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Laurentian RC&D
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LAURENTIAN

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Helping People Help the Land



Photo: Local Gardeners at the Cook Home Community Gardens in St. Louis County

Laurentian RC&D assisted the Duluth Community Garden Program with strategic planning of a multi-year approach for an adequate water supply to be available at all of its garden sites. NRCS Area Resource Soil Scientist completed three test borings and identified a site at the Cook Home Garden with potential for irrigation well. A cost estimate was generated and Laurentian assisted the Gardens Executive Director to apply to Minnesota Power for a grant. This grant request was funded at \$2000 and it is planned to have the well installed for the 2009 garden season. The program manages approximately 200 garden plots located among 17 sites across the City of Duluth many serving low income and minority gardeners. Laurentian will continue to assist this project by seeking donation of needed materials, equipment, and providing strategic planning.

Land conservation efforts continued throughout the year. The South St. Louis SWCD and Laurentian RC&D sponsored a tree planting along Miller Creek. Over 75 Hermantown High School students planted the trees. The volunteer group of students planted trees along the banks of Miller Creek in the Duluth/Hermantown area in St. Louis County. 100 potted conifer trees will provide shade to cool the water of this temperature impaired designated trout stream.

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Helping People Help the Land continued from page one



Hermantown High School Biology Students plant trees along Miller Creek to cool the water of the trout stream.

Tree planting also occurred at Flute Reed River. 500 trees were planted to control erosion and improve the habitat. The Flute Reed River in Cook County is a premiere steelhead trout producing tributary of Lake Superior. The river is impaired by high sediment loads and altered hydrology. Laurentian RC&D assisted in the tree plantings by providing NRCS Earth Team Volunteer program organization.

In partnership with the Buyck Volunteer Fire Department, Laurentian RC&D facilitate a grant for the installation of two dry hydrants in Buyck, Minnesota. Funds for this project were provided through a DNR/MARC&D matching grant.

On May 23, 2008, a Feasibility Kick-off celebration was held in International Falls, Minnesota. This event signaled the official start of the feasibility student for the Renewable Energy Clean Air Project (RECAP). Work on this project began in 2002 and Laurentian has continued to lend support to this project.

The Miller Creek, Flute Reed River, Cook Home Community Garden, Dry Hydrants, and RECAP programs are examples of projects covered by the newly approved five year Area Plan.

What is RC&D?

Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), is a program that works with local community members to identify and solve human, economic, and environmental needs in their communities. An RC&D can work on many types of rural development. Examples may include: creating a park, renovating a community facility or tourist attraction, promoting an industry, or cleaning up a waterway. Many types 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 local community members. The type of assistance depends on the type of project and may include technical or planning development, informational and educational activities, grant writing, and/or 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.

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.

"Develop and promote economic, human & natural resources through cooperative efforts!"
www.lrcd.org

2009 RC&D Council Members

Cook County

James Hall - SWCD

Fritz Sobanja - County Commissioner

Itasca County

Karen Burthwick - County Commissioner,

Darrell Lauber - SWCD, Ted Lovdahl - At-Large,

Don Simons - SWCD (Alternate)

Koochiching County

Kevin Adee - County Commissioner, Al Linder - SWCD

Lake County

Rich Sve - County Commissioner

Phillip Goutermont - SWCD

St. Louis County

Keith Nelson - County Commissioner,

Peggy Pearson - SWCD (North), Albert Moline - SWCD (South),

Grand Portage Reservation

Bill Vogel - (Alternate)

Norman Deschampe,

The Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development staff are Paul Sandstrom, RC&D Coordinator, and Jodi Joki, Program Assistant. Laurentian's mailing address is:

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Duluth, MN 55811

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Laurentian RC&D



Laurentian RC&D 2008-2012 Area Plan

The 2008-2012 Area Plan is a long-range plan for the Laurentian Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council. It was developed by soliciting input from individuals from Cook, Lake, Koochiching, Itasca, and St. Louis Counties, the Grand Portage Reservation, and Council members. The purpose of the Area Plan is to provide a strategic direction for the organization's goals and objectives. Contents of the Area Plan are approved by the Laurentian RC&D Council and serves as an agreement between Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Council. Below is a brief overview of the main elements and goals of Area Plan.

ELEMENT: LAND MANAGEMENT

GOAL 1: Promote the development of two gasification facilities utilizing solid waste or biomass to energy technology by 2012.

GOAL 2: Promote and facilitate the adoption of 10 clean renewable energy sources by 2012 in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and gas.

GOAL 3: Develop and promote agricultural, forestry, and fish and wildlife resources (within ecological balance) to improve economic conditions and the quality of life for area visitors.

ELEMENT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

GOAL 1: Promote and facility local sustainable economic development by assisting 10 enterprises form and/or grow by 2012.

GOAL 2: Promote plasma gasification project in three education institutions by 2012.

ELEMENT: WATER MANAGEMENT

GOAL 1: Promote and facilitate the implementation of Best Management Practices to improve the quality of 5 impaired waters by 2012.

ELEMENT: LAND CONSERVATION

GOAL 1: Assist area partners identify, reduce, and control erosion from three high priority stream bank, lakeshore, or roadside sources.

GOAL 2: Promote the development and use of soil survey information to enhance natural resource management and land use activities in the Laurentian area.



2009 Council Meetings

- January 26, 2009 - Virginia, Minnesota
- March 23, 2009 - Virginia, Minnesota
- May 18, 2009 - Floodwood, Minnesota
- July 20, 2009 - Grand Portage, Minnesota
- September 14, 2009 - Floodwood, Minnesota
- November 23, 2009 - Virginia, Minnesota

