



2007 Annual Report

Our Mission

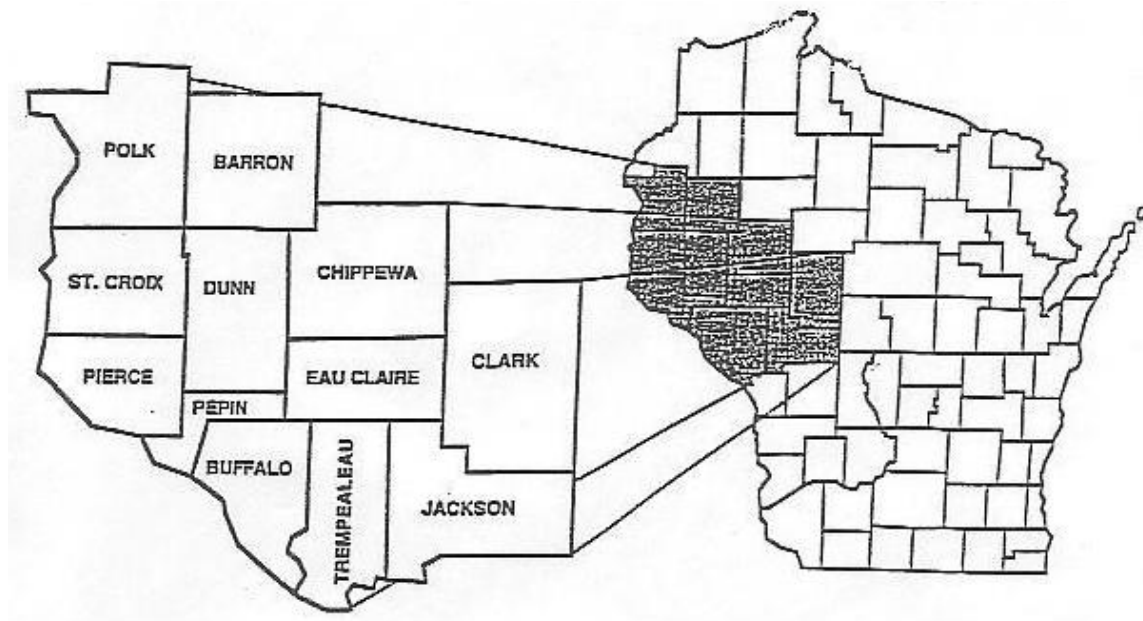
River Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council is a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization that initiates, facilitates and builds connections for the wise use of natural, human and economic resources.

Statement of Purpose

Bringing people and resources together to address issues and opportunities, to conserve our natural resources, promote sustainability, and improve the quality of life for people who live in the River Country Area.

Vision

River Country RC&D Council is a key player providing the best assistance needed for building strong rural and urban communities and economies.



The River Country RC&D Council prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

Check out our updated web site at www.rivercountryrcd.org

Letter from the President

Hello,

It is a great pleasure looking back on 2007. The Board, Council Members, Staff, Sponsors and Partners of River Country have a lot to be proud of. We successfully met many challenges and took advantage of many opportunities.

The Board and Staff should be particularly proud of the work they did to move the Council on to a firm fiscal footing, all while expanding the capacity of the Council to do more work. That said, River Country couldn't have accomplished what we did without the support of our Partners and Sponsors!

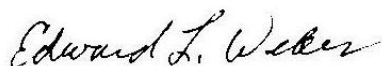
In 2007, we continue the work started in 2006 to strengthen the River Country organization. We embarked on a strategic planning effort. We have developed a working draft strategic plan begun to implement it. We hope to have a final document out to the public by mid-year 2008. Thanks to all of you who provided input to the process.

It's been a fact of life in recent years, that there is more and more competition for dwindling federal, state, and private dollars. About 90% of River Country's funding comes directly from grants. The Board and Council are looking for ways to diversify our funding sources. We are currently exploring potential fee-for-service, which could provide non-restricted funds to support our core work.

We've come a long way in the last year. However, there's still a lot that can be accomplished. On behalf of the Council, I invite you to join us on our journey to the future. There is a place in our organization for people who genuinely want to help build strong sustainable communities and conserve our natural resources.

If you want to learn more, please feel free to call our office at 715-834-9672 or toll free at 800-226-9672.

Sincerely,



EDWARD L. WEBER
President

Check out our updated web site at www.rivercountryrcd.org

Our 2007 Accomplishments



Prairie seed waiting to be picked up

Prairie Seed Bulk Order

This year the Bulk Prairie Seed Order was a great success for the River Country RC&D Council. For the past eight years, landowners throughout Wisconsin have had chance to order high quality prairie seed at a much lower cost. River Country receives seed orders from landowners, solicits bids from local nurseries, orders seed, and weighs out each individual order. This is done for a minimal cost to the landowners who receive seed purchased based on the best prices and highest quality seed available.

River Country RC&D received 39 orders, adding over 300 acres of prairie habitat to Wisconsin. Not only is this a great way to restore and enhance the prairie ecosystems of Wisconsin, but the bulk prairie seed sale is used as a fundraiser to help River Country with operating costs and conservation programs.

Our staff is a great resource for prairie restoration recommendations. If you have any questions on how to start a prairie, whether it is in your backyard or the back 40, just give us a call and we will be happy to provide any advice you need.

We also have limited amounts of prairie seed left for purchase. We are offering the seed at a 40% discount. If you are interested, please call us at 715-834-9672.

Bugle Lake Restoration Project

The Bugle Lake restoration project continues to move forward. This past year funding was received to coordinate and facilitate a hydroelectric feasibility study to determine the value of the dam on Bugle. We were able to tie the gathering of the hydroelectric data into the lake project as well to provide a summer internship opportunity to a graduating college student. The City is also moving forward with completion of the dredging permit and will be working on the development of the actual dredge plan in 2008.



Technicians surveying the lake

NW Wisconsin Food Network

The Council has been providing technical assistance to the Northwest Wisconsin Regional Food Network for the last two years. In 2007, the Network updated and published the Farm Fresh Atlas of Western Wisconsin. The atlas listed farms who direct market value-added farm products within the River Country Area. It includes a description of the Farm, products available, and a road map listing the farm locations. River Country helped to find additional sponsors, farm listings, and helped to distribute the publication. The Network is currently working to publish the 2008 Farm Fresh Atlas of Western Wisconsin.

The Network is also working to form a distribution cooperative that will expand the markets of its members. It also has formed product specific farmer-to-farmer networks who are working to help each other improve their farm businesses.

Check out our updated web site at www.rivercountryrcd.org

Midwest Value Added Agriculture Conference

The 9th Annual Midwest Value Added Conference was held in Redwing, MN. Over 180 participants listened to key note speakers Ken Meter and Ed Mahoney talk about "Finding Food in Farm Country" and the Economics of Values Added Agriculture. We are working to plan for the 10th Annual Midwest Value Added Agriculture Conference (MVAAC). In 2008, for the first time ever, the conference will be held in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Wisconsin Local Food Summit (WLFS) in Eau Claire. The theme will be "Making Connections" says it very well. Finally, farmers and people interested in local food will be able to connect and build infrastructure to expand the availability of local food. A diverse group of attendees came to network, learn, and eat really good food!

Conservation Cooperation Project (CCP)

River Country RC&D completed the final year of the two year Conservation Cooperation Project (CCP). The CCP informed and educated landowners about the environmental and on-farm benefits of conservation practices by assisting Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and local Land Conservation Districts (LCD) in implementing the provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill. The Conservation Project Specialist coordinated and implemented educational events and worked with landowners to create conservation plans for their farm land. Educational materials that were created and distributed to landowners in Eau Claire and Buffalo Counties in Western Wisconsin

Conservation work began in Buffalo County in 2007. The Buffalo County LCD and River Country RC&D signed an agreement that was much like the agreement in Eau Claire County. In exchange for using the LCD's cost share for conservation practices, the conservation specialist would write conservation plans for the NRCS and LCD. The conservation specialist met with sixteen farmers to develop conservation plans for a total of 2967.36 acres.

During this time the conservation specialist developed educational materials and lesson plans for a variety of different conservation issues. These included a brochure written for landowners explaining the county, state, and federal rules on nutrient management plans and manure storage. Also, the conservation specialist wrote and taught a lesson plan teaching 6th grade students about the history and uses of global positioning systems in conservation and everyday life. The students also went through a trivia scavenger hunt using handheld GPS devices. The conservation specialist also presented educational materials and information pertaining to the emerald ash

borer and Wisconsin fishery information at the Polk County Earth Day celebration and the Buffalo County Fair.



Brian Brezinski with local Boy Scout troop searching for grassland bird nests at Muddy Creek Wildlife Area

Prairie Partnership

The goal of the Partnership for Prairie Education and Restoration (PPER) project was to encourage environmental stewardship of and education about prairie remnants in Eau Claire area. This project focused on various measures to protect prairie remnants on Xcel Energy's property in Eau Claire, WI, and nearby remnant prairies. Two project coordinators coordinated with local organizations, schools, community groups and the public to build a volunteer base, conducted hands on educational events for the public, oversaw project activities undertaken by the public, schools, teachers and organizations, and completed a structured management plan for the prairie remnant sites.

In 2007, River Country in conjunction with the Prairie Partnership, held many successful events on the remnant prairie. These included a two week class for middle school students and a bird walk with the Eau Claire Master Gardeners. We also presented at the Chippewa Valley Environmental Forum and the Eau Claire Public Library, and lead a Boy Scout troop outing at Muddy Creek Wildlife Area.

Summer Internships

River Country RC&D hired two interns for the summer of 2007. Lindsay Raab was assigned to assist in three on-going projects: Prairie Partnership, Bugle Lake

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Restoration and Managed Intensive Grazing Initiative. Jackie Ebert worked on several projects as well, such as on-farm soil sampling, the Bugle Lake Restoration and overall project assistance.

Grazing Initiative



Interested locals out on a pasture walk

Grazing: Coulee Graziers Technical Assistance Grant

This years Coulee Graziers TA Program was very successful. We are continuing to work new livestock producers that have definite needs while implementing MIG on their farms. The original goals were to have completed 15 new plans. That number was increased to 18 with an extension on the grant funding. We were also able to again exceed the original goal of 20 existing plan reviews and actually reviewed and provided follow up services on 50 existing grazing plans. The farmers involved with the Coulee Grazer network continue to help address the MiG technical service needs and have again applied for state and federal dollars to continue this programming effort while working in partnership with River Country RC&D.

Grazing: Coulee Graziers Education Program

Once again the Coulee graziers have been very busy identifying and focusing education needs for new producers and advanced graziers alike. The group was successful in hosting 6 pasture walks in Buffalo, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties as well as a 5 part grass series walk on the Inga Witscher farm. This farm is operated by a remarkable young woman who is truly

passionate about MiG and milking cows in our part of the world.

The group also was pinnacle in targeting needs to address hot issues such as carbon sequestration and how to produce milk with feeding less grain. Two special meetings were held with Key speakers (Kit Pharo and Abe Collins) these two sessions reached over 100 producers from our area. The group also hosted a series of winter discussion group session that proved to be very educational for all.

Total attendees at the various coulee educational events topped over 370 producers. The Coulee graziers have applied for additional funding and will continue there programming in 2008.

Grazing: Chippewa Valley Grazers Network Technical Assistance Program

The Chippewa Valley Grazers TA Program continues to grow. Within the counties of Chippewa, Clark, Dunn and Eau Claire, River Country RC&D assisted 13 farmers to develop new Managed intensive Grazing (MiG) plans. We also assisted 20 other farmers in the area to revise their MiG plans to implement other sustainable farm methods as well as increase their profit. A total of 2747 acres in the Chippewa Valley is now in MiG plans.



This baby grazier is "takin' it easy"

Grazing: Chippewa Valley Grazing Education Program

The Chippewa Valley Grazing Network exceeded their goals and objectives this year. The Network was busy with seven pasture walks, a winter grazing meeting with Jim Gerrish (America Grazing Lands Services) and Michael

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Russelle (University of Minnesota) in February of 2007, a late spring dairy nutrition discussion group/pasture walk planning meeting, a discussion group meeting focused on rising feed and energy costs, and a 2008 Winter Grazing Conference in Eau Claire.

Other events include a Managed Grazing presentation given by Lance Klessig and a father-son team (who graze a dairy herd) at the Chippewa Valley Environmental Forum, and a Soils Class from UW-Eau Claire visited a grass based dairy farm in Eau Claire County with Lance Klessig to learn more about Managed intensive Grazing.



These Brown Swiss and Holstein cows are excited about grazing too!

Grazing: St. Croix Valley Grazing Technical Assistance Program

Starting in May of 2007 we continued our efforts to extend the River Country Grazing program into the areas of St. Croix, Pierce, Dunn, and Pepin counties, offering Technical Assistance to producers. Our efforts were well received by producers in this area, writing 15 grazing plans and meeting our objectives of 15 for 2007. In addition, we completed 9 grazing plan follow-up reviews focusing in Pierce County.

The River Country Grazing Program has been an integral part of the grazing community in the River Country 12 county area offering Technical Assistance to producers for the past 9 years, and has again applied for state and federal funding to continue our tradition of offering Grazing Technical Assistance in the River Country area.

Grazing: St. Croix Valley Grazing Education Program

In 2007, the River Country Grazing Education program held a total of eight events reaching 260 participants from the River Country Area. Each of these events brought a mixture of attendance; including students, community members, and the grazing community. Having this mix, it is our hope that we are aiding in bridging the gap between the urban and rural farming communities.

These events included 4 pasture walks (Dairy and Beef), 2 pastures walks focusing on Grassland Birds in conjunction with the UWEC Biology Department (1 Dairy and 1 Beef), 2 keynote speaker meetings featuring Abe Collins and Kit Pharo, 2 presentations (Beaver Creek Environmental Forum and Rural Living Days), and 1 interactive talk to 7th and 8th graders from the Arcadia School District for Arcadia's Environmental Day.

River Country has applied for state and federal funding to continue our tradition of offering Grazing Educational Assistance in the River Country area.

Driftless Area Initiative

River Country continued its support of The Driftless Area Initiative (DAI) in 2007. The Council submitted a grant to the US Forest Service on behalf of the DAI, to bring cable-yarding technology to the Midwest. The Council also collaborated on several other DAI grant proposals including Warm Season Grass biomass studies.

The Driftless Area Initiative is an effort led by representatives from six Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&Ds) charged with assessing and addressing the unique natural resource and economic challenges of the Driftless Area of the Mississippi River through collaborative efforts. Partners include: Southwest Badger, Limestone Bluffs, Northeast Iowa, Blackhawk Hills, Hiawatha Valley, and River Country RC&Ds.

DAI- Rush River/Isabelle Creek Watershed Project

As part of the Driftless Area Initiative Project, River Country RC&D received funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide assistance to the Pierce County NRCS in order to increase conservation implementation in the Rush River and Isabelle Creek Watersheds in Pierce County. These two watersheds were chosen because they flow into Lake Pepin on the Mississippi River.

The Conservation Project Specialist has been worked on various different programs, from conducting status reviews to writing contracts for the latest Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up.

During the duration of the project River Country worked with 187 landowners for a total of over 8,000 acres.

DAI- Native Grassland Biomass Project

Southwest Badger RC&D along with River Country RC&D are working to achieve the goal of providing reliable, local, and sustainable energy to West Central Wisconsin. In order to achieve this goal, both RC&D's received a grant to conduct research of existing CRP fields and other native grass plantings in Pierce, Pepin and Buffalo Counties to determine the amount of bio mass CRP fields can yield. We will be surveying the CRP fields this spring to determine the amount of biomass available and the economic feasibility of harvesting native grass for generating electricity

Red Cedar TMDL Coordination Team

The Red Cedar TMDL Coordination team, a group of individuals from the WI DNR, USDA NRCS, UW Extension, Menomonie High School, Dunn County LCD, Western Wisconsin Energy, and Tainter/Menomine Lake Association, is working to develop a pilot project to address the water quality issues on the Red Cedar River.

The TMDL Coordination Team decided to focus on one township in the Red Cedar River watershed for this pilot project. Grant Township was chosen and meetings were held with landowners to assist in refining the survey used to identify barriers and incentives to conservation implementation. In the following months, the project coordinators met individually with 30 producers in the township. During each landowner interview, time was spent going through the six page survey to assess producer's thoughts and opinions on water quality in the Red Cedar River Watershed as well as information on how they are farming.

Based on the information collected from the surveys, the Red Cedar TMDL Coordination Team has been working with farmers and landowners to develop a pilot project to address these barriers. The team members have been meeting with landowners in Grant Township to get their input on the project. Additionally, follow-up letters requested that landowners rate potential pilot project ideas created by the Red Cedar TMDL Coordination Team have been sent. Once we receive these letters back, the Team will work to implement the pilot project.

Throughout the pilot project we will evaluate what was successful in reaching the specified objectives and also identify obstacles. If the pilot is successful in Grant Township, the team will look to replicate the project in other parts of the Red Cedar River Watershed.

Pay It Forward

This year The Council supported the Pay It Forward project in Barron, Polk and Burnett Counties acting as fiscal agent for the project and using some of the dollars they received from a Cooperative Agreement with USDA NRCS. The project also received donations of cash and materials from the community, Master Gardeners, and The Flower Farm.

Two youth groups planted community gardens. Despite record drought conditions, the kids grew produce that they donated to area pantries and sold produce at local farmer's markets to help cover the costs of the project.

Planning has started for next year, with the hopes of adding additional gardens. If you are interested in supporting this project for 2008, please contact Tracey Mofle at 715-790-9177 or our office.

Polk County Renewable Energy Committee

The Polk County Board of Supervisors created the Polk County Renewable Energy Committee to research and, if possible, develop renewable energy sources and businesses within Polk County. At their request, River Country completed a grant search and provided some minor assistance in submitting a grant to USDA Rural Development to conduct a biomass inventory for the County and a 50 mile radius around the County.

Wisconsin Veterans Memorial State Trail

The Villages of Spring Valley and Elmwood, WI along with many interested individuals began working to develop a non-motorized trail between the two communities. They asked River Country to help coordinate and facilitate their activities.

The Trail Steering Committee quickly determined they needed to locate a route for the trail as a priority. While there was an old railroad right-of-way, it was abandoned in the 1960's and owner had reverted to the adjacent landowners.

River Country allocated \$1000 their Cooperative Agreement with NRCS to the project. This allowed the Committee to hire an intern from UW River Falls to identify potential trail routes. The Committee is currently using the

mapped routes as a tool in talking with landowners in hopes of finalizing a route.

River Country wrote and submitted two grant proposals (Kodak/unsuccessful and American Hiker/May 2008) on behalf of the Trail Committee.

PROJECTS BY COUNTY

BARRON

- NW Wisconsin Local Food Network
- Management Intensive Grazing Network Coordination – Services available
- Prairie Seed Bulk Order
- 2007 Farm Fresh Atlas
- Pay It Forward

BUFFALO

- 9th Midwest Value Added Conference
- Management Intensive Grazing Network Coordination – Coulee Graziers
- Prairie Seed Bulk Order
- Driftless Area Initiative
- Conservation Cooperation Program
- Management Intensive Grazing Technical Assistance
- NW Wisconsin Local Food Network
- 2007 Farm Fresh Atlas

CHIPPEWA

- 9th Midwest Value Added Conference
- Management Intensive Grazing Network Coordination
- Prairie Seed Bulk Order
- Management Intensive Grazing Technical Assistance
- NW Wisconsin Local Food Network
- 2007 Farm Fresh Atlas

CLARK

- Management Intensive Grazing Network Coordination
- Management Intensive Grazing Technical Assistance
- NW Wisconsin Local Food Network

DUNN

- NW Wisconsin Local Food Network
- 9th Midwest Value Added Conference
- Advanced Grazing Discussion Groups
- Prairie Seed Bulk Order
- Red Cedar Implementation Project
- Driftless Area Initiative
- Management Intensive Grazing Network Coordination
- Management Intensive Grazing Technical Assistance
- 2007 Farm Fresh Atlas
- Driftless Area

EAU CLAIRE

- 9th Midwest Value Added Conference
- Management Intensive Grazing Network Coordination
- Management Intensive Grazing Technical Assistance
- Prairie Seed Bulk Order
- NW Wisconsin Local Food Network
- Prairie Partnership with North Star Middle School and Xcel Energy
- 2007 Farm Fresh Atlas
- Driftless Area Initiative

JACKSON

- Management Intensive Grazing Network Coordination
- Management Intensive Grazing Technical Assistance
- Driftless Area Initiative
- NW Wisconsin Local Food Network
- Prairie Seed Bulk Order
- 2007 Farm Fresh Atlas

PEPIN

- 9th Midwest Value Added Conference
- NW Regional Food Network
- Management Intensive Grazing Network Coordination
- Driftless Area Initiative
- NW Wisconsin Local Food Network
- 2007 Farm Fresh Atlas

PIERCE

- 9th Midwest Value Added Conference
- Management Intensive Grazing Network Coordination
- Management Intensive Grazing Technical Assistance
- Driftless Area Initiative
- NW Wisconsin Local Food Network
- 2007 Farm Fresh Atlas
- DAI Rush-Isabelle Conservation Assistance

POLK

- Management Intensive Grazing Network Coordination
- NW Wisconsin Local Food Network
- Farm Fresh Atlas – 9 farmers

- Polk County Renewable Energy Committee

ST. CROIX

- 9th Midwest Value Added Conference
- Management Intensive Grazing Technical Assistance
- NW Wisconsin Local Food Network
- 2007 Farm Fresh Atlas
- Driftless Area Initiative

TREMPEALEAU

- Management Intensive Grazing Network Coordination
- Management Intensive Grazing Technical Assistance
- Driftless Area Initiative
- Prairie Seed Bulk Order
- Independence – Bugle Lake Restoration

2007 River Country RC&D Council Donated Support

Over \$25,000

USDA Natural Resource
Conservation Service
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade and Consumer Protection

Over \$5,000 – River Country Society

Independence City Council
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Southwest Badger RC&D Council
Risk Management Agency
US Environmental Protection Agency
Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board
Xcel Energy

Over \$2500 – Diamond Circle

Dunn County Land Conservation
Department

Over \$1500 – Platinum Circle

Wisconsin Land & Water
Conservation Association

Over \$1,000 – Gold Circle

Eau Claire Community Foundation

Over \$500 – Silver Circle

Elk Rod and Gun Club
Farm Credit Wisconsin
Farmers Union Enterprises
Fillmore SWCD
Greater Menomonie Area
Foundation
Phillip Mofle
Steele Waseca Cooperative
UW River Falls
Willy Street Co-op
Wisconsin Farmers Union

Over \$150 – Bronze Circle

Agstar Financial Services
Chippewa Valley Electric
Cooperative
Clark County Electric
Dale Fern
Land Stewardship Project
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota NCR-SARE
MOSES
The Cooperative Foundation
Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Wilson Pork Association

Over \$35 – Associate Circle

Ag Source
Anonymous Donors
Cassellacres Dairy
Dunn County Energy Cooperative
Gavic Law Offices
Michael Fields Agriculture Institute
SALA Capital Safety USA
Wisconsin SARE

\$1 – \$35

End-O-Way LLC
Jon Flurry
Martha Jo Esterline
Matthew Buvala
Thomas Stelter

Other in kind donations

Anna Brady
General Beer Northwest
Hiawatha Valley RC&D Council
Lance Klessig (cell phone)
Lindsay Raab (laptop computer and
cell phone)

2007 Balance Sheet

	<u>Dec 31, 07</u>
ASSETS	
<u>Current</u>	
1015 · Checking2	\$ 2,771.73
1041 · Restricted Savings	200.00
1042 · Unrestricted Savings	3,200.31
1043 · Depreciation Fund	2,015.90
1044 · Vacation Liability	2,748.77
1200 · Accounts Receivable	45,808.04
Total Current Assets	\$ 56,744.75
<u>Fixed</u>	
1600 · Fixed Assets	\$ 5,845.78
1650 · Accumulated depreciation	(5,442.66)
Total Fixed Assets	403.12
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 57,147.87
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
<u>Liabilities</u>	
2000 · Accounts Payable	\$ 2,118.92
2020 · Unearned Revenue	5,060.00
2010 · Wages Payable	2,748.77
Total Liabilities	\$ 9,927.69
<u>Equity</u>	
2999 · Retained Earnings	\$ 9,671.32
Net Income	37,548.86
Total Equity	47,220.18
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 57,147.87

Income Statement

Jan - Dec 07

Income	
3010 · Service Income	\$ 8,754.19
3015 · Seed	51,529.63
3020 · NRCS Support	23,000.00
3025 · General & Admin	6,075.66
3030 · County Donations	1,650.00
3040 · Contributions	135.00
3045 · Reimbursed Expenses	5,360.29
3047 · Interest Income	187.44
3055 · Grants	260,382.10
3065 · Contributions	6,831.00
Total Income	\$363,905.31

Cost of Goods Sold	
5000 · Seed	\$ 43,315.66
Total COGS	\$ 43,315.66
Gross Profit	\$320,589.65

Expense	
7001 · Project Assistance	\$ 30,681.75
7005 · Advertisements	1,258.99
7025 · Meetings/Conferences	2,414.75
7061 · Salaries	164,839.04
7062 · FICA Tax Expense	11,973.40
7063 · Health Insurance	18,227.80
7064 · IRA	2,354.48
7065 · Vacation Expense	2,112.92
7068 · Unemployment Tax	847.74
7072 · Consulting	1,545.00
7080 · Contract Labor	5,711.50
7083 · Pay Pal Fees	76.86
7084 · Food	1,068.00
7085 · Printing	2,525.03
7086 · Postage	3,473.79
7088 · Speaker Fees	1,674.33
7089 · Program Expense	1,397.37
7091 · Office Supplies	253.41
7093 · Program Supplies	13,545.47
7096 · Mileage/Transportation	13,747.38
7097 · Hotels	82.00
7100 · Telephone	1,196.02
7111 · Fuel	781.75
7114 · Lease	1,037.06
7120 · Email/Web Hosting	214.95
Total Expense	\$283,040.79
Net Income	\$ 37,548.86

General Officers

Ed Weber
Council President
Eau Claire

Rich Purdy
Council Vice-President
Pierce County

Gene Ruetz
Council Secretary
St. Croix County

Marlin Baillargeon
Council Treasurer
Polk County

Board of Directors

Larry Balk
Buffalo County

Marilynn Mayenschein
At-Large Clark County

Roger Kaufman
At-Large Jackson County

Council

Jerry Mc Roberts
Barron County

Duane Boon
Clark County

LaVerne Crapser
Pepin County

Marlin Baillargeon
Polk County

Marlin Baillargeon
Polk County

Gene Ruetz
St. Croix County

Byron Anderson
Coulee Graziers

Wayne Skroch
City of Independence

Wayne Whitney
Dunn County

Pam Rasmussen
Xcel Energy

Brian Mullendor
AgStar Financial Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

Staff

Mary C. Anderson
Grazing Specialist
mary.anderson@rcdnet.net

Brian Brezinski
Grazing Land Specialist
brian.brezinski@rcdnet.net

Melanie Oetzman
Conservation Project Specialist
melanie.oetzman@rcdnet.net

Address
River Country RC&D, Inc.
1304 N. Hillcrest Pkwy, Suite B
PO Box 207
Altoona, WI 54720-0207

Pam Herdrich
RC&D Coordinator – USDA-NRCS
pam.herdrich@wi.usda.gov

Lance Klessig
Grazing Lands Technician
lance.klessig@rcdnet.net

Linda Lubberda
Accountant
llubberda@mail.rivercountryrcd.org

Phone Numbers
715-834-9672
800-226-9672
(Fax) 715-834-8663



B U I L D I N G C O N N E C T I O N S

1304 North Hillcrest Parkway, Suite B, Altoona, WI 54720 Phone: 715-834-9672 Fax: 715-834-8663

April 2007

Dear Neighbor,

After reading our 2007 Annual Report, you learned a bit about River Country RC&D. If you would like to learn more, please feel free to contact us at 834-9672 or 1-800-226-9672.

We don't just talk about sustainable environment, economy and society, we "make it happen". The Council helps people find resources and expertise to solve local problems, and take advantage of opportunities. Our projects include improving quality of life, biodiversity, and economical stability within the River Country Area.

This year we are concentrating on building our capacity to enable us to increase our assistance in the area. To do this, we need your help. Please consider sharing your expertise, time, and/or financial support. We can provide many opportunities to share your expertise such as, volunteering on projects, serving on the Council, a promoting the organization and helping the staff in the office. Every hour or dollar you give has a direct impact on the strength and future of this organization and the land and community you and I are trying to maintain.

I hope you will donate your time and/or a tax-deductible gift. Your gift to River Country RC&D results in direct action which improves the land and community you care for. With your gift, you will receive newsletters, updates, invitations to events and opportunities to be directly involved with the projects. Please partner with us! Our work together is urgent, but our accomplishments are long lasting. Please take a moment to sit down and return the following response form.

We need the generous support of our neighbors in order to make this year as successful as 2007. Together, we have much to celebrate and much, much more to do!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward L. Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

EDWARD L. WEBER
President

Check out our updated web site at www.rivercountryrcd.org



**River Country RC&D Giving Club 2007
The Spirit of Individual Giving**

Yes, I want to make a significant investment in our community by making a gift to the River Country RC&D Giving Club

Giving Levels for One Year

- River Country Society (\$5000 or more)
- Diamond Circle (\$2500 or \$4999)
- Platinum Circle (\$1500-\$2499)
- Gold Circle (\$1000-\$1499)
- Silver Circle (\$500-\$999)
- Bronze Circle (\$150-\$499)
- Associate Circle (\$35-\$149)

I would like to pledge the amount to the left for the next 3 years.

My total gift/pledge will be: _____

My Employer will match my gift:
(Fill out your company's form and send it to us)

Yes, I want to volunteer my expertise and time. I would be interested in:

- Serving on the Council
 - Working on a project
 - Helping the staff in the Office
- My expertise is: _____

My gift will be paid by:

- Payment enclosed (check # _____)
- Credit Card (Visa, MC)
- Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____
- Signature _____ Date _____
- Direct Billing
- Once (date) _____
- Quarterly (beginning in January)

Name _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Please print your name (s) as you prefer it (them) to appear in the Giving Club Registry:

_____ I/We wish to remain anonymous

Please send invitations, mailings and bills to: Home Address as listed above
 Other address, please list below

Planned Giving is a way to enrich your community, now and forever.
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