least quarterly, generate a press release featuring Hiawatha Valley RC&amp;D news or updates</li> </ul>	By October 2016		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct communication with stakeholders at least twice a year via email or print</li> </ul>	By October 2016		

**ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR 2015**

Activity	Action	By Whom	When	Comments
<b>Council Meetings</b>	Notice	Staff	(10 days in advance)	
	Meetings	Council Staff	January March May July September November	
	Record of Meeting	Secretary		
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	Conduct Annual Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Audit Committee</li> <li>• Election of officers</li> <li>• Identify Alternate Officer</li> <li>• Approve Annual Work Plan</li> <li>• Approve Annual Budget</li> <li>• Present Awards</li> </ul>	Council	January	
<b>Council Director Appointments</b>	Appoint Council Directors for year	County Boards SWCD's	January	
<b>Maintain roster of Directors</b>	Create Roster	Staff	February	
<b>Review project activities</b>	Review project activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review accomplishments and needs</li> <li>• Determine priority local needs</li> <li>• Determine future status of projects</li> </ul>	Council	March July November	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a roster of active projects</li> </ul>	Staff		

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Create Annual Work Plan</b>	Review priorities and projects	Council	July/August	
	Draft work plan for future year	Executive Committee	Nov./Dec.	
<b>Review and approve annual work plan</b>	Review and approve annual work plan for current year	Council	January	
<b>Award Program</b>	Request nominations for awards	Staff	September	
	Identify Award selection committee	Council	November	
	Review award nominations and recommend awardees	Award Selection Committee	Nov./Dec.	
	Finalize selection of awardees	Executive Committee	Nov./Dec.	
	Submit award nominations to MARCD for statewide consideration	Staff	March	
<b>MARC&amp;D winter and summer meeting</b>	Participate by proposing agenda items, sending representative(s), and making appropriate presentations of projects or activities.	Council Staff	Jan./Aug.	
<b>Website</b>	Maintain the web page on the MARC&D home page	Council Staff	Ongoing	

Activity	Action	By Whom	When	Comments
<b>SWCD and County Board Meetings</b>	Establish a schedule for presenting RC&D information to Co. Bds. and SWCD's	CouncilStaff	January	
	Prepare an annual report and information packet on current events of HVRCD	Staff	Jan./July	
	Dodge County Commissioners			
	Dodge SWCD			
	Fillmore County Commissioners			
	Fillmore SWCD			
	Freeborn County Commissioners			
	Freeborn SWCD			
	Goodhue County Commissioners			
	Goodhue SWCD			
	Houston County Commissioners			
	Root River SWCD			
	Mower County Commissioners			
	Mower SWCD			
	Olmsted County Commissioners			
	Olmsted SWCD			
	Rice County Commissioners			
	Rice SWCD			
	Steele County Commissioners			
	Steele SWCD			
	Wabasha County Commissioners			
	Wabasha SWCD			
Winona County Commissioners				
Winona SWCD				