



# ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

2018-2019

262.020 Purpose of soil and water conservation district -- Methods of achieving purpose. The purpose of a soil and water conservation district is to conserve and develop all renewable natural resources within the district. In so doing, the district is authorized to undertake, sponsor, or participate in projects and activities which promote the conservation, development, maintenance and use of the land, water, trees and other renewable natural resources of the district. Such projects and activities shall include but not be limited to conservation practices on agricultural lands, the control of soil erosion, retardation of water runoff, the construction of flood prevention and control reservoirs, the maintenance of flood plains, the promotion of projects to assure an adequate municipal, industrial and agricultural supply of water, watershed stabilization, the avoidance and abatement of sedimentation and pollution in streams and other bodies of water, forestation and reforestation, the establishment of parks and outdoor recreation areas, the protection of open space, greenbelt areas and scenery, the preservation of wilderness areas, the protection of fish and wildlife, working for the location of highways, industries, housing developments, airports and other structures as are consistent with the district's objectives and will offer the least possible interference with the conservation and best multiple use of the renewable natural resources, and all other activities consistent with the total natural resources development of the district. History: Amended 1968 Ky. Acts Ch. 64, sec. 1. -- Recodified 1942 Ky. Acts Ch. 208, sec. 1, effective November 1, 1942, from Ky. Stat. sec. 42i-2.

**Boone County Conservation District**

meganclere@bccdky.org





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**Introduction**

The Mission of the Boone County Conservation District (BCCDKY) is to promote the protection and wise use of natural resources through education and service to the citizens of Boone County, Kentucky. As a Conservation District, we provide technical assistance, conservation planning, and access to cost share programs to the community.

BCCDKY has determined that the most pressing natural resource concerns in Boone County include the protection of water resources (e.g. stream health), soil health and stabilization, and the health and ecological integrity of our forest and wildlife resources. These priorities have been determined through day-to-day interactions and interfaces with the community, as well as productive collaboration and partnerships with local, state, and federal resource agencies. Education and awareness of these identified resource concerns is perhaps BCCDKY’s most pressing priority. The District’s mandate to address these issues is solely in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of every Boone County citizen and has driven the development of our Annual Plan of Work.

*Enormous changes in Boone County’s land use, population growth, and development in the last 30 years has led to the degradation of our natural resources. These changes are demonstrated in part by our published Woolper Creek and Gunpowder Creek Watershed Plans. The BCCDKY budget to address these identified issues is undersupplied and has not kept pace. Therefore, our priority and effort over the next year is to work toward the development of an equitable and efficient budget that supports a robust conservation program to address these issues.*

The BCCDKY Board of Supervisors and Staff is determined to meet these challenges and has developed the following Annual Plan of Work.

**Board of Supervisors**

- Kristin Scott, *Chairman*
- Rebecca Ortwein, *Vice Chairman*
- Victor Vanover, *Treasurer/Secretary*
- Debra Waller
- Loren Hand
- Christopher Benton
- Jason Roberts

**Office Staff**

- Mark Jacobs, *Watershed Project Manager*
- Susan Brown, *Conservation Education Specialist*
- Megan Clere, *District Administrative Secretary*
- J.T. McMullen, *Regional NWQI Coordinator*

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**Board Supervisor**

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**Date**

## Operations

Maintain a Budget Committee to pursue equitable and sustainable funding for BCCDKY.

- Ensure that the budget supports the Annual Plan of Work and Long Range Plan activities.
- The Budget Committee will meet quarterly for updates, if necessary, and with the Accountant(s).
- The Budget Committee will establish a three- or five-year budget, in addition to the required one-year budget.
- The Budget Committee will meet with the Judge County Executive and County Administrator at least twice a year.
- The Budget Committee will meet with the County Commissioners at least once a year.

Meet and exceed the statutory requirements that are listed in the BCCDKY Long Range Plan, revised March 2018.

Provide funding for BCCDKY Board Member(s) and Staff to represent the County, District, and State at the National Association of Conservation Districts, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts, and any other appropriate functions during the year.

## Conservation Programs



### 1

## Water Resources

- Continue efforts for improved stream health through implementation of Watershed Plans for Gunpowder Creek and Woolper Creek.
- Execute the requirements of 319(h) non-point source pollution grants.
- Continue to seek partnerships to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in the approved Watershed Plans.
- Continue close working relationship with Sanitation District No. 1 to monitor the water resources in Boone County.
- Utilize 319(h) Clean Water Act grants awarded by Kentucky Division of Water and other sources of funding to implement BMPs identified in Watershed Plans.
- Continue monitoring and collecting data at established test sites in Gunpowder Creek and Woolper Creek Watersheds.
- Maintain and strengthen partnerships developed through prior watershed initiatives.
- Begin to identify and prioritize efforts in other watersheds in Boone County.



### 2

## Forest & Wildlife Resources

- Identify forest and wildlife management issues of concern in Boone County to develop a long-term strategy to address such issues. Focus should be on ecological function of forest lands. Priority issues include: forest health, invasive species, biodiversity, habitat fragmentation, threatened/endangered wildlife and species of concern, and land management.
- Work with local universities to encourage research on local forest and wildlife issues.
- Collaborate closely with other local, state, and federal agencies where appropriate.
- Develop educational opportunities for management of forest and wildlife resources (i.e. field days, lectures, etc.)
- Develop a Forest Conservation Committee.
- Develop Forest Education Programs for K-12.



### 3

## Agricultural Resources

### Technical/Planning

- Provide technical assistance and planning services to Boone County landowners and producers.
- Facilitate assistance from other resource agencies when necessary.
- Facilitate landowner compliance with the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act (KAWQA).
- Continue to promote and facilitate landowner participation in Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program and Federal Cost Share Programs, when available, to decrease soil loss and improve water quality.
- Provide financial assistance for landowners and producers for the Dead Farm Animal Removal and Farm Dump Removal.
- Promote the Kentucky State University Small Farm Conference and Women in Agriculture, as well as provide a scholarship for a Boone County farmer, Board Member, and/or Staff Member to attend.

### Farmland Initiative

- Begin planning for the future Boone County Rural Treasure Farm Tour and ways to improve.

**Education & Outreach**

*Hire a Conservation Education Specialist full-time.*

Continue organizing and running the Conservation Kids Camp to bring awareness of soils, water quality, forest ecology, and wildlife conservation to the children of Boone County.

Begin to develop on BCCDKY's ability to engage and inform the citizens of Boone County about natural resource issues through the efficient use of social media outlets.

Continue direct involvement with the Boone County Fiscal Court, Boone County Parks, Boone County Planning Commission, and other local agencies to inform them of local natural resource concerns to promote BMPs and the protection of them.

Engage and effectively communicate with local legislators.

Review and update publicity materials, including: website, social media, pamphlets, brochures, and other educational materials.

Develop a Conservation Education Program.

- Develop a comprehensive Conservation Education Program(s) for K-12.
- Increase interaction with FFA, 4-H, and other youth-oriented groups.
- Continue to support and collaborate with the Thomas More Environmental Academy and Northern Kentucky University, as well as other local colleges and universities to address local natural resource concerns and provide unique hands-on work experience with multiple agencies.
- Continue participation in the Boone County Fair, Community Education Fair, Big Bone Lick State Park Salt Festival, and other appropriate opportunities.
- Enhance partnership with Boone County Parks, Boone Conservancy, and Boone County Cooperative Extension to deliver exceptional Conservation Education Programs to Boone County citizens.
- Provide presentations to community and civic groups.
- Continue providing scholarships to encourage and assist students interested in natural resources careers.
- Continue offering school grants to assist teachers and schools in engaging students through hand-on conservation projects.



## **BCCDKY Committees as of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

### **Education Committee**

*Chair:* Rebecca Ortwein  
Debra Waller

### **Budget Committee**

*Chair:* Victor Vanover  
Rebecca Ortwein  
Loren Hand

### **HR Policy Committee**

*Chair:* Loren Hand  
Rebecca Ortwein

### **Special Projects Committee**

*Chair:* (Open)  
Debra Waller  
Christopher Benton

### **Forestry Committee**

*Chair:* Rebecca Ortwein  
Jason Roberts  
Loren Hand

### **Boone County Farm Tour Committee**

Megan Clere  
Christopher Benton

### **KACD (Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts) Area 5 Alternate Director**

Debra Waller

### **County Agriculture Development Council**

Kristin Scott

### **Boone County Urban Forestry Commission**

#### **Representative**

Mark Jacobs  
Jason Roberts

### **Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council**

Mark Jacobs  
Jason Roberts

### **Kentucky Hellbender Working Group**

Mark Jacobs

### **Northern Kentucky Stream Restoration Program Advisory Committee**

Mark Jacobs

### **SD1 Storm Water Action Committee**

Mark Jacobs

### **Boone County Solid Waste Technical Advisory Committee**

(open)