



# Laurentian 2003 Annual Report

## The Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D)

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Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation serving northeastern Minnesota. The Laurentian RC&D Council is sponsored by the Boards of County Commissioners and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in the five northeastern counties of Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis, as well as the Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council.

### What is Laurentian's Mission?

The mission of the Laurentian RC&D Council is to "develop and promote economic, human and natural resources through cooperative efforts."

### What is RC&D?

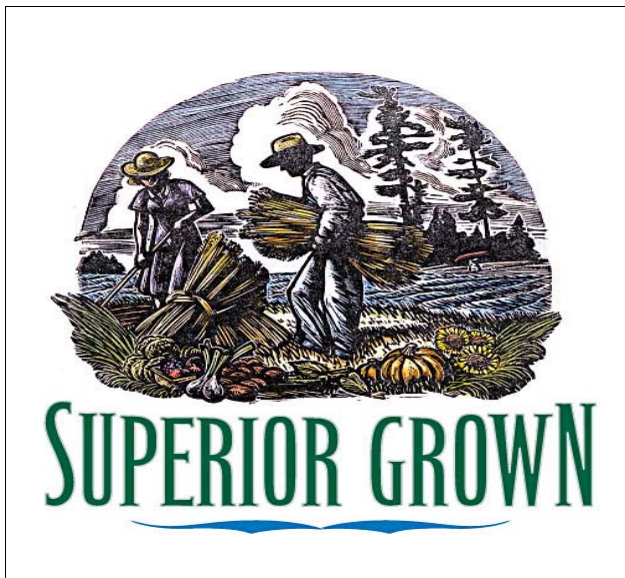
RC&D, Resource Conservation & Development, is a program that involves local people in identifying and solving human, economic, and environmental needs in their communities. RC&D can work on any type of rural development need that the local people agree to, such as creating a park, renovating a community facility or tourist attraction, promoting an industry, cleaning up a waterway, etc. All kinds of economic and natural resource development opportunities exist and are being promoted throughout Minnesota via the RC&D program. Once a need is identified, RC&D works as a consultant to provide assistance to the local people. The type of assistance depends on the type of project and may include technical or planning development, informational and educational activities, grant writing, and administrative support. RC&D's partner with the private sector, corporations, foundations, and all levels of government to secure assistance for projects. Each RC&D Council is sponsored locally and voluntarily in each county by the Board of Commissioners and the Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Other sponsors may include Indian Tribal Councils, cities, towns, townships, civic organizations, or economic development organizations. One representative from each local sponsor is appointed to the RC&D Council.

Laurentian receives support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Project funding must be found through grant writing, fundraising, fees, and other means consistent with the goals of the Council and 501(c)(3) laws.

## Project Highlights

### Local Foods-Superior Grown

*Superior Grown* is partners, regional farmers, restaurants, co-ops, food business retailers, farming organizations, and consumers working together to create a sustainable community food system in the Northland. The trademark *Superior Grown* enhances a strong regional identity for hard-working farmers and the great food they provide. Advertising gets the word out about the fresh, delicious, healthy food available through local venues. *Superior Grown* is a grassroots effort with an ever-increasing voice from growers all over the region creating a strong foundation and bringing energy, enthusiasm and success to the project.



*Superior Grown's* mission is to "strengthen and promote regional food in Northeastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin through production, distribution and consumption." The geographic area includes Minnesota counties of Cook, Lake, Carlton, St. Louis, Itasca, Koochiching, Pine and Aitkin, and Wisconsin counties of Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Price, Sawyer, Washburn and Burnett.

A grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture paid for the design and development of the *Superior Grown* logo and a summer ad-

vertising campaign. This included three radio advertisements and 18 regional newspaper advertisements, and other promotional items. Additionally, a *Superior Grown* produce sticker is in the making.

Currently, a *Superior Grown* website is being designed and developed that will host farmer profiles, educational opportunities, regional events, and consumer connections.

### Fond du Lac College Renewable and Sustainable Energy

The Fond du Lac Project is a highly innovative partnership focused on creating a working model of a renewable, sustainable development of a light industrial park. A driving force behind this project is the Native American philosophy of harmonious coexistence by not damaging the natural surroundings.

The Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College is responsible for providing the leadership in the concept development. Other partners include Laurentian, Onanegozie, and WESMIN RC&Ds, Minnesota Agro-forestry Cooperative, University of Minnesota Extension Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Forestry Division, and NRCS.

A biomass-fired steam generator is the mainstay of the project. This generator will provide the heat, steam, and hot water to power the industrial park. The park will have a "green" generation system to enable private companies to produce their products. The project will not use existing natural forests. Biomass from harvested brush lands, timber sale slash, and other wood product manufacturing facilities will provide the raw energy needed. Steam and hot water will also provide many other avenues to energy self-sufficiency for the immediate area. The principle concept is locally grown and manufactured goods will "power" the area well into the 21st century and beyond.

For information about possible projects in your area, contact the Laurentian RC&D or your county's Laurentian RC&D Council members:

**Cook County**

Gene Erickson, County Commissioner  
James Hall, SWCD

**Itasca County**

Catherine McLynn, County Commissioner  
Darrell Lauber, SWCD  
Don Simons, SWCD (alternate)  
Ted Lovdahl, At-Large Member

**Koochiching County**

Kevin Adee, County Commissioner  
Marty Nosie, SWCD

**Lake County**

Lenore Johnson, County Commissioner  
Phillip Goutermont, SWCD

**St. Louis County**

Keith Nelson, County Commissioner  
Peggy Pearson, SWCD (North)  
Albert Moline, SWCD (South)  
Gerald Wick, At-Large Member

**Grand Portage Reservation**

Kenneth Sherer  
Bill Vogel (alternate)

The Laurentian RC&D staff is **Steven Kluess**, RC&D Coordinator, and **Linda Lund**, Office Assistant, 4850 Miller Trunk Hwy, Suite 2A, Duluth, MN 55811 (telephone 218-720-5225). Let us know if we can be of assistance.

Visit our website at: [www.lrcd.org](http://www.lrcd.org)

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**Laurentian RC&D**

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Duluth, MN 55811

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## Firewise Program

The Firewise Program is administered through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry Division. This program, which is funded by the U.S. Forest Service as pass through money to the DNR, will enlighten homeowners and local officials of wildfire danger and provide remedial actions to mitigate the wildfire potential of the northwoods. The DNR is interested in developing a video focusing on Minnesota's fire hazard situation. Laurentian will assist with the video and training effort.



## New Color Infrared Flight (Knife River)

Laurentian contracted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to do a color infrared aerial flight of the Knife River watershed. These photos will provide an up-to-date base map for forestry managers and planners to help schedule harvesting.

## Knife River Tree Planting

The Steelhead Association provided \$12,000 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife provided \$10,000 for this project. One thousand trees planted in each of two years will provide shade and stability in the Knife River. Laurentian will serve as the fiscal agent.

## Knife River Geographic Information System (GIS) Landscape Planning

This project incorporated a GIS and a very active watershed protection and development effort. The project received a \$25,000 grant from the DNR Coastal Program. Thermal pollution and stream bank erosion was identified as major contributors to the decline of spawning trout in the Knife River. This project used the latest in imaging techniques and data collection to quantify and locate problem areas.

## Laurentian RC&D 2003 Plan of Work

### GOAL 1: LAND CONSERVATION

**Obj. A.** Promote watershed Best Management Practices (BMPs) by assisting watershed groups to achieve their goals.

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### GOAL 2: LAND MANAGEMENT

**Obj. A.** Promote the Agro-Forestry Council and hybrid poplar planting through the St. Louis River Watershed project and other programs.

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### GOAL 3: WATER MANAGEMENT

**Obj. A.** Promote watershed BMPs by assisting watershed groups to achieve their goals.

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### GOAL 4: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Obj. A.** Educate the public regarding sewage treatment issues in Laurentian's area.

**Obj. B.** Assist community groups/individuals to create and develop economic opportunities.

**Obj. C.** Promote the RC&D program throughout Laurentian's five county area.



### *"Working together to make things happen"*

All programs and services of the Laurentian RC&D Council are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital or family status, or handicap