

POTAWATOMI Resource Conservation and Development Council

United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

What is RC&D?

- RC&D is Short for Resource Conservation and Development
- RC&D operates as a unique public-private partnership that builds relationships and creates financial synergy.
- It is an unique process that helps people protect, enhance and develop their economic, natural and social resources while improving their area's economy, environment and quality of life.
- RC&D's were established in 1962 to provide a means for rural communities to help themselves.

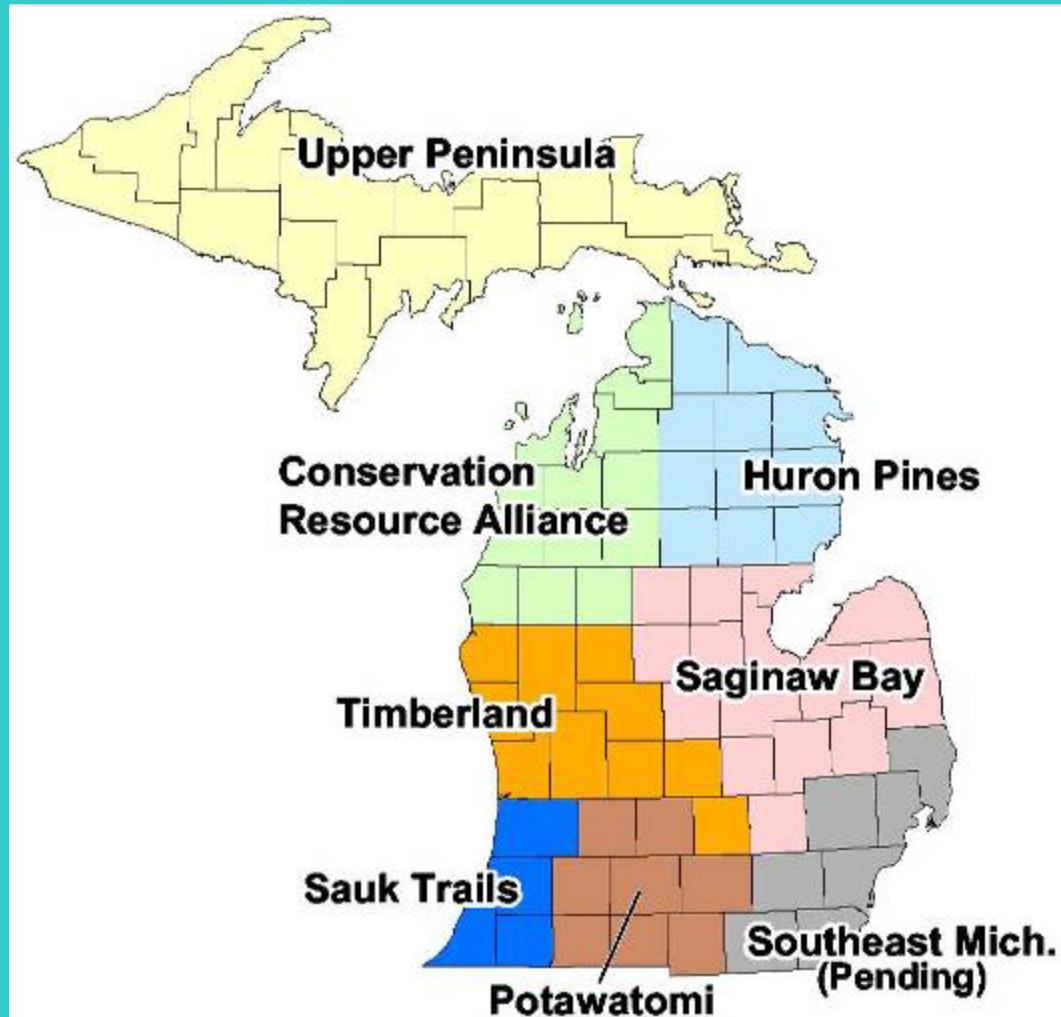
How is a RC&D organized?

- A RC&D covers several Counties that have similar natural resource, economic, and community betterment needs.
- RC&D sponsors form a council, develop bylaws, and an application for authorization (Area Plan). They then apply to the Secretary of Agriculture for Authorization.

Potawatomi RC&D Coverage Area!

- **POTAWATOMI** RC&D covers 8 counties in South Central Michigan including; Eaton, Barry, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Jackson, St. Joseph, Branch and Hillsdale Counties.
- There are six RC&Ds in Michigan

Michigan RC&D Areas



Who are Sponsors?

- Sponsors are units of local government such as County Commissioners, Town Boards, School boards, and Soil Conservation Districts.
- Sponsors also include civic organizations, businesses, nonprofit organizations, tribal organizations and interested individuals.

What is a RC&D Council?

- RC&D councils in Michigan are 501(c)(3) non-profits.
- This standing makes them eligible to secure grant funds from private foundations and others.
- RC&D councils are made up volunteers who want a better life for themselves, their children and future generations

What is a RC&D Council?

- Each Council operates independently, addressing the concerns, and problems within their RC&D area. (No mandates)
RC&Ds network with other RC&Ds and partner organizations to share ideas and information reducing the amount of time spent reinventing.
- Potawatomi RC&D has 19 council members; 2 from each county in the area and 3 “At-large” Members.

How are RC&Ds funded?

- When a RC&D area is authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides for a full time Coordinator to work with the council to identify problems, establish goals and objectives, develop strategies and implement plans. NRCS also provides office space and equipment.
- These services have a value of **\$125,000.00/year**

How are RC&Ds funded?

- Other sources of funding include:
 - Sponsor or member dues
 - Project Implementation
 - Applying for grants
 - Workshop registration fees
 - Selling publications/materials
 - Fundraisers
 - Private foundations
 - Endowment funds

What Type of assistance does a RC&D provide for a project?

- RC&Ds identify agencies or organizations that can assist in completing each step of the project plan, to serve as sources of technical assistance, and to provide financial resources if needed.

What Type of assistance does a RC&D provide for a project?

- RC&Ds provide the vehicle for achieving a goal and completing projects.
- However, a project is not an "RC&D project" in the sense that an RC&D does everything. Local leadership and support are key elements for any successful project.

Types of assistance available

- identifying potential funding sources
- working with grants
- helping with grant writing & administration
- organizing events
- conducting information campaigns
- Serving as contracting entity

Types of assistance available

- hiring multi-county employees
- conducting tours and educational events
- serving as an umbrella organization for new non-profits and foundations
- coordinating technical assistance
- conducting research
- coordinating mailings

Types of assistance available

- Contacts with other Government Agencies (Federal, State or Local), foundations, organizations, and individuals
- The amount and kind of assistance available, depends on the type of project and the Council's wishes.

What can RC&Ds do that other organizations can't?

- RC&Ds are not entities of government; therefore the usual policies and constraints of local, state, and federal government programs do not limit them in the kinds of issues they decide to address or how they decide to do it.
- There are no top-down programs they must do.

What can RC&Ds do that other organizations can't?

- Each RC&D council has the opportunity to propose and develop projects that are unique to their own area.
- Local people, making local decisions, on local issues.
- Partnerships with other Organizations and agencies are vital to the functioning of RC&Ds.

What can RC&Ds do that other organizations can't?

- RC&Ds lean towards projects that have not (or cannot) be addressed by other entities such as their Conservation Partners (Soil Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, etc.).

Potawatomi RC&D addresses:

Sustainable Economic/Community Development Concerns & Issues:

- Retain & Expand Existing Businesses
- Attract New Businesses
- Regional Cooperation & Planning
- Agency & Local Government Partnerships
& Cooperation
- Master Plans based on Natural Resource
Assessments

Potawatomi RC&D addresses:

Land Use / Agriculture Concerns & Issues

- Soil Erosion Control
- Farmland Protection (Loss of Farmland)
- Loss of Farm Jobs
- Nutrient Management & Ag. Chemicals
- Animal Waste Management
- Agricultural Diversification
- Lack of Connected Open Space

Potawatomi RC&D addresses:

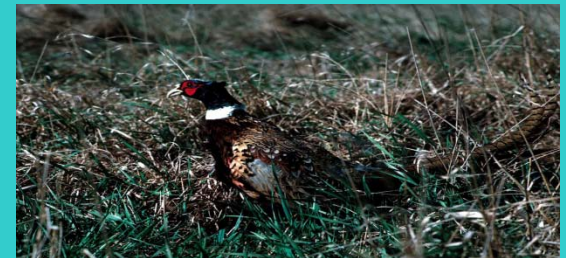
Water Resource Concerns & Issues

- Soil Erosion & Sedimentation
- Surface/Ground Water Quality
- Watershed Management Plans
- Flood Mitigation/Flood Plain Protection
- Loss/Destruction of Wetlands
- Stream Restoration

Potawatomi RC&D addresses:

Forestry / Wildlife Issues & Concerns

- Improper Forest Management
- Forest Fragmentation
- Forest Health (Insect & Disease)
- Loss of Wildlife Habitat
- Surface Water degradation
- Need for Connected/Protected wildlife areas and/or Corridors



Potawatomi RC&D addresses:

Recreation / Tourism Issues & Concerns

- Lack of Connected Trailways & Greenways
- Increase Public Parklands & Public Access
- Increase Tourism/Recreational Activities
- Identify & Promote Historic & Cultural Areas
- Identify & Protect Critical Open Space.

Potawatomi RC&D addresses:

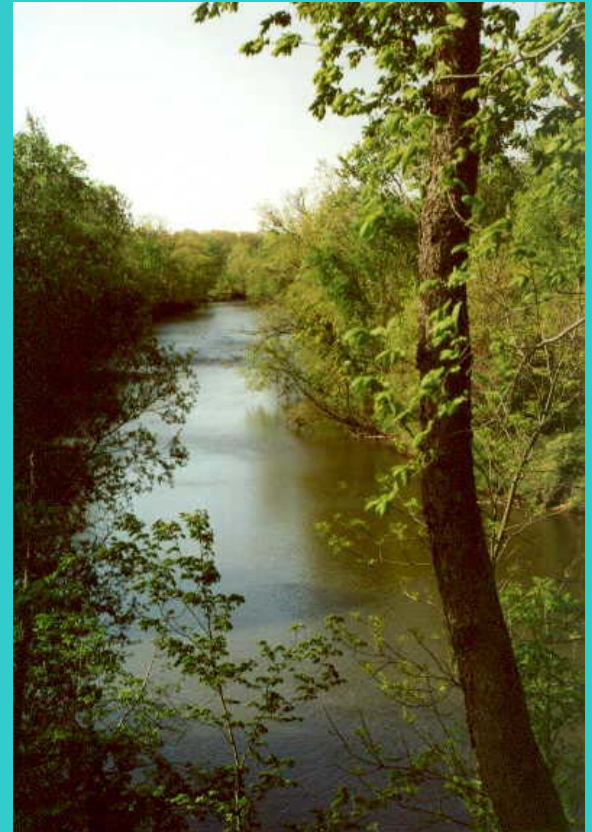
Conservation /Wise Use/Protection of Natural Resources-Issues & Concerns

- Land Use –Urban Sprawl
- Environmental Education
- Surface/Ground Water Quality & Pollution
- Loss of Open Space & Farmland
- Lack of Connected Open Space & Parks

This is what WE have done in 2008!

- In the 8 county Potawatomi RC&D Area we have contributed to over 40 completed and on going projects with a total project value of over 3.0 million dollars!!!!
- A 20:1 Leverage Ratio!!!!

BARRY COUNTY – Thornapple River Floodplain Management Plan-Project Value of \$40,000.00



BRANCH COUNTY

Hodunk-Messenger Chain of Lakes

319 Planning Project - Value of

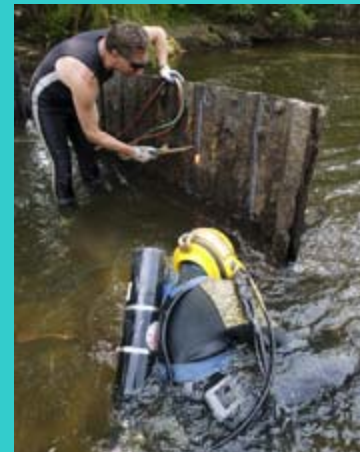
\$130,000.00/Year



CALHOUN COUNTY - Brooks Nature Area – Project value of **\$1,000,000.00**



EATON COUNTY - Charlotte Dam Removal & Battle Creek River Restoration Project - Value of \$200,000.00



HILLSDALE COUNTY - Hog
Creek Watershed Management 319
Implementation Project – Value of
\$130,000.00/year



JACKSON COUNTY - Upper
Grand River Watershed
Management 319 Implementation
Project - Value of
\$130,000.00/Year



KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Ft. Custer Military Base

- 1) Ft. Custer Master Burn Plan 2007
- 2) Ft. Custer Storm Water Detention Basins
- 3) Ft. Custer 42nd Street Conservation Road Construction Project
- 4) Ft. Custer Conservation Plan

Total Value of these projects: \$270,000.00



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY - Rocky
River Watershed Management
Project 319 Implementation Project:
Value of \$130,000.00/Year



“Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children. (Native American Quote)

