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RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS

WHAT IS RC&D:

RC&D is a unique process that helps people protect and develop their economic, natural, and social resources in ways that improve their area’s economy, environment, and quality of life.
INTRODUCTION

RC&D in Alabama depends on the leadership abilities and unique skills within the communities it serves. That is why so many worthwhile projects have been undertaken and accomplished throughout the state.

A significant accomplishment of RC&D is the rekindling of community spirit. There are so many ways to describe RC&D; however it is basically people doing things for other people.

In essence, it is local people identifying their problems and opportunities and dealing with them, with a little help from the government and from others.

The RC&D Councils in Alabama are proud of their accomplishments; but there is much yet that can be done to make our communities a better place to live.

The Association is dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and developing the state’s natural and human resources.

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2016 Your Town Alabama Workshop: Assist in funding the annual Your Town Alabama workshop at Camp McDowell to train approximately fifty community decision makers in asset-based planning.

Camp Wheeze Away: Offers a week-long camp experience to participants at no cost. The participants are children from all over the state of Alabama that suffer from asthma. The camp gives these children a special camp experience while also teaching them about their asthma, medications, and physical health and well-being.

ASAN Regional Food & Farm Forums: Provide funding to the Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network to hold four Regional Food and Farm Forums. The forums are a series of training and networking events held around Alabama targeting small-scale and sustainable farmers, gardeners, market managers, chefs, entrepreneurs, nonprofit representatives, community organizers, and good food advocates.

Alabama Birding Trails: Outreach, Education, and Promotion: Promote birding throughout Alabama as an economic development tool through tourism, as an educational tool to encourage bird and habitat conservation and best practices in habitat management. Provide ongoing educational support to schools in the form of an informational poster distributed statewide and an accompanying section on the Alabama Birding Trails Website that offers identification of the fifty most common birds in Alabama.

Experiencing History and Culture in ACE Towns: Community Education and Economic Development through Local Tourism: Provide all 38 Alabama Communities of Excellence communities with a medium to educate their populace and the larger Alabama Area about the qualities found in their small towns through a new and extensive website.
AARCD Training: All nine RC&D Councils learned how to better run non-profit offices effectively.

Alabama Association of RC&D Councils Projects Continued

AHSAA Cross Country State Championships: Provide the necessary equipment for Jesse Owens Runners’ Club to hold four annual races for the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

AARCD Training 2016: Funding to educate and train board members and employees of all nine RC&D councils to better serve their local communities. Provide Employees training on how to better run their non-profit offices legally and efficiently. Provide training to board members on roles, responsibilities, and decision making.

Alabama Clean Water Partnership River Basin Facilitation: Four RC&D Council offices, Alabama’s Mountains, Rivers and Valleys; Cawaco; Coosa Valley; and Wiregrass, currently act as Basin Sponsors for the ACWP. The staff work to locally educate and coordinate stakeholders in order to protect and restore Alabama’s water resources. The ACWP offers public watershed education through workshops around the state.

Alabama Association of Conservation Districts Web Pages: Support one of RC&D’s biggest partners in the creation of a new website that encompasses all sixty-four of Alabama’s conservation districts, giving all Alabama citizens access to their local soil and water conservation information. The website provides education, resources, contact information, ways to get involved in conserving Alabama, and more.

Alabama State Games: Support the Alabama Sports Festival Foundation to plan, coordinate, and facilitate the Alabama State Games – An Annual statewide sporting event designed to reach the leaders of tomorrow by teaching the importance of academics and good citizenship through positive mentoring. The event promotes youth leadership skills and healthy activity among youth and adults in Alabama.

Comparison of Alabama and Mississippi Water Law and Policy: Research to determine the impacts of the states’ water law and policy on local governance including resource conservation and development, irrigation initiatives, agriculture, and local soil and water conservation districts. The results of the review and comparison will be published in a report that the University of Alabama Water Policy and Law Institute will distribute to policymakers and stakeholders.
ALABAMA’S MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND VALLEYS RC&D COUNCIL

The Alabama’s Mountains, Rivers and Valleys RC&D Council covers the following Alabama counties: DeKalb, Cullman, Jackson, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan. The office is located in Hartselle.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2016

Natural Resources, animal welfare & Technical Assistance: Farm workshop & training for beginning farmers teaching a variety of sustainable farming practices.

Waterworks Aquarium: Assist with the building and installation of aquarium at education center showcasing a typical creek side for north Alabama.

Teaching Water Stewardship: Purchase instructional supplies for water conservation classes.

Upgrade Office Equipment: Update office equipment of the Echota Cherokee Tribe enabling them to communicate effectively with the community.

Property & Facility Mgmt: Assist with the maintenance and upkeep of the education facility.

Youth Corp: Youth leadership program based on environmental education, encouraging the students to think beyond themselves to solve community problems.

Small Farmer Rainwater Collection II: Rainwater Collection program to assist small farmers with establishing rainwater collection systems and teaching sustainability practices for their farms.

AMRV RC&D Board Staff Training: To remain an informed and competitive non-profit, it is necessary to attend trainings throughout the year.

Farm Food Collaborative: Purchase general liability insurance for the Food Bank, allowing more farmers to participate in the Cooperative.

North Alabama Food for Life: Assist a local Agriculture based non-profit with VISTA employees working in several different offices throughout the area promoting local food and sustainable agriculture practices.

Search Dog Unit Resources: The local non-profit needed storage space for their equipment and to purchase new equipment. These additions will allow them to readily and rapidly respond to agencies requesting help in locating missing persons.

UCAN American Indian Resources: The UCAN are working to become sustainable tribe through a herb business. This funding allowed them to purchase necessary equipment and develop their website.
Alabama’s Mountains, Rivers and Valleys RC&D Council Projects Continued

Big Springs Ecological Workshops: Ecological workshops for teens teaching environmental responsibility and leadership skills.

Cullman County Environmental Ag Trailer: The majority of students have no idea what really happens on a farm. This trailer will allow the students to learn, bringing interactive displays to the students.

Preparing Fresh Foods and Vegetables: More and more people do not know how to properly prepare fresh vegetables. Enhancements at the farmers market allowed for better conditions to teach the public on the proper ways to preserve fresh food.

Dekalb County Night Time Portable Generator & Light: Nighttime rescue missions can be extremely dangerous. This generator and light will help mitigate communication errors and ensure greater visibility at the emergency scene.

Learning to Grow and Learning to Serve: Fort Payne High School used the funding to assist with the purchase of supplies for the community garden. After harvesting the produce they then prepared meals for the homeless and in need members of the community.

School Grounds Improvements Sylvania High School: Ag Science students improved the school grounds by implementing rain barrels in the landscaping, making the area safer and teaching water conservation.

Jackson Graham Farm & Nature Center: Purchase activity kits teaching kids about the great outdoors including “Project Wild, Flying Wild, & Aquatic Wild.”

Enhance Opportunities at Community Center: Bob Jones Community center is the hub of the community. Many programs are held for children and adults. New tables and chairs will allow for more educational programs to be offered for the community.

Wheelchair Ramps: CASA of Jackson County was able to install 23 wheelchair ramps across the county.

Facilities Improvements: Energy efficient upgrades were conducted at the Woodville Library. New energy efficient lighting in the children’s area was installed along with relocating vents to heat and cool the area.

Lawrence Mallard Fox West Entrance Landscaping: The Industrial park entrance needed lighting and landscaping upgrades to make it attractive for the tenants and community members.

Energy Efficient Windows for Town Hall: The Town Hall replaced the original 1950’s windows and upgraded to energy efficient windows to save on heating and cooling costs, improve aesthetics, and provide longevity to the building.
Community Library: Hillsboro does not have a library. This grant provided basic computer equipment and supplies for the citizens to use.

Purchase Turnouts: Hatton VFD upgraded equipment for the safety of the firemen. Turnouts were purchased for nine members.

Limestone Defibrillator Unit: Defibrillator units were placed in several school systems across Limestone County.

Volunteer Income Tax Program: Laptops were purchased to be used by volunteers helping to prepare income tax returns. The new equipment enabled volunteers to assist more people with less time and trouble.

Trinity Community Center: Improvements to the community center were made with the addition of new tables and chairs. The center is used by many in the community for educational programs and community events.

Welding Lab Update: Elkmont High School was able to purchase plasma cutting equipment and other welding supplies to enhance the program.

Drinking Water Festival: A conservation education program for fourth grade students with emphasis on groundwater, teaching children how to protect and conserve water.

Instructional Production Lab: Creating “show and tell” environment for high school students is difficult! West Limestone Ag Production Lab purchased additional equipment to enhance the lab, giving students a hands on chance to learn sustainable farming.

Madison Clicker Technology: This awesome classroom aid allows students to participate by “clicking” a response to questions, much like a game of Jeopardy.

CASA: The community garden produces fresh vegetables for the elderly and homebound who would otherwise not have access to fresh vegetables. CASA also installed grab bars and handrails, and wheelchair ramps in hundreds of homes across Madison County.

Farmers Market Revitalization: Upgrades to the building were completed making it appealing and safe for the patrons. New signs were also installed.

Urban Youth Farm Day: One day farm tour for students teaching them where their food comes from.

Farm Her Ag Tour: This tour brought out community leaders to educate them on the role women play in Agriculture in Madison County.

Marshall Marketing for Farmers Market: Storage and lack of signage were two problems facing the Guntersville farmers market. A storage building was purchased...
Alabama’s Mountains, Rivers and Valleys RC&D Council Projects Continued

and a sign was painted on it. The visibility greatly increased traffic for the market.

Classroom Improvement: There are lots of supplies associated with outfitting students for the JROTC program. The new cabinets cleaned up the area making it much easier to distribute the uniforms.

Community Garden: Brindlee Mountain Primary School was able to add rain barrels and raised beds at the outdoor pavilion. The students love to get out and dig in the dirt while learning about water conservation and gardening.

Making an Agscience Welding Shop Functional: The welding lab at the high school received upgrades with new equipment to improve safety & teach students how to use new technology. The new equipment allows students to become certified.

Morgan Danville-Neel Recreation Area Improvements: Improvements were made to the outdoor recreation area. Much needed topsoil was brought in to help with the drainage issues.

Roundup and Robotics Competition: 4-H Roundup and Robotics competition are two highly anticipated annual events. Funds helped sponsor the two events.

Outdoor Classroom/Greenhouse Upgrade: A water feature was added to the existing outdoor classroom, enhancing the opportunities to teach about aquatics and wetlands.

Shorty Ryan Park Education Station: An Education Station overlooking the wetlands was constructed at the park. Signage was placed, creating a great environment for learning.
ALATOM RC&D Council

The ALA-TOM RC&D Council covers the following nine Southwest Alabama counties: Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Washington, and Wilcox. The office is located in Thomasville.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2016

Sports Complex: Southern Choctaw is a committee that is currently working to secure funds to build a regulation size baseball and softball fields.

2016 2nd Annual Chili Cookoff: This event is to bring people and businesses together from Choctaw County into Gilberstown to boost the local economy.

Butler Fest 2015: To promote economic & community development while increasing tourism for Butler and surrounding areas.

Playground Safety Project: To provide a safe place for children to play.

Renovations to Post 81: Rebuild bathrooms at the America Legion Post 81.

Children Program: Increase participation at the Choctaw County Public Library and establish the library as a viable contributor to economic growth in the area.

National FFA Convention: Training attendees from Southern Choctaw High School that will be used to host workshops for high school & elementary students.

2015-2016 Junior Ambassador Scholarship: Give students the ability to work with businesses and get a 500 scholarship with the Choctaw County Chamber.

People Making A Difference: Vine Branch Missionary Baptist Church helps the elderly and other needed people in the surrounding area.

Clarke County Beekeepers Association: Clarke County Beekeeper Association provides opportunities to educate the public on how important bees are to our food production through pollination and the many uses of honey for food.

Thomasville Sports Hall of Fame: Thomasville Library Foundation helps honor people who have brought glory through their Achievements in sports.

Clarke County 4-H Archery Program – Phase 2: The Alabama Cooperative Extension System provides an educational program with emphasis on positive youth/adult interaction and peer mentoring.

Power Hour after School Tutoring Program: The Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Alabama provides one on one help to afterschool students. These funds enabled two new jobs to be created.

continued
**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**CHOCTAW COUNTY**
Michael Armistead  
Willie F. Sykes  
Sharon Shepherd

**CLARKE COUNTY**
Rhondel Rhone  
Charles M. Rotch  
Steve James

**CONECUH COUNTY**
Leonard Millender  
Bobby Ballard  
Lula Palmer

**DALLAS COUNTY**
Johnny Jones  
Kristen Cooper

**MARENGO COUNTY**
Max Joiner  
Roy Jordan  
Cindy Neilson

**MONROE COUNTY**
Joe Mckissick  
Dan McDaniel  
Jenny Countryman

**PERRY COUNTY**
Albert Turner  
Charles Holmes  
Johnny L. Flowers

### Ala-Tom RC&D Council Projects Continued

**Gillmore Elementary School Playground:** To provide Joe M. Gillmore School students and the community with a safe and aesthetically pleasing place to play.

**Tourism Development in the Region:** Enhancing partnerships in the region, through events collaboration and marketing with University of Alabama Center for Economic Development (UACED).

**Parks Development/ Healthy Kids 2020:** Enhancing quality of life by providing all Conecuh County citizens the opportunity to participate in outdoor recreation and conservation activities in Castleberry.

**Cogongrass Control Assistance:** To join forces with Alabama Forestry Commission and Conecuh County to continue controlled tactics and help minimize future spread of cogongrass by assisting small landowners.

**Plastic Culture in Agriculture:** This machine, managed by Conecuh County Board of Education, provides opportunities to reach the community by providing information and making the machine available.

**Ice Machine for China Community Center:** Organizations hold events here and it is very crucial that an ice machine maker is in this building.

**Event Tent and Fencing/hand washing station:** To provide students with shelter from the elements and provide a sanitary hand washing station to prevent health hazards at the farm.

**Bridging the Gap Summer Enrichment Program:** To assist students in maintaining knowledge of their academics for the upcoming school year, and give working parents a sense of child safety during the day.

**Hippy Conecuh 2016:** Hippy’s main objective is to insure that every child is prepared to start school and ready to learn.

**Pathway to Independence:** Conduct initial structured intake interviews with victims. Funds will help pay for a part time case manager.

**Support Group for Parents of Abused Children:** The Child Advocacy Center is a program that conduct forensic interviews of sexually or physically abused children using highly qualified and specifically trained personnel. Working with DHR, and law enforcement personnel in Dallas, Perry, and Wilcox counties.

**Mill Village Community Garden:** With the garden we want people to learn how to grow their own healthy food and sell it for profit.

**Selma PAL After School Enrichment Program - Phase 4:** To learn new skills, learn to respect others, and gain an understanding of those who are different from you.
Fall Farm to Feast: Working together as a community and helping each other. This event will raise the funds to continue classes.

Mandatory Reporter & Internet Safety Training: The Central Alabama Regional Child Advocacy Center offers an education series aimed at groups who are mandatory reporters of child abuse by Alabama law.

ArtsRevive Tale Tellin in the Schools 2015: ArtsRevive presents the Alabama Tale Tellin Festival each October. This year we are expanding the program to include free teacher workshops. The story tellers will travel to local school libraries in Dallas County to speak to children.

Leadership Selma Dallas County Youth and Adult: Leadership Selma-Dallas County has as its specific purpose to provide leadership, community and personal training to a diverse group of citizens.

Marengo County Stair Chair: Purchase a rolling emergency stair chair. This helps EMS personnel get patients up and down stairs and in tight spaces.

Computer Upgrade: To better perform bookkeeping and Administrative procedures for the Alabama Rural Heritage Foundation in Thomaston.

Sweet Water New Scoreboard: Purchase & install new scoreboard at City League.

Marengo History & Archives Museum Signage: Design & install outdoor sign.

Forestry Education Event: To reach forest family owners with the latest advice on managing timber for income and maintain a sustainable forest.

Fire Fighter 1 Class: Train members of the Sweet Water Fire Dept. to better prepare them for fire emergencies.

14 County Regional Community Economic Development Marketing Project: All researched county information integrated into a marketing system that utilizes a website, Social media network, Application (APP) and YouTube Channel.

Marengo Co. H.S. AfterSchool: Prepare students to be college ready by increasing communication skills through writing and computer application skills.

Economic Genesis: Reduce the time and cost associated with outsourcing elements needed to create recruitment and retention packages for prospects looking to locate in Monroe County.

Education Outreach Soil & Water: To bring in students to give hands on experience with science projects to witness an actual prescribed burn in the woods.

Veteran’s Memorial Park: Concrete foundation, Granite monument with Veterans names engraved in the town of Excel.

Education Outreach – Monroe Co. Museum: Help provide outreach.
Ala-Tom RC&D Council Projects Continued

Micro Film Reader & Printer: To enable Genealogy and historical research.

Downtown Marion Renewal, Phase 2: New landscape of perennials planted in a patchwork quilt design to represent diversity and heritage of our community.

Medics for Athletes Safety: Provide mandatory care for athletes of the public schools at home football games.

Senior Aid Assistance: To continue our elderly program of 2 hot meals and a snack, transportation and health screening.

Pernell Community Playground Phase 2: This project will provide the Pernell Community with a playground for the kids in the area.

Marion Military Institute Math Science Department Stem Club: The Stem Club creates activities to allow students to build and test projects on campus.

Perry County Junior Ambassador Youth Leadership: This program informs and educates participants on community modeling and fosters personal skills.

4-H and Beyond: Purchase material to enhance overall experience through 4-H activities (assists with monthly project supplies).

Washington County Stair Chair: Purchase a rolling emergency stair chair. This helps EMS personnel get patients up and down stairs and in tight spaces.

St. Stephens Park Cabin: Purchase cabin to generate more income for the park.

Davidson’s Heartland Rescue: Our goal is to get as many dogs, cats, and horses off the streets or out of bad homes and place them in loving homes.

Caring for Collections: To purchase a large metal shelter for the Bookmobile and UV blocking shades for the Library book collections.

Senior Center Improvements/Sidewalk: Safety improvements to prevent senior citizens from falling and being injured.

Wilcox County 4-H Archery Program: Implement a prevention-education model, with emphasis on positive youth/Adult interaction and peer mentoring.

Tough Books for MedCare Ambulance: Two Tough Books will be purchased to keep important information stored and safe in the ambulance.

Alabama Tombigbee Senior RX Program: To increase the number of senior or disabled clients receiving prescription drug assistance.

Arts Education Enrichment Program: 2015-2016: Provide arts programs (i.e. Visual, performance, literacy, and cultural art history) to children in grades k-12.

Wilcox Works’ Instructor & Supplies: To reduce unemployment in Wilcox County and to increase income in the county.
CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL

Located in central Alabama, the Cawaco RC&D Council serves the five following counties: Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2016

2016 USDA/NRCS Outreach: Host a series of ten outreach meetings in the Cawaco area, to educate public about NRCS/USDA programs and services.

2016 AARC&DC State Conference: To educate board and staff about tax issues, policies & procedures, strategic planning, fundraising, grant writing and council sustainability.

Black Warrior and Cahaba CWP Facilitation: Provide facilitation services to improve water quality by utilizing cooperative local partnerships for the Alabama Clean Water Partnership.

Fire Tower Palisades: Restore a historic fire tower at Palisades Park in Oneonta.

Hope for Women Van Project: This project helps women off the street or from jail by providing shelter, food, and life essentials. These women then complete job readiness training, attend parenting classes, learn personal management, and take GED classes.

Skulls and Skins: The Urban Forestry and Conservation Fair is an Annual event that hosts 24 classes of 5th grade students from the metro-Birmingham area. Grant covers purchase of pelts and skulls of animals found in Alabama’s urban environment.

Presidents Outdoor Scholars Program: With the help of a professional consultant, students will evaluate the University lake, to determine overall health of the fish and habitat. Funds help pay for the pond management project.

Revive East Lake: Purchase mature, low-maintenance trees, shrubs and plantings, decorative trash cans and benches for the 7600 block of 1st Avenue North.

Ebeneezer Swamp Ecological Interpretative Center: This project will allow the University of Montevallo to upgrade the house that is to become the Interpretative Center to the existing city water and sewer.

Summer BASIC 2016: Funding allows ABF to conduct one BASIC program for 70-75 children to target summer learning loss in under-served children in the Birmingham Metro area.

Turkey Creek Nature Center: Add heat/air, fix wood rot and gutters, and do other needed repairs and upgrades to the existing Nature Center.

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Vice-President
Joe Love

Executive Director
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Town of Sipsey Volunteer Fire & Rescue was awarded a Cawaco grant to upgrade their communications system. Here firefighters work with Dilworth Church of God with their preschool during fire awareness day.
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Nell Miller
Doug Smith
Doris Hamby

CHILTON COUNTY
Gerald Arrington
Jim Pitts
Fred Crawford

JEFFERSON COUNTY
Paul McCaleb
Jim Phillips
Sheila Baker

SHELBY COUNTY
Corley Ellis
Gary Crowson
Chad Scroggins

WALKER COUNTY
Billy Luster
Dwight Hicks
Keith Pike
Paul Kennedy

L-R: State Senator Clyde Chambliss Jr., volunteers Denise Scarborough, Pam Pearsons, Ola Taylor, Cawaco programs Manager Patti Pennington and Representative Mark Tuggle.
(Photo by Anthony Richards)

CAWACO RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Training Tower Construction: To build a training tower to train firefighters and first responders in our department and surrounding departments on search and rescue evolutions as well as high angle rescue situations.

Habitat Restoration: Removal of non-native, invasive plants and other non-desirables and replanting with appropriate native grasses and herbaceous plants.

Blackwater Blueway: Improve access to the river from shore at 2 access points: AL 257 (put in) and at N Walston Bridge Rd (take out) Additional funds will help support campsite improvements, such as construction of a fire ring.

Try Trail: To create a suite of trails, with the longest being over 3.5 miles long, including the supplies for building the trails, marking paint, gasoline, etc; foot bridge construction, educational kiosk, trail head markers. And birding signage.

Expanding Horizons 2016: Acquire supplies and materials for the Expanding Horizons summer program in Blount County.

Guiding Light Community Garden: To construct 7 raised vegetable beds, constructed with foundation blocks and gravel, concrete mix and organic soil.

One-On-One Technology: Provide technology devices to 9-12th grade students as well as learning management software and instruction/technology integration through professional development of teachers.

BW/Cahaba CWP Support: Provide facilitation services to Black Warrior and Cahaba River Clean Water Partnerships.

Chilton County Expo: Promotion of local food and farms at the ACES Research Station. Tours of fruit production, fish management, research projects, cooking demonstrations, goat herd management, portable sawmill demo, etc.

Westend Leadership Program: Teach job readiness skills; provide life skills instruction and equip each participant with leadership skills to assist them to a positive future. This grant will be used to purchase office equipment and supplies.

In School Art Education: Facilitate four part education program by collaborating with Walker County School Board. Subjects include Native American pottery, music & visual arts, and storytelling. Grant helps fund instructors and purchase material.

Forest in the Classroom: Members of the Blount County Resource Planning Committee visit multiple classrooms to present detailed lesson plans developed for fifth graders, to discuss and explore Alabama’s world-class natural resource diversity.

Demonstration Garden: To redesign a demonstration garden at the ACES Research Station in an effort to increase and improve the quality of horticulture education.
Raise the Roof: To help repair the roof Chestnut Creek Heritage Chapel, a historic structure.

ACCESS for ALL: Provide public restrooms that meet AFDA standards and ICC A 117 usage building and restroom facilities at Blountsville Historical Park.

Smile Chilton County: To provide dental prevention in low-income eligible clients. To be provided every 6 months by a local dentist professional.

Walking Track for Townley: To create a walking track for the community.

Tool Trailer for Trails: Cawaco maintains a utility trailer stocked with tools for trail building purposes. The trailer is available to volunteer groups. This grant helps keep the trailer maintained and covers misc. expenses and management.

Kayaks for Kids: Kayaks for Kids is an ongoing initiative that makes kayaks available to groups (boy scouts, YMCA’s, etc.) for educational and recreational purposes. The goal is to make the kayaks available to underprivileged children.

Chainsaws for Walker VFD’s: Purchase chainsaws for all 26 VFD’s in the county.

PAW Park: Establish a fenced in, off-leash dog park where well-behaved canines can exercise in clean environment without annoying people, property or pets.

EMT Academy: Purchase supplies to develop and maintain a yearly Basic EMT course. The course is located in Oneonta and benefits the county by preparing first responders with greater knowledge & skills to provide emergency care to citizens.

Community Shelter and Fire Equipment: Provide safe shelter for citizens of Pineywoods during inclement weather and provide safety equipment to protect the volunteer fire department.

Seeds for Gardens: To distribute, free of charge, hundreds of pounds of vegetable seeds to community and school gardens throughout the state of Alabama.

Security System for Agribusiness Center: To provide maximum security for the events held at the Agribusiness Center and to provide protection for the facility. Installed 17 fixed cameras, 3 30x PTZ cameras, a video recording system, 2 televisions for monitoring purposes, and associated network.

Cottonwood Creek: Development of a watershed management plan for Cottonwood creek. Cottonwood creek is a tributary to the Black Warrior River and is located in the counties of Hale, Marengo and Perry Counties of Alabama.

TNC Urban Forestry Plan: To develop an Urban Forest working group and action plan for the City of Birmingham. The objective is to create actionable items to improve tree canopy and to consolidate area resources and programs.

continued
CAWACO RC&D Council Projects Continued

2016-2017 Strategic Habitat Internship: Support for two summer interns who will collect stream and road crossing data as part of the Alabama Strategic Habitat Unit (SHU) Project. This project supports the efforts of the US Fish & Wildlife Service’s critical habitat initiative and collects data for the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Raising the Red Flag: Part of the Downtown revitalization in Jasper

Regional Library and Arts Center in Warrior: Upgrade, retrofit and repurpose a historic 13,600 square foot armory into a regional library, with energy efficient HVAC, windows, lighting, etc., and provide educational signage.

Water Quality Monitoring Kits: Conduct water monitoring classes for Pinson Valley High School students.

Agriculture from a New Perspective: Purchase a Phantom 4 Quadcopter Drone and iPad mini to assist landowners with conservation practices on their land as well as conducting educational programs with local schools.

Hybrid Challenge: Walker county student built hybrid car. This car will use a Greenpower USA electric car kit as a base and an internal combustion engine to compete it the Shell Challenge, which is nationally sponsored race.

First Responder Support: Cawaco RC&D provided support for equipment and training to the following first responder organizations:

- Allgood Volunteer Fire Department
- Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department
- Holly Springs Volunteer Fire Department
- Rocky Ridge Fire District
- Murphree Valley Volunteer Fire Department
- Palmerdale Fire District
- Sipsey Fire and Rescue
- Hay Valley Volunteer Fire Department

Rocky Ridge Fire District: A Cawaco grant funded the purchase of a MedLite deluxe bed insert for a Polaris Rescue Vehicle. With the purchase of the Polaris and the transport bed, rescuers will now be able to access patients injured in steep, forested areas, and transport them in a less laborious and more time-efficient manner.

Cawaco Executive Director distributing free soil to community and school gardens as part of the Cawaco RC&D and Scotts Company 2016 Gro Our Community Soil Donation Program.
COOSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL

The Coosa Valley RC&D Council covers an eleven county area located in east central Alabama which includes the following counties: Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair, Talladega and Tallapoosa. The office is located in Heflin, Alabama.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2016

Choccolocco Creek Clearing & Snagging (Calhoun): Funding allowed clearing along a small section of the creek to help with flood prevention.

Calhoun Youth Ag Fund (Calhoun): Purchasing more livestock pens will allow more students to participate in youth livestock events.

Birding Trail Improvements and Fence Extension at Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom at Cane Creek Community Gardens (Calhoun): Relocated existing fence to help secure site and provide protection for children.

Family Links/Laptops for Success (Calhoun): Laptops allow students to be self-sufficient, independent learners with direction from the teacher.

Agricultural Center Expansion (Chambers): Expansion enhances educational opportunities for local 4-H, FFA, and all youth showing livestock.

DeArmanville Elementary Greenhouse Addition to Outdoor Classroom (Calhoun): A 12’ x 12’ greenhouse was added to the existing outdoor classroom.

Randolph Park Elementary School (Calhoun): Developed an Outdoor Classroom to support science & math curriculum to provide students with creative and critical thinking opportunities.

Cedar Bluff High School Softball Training Facility (Cherokee): Provide resources for Physical Education classes & the fundamentals of softball and baseball.

City Park-City of Centre (Cherokee): Built 2 wooden bridges to span a wet weather ditch for access from parking lot to play area and pavilion in main park.

Purchase of Radio Communications Tower (Cherokee): Tower improves fire safety, efficiency, & effectiveness for 12 volunteer fire departments.

Robotics Club Competition (Clay): Software & materials purchased to prepare students for State competition.

Electrathon Race Car (Clay): Purchased an electric car kit to teach students assembly and green energy. Cars were raced at Barber Motor Sports Complex.

Coosa Valley RC&D wins Alabama Association of RC&D Councils “Council of the Year Award.”

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COUSA VALLEY RC&D COUNCIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

Tech Time with the Tigers (Cleburne): IT equipment was purchased to allow students state of the art technology and assist with teaching curriculum.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Borden Springs Fire Department (Cleburne): Fire fighters replaced out-of-date self-contained breathing apparatus that they use when protecting life and property.

Rosewood Community Center/Walking Trail for Seniors (Cleburne): Installed handicap ramp & other updates to existing Center and walking trail.

Socialization Through Technology (Cleburne): Funds made it possible to purchase personal computers to allow clients to have more social skills.

Career Exploration Workshops (Coosa): Workshops allowed “hands-on” career exploration opportunities to fifteen students advancing to 9th grade.

Ag in Action Demonstration for Central Elementary School (Coosa): The Ag in Action trailer visited students at Central Elementary School.

Marble Valley VFD Station #2 (Hidden Valley) (Coosa): Much needed repairs to Volunteer Fire Department. This improved the community ISO rating.

Home Instruction for Pre-School Youngsters (Coosa): Purchased curriculum, books, and supplies for 3 and 4 year old Coosa County children; preparing them for kindergarten and beyond.

Rockford Volunteer Fire Department/Communication Upgrade (Coosa): Replaced 4 out-of-date radios.

Building to House Center Vehicles (Coosa): Poured a foundation for the metal building. The building will house passenger vans used by the Center.

Etowah County Student Leadership Academy (Etowah): The Academy provided practical and educational experiences for future leaders.

New Playground (Etowah): Gaston Elementary School installed a new playground for students to promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

Bethel East Station #14 VFD (Randolph): Purchased emergency response equipment to better serve the community.

Swine & Lamb Wash Pens (Randolph): Purchased additional pens to hold the students’ livestock while preparing them for show.

Youth Leadership Randolph County (YLRC): Programs & seminars teaching students skills needed to help communities determine future plans.

St. Clair County Extension Interactive Educational Kiosk (St. Clair): An interactive kiosk allowed citizens to access whatever information they desire. This stand-alone, touch screen device literally puts information at their fingertips.
Paving for PC Native Plant Walking Trail (St. Clair): Paved the existing trail to make trail handicap accessible.

Cultural Display about African American Civilian Conservation Corps (Talladega): U.S. Forest Service and many partners designed a project to enlighten people about work programs created by President Roosevelt in time for the 80th Anniversary of the CCC in 2017 and the Talladega National Forest in 2016.

Wildlife Timber Field Day (Tallapoosa): Tour of landowners with information on: 1) Native warm season grass and weed control; 2) Wildlife mass trees; 3) Wildflowers; and 4) Prescribe burning.

Alabama Scenic River Trail/RiverKids Program (Tallapoosa): Purchased 15 kayaks, paddles, flotation devices and a trailer to transport equipment to county-wide locations to teach safety and proper use of state waterways.


4-H Chick Chain Showmanship Workshop (Cleburne): Workshop on how to show chickens with training about bird behavior, breeds, and egg production.

14th Annual St. Clair County Water Festival (St. Clair): SWCD provided St. Clair County Water Festival with “Where Does Your Water Shed?” materials.

Jacksonville State University Police Department—Ballistic Vest Grant (Calhoun): Replaced 12 expired ballistic vests.

NRCS Outreach (Area Wide): Conducted 16 USDA-NRCS Outreach Workshops to increase awareness and accessibility of USDA-NRCS conservation programs to traditionally underserved populations in the Coosa Valley RC&D area.

Munford Community Garden (Talladega): Funds allowed plasticulture to be installed and to run a waterline from an existing well to irrigate garden. Area used for teaching high yield-low cost organic farming in urban and rural environments.

FIRST Family Service Center (Talladega): The Center provides printed material to families in need with Parenting Education, Medication Assistance, Lifeskills, and Pediculosis education and hosts the Imagination Library. Replaced a 12-year old copier with a new one making all material legible.

Tallapoosa County 4-H RiverKids Kayaking Kamp (Tallapoosa): 4-H RiverKids introduces youth to kayaking; teaches basic paddling techniques, and teaches water safety essentials to participants.

Pleasant Grove Elementary School (Cleburne): Ground cover (mulch) provides additional safety measures for students and prevents erosion of the soil.
**Coosa Valley RC&D Council Projects Continued**

**Tallapoosa River Bee Keeper Association (TRBA) (Tallapoosa):** Provided and promoted environmental awareness about the importance of honeybees in our environment and to our food production to elementary school students.

**Longleaf Botanical Gardens Hall Revitalization (Calhoun):** Replaced inadequate and unsafe electrical for the catering kitchen to accommodate both large and small groups. Funding allowed for thousands to be served with being able to host future educational venues.

**Pell City School System iPads in the Classroom (St. Clair):** Purchased iPads for Special Education teachers to use in small group instruction.

**Choccolocco Canoe Trail (Calhoun):** The Choccolocco Creek Watershed Conservancy District worked with Oxford on a Canoe Trail. Purchased kayaks, safety vests, & educational material for outdoor education area at Choccolocco Park.

**Calhoun Forestry Education (Calhoun):** Purchased educational material to increase forestry knowledge of best management practices & recreational opportunities in our area.

**Sardis Tennis Complex (Etowah):** Purchased 1 set of bleachers.

**Munford Senior Center Handicap Ramp—Parking Lot (Talladega):** Built a covered ramp for a handicap accessible entrance. Also, designated handicap parking, striping, and etc. in parking lot.

**Frozen Food Preservation (Talladega):** Purchased freezers to support the food pantry and educated those receiving food about “frozen food safety.”

**Enviroscape (Tallapoosa):** The Enviroscape is a 3D display of a watershed used to demonstrate to students how pollution spreads by storm water runoff.

**White Plains Outdoor Garden USDA-NRCS (Calhoun):** Installed raised beds. The outdoor garden helps students’ education through 'hands-on’ experiences.

**Gaylesville Agriscience (Cherokee):** Purchased a utility vehicle for the Agriscience Department to transport materials around campus for various projects.

**Gateway to Life Ranch (Calhoun):** Remodeled and made pavilion handicap accessible. Also, constructed a deck so participants can view the lake.

**Delta Community Center Renovation (Clay):** Renovated an existing building that is used for a fire station, community center, and as a voting poll.

**Upgrade Bus Routes on County Dirt Roads (Randolph):** Purchased crushed aggregate to place on all county dirt roads which are school bus routes.

**Drain Pipe at Wadley High School (Randolph):** Funds were used to install drain pipe to protect the proposed athletic field.
Gulf Coast RC&D Council

The Gulf Coast RC&D Council serves Baldwin, Escambia, and Mobile Counties. Its Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from the County Commissions and Soil and Water Conservation Districts from each of the three counties and the Poarch Band of the Creek Indians. The office is located in Atmore.

Projects and Accomplishments for 2016

Grimes Nursery Catfish Roundup 2016: The Roundup provides people with disabilities a place to come together with volunteers and family to fish, play games and have fun. It has grown from 150 to over 1200 participants over the years.

NBCT Agriscience Plant Shadehouse: A shadehouse was built for plant production projects. Besides growing vegetables & bedding plants students will grow coastal erosion plants as part of environmental projects with Weeks Bay Estuary.

Historic Blakely State Park/Cultural Heritage Interpretation Project: Historic Blakely State Park created a series of eight illustrated interpretive panels designed to better educate visitors on the rich cultural and natural heritage contained within Blakely National Register Historic site.

2016 Baldwin County Water Festival: The 2016 Water Festival allowed over 900 Baldwin County fourth grade students to experience fun and educational lessons on water, conservation and the environment. Events included deer hunts, lake fishing and picnics.

Baldwin County Progressive Farm Safety Day: This safety day offered several activities to teach safety about, electricity, sun, fire, tractor, animal, firearms and other safety concerns. Meteorologist Alan Seals was on hand for demonstrations and weather safety information.

Pine Grove Elementary School Paw Patch Community Garden: This project teaches nutrition, environmental science, special education and art. through a garden of raised beds with attached trellises. It will be a hands on tool for food education, teaching healthy eating and where their food comes from.

Pollard-McCall School Teacher Workroom Project: The original school building built in 1922 is still in use. The teacher workroom/restroom was in need of remodeling and improving and this project helped make the area more useful and attractive for staff members.

2016 Officers and Staff

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continued
Gulf Coast RC&D Council Projects Continued

2015 Escambia County S&WCD Fall Forestry Tour: The annual forestry tour helps landowners learn the most up to date management techniques for their property. This tour was held outside of Atmore on a local family forestry property. A variety of speakers were on hand for this event.

Lady Eagles Field Lighting Project: This project updated the field lighting used for the Lady Eagles Softball team. The 45 year old lighting is obsolete and continued to fail. This grant allowed the lighting system to be improved.

2016 Escambia County Water Festival: The first water festival held in Escambia County brought over 350 fourth graders, teachers and chaperones together with hands on lessons such as the creation of a model watershed, exploration of population dynamics as related to resource availability and the filtration of different types of pollutants in the water.

Appleton Volunteer Fire Department Construction of Firehouse #2: This new fire station will provide quicker emergency response times for area residents outside the current response area. This satellite station will offer the same protection services as the rest of the district.

John L Fisher Center Renovation Project: Helped purchase & install air conditioner units in the kitchen & purchase & install tile in the kitchen & cafeteria.

Fowl River Community Center Floor Project: Built in the later 1930’s, this building is on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage of Alabama Historical Commission. The original floor needed repair. Loose joints were corrected and cracks filled and it was sanded and refinished. This community center is a hub of the community where residents gather often for events.

My Plate Education Series: This two part workshop provided by Feeding the Gulf Coast combined a cooking and nutrition lesson with a garden lesson teaching area children how to grow food, cook food, and make healthier food choices.

2016 Mobile County Water Festival: Held at Bishop State Community College, a total of 498 Mobile County students took part in hands on lessons to help students appreciate water quality and how human actions impact aquatic ecology.
IMMON Little River State Park: Park improvement projects for repairing grills, adding picnic tables, groundwork and installation of new playground equipment building a pier and a floating dock.

Alabama Clean Water Partnership Pets in the Park Project: Pet waste disposal systems were placed at municipal parks within the council area to improve water quality, promote conservation, and educate the local populace about nonpoint source pollution and the part they can play in keeping our waters clean.

Soil Tunnel Trailer Phase I: This trailer will offer a teaching approach by building a soil tunnel inside an enclosed trailer. The key soil concepts such as soil layers, soil drainage, soil functions, storm water pollution prevention, impacts of land use on soil, soil organisms and soil conservation, would be introduced and taught by demonstration to students and adults to help improve soil conservation.

Light of the City Playground Development: Playground will provide a safe and healthy place for children to be active, improve social skills and physical fitness. The playground will also serve as a tool to strengthen our community by providing a place for members to play, relax, and connect with their families.

Former Douglasville School Renovation: This school is utilized by various nonprofit and community based organizations and is also home to Light of the City program which provides after school tutoring programs and free summer camps. Repairs and renovations will be made to the old canteen building in order to provide an office area for local nonprofits.

Turtle Point Boardwalk Renovation Project: This grant helped provide needed repairs to the Turtle Point Boardwalk which is used daily by school groups and the general public. Decking and railings were replaced and the bridge repaired.

Alabama Pecan Festival Youth Ranch Project: The Festival wanted to provide a place where youth could be mentored before they turn to crime. Sheriff’s deputies and citizens expressed a great concern that these youth need to have quality time spent with them and have positive role models. Renovations provided youth a place to meet and sheriff’s deputies helped provide mentoring.

Tunnel House Education: A tunnel house was built at Craighead Elementary School to create a hands-on outdoor classroom laboratory to educate youth regarding food production practices, health food safety systems, and nutrition and food choices while reinforcing science education.

Satsuma Public Library Improvement: Satsuma Public Library is on the Alabama Historical Registry and serves many area citizens. It is known in the area as the “Town Treasure.” Badly worn carpet was replaced with wood floors to provide a clean and inviting area for the patrons to enjoy the services of the library.

continued
Gulf Coast RC&D Council Projects Continued

**Huckleberry Drive Project:** Heavy rainfall created a severe gully and sedimentation has affected wetlands and gully erosion threatened multiple housing areas. GCRCD along with NRCS, City of Spanish Fort and Baldwin County S&WCD teamed together to help fund the needed repairs.

**City of East Brewton Walking Trail:** This project helped provide a walking trail to allow area residents a safe place to exercise and improve wellness. An estimated 300 residents will be able to use this to enjoy the outdoors while getting their daily exercise.

**Athletic Outreach Program:** This program at Theodore High School to add a weight room and exercise equipment will be a preventative component of the school wide transition plan that provides resources to ensure the successful transition of students from middle school to high school and from grade to grade. Increasing the 4 year high school graduation rate by early mentoring intervention to elementary and middle school students is part of the program.

**Family Counseling Center Project:** This grant helped the counseling center provide mental health counseling to clients in great need but unable to afford counseling. They provided over 140 sessions for individuals and families. Since 1958 the Family Counseling Center has been providing counseling from licensed therapists and social workers for families dealing with grief, trauma and abuse.

*Water Festivals: Providing education on the importance of clean water to our lives*
2016 Annual Report

Mid-South RC&D Council

The Mid-South RC&D Council covers the following counties: Autauga, Bullock, Butler, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, and Montgomery. The office is located in Montgomery.

Projects and Accomplishments for 2016

Importance of Bees (Autauga): In school, after school programs, and community events provided youth and adults an educational venue to learn why honeybees are important to humans and the role of bees in agriculture and how to protect bees and other pollinators from ecological threats. Videos, models, handouts, and beekeeper tools, including a Teaching Hive Bee-Ginner’s Kit, were purchased.

Autauga County Water Festival 2016 (Autauga): Autauga County hosted its annual event to teach the importance of conserving and protecting our natural resources-LIKE WATER! Attendance of 850 (Fourth-graders and 130 volunteers with outreach circulation including public, private, and homeschooled children). The highlight of the festival was a magic show by the Fishing Magician.

Pine Level Marbury Park Playground (Autauga): Playground equipment was purchased and installed in the community. Site location is the Pine Level Recreational Park with outreach opportunity for 20,000 residents.

Chef in the Schools (Autauga): Purchase supplies for a healthy cooking class for youth. Students between 4th & 8th grade were introduced to food sanitation, preparation, cooking, decorating, and nutrition through educational activities. Classes included Gingerbread House Decorating, Tasty Roots, and Smoothies.

Friends of the Forest (Autauga): Classroom presentation and field day on the importance of forests & wildlife habitats. Over 800 students & 60 volunteers attended the event at Jimmy & Martha Hughes’ TEASRURE Forest property.

Kindles for Kids (Bullock): Kindles were purchased for the media center at South Highlands Middle School in Union Springs. Kindles will be used to improve students’ reading comprehension skills, critical thinking skills, and test scores. Kindles will be placed in the library, student population of 600.

TAP Computer Training Center (Bullock): Purchase a security system with eight cameras and install steel bars around the safe that stores 33 computers. Over 500 people are serviced in Midway and surrounding communities.

Fitness Fun (Bullock): Purchase playground equipment for Union Springs.

Conversion of Storage Area Training/Break Room (Bullock): Grant funds

4-H Bob White Quail Project
Really an awesome project, seeing all the parents, 4H leadership and above all the kids’ excitement and hard work.

2016 Officers and Staff

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continued
Mid-South RC&D Council Project Continued

provided the Union Springs Fire Department the opportunity to convert a storage room into a training/meeting room and to purchase a television, computer, printer, air conditioner, video camera, and dry erase boards for first responders. They now have a place and the equipment for proper training.

**Almeria Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Replacement (Bullock):**
Purchased 8 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and a Thermal Imaging Camera.

**Old Time Farm Day (Butler):**
This outdoor event hosts educational awareness on the importance of pollinators! The theme was Pollinators: Our Hardworking Heroes. Held on two scheduled dates, one day was for KIDS and one day for general public. Total outreach: 500-800 children and 1000-1500 general public.

**Healthy Living Families (Butler):**
Purchased industrial equipment to train youth, grades 9-12, in healthy cooking, food preparation, canning, food preservation, and food safety. Equipment included refrigerator, freezer, and hand mixers.

**Industry Community Center (Butler):**
Purchase and install 32 new windows in the Industry Community/Club Center located in Georgiana.

**Fain Senior Center Renovation (Elmore):**
Purchase and install items for renovation, including ceiling fans, shelving, doors for front entrance, exit door, four internal doors, room petitions, and refinish of floors for entire center.

**Funtastic Fort Park and Carrville Skate Park (Elmore):**
Supplies to repair park fence and replace woodchips. Repair of fence provided a safer play area for children. New woodchips added to the visual and environmental presence.

**Putting the Pieces Together (Montgomery):**
Mid-South partnered with South Central Alabama Development Commission Area on Aging to provide jigsaw puzzles, scrabble, word search books, and bingo games for residents in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior centers in Bullock, Butler, Elmore, Lowndes, Montgomery, and Macon Counties. The purpose of this project is to engage senior citizens in learning skills that will keep them alert and highly engaged in activities that will stimulate their brain neurons and physical health. This project is on-going and will continue.

**4-H Bob White Quail Project (Elmore):**
Mid-South R.C&D partnered with Alabama Covey Rise Chapter of Quail Forever to fund an incubator, water reserve system for incubator, plastic quail egg trays, signage, and quail eggs. Diminishing Bob White Quail in Alabama has created a need for repopulation and education on conservation of the species. Elmore County Extension 4-H youth with supervision hatched, brooded, and released quail onto protected quail habitat property.

**Elmore County Volunteer Fire Department Handheld Thermal Imaging Camera (Elmore):**
Purchase an ISG x 380 Handheld Thermal Imaging Camera to
locate trapped persons, hot spots in house/building, lost elderly or impaired persons.

Kowaliga Volunteer Fire Department (Elmore): Fire department needed an onsite ice machine to provide cold water during extreme heat for fire fighters.

2016 Lee County Water Festival (Lee): Along with Mid-South R.C&D, many other organizations/individuals contributed to the success of the water festival, held at the Beard Eaves Coliseum at Auburn University. Over 1350 students, 20 teachers, and 120 volunteers attended. The focus was on conservation and preservation of natural resources & stewardship ethics to all aspects of surface water, groundwater, wetlands, forestry, and wildlife, including Mini-Filtration system, H2O Cycle bracelet, Edible Aquifer, and a Conservation Educational Magic Show.

Experiencing History Phase I (Lee): Mid-South R.C&D and Lee County Historical Society partnered to complete this project. Educational signage and displays were purchased for a circa 1830 Creek Indian Log Home. The Creek Indian Log Home is located at the Pioneer Park in Loachapoka, Alabama.

Technology Updates for Loachapoka Public Library (Lee): Upgraded technology/office equipment, including a printer/fax machine and alarm system. Upgrade has helped to service 50-80 patrons a month.

Fellowship of Faith Christian Center (FOFCC) Community Garden (Lee): Purchase of water meter, tiller, and topsoil for high tunnel house.

Experiencing History Phase II (Lee): Partnered with Lee County Historical Society to support the construction of a handicap ramp and landing access for the circa 1830 Creek Indian Log Home located in Pioneer Park.

Hydrants in Mosses (Lowndes): Purchase a fire hydrant for The Mosses Water and Sewer Board to install.

Communications Enhancement Program (Lowndes): Purchase of 4 mobile radios for the Lowndes County Sheriff’s Department to provide communication coverage county-wide for patrol unit and the E-911 Communication center.

Building Resources Through the Library Improvements (Lowndes): Purchase computers for the Hayneville/Lowndes County Public Library to benefit patrons completing research, resume building, download of job applications, and other needed areas.

Supporting Our Students (Lowndes): Purchase book bags for At Risk Students to offset “back to school” expenses. 225 students received book bags.

After School/Summer Academic and Enrichment Program (Lowndes): Purchase three computers, printer, & supplies. STEP (Student Tutoring and Enrichment Program) provides tutoring, homework assistance, computer, and
Mid-South RC&D Council Projects Continued

internet use for students performing below grade level focusing on reading & math.

**Callhoun Fire Department (Lowndes):** A fire hydrant was purchased and installed to secure the need for protection of residents in the community.

**Restoration of Brush Truck in Collirene (Lowndes):** Repair the water pump on the Collirene VFD brush truck, to purchase wildland firefighting equipment and wildland Fire Personal Protection Equipment (turnout gear).

**Correcting Drainage Problems (Lowndes):** Purchase and installation of new pipes which replaced damaged pipes. The area services over 800 citizens.

**Progressive Ag Safety Day (Macon):** Macon County City Park was the outdoor venue for the event. Secure materials to enhance and provide a safe location for the 150 students and 30 volunteers. Checkpoint stations included GEM Safety, Bus Safety, Gun Safety, Drug Safety, Health Safety, Food Safety and Internet Safety.

**Tuskegee Women’s Agriculture Project (Macon):** Purchase two wheel tractor (BCS 739), a 26” tiller & bedder attachment. The project trains women in farm equipment use, teaches crop production strategies, and develops mentors. Equipment overview, hands on demos & soil management training provided by a BCS Representative & field conservationist. Six farms have equipment access.

**Mobile Community Garden (TULIP) (Macon):** Purchase a portable storage structure and supplies to create the mobile community garden.

**Project Educate Conservate (Montgomery):** Purchase fish, tents, rods, reels, bait, & tackle for outdoor youth fishing & conservation classes. The annual youth fishing rodeo included a conservation awareness program by “Leave No Trace” trainer Skip Essman. Youth learned to plan fishing outings, proper waste disposal during camping & fishing trips, & learned the importance of wildlife. Rumbling Waters BASS Club taught casting, knot tying & proper bait/lure selection.

**Wingard Park in Grady Improvements (Montgomery):** Purchase and install outdoor fitness equipment (leg press, hand cycle machine and chest press machine) for Wingard Park in Grady. Outdoor adult fitness equipment is currently in need for upgrades to promote health awareness for general public.

**Emergency Preparedness for Older Individuals & Persons with Disabilities (Montgomery):** Purchase emergency preparedness survivor kits for at-risk seniors, persons with disabilities & caregivers. Over 500 individuals got kits.

**Cool Room for the Elderly and Disabled (Montgomery):** Mid-South partnered with South Central Alabama Development Commission-Area on Aging to help sixteen senior citizens in Bullock, Butler, Lowndes, Macon, and Montgomery Counties. Citizens needed fans or air conditioners in their homes due to the extreme heat being experienced this summer in Alabama.
NORTHWEST RC&D COUNCIL

The Northwest Alabama RC&D Council consists of five counties: Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Marion, and Winston. The office is located in Tuscumbia.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2016

Alloys Park: Funds were used by the Colbert County Commission for plumbing for new restrooms at the park located at Wilson Lake, Colbert County.

Attie Fleming Building Project: Purchase and install a waterline to an existing sprinkler system at this Memorial Building located at Phillips High School, Marion County.

Back to Basics Life Skill Center: Funds were used to purchase equipment and supplies to benefit students who are having trouble academically and seniors who may be struggling to use technology in Franklin County.

Barn Quilts: Continue Quilt Trail promoting agri-tourism in Lauderdale County.

Chromebooks for Education: Funds were used to purchase Chromebooks for math students at Haleyville Middle School in Winston County.

Chuck Goodloe Monument: Erect a memorial monument for a little league coach who made a difference in neighborhood children lives at Tuscumbia Willie Green Center in Colbert County.

Colbert County Children’s Policy Council: Purchase healthy snacks for underprivileged children.

Community Garden Project – AL RC&D/AL NRCS: Purchase rain barrels and a compost tumbler along with lumber, other building materials, plants and seeds to build six raised garden beds at Central High School, Lauderdale County.

Draining and Erosion: Funds were used to purchase concrete to pour a new curb and sidewalk at Addison Elementary School to eliminate flooding problems.

Farming in Lauderdale – Lauderdale Public Library: Researching the importance & major significance of agriculture and farming in the history of Lauderdale County, with information placed in Florence Library and Archives.

Financial Literacy for 21st Century: Purchase ten Chromebooks for math students to promote financial literacy at Russellville High School, Franklin County.

Firefighters Training Project: Provide medical training for Winston County firefighters.

Fourth of July Festival: Purchase fireworks for the Hackleburg community.

continued
COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lauderdale
D. C. Thornton
Larry Irons
Nancy O’Neal

Colbert
James Bingham
Bill Taylor
Charles Hovator

Franklin
Joel Pounders
Don Hastings
Frank Mitchell

Marion
Don Barnwell
Charles Stone
Bob Burleson

Winston
Ken Sunseri
Roger Hayes
James Peak

Northwest RC&D Council Projects Continued

Franklin County Envirothon: Purchase t-shirts and materials to support Envirothon events which benefit high school age students as it tests their knowledge and skills in a competition.

Franklin County Prescribed Burning – AL Forestry Commission: Purchase equipment to be used in burning projects and rural fire protection.

Franklin County Schools Audiometer: Funds were used to purchase an audiometer for Phil Campbell Elementary and High Schools in Franklin County.

Gifted Apples Project: Funds were used to purchase and install Apple TVs at three schools in Franklin County to be used for the gifted and talented programs.

Greenhouse Project: Assist in greenhouse setup at Tharptown High School, Franklin County to educate students in the field of horticulture along with networking in the communities.

GW Trenholm Outdoor Classroom: Purchase materials for the construction of an outdoor classroom at G W Trenholm Elementary in Colbert County.

Hamilton High School Baseball Athletic Supplies: Update baseball equipment and uniforms at Hamilton High School in Marion County.

HoverCam Project: Purchase a HoverCam Solo 8 for Hatton Elementary, Colbert County.

Imagination Library: Purchase books to mail to young students (ages 0-5) in Franklin County participating in the Imagination Library program.

It’s a Dickens Christmas, Y’all: Advertising to promote the Dickens Festival in Tuscumbia, Colbert County, as part of the Tuscumbia Downtown Redevelopment.

Jaws of Life: Assist Ashridge Voluntary Fire Dept. in purchase of new Jaws of Life.

Lauderdale County Waterline Extension: Help extend the water main down County Road 8 to provide reliable water to more citizens and a local business.

Leighton Elementary Classroom Computers: Funds were used to purchase 59 ASUS Chromeboxes to be used in classrooms.

Lexington Senior Center: Purchase a new refrigerator for the senior center.

Lovers Lane Public Park Upgrades: Funds were used for park operations including insurance and playground equipment in Rogersville, Lauderdale County.

LWCF Project: Purchase ADA benches that are wheelchair accessible for city parks located in Haleyville.

Maintenance Equipment: Funds were used by the Colbert County Commission to purchase maintenance equipment for the Courthouse.
Music Equipment: Purchase an electronic keyboard for the music department at Waterloo High School in Lauderdale County.

North AL African Heritage Festival: Purchase materials needed at the festival, including audio and lighting for performers, and to help pay the fee for the Uhuru Dancers that performed at this educational event.

NW AL RC&D Food Bank Eco Cold Storage Trailers: Pay for planning the completion of 2 trailers and generators for the Food Bank of North Alabama.

NW AL Lamb Jam: Outreach event educating attendees on the positives of lamb meat and local food and providing a meal made of local lamb and other ingredients.

NW AL RC&D Tailgating With Local Food: Purchase local meat and produce and paid a professional chef to prepare a meal with the local ingredients for an outreach event promoting local food at UNA’s Preview Day during the football game; more than 350 people were served.

NW AL Reading Aides (NARA) Adult Literacy: Purchase equipment, books, furniture, and supplies to grow and maintain program, which offers free one-on-one tutoring to illiterate adults.

Oka Kapassa Native American Festival: Implement a 2 day Native American Festival for educational and cultural purposes. For more info. visit okakapassa.org.

Phillips Elementary School iPads: Purchase iPads, covers, and apps for students struggling academically.

Playground Equipment: Purchase playground equipment including benches and garbage cans for Hackleburg Elementary in Marion County.

Rainfall Simulator Demo Kit: Purchase a rainfall simulator demo kit to be used in educational programs/presentations by Lauderdale SWCD.

Relocate Return Air Ducts: Provide upkeep on the main meeting room at Elgin Volunteer Fire Dept. in Lauderdale County.

Rogers High School Electric Car: Sponsor Rogers High School in Lauderdale County this year in the Barber Motorsports Electrathon.

School Based Mentoring: Cover the costs associated with screening, matching, and monitoring Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Shoals volunteers with children in Sheffield City Schools and Red Bay Schools.

Security Cameras: Install security cameras at Addison High School, Winston County.

Smoke-Free Shoals/Hope for Homeless: Funds were used to purchase burp cloths to promote smoke-free parenting.

continued
Northwest RC&D Council Projects Continued

**Softball Field Improvements:** Funds were used to upgrade the softball field at Winston County High School.

**Success Maker:** Purchase a license to this research program that aids in math and reading for at-risk students at Hibbett School in Lauderdale County.

**Transport for Lauderdale County Attention Home Children:** Cover gas and van maintenance for transporting children to various appointments.

**The RHS 21st Century Classroom:** Purchase 4 interactive projectors for Russellville High School, Franklin County.

**Training/Activity Area Ceiling Modifications:** Install a drop ceiling and lighting at the Byrd Volunteer Fire Department in Marion County.

**Veteran Memorial Park:** Install a new fence around the Veteran Memorial in A.L. Phillips Park in Lauderdale County.

**Waterloo School Bleachers:** Purchase and installation of new, safer bleachers in the gym at Waterloo High School.

**Winfield Park & Rec Improvements:** Upgrade the large breezeway at the center located in Marion County.

**Winfield Senior Center Activities Initiative:** Purchase a computer system, arts, crafts, and games to be used at the Winfield Senior Center in Marion County.

**Winston County Sign Shop:** Help build a signage shop for the road department in Winston County.
TOMBIGBEE RC&D COUNCIL

Tombigbee RC&D serves an eight county area: Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa.

PROJECTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2016

Teach our Community: The Brent/Centreville Library offered beginning and intermediate computer classes, along with information about free software that provides education on documents, bookkeeping, reports and school projects to patrons who have previously had not access to this information.

FFA Forestry Career Development Event Teacher’s Workshop: The Bibb County Soil and Water Conservation District used funds to conduct agricultural hands-on training for educators. This training enables Ag teachers to demonstrate timber stand improvement, forest insects, diseases and topographic map interpretations, among other things, to their students.

Outdoor Classroom: The Bibb County Career Academy erected a pole barn purchased a squeeze chute with a palpation cage and livestock panels for the Ag program. This will enable students to learn about animal agriculture and prepare them for a career in cattle farming.

Sewer Facilities Upgrade at Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park: The sewer holding tank in Farley Field was updated.

Cahaba Blueway Initiative: The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development used grant funds for signage that points to access points along the banks of the Cahaba River.

Student Tutorial at the Neighborhood House: The Neighborhood House, an afterschool and summer tutorial program for kids, used funds to provide tutors for students struggling academically.

Building & Grounds Project: Cahaba Christian Academy planted grass, trees, flowers, and other greenery around the school to beautify the area & prevent erosion.

Greenhouse Facility: Fayette County High School purchased a greenhouse for the Ag department. The greenhouse will provide numerous opportunities and comprehensive training about plant sciences and aquaponics/hydroponics as applied to the agricultural industry.

Teacher Classroom Supplies: Hubbertville School purchased supplies such as CPR practice manikins, welding supplies and drills for Family and Consumer Science classes.
**Tombigbee RC&D Council Projects Continued**

**Insulation & Updates of Extension Office:** The Fayette County Extension Office used grant funds to install insulation in their office and to paint walls and the floor in the auditorium.

**Metal Fabrication Equipment:** The Fayette County High School Ag Department purchased a welding machine and welding equipment, miter saw, and bench grinder with equipment for use in training on metal fabrication.

**Computer & Internet Service Center:** SCORE, Inc. purchased reading and math resources, ACT practice books, technology resources, internet coverage and tutors for students in this economically challenged Greene county area.

**Imagine Me-Soaring High:** The Greene County Foster & Adoptive Parents Association used funds to provide a tablet, books, workbooks, tutoring and internet access to students in Greene County.

**Edible Paradise Walking Trail:** The Town of Boligee used grant funds to have arbors, self-watering plant boxes, herbs, fruit trees and fruit bushes planted around their city hall.

**Preparing Youth for the Future:** New Horizon Youth provided internet access, computers and workshops to students in need of academic help.

**Girl Scout Troop 408:** Funds were used to educate girls on cultural backgrounds and allowed them to participate in recreational activities that they are not normally exposed to.

**An Apple a Day:** Moundville Elementary purchased iPad minis, along with equipment to store them in, and computers for third grade students.

**SOS (Strengthen Our School) and SGA:** Greensboro Middle Schools provided transportation to the University of Alabama, where students were awarded t-shirts and certificates at Honor's Day. Funds were also used to purchase supplies to help students grow in self-confidence and achievement.

**The Greensboro Farmer’s Market:** Funds were used to rent a portable restroom and for much needed maintenance on the market's booths.

**Southern Academy:** Multiple projects were completed at the school. These projects includes research material, ceiling speakers, document camera, audio books, iPads, and Word Documents assisted software.

**Hale County HIPPY:** The Hale County HIPPY program is a preschool home visitation program that provides materials and instruction for preschool students. The students were provided transportation for a field trip that presented opportunities for learning outside the home.
Therapy: The Hale County Hospital purchased therapy equipment.

Firehouse Equipment at Greensboro Fire Department: A thermal imaging camera was purchased.

Stewart Community Association: Supplies and equipment were purchased for the Community Pavilion in Stewart.

Upgrade Courthouse Annex: The Tag Office and the Solid Waste Office were updated at the Courthouse Annex in Lamar County. New computers, printers, fax machine, signs, phone system and counter work station were included.

CNA Classroom Technology Upgrade: The Lamar County School of Technology used funds to upgrade the Health Science classroom by providing Chromebooks, and a wireless access point.

Northwest Regional Library: Books were purchased for the libraries in the northwest region, which includes Lamar County.

Student Enhancement of Technological Skills: Vernon Elementary School purchased iPads for the classrooms.

South Lamar Technology Tablet Initiative: South Lamar School provided additional tablets for the students and the teachers.

Sulligent Advanced Placement Student Modules: Grant funds were used to provide copies of Math, English and Science Modules for students taking pre-AP and AP classes at Sulligent High School.

Summer Enrichment Program: The Carrollton Public Library used grant funds to purchase math teaching software and Lego sets and software to aid in writing stories.

EnviroScape Education Program: The Pickens County Soil and Water Conservation District purchased an EnviroScape table-top model in order to educate area students about water pollution.

To Integrate Technology: Aliceville Elementary School purchased tablets for students to use in the classroom.

GHS Football Fencing Project: Gordo High School installed new fencing around the football stadium.

Schoolhouse Pavilion: The Town of Epes installed a pavilion for use as a workshops, private events, and farmer’s market.

Batting Cages: The City of Livingston updated the batting cages at Jaycee Park. A concrete slab was poured, poles were straightened and reinforced and artificial turf was installed.

continued
Tombigbee RC&D Council Projects Continued

**Quest for Sustainable Health Begins at Home:** A series of workshops were conducted in Gainesville outlining the harmful effects of toxic chemicals used in the home and ways to create nontoxic products with more environmentally friendly ingredients.

**Sumter/Marengo Water Festival:** The Sumter County Soil and Water Conservation District hosts the Sumter/Marengo Water Festival that provides students with hands-on activities that allow them a better understanding of the importance of water. The event is held at the University of West Alabama.

**Improving Plant Productivity Using Probiotics:** Funds were used to purchase lab supplies for research on the productivity of using plant probiotics at the University of West Alabama.

**Firefighting Equipment:** The grant funds were used to provide equipment for the nine fire departments in the Tuscaloosa county area.

**Digital Discovery & Print Preservation:** The Tuscaloosa County Board of Education used grant funds to purchase interactive databases for grades PreK through grade three. The databases help students acquire literacy skills as well as digital experience in a format that encourages learning.

**Wetlands Fencing:** The Town of Vance installed a fence around federal wetlands to ensure their protection.

**Science in the Sun:** Crestmont Elementary was able to create an outdoor classroom in the courtyard of the school. Students helped to plan, plant and water the garden.

**Conservation Education Outreach:** Tombigbee RC&D presents demonstrations about water pollution and pollination to area schools and youth programs.

**Jeremiah’s Community Garden:** Grant funds were used to purchase a tiller. The garden provided over 4,500 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to area foodbanks and charities this year.

**NRCS Outreach:** Tombigbee RC&D partnered with USDA/NRCS to host workshops for landowners and beginning farmers and ranchers.
Wiregrass RC&D Council


Projects and Accomplishments for 2016

Barbour County Groundwater Festival: Fourth graders learn about all aspects of water and other natural resources and to instill in them a general environmental and stewardship ethic.

Leadership Barbour: The goal is to train and educate citizens so they can lead Barbour County into the future. Citizens identified with leadership abilities are selected and exposed to leadership resources within the community designed to educate, prepare and inspire these individuals to assume future leadership roles.

Coffee County Groundwater Festival: The Coffee County Groundwater Festival Committee purchased materials used to conduct education activities focusing on water conservation to all 4th graders in the Coffee County schools.

Forestry Habitat & Ecosystem Outreach: The mission of the Covington County SWCD is to educate children about proper forest management while developing a desire to protect and conserve our forestland. Approximately 250 students from Covington County Schools attended.

Coffee Springs Gym Renovation: The Town of Coffee Springs was awarded a grant to renovate the electrical wiring of the gym. This gym is used to support local church activities, school and family reunions.

Forestry and Wildlife Field Days: A day for students to have a forestry and wildlife field day. They learn about forestry practices, forestry stewardship and wildlife. Coffee County SWCD sponsors this event.

Envirothon Team Sponsorship: This project provides students with instruction in soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues. If they win the local contest they go on to the state contest.

Enhanced Environmental Outreach: The Covington County Education Coordinator purchased educational aids, display materials and replacement parts for improved delivery of conservation lessons.

Thermal Image Camera: This camera is invaluable in firefighting. It can be used to locate people in smoke and fire and missing persons.

Crenshaw County 4-H Program: Crenshaw County Water Authority

Office Location:
Wiregrass RC&D Council
211 North Union Avenue
Ozark, AL 36360
Office 334.774.2334
www.wiregrassrcd.com
conducted classes to educate students and their families about forestry, wildlife management, natural resources and water quality.

**SWCD Storage Shed:** The Coffee County SWCD built a storage shed to house a Polaris Ranger, educational supplies and other materials as needed.

**Tom Harbin Ag Center:** Infrastructure repairs will be made to the Ag Center. The center gets multiple uses from the community to hold meetings and events.

**Crenshaw County Ground Water Festival:** Students participate in three hands-on learning activities focusing on what groundwater is, the importance of water to all life, the water cycle and groundwater’s role in it.

**Wing Community Center:** Replaced doors and windows as well as general maintenance including plumbing repainting and installing a new window air conditioner.

**Air Pack Project:** Banks Volunteer Fire Department purchased air packs to fight interior fire attacks. Now all firemen have airpacks.

**Dale County SWCD Education:** Dale County SWCD hosted the annual groundwater festival. Materials and supplies for the festival were purchased.

**Education Materials for 4-H:** Dale County ACES purchased a “Skins and Skulls” kit to teach students in the area of natural resources and the environment.

**Dale County EMA:** EMA purchased tables, computers, televisions and upgraded multiple emergency preparedness items.

**Ag/Nature/Technology:** Vivian B. Adams School purchased six iPads and an assortment of specialized applications for each iPad. The iPad is a tool that is easily mastered by many of their special needs individuals.

**Making a 1st Impression:** Florala High School landscaped the front of their school; installing irrigation, planting 78 plants and adding pine straw.

**Golden Peanut Improvement:** The City of Headland renovated the press box at Golden Field in Douglas Park with new siding, steps and a new roof.

**Geneva County Groundwater Festival:** Geneva Count ACES provided hands-on teaching to students to learn about groundwater, conservation and recycling water for irrigation.

**Handicap Access:** A handicap accessible sidewalk 395 feet long was built from the parking lot to the center of the recreation complex at the City’s Chapman Park.

**Henry County GWF:** WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Henry County Extension office to purchase supplies and materials to provide educational opportunities to 4th grade students to learn about groundwater.
Henry County 4-H: WRC&D provided financial assistance to Henry County Extension Office for the purpose of carrying out the 4-H program in Henry County Schools.

Schoolhouse Branch: Due to heavy rainfall the past few years’, erosion has become a problem. The side of the stream was graded and Geotextile material was installed with class 2 rip-rap. This will slow the water that is coming down the road avoiding washing gullies in the back of the church.

New Brockton Tunnel House: This project will provide students with hands on learning experience and environment. Promote agriculture within the students and create an understanding of future careers in the farming and ag business.

Houston County GWF: WRC&D provided financial assistance to Houston Co. SWCD for the purpose of purchasing supplies and materials to conduct a groundwater festival to 1200 4th grade students in Houston County Schools.

4-H Utility Trailer: A 6x12 enclosed trailer was purchased for transporting and storage of the demonstration materials, tables, stands and cages utilized to conduct workshops.

Genesis II Raised Beds: Raised beds were built on the grounds of the Genesis II transitional home for women. The women built the beds and will work to grow food that they will harvest and eat.

Interior Renovations: The Columbia Historical Society renovated the building by installing new bathrooms to create a handicap accessible bathroom. An existing office was turned into a historical document storage room.

Educational Signs: Signs will be developed for five different areas in Landmark Park. Topics covered will be Honeybees/Pollination, Composting, Solar Energy, Subsurface Irrigation and Rotational Grazing.

Enhance Wildlife Education: Houston County ACES purchased mammal & reptile pelts, track plaster molds, along with skeletal models for hands-on education on wildlife. A recent event reached over 4,000 8th graders.

Erosion/Drainage at Landmark Park: Landmark Park needs to properly solve drainage and roadway issues at the Park.

Conservation Education in Action: Pike County SWCD held several educational programs for the schools in Pike County.

CR 5521 Ditch Stabilization: WRC&D provided financial assistance to the Pike County Commission for the purpose of the installation of rock flumes to adequately control concentrated runoff water.
**Growing our Youth with Pike 4-H Programs:** Grant funds provided financial assistance to Pike County Extension Office for the purpose of implementing educational programs for over 1700 4-H’ers in each school in Pike County.

**Crawford Park:** Crawford Park is located in rural Russell County. They did not have a public park prior to this project. A large playground area was built and furnished with $50,000.00 worth of playground equipment.

**Culinary Green House:** A tunnel house was built on the grounds of Central High School in Russell County. Vegetables will be grown and harvested by the students and incorporated into the menu they design for our student-run restaurant.

**Russell County 4-H:** Grant funds provided financial assistance to the Russell County ACES to help carry out the 4-H program in Russell County Schools.

**Greenville: Good, Better, Best:** Lakewood Elementary School in Russell County installed several additions to their greenhouse area. A white picket fence with arbor to enclose the work area was erected. Mulch was added to the path leading to the arbor. New raised beds were added and an irrigation system.

**Zion Chapel Tunnel House:** This project will provide students with hands on learning experience and environment. Promote agriculture within the students and create an understanding of future careers in the farming and ag business.

**Wiregrass Wildlife Wonders:** Auburn University Museum of Natural History provided environmental education outreach to students from Barbour County Public Schools. Students learned about Nature Art, Insectology, Ornithology, Lichens, Reptiles and Amphibians and CSI or how to solve a crime using clues from nature. A total of 142 students participated.

**Capacity Building:** Grant funds provided financial assistance for council members and staff to attend training meetings, staff development and conventions designed to share information and distribute materials and resources to other councils.

**Water Conservation Workshop:** Landmark Park hosted two outreach workshops to provide education and training to FFA students in the Wiregrass on the wise use of agricultural production methods, scholarships, internships and careers for students in ag related fields.

**Wiregrass Education and Outreach:** Provide travel and expenses for the Alabama Clean Water Partnership facilitator to conduct educational activities as directed by the ACWP and assist with WRC&D educational activities.

**Website/Training:** The Wiregrass RC&D website was totally re-built to handle application grants and so staff can make changes to the website on their own.