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Rural Development - Mississippi Delta/Louisiana/Arkansas

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Home Ownership Training Module

Americorps/United States Department of Agriculture



Prepared by
Sherry Conyers
Maria Legette and Sylvia B. Stephens

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**United States of America
Department of Agriculture**



**Money
Management
Calendar
1997**



August 8, 1996

To: Martha Phipps, Clark Ray, Billy Cox
From: Joel Berg JB
Subject: Background on Mississippi Rural Development AmeriCorps Projects

See attached briefing paper. **Note that two USDA AmeriCorps Members are working directly with the Empowerment Zone.**

Betty Oliver

601-965-5460

August 8, 1996

Subject: AmeriCorps/ Rural Development Briefing (Mississippi)
Secretary Dan Glickman's Visit

To: Joel Berg
Jim Coyle

- Mississippi has 14 AmeriCorps members assigned to the state.
(12 members serve with the regular AmeriCorps Program and
2 members serve with Summer of Gleaning Program.
- AmeriCorps members serve in the following counties: Hinds,
Madison, Adams, Claiborne, Jefferson, Washington and Bolivar
Counties.
- Together, the members have completed over 12,000 community
service hours and have recruited more than 300 volunteers that
engaged in approximately 1900 volunteer service hours.
- Communities have benefitted from members getting things done in
the following areas:
 - * Educating the community about USDA's Housing Programs, directly
providing housing outreach and assisted 6 elderly families
obtain 504 housing grants which totaled \$30,520.
 - * 175 Volunteers served along AmeriCorps members to renovate
the Charles Bannerman Community Center. The center had been
abandoned for over 20 years. Now, the center is the hub of
community activities.
 - * Over 300 5th grade students participated in Career Day Program
sponsored by AmeriCorps Members.
 - * 160 Junior and High School students were trained in Money
Management.
 - * 2 AmeriCorps Members serving in the Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone
were directly responsible for training and providing leadership
to 26 community volunteers which enabled them to become
certified Community Educators.
 - * 2 AmeriCorps Members serving in the Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone
through the Summer Gleaning Program are serving in conjunction
with the Salvation Army to provide food to 175 families daily.

Through a partnership with Morrison Cafeteria, AmeriCorps and
the Salvation Army, the number of families being feed has
increased by 51%.

AmeriCorps Members are planning a Food Give-A-Way in Sunflower
County August 16, 1996 in partnership with Lewis Grocery and
MDEZA Community Educators.

BETTYE W. OLIVER
AmeriCorps State Contact
Rural Development

September 13, 1996

Subject: AmeriCorps/ Rural Development Briefing (Mississippi)

To: Joel Berg, Director
USDA/AmeriCorps

-Mississippi has 13 AmeriCorps members assigned to the state.
(11 members serve with the regular AmeriCorps Program and
2 members serve with Summer of Gleaning Program.

-AmeriCorps members serve in the following counties: Hinds,
Madison, Adams, Claiborne, Jefferson, Washington and Bolivar
Counties.

-Together, the members have completed over 23,202 community
service hours and have recruited more than 2,426 volunteers that
engaged in approximately 13,251 volunteer service hours.

-Communities have benefitted from members getting things done in
the following areas:

- * Educating the community about USDA's Housing Programs, directly
providing housing outreach and assisted 12 elderly families
obtain 504 housing grants and home repairs which totaled
\$67,400.00 and 4 families received 502 housing loans totaling
\$188,000.
- * 225 Volunteers served along AmeriCorps members to renovate
the Charles Bannerman Community Center. The center had been
abandoned for over 20 years. Now, the center is the hub of
community activities. Also, as a result of their recruitment,
and renovation activities, 5 young male volunteers between the
ages of 13 and 17 banded together this summer as a team in
order to keep the grass around the center cut and provided
overall grounds keeping.
- * Over 300 5th grade students participated in Career Day Program
sponsored by AmeriCorps Members.
- * 160 Junior and High School students were trained in Money
Management.
- * 2 AmeriCorps Members serving in the Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone
were directly responsible for training and providing leadership
to 26 community volunteers which enabled them to become
certified Community Educators.
- * 2 AmeriCorps Members serving in the Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone
through the Summer Gleaning Program are serving in conjunction
with the Salvation Army to provide food to 175 families daily.

Through a partnership with Morrison Cafeteria, AmeriCorps and
the Salvation Army, the number of families being fed has
increased by 51%.

AmeriCorps Members sponsored a Food Give-A-Way in Sunflower
County August 16, 1996 in partnership with Eubanks Farms,
the Mississippi Food Network, Lewis Grocery and MDEZA.

Page 2

Mississippi-USDA/AmeriCorps

Over 5000 pounds of food was distributed to more than 200 families. Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, Congressman Bennie Thompson, and State Director, George E. Irvin, Sr. participated in the event.

To date, the members have rescued or gleaned 105,000 pounds of food which benefitted approximately 1500 rural low income residents.

- * Members in Madison County, assisted by 11 community volunteers sorted and distributed over 400 pairs of Levi jeans, short pants, and other clothing items to 58 needy families at the Charles Bannerman Center. The clothes were donated by the Levi Strauss company in Gluckstadt, Mississippi. According to AmeriCorps member Chanel Richards, "It was a true blessing to have issued the clothing because the new 1996 school year was approaching and some of the children within the families would not have had decent clothes to wear to school."
- * Graduation was celebrated in Natchez, Mississippi. Mayor Butch Brown, site supervisors, community leaders, the State Director, and some family members were in attendance.

As part of their graduation activities, members along with the help of 5 school officials painted the hallways of an alternative school in Natchez. AmeriCorps member, Annie Rattler wrote a poem in regard to the activity:

*The end of our service year is near
But we know community service is so dear
We held our graduation ceremony together
With a service project that will dwell in our hearts forever,
We painted wall after wall
Hoping to satisfy the youth attending in the fall,
The school administrator was so appreciative
But all along when knew we had to take the initiative,
Because helping our youth is music to the ear
And as AmeriCorps Members we gladly volunteer.*

-Annie L. Rattler



BETTYE W. OLIVER
AmeriCorps State Program Manager
Rural Development

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THE HOLLY GROVE UPDATE

Prepared by Renee Spurlock, AmeriCorps-USDA Member and
Holly Grove High School FBLA

Issue 2

March 1995

COMMITTEES WILL MEET ON THE
2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH !!

USDA/AmeriCorps

USDA/AmeriCorps President's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their country in organized efforts fostering citizen responsibility, and building their communities. The United States Department of Agriculture plays a key role in the overall AmeriCorps program.

The purpose of the AmeriCorps program is to "get things done" using the concept of national service as a vehicle. It offers opportunities to Americans to serve their country and earn education awards in return. It is a grassroots effort to solve the problems facing communities across the nation.

The AmeriCorps Ethic is:

* Getting things done: Our primary goal is to improve communities by meeting their educational, nutritional, human, and environmental needs.

* Strengthening communities: AmeriCorps brings together individuals from different backgrounds and incomes, with different missions and cultures, in the common effort to improve our communities.

* Encouraging responsibility:

AmeriCorps encourages members to explore and exercise their responsibilities toward their communities, themselves and their families - in their service experience and throughout their lives.

* Expanding opportunity: AmeriCorps members receive awards to further their education or pay back student loans, as well as valuable job experience, specialized training, and life skills.

The program's participants are not AmeriCorps employees, we are AmeriCorps Members. We do not receive salaries, we receive living allowances. AmeriCorps members are not hired, we are enrolled in AmeriCorps. We do not work at jobs, we perform community service.

We are enrolled in the USDA Rural Development Program. This program is geared for recent college graduates and upon completion of the 1700 hours the members will receive an educational award worth \$4,725. This can be used for college, job training, or repayment of student loans.

Renee Spurlock and Audria Coleman perform community services in the Holly Grove area and Jana Coleman assists the counties of Phillips, Lee, and Monroe.

FAX TRANSMITTAL

Date: June 6, 1994

Number of Pages (including this page): 5

TO: Paula Jones/Dee Difiore
Basin and Area Planning Division
USDA, Soil Conservation Service
Washington, DC
RE: COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES WORKSHEETS
FAX: (202) 690-1462 0639

FROM: Billy R. Moore
Assistant State Conservationist/Programs
USDA, Soil Conservation Service
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302

Phone: (318) 473-7755

For information on the transmittal of this message, please call Holly Martien at (318) 473-7768.

SCS Louisiana's FAX number is (318) 473-7771 or (318) 473-7682.

COMMENTS:

Attached are community service worksheets for the Dry Fire Hydrants and Farm*A*Syst proposals. Please call if you have any questions.

OPTIONAL FORM 98 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To <u>Katherine</u>	From <u>Dee</u>
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax #	

of pages 14

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES WORKSHEET

A guidance tool for creating or revising community service objectives. Use one worksheet for each objective.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: DRY FIRE HYDRANTS

CONCERNS/ISSUES WITH THIS COMPONENT:

- 1) What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Assist in the coordination of an RC&D Dry Fire Hydrant Project within 45 Lower Mississippi Delta parishes.

- 2) What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Install 1,575 dry fire hydrants in 45 parishes.

- 3) How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

The actual installation of the hydrants according to an established plan of work.

- 4) By what standard will you gauge success?

100% of the dry fire hydrants installed and functioning as per final inspection report for each parish.

- 5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work participants perform?

Thousands of people within the 45 parishes will benefit through rural fire protection, rural road maintenance, and potential lower insurance rates.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

**CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES WORKSHEET**

A guidance tool for creating or revising community service objectives. Use one worksheet for each objective.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: DRY FIRE HYDRANTS

**CONCERNS/ISSUES WITH
THIS COMPONENT:**

- 1) What participant development activities will you provide?

On-the-job training and formal training provided by the USDA Soil Conservation Service, RC&D Councils, fire marshalls, police juries, and rural fire departments.

- 2) What is the hoped for result of these activities?

The participant will gain valuable experience in working with local, state, and federal agencies in addition to improving skills in oral and written communication.

- 3) How will you measure the impact of these activities on participants?

Through routine progress reports and staff meetings.

- 4) By what standard will you gauge success?

By the number and timeliness of implementation.

- 5) How many individuals will benefit from your participant development activities?

3 participants plus many associated individuals.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES WORKSHEET

A guidance tool for creating or revising community service objectives. Use one worksheet for each objective.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: FARM*A*SYST

CONCERNS/ISSUES WITH THIS COMPONENT:

- 1) What work will be done? What service activities will your participants engage in?

Assist in the delivery of the Farm*A*Syst Program to rural areas in the 45 Lower Mississippi Delta by conducting pre- and post- assessment surveys.

- 2) What is the hoped for result of the work/activities described above?

Create awareness of farmstead activities, promote understanding for groundwater protection, identify sources of technical and financial assistance, and aid in developing a personal, voluntary action plan.

- 3) How will you measure the quality of your product or impact of your service?

By the results of pre-assessment and post-assessment surveys.

- 4) By what standard will you gauge success?

By the number of participants actually completing the surveys and following up on best management practices for non-point source pollution.

- 5) How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work participants perform?

Thousands will benefit by becoming aware of the potential impacts of contaminated groundwater.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

**CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES WORKSHEET**

A guidance tool for creating or revising community service objectives. Use one worksheet for each objective.

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: FARM*A*SYST

**CONCERNS/ISSUES WITH
THIS COMPONENT:**

- 1) What participant development activities will you provide?

On-the-job training and formal training will be provided by the Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Soil Conservation Service, and Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service.

- 2) What is the hoped for result of these activities?

Participants show continued commitment to the environment and to the community.

- 3) How will you measure the impact of these activities on participants?

Through reports given at routine staff conferences.

- 4) By what standard will you gauge success?

By the number of post-assessment surveys actually completed and best management practices implemented.

- 5) How many individuals will benefit from your participant development activities?

5 participants plus many associated individuals.

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PRESERVATION

Draft March 24, 1994

PROPOSAL FOR MISSISSIPPI DELTA AMERICORPS/USDA TEAMS

This proposal details a program through which AmeriCorps participants in the Mississippi Delta would work to fight hunger and bolster nutrition, improve the local environment, boost the local rural economy, and reform the welfare system. Some of the participants would be AFDC participants themselves -- the program would provide them with the skills and resources they would need to empower themselves to move towards self-sufficiency.

Costs and Number of Participants

The first component would be two youth service teams of 50 participants each, composed of a mix of AFDC recipients, college students, and recent high school graduates. Each participant would receive a yearly salary of \$7,400, health insurance, child care if they have children, and an educational scholarship of \$4,725 that can be used for college, graduate school, trade school, or an approved apprenticeship program. One team of 50 participants would focus on work on public lands and the environment. The other team would focus on work on anti-hunger, nutrition education, and empowerment initiatives. Including administrative costs and overhead, each participant would cost USDA and/or our partners an average of \$15,000 per year. Thus, each 50-participant team would cost \$750,000 per year. Both teams together would cost \$1.5 million per year.

The second component would be a 40 person rural development team, composed of college graduates and professional school graduates. Each participant would receive a yearly salary of \$15,000, health insurance, child care if they have children, and an educational scholarship of \$4,725 that can be used for college, graduate school, trade school or an approved apprenticeship program. Fifteen members of this team would supervise the younger participants in the other two teams; the remaining 25 team members would plan and carry out broader empowerment, welfare reform, rural development, and environmental protection programs throughout the Mississippi Delta. Including administrative costs and overhead, each participant would cost USDA and/or our partners an average of \$20,000 per year. Thus, 40 participants would cost \$1 million per year.

Thus, all three teams, engaging a total of 140 participants in service, would cost \$2.5 million yearly.

Combining Welfare Reform and Community Service

This model would be unique because the welfare recipients in the program would both perform **and** receive service.

This model rejects the failed and stale ideologies of both the far left and far right. It rejects the conservative notion that poor people are basically lazy, and that if they are thrown off welfare they will somehow be able to magically find jobs for themselves. But it also rejects the traditional liberal approach of simply spending more money on a broken system that only leaves welfare recipients on an endless treadmill.

Instead, this model focuses on helping participants gain for themselves both the work ethic **and** the economic tools needed to succeed.

The AFDC recipients -- like all the participants in this program -- would be providing critical service to the people of the Mississippi Delta. This experience would be empowering in and of itself by transforming these participants from clients passively being supported by government into community activists providing service to others. As currently demonstrated by existing youth service corps, this change can be a transforming experience for welfare recipients, stripping away their stigma and replacing it with a new and powerful understanding of their own power to help themselves and their community. By working alongside and completing exactly the same tasks as college students, the participants will come to realize they too can set higher personal goals.

Yet this program will provide AFDC recipients with much more than increased self-esteem and a structured work regimen: they will receive services, training, counseling, income, and educational benefits that would allow them to move off of welfare and towards self-sufficiency. Specifically, each participant on AFDC will receive the following material benefits:

- * \$7,400 base salary yearly
- * Free health insurance with a guaranteed set of minimum benefits
- * Free day care for their children
- * \$4,725 educational voucher for each year of service
- * Up-front, general, training on citizenship, work skills, and teamwork
- * Up-front, technical, training for each work project
- * Free classes to obtain G.E.D. degrees
- * Ongoing educational classes on environmental and anti-hunger issues
- * Help with transportation to the work sites
- * Ongoing counseling on their personal and economic problems
- * Substance abuse counseling, if needed
- * Job counseling and placement services

Empowerment Tools Provided to the Participants

Ten of the Rural Development Team members will serve as crew leaders for the Environmental Team and the Anti-Hunger Team. Thus each crew of 10 participants will have one Rural Development Team member, who will be a college graduate or a professional school graduate, as a crew leader.

The crew leaders will plan projects, supervise projects, and work alongside the members of each crew. The crew leaders will also be specially selected and trained to serve as caseworkers for the AFDC recipients on their team.

Since each crew leaders/case workers will have no more than five AFDC recipients under their personal direction, they will have plenty of time to work with each person to help solve their individual problems.

The other five Rural Development team members will focus on providing the following services to the participants and the region-at-large.

1) Training, Education, Counseling - This team member will focus on coordinating specific job training, general education and G.E.D. classes, environmental and nutrition education, interview training, and personal counseling.

2) Job Placement Services - This team member will work with program participants and other community residents to try to match up their skills and interests with available jobs in the region.

3) Assets Development - This team member would work with local banks, local government agencies, and local non-profit agencies to create a pilot project in which money saved by program participants would be matched by another source and kept in a special savings account.

4) Microenterprise Development - This team member would work with participants and other area residents to help them obtain small loans to start microenterprise projects. Microenterprise is a development strategy in which small loans, peer support, and technical assistance are made available to those starting "small" small businesses. Such small business are usually capitalized under \$5,000, employ less than five people, and tend to be in the retail or service sector, yet they can play a critical role in breaking the cycle of dependency on government programs and help individuals build assets while moving towards self-sufficiency.

5) Apprenticeship Creation - This team member would work with participants, regional businesses, local educational institutions, and other local residents to create opportunities for regional business to sponsor apprenticeships for young people to train for real jobs while continuing their studies.

USDA Staff Support

This project will also have at least ten full-time USDA and state extension system employees detailed to help run it. Some possible detailees:

- 1) FNS Feeding Program Policy Expert**- Will work to coordinate the interface between the anti-hunger teams, state welfare agencies, and federal feeding programs.
- 2) Agricultural Research Service Nutrition Education Specialist** - A former HNIS employee will work with the Anti-hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team to provide nutrition education.
- 3) FSIS Outreach Worker** - Would incorporate food safety curriculum into work of anti-hunger team.
- 4) Extension Agent in Nutrition** - Will work to develop and implement curriculum in anti-hunger corps.
- 5) Extension Agent in Small Farming** - Will teach participants and others how to grow their own food and provide agricultural education.
- 6) Extension Agent in 4-H** - Will coordinate program with local 4-H youth programs and provide environmental education.
- 7) Extension Agent in Small Farming** - Will teach participants and others how to grow their own food and provide agricultural education.
- 8) Soil Conservation Service Soil Expert** - Will provide technical assistance for environmental team members and will provide environmental education.
- 9) Soil Conservation Service Rural Development Expert** - Will coordinate interface with local RC&D programs.
- 10) Soil Conservation Service Earth Team Coordinator** - A SCS employee with a proven track record of success in coordinating volunteer efforts will help incorporate part-time volunteers into the efforts of the environmental team.
- 11) ASCS Sustainable Agriculture or Beginning Farming Expert** - Will coordinate sustainable agriculture projects and facilitate participation in USDA beginning farmer programs.

12) Forest Service State and Private Forestry Expert- Will supervise tree-plantings in towns.

13) AMS Farmers Market Specialist - Will work with team members to open farmers markets in poor small towns and allow local small farmers or gardeners to sell their goods.

14) AMS Organic Standards Specialist - Will work with team members to help explain new organic standards regulations.

15) ARS Sustainable Agriculture Expert - Would work with team members to implement local sustainable agriculture projects.

16) FCIC Underwriting Expert - Will work with team members to help explain to area farmers the provision in the crop insurance regulations.

17) FmHA Loan Expert- Will help participants and other area residents apply for loans and provide general outreach on USDA programs.

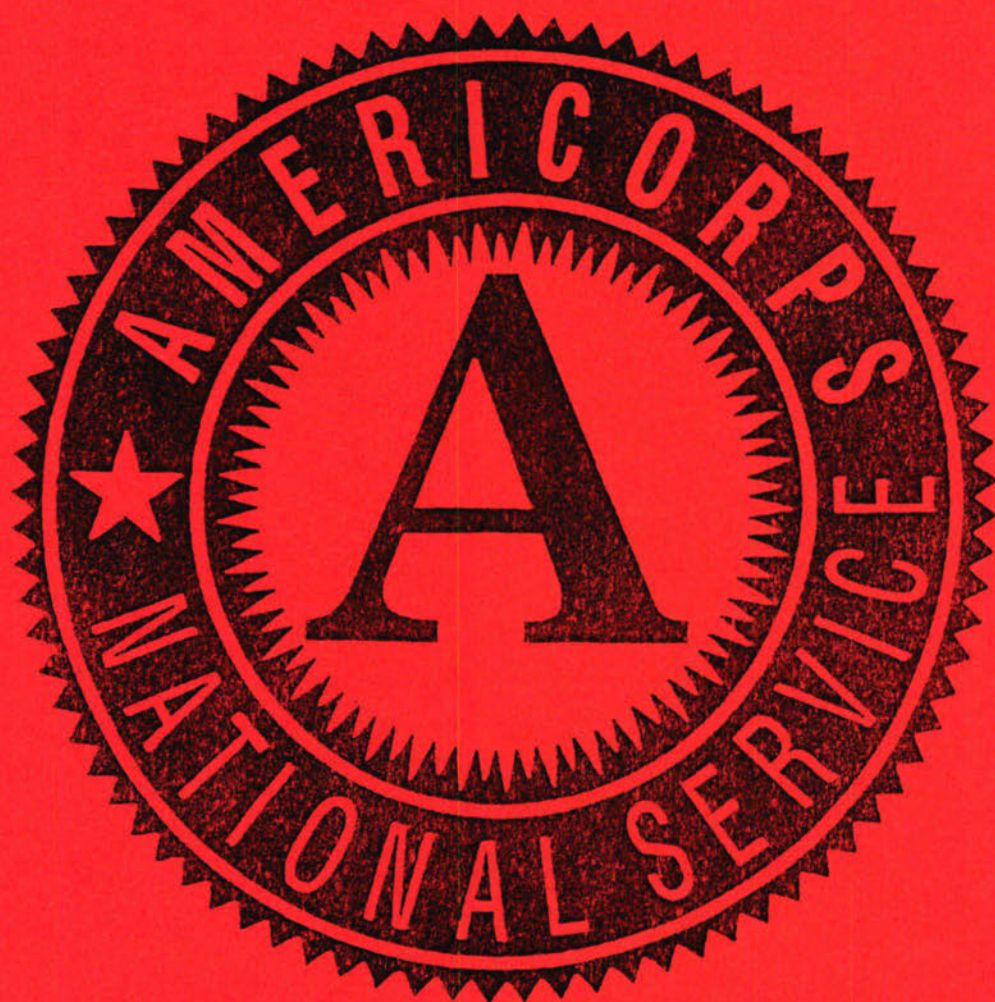
18) FmHA Housing Expert- Will coordinate rural housing renovations, implementation of inventory property program, home ownership counseling, and pilot programs to build homes out of straw.

19) RDA District Water Loan Specialist - Would work with team members to conduct environmental assessments communities need to perform before building new water systems.

20) RDA Economic Planning Expert - Would work with team members to provide general economic strategic planning for communities and regions.

21) REA Business Development Expert - Would work to help develop small businesses regionally.

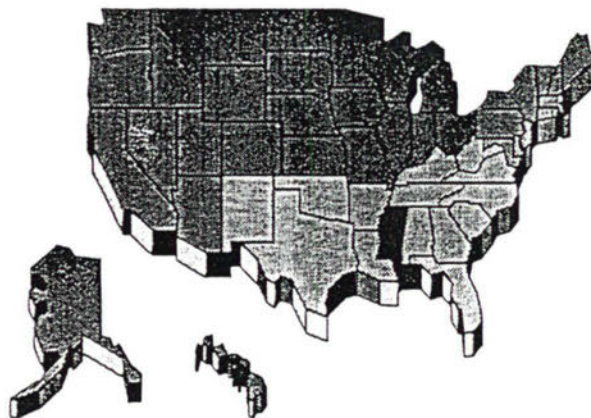
22) REA Telecommunications Expert - Provide technical assistance to allow rural areas to link up to the Information Superhighway and other modern telecommunications.



AMERICORPS MEMBER LISTINGS



GETTING THINGS DONE





UNITED
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USDA\AMERICORPS RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM MEMBER LISTINGS

RURAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (RECD)

- | Name | Location | Phone |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Margaret Allen | Indianola, MS | 601-887-4852 |
| The primary focus is to provide technical assistance, supervisory assistance, and home ownership counseling. | | |
| 2. Stephani Barnes | Lorman, MS | (601)877-6338 |
| The member will assist the community improve education and healthcare. | | |
| 3. Kelly Buford | Greenville, MS | (601)335-4862 |
| The primary focus is to provide technical assistance to individuals who apply for RECD affordable housing loans. | | |
| 4. Rochella Cole | Webb, MS | (601)375-8030 |
| Provides technical support to the Tallahatchie Housing Inc. staff for low and very low income residents and renovations for existing homeowners.
Provides counseling for first time homeowners. | | |
| 5. Daphne Covington | Natchez, MS | (601)442-1791 |
| The member will assist applicants in acquiring subsequent 504 housing loans. | | |
| 6. Susan M. Foutz-Lowe | Natchez, MS | (601)445-7518 |
| Conducting site tours, developing projects and proposals to lower county's teen pregnancy rate, and establishing contacts as well as researching funding avenues for the re-establishment of a YMCA facility in the community. | | |
| 7. LaDonna Gulley | Yazoo City, MS | (601)746-5742 |
| The member's main responsibility is the completion of all duties relating to the successful startup of Yazoo City's Micro-Enterprise Initiative. | | |
| 8. LaDonna D. James | Jackson, MS | (601)965-6114 |
| Provides clerical and technical support to the AmeriCorps team in the capacity of team leader and will provide outreach assistance to the community of Edwards on bringing their EC application initiatives to life. | | |



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9. Brenda Joyner Madison, MS (601)859-1453
The member will work to inform and coordinate the needs of the housing borrowers with the services provided by Rural Economic and Community Development and other service agencies in the Madison County area.
10. Charlet Meredith Jackson, MS (601)965-4493
The member will increase community awareness of the services offered by Rural Economic and Community Development by organizing and administering informational seminars.
11. Charles K. O'Donnell Cleveland, MS (601)846-4358
The member is responsible for facilitating between community leaders and organizations in planning projects for community and economic development.
12. Charles Osborne Lexington, MS (601)834-3301
Make personal contacts in the community and organize formal and informal meetings between community leaders and businessmen, public officials and various funding sources to encourage the economic growth.
12. Chanel Richards Jackson, MS (601)965-4323
The member conducts outreach seminars to heighten community awareness of the programs available through Rural Economic and Community Development.



UNITED
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OF AGRICULTURE

**USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
SERVICES RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
MEMBER LISTINGS**

Name	Location	Phone
1. Barbara Adams Water Quality Project Coordinator	Mendenhall, MS	(601)587-2411
2. Patri Armstrong Dry Fire Hydrant Project Coordinator	Tupelo, MS	(601)841-0322
3. Amy Belfore Dry Fire Hydrant/Water Quality Project Coordinator	New Albany, MS	(601)534-7651
4. Gail Clark Adopt-A-Stream Project Coordinator	Brookhaven, MS	(601)833-5539
5. Cannetti O'Brien Rural Fire Protection Coordinator	Liberty, MS	(601)657-8088
6. George Frank Oakes Forest Products Promotion Coordinator	Brookhaven, MS	(601)833-5539
7. Larry J. Parker Dry Fire Hydrant Project Coordinator	Grenada, MS	(601)226-5656
8. Dawn Greenlee Rural Fire Protection Coordinator	Brookhaven, MS	(601)833-5539
9. Lori H. Stewart Environmental Education Coordinator	Pearl, MS	(601)965-5233
10. Margaret Ward Tourism Promotion Coordinator	Hattisburg, MS	(601)545-2753



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**USDA FOREST SERVICE RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
MEMBER LISTINGS**

Name	Location	Phone
1. Cassandra McLure Team Leader/Environmental Educator	Stoneville, MS	(601)686-3161
2. Dorothy Reaves Community Planner/Community Recycle Leader	Greenwood, MS	(601)453-2762
3. Arnell Patterson Assistant Forester/Sewer Planner	Stoneville, MS	(601)686-3173
4. Andrea Clark Urban Forester/Sewer Planner	Cleveland, MS	(601)741-2193
5. Jethro Henderson Community Recycle Leader	Greenville, MS	(601)332-8616
6. Wandra Arrington Community Recycle Leader	Greenville, MS	(601)332-8616
7. Donna Barnes Community Planner/Timber Bridges	Belzoni, MS	(601)834-3303



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**For information regarding USDA/Anti-Hunger Team and the Public Lands/
Environmental Team, please contact:**

**Alfred Martin, Director, Greater
Jackson Youth Service Corps.
(601)353-1311**

For additional information regarding USDA/AmeriCorps, please contact:

*** 800-880-4183 USDA/AmeriCorps Hotline**

or

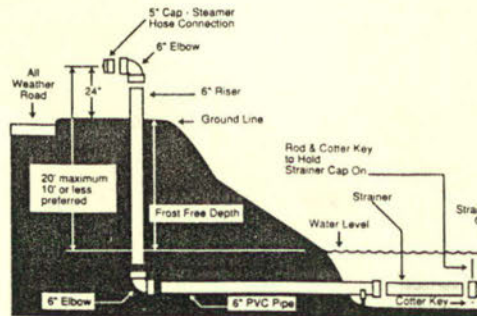
*** 601-965-4316 Rhonda Lampkin, MS Delta Regional Coordinator**

DRY HYDRANT FIRE FIGHTING CONCEPT

A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds, or streams that provides a means of suction supply of water to a tank truck. The dry hydrant system concept includes not only the strategic location of the hydrant itself, but also the equipment and trained personnel to use it efficiently. All three of these components are essential for an effective dry hydrant system. The concept is not new. Many fire departments have successfully used dry hydrants for a number of years, but their use has not been wide-spread until recently.

The installation of a non-pressurized pipe system into these water sources provides a ready means of a suction-supply of water to tank trucks. The dry hydrant system gives the pumping units access to the ponds and streams from the main road. One end of the dry hydrant sticks out of the ground to give tankers a hose connection, and the other end is a strainer submerged in the water body to draw water directly through the system.

The dry hydrant can be made of any hard, permanent material (steel, iron); however, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is becoming commonly used due to price, accessibility and low friction loss-performance. All component parts should be expertly engineered and built for trouble-free service.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE DRY FIRE HYDRANT SYSTEM?

Dry hydrants provide a readily available source of unprocessed water for fire protection and allows rural volunteer fire departments to be much more efficient by providing water sources closer to fire risks. A well planned and installed system of dry hydrants can provide rural communities with peace of mind, reduce property loss, improved safety conditions, and possibly reduce insurance rates.

USING THE DRY HYDRANT SYSTEM

In a water hauling operation, the time it takes to fill the tanker, the distance the tanker has to travel to the fire and, the time it takes to discharge the water from the tanker become critical elements in rural fire protection. Time saved on any one of the above points will increase the amount of water that can be hauled to a fire. Dry hydrants, properly

located, can substantially reduce the travel time from water source to fire.

CHOOSING HYDRANT LOCATIONS

A rural fire department operation without a water system has two means of getting the necessary water. The department may obtain water supplies on the fire scene, which may be natural or constructed, or from supplies transported to the scene. Dry hydrants should be strategically located in natural water sources at intervals necessary to supply an adequate and reliable water supply all year. Natural bodies of water are defined as bodies of water contained by earth, and include ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, bays, creeks, springs, and irrigation canals. Constructed sources of water include swimming pools, elevated gravity tanks, cisterns, wells, etc.



Dry hydrants should be easily accessible.

(Fik) RDT-LA

STEPS TO INSTALLING A DRY HYDRANT

1. Site Selection
2. Excavation
3. Surveying and Design
4. Installation
5. Completed Dry Hydrant



DRY HYDRANTS MUST BE:

- * Properly designed according to standards and specifications by SCS personnel
- * All weather road
- * Accessible at all times
- * Reliable water supply

Don't wait until this happens to you!



For more information, contact the RC&D Area listed below.

Mr. Benny Dobson
Twin Valley RC&D Coordinator
428 Dixie Plaza
Natchitoches, LA 71457
(318) 352-4946

SCS policy ensures participation by all persons in SCS programs and activities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

DRY HYDRANT SYSTEMS



BRINGING GREATER
FIRE PROTECTION
TO
RURAL AREAS

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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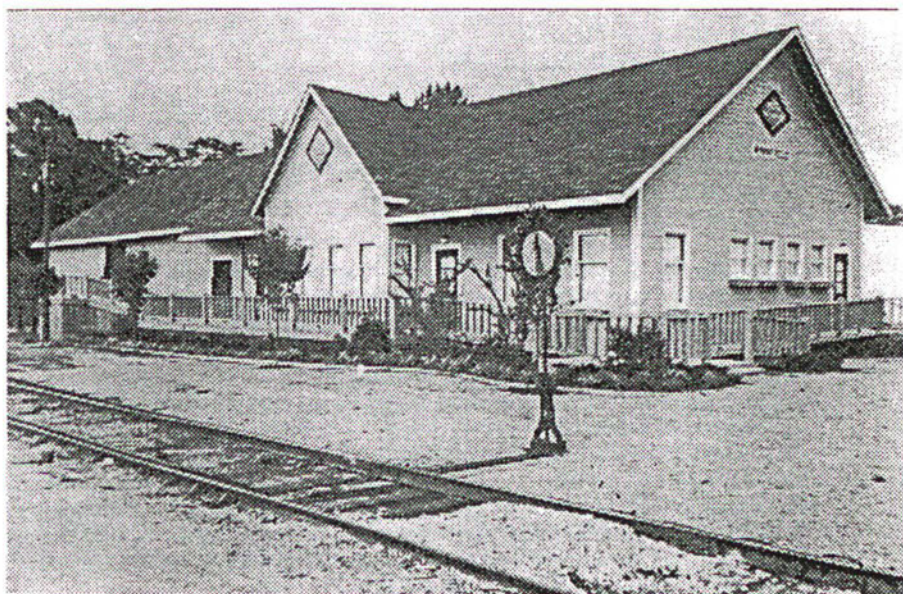
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Louisiana Political Museum
Program

LE117 RAT - LN

*Louisiana Political Hall of Fame Exhibit
of the
Louisiana Political Museum & Hall of Fame
Louisiana Forestry Museum
Winn Parish Museum*



*Presented by
Winn Museum Association
Winnfield, Louisiana*

THE HOLLY GROVE UPDATE

Prepared by Renee Spurlock, AmeriCorps-USDA Member and
Holly Grove High School FBLA

Issue 1

February 1995

**COMMITTEES WILL MEET ON THE
2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH !!**

MONROE COUNTY JUDGE

On January 5, 1995, a meeting was held at the County Judge's office with Judge Tom Catlett, Bruce Leggit-Coordinator for RC&D Council, Mayor Lula Tyler and Audria Coleman-AmeriCorps-USDA Member to introduce the mayor to the different projects being sponsored by the RC&D Council, Monroe County and various other agencies. The projects are as follows:

RC&D (RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL)

RC&D is made up of eight counties in Central Arkansas. Each county has two council members. They are a 501-C3 non-profit organization. The officers are as follows: Noel Deer, Chairman; Judge Tom Catlett, Vice-Chairman; and Debbie Morton, Secretary and Treasurer. A RC&D Council meeting was held at 10:00 a.m. on January 25, 1995 at the Holiday Inn-Airport in Little Rock.

FEMA BUY-OUT

FEMA (Federal Emergency Mitigation Agency) made a 50/50 declaration for \$250,000: 50% FEMA; 12% State Office of Emergency Services; and 38% City of Holly Grove. This would leave a balance of \$90,000 for the city; \$45,000 can be in-kind (AmeriCorp Workers, County, and City Services). The Mayor never agreed to the Buy-Out because the city could not come up with the cash money.

A letter was written to FEMA requesting a 75-25 declaration instead of a 50-50 declaration. FEMA has not answered the request, and it is doubtful that this would be approved. Even if it is not approved, Larry White, Soil and Water Conservation Commission, feels like his Commission can come up with the money. He will go in front of his commission on February 22, 1995. If he receives the money, it can only go toward the Buy-Out.

HOUSING COMPLEX

There have been 7 1/2 acres located on the corner of Hwy. 17 and Hwy 86. The Judge has been working with Representative Cunningham and together they have drafted up a letter to the Governor for the State to buy this land. The Governor has agreed to have the

funds allocated as soon as the Buy-Out is finalized.

Phillips Construction was recommended for this project. They have been secured for the job. They are in the process of putting the application together. The land and the Housing Complex will be owned by Phillips Construction. They will use 2-3 acres from the project and the rest of the land will be owned by the RC&D Council. The Council will donate the lots to people to build houses and that will be used as their down payment. It was mentioned that 1-2 acres be used to build a nursing home. This would have to be approved by the Council before anything is done. Phillips Construction will be totally in charge of building this complex. They will use their own architects and engineers. The city will not be involved.

AMERICORPS-USDA

The AmeriCorps-USDA program is funded by a corporation called the National Corporation for Community Services which was organized by President Clinton. There are three Corporations that house AmeriCorps-USDA members: Rural Development Corp (Under the USDA); Public Land and Environmental Corp; and AntiHunger Corp. The AmeriCorps-USDA workers are in the process of putting together an application for eight workers under the Public Land and Environmental Corp. These workers will help tear down houses after the buy-out, clean up the mall, landscaping, etc. They do not have to have a college degree, however if they don't have a high school diploma they will have to get

their G.E.D. Their salary will be \$7500 annually, as well as a scholarship to be used toward a college education.

NEW FLOOD PLAIN MAP

A letter has been sent to FEMA requesting that the new Flood Plain Map be used and disregard the old map. It will take 9-10 months. This determines whether the residents are in the 100 or 500 year Flood Zone. Many residents that are now considered to be in the 500 year Flood Zone are still having to pay their insurance as if they still lived in the 100 year Flood Zone, and will be legally required to do so until the map is changed.

STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

RC&D made an application to this agency to get a new police car for Holly Grove. Deborah Mitchell, who no longer works for the Commission, was quite sure that this grant would be funded. However, it was turned down, but Deborah works for a new agency and will re-submit another application at no cost to the city.

GROUND ELEVATION

If a resident wants their ground elevation they will have to have their land elevation surveyed by a surveyor or engineer. Delta Surveyor of Brinkley could be used. Dennis Jones can not give the elevation for a new structure.

DADS PROGRAM

The Kellogg Foundation has funded a DADS program in Marvell. They have shown a willingness to fund another

program. AmeriCorps member, Vivian Jones, is working on getting the program funded for Holly Grove.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

On January 12, 1995, a meeting was held with Mayor Lula Tyler; Audria Coleman, AmeriCorps-USDA; Renee Spurlock, AmeriCorps-USDA; Larry Sharp, US Army Corps of Engineers-Memphis District; and Dewey Powell, US Army Corps of Engineers-Memphis District. This meeting was held to discuss the results of a study done by the Corps of Engineers to determine the feasibility and economic justification of a project to alleviate flooding caused by Dials Creek.

Former Mayor Hill requested the preceding project two years ago as a spin-off of a study from The Soil Conservation Service. The Corps was unhappy to report that the costs incurred for the project would not exceed the benefits. The Corps conducted four different plans and unfortunately the benefit to cost ratio is less than 1.0 for all four alternative plans.

The four different studies included:

1. 6-Ft. Channel Conventional Method
2. 10-Ft. Channel Conventional Method
3. 10-Ft. Channel Instream Method
4. 10-Ft. Channel Explosive/Instream Method

It was suggested that the City of Holly Grove work in conjunction with the SCS office and get a permit from The Corps. The permit would allow the citizens to remove sediment and debris by using their own personal sources such as backhoes and explosives.

RC&D

(From Bruce Leggitt, Coordinator of Central Arkansas RC&D)

The Central Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council has in the past played mainly a coordinating role in the Holly Grove initiative. More recently RC&D has assumed a more active role on activities within Holly Grove.

RC&D has been the mechanism which allowed AmeriCorps-USDA participants to be placed in Holly Grove with emphasis on stimulating committee activity, and assisting in the FEMA buy-out.

RC&D is currently locating funds to purchase property in Holly Grove for housing construction. RC&D has secured a contractor (Phillips Construction) to construct 24 multi-family units on this property. Phillips has submitted a pre-application to FmHA for funds to construct these units.

As I know it, the history of the buy-out is tied to frequent and intense flooding within the Dial Creek 100 year floodplain. A FEMA declaration of 50-50 was declared to purchase properties with the floodplain. The city was somewhat reluctant to sign the application due to two reasons: (1) - residents affected by the Buy-Out had no place to move within Holly Grove, therefore adding to the out migration problem; (2) - the city would be unable to come up with the matching funds.

Housing being provided through the RC&D Council solved the first problem. A request to FEMA for a 75-25 declaration was submitted. The request was not approved. The city decided to sign the application after some assurance that the matching funds would be located.

FEMA

On January 25, 1995 a meeting was held at City Hall in Holly Grove, AR with the following attendees: Rodney Larson-Executive Director Central Arkansas Planning and Development; Bruce Leggitt-Coordinator Resource Conservation and Development; David Meador-Soil and Water Commission; Ray Linder-Natural Resources Conservation Services; Terry Gray-Federal Emergency Management Agency; Lula Tyler-Mayor of Holly Grove; and Audria Coleman-AmeriCorps-USDA.

This meeting was held to let everyone who is involved in administering the Buy-Out that FEMA needs all business regarding the buy-out taken care of by March 1, 1995. This is the time FEMA would like to start the issuance of the money to buy the people in the flood area out.

The counteroffers were mailed from Rodney Larson's office on January 17, 1995 via certified mail. The Americorps worker and the mayor were asked to notify every resident on the list to see if they are or are not interested in the Buy-Out and answer any questions they may have. If there is someone that wants to get into the Buy-Out at this time, they have to return their letter immediately. All letters will have to be in by February 10, 1995 enabling Rodney Larson to give an accurate figure to The Soil and Water Commission regarding the amount they will be asked to donate for the cities match. The Soil and Water Commission will meet on February 15, 1995 to decide whether or not they will give the money needed to complete the buy-out. According to David Meador, it doesn't seem like it will be a problem.

FEMA will be able to give up to \$227,000 for the Buy-Out, however the

city will have to come up with that much money as well. As it stands, the city needs \$59,000 and that is the amount The Soil and Water Commission hopes to donate.

If there are any residents living in the flood zone that would like to move their house or trailer to an already developed piece of land, FEMA will pay for the move.

As the properties are acquired, FEMA will pay until \$150,000 has been used, then other matched funds will be used, leaving the states matched funds until the very end of the Buy-Out.

Bruce Leggitt is going to talk to Debbie Moreland, Real Estate Broker, on the legalities of the buying of the homes.

HEALTH CARE

A meeting was held at the City Hall on February 6th with Mayor Lula Tyler, Mid Delta Health Systems, Inc. Executive Director Al Sliger, and Americorps-USDA Member Renee Spurlock. The Health Care Clinic at Holly Grove does not meet the standards of the Health Department. At this time it was decided to get an appraisal of the building currently being used. Also various buildings around town will be viewed to see if any could be used, if it is determined that it is too costly for the current building to be brought up to standards.

HAPPENINGS

Regina Bennett and J.T. Richardson have changed to Sodium Lights.

AmeriCorps-USDA member Jana Coleman will assist the committees with information on sodium lights, restoring the Bent Rail and adopting a corner.

Lula Tyler Shares Plans For Betterment of Holly Grove

Lula Tyler, newly elected mayor of Holly Grove, plans to continue the projects that have been started under former mayor Donna Hill. She also plans to activate existing committees.

Tyler feels like her term in office will be successful because she has been on the council for many years and is aware of city business. She also feels like she has the cooperation of the city council and former mayor. Another factor she says will help her succeed is the competent office staff and city employees.

All council members are concerned about the health and welfare of the citizens of Holly Grove. As mayor, with the help of the various committees, she will decide a workable plan and timeline to better serve the citizens of Holly Grove.

Tyler stated she is deeply con-

cerned about the elderly people who awake in the middle of the night with chronic aches and bodies racked with pain and nowhere near to turn or call for help. Her plans include seeking funds for a cooperative clinic that will stay open to meet the medical needs of the citizens of Holly Grove.

Another one of her plans includes an economic development committee. She has stated if a young adult moves out of Holly Grove she wants it to be because he wants to, not because he has to.

The other side of the coin she says is, "we must secure some of our capable young people if our town is going to survive."

Beautifying and cleaning up the town is high on her agenda. In her opinion, some areas needing attention are: stopped up drainage ditches full of debris, grown-up lots and dilapidated houses. She plans to immediately turn these items over to the beautifying committee for review and recommendations.

Tyler also hopes to improve the crime and drug situation in Holly Grove. "We have crime, drugs and all the problems that other cities have. I think we need to continue to be aggressive in dealing with these issues," Tyler says she plans to have a neighborhood watch. She plans to turn this project over to crime and drug committee.

(Continued on Page 2)

Lula Tyler . . .

The city has already formed a housing authority. The mayor-elect will meet with the chairman of the housing committee to find out plans and timeline. She also plans to bring the Section 8 program to Holly Grove.

Tyler plans to meet with Americorps workers to solicit their ideas, input and help in getting these plans underway. She is very interested in the FEMA project and how much progress and follow-up that has been made. Other projects of interest include an annual town festival and parade.

Tyler, 49, has been a resident of Holly Grove since 1969. She is a life-long citizen of the area. She grew up on a farm near Ray Town. She has worked as a classroom teacher in Lee County for 29 years and served as the director of Kiddie Kollege for 20 years. She has also started a drug and alcohol prevention program for youth. One of the most meaningful organization to Tyler is the Holly Grove Homecoming Club in which she will remain involved. She looks to the group as a support group. The homecoming club has motivated her to keep trying to make Holly Grove better because they are so enthusiastic about making Holly Grove a good place to call home.



Lula Tyler

The Monroe County Sun 12/15/94

Special Christmas Events Planned By H.-Grove Churches

Church leaders from all of the churches of Holly Grove have been meeting together to plan special events to celebrate Christmas. On Saturday, December 17, a Live Nativity can be seen at Holly Grove United Methodist Church from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Following the live nativity scene everyone in Holly Grove is invited to come to the Mall at 7:30 p.m. to join in singing Christmas carols.

Choirs from two of the churches will sing, the Biblical account of the birth of Christ will be read and everyone will participate in singing Christmas carols. The mall has been spruced up and decorated and it is hoped that this will become part of an annual Holly Grove Christmas celebration.

Everyone in Holly Grove is encouraged to come and see the live nativity and to join others in these events celebrating the birth of Jesus. There will be worship services on Christmas Day in many of the churches of Holly Grove.

Monroe County Sun 12/22/94

Police Department Wants Residents To Brighten Up

The Holly Grove Police Department is encouraging the use of sodium lights in yards. Officer Charles Walker stated that visibility with a sodium light is doubled. This increased visibility aids in the officers' patrolling and would deter potential burglars from the area.

Individuals may contact Arkansas Power and Light about the installation of such lights in their yards. AP&L can also replace current lights with sodium lights if requested. A fee may be charged but the police department believes the benefits to individuals would be worth any additional charge.

Monroe County Sun 12/15/94

Officials To Be Sworn In Jan. 2

The swearing in ceremonies for all county and municipal officials that is usually held on January 1st of the new year, will be held this year on Monday, January 2nd at 7 p.m. in the court room of the Monroe County Court House. The announcement was made last night by Judge Tom Catlett.

1/12/95 The Monroe County Sun

Large Crowd In

Attendance At

Community Mtgs.

An organizational meeting of community committees was held Monday evening in Holly Grove. Approximately 35 people attended and expressed their interest in serving on individual committees for the betterment of Holly Grove.

Americorps coordinator Renee Spurlock and Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler directed the meeting. The committees were established several years ago and formed goals. The new committees will review the former reports and work on new goals. The committees will seek to utilize state resource personnel in helping to find funding sources.

The committees formed include: crime and drugs, educational development, health care, recreation and tourism, planning council, economic development, and city beautification. The planning council will coordinate all the activities of the other committees. The planning council will present any matters that need action of the city council before the city, rather than having individual committees come before the council.

In an overview of some of the issues, Mayor Tyler stated that the city needs activities that will involve teenagers. She stated that the crime rate would be reduced if the youth had more activities to participate in after school. Housing was also another priority need of the mayor. Tyler noted that better housing indicates a more stable community. She also stated that in order to attract industry the city would need adequate housing.

Tyler told those present that FEMA is regulating construction within the city limits. FEMA is encouraging people to move out of the lower flood plain areas and has set restrictions about what can be built. FEMA is also regulating the relocation project currently underway in Holly Grove.

After the review of committees,

Jan 26, 1995 The Monroe County Sun

Holly Grove Has Busy Agenda For Meeting With New Mayor

New Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler had a long agenda of items to be discussed during the first Holly Grove City Council meeting over which she presided. During the first meeting last Thursday evening, the council voted to enter a lawsuit, purchase a fax machine, discussed the purchase of a new police car, and to seek estimates for an equipment storage shed.

For nearly two years, the city has been in negotiations with Ruby Westbrook for property for the waste water treatment plant. The city wants to purchase 12.63 acres for the plant and has paid Westbrook \$5,700 for the property. Westbrook has stated that the payment is not sufficient and has requested \$900 per acre. It is reported that the Westbrooks recently sold adjoining property for \$175 per acre. A February 7th trial date has been set. A motion was made and passed by the council to not make any further counter offers, but let the matter be settled in court.

Mayor Tyler reported that the city hall was in need of a fax machine and a new secretary's chair. She stated that much of the city correspondence is now done by fax and that without a machine, the city was having to pay per usage. She also stated that the secretary's chair was in need of replacement. The council agreed on both the purchase of a fax machine and new chair.

The council also discussed at length the purchase of a new police car. The brown police car with 112,000 miles was reported as being in need of many repairs. The brakes, transmission, distributor and tires all need work or replacement. The council discussed using money collected from the one cent sales tax to help purchase a new car. The possibility

of purchasing a used car was also discussed. A motion was passed for both options to be ex-

Water Department stated that the pump was needed for work with the water and sewer departments.

Mayor Tyler reported that the contract with Waster Management Systems ends at the close of this month. Waste Management has been providing for all garbage pickup within the city. A decision concerning a garbage collection company will be made next month.

Mayor Tyler also reported that the project involving Dial Creek has been terminated. The Corps of Engineers after a \$55,000 study project total was estimated at nearly \$900,000 for the channeling of Dial Creek.

The relocation project, a separate matter, is still underway. The Soil and Water Commission will vote in their February meeting on a \$59,000 grant for Holly Grove. The mayor stated that approval of the money looks very positive.

The council approved a letter for the support and continuation of the Mid-Delta Health Systems clinic in Holly Grove.

Rene Spurlock of the Americorps program addressed the council. She stated that she has been working with the Holly Grove Fire Department in helping to determine needs and upgrade the department. She stated that the fire department needs a certified training officer and that Stanley Spurlock was willing to go to the academy for training. She also stated that if the department met all the state qualifications that they could be eligible for \$5,000. Spurlock also discussed with the council the idea of paying the firemen to attend fireman's meeting and for each fire in which the department responds. A decision was not made.

All members were present for the meeting.

Committees To Meet Monday in H.-Grove

The community committees for Holly Grove will meet on Monday, February 13. The committees have been divided into two groups with the first meeting at 6:00 p.m. and the second at 7:00 p.m.

Committees meeting at 6:00 p.m. include Crime and Drug Committee, Education and Development Committee, Recreation and Tourism Committee, and Drainage and Flood Committee.

Committees meeting at 7:00 p.m. include Health Care Committee, Economic Development Committee, and City Beautification Committee. The overall Planning Committee will also meet at 7:00 p.m.

The committee will meet the second Monday of each month at the Holly Grove City Hall. All persons interested in serving on one or more of these committees should attend.

2/9/95

The Monroe County Sun

...for the construction of
an equipment storage shed. The
need for city equipment to be
properly stored was emphasized.
The council decided to seek local
estimates.
The council also discussed the
purchase of a portable water/trash
pump. Henry Stephens of the

Upgrading of Holly Grove Fire Dept.

The Holly Grove Fire Department reports that they have been busily working to upgrade their department. Several firemen have been attending classes this week in Helena. Three of the officers attended the Fire Academy in Camden for further training on February 11 and 12.

On January 30 the department voted in three new members. New members include Brandon Cage, Renee Spurlock, and Brooke Harlin. This brings the total number of firemen to 16.

Mayor Lula Tyler and Renee Spurlock with Americorps have been helpful in finding grants to help purchase new equipment for the department. They hope everyone in the community will give their support to the department's efforts.

2-16-95

The Monroe County Sun

Americorps Workers Guests at Holly Grove Woman's Club

Three members of the Americorps program were guests at Tuesday's meeting of the Holly Grove Woman's Club. Renee Spurlock, Jana Coleman, and Audria Coleman discussed their various responsibilities with the Americorps program. They stated they work in helping communities find funding for needed projects. In Holly Grove, Americorps has been instrumental in securing funding for a flood plain buyout and are working for improved housing in the area. Under the direction of Americorps, the community interest committees have been reestablished and are making plans for improvements in many areas for the City of Holly Grove.

In other business during the meeting, the club voted to sponsor an art contest at Marvell Academy. The contest will be divided in two parts, one division for grades nine and ten, and another division for grades eleven and twelve. Entries may be either in photography or painting. The winners will be submitted to district competition.

The meeting was held in the home of Mary Ann Reynolds who served as hostess. Serving as co-hostess was Willa Lambert. Mickey Calloway was in charge of the program. Introducing the Americorps coordinators was former Mayor Donna Hill. Following the meeting and program, the ladies were served refreshments.

The club will meet again on Tuesday, March 21.

Holly Grove Is Recipient of *The Monroe County Sun 2/23/95* Grant in Excess of \$61,000

Audria Coleman of the Americorps program announced to the Holly Grove City Council last Thursday night that the city had been selected as a grant recipient. The Arkansas Soil and Water Commission approved a \$61,285 matching grant to assist with the FEMA buyout program. The city has been working with FEMA to buyout property in the flood plain and relocate those persons to higher areas. Coleman, Judge Tom Catlett, and Mayor Lula Tyler met with the Soil and Water Commission in securing the matching grant monies. Normally, a city has to provide the matching monies.

Plans were also announced for a second new housing project. Phillips Development from Little Rock has been secured as the builder for the housing complex. The complex will be located at the junction of Highway 86 and 17 just north of Holly Grove.

After listening to bid reports from two sanitation companies, the council voted to change from the current company and contract services with a different company. Waste Management of Forrest City has been serving the city since the late 1980's. Jack Boyden and Hal Rhodes of the company explained their bid proposal to the council. Jean-Paul Gentleman of BFI of Memphis explained his bid proposal to the council. The bid pricing and the services offered were very competitive. The quotes from Waste Management were lower than their current rates. Boyden stated that the company could reduce their rates due to a combination of routes because the company had acquired additional communities in the area to service.

In a unanimous vote, the council decided to accept the bid from BFI. Mayor Tyler commented that the change was not based on rates, but reliability of service.

Garbage pick-up will continue

equipment and quality of training. He also stated that the department had formed boundaries for service. The limits of territory serviced include to Duncan on Hwy. 86 to Rags Gin on North 17 to crossroads on South 17 and on Hwy. 146 to the county line. Harlin announced that a Ladies Auxiliary is being formed. The group has already planned an April 15 basketball tournament as a fund-raiser.

Mayor Tyler announced that the Westbrooks have accepted a counter offer of \$1,500 as a final settlement for the purchase of property for a waste water treatment site. Last month the council voted to take the matter to court if necessary, but the counter offer was accepted.

A new police car has been ordered. Total cost was reported at \$15,956.

Vivian Jones of the Americorps program in Marvell gave a report on the DADS (Dealing with Adolescent Development) program. She stated that the program focuses on young African-American males from ages 8 to 16 and teaches them respect, responsibility and restraint. She stated she is working with the Holly Grove Americorps in seeking \$1 million in funding for a three year program. The program would hire a director, counselors and provide youth activities.

Police Chief James Nolen asked the council to consider paying holiday pay. He stated that it is required by the Municipal League and paying along the way would be easier than paying in a lump sum when the officer resigns. No action was taken.

Over 15 visitors were present for the meeting. Absent was Council Member Don Dearing. The council will meet again at 7:00 p.m. March 16.

*Linda Messenger Americorps
Supervisor Holly Grove
NRCS - Environmental*

The Americorps Environmental Team cleaned Blackton Cemetery of briars, bushes, and small saplings. This request came from Mrs. Bobbie Pride, the wife of the caretaker that had family members buried there. Mr. Pride died before he could fulfill his dream of the cemetery being completely cleared and graves filled.

~~The Americorps Team assisted with harvesting and~~
~~planting of crops at UAPB's Campus Farm and to locate.~~
We also painted buildings on the Farm at UAPB Campus.

Americorps also traveled to Fort Smith/Van Buren to assist over 200 residents that were devastated by a tornado.

In recognition of the National Day of Service, Americorps planted 100 trees at the Fema Project Site in Holly Grove.

The Team also assisted the Mayor and the City of Holly Grove with its annual cleanup May 14-24.

Each year the City of Holly Grove has an Annual Homecoming. In conjunction with the Mayor, the City Beautification Committee and the Holly Grove Homecoming Club, Americorps did landscaping throughout the main streets of Holly Grove.

In conjunction with the Holly Grove Women's Club, old landscaping and concrete walkways were dug up and hauled from the "Bent Rail", an old Depot that has been placed on the historical Registry to be refurbished to become a gift shop and museum.

The Historical Magnolia Cemetery is 17 acres of history from 5 wars, inbedded in a valley beneath Crowley's Ridge. The Cemetery Association is of very, very few active members.

Memorial Day weekend, Magnolia Cemetery Association has an annual cleanup and memorial service @ the cemetery. Among the serveral groups attended, Americorps was there to provide a day of Service in memory of those who gave their lives for our country.

On-going Projects:

Cleanup of City Park
Magnolia Cemetery Special Projects
UAPB Farm

Project in Progress:

Extension of city water lines to City Airport

Americorps Team

Linda S. Messenger, Supervisor
Leroy Foster
Linda Dianne Knox
Gloria Wiley
James Stewart
George Phipps
Darrel Mitchell
Aeric Cole

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

Form FmHA 2030-8
(Rev. 7-90)

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE:

6-6-95

Rose
BrownCheck box for:
SECURE ☐
FAX ☐
TRANSMISSION

SUBJECT:

AmeriCorps Clean-up
Card of Thanks314 876-
0912

TO:

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

STATE

Attention

Kathryn Gibney

Receiving Agency or Organization if other than FmHA:

Facsimile Telephone Number

FTS () Commercial ()

Telephone Number of Recipient

FTS () Commercial ()

FROM:

Name of Sender

Richard - LA

Division

RECD

Room Number

318 472 925

Telephone Number

FTS () Commercial ()

COMMENTS

Attached is a card that
summarizes RECD / NRCS AmeriCorps efforts
last week - I'll send you a video + pictures
asap -

Authorized By: (Division Director or Branch Chief)

Transmission Completed By:

No. of Pages (incl. this sheet)

3

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*Helen Alessia
223 Hickory Lane
Hawthorn, La 70123*



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RD001-0257





Mr. Austin J. Cormier
State Director EMHA
3727 Government St
Alexandria, LA 71302

Dear Mr. Cormier,

No Words Can
ever express how grateful
I am for the wonderful
help I received from
Richard Hoffmann and his
workers. To know that there
are people who care when
others can not help themselves
is something you can never
forget. They were like
guardian angels.

Again thank you from
my heart and may God
Bless each one of you



Carlie
Wendy
Margarette Williams
Sandy Elley
Xavier Bailey
Richard

Thank
You

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Alex Alex

2-4 p.m.

Nov 8:28 a.m.

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Economic and
Community
Development

Suite 831, Federal Building
Jackson, Mississippi 39269
601-965-4318

(File) RDT-MS

March 27, 1995

Subject: Briefing - Joel Berg's Visit to Mississippi

To: State Director
c/ Community Programs

AmeriCorps is a National Service Initiative Program that engages diverse groups of Americans in performing critical services to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs in return for vouchers for education, vocational training or student loan repayment.

The 4 key principles of AmeriCorps are Getting Things Done, community, opportunity and responsibility. RECD was allocated 14 AmeriCorps slots in Mississippi. Presently we have 13 members. One requested to be released from the program effective 18 March 1995 because her husband was recently relocated with his job. There are a total of 67 USDA AmeriCorps members in the state that serve on the Anti-Hunger, Public Lands and Environment, and Rural Development Teams. We are a part of the Rural development Team.

Most of our members were placed in communities that were either designated EZ/EC or Champion Communities. They serve in the following Mississippi communities: Hinds, Madison, Claiborne, Jefferson, Adams, Yazoo, Holmes, Washington, Sunflower, Bolivar, and Tallahatchie Counties.

Our members have:

-- In Holmes County devised a plan to reduce employee turnover rates at Durant Electric Corporation. The plan not only convinced the company to reverse its plans to move to Mexico, but allowed the company to plan to hire 400 new employees.

-- In Tallahatchie County our member is taking part in an effort to bring a multi-family housing unit to the community.

-- In Yazoo County developed and initiated a grant for Micro-Enterprise Program.

-- In Claiborne County ACT Test Scores have been improved as a result of the AmeriCorps members working with the students through after school tutorial programs and ACT/SAT enrichment programs.

-- In Hinds, Madison, Sunflower, Washington, Adams counties members are assisting families in need of affordable housing.

-- In Hinds county our member has begun a "Peer Helpers Program". This program is an attempt at empowering young people to make positive changes in their lives and their community.

-- In Bolivar County our member has sponsored Leadership Development Seminars with the mayors within that geographical region.

We will attend a cluster meeting 29 March 1995 with all USDA/ AmeriCorps members and Joel Berg in Louisville, Mississippi.

Joel will want to know if you have any discretionary funds for housing, in particular in the counties where our members are focusing on affordable housing (Tallahatchie, Sunflower, Washington, Adams, Yazoo, and Hinds).



BETTYE W. OLIVER

AmeriCorps State Contact

Rural Economic and Community Development
(formerly, Farmers Home Administration)

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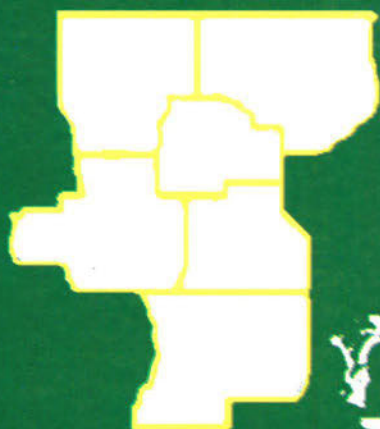
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Welcome To North Central
Louisiana Piney Hills Country

Welcome To



NORTH CENTRAL LOUISIANA



PINEY
HILLS
COUNTRY

CLAIBORNE PARISH
UNION PARISH
LINCOLN PARISH
BIENVILLE PARISH
JACKSON PARISH
WINN PARISH

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File

From: Lou Woltering:WO
 Date: ## 03/27/95 08:52 ##
 Check this out and then give me a call.
 v/r
 Lou

ROT-MS

Previous comments:
 From: Sam Mejia:R8
 Date: ## 03/23/95 20:52 ##
 Lou: Not sure if you responded to this earlier. (I'm still at the
 Ouachita NF for a review here til Friday.)

Would the WO have any problems with disbursing the balance (?)
 of the agreement to the Greater Jackson in view of the fact
 that they are paying Members 6 hours per day and "requesting"
 them to "volunteer" 2 hours of service each day?

We have a fund request which we are holding up until we hear
 from the WO. Thanks in advance. - sam

Previous comments:
 From: Sam Mejia:R8
 Date: ## 03/20/95 11:16 ##
 Lou: Does the WO have any problem with R8 certifying for another cash
 advance to Greater Jackson in view of their practice of
 paying Corpsmembers for 6 hours and having them "volunteer" for
 2 hours.

Not sure if you've had a chance to look at our letter (along
 with the Miss. NF's monitoring report) which addresses the
 pay issue as well as other program matters.

Thanks. - sam

Content-Type: text
 Content-Length: 00000000280

From: Betty Clardy-Myers
 Date: ## 03/16/95 10:41 ##
 I RECEIVED A APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT FROM FISCAL AND
 ACCOUNTYING FOR THE PERIOD 04 -01 -95 TO 06 30 95 (\$80,194.50)
 REQUESTING MY SIGNATURE. DO YOU WANT ME TO GO AHEAD AND SIGN OR GET
 BOB ERICKSON TO SIGN?

(File) ROT - MS

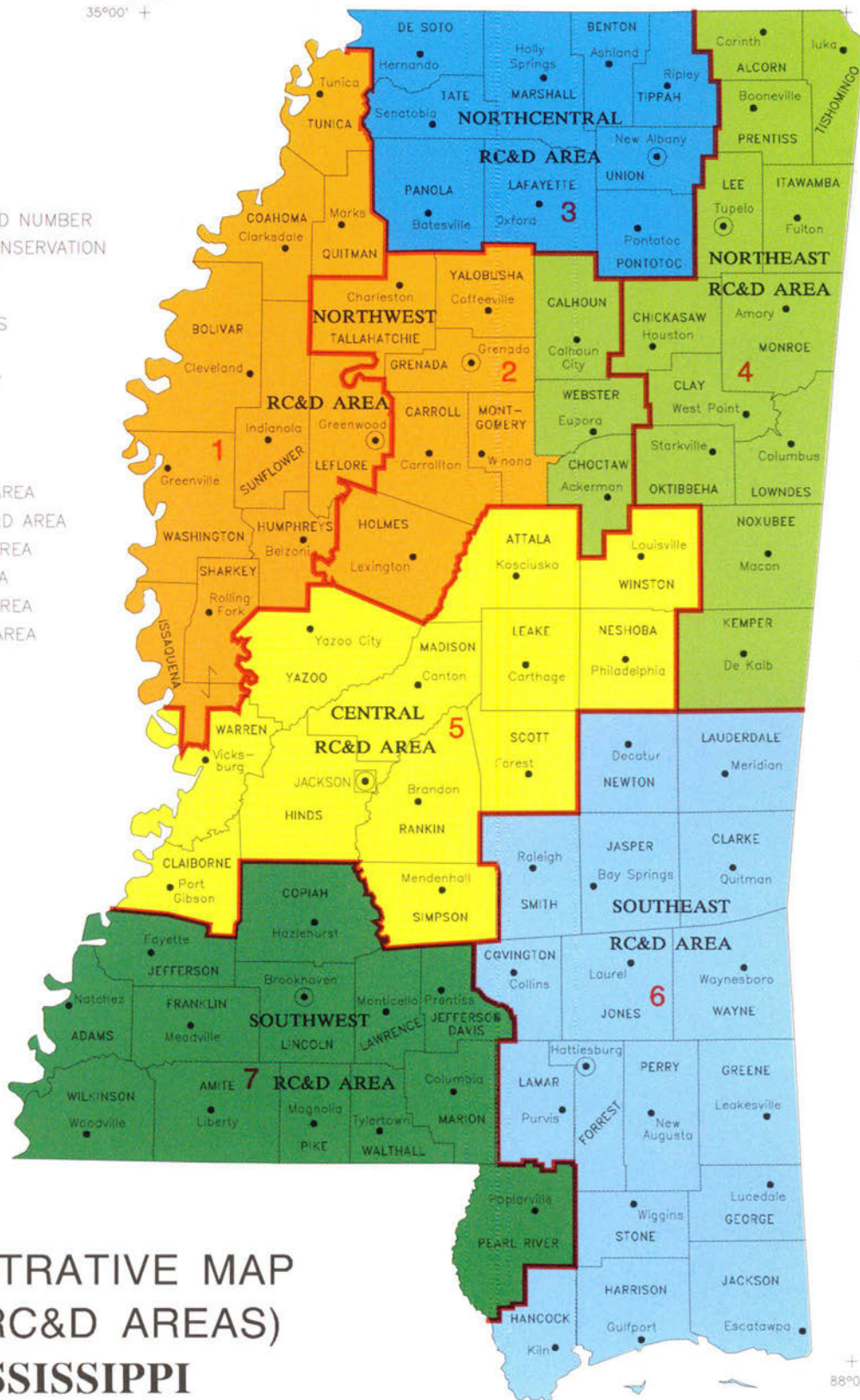
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LEGEND

- 1 AREA BOUNDARY AND NUMBER
- SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- STATE OFFICE
- AREA HEADQUARTERS
- FIELD OFFICE
- ↔ DISTRICT SERVED BY ONE FIELD OFFICE

RC&D PROJECT AREAS

- NORTHWEST RC&D AREA
- NORTHCENTRAL RC&D AREA
- NORTHEAST RC&D AREA
- CENTRAL RC&D AREA
- SOUTHEAST RC&D AREA
- SOUTHWEST RC&D AREA



ADMINISTRATIVE MAP (WITH RC&D AREAS) MISSISSIPPI



SOURCE:
DATA PROVIDED BY SCS FIELD PERSONNEL. MAP PREPARED USING AUTOMATED
MAP CONSTRUCTION. LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATE
SYSTEM CALCULATED BY THE APPLICATIONS SOFTWARE. NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHY
AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS CENTER, FORT WORTH, TEXAS 1994



REVISED FEBRUARY 1994 1006817

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(File)
RD - ARK

January 17, 1994

AmeriCorps National Service



CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

Ms. Margaret A. Peters
AmeriCorps Member
249 South Main
PO Box 1497
Jonesboro, AR 72403

Dear Ms. Peters,

I enjoyed meeting you at the Arkansas Commission for National Service Technical Assistance Meeting. Having participated in the development of the AmeriCorps program, I am particularly excited when provided with the opportunity to meet AmeriCorps members who are getting things done. I have shared your positive experiences with Meg Maguire, Senior Program Officer for AmeriCorps*USA, and we both thank you for your commitment and support. Being in the first class of AmeriCorps members, you are defining the AmeriCorps program for your community and for future AmeriCorps members.

Thank you also for your recommendations for improving our program. Meg Maguire and I both agree that effective communication is vital to sustaining AmeriCorps, and we will work to improve our systems.

If you have any further questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact Meg Maguire at 202-606-5000 extension 441 or myself at 202-606-5000 extension 131. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Clara Shin

Clara Shin
AmeriCorps*USA Program Officer

cc: Meg Maguire

1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000
Fax 202-606-1906

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

Draft March 23, 1994

PROPOSAL FOR MISSISSIPPI DELTA AMERICORPS/USDA TEAMS

This proposal details a program through which AmeriCorps participants in the Mississippi Delta would work to fight hunger and bolster nutrition, improve the local environment, boost the local rural economy, and reform the welfare system. Some of the participants would be AFDC participants themselves -- the program would provide them with the skills and resources they would need to empower themselves to move towards self-sufficiency.

Costs and Number of Participants

The first component would be two youth service teams of 50 participants each, composed of a mix of AFDC recipients, college students, and recent high school graduates. Each participant would receive a yearly salary of \$7,400, health insurance, child care if they have children, and an educational scholarship of \$4,725 that can be used for college, graduate school, trade school, or an approved apprenticeship program. One team of 50 participants would focus on work on public lands and the environment. The other team would focus on work on anti-hunger, nutrition education, and empowerment initiatives. Including administrative costs and overhead, each participant would cost USDA and/or our partners an average of \$15,000 per year. Thus, each 50-participant team would cost \$750,000 per year. Both teams together would cost \$1.5 million per year.

The second component would be a 40 person rural development team, composed of college graduates and professional school graduates. Each participant would receive a yearly salary of \$15,000, health insurance, child care if they have children, and an educational scholarship of \$4,725 that can be used for college, graduate school, trade school or an approved apprenticeship program. Fifteen members of this team would supervise the younger participants in the other two teams; the remaining 25 team members would plan and carry out broader empowerment, welfare reform, rural development, and environmental protection programs throughout the Mississippi Delta. Including administrative costs and overhead, each participant would cost USDA and/or our partners an average of \$20,000 per year. Thus, 40 participants would cost \$1 million per year.

Thus, all three teams, engaging a total of 140 participants in service, would cost \$2.5 million yearly.

Combining Welfare Reform and Community Service

This model would be unique because the welfare recipients in the program would both perform and receive service.

This model rejects the failed and stale ideologies of both the far left and far right. It rejects the conservative notion that poor people are basically lazy, and that if they are thrown off welfare they will somehow be able to magically find jobs for themselves. But it also rejects the traditional liberal approach of simply spending more money on a broken system that only leaves welfare recipients on an endless treadmill.

Instead, this model focuses on helping participants gain for themselves both the work ethic and the economic tools needed to succeed.

The AFDC recipients -- like all the participants in this program -- would be providing critical service to the people of the Mississippi Delta. This experience would be empowering in and of itself by transforming these participants from clients passively being supported by government into community activists providing service to others. As currently demonstrated by existing youth service corps, this change can be a transforming experience for welfare recipients, stripping away their stigma and replacing it with a new and powerful understanding of their own power to help themselves and their community. By working alongside and completing exactly the same tasks as college students, the participants will come to realize they too can set higher personal goals.

Yet this program will provide AFDC recipients with much more than increased self-esteem and a structured work regimen: they will receive services, training, counseling, income, and educational benefits that would allow them to move off of welfare and towards self-sufficiency. Specifically, each participant on AFDC will receive the following material benefits:

- * \$7,400 base salary yearly
- * Free health insurance with a guaranteed set of minimum benefits
- * Free day care for their children
- * \$4,725 educational voucher for each year of service
- * Up-front, general, training on citizenship, work skills, and teamwork
- * Up-front, technical, training for each work project
- * Free classes to obtain G.E.D. degrees
- * Ongoing educational classes on environmental and anti-hunger issues
- * Help with transportation to the work sites
- * Ongoing counseling on their personal and economic problems
- * Substance abuse counseling, if needed
- * Job counseling and placement services

Empowerment Tools Provided to the Participants

Ten of the Rural Development Team members will serve as crew leaders for the Environmental Team and the Anti-Hunger Team. Thus each crew of 10 participants will have one Rural Development Team member, who will be a college graduate or a professional school graduate, as a crew leader.

The crew leaders will plan projects, supervise projects, and work alongside the members of each crew. The crew leaders will also be specially selected and trained to serve as caseworkers for the AFDC recipients on their team.

Since each crew leaders/case workers will have no more than five AFDC recipients under their personal direction, they will have plenty of time to work with each person to help solve their individual problems.

The other five Rural Development team members will focus on providing the following services to the participants and the region-at-large.

1) Training, Education, Counseling - This team member will focus on coordinating specific job training, general education and G.E.D. classes, environmental and nutrition education, interview training, and personal counseling.

2) Job Placement Services - This team member will work with program participants and other community residents to try to match up their skills and interests with available jobs in the region.

3) Assets Development - This team member would work with local banks, local government agencies, and local non-profit agencies to create a pilot project in which money saved by program participants would be matched by another source and kept in a special savings account.

4) Microenterprise Development - This team member would work with participants and other area residents to help them obtain small loans to start microenterprise projects. Microenterprise is a development strategy in which small loans, peer support, and technical assistance are made available to those starting "small" small businesses. Such small business are usually capitalized under \$5,000, employ less than five people, and tend to be in the retail or service sector, yet they can play a critical role in breaking the cycle of dependency on government programs and help individuals build assets while moving towards self-sufficiency.

5) Apprenticeship Creation - This team member would work with participants, regional businesses, local educational institutions, and other local residents to create opportunities for regional business to sponsor apprenticeships for young people to train for real jobs while continuing their studies.

USDA Staff Support

This project will also have at least ten full-time USDA and state extension system employees detailed to help run it. Some possible detailees:

- 1) FNS Feeding Program Policy Expert**- Will work to coordinate the interface between the anti-hunger teams, state welfare agencies, and federal feeding programs.
- 2) Agricultural Research Service Nutrition Education Specialist** - A former HNIS employee will work with the Anti-hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team to provide nutrition education.
- 3) FSIS Outreach Worker** - Would incorporate food safety curriculum into work of anti-hunger team.
- 4) Extension Agent in Nutrition** - Will work to develop and implement curriculum in anti-hunger corps.
- 5) Extension Agent in Small Farming** - Will teach participants and others how to grow their own food and provide agricultural education.
- 6) Extension Agent in 4-H** - Will coordinate program with local 4-H youth programs and provide environmental education.
- 7) Extension Agent in Small Farming** - Will teach participants and others how to grow their own food and provide agricultural education.
- 8) Soil Conservation Service Soil Expert** - Will provide technical assistance for environmental team members and will provide environmental education.
- 9) Soil Conservation Service Rural Development Expert** - Will coordinate interface with local RC&D programs.
- 10) Soil Conservation Service Earth Team Coordinator** - A SCS employee with a proven track record of success in coordinating volunteer efforts will help incorporate part-time volunteers into the efforts of the environmental team.
- 11) ASCS Sustainable Agriculture or Beginning Farming Expert** - Will coordinate sustainable agriculture projects and facilitate participation in USDA beginning farmer programs.
- 12) Forest Service State and Private Forestry Expert**- Will supervise tree-plantings in towns.

13) AMS Farmers Market Specialist - Will work with team members to open farmers markets in poor small towns and allow local small farmers or gardeners to sell their goods.

14) AMS Organic Standards Specialist - Will work with team members to help explain new organic standards regulations.

15) ARS Sustainable Agriculture Expert - Would work with team members to implement local sustainable agriculture projects.

16) FCIC Underwriting Expert - Will work with team members to help explain to area farmers the provision in the crop insurance regulations.

17) FmHA Loan Expert- Will help participants and other area residents apply for loans and provide general outreach on USDA programs.

18) FmHA Housing Expert- Will coordinate rural housing renovations, implementation of inventory property program, home ownership counseling, and pilot programs to build homes out of straw.

19) RDA District Water Loan Specialist - Would work with team members to conduct environmental assessments communities need to perform before building new water systems.

20) RDA Economic Planning Expert - Would work with team members to provide general economic strategic planning for communities and regions.

21) REA Business Development Expert - Would work to help develop small businesses regionally.

USDA Administrative Support

The **National Finance Center** will provide payroll for the participants and the management team.

The **Office of Personnel** will provide support in hiring, detailing, and evaluation.

The **Office of Information and Resources Management** will provide assistance in creating and maintaining a computer network and bulletin board for the program.

The **Office of Operations** will help obtain and maintain office space.

Where The Program Would Operate

The program would operate in the following counties of Mississippi: Desoto, Tunica, Panola, Coahoma, Bolivar, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Washington, Sunflower, Carrol, Sharkey, Holmes, Humphreys, Yazoo, Warren, Issaquena, Claiborne, and Jefferson.

The program would operate in the following counties of Arkansas: Crittenden, Lee, Phillips, Desha, and Chicot.

The program would operate in the following counties of Louisiana: East Carroll, West Carroll, Madison, Tenas, and Concordia.

Rural Development Team

The Rural development team would consist of 40 college graduates or professional school graduates with specific training in rural development issues. Fifteen team members would be assigned directly to work with the Environmental and Public lands team and the Anti-Hunger and Empowerment team. The remaining 25 participants would assist communities in identifying needs and resources necessary for economic well-being. The participants would have diverse education and training and would be matched up with individual communities or regions that have specific needs that can be filled by someone with that specific background. The need to develop new leadership in rural America was a continuing theme of Secretary Espy's recent Rural Development Forum. Americorps/USDA Rural Development Team can help redress that need by playing a major role in developing that leadership.

We will make a concerted effort to recruit participants who want to return to areas similar to those in which they were raised. Thus, this program can help begin reversing the "brain drain" from rural America. The goal is for as many Rural Development Team members as possible to be hired eventually by their host communities.

Individuals will be placed in communities or areas where their particular talents can be best utilized. Experts in connecting rural homes to municipal water systems will be matched up to areas with that need. Experts in tourism will be matched up with communities that want to develop their tourism. Experts in sustainable agriculture will be matched up with groups of farmers who need technical assistance in that area. Experts in grant writing will be matched up with communities that need grant writing. Experts in attracting small businesses will be matched up with communities that want to attract more small business.

Experts in watershed protection will be matched up with areas that need such help. General planners would also be matched up with communities that need to develop overall economic plans.

This group of individuals would be able to assist communities in planning and prioritizing efforts. The corps would then assist the community in locating financial resources, preparing proposals, designing educational programs, and implementing strategies necessary for revitalization. The focus would be on the community generating its own vision for the future and the USDA corps assisting them in creating and attaining that vision. Some possible job descriptions:

- 1) Assistant State Rural Development Coordinator** - Assists USDA State Rural Development Coordinators in helping boost Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities. Collects data, provides outreach, coordinates community resources, helps develop strategic plans, helps implement the program, analyzes local data for agencies and organizations so that the needs of the under-served are considered.
- 2) Small Business Plan Developer and Information Broker** - Assists in the assessment and development of niche markets.
- 3) Regional Circuit Rider** - Works part time in a number of towns in a region. Provides technical assistance to communities throughout a region in brokering, strategic planning, and community assessment.
- 4) Sustainable Agriculture Advisor** - Works with farmers in the region to help them develop model sustainable agriculture farms. Directs 4-H volunteers to perform some of the labor intensive work, such as fence building, needed for successful sustainable farming.
- 5) Watershed Assistance Process Facilitator** - Work to coordinate local watershed protection programs in order to save wetlands, guard drinking water quality, and prevent flooding. The team member would explain watershed assistance programs, identify key potential participants in local watershed steering committees, arrange local organizational meetings, and facilitate the identification of watershed needs, problems, and concerns.
- 6) Natural Resource Specialist** - Under the direction of a Soil Conservation Service professional employee, the team member will work in low-income and socially disadvantaged areas to assist in the acceleration of watershed protection, work with field engineers in the design and layout of community projects, and work with the local Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Coordinator for economic development for disadvantaged groups.

7) Landscape Architect - The team member will work with soil conservation districts, RC&D councils, and area conservationists to coordinate and include landscape architectural planning for the purpose of maintaining, enhancing, or restoring ecological, social, and economic conditions.

8) Farm-a-Syst Coordinator - Will work with local farmers to conduct environmental and groundwater assessments of their farmsteads.

9) Regional 4-H Youth Development Coordinator - The team member will work with county Extension agents and 4-H coordinators to manage local students involved in youth service.

10) SCS Volunteer Coordinators - The team member will recruit and supervise adult and youth volunteers from local communities to work on Soil Conservation Service projects.

11) Microenterprise Promoter - Team members will work with local banks, community development agencies, and interested individuals in starting or expanding microenterprise programs.

12) Rural Housing Renovator - Team member will direct the work of Environment and Public Lands team members and other volunteers in renovating rural housing.

13) USDA Program Outreach Worker - Team member will provide outreach to citizens on USDA loan programs, beginning farmer programs, minority business opportunities, etc.

14) Apprenticeship Coordinator - Team member will work with local businesses, national foundations, state government, and local school districts to build partnerships to run apprenticeship programs.

15) Community Development Bank Promoter - Will provide technical assistance to organizations desiring to create rural community development banks.

Environment and Public Lands Team

The 50 Public Lands and Environment Team members would renovate state and local parks, plant trees in towns and other areas, teach environmental education, help beginning farmers, test water quality, help renovate rural housing, boost sustainable agriculture, clean-up rivers and lakes, help families weatherize their homes, instruct the public on how to dispose of household chemicals, and restore wetlands.

Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team

In the Anti-Hunger/Empowerment Team, the 50 participants would work to help low-income families and individuals move towards self-sufficiency. The main focus of the team would be fighting domestic hunger. Team members could help individuals apply for food stamps, Women, Infants, and Children, and the school breakfast program; overhaul their diets; learn to prevent foodborne illnesses; and obtain the expanded Earned Income Tax Credits, microenterprise loans, and help from community development banks. In short, this team would help put into effect the entire empowerment agenda promoted by President Clinton and Secretary Espy.



REV. W.C. TIMS
President

CALVIN R. KING
Executive Director

*pls give this to the
person on the states
team who works with
Arkansas*

March 8, 1994

Ms. Susan Stroud
Corporation for National & Community Service
1100 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20525

*1c → Joel Berg
1c → Chuck Sheeha
1c → me*

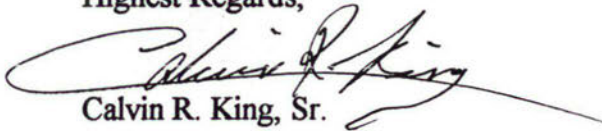
Dear Ms. Stroud:

Thank you for meeting with Becky and myself regarding the Youth Enterprise in Agriculture program here at Arkansas Land & Farm Development Corporation. This is an exciting initiative for ALFDC, a model that holds much promise, not only for youth in the Mississippi Delta, but also for young people in any setting in the country. Its objectives seem to mesh with the Learn and Serve program and, For YEA graduates, with AmeriCorps.

After our meeting at the White House, Becky and I had the opportunity to meet with Joel Berg at USDA. We will be working with him on a community service proposal in conjunction with the YEA project. Please find enclosed descriptive material about YEA and the youth involved in the program.

Thanks for the notebook information on the Learn and Serve and AmeriCorps programs. If I can provide you with additional material please let me know.

Highest Regards,


Calvin R. King, Sr.
Executive Director

pc: Dr. Barry Colley, Marilyn Lynch, Andre Stephens

Where We Stand

By Albert Shanker, President
American Federation of Teachers

Mentoring Reconsidered

The biggest terror for many little children is getting lost. They'll go somewhere with their mother or father and when they look around mom or dad will be gone. In the classic happy ending, the parent appears and hugs the child, and they go home together. But for many of the kids in our society who are lost because they are not getting the support they need from adults, there won't be any happy ending.

This is especially likely for kids in homes where they suffer violence and abuse from the adults who are supposed to be caring for them. Or where a single parent is so distracted with worry and work that the children don't get the emotional and moral support they need to grow into strong and confident adults.

One answer often proposed is mentoring, one-on-one help from adult volunteers who take needy youngsters under their wings and attempt to turn their lives around. Mentoring appeals to people of many political stripes. Conservatives favor it because they see it as a way of solving social problems without involving government (and spending a lot of money). So do liberals who believe that communities can and must take responsibility for their own problems. But *The Kindness of Strangers: Adult Mentors, Urban Youth and the New Voluntarism* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1993), a recent book by Mark Freedman, raises serious questions about using an ad-hoc approach to deal with this enormous social and human problem.

For one thing, Freedman points out, there are never enough volunteers. Furthermore, most mentoring programs are run on a shoestring so they don't have the staff to make careful matches between mentors and youngsters. Nor can they provide mentors with the training and follow-up they need. Given these limitations, mentoring is as chancy as a blind date—and no more likely to lead to the lasting and solid relationship these kids need. Many kids pull the plug because a couple of outings a month with a stranger from another world are not enough to overcome their uneasiness and distrust. Many mentors find they can't really fit mentoring into their busy schedules. Others give up because it is so hard to get through to their kid. (This, of course, gives a youngster who has probably already been failed by adults another experience of how worthless he is.) At best, a commitment of four hours a month for a year or so, which is the average, will not turn around many lives.

Freedman's suggestion is that we look at existing institutions, like schools, where possibilities for mentoring arise naturally. Teachers and other school personnel don't have to be parachuted into students' lives; they know these kids and work with them every day. And the personal concern mentors feel for the youngsters they work with is a natural extension of the teacher-pupil relationship rather than the kindness of a stranger, which must often seem rather artificial.

The problem is that schools are not organized in a way that gives teachers and students a chance to develop close and caring relationships—and they don't have the resources to do it either. Elementary school children spend one year with a teacher—just long enough to start feeling comfortable—and then they move on to a new teacher. After elementary school, they often have a different teacher for every subject.

Why shouldn't elementary and junior high school students stay with the same group of kids for three or four years? Why shouldn't there be a team of teachers and paraprofessionals, and why shouldn't the class be broken down into small groups so each group can work closely with a teacher—and get to know one another? In high school, mentoring could be carried on by programming small weekly seminars, which would continue—same teacher and same kids—throughout the students' high school years. Or all these changes could be carried out in smaller schools or schools within schools, where students and teachers start out with a better chance of knowing one another.

These ideas are sound in educational as well as emotional and moral terms. Students who are connected with another adult, and with one another, are less likely to drop out. And they are more likely to work and shape one another up—and thus to enjoy a measure of success in school work.

Mentoring can fill an important need for the many youngsters who have no close or caring relationship with an adult. But we are kidding ourselves if we think we can make a dent in this enormous problem with ad-hoc arrangements. We should stop working around the edges of the main institution concerned with children—the schools—and concentrate on making our schools moral communities. It can be done.



Conservatives favor mentoring because they see it as a way of solving social problems without involving government.

3/21/94
fax to Peter Edelman
from Susan Strand



202720-4614

REV. W.C. TIMS
President

Earl Moore Sr.

CALVIN R. KING
Executive Director

February 4, 1994

Joel Berg
Director - Public Liaison
Office of Public Affairs
US Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

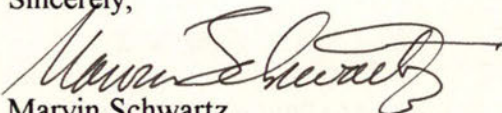
Dear Joel,

I enjoyed talking with you the other day and hearing of your interest in exploring collaborative programs between USDA and Arkansas community organizations for rural development through Americorps. In the near future, I will be getting input from the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation and from Arkansas Human Development Corporation for the creation of specific work projects and job descriptions. Hopefully on your end, a better sense of USDA objectives and implementation plans are likewise being developed.

In the meantime, however, the February 14 program at Greenville, Mississippi presents a good opportunity for you to get a good sense of Delta development potential. At the meeting, I hope you will find some time to speak with ALFDC Executive Director Calvin King and Earl Moore, who is currently on leave as AHDC Executive Director. The vision and efforts for rural development from these organizations have resulted in some of them most successful and recognized programs in the Delta region. I think you will find Calvin and Earl to be a source of many innovative ideas for USDA partnerships with community organizations.

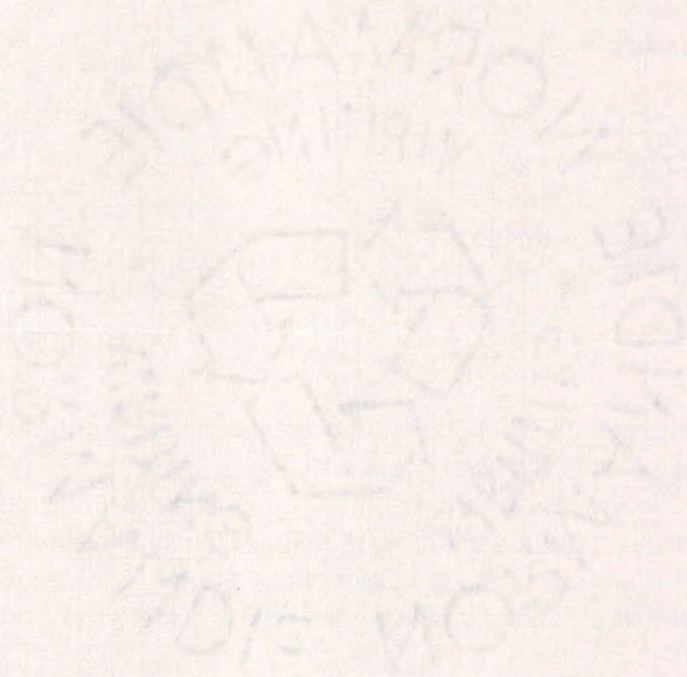
Additionally, I would like to invite you to visit the ALFDC site at Fargo for a more in-depth discussion of Delta rural development activities. Fargo is located three miles north of Brinkley, which is on Interstate 40 midway between Memphis and Little Rock. From Greenville, it would be about a two hour drive, and Wednesday, February 16, would be an ideal date for your visit. I will give you a call next week to see if these plans can be worked out.

Sincerely,


Marvin Schwartz
Director of Planning and Development

cc: Calvin R. King, Sr.
Earl Moore

responded to letter to community
groups



[Faint signature]

Need to See Rest of
Delta proposals

**FAX TO:**PAULA Jones/Dee**PAGE 1 OF 10****FROM:**

D. VICTOR SIMPSON
ACTING ASSISTANT STATE CONSERVATIONIST (OP)
MISSISSIPPI - USDA - SCS
FAX : 601-534-3242
PHONE: 601-534-7651
NEW ALBANY, MISSISSIPPI

MESSAGE:

PAULA - Hope this is what
you need - if it doesn't work
let me know - HAD A HARD
time w/ form - who signs?

THANKS Vic SIMPSON

SUMMARY:

Water quantity and farm environmental concerns in the Mississippi Delta have become key issues. This project addresses these issues by obtaining reliable site-specific data. This data will be used to develop plans that will result in the implementation of practices and measures to reduce water consumption and improve on-farm environment. The project will involve six participants working in teams. On-site evaluations will be made in each of the ten counties within the project area.

The Soil Conservation Service will administer the project. Program partners include the Northwest Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development Area, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, educational institutions, Delta Council, Yazoo Water Management District, and other local private and governmental organizations.

GOAL:

To provide grass-roots assistance to the agriculture community to implement water conservation and improve farm environmental conditions.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Soil Conservation Service is to provide leadership and administer programs to help people to conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment.

R B '94 12:48 FROM USDA FS STONEVILLE

ANNUAL OBJECTIVES:

- (1) Evaluate irrigation efficiency on 30% of the farms that irrigate in the project area to improve efficiency by 20%
- (2) Implement water conservation measures on 35% of these farms.
- (3) Evaluate potential environmental problems on 50% of the farms in the project area to reduce groundwater contamination and protect the resource base.
- (4) Implement sound environmental practices on 35% of these farms.

NEEDS:

- (1) Water Conservation - The aquifer in the Mississippi Delta is being depleted at a greater rate than it is being replenished. This agriculturally-based area is heavily dependant on water for crop irrigation and aquaculture. As the public becomes more aware of the potential water shortage in the area, farmers are under greater pressure to reduce water usage. This program will allow farmers to evaluate water usage and take corrective action.
- (2) Farm Environmental Evaluations - The nature of extensive farming operations in this area generates hazardous waste materials. These materials cause ground and surface water pollution, jeopardizes land value, and adversely impacts plant and animal life. This program will allow farmers to evaluate environmental hazards and take corrective action.

PROCESS:

Issues and needs in the areas of water conservation and farm environmental concerns were identified by key leadership in the Mississippi Delta. Some of these groups include soil and water conservation districts, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, other state and federal agriculture agencies, units of government, agribusiness and industry representatives, civic and community organizations, and educational institutions. All of these groups will continue to be involved throughout the duration of this project by providing input and assisting with the evaluation of the program.

DESIGN:

The participants will be working in teams of three. Each team will work in the 10-county Mississippi Delta area to complete evaluation and implementation. Evaluation and monitoring of the project will be done quarterly by the project coordinator. Success will be measured by comparing accomplishments to objectives.

CONCEPT:

The basic concept for the design involves teams, on-site assistance, and exchange of data with such entities as Yazoo Water Management District, Delta Council, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Participants will be based in selected field offices throughout the project area, and will travel to adjacent field offices to service surrounding counties.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

Participants will interact with landusers on-site to evaluate resources. This will include using monitoring equipment, completing a check list, and gathering data to be used in the development of resource management plans. It is anticipated that participants will meet daily with the conservationist or technician to receive work assignments and instructions. The participants will travel to the site(s) and perform the necessary evaluations. Landusers will be interviewed to provide information for the evaluation and development of the resource management plan. Participants will also be involved in the preparation and dissemination of the plans.

These activities will result in landusers implementing practices that will save water and protect the resource base.

PARTICIPANT TRAINING AND SUPPORT:

Training will be provided by irrigation engineers, agronomists, and biologists that have technical responsibility in these areas. On the job training and daily guidance will be provided by the district conservationist and soil conservation technician in the field offices.

PARTICIPANT PLACEMENT AND SUPERVISION:

Participants will be placed in teams of two or three persons and located in selected field offices within the project area. Host sites will be equipped and prepared for work teams in advance. The project coordinator will assign work locations for the teams. District Conservationists in the work locations will provide supervision and support.

APR-07-94 THU 12:20

USDA SOS MS STATE OFFICE

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BAP DIVISION

MISSISSIPPI

004

Refer to the Title Page Instruction on page 26. Please type or print in black ink.

RENTAL USE ONLY

1. APPLICATION TITLE:

☐ Single-Site ☐ Multi-Site

2.

LEGAL APPLICANT: USDA, Soil Conservation Service

Contact Person's Name: James Johnson

Address: P.O. Box 1160

City, State, Zip: Greenwood, MS 38930

Telephone/Fax: (601) 453-2762; (601) 453-7841

Applicant's Congressional District: 2nd Congressional District Mississippi

3. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

☒ Federal☐ National Non-Profit☐ Professional☐ Multi-State

Agency

Organization

Corps Prog.

Program

Employer's ID Number:

4.

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Clarence L. Finley

Organization's Name: Northwest RC&D Area

Address: P.O. Box 313

City, State, Zip: Stoneville, MS 38776

Telephone/Fax: (601) 686-9850; (601) 686-2696

5.

GRANT TYPE:

☐ Planning or☐ Operating or☐ Educational Awards Only

6.

ISSUE AREA
AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES:☐ Educational☒ Environment☐ School Readiness☐ Neighborhood Environment☐ School Success☒ Natural Environment☐ Homeless Needs☐ Public Safety☐ Independent Living☐ Violence Prevention☐ Community Revitalization☐ Crime Control

7.

AREA(S) TO BE SERVED: Small, Rural Agricultural Communities

☐ Urban☒ Rural☐ Other

Congressional District of primary area served: 2nd Congressional District

Congressional Districts of secondary areas served:

8.

PARTICIPANTS:

of Full-time Participants: 6

of Full-time Participants Needing

of Part-time Participants:

Educational Awards:

of Participants Needing Child Care:

of Part-time Participants Needing

of their Children needing

Educational Awards:

Child Care:

of Expected National Recruitment

of Unfunded Participants:

Participants:

9.

BUDGET:

Corporation Funds Requested YR1:

YR2:

YR3:

Total Budget Amount YR1:

YR2:

YR3:

10.

PROGRAM OPERATES in an area of need as identified by the Corporation? ☒ Yes or ☐ No

Which One? Mississippi Delta Area

11.

PROJECT DURATION:

Start Date:

End Date:

Number of Program Terms:

12.

CERTIFICATION:

The applicant certifies to the best of his/her knowledge and belief that the data in this application are true and correct and that the filing of the application has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and that the applicant will comply with the assurances required of applicants if the assistance is approved.

Date:

Name:

Title:

TITLE PAGE AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECT APPLICATION

APR 8 '94 12:50 FROM USDA FS STONEVILLE

PAGE.007

PR-07-94 THU 12:21

USDA SCS MS STATE OFFICE

FAX NO. 6019655178

P.05

04/07/94 08:27

2020800839

BAP DIVISION

MISSISSIPPI

2005

Applicant Name: Northwest MS RC&D Area

Program Name: Delta River Water Conservation & Environmental Assessment Project

1. WHAT IS YOUR PROGRAM'S MISSION STATEMENT?

The mission of the Soil Conservation Service is to provide leadership and administer programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment.

Each application must include statements of primary objectives in three areas: Community Service, Community Building, and Participant Development. Please use a separate copy of this form to describe your objectives in each area (i.e., Community Service, Community Building, Participant Development). In the case of community service, also use a separate form for each priority area. If you are working on more than one (i.e., education, environment, etc.)

2.

THIS PAGE APPLIES TO

☒ Community Service☐ Participant☐ Community☒ Education

Development

Building

☐ Public Safety☐ Human Needs☒ Environment

3. WHAT ARE YOUR ANNUAL OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA CHECKED ABOVE?

List your three primary objectives.

A. Evaluate irrigation efficiency on 30% of the farms that irrigate in the project area to improve efficiency by 20%.

B. Implement water conservation measures on 35% of these farms.

C. Evaluate potential environmental problems on 50% of the farms in the project area to reduce groundwater contamination and protect the resource base.

AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECT APPLICATION
 MISSION STATEMENT AND ANNUAL OBJECTIVES