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ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATIONS JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021– FY21

In 2020 we celebrate the 68th year of the Ocean County Soil Conservation District. The purpose of this Work Plan is to improve our planning abilities to build and sustain a conservation legacy through incorporating innovative ideas, programs and initiatives that support long range strategic goals. It is intended to help guide the District in serving its constituents and sustaining the natural resources of the communities we serve.

The Ocean County Soil Conservation District strives to lead efforts to conserve our soil and water resources by working with homeowners, farmers, and public officials, various state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations. The Ocean County SCD strongly supports the protection and restoration of our soil resources through our abilities to plan, provide technical assistance and most importantly to educate. The Board believes that effective soil management is fundamental to protecting water quality, water quantity, and to minimizing both soil erosion and nutrient transport concerns are identified through the adoption of this Plan and through sustaining effective working relationships with its partners and elected officials.

VISION STATEMENT

To be recognized as a conservation leader with the ability to partner effectively, and using every opportunity to further sustainable resource management for current and future citizens of Ocean County and beyond.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ocean County Soil Conservation District strives to implement exemplary programs and services focusing on the following issues:

Protect, restore and sustain fully functioning soil resources to minimize nutrient transport and nonpoint pollution through (a) effective implementation of Chapter 251 P.L. 1975 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act; and (b) contributing to sustainable soil management practices for farm use.

Further natural resource stewardship through: (a) educational programs for students in Grades K-16 and the public; (b) effective management of public lands, preserved areas and open space; (c) teachers, educators and youth leaders through training in the use of regionally specific curricula and educational resources.

Develop and nurture effective relationships with: elected officials at the federal, state and local levels, public agencies and non-profit organizations to sustain functioning ecosystem services through education and resource management.

VALUES AND APPRECIATION

THE OCEAN COUNTY SCD VALUES OPPORTUNITIES TO:

- Educate the public
- Effectively apply science, research and management to sustain our natural resources.
- Promote a better understanding of social and economic concerns in natural resource management within our local communities.
- Enhance capabilities and contributions from District staff and from our partners

CHALLENGES AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS

Soil Health:

Excessive runoff is transporting nutrients into freshwater habitats and Barnegat Bay.

Increased water consumption due to shallow root systems on turf and farmland; improving guidelines, programs and training District staff to sustain functioning soils on turf athletic fields and farmland and the appropriate use of fertilizers and soil amendments and soil management practices.

Water Quality and Quantity:

Reduced groundwater recharge; decreased fish and wildlife habitat; loss of SAV beds; potential loss of wetlands due to altered hydrology; and depleted and degraded soils increasing runoff and nutrient transport to the bay.

Soil Erosion:

Lack of healthy fully functioning soils accelerating erosion on farm and urban lands; critical roadside erosion in Pineland areas; and ineffectual buffers or riparian vegetation due to altered soil conditions.

Related Natural Resource Concerns:

Insufficient awareness and education of the connection between healthy soils and sustaining water resources; incorporating soil health practices/guidelines on all farmlands to sustain food supplies and minimize agricultural impacts: training and technology transfer to construct BMPs that sustain soil health; restoration of soils on disturbed and mined sites to help sequester carbon to reduce potential impacts on climate change and sustaining financial resources through partnering with public and private resources to continue District operations and provide exemplary service to constituents.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

To become a highly effective organization through developing leadership skills and knowledge that can enable the District to strategically lead, integrate and engage with communities and other partners.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dr. William Pollock, Chairman

Tony DiLodovico, Vice Chairman

Dr. Michael Gross, Secretary

Charlene Costaris, Treasurer

Martha Maxwell Doyle, Board Member

ITEM #1–IMPLEMENTATION OF CHAPTER 251 SOIL EROSION CONTROL ACT & OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Educate the public, elected officials, and building community about the significance of reducing soil erosion on construction sites. Maintain an effective relationship with SSCC, NJDOT, NJDEP and others to minimize nonpoint pollution.

ACTIVITY	WHO	WHEN
1. Accept, review and certify approximately 800 Chapter 251 Soil Erosion and Sediment Control plans.	JB, JP, BM, KA, GG, RM, SY & RFM & *NI	Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Log in applications; prepare and distribute certifications	AS (BL as needed)	Ongoing
2. Make approximately 5000 inspections on construction sites to minimize off site sedimentation.	JB, JP, BM, KA, GG & RM, SY & RFM & *NI	Ongoing
3. Coordinate application, log in and processing of the 5G3 Stormwater Discharge Program with NJDEP, SSCC via the e-permitting process.	DC & AS	Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Actively inspect sites for compliance with the 5G3 permit requirements.	GG, RM, SY, RFM & NI	Ongoing
4. To continue to support and partner with statewide and regional initiatives related to soil health and appropriate application of BMPs.	CR (other staff as needed/assigned)	Ongoing
5. Work closely with SSCC and SCDs to help effectuate soil erosion control and to help sustain functioning soils pursuant to the revised Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Standards.	CR & JB *ALL Staff	Ongoing
6. Update all files, records, Supervisor records/attendance, maps, etc., in accordance with the SSCC Record Retention Policies.	JB coordinate and assign to other staff as needed	Semi- Annually
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Responsible for maintaining records and following the Record Retention Policy pursuant to Policy and Procedures Manual annually (SESC Plans)	JB coordinate and assign To other staff as needed	January-March
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Coordinates filing/archiving of SCD files/SESC Plans.	JB coordinate and assign To other staff as needed	As Needed
7. Maintain and distribute Chapter 251 policies, memos, guidelines to ALL staff. Keep accurate file both printed and electronic.	CR & JB	Ongoing
8. Review and prepare reports regarding exempt municipalities for action by the Board (i.e. Long Beach Township)	JP	March
9. Serves as Technical Advisor for Engineering Standards to District Director & District Staff.	JB	Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Coordinates technical review with SSCC Engineer as needed.	JB, JP, BM & KA	As Needed/Bi-Weekly
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Forwards (emails) technical review letters to SSCC Engineer, in accordance with SSCC Bulletin.	JB, JP, BM & KA	As Needed
<u>Sub Task:</u> Serves as Technical Advisor to the District Director & District Staff regarding vegetative standards, plant and soil restoration guidelines in accordance with the Standards for SESC	JB	Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Evaluate 251 workload for review and inspection	JB	Quarterly

<u>Sub-Task:</u> Maintains interpretations, administrative bulletins, policies, guidelines, Policy and Procedure Manual, and make suggestions to the District Director for uniform implementation of Chapter 251 pursuant to SSCC policies;	CR & JB Input from: JP, BM & KA	Ongoing
10. Assists District Director in project costs analysis by annually reviewing a random survey of completed projects (SF & SP) as an integral component of a fee schedule modification application.	JB	Annually/ January
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Prepares for the District Director a report from the District database of all practices, inspections, acreage etc. to be presented at each Board of Supervisor meeting.	JB	Monthly
11. Maintain, update, generate various reports as needed/requested by SSCC, District Director &/or, auditors, etc. from District's Access database * Work in coordination with District computer consultant.	JB	Ongoing
12. New Jersey Hydrologic Modeling Database –Attend training and input data of the basin summary sheets into database.	RM to Coordinate Training of Interns	Ongoing
13. Coordinate additional workload due to expiration of Plans*	JB to Coordinate* ALL Staff	Ongoing
14. Update District Website with 251-SESC related items	BL (assistance from JB & JP)	Ongoing
15. USDA/NRCS State Technical Committee	CR	Quarterly Meetings
16. Plan, implement and evaluate SESC/Chapter 251 training for contractors, engineers, municipal code officials, etc.	CR Lead/BL Organize All Staff	Plan for Fall/Winter 2020
17. Explore additional opportunities for District technical staff to be trained in non SESC programs and projects that support the District mission and diversify funding and services.	CR Lead All Staff	Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Initiate involvement in agricultural technical services and training opportunities (i.e. Conservation Planning Boot camp through NACD &/or cooperative agreement with NRCS &/or SADC	CR Lead KA & Other staff as interested	Initiated Winter 2020 Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Investigate funding opportunities to enhance District services and plan for future projects/programs and agreements	CR Lead Others as needed	Ongoing

ITEM #2 – FISCAL ADMINISTRATION

District Supervisors: Charlene Costaris and Michael Gross

ACTIVITY	WHO	WHEN
1. Utilize Quickbooks to maintain District financial transactions and to prepare monthly Treasurer Reports for the Board. Timely information on agreements, contracts, grants, project budgets, financial statements and investments will be provided.	DC (CR & JB to assist)	Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task:</u> <i>Quality Control Officer</i> – Review bank reconciliation	JP * Alternate: BL	Monthly

2. Prepare an Annual Budget for Board Approval in March/SSCC Submittal in April	CR & JB * input from Board	Winter
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Study and evaluate District budget; review, change, eliminate, or add new programs; and make recommendations to the Board regarding personnel, audits, District building maintenance/improvements, and financial planning, etc. (Modify/Adjust budget as needed when new grants obtained.)	CR With assistance from JB	Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Determine necessary reserve funds for: 251 operating expenses; current and future retirements; capital improvements (vehicle replacements, building maintenance, and technology upgrades, etc.)	CR, With assistance from JB	Ongoing
3. Prepare an Annual Plan of Operation	CR With assistance from JB	Winter/Spring
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Evaluate and revise long range plans as needed.	CR & All staff	As Needed
4. Evaluate Personnel/Staffing Needs	CR	Winter/Spring
5. Conduct (and review) Annual Audit	JB & CR (and Board)	Fall/Winter
6. Insurance Policies & Audits, District Invoicing, Payments, Bill Payment & reconciliation, Payroll, Bank Deposits, Grant Financial reports, Inventory of Supplies, Legal Notices, etc.	DC (CR/JB Assist)	Ongoing
7. Personnel Records & Benefits – Payments/processing, PERS, COBRA, Deferred Comp. /HR contact	DC (CR/JB Assist)	Ongoing

ITEM #3 – GENERAL OPERATIONS

District Supervisors: Tony DiLodovico and Martha Maxwell-Doyle

ACTIVITY	WHO	WHEN
1. Provide for the accountability of the District to the public, legislature, and to NJDA- SSCC. Post financial information, Board meeting minutes, agendas and meeting notices on website as required.	CR & JB	Ongoing
2. Address leadership succession needs for both Board members and District staff. Cultivate staff and board leadership through a training plan to improve technical needs. Identify appropriate opportunities.	CR, Staff & Board	Ongoing
3. District staff shall participate in various training opportunities including computer, soils, management/leadership, stormwater and soil erosion control training to enhance overall abilities of District personnel. Training Needs – Fred Pryor Membership, Financial Management – Training & Updates, CPESC - Hours/self-tracking – all 251 staff, Others as determined appropriate by Board, Director, and SSCC & NJCDEA. Annual Professional Development Plans.	All Staff	Ongoing As available/ applicable
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Coordinate training recommendations for all positions.	CR & JB & All Staff	Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task:</u> Serve on the SSCC Training Sub-Committee to organize training opportunities statewide	CR	Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task :</u> Review & Approve Individual professional Development Plans	CR & JB	Beginning of Year
4. Work with and serve on the South Jersey RC&D Council. Report/minutes/agenda to be shared electronically for tracking.	JP (CR as needed)	Monthly
5. Serve as Liaison to Advisory Committee for Barnegat Bay Partnership Program and member of Communication & Education Committee (CEC), Advisory Committee (AC) & Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). Report/minutes/agenda to be shared electronically for tracking.	CR – AC & STAC BL- CEC	Monthly/As Needed
6. Member of Ocean County Agricultural Development Board. (Keeps file, maintains notes, activities, minutes and other significant information. Represents SCD at meetings and participates in annual inspections of farms as established by the CADB).	CR & JP Alternate/designated Staff as needed	Monthly
7. Support and work closely with the NJ Conservation Partnership including: NJ Association of Conservation Districts, State Soil Conservation Committee, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station & County RCE, and the NJ Bureau of Forestry. Attend District Manager meetings, SSCC Regional Supervisors meetings and the Annual meeting, etc.	CR & JB & Other staff as appropriate	Ongoing/as needed
8. Maintenance of District Facilities: building, grounds, vehicles, alarm security system, etc. Inspect building and review needs. Submit a written report to District Director at least twice annually or as needed. Utilize checklist reporting system; update to track repairs as they are completed. Coordinate Repairs, Bids & Estimates.	CR to oversee RM, JP, SY to lead DC to Assist	Semi- Annually
Sub-Task: Building Safety – Develop a District safety Manual & provide training	RM, JP, SY to lead	Ongoing
9. OCSCD District Security System – Be first response.	JB & JP Second	Ongoing
10. Notify Director of any issues/problems as they arise. (Seek recommendations from IT consultant)	CR & JB	Weekly/Ongoing
11. OCSCD Phone System: Computer File & Phone updates	JB & AS	Ongoing
12. Basic receptionist duties of greeting walk-ins, routing phone calls, preparing mail, making copies, etc.	AS & DC	Ongoing/Daily

13. OCSCD equipment ownership & depreciation. Track specific items under ownership of OCSCD, purchase date, serial number, depreciation valuation, etc. Recommend replacement when appropriate and obtain quotes for budgeting purposes.	DC (w/CR & JB input)	Annual
14. Continue to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for all/every District activity.	CR oversee *All Staff	Ongoing

ITEM #4 – EDUCATION INITIATIVES (GRANT RELATED)

District Supervisors: William Pollock and Michael Gross

ACTIVITY	WHO	WHEN
1. Continue to manage, coordinate, administer and implement current grants & to expand granted projects when the opportunities arise.	BL & DC Financial	On-going
Grant 1: Certification Program for Jersey-Friendly – in partnership with BBP	BL Lead	*Pending NJDEP 319 Award & Subcontract
Grant 2: Stormwater basins Restoration and retrofits in Lakewood Township/Metedeconk River Watershed in partnership with SJRC&D and CamdenSCD	CR & BL & technical staff	*Pending NJDEP 319 Award & Subcontract
Renew subcontract with BBP for Volunteer Coordination, Stewardship development & Jersey Friendly Yards Promotion – evaluate quarterly/submit reports and track hours	BL	Ongoing
2. Seek grants and funding to support non-grant initiatives and programs	BL (CR to Assist)	Ongoing

ITEM #5 – EDUCATION INITIATIVES

District Supervisors: William Pollock and Martha Maxwell-Doyle

Activity	Who	When
1. To maintain & enhance OCSCD website. To more effectively utilize and disseminate pertinent and educational resources and assist in fulfilling OCSCD Mission. Link to partners and projects.	CR/Coordinate BL	Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task</u> : Update/create/maintain database & mailing list/contacts for E&O initiatives. Constant Contact – Dissemination of email newsletters/updates, announcements, etc.	BL	Ongoing
<u>Sub-Task</u> : Content Management System – Pair Networks	JB BL – E & O	Ongoing
2. Maintain communication and network with regional and statewide Conservation Education and Environmental Education initiatives including: <i>Barnegat Bay Roundtable Steering & Planning Committee; (OCSCD Host); Barnegat Bay Estuary Program’s Communication and Education Committee (CEC & AC); Conservation Partnership meetings (SSCC, RCE, & NRCS, NJACD); Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (ANJEE); Natural Resource Education Foundation of New Jersey (NREF) – Board Member; Jersey Friendly Yards</i>	CR & BL Lead (other staff as needed)	Ongoing
3. Coordinate local Annual Poster Contest (NJDA/NJACD & NACD – Theme/rules/deadlines Based on NACD theme; & NJACD determined deadline. Edit brochure to be OCSCD specific and sends press release, post on OCSCD website, coordinate judging, etc.	BL	Winter/Early Spring
4. Promote the distribution of “Low Maintenance Homeowners Guide for Barnegat Bay Watershed” Explore outreach opportunities using the guidebook. Promote Spanish version 2018.	BL	Ongoing
5. Plan and coordinate 24th Annual Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable	BL – all staff	Planning – fall/winter Event – 3 rd Wed of April
6. Internship & Volunteer opportunities & agreements – Stockton, Georgian Court, Ocean County College	CR Coordinate BL- E&O /JB -251	Ongoing- Update projects annually
7. Offer a variety of Outreach Programs based on soil health & natural resources to various groups/organizations. Offer at least 12 programs each year.	BL	Ongoing/as requested
8. NJ Envirothon* Assist as able. Attend meetings, coordinate the wildlife test, assist with training	BL	May Event -
9. Track participants, evaluations, etc. Provide reports on E&O activities to District Director & Board	BL	Ongoing/Bi-Monthly Report
10. Jersey Friendly Yards Conference – 4 th Annual – In cooperation with BBP, RCE/Master Gardeners, etc.	BL & CR	Oct. event / Ongoing
11. OCSCD Lead- SHIP (Soil Health Improvement Project) at Jakes Branch County Park. Coordinate weeding and maintenance. Maintain (5) Gardens	BL *Volunteer Assistance	Ongoing
CR Updated 2/27/2020		