

Sabine-Neches Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

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**Serving Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Panola, Smith, Van Zandt,
Upshur and Wood Counties**

All programs and services of the Sabine-Neches Resource Conservation and Development Council are open to all persons without regard to any discriminatory factor.

Sabine-Neches

*Resource Conservation
and Development Area, Inc.*



2015 Annual Report

RC&D Council

Board Members

Cary Hilliard, President
 Alan Haynes, Vice President/Treasurer
 John Wade
 Al Harris, Secretary
 William Hatfield
 Frank Glenn
 Thomas Frazier
 Ronnie LaGrone
 Dwayne Archer
 Darryl Primo

County

Van Zandt
 Smith
 Upshur
 Wood
 Harrison
 Smith
 Henderson
 Panola
 Gregg
 Gregg

RC&D Staff:

Jo Nell Haltom, Program Assistant
 Ken Awtrey, Technical Consultant

Vision Statement

Our most important resource is our people, who have a desire to better themselves and in the spirit of working together, strive to make our area a better place to live.

Mission Statement

Our council will utilize the diversity of our volunteers to tap the resources of Federal, State, and Local Governments and the private sector to achieve our goals.

Financial Statement - 2015

1/1/15	Beginning Balance:	\$4,786.45		
	Debits	Credits	Balance	
Sponsorships		\$ 3,100		
Contribution for Paddling Trail		\$ 6,500		
Reimbursed Admin Expenses		\$ 1,311		
Insurance	\$ 778.00			
TX Association of RC&D	\$ 500.00			
State Meeting Expense	\$ 150.00			
Office Supplies	\$ 113.91			
Annual Meeting	\$ 103.20			
Misc. Expense	\$ 411.37			
Accounting Fees	\$ 250.00			
Office Expenses	\$ 666.00			
Contract Labor	\$1,485.29			
Paddling Trail Cost	\$7,000.00			
TOTALS	\$11,457.47	\$10,911.00	\$ 4,239.98	

SEP Project

SEP funds are used to repair or replace failing septic systems





Mineola Nature Preserve

Sabine-Neches RC&D helped develop the Big Foot Paddling Trail on the Sabine River.



Sponsors

Harrison SWCD
KVZR SWCD
Panola SWCD
Smith SWCD
Trinity-Neches SWCD
Upshur-Gregg SWCD
Wood SWCD
Gregg County
Harrison County
Henderson County
Smith County
Upshur County
Van Zandt County
Wood County
City of Carthage
City of Longview
City of Mineola

Thank you very much for your support!

Letter from the President

SEP Projects

Greetings from Sabine-Neches RC&D

Sabine-Neches had another successful year and 2016 looks like it will be even better. This was due to the hard work of our board members and our excellent staff. I also want to welcome our new board members, Dwayne Archer, Gregg County, Harrison County Commissioner William Hatfield, and Gregg County Commissioner Darryl Primo. These three men bring unique skills and experience to the board as well as new ideas and energy.

Last year we continued our support of the Mineola Wildlife Preserve and Mineola “Big Foot” Paddling Trail by using grant funds to buy a boat to help clear trees from the Sabine River and to be used in emergency rescue missions as well. The boat will be stored on the property under the control of the Refuge Manager and one of our board members. The Refuge is a regional asset and attendance is growing every month and has a very positive economic impact on the City of Mineola.

TCEQ has expanded the use of Supplemental Environment Program (SEP) funds to include the entire watershed for both air and water pollution fines. If funds are not needed in the county where the fine is levied, they can be moved to another county which has shown a need. This allows more effective and timely use of the funds and corrects problems on a priority basis. Funding for the Jackson Oaks waste-water system has finally been approved and the citizens in the area are in the process of signing up for the service once the plant and infrastructure has been constructed.

Although Federal RC&D funds have been cut, the Texas Legislature realized the very real value in maintaining a viable state RC&D network. The Legislature directed TCEQ to allow use of up to 10% of SEP funds to reimburse documented expenses used to complete SEP projects. This was a great help and allows the state and local RC&D to continue our vital environmental and conservation work. However, Sabine-Neches and all RC&Ds need to find new sources of income if we want to expand and complete our mission.

Thanks to our sponsors for your excellent support and all of our council members look forward to another successful year.

Cary Hilliard, President



The SEP projects in Sabine-Neches RC&D area include: illegal trash dump cleanup, replacing failing sewer systems for low-income home owners, household hazardous waste collection days, school bus, and abandoned tire cleanup.



SEP Projects



The Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) program allows organizations fined by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to direct the money to a local project with direct environmental benefits. This program is now funding about \$2 million a year through RC&Ds across the state. This past year Sabine-Neches RC&D administered SEP projects in three out of our eight counties totaling over \$180,000.00.



What is Sabine-Neches Resource Conservation and Development?

The RC&D Council is a voluntary, local, membership-based, nonprofit entity that represents the eight counties in our area: Smith, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Panola, Upshur, Wood and Van Zandt. The purpose of the RC&D council is to advise, plan, implement and develop programs: to ensure the wise use of funds that are intended to protect the environment, improve community infrastructure, enhance rural economies and to improve local communities' environmental planning and projects.

Sources of funds for our Council's projects come from: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), environmental enforcement fines, the participation of county and city governments, local Soil & Water Conservation Districts and sponsors. Because the legislature approved up to 10% of SEP funds for administrative reimbursement, we now have two paid part-time staff members who oversee SEP projects for both Sabine-Neches and Pineywoods RC&D areas. This is a welcome improvement and sponsorship funds from the eight counties, SWCD's and several cities provide the funds for non SEP related expenses.

Sponsorship and financial assistance is vital to fund these operational expenses and will enable the Sabine-Neches Council to continue our important work throughout our area.



Board members
John Wade, Alan Haynes,
Thomas Frazier, Cary Hilliard and Al Harris

NRCS District Conservationists

Robbie Clemens.....Gilmer/Longview

Ross Brown.....Marshall

Julie Moore.....Athens/Canton

Melissa Berry.....Carthage

Darin Smith.....Tyler

John Stone.....Quitman

SEP Projects Completed & Ongoing

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>PROJECT COST</u>
*Smith	Clean School Bus Chapel Hill ISD	\$ 47,803
*Harrison	Clean School Bus Elysian Fields ISD	\$ 64,575
*Harrison	Clean School Bus Waskom ISD	\$ 64,575
Van Zandt	Abandoned Tire Cleanup	\$ 4,310
Smith	Illegal Trash Dump Cleanup	\$ 10,368
Harrison	Abandoned Tire Cleanup	\$ 9,225
*Gregg /Rusk	Wastewater Treatment	\$ 337

* Completed projects

