

# Madison County Soil Conservation District Business Plan

## Organization

The Madison County Soil Conservation District is a corporate and political subdivision of Tennessee's state government, having the same geographic boundaries as those of Madison County, organized in accordance with the purposes, provisions, powers and restrictions set forth within the Tennessee Soil Conservation District Law 43-14-201 through 43-14-223.

## Function

The District's function is to locate technical, financial and educational resources, from various sources, and to focus or coordinate these resources so that the natural resource conservation needs of private landowners in Madison County are met, and as a result improve the overall environment of the district.

## We Serve

The District serves to conserve the soil, water and the related natural resources of private lands within the district by working with landowners, farmers, ranchers, wildlife advocates, conservationists, environmentalists, teachers, students, businesses, agencies, government officials, and the general public.

## Why

The conservation of the district's soil, water and the related natural resources of private lands is essential for the overall health of its environment, the continued economic prosperity of the area, and the preservation of the various lifestyles fulfilled through the use of the district's natural resources.

## Mission Statement

The District's ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for all people of Madison County through the conservation of the county's soil, water, and the related natural resources by coordinating technical expertise, and financial assistance, to aid the many private landowners with the conservation of their soil, and other related natural resources.

## Critical Natural Resource Issues:

1. The Poor Health of our Soils: The soil's lack of biological activity & diversity; the Soil's lack for good structure, & its low percentage of organic matter; the Soil's compromised chemistry.
2. The Excessive Erosion of **Soil** from Cropland on the private lands in Madison County.
3. The Degradation of **Water Quality** of Madison County's Rivers and Streams.
4. The Continued Decline in the Population of Various **Game Animals** in Madison County.
5. The Lack of **Natural Wetlands** in Madison County due to their Prior Conversion.
6. The Continued loss of **Prime Farmland** to commercial, industrial and residential development.

## Statement of Intent (outcome) for each of the Natural Resource Issues.

<u>Natural Resource</u>	<u>Intended Outcome</u>
Soil	Improve soil health – physically, chemically, & biologically
Soil	Reduce soil erosion of cropland to 2T on 70% of HEL cropland.
Soil	Eliminate gully erosion from 10% of tracts having gully erosion.
Water	Reduce agricultural pollutants to the point where Madison County has at least one stream on the state's 303d list of problem streams due to agricultural runoff removed from the list.
Wildlife	Increase quail and rabbit populations by 100% over current levels.
Wetlands	Restore 30 % of agricultural prior converted and farmed wetlands to wetlands.
Prime Farmland	Reduce the rate of prime farmland conversion by 50%.

## Annual Budget Needs

	<u>Direct</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Total</u>
Office Supplies, Banquet, Misc. Exp.:	\$4,000		
Programs & Cost Share (TDA Grant)	30,000		\$40,000
Salaries "County"		\$89,000	
Other Employment Costs "County"		29,000	
Travel "County"		2,300	120,300
Total Annual Budget:	\$34,000	\$120,300	\$160,000

## Key Individuals to Reach for Program Success

**USDA: NRCS:** Brad Denton; District Conservationist, Brad Denton; Acting Area Conservationist, ~~Kevin Brown~~; State Conservationist, FSA: Robin Smith; CED, FSA County Committee: David Bird, Mike Pearson, Wilmont Bond; FSA State Director, Dennis Beavers

**State Government:** Bill Haslam, Governor; Jimmy Eldridge, Tennessee Legislator 73rd District; Johnny Shaw, Tennessee Legislator 80th; Ed Jackson, Tennessee Senator 27<sup>th</sup>

**Tennessee Department of Agriculture:** Jai Templeton; Commissioner of Agriculture, John McClurkan; Land & Water Stewardship Administrator, Doug Taylor, Regional Administrator, Jon Marden; Area Forester

**Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation:** Robert J. Martineau Jr.; Commissioner, Rudy Collins; Regional Director, Conner Franklin; Water Resource Mgt. – Jackson Field Office.

**Madison County Government:** Jimmy Harris, County Mayor; County Commissioners: Chairman – Gary Deaton, William C. Martin, Luther T. Mercer, William Ragon, Scott Brown, Douglas W. Stephenson, Larry Lowrance, Gerry Neese, Billy Spain, Cyndi Bryant, Katie Y. Brantley, Claudell Brown, Jr., James W. Pearson, Jimmy C. Arnold, Arthur D. Johnson, Jr., Savannah Williamson, Larry Sipes, Barbara Johnson, Jim Ed Hart, (Smokey) Joe A. Roland, Traci Carney, Jay Bush, Harold Petty, Mike Taylor, Jason Compton

**UT Extension Service:** Amy Elizer; Director, Jake Mallard; Agent

**West Tennessee River Basin Authority:** David Salyers; Director, David Blackwood

**Federal Government:** David Kustoff, US Congressman, 8<sup>th</sup> District, Bob Corker, U.S. Senator; Lamar Alexander, U.S. Senator

**Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts:** Danny Sells; Executive Director, Kelly Stockton; President, Jim Bledsoe; Vice-President, Bill Parker; Secretary, Donna Kitts; Treasurer, Ray Weaver; NACD Board Member, Kirk Daniel; West Tennessee Vice President, Robert French; Director Area VIII

**NACD: Jeremy Peters; CEO,** Brent Van Dyke; President, Tim Palmer; 1<sup>st</sup> V.P., Michael Crowder; 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P., Kim McDonald; Secretary-Treasurer, Lee McDaniel; Past President, Southeast Region Executive Board Member; Jim Harreld, Southeast Region Chair; Kevin Jeffries

**TWRA:** Ed Carter; ED, Angie Box; Commissioner Area 8

**State Soil Conservation Committee:** Regina Miller, Pal Neal, Eddie Sanders, Ray Sneed, Tommy Surber, Dwight King, Mark Klepper