

Sabine-Neches Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

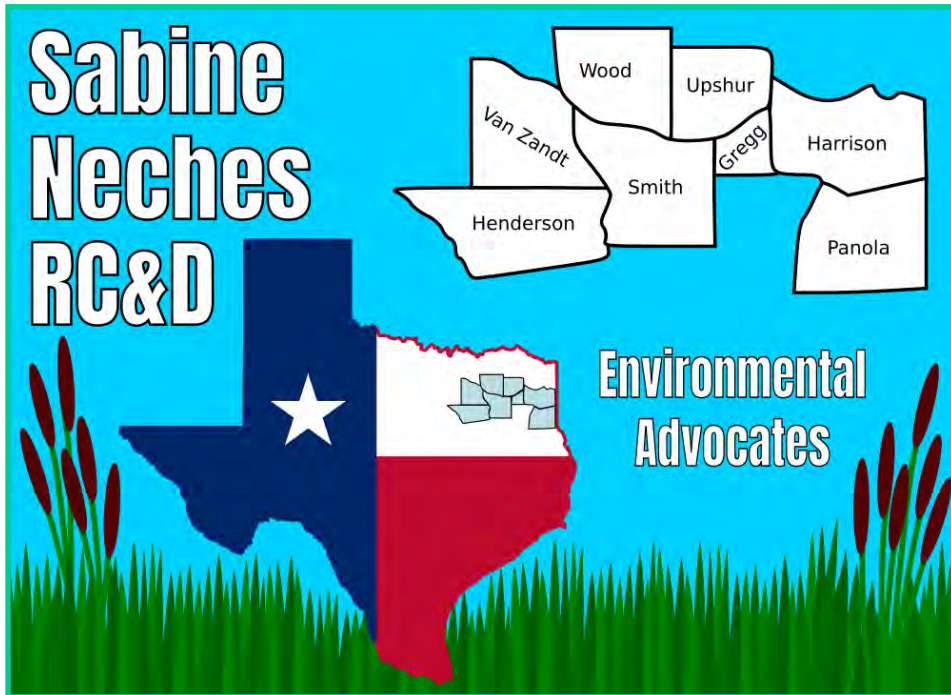
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sabine-nechesrcd.org



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.



2017 - 2018
Annual Report

RC&D Council



Cary Hilliard, Pres.
Van Zandt County



Brenda Samford
Panola County



Darryl Primo, VP
Gregg County



All Harris, Secretary
Wood County



Dwayne Archer
Gregg County



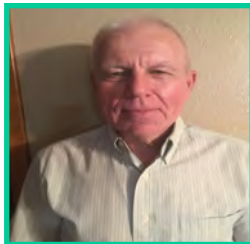
Dr. Chuck Holt
Wood County



William Hatfield
Harrison County



Shane Renberg.
Henderson County



Ken Conaway
Upshur County

Not pictured: James Reynolds, Smith County
Thomas Frazier, Henderson County
Ken Awtrey, Consultant
Jo Nell Haltom, Program Assistant



Texas Association of RC&D Annual Training Conference

Hosted by Sabine-Neches RC&D

SEP Project

SEP funds are used to repair or replace failing septic systems for low-income homeowners.





Mineola Nature Preserve



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
City of Tyler
Carthage Improvement
Nestle Waters North America
Sabine River Authority**

Thank you very much for your support!

Letter from the President

Greetings from Sabine-Neches RC&D

2017 was another successful year for our council. We completed illegal tire cleanups in Harrison and Van Zandt Counties, provided assistance to upgrade a public water system in Panola County, helped Henderson County with an Electronics Collection Day and are installing septic systems for some low-income homeowners in Smith County. The \$500,000 grant application for the Mineola Wildlife Preserve we submitted was completely in line with the state guidelines and awaits final coordination and approval at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Hopefully, we will get final approval this fall or early in 2019. Once approved, the environmental engineer who prepared the plan will oversee the project which will greatly improve the preserve's Sabine River frontage, opening the property for even more people to enjoy.

Last year, Sabine-Neches hosted the state conference in Tyler and the program was well attended and complemented by all who came. The portion on the Value of Land was excellent and has resulted in planning a full day on landowner issues at a conference in Kilgore next January.

We have partnered with the Sabine River Authority (SRA) to help find water pollution problems in the Sabine River Basin which, if approved, will be funded by SRA up to \$20,000 per project.

Sadly, two of our valuable members had to resign in the last few months, but the good news is highly qualified, very interested people have stepped up and joined Sabine-Neches giving the council a boost of new ideas and energy. We are all volunteers and we all do this very important work because we all want to give something back to our beautiful state. Our many generous sponsors allow this important work to continue and if you are interested in this effort please give us a call. For more valuable information, please visit our excellent new website.



Cary Hilliard, President

SEP Projects



The SEP projects in Sabine-Neches RC&D area include: illegal trash dump cleanup, replacing failing sewer systems for low-income homeowners, household hazardous waste collection days, helping purchase new school buses, 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.



What is Sabine-Neches Resource Conservation and Development?

The RC&D Council is a voluntary, local, 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.

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.

NRCS

District Conservationists

Robbie Clemens.....Gilmer/Longview
 Jared Clements.....Marshall
 Julie Moore.....Athens
 James BoyettCarthage
 Darin Smith.....Sulphur Springs
 John Stone.....Quitman
 Justin SingletonCanton
 C.J. BrinleeTyler



SEP Projects Completed & Ongoing

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>PROJECT COST</u>
Harrison	Abandoned Tire Cleanup	\$10,000
Smith	Wastewater Treatment	\$25,000
Henderson	Household Hazardous Waste Collection	\$6,000

* Completed projects