

# Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	4
<b>ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW</b> .....	4
A. MISSION.....	4
B. VISION.....	4
C. BACKGROUND .....	5
D. OVERVIEW .....	5
E. DEMOGRAPHICS .....	6
F. NATURAL RESOURCES.....	7
G. AGRICULTURE .....	7-8
H. ECONOMIC.....	9
<b>NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES</b> .....	9
A. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES .....	9
B. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS BY RC&D PROGRAM ELEMENTS.....	10
i. Land Conservation.....	10
ii. Water Management.....	10
iii. Community Development.....	11
iv. Land Management .....	12
v. Other .....	12
<b>GOALS OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES—LAND CONSERVATION</b> .....	13
<b>A. PROMOTE INCENTIVE AND COST SHARE PROGRAMS TO INCREASE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEN NEW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PLANS BY 2014</b> .....	13
A1. Promote USDA-NRCS cost share programs to farmers in the area increasing signups 15% by 2014. ....	13
<b>B. DEVELOP LONG RANGE PLANNING STRATEGY TO REDUCE RESPONSE TIME BY ONE WEEK FOR THE PROTECTION OF DRAINAGE AREAS IN THE AFTERMATH OF A NATURAL DISASTER BY 2010</b> .....	14
B1. Create an area wide coalition by 2010 of emergency responders; local government, county, state, and federal agencies, and community planners to develop a plan of action for each county in the council area. This plan will address drainage issues created by a natural disaster.....	14
<b>GOALS OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES—WATER MANAGEMENT</b> .....	14
<b>A. ENSURE THE PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN TEN COUNTIES BY 2014.</b> .....	14
A1. Manage at least twenty contracts by 2014 as a third party contractor for the Texas Association of RC&D to administer the Supplemental Environmental Program. ....	14-15
A2 Provide one new technology demonstration site per year for waste water treatment systems through 2014, demonstrating alternative waste water systems .....	16
<b>GOALS OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	16
<b>A. PROVIDE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO AID IN THE EXPANSION AND CREATION OF FIVE BUSINESSES BY 2014</b> .....	16
A1. Fully implement the Revolving Loan Program by 2014 .....	16
A2. Empower the Community Class Ministry (CCM) to train 40 students per year in basic computer skills through 2014.....	17
A3. Expand the Child Safety Program in three counties by 2014 .....	17

<b>B. IMPROVE OR ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY OR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN FIVE COMMUNITIES BY 2014</b> .....	18
B1. Provide grant writing, fundraising and administrative assistance for the development of five community facilities by 2014 .....	18
<b>C. EMPOWER TEN COUNTIES TO IMPROVE THEIR RURAL FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY 2014</b> .....	19
C1. Improve fire protection by lowering ISO-PPC ratings in 20% of area volunteer fire departments by 2014 .....	19-20
<b>D. PROVIDE LOCAL COMMUNITIES INCREASED WATER AVAILABILITY FOR FIRE PROTECTION BY INSTALLING 25 DRY FIRE HYDRANTS BY 2014</b> .....	21
D1. Increase dry fire hydrants available to Volunteer Fire Departments by 25 in the ten county Post Oak area by 2014. ....	21
<b>E. REDUCE CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> EMISSIONS BY DEVELOPMENT ONE PROGRAM FOR THE PUBLIC</b> .....	21
E1. Manage at least twenty contracts by 2014 as a third party contractor for the Texas Association of RC&D to administer the Supplemental Environmental Program .....	21
<b>F. CONDUCT OUT REACH EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO TWO UNDER REPRESENTED COMMUNITIES AND INCREASE COUNCIL DIVERSITY BY 2014</b> .....	22
F1. Provide job opportunities to ten handicapped or minority individuals through a special outreach program by 2009. ....	22
<b>GOALS OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES—LAND MANAGEMENT</b> .....	22
<b>A. PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL AND HELP TEXAS BECOME A LEADER IN PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY THROUGH TWENTY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BY 2014.</b> .....	22
A1. Create a regional coalition of economic, agricultural, and environmental specialists by 2009 to educate, identify and prioritize opportunities to promote alternative energy efforts in the area....	23
A2. Increase bio-fuel usage and energy conservation methods in the region 5% by 2014 through research, education, demonstration and distribution of research trial data and financial assistance. ....	24-25
<b>GOALS OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES—other</b> .....	26
<b>A. PROVIDE FOR A RC&amp;D COUNCIL THAT IS 25% MORE SUSTAINABLE BY 2014</b> .....	26
A1. Increase the Council's annual budget by 25% over 5 years .....	26
A2. Initiate a public relations effort to increase the name recognition of Post Oak RC&D among elected officials and regional leaders .....	26
<b>SIGNATURES</b> .....	28
<b>APPENDIX A</b> .....	29
<b>Public Participation Information</b> .....	30
Local Organizations .....	30
Government Organizations .....	31-32
<b>Survey Results</b> .....	33
Survey Question.....	33
Results .....	33
Needs of Area .....	33
Land Conservation.....	33
Water Management .....	33
Community Development.....	33
Land Management.....	34
Other .....	34

## Introduction

This document is the long range plan for Post Oak Resource Conservation and Development Area Inc. The counties served by this area plan include: Brazos, Burleson, Freestone, Grimes, Lee, Leon, Madison, Robertson, Waller, and Washington.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a strategic direction for the council in meeting the needs of the community that it plans to serve. The community needs and opportunities of our area are continually changing. As objectives are accomplished and new problems and opportunities arise, priorities will be changed and incorporated into the plan.

The Post Oak RC&D council is excited about meeting the challenges of the community it lives in and recognizes this document as one its most important tools in assisting its community over the next five years.

Congress passed the Food and Agricultural Act of 1962, which authorized Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) areas. The purpose of the act was to expand opportunities for conservation districts, local units of governments, and individuals to improve their communities in multi-county areas. This included assistance in enhancing the economic, environmental and social well being of the RC&D Areas. Currently, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the Federal RC&D Program. This document serves as an agreement between NRCS and Post Oak Resource Conservation and Development Area Council Inc.

## Organization Overview

### A. Mission

"Regional partners offering knowledge in resources for rural development."

### B. Vision

To be a valued regional source of conservation and community development, education, demonstrated results, action and coordination for communities within the service area; strengthening communities' capabilities to achieve their desired futures.

## **C. Background**

The Post Oak Resource Conservation and Development Area was authorized for operations in 1975 under the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962 (Pub. L87-703). Originally it included Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Lee, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Waller Counties of South Central Texas and was known as Big 8 RC&D. The council name was reflective of these eight original counties. Boundaries were revised in 1973 to include Washington County and in 1993 to include Freestone County. In 2006 Big 8 RC&D Board of Directors voted to change their name to Post Oak RC&D.

The area is sponsored by eight soil and water conservation districts, ten county commissioner's courts, four council of governments, Hempstead Economic Development Corporation, and the Burleson County Industrial Foundation. The Post Oak RC&D Area is a non-profit organization with a Board of Directors consisting of at least one representative from each sponsoring organization.

The Post Oak RC&D Area encourages the input of local citizens in plan formulation and policy development. This is accomplished by incorporating elected public officials and institutional representatives in the design, implementation, and evaluation phases of RC&D measures. The organization is chiefly responsible for the conservation and development of the area's resources in an effort to improve the economic, social, recreational, safety and health-related opportunities of all residents within the project area.

This plan implements a community approach by combining local citizens and governmental entities in the problem-solving process.

## **D. Overview**

The RC&D Area is located in the South Central region of Texas. The ten-county area is centrally located to leading cities and population centers. Dallas is 200 miles north, Austin is 100 miles west, and Houston is 100 miles south. It is made up of Brazos, Burleson, Freestone, Grimes, Lee, Leon, Madison, Robertson, Waller, and Washington Counties. The total area is 4,596,108 acres.



The climate is subtropical with hot, humid summers. Annual rainfall varies from 34 inches on the western side of the area to 45 inches on the eastern side. Although the area-growing season varies, it averages 274 days. The average freezing dates in Bryan are March 1 and November 30.

### E. Demographics

According to the 2000 census, the population of the Post Oak RC&D area was 333,272.

County	Total Pop.	Total Males	Total Females	White	Hispanic	African American	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian	Pacific Islander	Other
Brazos	152415	76983	75432	113479	12832	16333	548	6110	104	12835
Burleson	16470	8011	8459	12199	838	2481	83	28	4	1359
Freestone	17867	9380	8487	13501	678	3378	67	48	3	696
Grimes	23552	12722	10830	16909	2137	4700	76	71	11	1397
Lee	15657	7892	7765	11992	1268	1892	72	38	5	1388
Leon	15335	7525	7810	12809	443	1593	52	27	1	690
Madison	12940	7606	5334	8642	841	2959	41	50	4	1022
Robertson	16000	7624	8376	10592	1012	3871	68	26	8	1706
Waller	32663	16226	16437	18889	2600	9553	159	124	6	3357
Washington	30373	14776	15597	22682	1167	5669	81	367	1	1221

The estimates for growth through 2007 show an average increase in population for the area of 8.3%. The Post Oak Resource Conservation and Development area is primarily a rural area. The only cities having populations' greater than 10,000 are Bryan, College Station, and Brenham. Other principal towns in the area include Hearne, Madisonville, Centerville, Caldwell, Fairfield, Navasota, Hempstead, Giddings, Franklin, Brookshire, and Waller.

County	Census Count 2000	7/1/2006 Estimate	1/1/2007 Estimate	Numerical Change 2000-2006	Numerical Change 2000-2007	% Change 2000-2006	% Change 2000-2007
Brazos	152,415	167,228	170,436	14,813	18,021	9.7	11.8
Burleson	16,470	18,101	18,223	1,631	1,753	9.9	10.6
Freestone	17,867	19,381	19,551	1,514	1,684	8.5	9.4
Grimes	23,552	24,802	24,780	1,250	1,228	5.3	5.2
Lee	15,657	16,798	16,885	1,141	1,228	7.3	7.8
Leon	15,335	16,218	16,206	883	871	5.8	5.7
Madison	12,940	13,534	13,584	594	644	4.6	5
Robertson	16,000	16,171	16,131	171	131	1.1	0.8
Waller	32,663	38,475	39,439	5,812	6,776	17.8	20.7
Washington	30,373	32,181	32,360	1,808	1,987	6	6.5
Texas	20,851,820	23,507,783	23,834,206	2,655,963	2,982,386	12.7	14.3

## F. Natural Resources & Agriculture

Four Land Resource Areas lie within the area. Approximately 25 percent of the area is in the Blackland Prairie Land Resource Area while 69 percent is in the Claypan Land Resource Area. The southern portion of the area (5 percent of the total acreage) is in the Coast Prairie Land Resource Area. One percent of the area, located at the extreme eastern boundary, is in the east Texas Timber Land Resource Area.

Approximately 70 percent of the RC&D Area is located within the Brazos River Basin. The principal drainage courses are the Navasota River, Little Brazos, and Yegua Creek. The remaining 30 percent of the area is located in eastern Texas within the Trinity River Basin. The main drainage courses for this portion of the area are the Keechi and Bedias Creeks.

The Agriculture industry is a big part of the local economy, producing products with a market value of \$432,000,000 annually.

### Pastureland/Native Grazing/Cropland

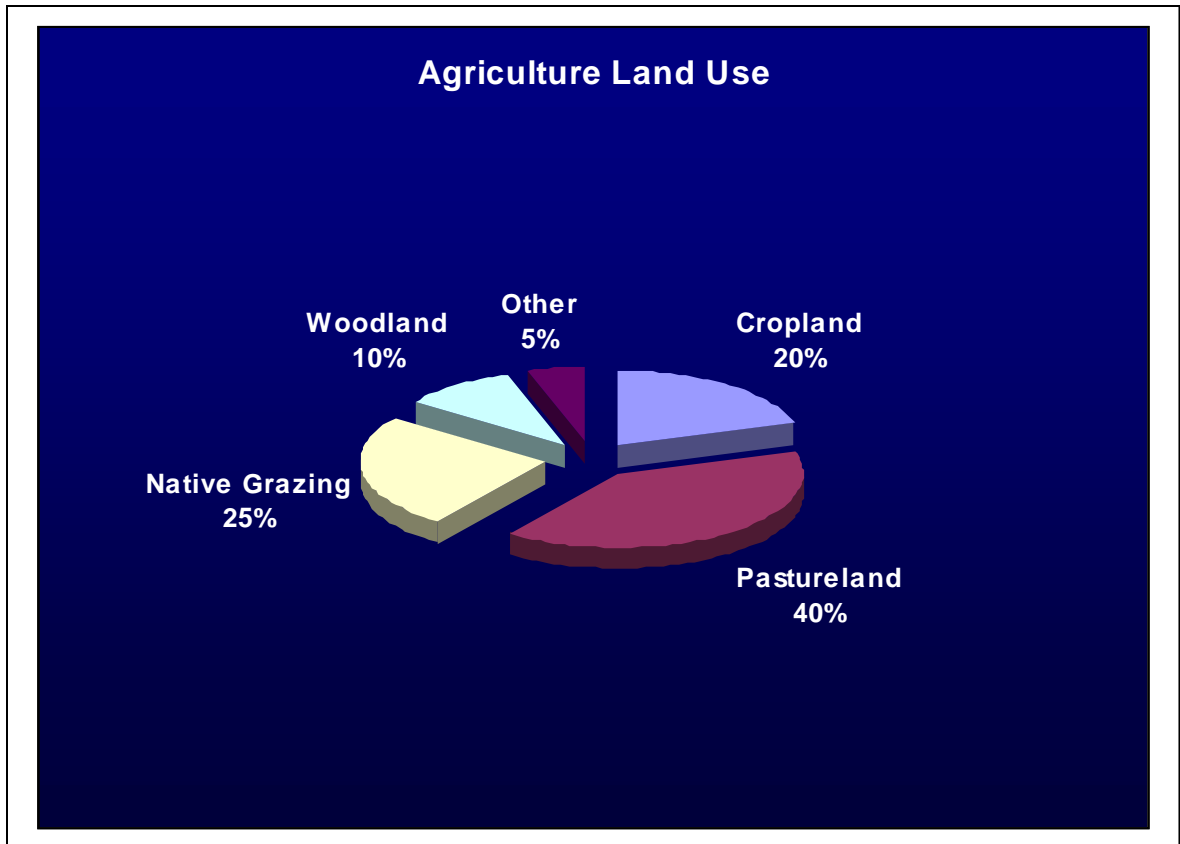
Eighty five percent of the land used for agriculture production is for pastureland, native grazing and cropland. There are approximately 80,000 acres of irrigated cropland. The major area of production is beef cattle. In addition to beef cattle production the areas production also includes; horses, hogs, hay, cotton, corn, soybeans, sorghum, rice, watermelons, and turf grass.

**Woodland**

Woodlands make up 10% of the areas land use. Leon, Grimes, Madison, and Waller counties have the heaviest forested areas of the ten county area. These counties produce both hardwood and pine timber. Christmas tree farms are also found in the area.

**Other**

The remaining 5% of the land use is utilized for the production of poultry, berries, honey, and nurseries.



## F. Socio – Economic Information

Location	Per- Capita Income	Median Value Owner-Occupied Housing Units	Disabilities	Unemployment Rate
Brazos County	\$ 21,741.00	\$ 96,000.00	35528	4.30%
Burleson County	\$ 22,116.00	\$ 55,900.00	7700	5.50%
Freestone County	\$ 19,903.00	\$ 56,000.00	7004	4.80%
Grimes County	\$ 18,712.00	\$ 56,700.00	8787	7.10%
Lee County	\$ 23,017.00	\$ 75,000.00	4792	4.50%
Leon County	\$ 22,850.00	\$ 64,200.00	6587	6%
Madison County	\$ 21,322.00	\$ 55,900.00	4562	6.20%
Robertson County	\$ 22,778.00	\$ 53,000.00	7656	5.80%
Waller County	\$ 23,244.00	\$ 84,700.00	11321	6.40%
Washington County	\$ 28,747.00	\$ 84,200.00	9737	4.90%

## Needs and Opportunities

### A. Public Participation Activities

An area planning committee was appointed; this committee was composed of five council members. These members were charged with the task of designing the public participation activities. The background of the committee included one national RC&D officer, one regional planning committee member, a former RC&D coordinator, a county commissioner, and a retired police officer; all of which represented different counties in the area.

The Post Oak RC&D Executive Board along with two coordinators from other RC&D areas held an all day area planning workshop. The meeting was facilitated by the Post Oak RC&D Coordinator in the spring of 2007. At this meeting information was shared from other coordinators and board members on the content and structure of the planning process. The group compressed data from the Texas Future Forum and combined this data with consideration to the area's natural resources and designed a survey question based on input from all ten counties. The survey question presented simply stated; from the list

provided choose the top five most critical issues facing your community in the next five years. The surveys were designed primarily to target members, partners, and potential partners. 100 surveys were distributed to board members and guest at regularly scheduled quarterly board meetings and at the annual meeting in December of 2007. In addition council members passed out 100 copies of the surveys to partners at meetings such as local council of governments, land owner associations, cattleman associations, Soil and Water Conservation District meetings, Volunteer Fire Department county meetings, Commissioners' Court, CEU meetings for local farmers, etc... One hundred six surveys were answered and returned.

## **B. Summary of Findings by RC&D Program Elements**

### **i. Land Conservation**

Land conservation received some response, primarily with farm groups. The main concern was with flood control and its effect on erosion in drainage areas. Farm and Ranch groups also felt there was a strong need for informational programs to inform them of program assistance that is available for both technical and financial assistance.

Challenge: Reduction in productivity and pasture health.

*Post Oak has the opportunity to work with NRCS, SWCD's and agriculture producers to increase grass production and overall plant health on pasturelands in the area through the implementation of a resource management system. This system would include, but not limited to; prescribed grazing, proper stocking rates, cross fencing, nutrient management and pest management. These practices will enhance the eco-systems for livestock and wildlife.*

Challenge: Debris buildup in drainage areas which threatens property and human life.

*We have the opportunity to work with government at county, state, and federal levels to develop partnerships and working plans which would reduce the response time for the removal of debris from drainage areas in the aftermath of a weather disaster.*

### **ii. Water Management**

Water management issues were identified as important, especially in areas of water quality improvement and water usage. With municipal areas increasing in population, the demand for clean water has also increased.

Challenge: Water quality concerns due to improper treatment of waste water, Illegal dump sites, abandoned waste tire sites and improper disposal of hazardous household chemicals.

*Post Oak has the opportunity to work with local and state government and rural communities to provide collection and educational events to agriculture producers and rural citizens for proper treatment and/or disposal of waste items which are polluting our streams.*

### **iii. Community Development**

Economic development received the greatest response. As described in the introduction, population changes are driving community development needs in the Post Oak RC&D area. Growth without proper infrastructure is creating issues related to jobs, affordable housing, health care, education, emergency response, recreational facilities, etc... With much of the area rural, local governments are continually working with revenue shortages.

Challenge: Diminishing number of agriculture related small businesses in our rural areas.

*Post Oak has taken on the challenge by partnering with USDA Rural Development and Small Business Development Centers to provide training in writing business plans and access to loans for start up cost.*

Challenge: Inadequate community and/or recreational facilities in our small rural towns.

*We have the opportunity to work with public and private foundations to secure funding for the construction of community centers and parks to make our rural towns more competitive in attracting growth to their areas.*

Challenge: Inadequate emergency response and fire protection.

*Post Oak has the opportunity to take on the challenge of emergency response and fire protection by partnering with NRCS, SWCD, County Government, Department of Homeland Security, Meadows Foundation, State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association, Office of Rural Community Affairs, and Insurance Service Office to provide training and funding opportunities for Volunteer Fire Departments.*

Challenge: Increasing number of air quality non-attainment areas.

*Post Oak has the opportunity to partner with local and state government to provide financial assistance to public transportation to retrofit their buses to meet EPA standards.*

Challenge: Diminishing number of minority and handicapped program participants.

*We have the opportunity to provide more programs which target minority and handicapped populations in our service area through special mail outs and outreach programs.*

#### **iv. Land Management**

Energy cost and how it effects the management of our land was a high priority for all involved in our surveys. The price of Energy and the ripple effect it has had on all aspects of agriculture are driving the interest in identifying energy crops which might be raised in the area. Farmers in the survey were most interested in the concept of a means of raising and processing a portion of their own energy needs. With the continued population growth, protection of prime farmland was also of interest to land mangers in the Post Oak RC&D area.

Challenge: Rising energy cost and its impact on profits.

*Post Oak and its partners; NRCS and Texas A&M University have the opportunity to assist its rural communities and agriculture producers in reducing their dependency on petroleum based fuels through research, and education on new crops and technologies.*

#### **v. Other**

Surveyors', council members and partners have determined there is a lack of public awareness for the RC&D program. Council members thought it was critical to educate our elected officials and local partners on the activities of the council and the history of RC&D to insure its survival. With the tightening of budgets at all levels of government, council members felt that dependence on grant funding solely for staffing needs and project cost is not sufficient, therefore fund raising was of supreme importance.

Challenge: Lack of public awareness of the Resource Conservation and Development program.

*We have the opportunity to promote our program through websites, newsletters, media outlets, and the many partnerships we have had in the administration of other programs.*

Challenge: Reduction in financial support from government sources.

*Post Oak has the opportunity to become more self sustaining by conducting more fund raising activities.*

**Goals Objectives and Strategies – Land Conservation**

**A. PROMOTE INCENTIVE AND COST SHARE PROGRAMS TO INCREASE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEN NEW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PLANS BY 2014. THIS GOAL ADDRESSES FOUR NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION GOALS OF CLEAN AND ABUNDANT WATER, HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTIVE SOILS, HEALTHY PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITIES AND CLEAN AIR.**

**A1.** Promote USDA-NRCS Cost Share Programs to farmers in the area increasing sign-ups 15% by 2014.

*A1a) Provide signup deadline and meeting dates for the EQIP program annually on council website and newsletters through 2014.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Board	USDA-NRCS, SWCD's, Landowners.	2009-2014	

*A1b) Facilitate five Local Work Group meetings annually for the administration of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Grisham	SWCDs, UDSA-NRCS	2009-2014	

*A1c) Partner with Soil and Water Conservation districts in the Post Oak RC&D area to assist 10 farmers per year in completing cost share contracts. These contracts are designed to help farmers/ranchers reach a resource management system.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Board	SWCDs, UDSA-NRCS, Farmers, Ranchers	2009-2014	

**B. DEVELOP LONG RANGE PLANNING STRATEGY TO REDUCE RESPONSE TIME BY ONE WEEK FOR THE PROTECTION OF DRAINAGE AREAS IN THE AFTERMATH OF A NATURAL DISASTER BY 2010. THIS GOAL ADDRESSES THE NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION GOAL OF CLEAN AND ABUNDANT WATER.**

**B1.** Create an area wide coalition by 2010 of emergency responders; local government; county, state and federal agencies and community planners to develop a plan of action for each county in the council area, which addresses drainage issues created by a natural disaster.

*B1a) Conduct two emergency response "Plan of Action" development workshops per year through 2014.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Board	SWCDs, Commissioners Courts, Community Leaders, USDA-NRCS, ORCA, FEMA.	2009-2014	

**Goals Objectives and Strategies – Water Management**

**A. ENSURE THE PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN TEN COUNTIES BY 2014. THIS GOAL ADDRESSES THE NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION GOAL OF CLEAN AND ABUNDANT WATER.**

**A1.** Manage at least twenty contracts by 2014, as a third party contractor with the Texas Association of RC&D to administer the Supplemental Environmental Program.

*A1a). Work with local partners to replace or repair ten rural waste water treatment systems by 2014.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Beck, LaBabera, Fuchs, Toscano.	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Local Health Departments, Texas Association of RC&D, City and County Government.	2009-2014	

*A1b). Conduct at least five Household Hazardous Waste collections by 2014.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Beck, LaBabera, Fuchs, Toscano	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Local Health Departments, Texas Association of RC&D, City and County Government.	2009-2014	

*A1c). Conduct at least two Illegal dump site cleanups by 2014.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Beck, LaBabera, Fuchs, Toscano	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Local Health Departments, Texas Association of RC&D, City and County Government.	2009-2014	

*A1d). Conduct at least three Abandoned Tire Cleanups by 2014.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Beck, LaBabera, Fuchs, Toscano	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Local Health Departments, Texas Association of RC&D, City and County Government.	2009-2014	

**A2.** Provide one new technology demonstration site per year for waste water treatment systems through 2014, demonstrating alternative waste water systems.

*A2a). Conduct one field day demonstration per year through 2014 to demonstrate functions of a constructed wetland, as an alternative to traditional waste water treatment systems.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Beck, LaBabera, Fuchs, Toscano	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Local Health Departments, Texas Association of RC&D, City and County Government.	2009-2014	

**Goals Objectives and Strategies – Community Development**

**A. PROVIDE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO AID THE EXPANSION AND CREATION OF FIVE BUSINESSES BY 2014. THIS GOAL ADDRESSES THE NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION GOAL OF WORKING FARM AND RANCH LANDS.**

**A1.** Fully implement the Revolving Loan Fund Program by 2014.

*A1a). Make at least 5 loans to Agricultural and Natural Resource based businesses to create jobs and businesses by 2014.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Board	SWCDs, Small Business Development Centers, Banks, NRCS, Private Firms, Rural Development, Producers.	2009 - 2014	

*A1b). Partner with one small business development center and one banking institution to assist in writing and executing loans by 2009.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
LaBabera	Private Bank, Small Business Development Center.	2009	

**A2.** Empower the Community Class Ministry (CCCM) to train 40 students per year in basic computer skills through 2014.

*A2a). Secure ten computer donations per year through 2014.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Board	Local ISD's, County and State Government, Texas A&M.	2009-2014	

*A2b). Secure donation of twenty printers per year from Dells gifts in kind.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Board	Local ISD's, County and State Government, Texas A&M.	2009-2014	

*A2c). Secure operating funds through grants for the daily functions of the Community Class Ministry.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Board	Local ISD's, County and State Government, Texas A&M, NRCS, SWCD.	2009-2014	

**A3.** Expand the Child Safety Program in three counties.

*A3a). Administer the Robertson County Crime Stoppers; Child ID kit program to 5 schools; one per year through 2014.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Toscano	Local ISD's, County and State Government, Crime Stoppers.	2009-2014	

**B. IMPROVE OR ESTABLISH COMMUNITY OR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN FIVE COMMUNITIES BY 2014. THIS GOAL ADDRESSES THE NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION GOAL OF WORKING FARM AND RANCH LANDS.**

**B1.** Provide grant writing, fundraising and administrative assistance for the development of five community facilities by 2014.

*B1a). Conduct grant writing services for the construction or renovation of one community center project per year through 2014.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Gibson	Chamber, SWCD, County and city Government.	2009-2014	

*B1b). Complete grant search for city of Navasota skate board park project.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Gibson	Chamber, SWCD, County and city Government.	2010	

*B1c). Provide grant search software to all citizens in the Post Oak RC&D area through 2014.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Board	NRCS, FC Search Foundation.	2009-2014	

**C. EMPOWER TEN COUNTIES TO IMPROVE THEIR RURAL FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY 2014. THIS GOAL ADDRESSES THE NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION GOAL OF WORKING FARM AND RANCH LANDS.**

**C1.** Improve fire protection by lowering the ISO-PPC rating in 20% of area volunteer fire departments by 2014.

*C1a). Complete emergency response manual in one county per year through 2014.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Board	Local Volunteer Fire Departments, Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), Department of Homeland Security, Meadows Foundation, State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association (SFFMA), NRCS, Insurance Service Office (ISO), Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and County Commissioners Courts	2009-2014	

*C1b). Conduct Eight Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) meetings by 2011.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Board	Local Volunteer Fire Departments, Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), Department of Homeland Security, Meadows Foundation, State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association (SFFMA), NRCS, Insurance Service Office (ISO), Texas Soil and Water Conservation.	2009-2011	

C1c). *Administer three recruitment and retention workshops; one per year through 2010.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Board	Local Volunteer Fire Departments, Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), Department of Homeland Security, Meadows Foundation, State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association (SFFMA), NRCS, Insurance Service Office (ISO), Texas Soil and Water Conservation.	2009-2011	

C1d). *Prepare recruitment and retention handbook by 2010.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Board	Local Volunteer Fire Departments, Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), Department of Homeland Security, Meadows Foundation, State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association (SFFMA), NRCS, Insurance Service Office (ISO), Texas Soil and Water Conservation.	2009-2011	

C1e). *Conduct one ISO workshop by 2011.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Board	Local Volunteer Fire Departments, Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), Department of Homeland Security, Meadows Foundation, State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association (SFFMA), NRCS, Insurance Service Office (ISO), Texas Soil and Water Conservation .	2011	

**D. PROVIDE LOCAL COMMUNITIES INCREASED WATER AVAILABILITY FOR FIRE PROTECTION BY INSTALLING 25 DRY FIRE HYDRANTS BY 2014. THIS GOAL ADDRESSES THE NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION GOAL OF WORKING FARM AND RANCH LANDS.**

**D1.** Increase dry fire hydrants available to Volunteer Fire Departments by 25 in the ten county Post Oak area by 2014.

*D1a) Work with ten volunteer fire departments in applying for dry hydrant grant program with Texas Forest Service.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Board	Texas Forest Service, VFD, ORCA.	2009-2014	

*D1b). Provide dry hydrant kits and individual components at a reduced prices..*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Board	Texas Forest Service, VFD, ORCA.	2009-2014	

**E. REDUCE CO<sup>2</sup> and NO<sub>x</sub> EMISSIONS BY DEVELOPING ONE PROGRAM FOR THE PUBLIC BY 2014. THIS GOAL ADDRESSES THE NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION GOALS OF CLEAN AIR.**

**E1.** Manage at least five contracts by 2014, as a third party contractor with the Texas Association of RC&D to administer the Supplemental Environmental Program.

*E1a). Work with one county per year through 2014 to provide financial and technical assistance to their school districts in retrofitting or replacing school buses with newer cleaner technology that are developed and approved by EPA.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Beck, LaBabera, Fuchs, Toscano	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Local Health Departments, Texas Association of RC&D, City and County Government.	2009-2014	

**F. CONDUCT OUTREACH EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO TWO UNDER REPRESENTED COMMUNITIES AND INCREASE COUNCIL DIVERSITY BY 2014. THIS GOAL ADDRESSES THE NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION GOAL OF WORKING FARM AND RANCH LANDS.**

**F1.** Provide job opportunities to ten handicapped or minority individuals through a special outreach program by 2009.

*F1a). Identify new partners through outreach activities annually by reviewing mailing lists, news release database, and providing 3 special mailings to underserved potential clients.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Toscano, Bulter	NRCS, producers	2009-2014	

*F1b). Support the Junction 505 Program to train and place 2 handicapped individuals per year in jobs which fit their skill level and do follow ups to assist them in retaining that position.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Toscano, Bulter	Junction 505	2009-2014	

*F1c). Give priority in the revolving loan fund to minority owned businesses.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Toscano, Bulter	NRCS, producers	2009-2014	

**Goals Objectives and Strategies – Land Management**

**A. PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL AND HELP TEXAS BECOME A LEADER IN PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY THROUGH TWENTY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BY 2014. THIS GOAL ADDRESSES THE NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION GOAL OF AN ADEQUATE ENERGY SUPPLY.**

**A1.** Create a regional coalition of economic, agricultural, and environmental specialists by 2009 to educate, identify and prioritize opportunities to promote alternative energy efforts in the area.

*A1a) Educate council members and partners; by hosting one speaker per year through 2014 at council meetings who specializes in energy issues.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Hartfield	Central Texas Biodiesel Plant	TAMU, NRCS, FSA.	2009	
Karels	Bio-Hybrid Energy Cycle	Alders Wind Farm, Department of Energy, Rural Development.	2010	
Beck	Rural Development, section 9007	USDA Rural Development	2011 &12	
Beck	Energy Assessments	EnSave, Texas Association of RC&D Councils, SECO.	2013-2014	

*A1b) In 2009, identify partnerships and facilitate meetings to develop a 5-year plan of action for the development of alternative fuels.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Board	USDA-NRCS, TAMU AgriLife Extension, Rural Development, Office of Rural Community Affairs, Private Landowners, Central Texas Biodiesel, Alders Wind Farm.	2009	

**A2.** Increase bio-fuel usage and energy conservation methods in the region 5% by 2014 through; research, education, demonstration, distribution of research trial data and financial assistance.

*A2a) Conduct three replicated field trials in the Post Oak area by 2010, to identify cool season vegetable oil crop varieties which will thrive in the area.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Hartfield	TAMU AgriLife Extension, SWCDs, USDA-NRCS, Common Sense Agriculture, and Landowners.	2009-2010	

*A2b) Design and develop a mobile oilseed extraction unit and biodiesel batch reactor by 2009.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Biodiesel Steering Committee	USDA-NRCS, TAMU AgriLife Extension, Office of Rural Committee Affairs, Private Landowners, Central Texas Biodiesel, Alders Wind Farm.	2009	

*A2c) Conduct 10 educational field days to inform agricultural producers on how they can duplicate the oil extraction unit and biodiesel batch reactor by 2010.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Biodiesel Steering Committee	USDA-NRCS, TAMU AgriLife Extension, Office of Rural Committee Affairs, Private Landowners, Central Texas Biodiesel, Alders Wind Farm.	2009-2010	

*A2d) Provide publications to inform agricultural producers on results of Canola Field trials by 2010.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Biodiesel Steering Committee	USDA-NRCS, TAMU AgriLife Extension, Office of Rural Committee Affairs, Private Landowners, Central Texas Biodiesel, Alders Wind Farm.	2009-2010	

*A2e) Provide educational website by 2010 which provides information to agricultural producers on most current research pertaining to the enhancement of alternatives fuels in the region.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Biodiesel Steering Committee	USDA-NRCS, TAMU AgriLife Extension, Office of Rural Committee Affairs, Private Landowners, Central Texas Biodiesel, Alders Wind Farm.	2009-2010	

*A2f) Provide financial assistance through grant opportunities by 2010 to Alders Wind Farm in the development of the "Bio-Hybrid Energy Cycle".*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Heaton	USDA-NRCS, TAMU AgriLife Extension, Office of Rural Committee Affairs, Private Landowners, Central Texas Biodiesel, Alders Wind Farm.	2010	

*A2g) Conduct energy assessments for ten agriculture producers, building a plan to reduce energy needs for their farming operations by 2014.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Hartfield, Beck, Karels, Grisham	SECO, USDA- NRCS, EnSave, SWCD.	2009-2014	

## Goals Objectives and Strategies – Other

**A. PROVIDE FOR A RC&D COUNCIL THAT IS 25% MORE SUSTAINABLE BY 2014. THIS GOAL ADDRESSES THE NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN FOUNDATION GOAL OF WORKING FARM AND RANCH LANDS.**

**A1. Increase the Council's annual budget by 25% over 5 years.**

*A1a). Seek an annual fund raising strategy to raise \$25,000 per year.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Board	Chambers, SWCD, Civic organizations, community leaders.	2009-2014	

*A1b). Fill all vacancies on the Council striving for increased diversity, and provide annual board training.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Board, Chenal	SWCDs, Commissioners Court	2009-2014	

**A2. Initiate a public relations effort to increase the name recognition of Post Oak RC&D among elected officials and regional leaders.**

*A2a). Review website and develop a plan for increased hits by 2009.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Muncrief	NRCS	2009-2014	

*A2b). Place news releases with project information in local papers 10 times each year through 2014.*

Responsible Party	Partnerships	Timeline	Completed
Board	News Outlets	2009-2014	

*A2c).Ensure good standing with Texas Association of RC&D Areas, Southwest States RC&D and National Association of RC&D by attending training conferences sponsored by these organizations and financially supporting them through dues and fund raising events each year through 2014.*

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Board	Texas Association of RC&D, Southwest States RC&D, National Association of RC&D	2009-2014	

## Signatures

"The Post Oak RC&D Council agrees that the RC&D Program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR–15, Subparts A and B) that provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial (or technical) assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof."

The Post Oak RC&D Council agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with Federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for non procurement, suspension, and debarment, and State review.

The Post Oak RC&D Council hereby adopts this RC&D Area Plan and agrees to use effectively the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlined herein.

Post Oak RC&D Council, Bryan, Texas

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Secretary

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Post Oak RC&D Council on *October 30, 2008*.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of \_\_\_\_\_ as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97–98 to receive assistance from USDA.

Acknowledged By:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
State Conservationist

## Appendix A

## Public Participation Information

### Organizations and partners reached with survey

<b>Local Organizations</b>	<b>RC&amp;D Member Responsible</b>	<b>Method</b>
Chamber of Commerce	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Farm Bureau	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Central Texas Biodiesel	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Land Trusts	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Common Sense Agriculture	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Watershed Groups	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Local Church Groups	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Texas Association of RC&D Areas	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Fair boards	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Cattleman's Associations	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Insurance Service Office	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Dell Foundation, Gifts in Kind	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Meadows Foundation	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Cattle Breed Association's	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Alders Wind Farm	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Junction 505	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
EnSave	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Rotary/other Service Clubs	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
News Outlets	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Producers Cooperative	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member

Local Contractors	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Ag Business	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Robertson County Crime Stoppers	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Bank Officials	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Leaders of Local Businesses	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Local Law Firms	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Local Accounting Firms	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member
Clean Harbors	Planning Committee	Meeting/Board Member/Staff member

<b>Governmental Organizations</b>	<b>RC&amp;D Member Responsible</b>	<b>Method</b>
Local Elected Officials	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
County Judges/Mayors	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Rural Electric Cooperatives	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Convention & Visitors Bureau	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Regional Planning	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Health Departments	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
TAMU AgriLife Extension	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Texas A&M University	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Volunteer Fire Departments/Chiefs	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
County Fire Associations	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
County Commissioners	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Office of Rural Community Affairs	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Texas Commission on	Planning	Meeting/phone/mail

Environmental Quality	Committee	
Small Business Development Centers	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
NRCS field personnel	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Texas State Energy Conservation Office	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Texas State Comptrollers Office	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Department of Homeland Security	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
EPA Field Personnel	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
TXDOT	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Rural Development	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
State Legislators & Aids	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Federal legislators & Aids	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Local Law Enforcement	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Regional Development Organizations	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Sam Houston State University	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Prairie View A&M University	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Texas Workforce Commission	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Texas Forest Service	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
State Fireman's and Fire Marshals' Association	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
Council's of Government	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail
School Districts	Planning Committee	Meeting/phone/mail

## **Survey Results**

### **Survey Question**

People in the survey were asked to list the top five most critical issues they felt would face their communities in the next five years.

### **Results**

Total surveys collected through; telephone, 2007 Quarterly Board Meetings, 2007 Annual Meeting, and hardcopy surveys of partners and general public, were **106**.

The following results of the surveys are listed by elements in order of preference by those surveyed.

### **Needs of the Area:**

#### **Land Conservation**

1. Preservation of Natural Resources
2. Flood Control
3. Environmental Education

#### **Water Management**

1. Waste Water Treatment
2. Private Water Rights
3. Clean Drinking Water

#### **Community Development**

1. Emergency Services
2. Economic Development/Jobs/Businesses
3. Agriculture Markets

4. Infrastructure
5. Health Care
6. Animal Control ( Feral Hogs)
7. Development of Community Leaders
8. Education
9. Recreational Facilities
10. Law Enforcement
11. Public Transportation
12. Affordable Housing
13. Youth at Risk
14. Drug Abuse

### **Land Management**

1. Energy
2. Land Preservation

### **Other**

1. Name Recognition with elected officials and partners.
2. Council Sustainability
3. Council Diversity