



# ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

2019-2020

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**

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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, and this continues to be a focus of BCCDKY. These changes have been documented by the EPA-approved and completed Woolper Creek and Gunpowder Creek Watershed Plans. The immense developments (e.g. Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport), occurring in the headwaters of Boone County’s watersheds, pose a continued threat to our natural and built infrastructure downstream. Other direct impacts of this development include forest fragmentation and wildlife displacement.*

Despite urbanization, 44% of the county is forest canopy which harbors a rich diversity of native wildlife, including several species of endangered plants and animals. Among other threats, invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer and Amur bush honeysuckle, have already completely changed the composition of our forests, as many other threats remain on the horizon. BCCDKY recognizes these threats to our natural resources and local economy and are committed to addressing these serious issues.

In the last few years, progress has been made in the BCCDKY budget to address some of the identified issues, however much work remains. Therefore, our priority and effort over the next year is to continue to work toward the development of an equitable and efficient budget that supports robust conservation programs 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**

**Office Staff**

Rebecca Ortwein, *Chairman*  
Debra Waller, *Vice Chairman*  
Karen Hlavacek, *Treasurer*  
Kristin Scott  
Mike Wilson  
Victor Vanover  
Jason Roberts

Mark Jacobs, *Watershed Project Manager*  
Megan Clere, *District Administrative Secretary*  
Susan Brown, *Conservation Education Specialist*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Board Supervisor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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 plan, 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 conservation services to the citizens of Boone County. (technical/financial, education, ...)

Evaluate and update staff salaries and benefits according to Boone County payroll guidelines.

## Conservation Programs



1

### Forest & Wildlife Resources

- Hire a full-time Forest Conservation Specialist.
- 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 student research on local forest and wildlife issues
- Pursue bat mitigation and heritage funds to protect forest and wildlife resources
- Collaborate closely with other local, state, and federal agencies where appropriate
- Continue to develop educational opportunities for management of forest and wildlife resources (i.e. field days, lectures, etc.
- Continue to develop Forest Education Programs for K-12 audience.



2

### Water Resources

- Continue efforts for improved stream health through implementation of Watershed Plans for Gunpowder Creek and Woolper Creek.
- 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 stream mitigation funds to implement BMPs identified in Watershed Plans.
- Actively identify, prioritize, and pursue stream mitigation projects in Boone County.
- 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.



3

### Agricultural Resources

- 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 Heavy Material Removal and Dead Farm Animal Removal programs.
- 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.
- Continue recertifying Agriculture District program participants.
- Begin planning for the future Boone County Farm Tour and ways to improve.

**Education & Outreach**

Develop internship program for college students.

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.
- Develop summer and other out-of-school time youth programs for different age groups.
- 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

### **Executive Committee**

*Chairman:* Rebecca Ortwein  
*Vice Chairman:* Debra Waller  
*Treasurer:* Karen Hlavacek

### **Education Committee**

*Chair:* Kristin Scott  
Victor Vanover  
Rebecca Ortwein  
Susan Brown  
Megan Clere

### **Budget Committee**

*Chair:* Karen Hlavacek  
Kristin Scott  
Mike Wilson  
Megan Clere

### **HR Policy Committee**

*Chair:* Kristin Scott  
Debra Waller  
Megan Clere

### **Land Use Committee**

*Chair:* Mike Wilson  
Jason Roberts  
Rebecca Ortwein  
Mark Jacobs

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

Megan Clere  
Susan Brown  
Kristin Scott

### **Eagle RC&D**

Debra Waller

### **ORBCRE Committee**

Rebecca Ortwein

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

#### **Alternate Director**

Debra Waller

### **County Agriculture Development Council**

Kristin Scott  
Rebecca Ortwein

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

Mark Jacobs  
Jason Roberts

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

Susan Brown  
Victor Vanover

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

Mark Jacobs

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

Mark Jacobs

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

Megan Clere