

Minnesota Association of RC&D Councils

RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
& DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships Serving Minnesota's Communities

Strategic Plan Summary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

George Swentik, President
Ted Lovdahl, Vice President
Carol Berg, Treasurer
Sybil Gruetzmacher, Secretary
Dan McNamee, member
George Poch, member
Jack Russek, member
John Roper, member
Larry Southerland, member
Leroy Vonacek, member
Lynn Darling, member
Ralph Peterson, member
Wally Strand, member

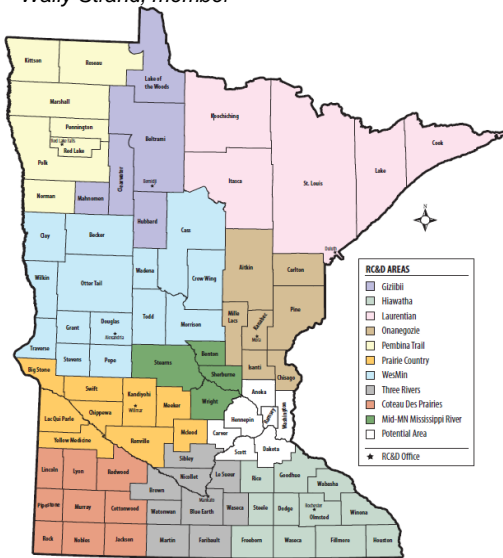
MISSION: Partner with RC&D Councils in Minnesota to Strengthen the RC&D Program; achieve Natural Resource Conservation; and Impact Community and Rural Development

Local People Solving Local Problems

Local people know what is best for their communities. That is the core premise of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program and the key to its success. The RC&D Program provides a development process that is unique in that it is driven by a passion to mobilize local, state and national resources to address economic, social, environmental, and quality of life issues on the ground where those issues occur. Often that ground is rural America and the partnerships formed are rooted in the communities being served.

Unique Aspects of RC&D

- The RC&D program was created as a unique blend of private enterprise and creative federalism.
- RC&D activities are initiated and directed by local volunteers.
- RC&D's encourage the blending of sustainable resource protection and utilization with local economic and social values.
- RC&D's provide an environment in which public and private agencies and organizations work together on community issues.
- The strength of RC&D is the commitment of local citizens to solve their own problems.



MN Association of RC&D Councils - Organization Overview

MARC&D provides leadership and direction at the state level. They offer training services, council capacity building, networking, and state wide rural development strategies. Further, MARC&D provides a unified voice when interacting with state, agency, corporate and legislative persons.

MARC&D currently covers the State of Minnesota with the exception of the seven-county metropolitan area of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Organizational documents are being revised to include the entire state.

Project Areas of MN RC&D Councils

- Energy
- Watershed Planning
- Technical Assistance/Consultants/TSP
- Information and Education
- Improved Nutrient Management
- Wetland Mitigation Banking
- Community Betterment (parks, trails, etc.)
- Wildlife and Natural Areas
- Invasive Species Control
- Environmental Education
- Forest Health
- Forest Products and Marketing
- Organic Farming
- Local Foods

Critical Issues Identified by MARC&D

Demonstrate and share positive examples of non-profit leadership through actions, training, and through example.



Leadership

Funding Opportunities



Strive to maintain and increase traditional funding sources, and seek out additional funds for projects of statewide concern to be delivered locally.

Work toward a heightened awareness of the RC&D program statewide and assist Councils in their marketing/education efforts.



Marketing and Education

RC&D Program Support



Create and nurture positive relationships with political and agency leaders to enhance the RC&D program, budget, and image.

Provide opportunities to network within the RC&D community through state, regional and national meetings, and also with other entities sharing common objectives.



Networking

Statewide Projects



Develop and work with local Councils to implement statewide projects, particularly to improve natural resources and for energy conservation or development. Projects may be for funding on-the-ground conservation or educational in nature.