



Annual Report 2007

Introduction and Financial Overview

Fiscal Year 2006-07 was the second year of East Multnomah SWCD building its capacity after the passage of the District's property tax ballot measure. The District began receiving property tax revenues in FY 2005-06. During that year, we hired a District Manager and increased the volume of conservation work accomplished. We also revised the compensation and benefits packages for staff positions to bring EMSWCD to a level competitive with other local government employers.

In FY 06-07, we significantly expanded program capacity. Four staff positions were added over the course of that year: one Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk, one Conservation Technician with an agricultural focus, one Low Impact Development Specialist with a storm water focus and one Outreach and Information Specialist with a focus on increasing program capacity and helping us reach our constituents more effectively. At the end of FY 06-07, the staff totaled 9 FTE, including one position shared with neighboring SWCDs through a DEQ 319 grant. In FY 06-07, our grants programs funded a variety of projects in the community with benefits to water and soil conservation and watershed health.

All of these changes are designed to have the effect of increasing the volume and quality of services provided and of on-the-ground conservation practices installed throughout East Multnomah County. These targeted investments in staff and project funding continue the Board's strategy of a deliberate, gradual expansion of successful existing programs and the addition of select new programming in collaboration with our partners and the community.

Partnerships

Partnerships are crucial to the success of the East Multnomah SWCD. We work closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and are grateful for both their material support and the wealth of expertise and experience that NRCS has generously provided. We look forward to continuing this crucial partnership long after we move our District headquarters.

We also work very closely with the three watershed councils in the District. We have staff members serving on both the Johnson Creek Watershed Council (JCWC) and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council (CSWC). We have pursued joint projects with these councils, have provided funding for projects, and have provided general programmatic support to JCWC, CSWC, and also the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council to assist the three councils in increasing their capacity to improve watershed health in the District. These partnerships help advance the District's mission.

We also work closely with state, federal, regional, county and local agencies on a variety of issues from erosion control to garlic mustard, and continue to expand our partnerships with the private sector. Our nonprofit partners are too numerous to mention. All of these partners have

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2006-2007 FISCAL YEAR*	
INCOME	
EMSWCD Property tax	\$1,080,482
Contracts	\$105,613
Misc. Income	\$64,881
Total Income: \$1,250,976	
EXPENSES	
Capital Expenditures	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$173,024
Printing and Postage	\$13,709
Professional Services	\$65,643
Travel	\$13,974
Payroll	\$489,200
Total Expenses: \$758,874	
SPECIAL FUNDS	
Building Reserve Fund	\$150,000
Conservation Easement Fund	\$200,000
Conservation Projects	\$121,096
Total Special Funds: \$471,096	
*These figures are not audited. July 1, 2006, the District changed its basis of accounting from cash to modified accrual	

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contributed to EMSWCD's success. We share expertise, pursue funding together, and assist each other with outreach. Our community of peers is a source of strength, and we look forward to a rich future of collaborative conservation.

Funding for Conservation Projects in the District

During Fiscal Year 2006-07, the East Multnomah SWCD established several new programs to provide funding for conservation projects and conservation education, focusing on soil erosion prevention/control, soil improvement, water quality, water conservation, and watershed health. Each program has its own guidelines and application process.

Conservation Landowner Incentive Program (CLIP)

"Cost-share" assistance to help cover project costs for private landowners and land managers in the District who are receiving technical assistance for on-the-ground conservation projects. The funding limit starting in FY 2007-08 is \$7,500. All CLIP-funded projects receive conservation technical assistance from District staff. During FY 2006-07, a total of \$31,986 was awarded to support the following projects:

- Small acreage farm on a major tributary of a salmon-bearing stream: Hillside soil erosion repair; fencing to keep livestock out of the stream; fencing to keep passersby from dumping trash into the stream: \$21,745
- Urban residence: Rainwater harvesting cistern: \$6,625
- Small acreage farm: Livestock heavy use area; fencing for wetland protection: \$3,616

Small Projects and Community Events Program (SPACE)

Grants of up to \$1000 for conservation projects, conservation education, and community events that promote natural resource conservation, benefiting citizens of the District. During FY 2006-07, a total of \$9,250 was awarded to 11 projects:

- Children's Clean Water Festival Coalition: \$1,000
- City Repair/Wilshire Neighborhood Association: Earth Day celebration: \$1,000
- Growing Gardens: "Learn and Grow" workshops: \$1,000
- Hacienda Community Development Corporation: Villa de Clara Vista courtyard: \$1,000
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council: volunteer tree-planting/trash removal day: \$1,000
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council: Foster Place restoration project: \$1,000
- Menucha Retreat & Conference Center: garlic mustard weed control project: \$1,000
- World Forestry Center Arbor Week kick-off event: \$1,000
- Reynolds Middle School water festival: \$700
- RAP Camp (high school natural resources camp): \$500
- Envirothon (competition for high schools): \$50

Partners in Conservation Program (PIC)

Grant funding for conservation projects and conservation education in the District. During FY 2006-07, a total of \$73,263 was awarded to 7 projects:

- Green Rigler Project: environmental learning lab at Rigler Elementary School: \$15,000
- City of Gresham: natural area restoration and homeowner education project: \$15,000
- Exotic Species Control Project: weed inventory/control in the Columbia Gorge: \$12,935
- SOLV: Team Up for Watershed Health Beaver Creek restoration project: \$12,590
- Beaumont Wilshire Repair Team: Beaumont Middle School learning courtyard: \$7,250

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- Community Energy Project: outdoor water conservation clinics: \$5,300
- Columbia Slough Watershed Council: Whitaker Slough restoration project: \$5,188

Watershed Council Support

Funding supports the conservation work of watershed councils in the District. During FY 2006-07, a total of \$75,000 was awarded to 3 watershed councils:

- Columbia Slough Watershed Council: \$25,000
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council: \$25,000
- Sandy River Basin Watershed Council: \$25,000

Other conservation projects funded by EMSWCD

The District provided funding for conservation work on these projects:

- Kelley Creek fish passage project (Johnson Creek Watershed Council): \$39,360*
- Columbia Children's Arboretum pedestrian bridges and interpretative signage project (Peninsula Drainage District #2): \$25,000

OWEB Small Grants awarded through EMSWCD (OWEB funds)

EMSWCD can serve as grantee/fiscal agent for projects funded through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Small Grants program. In FY 06-07, EMSWCD provided fiscal management for the following OWEB Small Grants:

- Grant # 12-04-014: Bridal Veil power line corridor restoration project: \$578
- Grant # 12-04-016: Bull Run water quantity improvement project: \$7,145*
- Grant # 12-06-013: Bacteria and nutrient reduction project: \$2,490*
- Grant # 12-06-019: Government Island weed control project: \$2,369

* This project also received conservation technical assistance from District staff.

Conservation Technical Assistance and Agricultural Water Quality

Summary of CTA Activities FY 06-07 by District					
A summary of core activities related to conservation technical assistance appears below.					
	East Multnomah	West Multnomah	Clackamas	Tualitin	Total
Site Visits (new)	92 (51)	35 (4)	105 (5)	124 (4)	356 (64)
Practice specification	14	3	7	3	27
Landowners given technical assistance	404	17	47	47	515
Monitoring practices installed	19	11	27	28	85
Cost-share applications	3	0	3	0	6

EMSWCD works with landowners and land managers throughout the District to provide technical assistance, and in some cases financial assistance, for the implementation of conservation practices. These practices control or prevent erosion, save water, prevent water pollution, or protect watershed health.

This voluntary conservation work on private land is at the core of our traditional work. We are privileged each year to work with more and more landowners as neighbors share their success stories.

In FY 06-07, thanks to a DEQ 319 grant, one of our Conservation Technician staff positions was shared with three other SWCDs. The volume of technical assistance and conservation practices installed increased again in the 06-07 fiscal year. Part of this increase was due to the addition of a second Conservation Technician mid-year.

Other CTA activities

In addition to these core activities, the following outreach events and partnership activities were conducted.

Activity	Number Attendees	
Oregon Association of Nurseries meetings attended	8	n/a
Presentations given	9	252
Demonstrations given	3	11
Tours given	2	13
Displays	2	227
Workshops	7	107
Newspaper articles	1	n/a
Anonymous agricultural water quality complaints received	6	n/a

Workshop topics included weed identification and management, pasture management, mud and manure management, riparian restoration, garlic mustard and horse health and manure composting. We also held farmer’s breakfasts to solicit input on our programs and gave talks for audiences from garden clubs to Kiwanis clubs to spread the conservation message.

Combating Invasive Weeds

We continued working to prevent further spread of garlic mustard. For more information on this terrible weed, please see the weeds section of our website at www.emswcd.org or give us a call. Our work this season focused on increasing public awareness of garlic mustard, mapping the extent of the infestation, and advising public and private landowners on control methods. The infestation in the Corbett area has exploded; many private landowners requested technical assistance to determine how to control garlic mustard on their property.

Through a grant, we provided funding to Oregon State Parks and Multnomah County to help fund their control efforts, and partnered with ODOT to make sure they controlled infestations along the Historic Columbia River highway. Our focus in future years will be to prevent further spread in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area and Mt. Hood National Forest. We plan to increase capacity in future years in order to better address this growing threat.

Low Impact Development Work Undertaken

At the end of the 06-07 Fiscal Year, EMSWCD hired a Low Impact Development Specialist to address the effects on soil and water conservation of the rapidly changing land uses in the District. The focus of the position is stormwater; rain gardens and pervious paving emerged early on as low-tech, scalable options within the reach of most homeowners. We have been reaching out to a wide variety of partners and are collaborating with OSU Extension on a rain garden manual and/or curriculum for homeowners interested in installing rain gardens on their property.

Conservation at the Residential Scale through Naturescaping

The Naturescaping curriculum consists of a series of three free workshops, held in the Spring and Fall. First, in the Naturescaping Basics workshop, we introduce landowners to the concept of Naturescaping, show some of the Northwest’s more popular native plants and start them on the basics of landscape design. We send folks home with a free workbook and native plant to help get them started. The next workshop, the Site Planning workshop, is where we delve more deeply into the design process, walk through some hands-on activities, and facilitate a creative design “dreaming” session. The third and final workshop is the Site Planning Feedback Session. These are smaller, more intimate workshops where participants can bring in their draft landscape design and get feedback from our landscape designers. This past year, 690 people attended the 24 Naturescaping workshops we provided.

Each Spring we host a Naturescaped Garden Tour, where 5-10 enthusiastic alumni graciously open their yards and discuss the tips and tricks they’ve learned throughout their Naturescaping process. Last year, over 350 people attended this popular tour. Naturescaping also partners with Metro to bring you the ever-popular “Gardens of Natural Delights” tour. On this tour, you can learn a multitude of “natural techniques” to care for your organic landscape. This tour is typically held in mid-July.

In addition to workshops, the Naturescaping program also gave presentations to a number of local groups, clubs, and professional organizations last year. Our staff set up displays at local information fairs and other events, where we offer advice in the areas of landscaping, gardening,

invasive species management, conservation, and environmental protection. As a result of these efforts, we reached thousands of individuals last year with the Naturescaping message.

Plant Sale Gets Bigger Every Year!

Our single most popular event is our native plant sale. In FY 06-07 we sold 8,325 native plants to 365 happy customers for planting in their yards and on restoration projects. We generated approximately \$20,250 in revenue. For the first time we used online ordering and thus improved customer service, enhanced the educational/informational aspect of the transaction and reduced our costs. We also added information and outreach aspects to our day of sale with a native plants demonstration trailer from Metro showing the plants in a mature landscape and experts (a staff designee and one of our Directors) available to answer questions at all times. We plan to further explore how to convey more information through this event, encourage more customers to come to workshops and otherwise to take better advantage of the great turnout we always get.

Bright Future

The East Multnomah SWCD is keenly aware of the urgent need for effective soil and water conservation in our District. As the District faces pressure from rapid regional development, invasive species, and changes in our rural economy, we will continue to expand our capacity to deliver technical assistance, to raise public awareness, and to facilitate implementation of sound conservation practices. With the taxpayer's support of our permanent rate limit in 2004, we now have the wherewithal to make a real difference.

Our Board of Directors has taken a careful, deliberate approach to our capacity building. We have expanded our successful existing programs and have strategically added new program foci in careful cooperation with our partners and the community.

In financial terms, looking ahead to the 07-08 Fiscal Year, several significant changes are expected. Full-year costs associated with staff positions added over the course of FY 06-07 will increase Personal Services costs. One additional FTE focused on invasive species management was also hired in August 2007 along with a seasonal field assistant focused on battling invasive species, and an Office Manager was hired to help with managing the new headquarters and with day-to-day operations. Funding for conservation projects in the community will also increase in FY 07-08 as we continue to increase the volume of conservation work accomplished on the ground each year.

The most significant event of the 07-08 Fiscal Year is the anticipated purchase of a property to serve as the headquarters for EMSWCD and to provide space to install and demonstrate a range of Naturescaping and on-site storm water management techniques. After several years of sharing office space outside our District, the purchase of this property will allow the EMSWCD to return to the District, house our staff, hold our events on site and to perhaps offer space to key partners. The convenient, visible location should increase attendance at our workshops, as well as generate additional interest in Naturescaping, rain gardens, pervious pavement, and other innovative storm water techniques that we plan to showcase at our new location.

To finance this purchase, a loan will be secured through the Oregon Special Districts Association's Flex Lease Program with a very competitive interest rate (yet to be determined but not to exceed 5.5%). Although this represents a significant investment, over time, owning our headquarters is expected to create significant savings to the taxpayers and increase our connection to the communities we serve.

Planning Process Well Underway

In November 2007, EMSWCD undertook a two-day strategic planning meeting facilitated by Barbara MacKay of NorthStar Facilitators. We had excellent participation from Board and staff, and the group left with a sense of common purpose as well as a revised mission statement. The results of that meeting will now be further fleshed out (with Barbara's support) into a full-fledged business plan. Our target for completion of that plan is April 1, 2008.