



Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District

Volume 1
Issue 1
Winter 2004

DISTRICT NEWS

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WHAT IS THE DISTRICT?

Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) is a clearinghouse of conservation information, services and products for citizens of Cumberland County facing the challenges of soil and water pollution, land development, wildlife habitat and flood mitigation. Like its 3000+ counterparts throughout the United States, CCSWCD is a non-regulatory organization. Our services are free or low cost and provided at your invitation.

The District has its roots in the 1937 response of the U.S. Congress to the ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. As Washington skies literally darkened with Midwestern topsoil, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil scientists advised Congress to set up a grassroots-model system to meet the urgent need the Dust Bowl presented.



Board members: Front (from left) Dick Wood, Tom Gordon, Jack Flaherty, Bill Rust. **Back:** Charles Norman, John Malley, John Blake, Larry McDonald

This grassroots model became one of the success stories of modern conservation. The District's continued effectiveness is due to our ability to provide the bridge between citizens and local, state and federal agencies to solve local environmental problems. If you are a landowner, municipal official or staff, educator, a licensed professional, or a member of a community organization, we can provide information and expertise to help you implement plans to maximize long-term use of your land, water, wildlife, forest, plants and other natural resources.

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URBAN REVIEW PROGRAM

Since 1985, the District Urban Review Program has provided advice on thousands of development projects within Cumberland County. We assist many of our county's communities that are without the technical resources or expertise to fully assess the impacts of a proposed development on immediate and downstream natural resources. Our independent, third party review of development projects as they proceed through planning, permitting and construction phases focuses on the potential impact on local resources of a proposed development. The Urban Review Program supports the District's mission to provide technical assistance, education, and outreach to sustain the wise stewardship of natural resources in Cumberland County.

This past construction season CCSWCD assisted two communities through the development process of a new school in their respective communities. This process included CCSWCD's review of proposed construction documents and technical studies for the projects., as well as providing on site guidance during construction. This involvement with the project, coupled with our experience in local watersheds, enabled us to work closely on-site with the contractor and provide technical assistance to make clear and mitigate any potential adverse impacts during development of the original proposal. Adjustments and changes could be incorporated with the knowledge that downstream resource protection had been considered.

Can any experienced, independent entity provide the level of review required? Perhaps but only CCSWCD is uniquely able to provide both the regional and local level review and contractor outreach required while being motivated only by the stewardship of our natural resources.



CCSWCD provides third party review during construction of the second nine holes at Westerly Winds Golf Course in Westbrook.

CASCO BAY INTERLOCAL STORMWATER WORKING GROUP: A Model of Effective Regional Collaboration



Members at a recent Work Group meeting.

Stormwater runoff from driveways, lawns, roads, parking lots and other urban features carries a wide variety of pollutants into our water resources. To help address this problem, the District brought together a coalition of 11 towns and cities in the greater Portland area to form the Casco Bay Interlocal Stormwater Work Group. The focus this past year has been the development and implementation of a 5-year workplan to meet new federal regulations that require communities to address the problem of polluted runoff. By working together, the members of the Interlocal Stormwater Work Group have been able to share resources and knowledge and increase their effectiveness.

The Interlocal Stormwater Work Group was initiated in partnership with the Casco Bay Estuary Project, with additional funding provided by the US EPA and the Cumberland County Commissioners. For more information on the Working Group, go to www.cascobay.usm.maine.edu/Inter-LocalWorkingGroup.pdf. For information on the federal stormwater program, go to <http://cfpub2.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/phase2.cfm>.

Abstracts and proceedings from the "Stormwater Management in Cold Climates" Conference are now available online at: <http://www.cascobay.usm.maine.edu/proceed.html>.

CONSERVATION FOCUS: NRCS CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD



Agricultural Fuel Secondary Containment Facility

A new (March 2003) Conservation Practice has been added to the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Service Technical Guide. The Agricultural Fuel Secondary Containment Facility is an above ground structure designed to provide storage and secondary containment of on-farm fuel such as gasoline, diesel and kerosene commonly used on farms. The benefits of this Practice include water quality protection of ground and surface waters, air quality safety improvements, site location details, fuel loading and filling improvements.

This Practice may be eligible for cost share assistance for private agricultural producers enrolled in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. The cost estimate for this conservation practice is \$3.25 per each gallon of fuel containment. Please contact the NRCS office @ 207-883-0159 ext. 114 if you would like further information or go to our website at www.me.nrcs.usda.gov, technical resource, choose eFOTG, click Maine first and then Cumberland County on the site map, and then the eFOTG menu section IV, Practice Standards and Specifications, Conservation Practice Code 701.

-Wayne Munroe, NRCS District Conservationist

Technical Specifications

- Tanks must be above ground atmospheric or low pressure tanks (UL-142 Standard, "standard for steel aboveground tanks for flammable and combustible liquids")
- Secondary containment is a double walled tank or impermeable barrier containing 110% of the fuel tank storage. One common method being used to provide the design secondary containment is by using one half of a properly sized pre-cast concrete rectangular septic tank box.
- Rain, snow and debris should not accumulate on the secondary containment structure, a properly engineered roof is necessary.
- Fuel storage needs protection from accidental contact by vehicle, tractors and other equipment.
- Adequate ventilation is necessary.
- Structures and site location must comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The Maine Department of Public Safety oversees above ground tanks storing greater than 60 gallons of flammable and/or combustible liquids.
- Single structures containing greater than 660 gallons or a combined total greater than 1,320 gallons will require a private professional engineer to develop a Spill Prevention, Control, and Counter-measure (SPCC) Plan as regulated by EPA.



NATIVE PLANT SPOTLIGHT

Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)

- Grows from 2 to 24 inches and spreads to form colonies.
- Prefers an acidic, well-drained soil that has previously been untilled.
- A popular ground cover.
- Blueberries are attractive to wildlife and humans.
- Grows well in partial shade to full sun. Zones 2-6.



2004 ENVIRONMENTAL CURRENT ISSUE

Envirothon is a hands-on environmental science competition for high schools students. Teams of 5 students solve problems and answer questions in the areas of soil, water resources, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. Each team prepares a poster presentation on the current topic and is judged by professionals in the appropriate field. This year's current issue is "Natural Resource Management in the Urban Environment".

- In 1910, 28 percent of the population lived in urban areas. In 2000, this figure jumped to 80 percent (US Census Bureau, Demographic Trends in the 20th century).
- While Maine is fortunate to have a higher percentage of forested land and rural areas than many other states, urban development has put increasing pressure on these natural resources
- Educating students about this issue is an important step in bringing more attention to natural resource protection.



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1. Would you like to receive future newsletters?

No, please take me off the mailing list

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2. What kind of articles would you be interested in? (circle)

Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Engineering services

Lakeshore erosion control

Environmental education

Current District projects

Wildlife habitat

Native plants

Stormwater

Other _____

Please fill out and return!

Or contact: melissa-sternlieb@me.nacdnet.org (207) 856-2777

Thank you for your input.

