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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSOLIDATED FARM SERVICE AGENCY
SAN JUAN COUNTY CFSA OFFICE
504 NORTH MAIN
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO 87410

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TO: Mr. Joel Berg, Director of National Service

FROM: Lloyd Wilhelm, Four Corners Facilitator

SUBJECT: Weekly "AMERICORP" progress report

March 30, 1995

I realize it has been several weeks sense the last time you have heard from the Four Corners Region. A lot of things have been happening and we have had several challenges to deal with.

1. Utah Americorps member Eldon Miller has suffered a tremendous Family Tragedy, in the death of his wife Carole. Carole had not been ill and her passing was unexpected. Eldon's address for contact purposes:
Eldon Miller
SEU-BTAC Room 137
P.O. Box 1106
Price, Utah 84501
2. We are planning a regional cluster meeting for the first week in June. Because of funding constraints we are working with several agencies and groups to locate a inexpensive location, that will be centrally located for all members. The Navajo Americorps contact Razzel Yazzie has been very cooperative, and is wishing to involve her people in the meeting. The meeting will be focused on individual successes of our members with involvement by local community leaders. We are also looking to have a group community service project planned in conjunction with the meeting. I will update your office as we finalize the agenda and activities.
3. "National Service Day" Plans are progressing well towards a large service project involving several local volunteer groups. The project is centered around a non-profit ranch which provides therapy to disabled children, through outdoor activities and horsemanship. We will be doing maintenance, painting, general cleanup, and construction projects for the duration of the day.

I feel this would be a tremendous opportunity for the national office to have a representative attend and participate in this day of service. When we finalize all activities we will be in contact to coordinate a visit by you or someone from one of the agencies. Because of my workload I asked Shantel Farnsworth, Americorps member to coordinate much of the activity. She has been doing a tremendous job in organizing the community. There will be representatives from the Media, local towns, businesses, Congressional Representatives, and many concerned citizens attending this function.

AMERICORPS/CFSA USDA

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Joel Berg

March 31, 1995

Weekly AmeriCorp Report 03/27/95

East St. Louis

Public Lands and Environmental Team has been involved in the following projects:

1. Saturday, March 25th they had a demonstration for BiDynamic Gardens at the State Community College (SCC) garden site.
2. 60% of the community gardens have been plowed.
3. Plumbing and hardware supplies for the East Side Senior High greenhouse have been obtained.
4. One flower bed at SCC has been tilled.
5. AmeriCorps project signs are being painted. These will be placed at each site.

Flood Team

1. Began working on Mt. Pleasant flood project. This will take at least one month.

Problems

1. Keeping track of the tools (where they are and who has them), has been a constant problem. A new checkout procedure has been devised.

2 Rivers Area

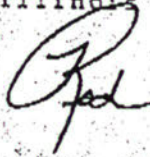
The Public Lands/Environmental Team

1. Finished installing the chain link fence around the playground at St. Norberts School playground. This completed the project.
2. Finished painting at the Western Catholic Union.
3. Finished the community profile of Barry and arranged for Central Illinois Public Service Company to print up the results.
4. Attended a GIS meeting.

Cultural Diversity training was attended by all 2 Rivers members. the training was provided by Western Illinois University.

Jamie Totsch resigned to accept a new job.

Rod Atterberry
Illinois Facilitator

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Rod Atterberry', written over the typed name.

AmeriCorps Update

April Issue

This is the start of our 6th month as an AmeriCorps Team. In the past 5 months we have been "Getting Things Done" in our area. This is the first newsletter put out by the USDA/AmeriCorps Two Rivers Team to keep you informed on what we are doing. Our team consists of two groups, the Public Lands & Environmental and the Rural Development Team. In the following columns we will highlight what we have been accomplishing and future projects.

PUBLIC LANDS & ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

In the fall of '94 the team cut brush and made hiking trails for the McCully Heritage Project in Calhoun County. Scott Jones has been working with the Calhoun County Highway Dept. learning how to maintain equipment. For a short time Brian Hart, Gary Smothers, Larry Warcup, and Joe Daniels worked clearing right-of-ways in Calhoun County. They remove brush which opens up areas to allow the road to dry and to remove nuisance brush. Jamie Tosch has been working with the City of Pittsfield performing numerous tasks.

At various times LeeAnn McDaniles, Rachel Elledge, Gary, Larry, and Joe have been painting various rooms at the YWCA and 10 floors of stairwells at the Western Catholic Union in Quincy. In some of the rooms LeeAnn and Rachel did some decorating, using stencils such as dinosaurs and the alphabet to make the children's rooms fun. Susie Ruble has also been working in Quincy with Uptown Quincy Inc. She has completed numerous tasks including the tallying of two parking surveys. Recently they all have completed work for Saint Norberts Church in Calhoun County. This included the cleaning up of a room used by the Calhoun Medical Corp during the flood, revamping a vacant lot in preparation for playground equipment, and placing a fence. All members of the team have received chainsaw and tree planting training.

Upcoming Projects:

Brown County: Jensen Woods Church Camp- Building on to tree houses, erecting a shed, and concrete work.
Moore Memorial Park- Building wooden erosion control structures and cutting trails
Pike County: Assemble recreation equipment that will be put at the small lake east of Pittsfield Lake.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM UPDATE

In the early months Starr McDaniles and Chad Denison performed a business survey of the downtown core area of Pittsfield. Darlene Iverson joined them on the final stage with Starr tying up loose ends. Mike Miller, Chad, Starr, and Darlene started a survey of all CRP contract holders in our five county area. At the present time Mike and Chad have tallied the responses and the final report is in the works. Phil Baerner and Bob Gillespy are tackling the writing of the annual update of the Overall Economic Development Plan with the Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials. They also have been writing grants for environmental education and water quality & erosion projects for Swan Lake, Camp Creek, and McCully Heritage. Mike, Chad, Darlene, and Starr finished a parking survey given to all businesses in a special service area for Uptown Quincy. Starr and Darlene have been attending and presenting the AmeriCorps group to numerous village boards. They are happy to say a few boards have been taking them up on all our services. They also have been working on various projects including researching and writing a summary on villages in Pike County from the aspect of tourism and researching Historical Register info. All RDT members received training in Springfield and Western University from the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs on rural and economic development.

Upcoming Projects:

Pike County: Updating Barry Community Profile and performing a Needs Assessment Survey
New Canton- performing a Needs Assessment
Adams County: Field verification of residence and structures in rural and incorporated areas for 911 services in the future
Payson- performing a Needs Assessment

AmeriCorps is sponsored by Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Corporation and USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service. Newsletter written by Darlene Iverson & Starr McDaniles

Washington, D. C. FAX Number (202) 720-4614

AmeriCorps Staff

Attention: Joel Berg

From: Robert J. Eaddy

Phone Number (803) 765-5429

Number of Pages

11

Weekly Travel Itinerary
for
Robert J. Eaddy
South Carolina

1. Apr. 3 (Monday)	CFSA State Office	(803)765-5429
2. Apr. 4 (Tuesday)	CFSA State Office	(803)765-5429
3. Apr. 5 (Wednesday)	CFSA State Office	(803)765-5429
4. Apr. 6 (Thursday)	Florence CFSA Off.	(803)669-9686
5. Apr. 7 (Friday)	CWS - OFF DAY	(803)364-2472

Weekly AmeriCorps Activities
for
Robert J. Eaddy
Regional Facilitator
South Carolina

March 27 (Monday) (3 hours)

I worked in the CFSA State Office and made telephone calls to (NRCS, RECD, and USFS) State Project Coordinators and Program Managers reminding them of our joint AmeriCorps Planning Meeting for March 28, 1995. I called Mrs. Jean Moore the new Executive Director of the S. C. Commission on National & Community Service and requested 2 or 3 AmeriCorps members from her agency to participate in our program on April 25, 1995 at Santee State Park. She was very agreeable and promised to check with her staff and advise on Friday, March 31, 1995, if they could.

March 28 (Tuesday) 4 hours

I held a follow up Planning meeting with NRCS, RECD, and USFS AmeriCorps Program Directors for our April 25 & 26, 1995 USDA AmeriCorps Meeting. We have agreed on the program and are finalizing our plans which include selecting a Community Project for all 40 AmeriCorps members to participate in on April 25, which is "National Service Day".

Gloria Richardson with RECD from the AmeriCorps Office in Holly Hill and Amy Overstreet with NRCS AmeriCorps Office in Newberry who has a close working relationship with the media were assigned to select a Community Project from the general area of these locations: Holly Hill, Elloree, Summerton, and Santee. We want to get strong community support and media involvement. We want Joel Berg there also participating with our 40 AmeriCorps Members. After the project that morning we would like to get Joel and the 4 USDA Agency Directors together for lunch.

I will make a follow up visit to the facility next week to coordinate some last minute revisions.

March 29 (Wednesday) (9 hours)

I traveled to the Williamsburg Enterprise Community and met with Victor Rowell, Chairman of the Wmburg. EC, and AmeriCorps Members Sherry Conyers, and Brook Rodgers. During this meeting I reviewed progress reports on their projects. The first project reviewed was The Black River State Park Site. The project involved the AmeriCorps members conducting their research work in the Williamsburg County Tax Assessor's Office. They searched the Tax Maps and made a list of all river front property by tract number, and total acreage from Kingstree, S. C. to Hwy. 41 near Andrews, S. C. Next they took the tract numbers and researched the property files to obtain the owners names and addresses. Next these were compared with the telephone directory to obtain current telephone numbers. Next they used Flood Zone Maps to identify the location of the property sites and referenced each with a tax map number. This was presented to the EC Chairman and Enterprise Committee. The Committee then decided that a revised list should be made with only sites of 2,000 acres or more since this would be easier to work. A new map was prepared with a revised list of property owners. The Steering Committee of the Williamsburg Enterprise Community then applied to the S.C. Parks, Recreational and Tourism Department (PRT) for a financial grant to purchase a State Park Site. PRT has instructed the EC that they will support their effort and to contact all of the landowners and determine which ones will either sell, or donate their property. Next prioritize the sites and then get back with PRT. At this time the project has the EC Committee, the City of Kingstree, the County Council, PRT and the Governors Office supporting the project.

When this project is completed it will provide recreation for the community, tourist dollars for the local economy, and support industry and other economic growth in the community. This project will provide boating, conning, fishing, water skiing, biking, hiking, golfing, picnicking, and a retirement community will be built near by the area.

A Williamsburg County Housing Survey is currently being conducted for S.C. State University under the 1890 Program by the 2 AmeriCorps members. The Williamsburg EC will share information from this survey. This data will determine the housing needs of the county. The EC will be able to determine what kinds of grants are needed for senior citizens, the poor, and young adults and what areas are most critical.

The Cooper's Academy Historical Preservation site is the next project Sherry and Brook will begin work on as an AmeriCorps team. This was the first school for blacks in Williamsburg County. They are working with the Historical Society of Kingstree, the county council, and many citizens of the community. They are conducting research on the site and will help these community citizens apply for grants to restore the site and original structure which is now very dilapidate. Attached is some information on the academy.

Wednesday afternoon I meet with the USFS AmeriCorps Cluster and Project Coordinator. I was informed by Willie Humphrey the project coordinator that Deborah Fulton an AmeriCorps member had filed an Informal EEO Complaint against him. The EEO Counselor has not yet arrived. Deborah left the office at noon and did not return that afternoon. All of the cluster members present had a good attitude and were excited about their work. Each of the members briefed me on their project which are as follows:

Reestablished a Nature Trail at Greelyville. James Mack the AmeriCorps member used a local Boy Scout Troop to provide the labor to clear underbrush and redefine the actual trail. Many plants were pruned and additional new trees were planted at this project site. Trees were identified along the trail, a small pond was cleaned and restored along with a rock fountain was restored. A brochure and map are being developed as a teaching aid when used by local schools for educational purposes.

Establishing a Nature Trail for D.P. Cooper Elementary School. James Mack will use masons from a local lodge for the labor in this project. Science students and some teachers have volunteered to help. Grant money will be used to fund the project. Kingstree High School Industrial Arts Class will produce the cement benches and tables and help construct the pond. James has drawn a map of the area with the proposed trail plotted. He has flagged with ribbon the actual trail on the ground. Wooden bridges will need to be built over the open drainage ditches along the trail, bird baths and feeder will be erected, trees will be identified with signs, outdoor picnic shelters will be constructed.

The County Wide Dry Hydrant Project. Kendra Williams and James Mack are working together on this project. This project is sponsored by the Santee Wateree RC&D. A feasibility study has been done. A draft for a \$35,000 grant has been written. One hundred possible sights have been defined across the county. The AmeriCorps members have plotted all sights on a county map. CFSA records were used to identify each owner. Sixty of the One hundred sites have been field

surveyed by the AmeriCorps members. This project is moving along very well.

Williamsburg Academy Grounds Beautification Project. AmeriCorps member Michael Busby is the project leader. Some \$300 in funds were donated by the First National Bank of Kingstree, S. C. to carry out the project. The project evolves landscaping an exit and entrance area to the academy parking area. A set of landscape plans which include a sketch of the area with the location of each plant and the names of all plants. Some 60 dwarf Youpon Holly and 2 Palm trees will be planted in this project. The labor for the project will be provided by the students and their parents with the support of Mrs. Berry the school administrator. This project is completed in the planning stage and ready for the hands on ground work.

Kingstree Elementary School Beautification Project. AmeriCorps member Tynia Thomas is the project chairman. This project includes work on the school grounds, erection of a green house, and work on a small city park adjacent to the school. Tynia consulted with Dr. Bradshaw from the Extension Service for assistance in developing a plan and selecting suitable plants. The landscape plan has been developed and a drawing of the area prepared. Low maintenance plants have been selected, such as Yellow Jasmine, Sable Palmetto, and many natural shrubs from the area, and some ornamental plants will be incorporated. Bird feeders will be installed. Tynia is working closely with Mrs. McGill from the Kingstree Elementary School.

Hemingway High School Grounds Beautification Project. AmeriCorps member Kendra Williams is the project chairman. The project evolves landscaping the walkway entrance in front of the school. The landscape plan and sketch have been prepared. The Anderson State Bank has donated \$300 and the school is matching the same amount for a total of \$600 to purchase the shrubs. Mrs. Hudson the assistant principal will select the students who will help plant the shrubs. Kendra will coordinate with Mrs. Hudson this week as to when the hands on work will begin.

Student Finger Printing This is a county wide public safety project. It will involve finger printing approximately 3,000 children from ages 5 to 8 years in kindergarten through grade 3. The Williamsburg County School District supports this project. All 5 AmeriCorps members will be involved in this project. All members have received finger print training from the sheriff's department. AmeriCorps members shall train community volunteers to perform this project. I. D. cards were provided by the FBI/Department of Justice. USFS has provided the ink and ink pads. The

following have volunteered to assist the AmeriCorps team with the finger printing.

Local County Law Enforcement Offices

School Board Members

Ministers

One member of the County Council

One member of the Department of Social Services

May 1, 1995 is the proposed date to start the finger printing. Scheduling will be done by the School Boards and School Principals. A letter for parental consent for each student will be mailed the first week of April. Teachers will prepare the header information on each I.D. Card before finger printing begins. Much research has been done by the AmeriCorps team through the "Missing children Program and the Adam Walsh Foundation".

March 30 (Thursday) (9 hours)

I traveled to Greenwood and met with all 4 NRCS AmeriCorps clusters. Members from the clusters presented progress reports on their projects. Some AmeriCorps members have received a letter from President Bill Clinton others have not yet received theirs. NRCS Program Director gave each AmeriCorps member 15 AmeriCorps stickers he had made and advised the clusters that a large AmeriCorps emblem was available for presentations.

The project reports were as follows:

Emergency 911 Project for McCormick County. The Greenwood II AmeriCorps team conducted this project with some early help from Greenwood team I. The County was divided on a county road map in two parts. Three members worked one side and the other members worked the other side. The team surveyed and remapped McCormick County by mapping and recording data on all state, county, and forest service roads in the county limits. This is the first phase of a program to initiate an emergency response system that does not exist at the present time. The Greenwood II team, with project leader David Holcombe, has been able to help get this program off the ground by providing assistance to the Council of Governments, Upper Savannah Division, as well as Mr. Paul Bjorkman. The team members took accurate mileage measurements, as well as recording the number of residences and commercial properties, and grading of the roads. This data is put in a computer for future use in the county. By March 16, 1995 they finished the road work. Two members compiled the data base collected in the county office. There were 750 entries on the spread sheet. The McCormick County Council of Government said,

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"had not the AmeriCorps team done the work, it would have taken McCormick County two years to have done it with their personnel". A very positive attitude was provided the team by the project leader. McCormick County is very rural, has a high rate of unemployment, many roads are not paved and often muddy and hard to travel by regular cars. Mr. Paul Bjorkman was so pleased with the project that he said he will tell Congressman Lindsay Graham about it and request that he support funding the AmeriCorps Program.

Emergency 911 Abbeville County. Greenwood I team spent the last three weeks in Abbeville county completing the roadwork phase of Abbeville implementation. Their objectives were to inventory every road in the county, compile a spreadsheet of their gathered data, and update a digitized road map of the county. Their road data included road type, signage, number of residents, zip codes, fire districts, political boundaries, and landmarks. They included anything that might help a rescue squad get to their destination faster. There were some 832 roads in the county, of which 235 were unnamed, and 41 new roads had to be drawn in on the county map. Approximately 3,300 miles were covered during this project. Greenville TV Channel 4 did a new coverage on this project. Joel, I am trying to get you a copy. Abbeville County will now begin their addressing phase.

Dam Inspections. Newberry Team II was assigned to work with DHEC under the direction of George Ballentine to survey low hazard dams. The survey was done in Aiken County and the team surveyed the county in search of 100 low hazard dams. After locating the dam, the team looked for new development and used the GPS (Global Positioning System) to measure latitude and longitude. In addition, ownership was verified to update DHEC's records. Each Friday all data had to be loaded down to a computer in Columbia, S. C. The information will be useful to Aiken residents as well because if new development is present, the classification of the dam is upgraded to high hazard, thus alerting residents to the danger of a broken dam. Some 600 hours were spent on this project. These earthen dams range from 100 feet to 300 feet and pond water from 20.0 to 40.0 acres in area.

Emergency 911 Saluda County, Phase Two. Newberry Team I returned to Saluda County to continue work on the Emergency 911 project where phase one ended, by undertaking Phase two during the month of March. AmeriCorps primary objective involves modifying every county tax map, over 200, in an effort to create a comprehensive numbering system which will eventually include every household in Saluda County. The Newberry Team I members are dedicated to improving the quality of life for South Carolina and are proud to do their part in upholding the

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AmeriCorps' pledge of "Getting Things Done".

After the project chairman of all teams finished their presentations they were each given a desk plaque of the State of S.C. with an AmeriCorps emblem and agency decal.

Next community service projects were reviewed which included work with public schools to establish nature trails, an Earth Day project in which a picnic table would be built in Laurens, S.C. Building a green house for an Aiken High School, etc. Mentor program in high school where team members meet with students every Friday and help them with their studies, etc. Other outreach projects included attending and participating in the Timber Feast in Saluda, set up a display for AmeriCorps and enter it in the local parade. Many other possible projects were discussed and prioritized.

March 31 (Friday) (6 hours)

Worked in the State CFSA Office. Tried to get in touch with Jean Moore, Executive Director of the S. C. Commission and National Community Service but she was out all day. Talked with USFS Program Director about April 25 and 26 meeting and my trip to Williamsburg AmeriCorps Office. Spent remainder of day writing this report.

COOPER'S ACADEMY

A meeting was called in December 1905 at Bethesda M. E. Church situated within reach of Cades S.C. and Kingstree, S.C., by Moses C. Cooper, H. J. Cooper and Miss Ada Martin for the purpose of establishing a better school, and improving the educational conditions among the Blacks of Williamsburg and adjoining counties. This school would be the only school in the community for black children.

The founders of the school wanted the school to accommodate students from areas such as St. Mark, the Nesmith communities, and those from other side of Cedar Swamp. Those who attended the meeting, quickly grasped the new feature and work for the future institution begun.

The first building erected a short distance from Bethesda Church, which is one of the most beautiful spot in Williamsburg county.

The school in its early years went up to the eighth grade, and in 1927 the county took over and it became a public school, and additional grades up to the tenth grade were added, but while a private school, students paid tuition and supporters held a community fair each October.

When it became a public school, the old dormitory was converted to classrooms and serves as a high school wing of the school. Prior to this, students who lived too far from the academy to commute lived on campus. Room rent and tuition fee must be paid in advance at the beginning on the month. A fee of \$ 1.25 must be paid to the matron of the building department and a fee of \$ 2.50 must be paid to the secretary of the institution.

Some students had to walk over logs through the swamp to school. A wood stove in each classroom provided warmth in the winter. Parents would bring loads of firewood to school to keep up a sufficient supply. Before rural electrification, generators provided electric light, but in the early days, natural light had to suffice.

It has been the aim of those connected with the institution to maintain the highest religious and educational standards. Religious instruction was held in the chapel of the Bethesda Methodist Church on the site and the students took part in the morning services each day of the school year.

Communication with the opposite sex was strictly forbidden. Students violating this rule or any other rule would be dealt with accordingly to the law of the institution.

Closed in 1952, the students then went to Cades Elementary, and high school after consolidation. Some county transportation to the school was available by the 1950's, but private means of transport

was the rule and even through the last decade the school's existence, many students were walking miles to school.

Old school stirs memories, affection of former students

Monument planned to honor founders

In a quiet country setting in the Bethesda community near Cades stands an old two-story wood frame school building that holds a special place in the memories and affections of former students and those interested in the history of the area.

Recently, some of these former students gathered at Bethesda United Methodist Church, adjacent to the school and the old dormitory building, to share memories and recollections of Cooper Academy, organized in 1905 as the only school in the community for black children.

The United Methodist Men of Bethesda Church have organized to erect a monument in memory of the organizers of the academy—Moses C. Cooper, H.J. Cooper, and Ada B. Martin. It is expected to be unveiled later this spring, and a fundraising effort is underway.

The project was initiated by T.R. Cooper, Florence District 3 school board member, who serves as chairman of the monument committee, and supported by the Methodist Men, whose resolution is Joseph Gordon, Jr. "The community feels that this legacy should and must be preserved," Cooper said. "The planned memorial is a fitting tribute to the memory of the organizers. It is a proper remembrance of those who embodied so much of what we should admire in individuals."

Cooper continued, "The memorial will serve both to honor the organizers and remind some of us that if it were not for those persons who had vision and insight to organize the school, black children during that time would not have received an education. Also, we hope that this will inspire the younger generation to make the most of their talents and abilities."

The founders of the school wanted to accommodate students from surrounding areas such as the St. Mark and Nesbitt communities and those from the other side of Cedar Swamp. Before the school was built, the only other schools for rural students were located in Kingstree and Lake City, 15 or more miles distant, out of reach of many rural schoolchildren.

The school in the early years went up to eighth grade and, in 1927 the county took over and it became a public school, additional grades up to tenth grade were added. While a private school, students paid tuition and supporters held a community fair each October. When it became a public school, the old dormitory was converted to classrooms and served as the high school wing of the school. Prior to that, students who lived too far from the academy to commute, lived on campus.

Some of the former students, when asked about school life at Cooper Academy, and how it differed from today, smiled knowingly as they remembered a very different era when discipline and standards were strict.

According to the catalog for 1926-27: "A student's presence is not desired if there is any unwillingness to enter into the spirit of the school, and a student may be asked to leave the school at any time even without flagrant offense."

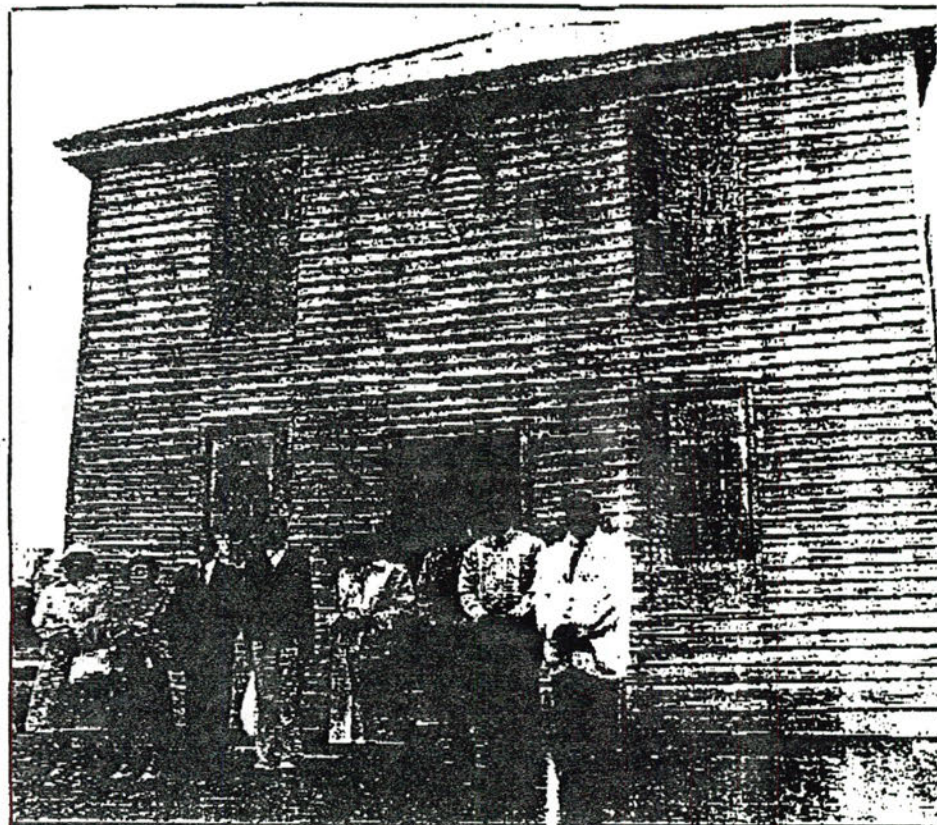
Some students had to walk over logs through the swamp to get to school. A woodstove in each classroom provided warmth in winter. Parents would bring loads of wood to school to keep up a sufficient supply. Before rural electrification, generators provided electric light, but in the earliest days, natural light had to suffice. A social was held every month in the chapel.

Some of the former students also recalled how much shorter the school year was in former days because many of the students had to work on farms getting in crops. But some parents were determined to see that their children got an education, and made the necessary sacrifices. There were no mandatory attendance laws.

Religious instruction was held in the chapel of the Bethesda Methodist Church on the site and the students took part in morning services each day of the school year. They were "part of a congregation of Christian people," the catalog states.

Closed in 1958, the students then went to Cades elementary and high schools after consolidation. Some county transportation to the school was available by the 1950s but private means of transport was the rule, and even up through that last decade of the school's existence, many students were walking miles to school.

"This school has planted the seeds of education for many of the young people in this community over the years," said John C. Barr. As the former students, and members of the History of Cooper Academy Committee, walked over to the front of the old school for a picture last week, the rains that had been falling steadily had stopped, a break in the clouds appeared, and a patch of blue sky opened up, a fitting tribute by Mother Nature to a fine old structure and the long tradition of education it represents.



GATHERING TO REMEMBER Cooper Academy, a building with a long and memorable history for people in the Bethesda Community are former students and members of the History of Cooper Academy Committee, from left: Jessie Mae Cooper, Ruth R. Gordon, H.J. Cooper, J.B. Cooper, Gladys Murray,

John C. Barr, T.R. Cooper, and John C. Barr. Not pictured are Moses C. Cooper and Samuel Brown. H.J. Cooper, J. Cooper, and Moses C. Cooper are sons of one of the academy's founders, Moses Cooper.



Former students remember proud tradition of school

Former students of Cooper Academy with painting of the school, from left: J.B. Cooper, Ruth Gordon, Joseph Gordon, Jessie Mae Cooper, and

Gladys Murray. All went on to finish college after attending the school, which will be commemorated with a monument in honor of the founders.

Photos and story by John Van Dale

Telefax

USDA ASCS



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6 MONTH REPORT

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AMERICORPS/CFSA USDA *****

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Joel Berg

April 10, 1995

Joel

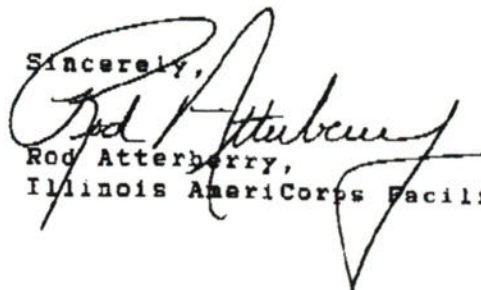
This report is intended to bring you up-to-date on the Illinois U.S.D.A. AmeriCorps projects. As you will notice the East St. Louis project has some problems that have not been mentioned in previous reports. There are two reasons for this. 1.) I am a person that likes to solve a problem and then report it and the solution. 2.) As I was working with new people on a new project I felt that reporting problems was a good way to be excluded from the team.

Neither of the above excuses have worked as well as I planned. I apologize for not reporting these problems as they came to my attention.

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I have enjoyed my role as a facilitator and feel that this position is one of importance. I look forward to my next six months with AmeriCorps.

Sincerely,



Rod Atterberry,
Illinois AmeriCorps Facilitator

Six Month AmeriCorps Facilitator Report

Two Rivers Area Rural Development and Public Lands/Environment Teams Project

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AmeriCorps pay (which cannot change) was not high enough to compete with other jobs in this rural area. Members can receive higher pay working with farmers, fast food franchises, or other types of employment. This resulted in 1.) Not receiving the quantity of qualified applicants to choose from 2.) Not being able to get quality applicants to accept the positions.

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I have pointed out that only one boss was needed and any others should have their roles defined. The boss problem still hasn't been completely resolved.

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I know indoor projects could have been found if contacts would have been made. The 2 other Illinois U.S.D.A. projects worked every day.

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My major problems with training were two-fold. The first was the NRCS state training officer did not get involved or provide any training. The second was national assistance was not available.

The training problems were solved by recruiting the assistance of a Cooperative Extension Service employee. I am forwarding, under separate cover, a brief description and members evaluations of the training provided. My hope is a training guideline with topics and assistance contacts will be developed for future use.

I recommend that CES become involved with the training. They have in place programs, instructors, and contacts with colleges and universities.

Workman's Compensation

Proper procedure on recording paying injured members was not provided.

Transportation

Neither of the sites had adequate transportation at the start. This was solved 2 ways. One was NRCS transferring vehicles to the sites (I found out some were to be sold and notified NRCS State Office that they were needed at projects) and the second was I contacted National Guard units and had vehicles transferred to NRCS.

Communication

Project managers and facilitators need to be better informed on all aspects of AmeriCorps. The flow of information from national to state to project managers and facilitators was poor to nonexistent.

Support

I feel that the support for AmeriCorps at the national level of CFSA and NRCS is lacking. I hope this improves.

State Commission Executive Director

Communication between myself and this office has been poor. They have furnished brief information when requested but have not been available for general AmeriCorps discussion. At the only face-to-face meeting with this person I was told they were understaffed and would not have time to work with U.S.D.A. I have not been notified of any training or special interest events.

Cooperation for National and Community Service

I contacted the State Program Director after returning from Washington D.C. and introduced myself. I have not been contacted since.

Other

I have observed that AmeriCorps projects are addressed as NRCS AmeriCorps instead of Team U.S.D.A. AmeriCorps.

Facilitator Position

This position has proven to be one of importance. As a facilitator I have spotted problems and offered solutions to persons involved. I have coordinated training and group interactions and been able to research and solve problems that members have brought to me.

I would like to see facilitators given a more clear-cut mission statement.

Facilitators need some authority to redirect or resolve problems. We have to rely on personnel in the sponsoring agency to correct problems.

As a facilitator I would urge you to have another training session or conference. The benefits of reestablishing goals and direction plus the exchange of ideas would far outweigh the costs.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Stabilization and
Conservation Service

To: Joel Berg, Director of National Service

Date: April 19, 1995

From: Janice Syverson, State Facilitator, MN

In Reply Refer to: Fax # 218-784-2328
Phone 218-784-4000

Subject: Weekly Report

cc: Wally Sparby State SED
Michael Price AmeriCorps State Coordinator
Glen Kajewski Project Director
Kevin Daw Project Director
Jon Nicholson Project Director

Pages 4



AMERICORP WEEKLY UPDATE
April 13 through April 19, 1995
Janice Syverson, Minnesota

Cluster Members and Project Managers feedback:

Thief River Falls/Twin Valley Clusters:

TRF-Ag Waste Mgmt

Took some more pictures for the Ag-waste display. Setting up appointments with possible producers for Nutrient Management Plans.

Worked on a couple plans.

Thief River Falls/Twin Valley - Trails

TRF - Is about half done gathering inventory about trails and intentions of areas for trails. Did some studying on how to gain support for trails from citizens. Getting more ideas for the ART.

TV - Finished the brochure for Mahnomen to take with to their Chamber meeting. The brochure is completed now as was approved. Made more plans for the National Trails Day event. Sent a letter, on behalf of the Urdahl foundation, to different foundations in the state on the availability of funds for the Urdahl foundation. Went around to area towns distributing the Agassiz Recreational Trail pre-brochures. Sent response back to President Clinton's letter.

Twin Valley, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, Warren, & McIntosh - Conservation Outreach Members

TV - Attended a meeting with the organizers of the envirothon for final instructions. Worked with two supervisors regarding the snowfence project, and decided to set up a meeting with the landowners which have committed their land for the project. Working with Mahnomen County on their Hazardous Waste Collection day.

Crookston - Made puppets for one of the discovery trunks. Had meeting with the Enviromental Ed. Council to discuss use of the trunks. Spoke with the high school student who will be helping with the video.

RLF - Worked with District employee at a wetland enviromental education day in TRF. This involved 10 groups of 7th graders or 180 students. Set up the reservations for the Nat. Service Day for all the members.

Mc - Started a list of contacts for the river project, are almost to the point where ready for the community to become involved. Working on a couple articles for the Newsletter. Reading material on planning, zoning and wetlands.

Warren - Worked on a fact sheet for the living snow fence project for Marshall County. Put together a list of trees, shrubs and grasses that can be used for conservation.

Two members are going to help out North Dakota AmeriCorps members with a tree pruning project today. Clusters held a cluster meeting to farewell Graeme Belcher, another member we are losing, who has found a job in the field in which he went to school for. Graeme is moving to Washington state and we all wish him well. We went over and organized our plans for National Service Day in the cities.

Rochester/Lewiston Cluster:

Pasture Mgmt. Project - Have 8 grazing plans in the works and have 6 more site visits scheduled. Once these plans are started the information is input in the computer to make up individual management plans. Sent a letter of introduction to the Wisconsin AmeriCorp members in response to their letter. Helped another member with a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) mailing.

White Water Project - Attended CAC meeting to discuss forestry in the watershed.. Did a CAC mailing. Technical Committee meeting reviewing topics to present to the CAC. Will be attending a watershed managers meeting.

Lewiston project - Still making copies of contracts and giving the additional set to 2 county CFSA offices. Are working on putting the water quality reserve management plans into the computer. Working on a National Service Day News Release. Were out and helped the 5th and 6th grade classes, about 75 students, plant 1000 trees. *

Cloquet Cluster:

* Working on attaching attribute data to PLISS files as completed in Madison. Doing a survey of historical trends in the watershed. Performing research at local libraries and historical societies on building permits, population changes and other trends. Setting up press coverage for Earth Day tree planting event. Contacting sponsors, meeting with press, conducting interviews, writing and sending out news releases (attached). Finalizing the logistics of where and how the trees and people will get to the sites. Creating recognition certificates for the volunteers. Organizing and gathering equipment for the tree planting. Preparing information for planning committee meeting. Did up minutes from Aprils planning meeting. Working on script for Venture North video. Writing press release and promoting Envirothon event for May 1st. One member will be a presenter and the other will be filming the event.

Some members have received their sweatshirts. The Rochester and Lewiston members are still waiting.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Consolidated
Farm Service
Agency

South Dakota State CFSA Office
200 Fourth Street Southwest
Huron, South Dakota 57350

FAX NUMBER 605-352-1195

DATE: 4-20-95

FAX TO: Natl Service

DELIVER TO: Juel Berg - Charles Sims

FROM: Diane Clayton - CFSA Facilitator

PHONE NUMBER: 605-352-1177

MESSAGE NUMBER: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS PAGE): 2

REMARKS:

AMERICORPS WEEKLY REPORT SOUTH DAKOTA

The AmeriCorps members in South Dakota have come a very long way during the past several months of the Program. I brought this up during the conference call with Joel Berg and others on Thursday, April 20, 1995.

One Huron cluster has spent many days in several different area elementary and secondary schools doing "Ag in the Classroom" activities. They are traveling throughout most of the Southeastern portion of the state as it was the hardest hit by the Midwest Flood of 1993. There are some excellent photos available. This coming week, I will have re-prints made and get them sent to the National Office.

The other Huron group is scheduled to travel to Lake Byron, which is located 15 miles north of Huron, South Dakota, and plant 500 willow trees. Several families have built year-round home around this lake. Since the floods of 1993, and several inches of snow and rain in 1994 and so far in 1995, there is quite a lot of serious damage to the land and houses around the lake.

The Mitchell members have attended Town and Country Shows, Farm Shows, etc. conducting Conservation Education sessions, "Wendy Water" and "Sammy Soil Saver" activities, etc.

The Brookings members are back outside after some bad weather doing streambank stabilization projects along the Big Sioux and tributaries. They are also assisting community farmers in rebuilding waterways and farm ground that were damaged by the floods. During the inclement weather, they worked in the community schools conducting Conservation Education classes to the young people.

The NRCS has submitted two very worthwhile projects for the next year. Hopefully, they will be seriously considered.

I just yesterday found out that I will be responsible for submitting two or three projects for next year from the CFSA. Most of my AmeriCorps time will be spent working on that project.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA/AMERICORP
VIRGINIA SHORT, Facilitator
APPALACHIAN PROJECT AREA
RR 1 BOX 64
PINEVILLE KY 40977-9712

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 4/21/95

MESSAGE NO: _____

TO: Joel Berg

ROUTINE ☒ PRIORITY ☐

FAX NO.: 202-720-4614

NUMBER OF PAGES: 8
(Cover Sheet is Page 1)

ATTENTION: Charles Sims

THROUGH: National Service

FROM: Virginia Short
Americorps
Appalachian Proj. Area



SUBJECT: Weekly Report

COMMENTS: Sorry it's late

Voice Line
Commerical - (606) 337-3115

FAX Line
Commerical - (606) 337-3006 3905

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

USDA/AMERICORP
FACILITATOR
APPALACHIAN PROJECT AREA

USDA/CFSA
RR 1 BOX 64
PINEVILLE KY 40977

606-337-3115
606-337-3905 (FAX)

April 21, 1995

To: Joel Berg, Director National Service
From: Virginia Short, Regional Facilitator
Appalachian Project Area
Subject: USDA/AMERICORP FACILITATOR WEEKLY REPORT

Report for Appalachian Project Area, by states, is as follows:

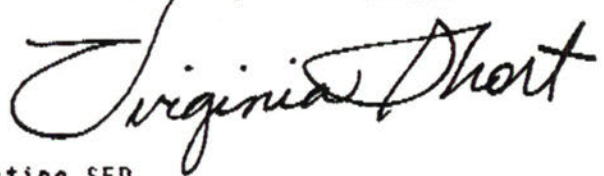
KENTUCKY - Work this week has concentrated on both National Service Day participation in all states and working with the KY State CFSA Office on the CFSA AmeriCorps Program Participation Preliminary Application.

VIRGINIA - Report received includes activities by two members, as attached.

NORTH CAROLINA - No Report received this week.

WEST VIRGINIA - No Report received this week.

TENNESSEE - Reports of National Day of Service expected participation for NRCS members, as attached.



cc: Hampton Henton Jr., Acting SED
KY STATE CFSA OFFICE

**USDA/AMERICORPS
NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE RESPONSE FORM**

GRANTEE SITE: Appalachian-Northeast TN RC&D Council
USDA - Forest Service

LOCATION AND STATE WHERE NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE PROJECT WILL BE PERFORMED:

Kingsport, Tennessee - Riverview Neighborhood - This is more than 50% minority and 50% low income.

USDA AGENCY OR AGENCIES FROM WHICH AMERICORPS MEMBERS WILL BE PARTICIPATING:

Forest Service and Rural Economic and Community Development

NUMBER OF USDA AMERICORPS MEMBERS EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE:

Seven (7)

COUNTIES OF DUTY STATIONS OF USDA AMERICORPS PROJECTS EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE:

Johnson, Hancock, Washington, Greene and Claiborne

NAME OF ANY NON-USDA AMERICORPS PROJECTS EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE:

State of Tennessee Commission - Learn and Serve Partnership of Kingsport Parks and Recreation and Central Baptist Church

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS ALSO EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE: Five (5)

ANY ELECTED OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TO ATTEND:

none at this time

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPE OF SERVICE TO BE PERFORMED:

The Project will involve the planting of trees for beautification around the V. O. DeByns Community Center in Kingsport, Tennessee. The Community Center serves approximately 160 households, 92 of which are considered lower income and over 50% are minority. The USDA AmeriCorps Team will be assisted by local residents during the day and by elementary school students in the local Learn and Serve Program in the afternoon. If time permits we will be doing some site preparation for the construction of a hands on Community Play Structure which will be built at the Center by members of the community.

NAME AND NUMBER OF CONTACT PERSON FOR DAY'S PROJECTS

Roy D. Settle (615) 854-9621.

Paula Bailey - Lee County RECD

Attended Customer Service Training in Wytheville.
mailed out 2 applications
3 applicant interviews
1 504 house inspection
3- 502 house inspections - one was a find
mailed 10 application packages
Typed up 1 504 Construction Contract

(VA)

~~10/04~~

Report for AmeriCorps
Tina H. Fowler
Virginia Coalfield Regional Tourism Authority
Work Station: Clinch Ranger District, Wise
Report Period: April 5- 21

Since reporting back to work April 5, the first day, I did a quarterly report. I have primarily worked on the Site Log. Hiking trails have been added, amended and deleted. Other sites have been amended as they develop and add new attractions.

A workshop was attended in Wytheville on photography April 6. Met with the Wise County Tourism Group April 11.

Worked on improving maps for brochures. Clocked the distance for the access road for The Red Fox Trail for location of the site and made an inset map. Compiled sites at North Fork of Pound Reservoir into one brochure and drew a map for location. Worked on one for High Knob Area that's not finished. Trying to get a meeting with the Lee County School Board to schedule presentations.

I plan to attend a tourism meeting in Cumberland Gap Friday and the dedication of a River Walk Trail in Wytheville as an Earth Day Celebration.

Also I worked on developing a historical tour - still in progress.

Tina H. Fowler

(UA)

USDA/AMERICORPS
NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE RESPONSE FORM
April 6, 1995

Location and state where National Day of Service Project will be performed: COOKEVILLE, TENNESSEE

USDA agency or agencies from which AmeriCorps Members will be participating: NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE.

Number of USDA AmeriCorps Members expected to Participate: 4

Counties of the duty stations of USDA AmeriCorps Members expected to participate: CLAY, CANNON, CUMBERLAND, DEKALB, FENTRESS, JACKSON, MACON, OVERTON, PICKETT, PUTNAM, SMITH, VAN BUREN, WARREN AND WHITE.

Name of any non-USDA AmeriCorps projects expected to participate: NO OTHER AMERICORPS PROJECTS WILL BE INVOLVED.

Estimated number of community volunteers also expected to to participate: 50 - 75

Any elected officials confirmed to attend: Mayor of Cookeville confirmed, other elected officials have been invited.

Brief description of the type of service to be performed: A 14 county-wide 25th Anniversary Earth Day Fair with the theme "REDUCE, RESUSE, RECYCLE." Approximately 2,000 participants are expected, and will include schools, businesses, and civic organizations.

Name and number of contact person for day's project:

Candy Swan
AmeriCorps Member
615/528-8434 (Work)
615/528-4698 (Home)

(TN)



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

115 West Blue Creek Road
Waverly, Tennessee 37185

To: "Celebrate the Earth" Participants

From: Elizabeth S. Hooper, AmeriCorps Naturalist, Waverly F.O. *esh*

Thank you for your interest in "Celebrate the Earth." Here is a schedule of events for the two days. Please let us know if you will be attending during lunch time so that we may plan for you. If you have any questions, give us a call at 296-3442.

Schedule for "Celebrate the Earth"

Thursday, April 20, 1995

7:30 AM Arrive at Blue Creek Nature Center, Orientation for event, Set up displays
8:30 AM First group of students arrive
11:30 AM First group departs, Second group arrives
(Lunch delivered to station area)
2:30 PM Second group departs
2:30 PM-5:00 PM Open to public

Friday, April 21, 1995

7:30 AM Arrive at Blue Creek Nature Center, Set up displays
8:30 AM First group of students arrive
11:30 AM First group departs, Second group arrives
(Lunch delivered to station areas)
2:30 PM Second group departs
3:00 PM Pack it up! Thank you!

The Natural Resources Conservation Service,
formerly the Soil Conservation Service,
is an Agency of the
United States Department of Agriculture

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

04-14-95 03:18PM

(TN)

Telefax

USDA ASCS



ROD ATTERBERRY
ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR
P.O. BOX 107
HAVANA, IL. 62644

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

FAX TO: Joel Berg FAX NUMBER _____

DELIVER TO: _____

FROM: ROD ATTERBERRY

COMMENTS:

6 month report

MSG. NO 100

DATE 4/10/95

PAGE 1 OF 7

** IF ALL PAGES ARE NOT RECEIVED CALL: 309-543-2582

AMERICORPS/CFSA USDA

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ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR
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HAVANA, IL 62644-0107

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

Joel Berg

April 10, 1995

Joel

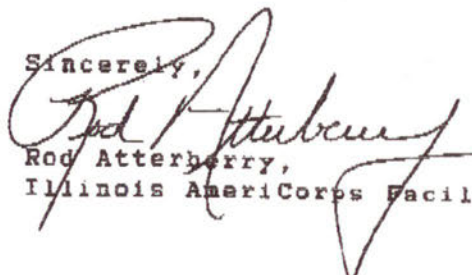
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The Two Rivers project was not linked with any group or facility that could provide training. The project managers major involvement and time consuming duties were the day to day work scheduling, lining up sponsors and equipment, plus the supervising of the members which did not allow time for training activities. I, therefore, assumed the duties of overseeing the training.

My major problems with training were two-fold. The first was the NRCS state training officer did not get involved or provide any training. The second was national assistance was not available.

The training problems were solved by recruiting the assistance of a Cooperative Extension Service employee. I am forwarding, under separate cover, a brief description and members evaluations of the training provided. My hope is a training guideline with topics and assistance contacts will be developed for future use.

I recommend that CES become involved with the training. They have in place programs, instructors, and contacts with colleges and universities.

Workman's Compensation

Proper procedure on recording paying injured members was not provided.

Transportation

Neither of the sites had adequate transportation at the start. This was solved 2 ways. One was NRCS transferring vehicles to the sites (I found out some were to be sold and notified NRCS State Office that they were needed at projects) and the second was I contacted National Guard units and had vehicles transferred to NRCS.

Communication

Project managers and facilitators need to be better informed on all aspects of AmeriCorps. The flow of information from national to state to project managers and facilitators was poor to nonexistent.

Support

I feel that the support for AmeriCorps at the national level of CFSA and NRCS is lacking. I hope this improves.

State Commission Executive Director

Communication between myself and this office has been poor. They have furnished brief information when requested but have not been available for general AmeriCorps discussion. At the only face-to-face meeting with this person I was told they were understaffed and would not have time to work with U.S.D.A. I have not been notified of any training or special interest events.

Cooperation for National and Community Service

I contacted the State Program Director after returning from Washington D.C. and introduced myself. I have not been contacted since.

Other

I have observed that AmeriCorps projects are addressed as NRCS AmeriCorps instead of Team U.S.D.A. AmeriCorps.

Facilitator Position

This position has proven to be one of importance. As a facilitator I have spotted problems and offered solutions to persons involved. I have coordinated training and group interactions and been able to research and solve problems that members have brought to me.

I would like to see facilitators given a more clear-cut mission statement.

Facilitators need some authority to redirect or resolve problems. We have to rely on personnel in the sponsoring agency to correct problems.

As a facilitator I would urge you to have another training session or conference. The benefits of reestablishing goals and direction plus the exchange of ideas would far outweigh the costs.

AMERICORPS/CFSA USDA *****

ROD ATTERBERRY
ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR
P. O. BOX 107
HAVANA, IL 62644-0107

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

Joel Berg

March 31, 1995

Weekly AmeriCorp Report 03/27/95

East St. Louis

Public Lands and Environmental Team has been involved in the following projects:

1. Saturday, March 25th they had a demonstration for BiDynamic Gardens at the State Community College (SCC) garden site.
2. 60% of the community gardens have been plowed.
3. Plumbing and hardware supplies for the East Side Senior High GREENHOUSE have been obtained.
4. One flower bed at SCC has been tilled.
5. AmeriCorps project signs are being painted. These will be placed at each site.

Flood Team

1. Began working on Mt. Pleasant flood project. This will take at least one month.

Problems

1. Keeping track off the tools (where they are and who has them), has been a constant problem. A new checkout procedure has been devised.

2 Rivers Area

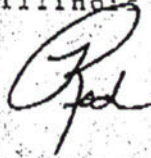
The Public Lands/Environmental Team

1. Finished installing the chain link fence around the playground at St. Norberts School playground. This completed the project.
2. Finished painting at the Western Catholic Union.
3. Finished the community profile of Barry and arranged for Central Illinois Public Service Company to print up the results.
4. Attended a GIS meeting.

Cultural Diversity training was attended by all 2 Rivers members. the training was provided by Western Illinois University.

Jamie Totsch resigned to accept a new job.

Rod Atterberry
Illinois Facilitator

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Rod' with a stylized flourish underneath.

AmeriCorps Update

April Issue

This is the start of our 6th month as an AmeriCorps Team. In the past 5 months we have been "Getting Things Done" in our area. This is the first newsletter put out by the USDA/AmeriCorps Two Rivers Team to keep you informed on what we are doing. Our team consists of two groups, the Public Lands & Environmental and the Rural Development Team. In the following columns we will highlight what we have been accomplishing and future projects.

PUBLIC LANDS & ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

In the fall of '94 the team cut brush and made hiking trails for the McCully Heritage Project in Calhoun County. Scott Jones has been working with the Calhoun County Highway Dept. learning how to maintain equipment. For a short time Brian Hart, Gary Smothers, Larry Warcup, and Joe Daniels worked clearing right-aways in Calhoun County. They remove brush which opens up areas to allow the road to dry and to remove nuisance brush. Jamie Tosch has been working with the City of Pittsfield performing numerous tasks.

At various times LeeAnn McDaniles, Rachel Elledge, Gary, Larry, and Joe have been painting various rooms at the YWCA and 10 floors of stairwells at the Western Catholic Union in Quincy. In some of the rooms LeeAnn and Rachel did some decorating, using stencils such as dinosaurs and the alphabet to make the children's rooms fun. Susie Ruble has also been working in Quincy with Uptown Quincy Inc. She has completed numerous tasks including the tallying of two parking surveys. Recently they all have completed work for Saint Norberts Church in Calhoun County. This included the cleaning up of a room used by the Calhoun Medical Corp during the flood, revamping a vacant lot in preparation for playground equipment, and placing a fence. All members of the team have received chainsaw and tree planting training.

Upcoming Projects:

Brown County: Jensen Woods Church Camp- Building on to tree houses, erecting a shed, and concrete work.
Moore Memorial Park- Building wooden erosion control structures and cutting trails

Pike County: Assemble recreation equipment that will be put at the small lake east of Pittsfield Lake.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM UPDATE

In the early months Starr McDaniles and Chad Denison performed a business survey of the downtown core area of Pittsfield. Darlene Iverson joined them on the final stage with Starr tying up loose ends. Mike Miller, Chad, Starr, and Darlene started a survey of all CRP contract holders in our five county area. At the present time Mike and Chad have tallied the responses and the final report is in the works. Phil Beemer and Bob Gillespy are tackling the writing of the annual update of the Overall Economic Development Plan with the Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials. They also have been writing grants for environmental education and water quality & erosion projects for Swan Lake, Camp Creek, and McCully Heritage. Mike, Chad, Darlene, and Starr finished a parking survey given to all businesses in a special service area for Uptown Quincy. Starr and Darlene have been attending and presenting the AmeriCorps group to numerous village boards. They are happy to say a few boards have been taking them up on all our services. They also have been working on various projects including researching and writing a summary on villages in Pike County from the aspect of tourism and researching Historical Register info. All RDT members received training in Springfield and Western University from the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs on rural and economic development.

Upcoming Projects:

Pike County: Updating Barry Community Profile and performing a Needs Assessment Survey
New Canton- performing a Needs Assessment
Adams County: Field verification of residence and structures in rural and incorporated areas for 911 services in the future
Payson- performing a Needs Assessment

AmeriCorps is sponsored by Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Corporation and USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service. Newsletter written by Darlene Iverson & Starr McDaniles

AMERICORP WEEKLY UPDATE

March 3 through March 9, 1995

Janice Syverson, Minnesota

Cluster Members and Project Managers feedback:

Thief River Falls/Twin Valley Clusters:

TRF-Ag Waste Mgmt

Continue to input survey information and updating the producer list. Assembling packets for producers that didn't attend the training days. Working on 6 management plans and have completed 2. Compiling a list of manure testing facilities, contacted 22 labs for information.

Thief River Falls/Twin Valley - Trails

TRF - Received information from American Hiking Society outlining the National Trails Day event. Working on ideas for this which will happen on June 3. Met with the other trails members to discuss as well. Called around to area City Councils to get dates set up to go speak on their plans for trails as well.

TV - Having computer problems so spent some time working on this. Had an interview with MN News Network. Finished their News Release and have had it printed in local paper, attached. Continue to work on tourism brochure for Mahanomen County.

Twin Valley, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, Warren, & McIntosh - Conservation Outreach Members

TV - Sending out more letters for Envirothon and getting agenda ready. Doing a phone survey for the living snow fence, need to get more response as trees need to be ordered shortly and thus far only have half mile committed.

Crookston - Working on discovery trunk line. Met with high school which is planning to do an AmeriCorps video.

RLF - Worked more on the discovery trunk lines with Crookston. Got letter back saying they got their Earth Preservation grant, however, did not say for how much.

Mc - Working on living snow fence list of landowners for two counties. Picked up flats and soil and seed from University, for display to be used in booth at sugar beet institute next week. Worked on the discovery trunk lines with Crookston.

Warren - Worked on article to send in to AgWeek. Worked with Crookston in a tillage day evaluation.

Rochester/Lewiston Cluster:

Pasture Mgmt. Project - Working on a News Release for her project. Calling clients and introducing herself and discussing the project with them. Tracy has a list of 24 possible clients thus far out of 50 which her project is set up for. It's still a little early and Tracy feels she is well on the way to accomplishing this part of her project. Still doing some studying on sustainable farming, grazing practices.

White Water Project - Attended Citizens Advisory Committee meeting and Joint Powers Board personnel committee meeting. Worked on MPCA's clean water partnership roles revision. Worked on the Diagnostic Report/Integrated Report needed for implementation of project.

Lewiston project - Have quit taking applications for WQIP contracts at this time. They are busy working up the 14 applications they've received to date. They have 2 landowners which have signed their contracts thus far and now these will be going to Co. Committee for approval.

This cluster will be doing their community project next week. We will be doing some repair work on a building which was recently vandalized.

Cloquet Cluster:

One member spent last week in training on ARC info work station and has been putting this training to use this week. Other member putting together information to use with the schools regarding water shed practices.

All members are wondering "when the mystery sweatshirts are going to arrive?"

We will be losing two more members the end of March. Both have found good jobs to pursue.



US

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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(202) 720-4614		(913) 823-4540
FA:	NSN 7540-01-317-7388	5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Subject: PER - AmeriCorps Program - Trip Report
Week of March 13, 1995

Date: March 31, 1995

To: Larry D. Miles, AmeriCorps Project Director,
NRCS, Salina, Kansas

File Code: 360-5

All but five AmeriCorps members were present for the "Conflict Resolution" training session on March 14. Kayla said she had to go to Omaha, taking care of her grandfather's estate. Craig and Scott were absent due to illness, and no reason was given for the absence of Tony and Trent Anderson from the Glen Elder team. Toby Marlier, Glen Elder Assistant Wildlife/Park Manager, who accompanied two of his members said, "both of the Andersons were at work." Tony had previously told me that he was going to Padre Island, Texas, for vacation on March 14.

I appreciated your welcoming remarks and participation in the training. Roxanne Davis from the Kansas Children Service League conducted the class. Roxanne's resume includes: social worker, coordinator for training, and conflict and mediation trainer. Roxanne's presentation was good and involved the members in various activities and discussions. She gave them 37 pages of material, some of which she covered in detail. The session was "okay", but I thought it lacked depth in explaining how to deal with conflict. I am cognizant that it is very difficult to give a four hour presentation on such a complex problem. However, exercises of what happens when you get mad, as exemplified by destroying a styrofoam cup or popping a balloon, could have led to interesting discussion and instruction. The next time I meet with the teams, I will show them the tape we have on conflict.

The Glen Elder team gave me a cartoon drawn by member Judy Long. The cartoon titled "Conflict and Resolution, No Problem at Glen Elder" was well thought out and drawn. Three of the team members are depicted. While the words on the cartoon say that Glen Elder does not have problems, member Tony Anderson is not characterized. The lack of characterization of Tony tells us, as learned before, that the members do have a conflict with him.

The training session ended with a sensitive and emotional discussion on conflict that the Webster team is having with their team leader. Members never know if they are to work for the park or the wildlife manager. The Webster situation is similar to the plight of the Milford team currently working at Tuttle Creek Reservoir.

After Webster team members Cindy and Vicky expressed consternation about their situation, I asked that the other members and Roxanne tell the Webster team how they have dealt with a similar problem. The emotional outburst from the Webster team members caused the group to become very still and quite. After a period of silence, several suggestions were given. Toby was asked to address the issue from the wildlife and parks view. The team was assured that we would help the members with their problem.

Before the session began, Mike Houck was given his sweat shirt, and I reviewed the news article written by Chris Newton with him. Upon arrival, Ryan Webster told me he now needs health insurance. Ryan Tompkins informed me he is now interested in AmeriCare help for his child. I also learned that Craig Johnson and Monte Manbeck were competing for the same position with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Craig received the job, pending approval of the governor's office. Monte was disappointed in not getting the position, and asked if we would fill Craig's slot on the Topeka wetlands team. Monte is on the Milford parks team.

Before we adjourned, I told members if they resigned for other than compelling reasons they would not be eligible for the educational award.

Roxanne Davis told me after the training session was over how impressed she was with the quality of our members. She had met with the Topeka team last week, in preparation for the session, and was somewhat ready for the quality of young people she was to train. She was also impressed with how much we knew about each member and the rapport developed between us. I left the NRCS office on March 14, with an extremely good "feeling" about AmeriCorps, our members, the project director, and my role with the program.

I met Leslie Rose, Kansas Extension Service, and we drove to Kansas City, Missouri, March 15, in order to be at the Kansas/Missouri Bi-State Project Directors' Meeting on March 16, at 8:30 a.m. All AmeriCorps directors or representatives from Missouri and most of them from Kansas were present. Steve Schad, Executive Director, Missouri Commission on Community Service; and Pat Kells, Executive Director, Kansas Commission on Community Service, co-chaired the meeting. James M. Byrnes, State Program Director, Corporation for National and Community Service, Region VI, was not present.

Margaret McGlaughlin, Corporation T/TA Program Officer, plus two other persons from the corporation, were present to discuss issues and problems. Margaret's topic was entitled, "What is Continuous Improvement and How Can Projects Use it to Help Them Get Things Done." Judy Milton, United Way of Greater St. Louis, discussed: "Tips and Strategies for Effective Larry Supervision and Management of AmeriCorps, and What the United Way T/TA Contract Can Offer Projects."

Pat Kells was supposed to discuss, "Getting the Word out About AmeriCorps and Its Impact." However, after she finished a telephone call with Washington, she told us about the vote in the House of Representatives on March 15. This would leave only \$159 million for the corporation, and if the needed money was not reinstated by the Senate, the corporation would close down as of September 1.

Pat's comments led into a discussion on educating the members about all community service programs. Joel's letter and packet of February 15, showed we may be ahead of the others in this area. The items that the press and the representatives of the congressional delegations need to see at site visits should include: results, members serving (we do not use the word, working); member enthusiasm; positive changes; and third-party validation, if possible.

During our feedback from our discussions on continuous improvement, a project leader liked how I travel to meet and work with the members on a weekly basis. She too will implement that practice. I did give credit to Joel for being the role model. Pat Kells also gave us a compliment for that endeavor and for the newsletters.

Meeting with the Missouri project leaders was good. It allowed for the sharing of ideas and networking. Example, a project director of a St. Louis project has 75 members and has been able keep all but two. One was asked to resign and one quit due to being pregnant with twins. The method that project used for selecting its members allowed for the small attrition. Due to the large number of applications, they were able to select those they wanted to interview. Then they set up interview teams, with a diverse mix of panel members, to do the interviewing and rating. One item that they considered and I especially liked, was whether the applicant or the applicant's family had a history of community service.

Ms. Elizabeth Larson from Senator Kassebaum's office is still supposed to do an April AmeriCorps inspection in Kansas.

The NRCS provided me with the car and gasoline to go to Kansas City, Missouri. The Missouri State Commission provided the breakfast and the lunch. I paid for the turnpike tickets without getting receipts. Even though I used my USDA American Express credit card for the motel, I will probably not ask for reimbursement for that or the toll fees. Per diem cannot and will not be asked for from my county office.

I met with member Kayla Downey of the Agricultural Waste Management Team at Abilene, March 17. I gave her the material on conflict and resolution. Kayla has asked to become a part-time member. The purpose of my meeting with her was to give her the three following options, as provided by Paula Jones: stay in Abilene with the Agricultural Waste Management Team; go to Manhattan and work with the wetlands team; or to resign. Kayla does not believe the team leader at Abilene needs her to help with designing agricultural waste systems. Therefore, she will not stay in Abilene. She will consider the work with the wetlands team in Manhattan after a discussion with Kelly on March 20. She has applied for some

part-time jobs and will continue to do so. She asked if she could use me for a reference. I do not expect her to take the reassignment with the wetlands team.

Mike Zajic, Park Manager from Webster, called March 17. The members there have recently completed nine geese nests and two Waconda shelters. He did not mention, nor did I ask about, the conflict between team leaders and members. He did say that member Bill Plante was interviewing again in Nebraska with the Union Pacific (U.P.) railroad. We may still lose Bill to the U.P.

The Salina Journal has responded to the news release written by Chris Newton of the Kanopolis team and edited by me. A Salina Journal reporter called and informed me that he was going to meet with the Kanopolis team the afternoon of March 17, and he asked me questions about AmeriCorps. Chris' news release is one of two that I have sent the Salina Journal. I have become cognizant that larger newspapers do not print local stories not written by their reporters. When Linda at Kanopolis received the reporter's call she told him to contact me.

An article appeared on the front page of the Salina Journal on March 18. It said incorrectly that the members were, "working for an education," instead of "providing community service"; it did not mention that their primary job was to fix 1993 flood damage at the park. Otherwise, it contained the material I had sent them in Chris Newton's article. It is the first major story we have had printed in the Salina Journal. The picture leads one to believe that the individual shown in an AmeriCorps member, his is not. It looks like member Kurt Grimm, but it isn't.

I received word Kurt Grimm had a piece of metal get stuck in his eye while at work on March 16. When I called the park about Kurt's condition on March 17, I was told that the piece had been taken out at the site and that he was not hurt. We will document the situation with the proper paperwork.

I received a call on March 17, in reference to a scheduled facilitators' AmeriCorps conference. Someone from the Washington Office called at 12:15 p.m. and asked if I knew whether the conference call was going to take place. I was put on hold and was then told that the call had been cancelled. However, I was told that I could call Charles Sims' office in order to find out what was going on. Only out of curiosity did I call Charles, and to my astonishment learned that the call had started. I was then connected to Joel Berg's conference call. If I had not taken the initiative to find out what was happening, I would have missed all of the call.

Items from Joel's conference call included: whether we received Joel's memo entitled, "Challenges Facing The Program"; and members getting involved in the "National Day of Service", April 25. Mr. Glickman is to be part of that ceremony, unless he is participating in the Agricultural Summit also scheduled for April 25. Sweat shirts are coming in the mail from USDA. Joel is still optimistic about the future of AmeriCorps.

Larry D. Miles

March 31, 1995

Page 5

Joel's memo will be sent to us for review. I have heard about the "National Day of Service" from the Kansas Commission on National and Community Service. In the past that event has been held at the governor's mansion in Topeka.

A paraphrase from Mark Twain gleaned from the session on conflict and resolution ends this weeks report with, "Always do right, it will gratify some and astonish others." Hopefully, I am doing right by our members, USDA, the Corporation for Community Service, and the citizens of Kansas. There are times when it seems that I am not giving enough to AmeriCorps. If USDA can use me in any other way with AmeriCorps, in addition to my Kansas duties, I am willing to help, which includes traveling. I don't have anything to go home to at night, and my weekends are open.

Tentative schedule the week of March 20:

- * March 20, NRCS, Salina (appointment with Linda Harvey)
- * March 21, Work with Glen Elder team
- * March 22, NRCS, Salina
- * March 23, Meet with Wetlands team in Hays
- * March 24, Day off



Jim Melsenheimer

Kansas AmeriCorps/USDA Regional Facilitator

cc:

Roger Lemmons, CFSA, Manhattan, KS

Paula Cole Jones, Program Manager, AmeriCorps, PRG-CAR, NRCS,
Washington, D.C.Joel Berg, Office of Public Affairs (Communications),
Washington, D.C. (Faxed)

Telefax

USDA ASCS



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FROM: ROD ATTERBERRY

COMMENTS:

REPORT

MSG. NO 75

DATE 3/22/95

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WEEKLY FACILITATOR REPORT 3/20/95

2 Rivers Project

The environmental team has 2 members working on the St. Norbert School playground. 3 members are cleaning a street bank in Quincy so that it may be seeded. 2 members are cutting trails and roads at the McCully Heritage Farm.

The Rural Development Team is working on the CRP alternate use report. Members are also doing an assessment of Pike County history which will be used for tourism.

Ease St. Louis

Work has started on the landscaping of the State Community College. The abandoned lots have been cleaned up as far as possible. Final cleanup will be completed when heavy equipment becomes available. Seed for the community gardens has been distributed. The supplies for the greenhouse repairs have been obtained. Greenhouse seedlings have been transplanted.

The flood team is working in the community until heavy equipment becomes available.

Two male African-American were hired to fill vacancies.

TO: Charles Sims
AmeriCorps/USDA
202-690-3507, FAX: 202-720-4614

DATE: March 16, 1995

FROM: Wilma Powers
Regional Facilitator
916-885-6505, FAX: 916-823-5504

The AmeriCorps projects in the foothill area are proceeding according to schedule. The members are attending a training session on Fire Ecology and Fuel Management. This session is conducted by USDA, as well as State and private industry.

My visit to the Petaluma office is scheduled for March 30 rather than the date I reported last week.

All members are very involved in community projects. A cluster meeting for all twelve members is in the planning stages. We hope to get them together in mid-April for two days.

Areas of concern: Same as last week.

cc: Jim Caldwell, California State CFSA
916-498-5310
John Robison, District Director, CFSA
510-672-8064



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Economic
and Community
Development

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

March 30, 1995

To: Joel Berg, Director, National Service

From: Rhonda Lampkin, AmeriCorps Regional Facilitator (MS Delta)

Subject: Weekly Report

X I spent the week in Memphis, TN at the national training for USDA/AmeriCorps Rural Development Team members and Project Managers. The training primarily focused on Community Development concepts in relation to revitalization, stages of group development, managing change, community strategic planning process, and leadership development. The theme of the training was "Helping Small Towns Survive." Members engaged in deep discussions on challenges faced by rural communities and steps taken to address critical human social, and economic needs. Members also discussed techniques used to integrate community service objectives into initial phases of Implementing EZ/EC Strategic Plans. Members located within an applicant community designed their service objectives to directly reflect the needs/solutions specified in the EZ/EC plan. During discussion sessions, supervisors reinforced the importance of members performing services as described in objectives parallel to those assessed in strategic plan.

Some members expressed concern for lack of funding available to implement programs and fulfill service objectives within this budget year, i.e., State RECD housing division depleted budget for 504 home repair loans. This creates a problem for RDT members responsible for outreach activities related to improving the quality of homes in rural communities. Members are exploring other alternatives by identifying resources available through other local, state, and federally funded programs addressing similar issues. By utilizing a proactive vs. reactive approach, members are better positioned to become more community responsive while meeting their service objectives.

CF: Norm Reid
Dave Gibson

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COMMENTS:

REPORT WEEK OF 3/19/95

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Joel Berg

March 29, 1995

Weekly AmeriCorp Report 03/24/95

2 Rivers Project

The Rural Development Team is working on the following:

1. Finished the community history survey all communities in Pike County. This involved the research of courthouse records, interviews, and community visits. This information is to be used with tourism.
2. The draft copy of the CRP alternate use survey is being compiled and distributed for comments.
3. A community needs and assessment survey is being conducted in Barry.
4. Grants are being researched and written for two watershed projects and an outdoor education center.

The Public Lands/Environmental Team has been working on:

1. St. Norberts School clean-up and restoring the playground. FEMA trailers were placed here during the flood. A new fence is being installed around the playground.

Bryan Hart resigned from the project.

Members attended conflict resolution training that the Cooperative Extension Service conducted.

East St. Louis

The Public Lands/Environmental Team did the following:

1. Met with New Spirit on community gardens and instructed them on planting. Seeds were also distributed.
2. Old plumbing was removed from the greenhouse at East Side Senior High School.
3. Trees were planted at State Community College.

The Flood Team:

1. Completed the flood project at Caseyville. This involved the laying of eg fabric, building and installing gabion baskets.

2. Met with the mayor and park district of Lovejoy. A recreation field is susceptible to flooding and will be a future project of the flood team.

Andrew Williams resigned as a member. This was due to the illness of his father.

Rod Atterberry
Illinois Facilitator

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Consolidated
Farm Service
Agency

Androscoggin/Sagadahoc CFSA
27 Westminster Street
Lewiston, Maine 04240-3531

March 23, 1995

TO: Joel Berg, Director of National Service
FROM: ^{Mike}Mike Tardy, Acting CED, Regional Americorps Facilitator
SUBJECT: Weekly Report

The members have been getting cabin fever and the pleasant weather has allowed them to go outside. Water testing equipment has been made available and some of the members have been going to schools to teach students how to do testing. Forestry workshops are being set up in some areas. Some members are doing environmental education in area classrooms. Members are preparing for April 25; the dominant theme appears to be some type of clean up project.

cc. G. Arnold Roach, Acting SED
Richard Baird, Project Director

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To: Joel Berg	From: Mike Tardy
Dept./Agency: USDA Americorps	Phone #: 207 783 9194
Fax #: 202 720 4614	Fax #: 207 783 4101

NSN 7540-01-317-7858

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

218

681-5538



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Stabilization and
Conservation Service

To: Joel Berg, Director of National Service

Date: March 30, 1995

From: Janice Syverson, State Facilitator, MN

In Reply Refer to: Fax # 218-784-2328
Phone 218-784-4000

Subject: Weekly Report

cc: Wally Sparby State SED
Michael Price AmeriCorps State Coordinator
Glen Kajewski Project Director
Kevin Daw Project Director
Jon Nicholson Project Director

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ASCS-284 (4-3-80)

AMERICORP WEEKLY UPDATE
March 23 through March 30, 1995
Janice Syverson, Minnesota

Cluster Members and Project Managers feedback:

Thief River Falls/Twin Valley Clusters:

TRF-Ag Waste Mgmt

Working on more Nutrient Management Plans. Did up a brochure on benefits of Ag Waste Management. Worked on the AmeriCorps display book.

Thief River Falls/Twin Valley - Trails

TRF - Still writing up plans for community trails and setting up meetings to meet with these communities..

TV - Worked more on tourism brochure for Mahnomen County. Met and discussed future plans for Ada walking trail, which is a part of the ART trail. Did more planning for the National Trails Day celebration. Checked internet for grant information.

Twin Valley, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, Warren, & McIntosh -
Conservation Outreach Members

TV - Trying to come up with new ideas to sell the living snow fence project, called other SWCD offices outside area and found out what they had done to promote it. Set up a meeting date for next week to work out details for Tillage Day Demonstration. Worked on quarterly report.

Crookston - Working on discovery trunk lines. Put more info together for the video project. Working on the quarterly report.

RLF - Worked more on the discovery trunk lines.

Mc - Finished and mailed letter for the river project (Sleepy Hollow Trail) meeting set for April 4th. Compiled maps for the meeting.

Warren - Worked some more on discovery trunk lines and the AmeriCorps video. Read MN/DOT application for living snow fence.

Rochester/Lewiston Cluster:

Pasture Mgmt. Project - Attended RC&D meeting and gave an update of the project. Two news articles describing benefits of pasture management to water quality and grazing CRP land plus two more new releases have been sent to Washington for approval and as yet have had no response. Been working on the slide presentation set up in her project plan. Still contacting possible clients for the grazing and pasture management plans. This work will be starting soon as weather has been warming up some.

White Water Project - Prepared for and attended Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. Gave a presentation on social profile of the watershed. Mailed meeting notices for CAC and Technical Committee meetings. Attended a Business Law class.

Lewiston project - Still busy working on WQIP contracts.

Cloquet Cluster:

Earth Day tree planting, sent reminders to groups and coordinators. Organized, called and scheduled landowners, Conservation Effects for Decision, interviews. Mailed out minutes from the Planning Committee meeting. Attended meeting on extending the Riverwatch monitoring program to the Nemadji River. Completed the conversion of PLIS. Working on and researched census data. Attending a two day NRCS area 3 meeting.

Still having problems with responses to News Releases sent to Washington. Two were sent in last week and still no reply. ??

Are we going to be getting our sweatshirts?

BIWEEKLY REPORT

On November 9, we had orientation training for 11 AmeriCorps members in Des Moines. The two members left to train, I will talk to them individually.

I have made a contact with a news reporter from a TV station here in Des Moines. She said whenever I want, she will do a feature on AmeriCorps.

I have been working on equipment needs for the different sites and have been successful in obtaining things we needed. I have located cold weather gear in Kansas (coveralls and coats) that they will give to us at no charge!!!

Visited the Waterloo site and spoke with the members. They are working on several projects--renovating an old building to make a multi-cultural, year around farmers market, cassette tapes for your car when traveling the NE Iowa area on points of interest, renovating an old barn to showcase agriculturals' heritage of crops and animals, and working on obtaining farmland and machinery for an informational demonstration farm.

On 11-10, I went to an Ia Commission meeting and met the heads of the other AmeriCorps programs in Iowa. We discussed future training and will cooperate to jointly train members.

11-15 went to Emmetsburg. The members are locating hydric soils on soil maps and are working on making transparencies to overlay for tile lines, producer farm boundary lines, and will target some producers for wetland establishment.

11-16 went to Oakland and talked to members. One is redoing a travel brochure for the Loess Hills Scenic Byway in western Iowa. She is also gathering information for bike trails through the area. The other member is working GIS, centering on the Missouri River Project and streambank degradation and stabilization on the Hungry Canyon area. One member is interested in transferring and I've been working on that.

Kevin R. Fitzpatrick, Sr.
Kevin R. Fitzpatrick Sr.





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Stabilization and
Conservation Service

SAUK COUNTY ASCS OFFICE
1007 Washington Avenue
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913-1895
Phone: 608 356-5529

(File)

Facilitator
RPPol

TO: Beverly Pritts
Americorps/USDA Staff

FROM: Thomas J. Brandt
Wisconsin Regional Facilitator

DATE: October 26, 1994

SUBJECT: Americorps Progress Report

I met with the members this week and discussed their feelings and mine on whether they thought that they were performing any type of community service.

The members are unsure how they will be using the information which they are dealing with to interact with the producers, whether it will be only by phone or if they will go out and have area meetings. They all feel that what they are doing now is just a preliminary step and want to begin using the information to benefit others.

After talking with SCS, they indicate that the members are progressing nicely but are not yet ready to begin interaction with the farmers and landowners. I suggested that they give the members a deadline to be ready, a little incentive to gain the knowledge which SCS says they are lacking before the actual community service can be performed. The members expressed a couple of times that they felt they were only doing busy-work.

Members also expressed a desire to meet with other Americorps Rural Development groups, to see what the other projects are like. They asked if it was possible that they be able to attend the rural summit in Iowa in December.

Neither members nor I have seen any publication or promotion of Americorps in the media. SCS says they are working on a press release.

Members questioned if Americorps service can give them a step up on others when applying for future federal job opportunities, as can be the case for VISTA and Peace Corps volunteers.

Members are getting along with each other great. No conflicts to speak of.

See
NO
RIGHT?
Pew



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURE STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE
SAN JUAN COUNTY ASCS OFFICE
504 NORTH MAIN
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO 87410

PHONE (505) 334-3090
FAX (505) 334-8659

TO: Beverly Pritts
FROM: Lloyd Wilhelm, Four Corners Facilitator
SUBJECT: Weekly "AMERICORP" progress report
WEEK November 07th through November 11th

November 07th through November 11th Formation and development of agenda for November 28 thru 30th. Making contact with speakers and presenters to determine subjects.

Contacted the State Commission Executive Directors for Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. During our discussions we touched upon current activities, and future plans. The State Commission Americorp coordinators from New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah hope to attend the orientation meeting.

Bernie Weingardt, National Recreation Strategy Leader, Forest Service will open the orientation meeting with comments and give a overview of the USDA Americorp perspective.

The agenda is almost complete and we hope to have a copy to all members and support staff by the first of next week.

Gary Jennings, RC&D San Juan Basin, and myself traveled to the Echo Basin Lodge, in Mancos CO to check the facilities to insure our needs would be met. The setting is very appropriate for our group. Our meeting will have a retreat atmosphere with an opportunity for a lot of interaction between members.

Sincerely

Lloyd Wilhelm
Four Corners Americorp Facilitator

I mentioned your 'bright idea' to Bernie about possibly saying a few words THAT you telephone to the group. Bernie thought it's a good idea & will pursue whether it can be done. This of course means you must be available Nov. 28 or about 330 our time in the event it can be set up.

Joe
745
per

Weekly AmeriCorps Activities
for
Robert J. Eaddy
Regional Facilitator
South Carolina

Nov. 28, 1994 (Monday) (4 hrs.)

US Forest Service Office
Columbia, S. C.

During the past 2 weeks it had become obvious that some internal problems exist between the Williamsburg AmeriCorps members and the Extension Service Project Supervisor, Veronica Austin. US Forest Service Program Coordinator, Daryle Jevons received a letter signed by all 5 AmeriCorps members stating they did not want Veronica Austin to continue to be their supervisor. USFS has entered an agreement with Extension Service to provide the local supervision for AmeriCorps members since USFS does not have any personnel in Williamsburg County. AmeriCorps members want to carry out specific physical projects within the rural community. Thus far only plans and meetings with different community leaders have taken place. Extension Service takes a more academic approach and plans a project but does not know how to physically start a project and AmeriCorps Members are upset with this approach.

Because of this chain of events USFS Program Coordinator, Daryle Jevons met with Chris Sieverdes, Extension Service and Veronica Austin, Extension Service Project Supervisor and the 5 AmeriCorps Members to resolve the problem. After hearing complaints from members and responses from Veronica Austin, it was determined that a Forest Service Person would be assigned as Project Supervisor over the 5 AmeriCorps Members, and detailed to Kingstree, S. C. from the Francis Marion National Forest. This person would use Veronica Austin to coordinate contacts with local schools and the community leaders within Williamsburg County. Direct supervision for the AmeriCorps members would be from the FS person. During the next few days they will regroup and reorganize their projects and begin to move forward.

Nov. 30, 1994 (Wednesday)(4 hrs.)

Interviewed Michael Gary,
AmeriCorps Member with
FmHA/RDA.

Project Description:

Doing Community Outreach work through the Denmark Community Outreach Enterprise Committee. Denmark is a small rural town in an agricultural region of the state with limited opportunities and facilities. Michael coordinates his work with Percilla Anderson from the Mayors Office in Denmark.

1. Surveys people living in dilapidated houses and advise them of the rural housing program with FmHA.
2. Tudor Grammar School Children after school hours. Help them with their homework and lesson assignments.
3. Surveying possible sights for Recreational Parks and playgrounds.

Major Objectives:

Assist under privileged school children from low income and limited educated homes with their school work. Serve as a mentor and encourages these children to stay in school and work for a better quality of life. The desired outcome is to provide an additional foundation for learning skills and foster a higher school retention rate.

Assist people in need of better housing by making them aware of the FmHA program and putting them in contact with the FmHA county supervisor.

Help establish some recreational parks and playgrounds for the under privileged.

Benefits:

1. Keep young people in school to acquire a better education and become responsible citizens with a better standard of living.

2. Help poor people obtain a better house.
3. Help create parks and playgrounds for the under privileged.
4. Hopefully a positive shift in attitude will develop within the community that result in enhanced social and economic development.

Location:

1. Children are tutored from within the town of Bamber, S. C.
2. Parks and playgrounds are to be located within the town and near by communities.
3. Rural housing within the county of Bamberg.

Start/Complete Date:

1. Tutoring from Oct. 1994 to June 1995, with a summer program from June 1995 through August 1995.
2. Parks and Playground start October 94 through October 1995.
3. Rural housing from Oct. 1994 through Oct. 1995.

Transportation: Use private owned vehicle

Funds:

City of Denmark

Local Churches

County Board of Education

Tools & Equipment/ Supplies / Handouts:

FmHA handouts

City of Bamberg office space and office equipment

Schools for art and office equipment

Recreational equipment

Michael Gary is making a difference in the Bamberg community and this is what AmeriCorps is all about.

(File) Facilitator Report

Jel
24/1
Bel
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTUREFARM
SERVICE
AGENCYSAUK COUNTY FSA OFFICE
1007 WASHINGTON AVENUE
BARABOO, WI 53913-1895
(608) 356-5529 FAX 356-3405TO: Beverly Pritts
Americorps/USDA StaffFROM: Thomas J. Brandt
Wisconsin Regional Facilitator

DATE: November 23, 1994

SUBJECT: Americorps Progress Report

Met with Americorps members to discuss progress. They had met with their SCS (I guess that is NRCS now) supervisors regarding how soon they would be having their informational meetings for farmers and landowners as part of the community service objective. NRCS personnel said that they would set up a timetable for the members to give them an idea of when these meetings would take place so that they could see their "work" through to the next step.

Tentatively scheduled CPR/First Aid training for December 27-29. NRCS may be sending some of their regular employees to the training as well.

I am trying to get in touch with the Society for Nonprofit Organizations, who produce TeamTrack, a series of team-oriented workshops. NRCS says to go ahead and schedule any meetings which may be beneficial to the members. I think they realize that the members are getting tired of doing their soil surveys and wetland mapping.

Proposed Itinerary for November 28 - December 2:

Monday: Sauk County FSA Office
Tuesday: 1994 Disaster Training Meeting
Wednesday: Sauk County FSA Office
Thursday: Sauk County FSA Office
Friday: Off

AMERICORP WEEKLY UPDATE
November 13 through November 18
Janice Syverson, Minnesota

This week I had one conference call and two cluster site visits.

I traveled to the Southeastern part of the state on Sunday. Monday morning we had five members meet together for our monthly community site project. One of the forestry members could not make it. We also had a volunteer as I brought my daughter with. The members introduced me as their coordinator to Bill Fallensby who is with the Minnesota Public Radio station KLSE out of Rochester. I was asked to do an interview with him and then once we got to our project site he interviewed the members as they worked.

Our project this time was cleaning around the base of an old fire lookout tower in the Whitewater St. Forest. The community is planning to restore this, so we cut down trees and did some brushing and picked up trash twenty feet out all the way around the base. We definitely did some team work and we were all a little tired by the time we finished. I brought my camera, but had forgotten it in the car as we couldn't get all the way to the tower with our own vehicles. The forestry member remembered his though so hopefully he will share with us.

None of the members seem to be having any problems. John, the forestry member mentioned the forestry AmeriCorps members were having a week long training session on Dec. 5th through 9th. I'm checking into this as sounds like maybe the SCS AmeriCorps members might benefit from this also. The cost is only \$195.00 per person for the entire week.

I met with the Northwest clusters in Red Lake Falls on Tuesday. No one seemed to be having any problems, however, one of the monthly projects is requiring some beforehand preparation and some of the members didn't quite understand what was going on. So this was gone over in more detail.

Training requests were the topic of the day. The State Commission told us they were putting in for the training funds request on the 23rd of November so our clusters were asked to come up with any training requests by this week. Mike Price said we would review these and then submit them.

The Northeast cluster said all is going well for them. They are working on coming up with a cluster project for December. I found out this week (Friday) that it is ok to include the remaining seven forestry members in this cluster so maybe lining up cluster projects will go a little better. I asked Mike Price about doing a NRCS (SCS) project one month and a forestry project the next and his response this time was to send him this in an EMAIL message so he can look it over and talk with Paula Jones on this. At least I didn't get a flat no

this time. The members are still doing pretty much the same as last week. One member has looked into working with the high schools on the Envirothon before hand with a little hands on experience for them. Is hoping to work this into a cluster project for us.

I had a real bad experience with Michael Price this week. I was told one of the supervisors said he was tired of trying to work with me and Mike said maybe they were all tired of trying to work with me and probably would quit. He never said which supervisor but after talking with Mike I decided I needed to contact some supervisors and see who had the problem with me and try to work the problem out. It only took one phone call to find out what the problem was. National office found out we (ASCS) were submitting reports to our National office weekly and they felt threatened or like they were being spied on. I told this supervisor what my reports were about and that this was National office's way of finding out what their employees were doing each week. After explaining this to him he told me he no longer felt threatened and that he had no desire to see my reports. He did say maybe he had misled Mike with his thoughts so I asked him if he would talk to Mike in regards to this and he said he would. Friday morning Mike called me back and hopefully things are back on the right track. I feel I understand more clearly now what exactly Mike expects and I think I can work with that.

My chins back up off the ground and am ready for another week.

Will Hopefully, this
work itself out...

REGIONAL FACILITATOR REPORT

Date: November 7, 1994
To: Beverly Pritts
Natl' Service Division
14TH & INDEPENDENCE SW
ROOM 542-A
WASHINGTON, DC 20250-1300
FAX: (202) 720 4614
FROM: JIM MEISENHEIMER
KANSAS AMERICORPS REGIONAL FACILITATOR
SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT ON THE EVENTS FROM THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 31, 1994

I moved to Salina, with the approval of the ASCS State Executive Director and SCS personnel, on October 29.

AmeriCorps/USDA/Kansas has hired two AmeriCorps Members who shouldn't have gotten on the roles. Both of the Members have severe learning disabilities and will probably never be able to use their educational awards. Neither of the two individuals was able to pass his CPR or First Aid tests. On October 31 I travelled to meet and work with Scott Morris at Kanopolis Lake.

We had received questions concerning Scott's abilities from the Kanopolis Laake Park Manager Rick Martin. I had promised Rick that I would meet with him and Scott at my earliest convenience. A previous report from Rick indicated that Scott was not able concentrate on menial jobs assigned. For example, when taken to capture prairie dogs, Scott was given the task of controlling the water used to flood the tunnels. When they went to find out why the water was not flowing they found that Scott had become so enamored with the prairie dog town that he had wandered off to view it.

During the morning of October 31, Scott had been given the a task of cleaning up the Halloween material from park trail. The task should have been completed in one trip, it took Scott three trips. As Regional Facilitator it is my duty to evaluate Scott and his work.

I spent about two hours working with Scott and a Park Ranger. Due to Scott's inability to work alone a Park Ranger had been assigned to work with him that day, see attached report. Rick Martin informed me on November 3 that Scott had been using an incorrect social security number. After much consternation the matter was resolved.

Joel - 745
Bew
11-15-94

3 separate reports
attached -- this is
a continuation of
info. about the 2
members that did
not obtain CPR cert.
see Oct. 31
report for
addtl.
info.
about
Scott.
Bew

I travelled to Sterling, Kansas on November 1 to meet with the Wetland/Riparian Team which was working out of the Hutchinson area (see report). This was my first trip to view the work of Wetland Team Members. My previous trips to Glen Elder and Kanopolis were not true site visits. I intend to spend working hours with Members when I start site visits.

November 3 was the last orientation training session for Members. We may have another training session for three or four Members before the November 14 deadline. There were 16 Members scheduled to attend our November 3 session, 15 showed up. Faye Morris, Human Resources Officer, who had helped me conduct earlier orientation sessions, was unable to be here. Therefore, with the help of two SCS personnel management specialists, I conducted the training sessions. I had AmeriCorps Member Chad Volkman, stationed in the SCS State Office, give the AmeriCorps pledge to the Members. On the morning of November 4, Member Kendall Nyquist informed me that during the evening of November 3 he had decided to not participate in AmeriCorps. On November 3 he had asked if his educational award could be used by his wife and was told that it could not. That was the basis for his resignation.

Before the CPR and First Aid training was completed on November 4, I gave the Members a brief explanation of AmeriCorps/USDA/Kansas projects. In addition, I told them that we had two or three AmeriCorps vacancies. One of the vacancies includes a position on our Emporia Wetland team which requires a biology degree and has a stipend of \$12,000. I knew that some of the Members in the training session have biology degrees and I wanted to let them know about the opportunity. As a result of my announcement, three Members who were hired to work on our Wildlife and Parks teams with stipends of \$7,660 discussed the matter with me. As a result of that discussion, I have had a phone call from another Member at Glen Elder inquiring about the position.

My dialogue and communication with the Members has been good. They are encouraged to contact me at home or the office concerning any questions or problems they have about AmeriCorps. The phone calls are starting to come in.

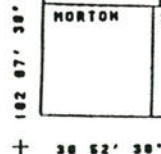
Site visits will begin in earnest the week of November 7. My schedule for the week shows that I will be in the Stockton area to visit a Wetland and a Parks team on November 8. On my way to meet Charles on November 9, I want to stop in Lawrence and meet with another Wetlands team. On November 10 we are scheduled to meet with a Wetland team in Manhattan and a Parks team at Milford.

Between my travel to sites, I need to develop lesson plans for conflict resolution and sexual harassment.

Between my travel to sites, I need to develop lesson plans for conflict resolution and sexual harassment. I have made one mistake that still personally haunts me. When we decided to cancel our Windbreak Renovation Teams and their October 31 kickoff, I sent Faxes to media, on October 24, in the region notifying them of the cancellation and the reason for such. However, I forgot to notify the reporter from the Wichita Eagle of the cancellation. After arriving at the site, the reporter called Project Director Miles to find out what had happened. His column in the paper explained the cancelling of the project and described our other projects in the state. The article was not glowing nor was it negative. I sent a letter of apology to the reporter and promised to keep him abreast of our projects.

Tim McQuade of television station KSNC called me on November 3 and said he was going to present an extended version of our October 19 Kanopolis kickoff during the weekend of November 5. He had given us good regional coverage at our October 19 kickoff. Hopefully we can get a copy of the show.

My other concern is the hiring of new Members. I am starting to learn that Members have been hired to fill slots that paid differently than they thought. Some are still attempting to complete this semester's college requirements while attempting to be full time AmeriCorps Members.



HQ = Jim's headquarters

HW to Mark Wilson

October 31

I travelled to Kanapolis Reservoir to meet State Park Manager Rick Martin and AmeriCorps Member Scott Morris. The purpose of the meeting was to review the work of Scott. There has been a lot of concern about Scott's ability to do the work required as an AmeriCorps Member. The first concern was expressed by Rick Martin on October 17, the day he first met Scott and the first day Larry Scott and myself met the Member.

I spent about two hours working and talking to Scott and a Kanapolis Park Ranger during my stay at Kanapolis. Our work consisted of repairing picnic tables. During my discussion and work with Scott I learned the following about him:

- * He is twenty one years old
- * He has dyslexia
- * He doesn't have a driver's license
- * He was a LDA student at Great Bend High School
- * Counselors at Great Bend High had wanted him to attend Sunflower Diversified, a rehabilitation service center
- * He wants to work fixing computers after AmeriCorps
- * He can use basic power tools such as a power sander, under close supervision
- * He has the ability to use basic hand tools

My discussion with the Park Ranger and Park Manager indicate the following about Scott:

- * He can complete jobs that are not complex
- * He requires a great deal of supervision and can not be left alone to work
- * He takes things literally and doesn't demonstrate the ability to see the broad aspect of a job i.e., when asked to clean up Halloween material he had to be sent back three times to complete the relatively simple task
- * When they went to capture prairie dogs at Norton, Scott was given the task of turning the water off and on. When they went to find out why the water wasn't flowing into the prairie dog tunnels, they found Scott wandering through the town looking at prairie dogs.
- * It would not be safe to allow him to use a chain saw or a brush eater

It is my concern that the constant supervision that will be required to keep Scott working will be a severe strain on park personnel and other AmeriCorps Members. I am concerned about his safety in the operation of power tools and equipment. If left alone to work, I am concerned that he would not be responsible enough to take care of himself. The day I met with him he had a Park Ranger assigned to work with him. It is my opinion, that as evidenced by his

performance at Norton, he cannot follow directions as required under Item V, page 3, PUBLIC LAND AND ENVIRONMENT CORPS AGREEMENT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE USDA AMERICORPS. Due to his difficulty in following instructions and the inability to decide to make decisions about job tasks, it is my belief that this AmeriCorps program is not suitable for Scott.

November 1, 1994

Larry Miles
Kansas AmeriCorps Project Director
Soil Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, Kansas 67401

Reference: October 28 Site visit to Glen Elder State Park,
Environmental Corps

Dear Sir:

I travelled to Glen Elder State Park on October 28 to find and meet with our Members. Unlike my trip to Webster State Lake on October 27th, I found someone. I met Wildlife and Parks Biologist Kyle Austin at the Cawker Work Building.

Kyle told me that the Members were doing a good job. He asked if it were permissible for the Members to periodically help him with fish counts. I told him that I did not have a problem with that kind of work as it was flood related and is good community service. I promised to discuss the issue with Larry Miles and call Mike Nyhoff with our answer on Monday the 31st.

Member Tony Anderson, who had been working with Kyle, arrived and Kyle asked him to take me to where the other Members were working. Driving a Wildlife & Parks Vehicle, Tony took me to an area where the Members had constructed target stands. He too asked about helping Kyle with fish counts. He told me that he had helped Kyle demonstrate the method used by Wildlife & Parks in netting and identifying fish to a class of students from a nearby school. Due to his work with Kyle, he wanted to use the educational award he would receive from AmeriCorps to pursue a degree in that area.

During the brief tour I asked Tony if he knew a particular individual from the area who had applied for an AmeriCorps position. He knew the individual and would not recommend him for several reasons.

We found the Members, each driving a Wildlife & Parks vehicle, on the road. They had finished fixing an area of fence and closing gates to wildlife areas. Member Paul Flynn's pickup was pulling a trailer which had a tractor equipped with a front end loader aboard. We briefly drove up beside each vehicle. Tony told them of their new job and destination. I asked each if they had any questions or problems.

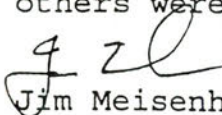
Their questions:

- * They were unsure of the Contact Point for Time and Attendance Sheet. I told them that I thought it should be Hays.
- * Could they work with the Kyle Austin? I again expressed my opinion about the subject. I assured them that I would discuss the subject with Project Larry Miles and Park Manager Mike Nyhoff on Monday the 31st.

I promised to get them answers to their questions on October 31st.

On October 31 Kathy Razak and Larry Miles agreed with my answers. Whereupon, I called Mike Nyhoff and asked him to convey my answers to the Members.

My overall first impression of the group stationed at Glen Elder is good. The work is constructive and is not busy work. Their opportunity to work with Kyle Austin is a good change of pace and is very educational. Tony seems to be the unofficial leader the group. He was candid about his job and the purpose of AmeriCorps. He did state that the stipend was too small and indicated he and some of the others were working at night to supplement their income.


Jim Meisenheimer



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Stabilization and
Conservation Service

CJA
SAUK COUNTY ASCS OFFICE
1007 Washington Avenue
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913-1895
Phone: 608 356-5529

10/24/94

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TO: Beverly Pritts
Americorps/USDA Staff

FROM: Thomas J. Brandt
Wisconsin Regional Facilitator

Thomas Brandt

DATE: October 20, 1994

SUBJECT: Americorps Progress Report

Enclosed are the latest objectives which SCS has provided me.

I will be talking individually with each member next week, in addition to meeting as a group. I want to find out from them what they think they are getting out of this program: national & community service, assistance to farmers, job experience, etc. I think once I do this I will be able to go to SCS and tell them what needs to be done, what areas are lacking, and so on. I want to find out if the members feel as I do that steps toward providing national and community service have not been achieved. All expressed a great desire in their applications to provide service to others.

I will talk w/ Tom & suggest that he make recommendation and share his ideas w/ SCS ...

Members report no needs for equipment, supplies, etc. SCS has been able to purchase some equipment or transfer it from other offices for use by Americorps members.

As you may have been noticing a trend, the plan is to no longer work on Fridays this year.

Proposed Itinerary for October 24-28:

Monday: Sauk County ASCS Office a.m.
WI State Office -- Americorps visit p.m.
Tuesday: Sauk County ASCS Office
Wednesday: Sauk County ASCS Office
Thursday: Sauk County ASCS Office
Friday: Off day

fel



CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE

Grantee: USDA Soil Conservation Service

Site: Wisconsin

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Work with community leaders and planners to identify flood prone and environmentally sensitive areas.

1. What work will be done?

Contact community leaders, digitize a minimum of three soil surveys, and develop applications to identify flood prone and environmentally sensitive areas.

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

Future community development and community growth planned in ways that minimize the effects of reoccurring flooding. Reduced nutrient and pesticide loading of streams during flooding events.

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

Judgment of zoning, planning and conservation departments.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

Number of soil surveys digitized, number of communities using them for planning, and the amount of community involvement.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

200-500.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVE

Grantee: USDA Soil Conservation Service

Site: Wisconsin

COMPONENTS OF OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS: Provide information and guidance to landowners and producers in order to assist in flood recovery and natural resource management decision-making and maintain compliance with federal programs.

1. What work will be done?

Assist landusers to make flood recovery and soil conservation decisions. Investigate and inventory floodplains and wetlands to assist landowners, producers, and sponsors concerning emergency programs and federal program compliance. Update wetland inventory maps and complete wetland determinations.

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

Landusers will make better land use decisions, wetlands will be protected and mapped, and more program participants will be in compliance with Federal laws.

Better informed public and community leaders, wetlands protected and USDA program participants in compliance with Federal laws.

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

Number of wetland maps updated and number of determinations made; District Conservationists' satisfaction with the work products, fewer program violations.

4. By what standard will you gauge success?

90% of all wetland determinations made for all current USDA participants in the county. 90% of wetland maps updated. 50% of landusers make better land use decisions.

5. How many individuals will receive the benefit of the work your participants perform?

1200-1500 farmers and individuals participating in USDA programs per county.

5
+608 356 3405

USDA ASCS WISCONSIN -->12027204614

ECM Pg. 04/04

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Consolidated
Farm Service
Agency

Sauk County CFSA Office
1007 Washington Avenue
Baraboo, WI 53913-1895
Phone: (608) 356-5529
FAX: (608) 356-3405

CFSA FAX

Msg. No. 81

From: WI Sauk

Page 1 of 2To: USDA/Office of Communications Date 3-3-95Attn: Joel Berg / National Service Division

Re: _____

Priority ✓ / Routine _____



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Stabilization and
Conservation Service

SAUK COUNTY ASCS OFFICE
1007 Washington Avenue
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913-1895
Phone: 608 356-5529

TO: Joel Berg
Americorps/USDA Staff

FROM: Thomas J. Brandt
Wisconsin Regional Facilitator

DATE: March 3, 1995

SUBJECT: Progress Report and Itinerary

Americorps members held a meeting with NRCS staff on Monday to discuss progress of tasks being completed.

I am working with an organization in the Madison area for the members to take part in a ROPES team building course. Tentative date will be sometime in April or May. Other Americorps groups have attended and supervisors say that it is an excellent course.

An Americorps member from Minnesota is visiting our state office to learn about the GIS digitizing system.

During telephone meeting with members, the only area of concern brought up was "where are our sweatshirts." However, members have inquired as to when you may be rescheduling your visit to Wisconsin.

Proposed Itinerary for March 6-10:

Monday: Sauk County CFSA Office
Tuesday: Sauk County CFSA Office
Wednesday: Sauk County CFSA Office
Thursday: Sauk County CFSA Office
Friday: Compressed Day Off



Participation in all programs administered by ASCS is open to all farmers without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Consolidated Farm
Service Agency

Los Angeles-Orange-San Bernardino
Counties CFSA Office
45116 N. 13th Street West
Lancaster, California 93534-2156
Telephone (805) 942-9549
FAX (805) 942-7279

FAX COVER LETTER

DATE : 3-10-95

TIME : 10:00 A.M.

COMPANY/FIRM : USDA/AMERICORPS

ATTENTION : Joel Berg, Director of National Service

FAX NUMBER : 1-202-720-4614

REFERENCE TO : Americorps Weekly Update & Report, Weekly Itinerary

FROM : Southern California Regional Facilitator

NAME : Douglas Brand

HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

YES

NO X

WE ARE TRANSMITTING 2 PAGE(S), PLUS COVER LETTER.

TO: Joel Berg
Director of National Service
Phone: (202) 690-3507, Fax: (202) 720-4614

From Douglas Brand
Southern Cal. Regional Facilitator
Phone: (805) 942-9549, Fax: (805) 942-7279

Subject: Report and Update

ACTIVITY REPORT: (Feb. 19 thru March 4, 1995)

TRAINING:

On February 28, all Americorps Members received CPR and First Aid Training. They are all certified for 2 years in both CPR and Basic First Aid. Most members seemed to think this will be very beneficial to themselves and others while working in the community.

ACTIVITIES:

Americorps members from the Apple Valley, CA. project site made presentations to the juniors and seniors at a local High School. Their presentations were on the Americorps Program, soil erosion, and the role of the NRCS and RCD.

Other Americorps Members are continuing to work with the Mojave Desert RCD and the local School Districts in the dissemination of a Soil Survey Club Program. This program is targeted to elementary students and teaches the children the important of soils. According to the Project Manager, "this is a program that the District has been trying to get off the ground for approximately a year, but has not been successful due to staffing." Without the Americorps efforts this Soil Saver Club Program would not have been provided to the local community.

Service
Three Americorps Members from the Lancaster project site have been working with residents in the Antelope Valley to help educate them on the benefits of windbreaks. They are providing assistance with planning, determining the number and types of trees needed, and providing the labor to plant the seedlings. On March 4, the three Members presented a tree-planting demonstration at a local Community Center. There was a good community and media turnout at this event. One member expressed her feels by saying, "I've always been interested in volunteering and helping people. We've learned a lot about windbreaks, and we're disseminating the information to the people."

EXPENSE REPORT:

Feb. 19 thru March 4: \$20.00

FACILITATOR'S TIME INVOLVEMENT IN AMERICORPS:

Feb. 19 thru March 4: 6 hrs.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Many of the Members and Project Managers have expressed their concerns on having to pay for their Americorps sweatshirts. They feel this should come out of the Agency's budget and not their own. In the beginning of the program it was my impression, as well as the members, that their uniforms (sweatshirts, and hats) would be provided to them at no cost.

1) Handwritten

TRAVEL ITINERARY:
for
Douglas Brand, Southern California

Week of March 13 thru March 17:

Mon.	CFSA-County Office,	(805) 942-9549
Tues:	San Bernardino County - Inspections	no phone #
Wed:	CFSA-County Office	(# same as above)
Thurs:	CFSA-County Office	(# same as above)
Fri:	CW Day - off	

CC: Jim Caldwell, ST0
Jack Drennan, DD

1 east 2 road 3 Great

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Consolidated
Farm Service
Agency

Androscoggin/Sagadahoc CFSA
27 Westminster Street
Lewiston, Maine 04240-3531

March 8, 1995

TO: Beverly Pritts, Americorps Facilitator Coordinator
FROM: ^{Mike}Mike Tardy, Acting CED
SUBJECT: Monthly Report of Americorps Related Expenses

February 13 - Gorham - Met with cluster group members
\$21.60 mileage

cc. Arnold Roach, Acting SED

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages = 1

To	Beverly Pritts	From	Mike Tardy
Dept./Agency	WDA Americorps	Phone #	207 783 9194
Fax #	202 720 4614	Fax #	207 783 4101

NSN 7540-01-217-7368

5009-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Telefax

USDA ASCS



ROD ATTERBERRY
ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR
P.O. BOX 107
HAVANA, IL. 62644

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

FAX TO: JOEL BERG

FAX
NUMBER 202-720-4614

DELIVER TO: _____

FROM: ROD ATTERBERRY

COMMENTS:

WEEKLY REPORT

MSG. NO 48

DATE 3/3/95

PAGE 1 OF 2

** IF ALL PAGES ARE NOT RECEIVED CALL: 309-543-2582

AMERICORPS/ASCS USDA *****

ROD ATTERBERRY
ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR
P. O. BOX 107
HAVANA, IL 62644-0107

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

Joel Berg

March 3, 1995

Weekly AmeriCorp Report 03/02/95

2 Rivers Project

The Public Lands/Environmental Team has 5 members working with the Calhoun County Highway Department clearing brush from right-of-ways. Two other members are painting at the Western Catholic Union.

All P.L./Envir. members were instructed on safe chainsaw operation by a chainsaw manufacturers representative.

The Rural Development Team attended rural economic training at Western Illinois University.

The collection and listing of all businesses, recreational opportunities, churches, and special interest information has been completed for all communities in the project area.

60% of the town boards have been presented the information on the community profiles and needs assessment survey.

East St.Louis

No report received.

Rod Atterberry
Illinois Facilitator



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

To:

Amer. Corps Coordinators
" " Facilitators
" " Camps

FAX No.:

☐ Commercial

From:

Name:

Lan Waltering

Office of Deputy Chief for Administration
USDA Forest Service
2nd Floor, Northwest Wing
Auditors Building
14th and Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250
(P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090)

Phone No: (202) 205-1707

Fax No: (202) 205-1181

Date Sent: 2-27Document Length: Cover + 2 pages

To Confirm Receipt, Call: _____

Memo: Info on National Day of Service.
v/R
Lan

MEMORANDUM

February 24, 1995

TO: State Commission, State Directors and Cluster Directors
FROM: Karen Hallerman
RE: National Day of Service

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the status of plans for National Day of Service. We are thrilled to be able to announce that exciting activities are being planned in all 50 states for Tuesday, April 25 and additional events will be taking place throughout National Volunteer Week, April 23-29.

Attached please find a press release which describes the relationships of the three partners, the Corporation for National Service, Youth Service America, and the Points of Light Foundation. Through these organizations, we hope to both recognize and expand the number of Americans engaged in service and the service opportunities as a means of addressing the nation's critical needs.

I would also like to let you know about the staff here at the Corporation who will be able to help you in your efforts. Your previous contact, Janet V. Green has accepted another job and will be leaving the Corporation in March. I will be taking over her responsibilities coordinating the National Day of Service. Diana Aldridge will continue to handle press and public relations for the event. I also have some people assisting me and handling individual clusters. Heidi Wagner will be the contact person for the Atlantic, Southern, and Southwest Clusters. Jennifer Frenzel will be the contact for the North Central and Pacific Clusters.

For your ease, we have arranged to have a phone extension at the Corporation dedicated to a National Day of Service. Phone number 202.606.5000 x555 is the "hotline" where you may leave a message with any questions or concerns you might have and we will be sure to have the appropriate person respond as soon as possible.

Thank you for all of your help on this exciting new initiative and I look forward to working with you on the first ever National Day of Service!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 23, 1995

CONTACT:
Diana Aldridge, CNS
202) 606-5000x555
Michael Evans, YSA
(202) 296-2992
Barbara Lohman, POLF
202) 223-9186

LEADING NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR AN ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Washington, D.C. -- The Corporation for National Service, Youth Service America, and The Points of Light Foundation today announced a joint initiative to create and further an annual "National Day of Service."

According to the three service organizations, the first "National Day of Service" will take place on Tuesday, April 25, 1995, during "National Volunteer Week" scheduled for the week of April 23-29. The initiative will be integrated with Youth Service America's highly successful "National Youth Service Day" -- already scheduled for the April 25 date and organized annually by YSA in partnership with Lutheran Brotherhood, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the AT&T Foundation.

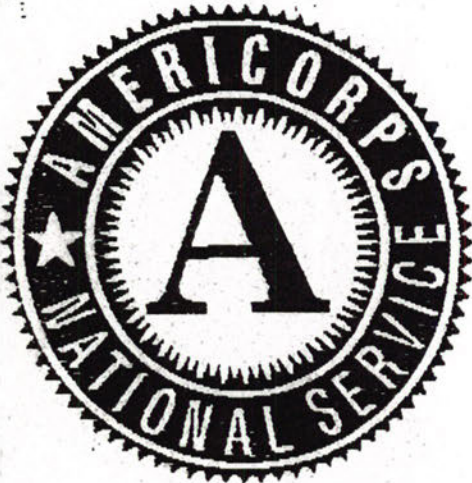
Plans for a "National Day of Service" evolved from the three major service organizations' commitment to seek a unifying vehicle which would both recognize and expand the numbers of Americans engaged in service and service opportunities as a means of addressing the nation's critical needs.

The service partnership is planning volunteer service activities and events for the "National Day of Service" engaging Americans of all ages and backgrounds in every state in the nation in the initiative's first year.

The collaboration between the organizations was announced as an initial three-year, participant-building effort that will bring to bear a remarkable national service infrastructure and network.

Telefax

USDA ASCS



ROD ATTERBERRY
ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR
P.O. BOX 107
HAVANA, IL. 62644

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

FAX TO: Joel Beeg

FAX
NUMBER 202-720-4614

DELIVER TO: _____

FROM: Rod Atterberry

COMMENTS: WEEKLY REPORT

MSG. NO 28

DATE 2/3/95

PAGE 1 OF 3

** IF ALL PAGES ARE NOT RECEIVED CALL: 309-543-2582

AMERICORPS/ASCS USDA *****

ROD ATTERBERRY
ILLINOIS AMERICORPS FACILITATOR
P. O. BOX 107
HAVANA, IL 62644-0107

OFFICE PHONE: 309-543-2582
FAX NO. 309-543-3154

Joel Berg

February 3, 1995

Weekly AmeriCorp Report

2 Rivers Project

Both projects are ongoing towards meeting community service. Part of the P.L./Environmental Team is painting rooms at the Quincy YMCA. The R.D. Team is completing the CRP alternative use survey and will be writing the report. They are also finishing up a business survey for Uptown Quincy. Eight community governments have received a presentation on the community profile and needs assessment that is available from the rural development team.

On February 2, 1995, all 15 members attended public speaking training.

Attached is a letter from Uptown Quincy concerning the R. D. Team.

One member has been off work for two weeks with a pulled muscle injury sustained on the job.

A short meeting was held with all members. They like what they are doing and feel that the projects are worthwhile. Some of the members have made contacts for future jobs. They are concerned that they are not getting the supplies promised them. i.e. Sweatshirts.

E. St. Louis Project

The P.L./Environmental Team has selected and met with private owners of the vacant lots. They are now drawing up plans and locating supplies to do the renovations. Seeds have been planted in the greenhouse.

The flood team has contracted more projects. They are working on these weather permitting.

All members have completed CRP and AIDS Training.

The members are proud of their projects and anxious to start working at the sites.



FAX IOWA

AMERICORPS REGIONAL FACILITATOR
Kevin R. Fitzpatrick, Sr.

10500 BUENA VISTA COURT
DES MOINES, IOWA 50322

FAX TELEPHONE NO. - 515/254-1573
(COMMERCIAL)

MSG NO: 25 DATE: 2 / 3 / 95

TO: Joel Berg & CHARLES SIMS

ATTN: AMERI CORPS

FROM: Kevin R Fitzpatrick, Sr.

PAGE 1 OF 3 (Including this Page)

PRIORITY: _____ REGULAR: _____

IF ALL PAGES ARE NOT RECEIVED, CALL
515/254-1540 (EXT.61)



Uptown Quincy Incorporated

110 North 6th • Quincy, Illinois 62301
Phone 217/228-8696 • Fax 217/228-8698

February 1, 1995

Bill McCartney
Two Rivers Resource Conservation
and Development Corporation
Pittsfield, IL 62363

Dear Bill:

Before you decide I'm completing lacking in manners, I want to "officially" thank you for the assistance you've offered through the AmeriCorps program.

Susie, Starr, Darlene, Chad and Mike have been a tremendous help to us! Without them it would have been nearly impossible for me to get this survey completed. They are doing a great job and coming back with not only statistical data but comments which we need. My next challenge is to follow up on this. You can be sure we'll do our best to let our members and the public know what we've learned and what we hope we can accomplish.

I have enclosed copies of several items for you.

The first, on the yellow paper, is a survey which a student intern conducted in November/December 1994. This is the one Susie tallied and summarized the final data. A copy of what the Quincy Herald-Whig printed and what I submitted in the Quincy Merchant are attached.

The second set of materials includes articles from the Quincy Herald-Whig and the Quincy Merchant as well as a copy of the survey which Starr, Darlene, Chad and Mike are conducting. Susie is compiling the information as they turn it in each day.

In addition to the newspaper articles, most of the radio and television stations also mentioned these surveys.

Again Bill, I'm extremely grateful for the help being offered!

Sincerely,


Jill Arnold Blickhan
Executive Director

Enclosures

Uptown Quincy, Inc. works with its members and the community to (1) market, (2) develop and (3) represent Quincy's central business district.

USDA/AmeriCorps

AMERICORPS REGIONAL FACILITATOR

Kevin R. Fitzpatrick, Sr.

10500 Buena Vista Court

Des Moines, Iowa 50322-3782

Phone 515-254-1540 Ex. 61

2-3-95

Charles & Joe!

Don't have time to write much this week. Well bring you up to speed next Thurs. I am very impressed w/ our AmeriCorps Members on the Rural Development Team! They are really doing the job here in Iowa. Will Report next week!

Kevin, Sr.





Schedule for Feb 6 to Feb 17, 1995

Mon	Feb 6	Compressed Day off	
Tues	Feb 7	Council Bluffs	712 325 1850
Wed	Feb 8	Williamsburg	319 668 9089
Thurs	Feb 9	AM CFSA STO	515 254 1540
		PM NRCS STO	Ext. 61 515 284 4370
Fri	Feb 10	Emmetsburg	712 852 4736
Mon	Feb 13	Postville	319 864 7112
Tues	Feb 14	West Union	319 422 6201
Wed	Feb 15	CFSA STO	515 254 1540
Thurs	Feb 16	" "	"
Fri	Feb 17	" "	"

Kevin R. Fitzpatrick, Sr.
Kevin R. Fitzpatrick, Sr.

2-3-95



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Stabilization and
Conservation Service

To: Joel Berg, Director of National Service

Date: Feb 2, 1995

From: Janice Syverson, State Facilitator, MN

In Reply Refer to: Fax # 218-784-2328
Phone 218-784-4000

Subject: Weekly Report

cc: Wally Sparby State SED
Michael Price AmeriCorps State Coordinator
Glen Kajewski Project Director
Kevin Daw Project Director
Jon Nicholson Project Director

Pages 4



AMERICORP WEEKLY UPDATE

January 26 through February 2, 1995

Janice Syverson, Minnesota

Cluster Members and Project Managers feedback:

Thief River Falls/Twin Valley Clusters:

TRF-Ag Waste Mgmt

Working on nutrient management plans. Doing final touches to Nutrient Management Training days, doing up brochure, contacting speakers, lining up refreshments. Doing up a fact sheet which was sent to Washington for printing for the RRVWS. Researching benefits of ag-waste systems.

TRF/TV - Trails

TRF -

TV - Worked with TV Cons. Outreach members for display at 2 different area shows. Met with city of Mahanomen on Tourism. Creating a map for a tourism brochure. Distributed 4 videos to area public broadcasting stations to air. Will send a copy of this the end of Feb. as all copies were distributed.

TV, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, Warren, & McIntosh -
Conservation Outreach Members

TV - Worked with trails people and made a display of the AmeriCorps projects which we brought to an area trade and seed show, and also to the Wild Rice Conservation Club supper where we set up our living snowfence model as well. This included a couple fact sheets about the projects and also had our brochures of the trail to hand out. Working on an educational game to show the effects of pollution on a simulated lake situation which will be used at the Give Water a Hand Project set for Feb. 11. This is in conjunction with the Earth Team part of their project.

Crookston - Made the living snowfence model and working on the windbreak model.

RLF - MN/DOT responded to letter but funding might have to wait from them until July. Trying to get donations to do a wind erosion model. Went to 4 local schools with district water plan coordinator and gave a Groundwater model presentation to the 4th grade classes. Worked with soils survey to be done in the spring. Working on a windbreak model.

Mc - Working with the areas Soil Scientist for the soils survey to be done in the spring.

Warren - Talked with district MN/DOT supervisor and was told they would contribute \$3000 to the living snowfence project. Worked on

living snowfence model.

Members from both clusters attended AIDS training this week.

Rochester/Lewiston Cluster:

Pasture Mgmt. Project - Working on setting up the March community project. Putting together a slide presentation to be used to inform people about pasture management. Still meeting with other field offices for potential farmers to work with on her project.

Nutrient Mgmt - Sent letters for Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to be held Feb. 7. Working on applying for three different grants.

Lewiston project - Continue working on contracts for WQIP, have completed eight thus far. Once written they will go back and present to the farmers.

Community project for February will be on Feb. 15 in Fairbault with the Forestry member there doing the planning.

Cloquet Cluster:

Starting work on bimonthlies newsletter. This is due out Feb 10. They are reaching 4000 landusers with their Newsletter compared to the 3500 they hoped to reach in their project objective. Working on feed lot inventory. Planning to do a video for the Nemadji River Basin Project, with a local TV station being involved.

We did our community project this weekend snowshoe hiking in the Black Hoof forest. This went great, we had 20 people participating. The DNR led us through and would point out different aspects of what they had been doing as far as clearing areas for new growth etc. for wildlife. One of the AmeriCorp members spoke on their project. Was a good day, however, the Forestry members did not show up at all. I've talked with the Forestry coordinator for MN and found there was a misunderstanding and hopefully this will be corrected. Mr. Klocksien said he would help coordinate a community project for February with the Forestry and NRCS AmeriCorp members.

Submitted by Michael Price

Michael Price, MN USDA NRCS Public Affairs Specialist and State AmeriCorps Coordinator, met with a group of NRCS, SWCD, AmeriCorps members, the producer of "Venture North" - a television produced program with WDSE-TV in Duluth, MN, and landusers within the Nemadji River Basin. During that meeting agreements were reached to involve the AmeriCorps members in the development/participation of a 10-15 minute WDSE-TV produced video about the Nemadji River Basin Project. That project will be funded by the Great Lakes Commission. The group is also seeking WDSE-TV production cooperation to also produce eight 8-minute video programs about soil and water conservation related programs in northeastern Minnesota this summer - one of those will be about the Cloquet AmeriCorps project in the Nemadji River Basin. NRCS in MN will pay for the production of this one 8-minute video, however, the entire package of eight videos and how to fund the other seven videos is a concern of WDSE-TV. Until we know the answer to that we don't know for sure that the one 8-minute AmeriCorps video can be done. We believe it will be done, however, we still need to hear from WDSE-TV next week. Mike also talked about the possibilities of involving Joel Berg from USDA and Bob Jackson from the Corporation in this 8-minute video, however, until we know "it's a for-sure-thing---its-going-to-happen," he's not extending invitations for them to participate as yet. Mike has discussed the idea with Jackson who is receptive to participating, his schedule permitting. Mike spent about 1 1/2 hours talking with the Nemadji River Basin AmeriCorps Project Director, his area conservationist supervisor and two of that project's three AmeriCorps member. Together they discussed project accomplishments, the plan of work, community objectives, issues and problems. Generally, everyone was very upbeat and felt good about the progress they've made and spring plans. Tim Reese, I&E EC AmeriCorps member, advised everyone that through their newsletter they are now reaching 4,000 landusers - not 2,500 as stated in one of the project's objectives.

To: Joel Berg
AmeriCorps/USDA
V: 202-720-6350, FX: 202-720-4614

Date: February 3, 1995

From: Rick Block
Regional Facilitator
V: 503-465-6442, FX: 503-465-6483

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages

14

To	Joel Berg	From	Rick Block
Dept./Agency		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	

NSN 7540-01-317-7368

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

RE: Reports and Updates

WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT:

Week of January 30 - February 3, 1995

I have followed up on my Washington, D.C. trip with all of the USDA project managers and State Commission, except one, who responded, but, we continue to "play telephone tag." I should finish this up next week.

Two of the three CFSA District Directors in Oregon have verbally agreed to assist with member site visits. I have yet to talk to the third one. One of the district directors attended the cluster meeting I am including in this report.

On February 1st, I had a long telephone conversation with Ken Shamblir, appointed facilitator in Washington State and attempted to answer his questions. I also went over my notes I shared with him from the Washington, D.C. trip.

Please find attached a copy of the format I will initially use for member site visits. I tried to keep it simple, yet informative.

I conducted a member site visit in Pendleton, OR with Steve Hoar, RECD on February 2nd. Please see attached information he gave me. Steve is doing very well, especially his progress with the Umatilla Indian Reservation. He is using his experience very effectively, and his construction background experience has been extremely helpful for housing loans. He has no concerns over his working relationship with the RECD office, and is meeting his objectives. He puts in a great deal of effort and appears to grasp the vision of AmeriCorps. I didn't have the time to go to the reservation as the cluster meeting was held the same day, and other RECD members had long distance travel plans similar to me. Pendleton is 315 miles from my office.

I attended the RECD Eastern Oregon cluster meeting held on February 2nd in Pendleton, OR. The project managers were unable to attend. The four members of the cluster were present. The local RECD county supervisor and the area CFSA District Director attended a portion of the meeting. I gave my vision of AmeriCorps and explained my role as facilitator. I tried to be specific as to how I could help them and displayed the variety of resources I have accumulated since last October. I gave them copies of the handout the facilitators received from David Gibson, RHCDS, in Washington, D.C. regarding RDT activities. The members were very appreciative of this. I briefly explained the other on-going USDA AmeriCorps projects. The RECD members were not aware of the RARE members in their area. All in all, it was a very good meeting. The members appear to have a sincere interest in accomplishing their objectives.

There was a concern brought up at the cluster meeting regarding the volume of 502 and 504 loans which will inundate the RECD field offices. The county supervisor desired to have the members help process the applications. I had a concern over the rule regarding displacement of federal employees. The supervisor argued that there

was not a displacement as the employees as the increased workload of applications would never have been there had an AmeriCorps member securing clients. COULD YOU PLEASE GET ME A CLARIFICATION OF THIS ISSUE? I recommended to the members to balance the loan activity with other community outreach activities.

The members also asked me if there would be a problem concerning the movement of a member from time to time to another field office within the cluster if workload activity varies. In other words, if one member is under a heavy workload, can a member from another RECD field office assist the other member? PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHETHER THIS CAN OR SHOULD BE DONE.

The RECD Eastern Oregon cluster asked for my opinion whether they should attend a professional training conference, which has a large registration fee. Although the topics were very good, I had a concern about the cost. Please see the attached information I received from the members and GIVE ME YOUR THOUGHTS. THANK YOU!

TRAVEL ITINERARY:

I plan to be at the following cluster meetings:

RDT	February 8	Coquille
RARE	February 17	Florence

MONTHLY EXPENSE REPORT:

\$75.48 spent in February so far. Total so far in FY '95: \$1361.58.

FACILITATOR'S TIME INVOLVEMENT IN AMERICORPS:

19 hours so far in February. Total so far in FY '95: 167 hours.

OTHER CONCERNS:

An EnviroCorps assistant asked what the liability clause was for members. I told them what you told me in Washington, D.C., i.e., the members are covered under the Federal Torts Claim provisions similar to federal employees.

The concerns brought up in the last report were taken care of. There is a 1-800 number access to Internet through St. Louis. This will allow free access. The RECD member who had rental problem found another place.

CC: SED
Barbara Roberts

AMERICORPS SITE VISIT

Member's name _____ Interviewer _____

Project name/site _____ Date _____

Current projects being worked on (include measured accomplishments if available).
Examples: partnerships developed, financial or other resources generated, etc.

Discuss member's objectives and planned activities (both short and long-term).

Discuss existing problems and possible alternative solutions. What kind of help or training do you need?

Visit a site the member is working on if reasonably accessible and report findings.

Meet sponsors, supervisors, others affiliated with the member; ask about member's progress and effect on targeted objectives.

Other observations:



01/24/95 08:40 PM

AMERICORP NATIONAL SERVICE

504's

LOANS

RACHEL ARIAS--LOAN: \$2,600 check signed, GENE can get started.
(Hermiston)

PAUL & KATHLYNN BUES--LOAN: \$15,000 check signed GARY can get started.
(Pendleton)(CAPECO REFERRAL)

EDITH LOWE--LOAN: \$5,500 SBA @ 1st INTERSTATE signed, BLU can get
started. (Condon Area)

KATHY MENDOZA--LOAN: \$9,160; \$8,000 Paid & ALLEN will be done next week.
(Milton-Freewater) (CAPECO REFERRAL)

GRANTS

BERNARD DUFFY--GRANT: \$4,910 check signed TOM can get started (Milton-
Freewater) (CAPECO REFERRAL)

FINISHED

- JUDY BEAN--LOAN: \$1,980 Construction completed & all documents signed
and recorded. (Condon Area)
- GEORGIE LEARMAN--LOAN: \$3,430 Construction completed & all documents
signed and recorded. (Condon)
- JENNIFER MALLGREN--LOAN: \$275 Construction completed & all documents
signed and recorded. (Condon)

AWAITING BIDS

VERONICA BENNETT: LOAN: New metal roof, repaint water damaged ceilings,
repair or replace range (elements, wiring & on/off indicator light)(Hermiston)



AMERICORP NATIONAL SERVICE

504's

AWAITING FINISHED APPLICATION

FRED HAGEY--LOAN/GRANT; NEEDS INSPECTION AND APPLICATION FINISHED
(PENDLETON)

(ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AND NEW GAS FURNACE INSTALLATION)
(NEED TO ASK GENE TO BID IT & BE GENERAL CONTRACTOR TO SUB THE
ENCLOSED ABATEMENT BID AND OVERSEEING OR INSTALLING NEW FURNACE)

ERNEST & GLENDA WILLIAMS--NEW ROOF, ENERGY EFFICIENT GAS FURNACE
(HERMISTON) (CAPECO REFERRAL)

CLIFFORD SAMPSON--SEE TRIBAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
OTHERS--SEE TRIBAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (PILOT PROGRAM)

INELIGIBLE

SHELLY ENA--INCOMPLETE APPLICATION [BUDGET SHEET] letter sent

JUNE REAM--WITHDRAWN VERBALLY INCOMPLETE APPLICATION
(CAPECO REFERRAL)

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FRED (BRAD) BRADBURY--TRIBAL HOUSING DIRECTOR
PILOT PROGRAMS

MULTIPLE MEETING's & GUIDANCE including GENERAL TRIBAL COUNCIL
explaining RECD PROGRAMS(502 GRH & 504's LOAN & GRANT PROGRAMS)

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515 MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING

RECD LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM--MASTER PLANNING DEVELOPMENT for
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AMERICORP NATIONAL SERVICE

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TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT--NAVEEN CHAMBERS--MANAGER

FIRE DEPARTMENT--KEN GRAY--FIRE CHIEF

To: Joel Berg
AmeriCorps/USDA
V: 202-720-6350, FX: 202-720-4614

Date: February 3, 1995

From: Rick Block
Regional Facilitator
V: 503-465-6442, FX: 503-465

RE: Reports and Updates

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages **14**

To Joel Berg	From Rick Block
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax #	Fax #

NSN 7540-01-317-7368

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT:

Week of January 30 - February 3, 1995

I have followed up on my Washington, D.C. trip with all of the USDA project managers and State Commission, except one, who responded, but, we continue to "play telephone tag. I should finish this up next week.

Two of the three CFSA District Directors in Oregon have verbally agreed to assist me with member site visits. I have yet to talk to the third one. One of the district directors attended the cluster meeting I am including in this report.

On February 1st, I had a long telephone conversation with Ken Shamblin, the newly appointed facilitator in Washington State and attempted to answer his questions. I also went over my notes I shared with him from the Washington, D.C. training.

Please find attached a copy of the format I will initially use for member site visits. I tried to keep it simple, yet informative.

I conducted a member site visit in Pendleton, OR with Steve Hoar, RECD on February 2nd. Please see attached information he gave me. Steve is doing very well, especially his progress with the Umatilla Indian Reservation. He is using his time very effectively, and his construction background experience has been extremely helpful for housing loans. He has no concerns over his working relationship with the RECD office, and is meeting his objectives. He puts in a great deal of effort and appears to grasp the vision of AmeriCorps. I didn't have the time to go to the reservation as the cluster meeting was held the same day, and other RECD members had long distance travel plans similar to me. Pendleton is 315 miles from my office.

I attended the RECD Eastern Oregon cluster meeting held on February 2nd in Pendleton, OR. The project managers were unable to attend. The four members of the cluster were present. The local RECD county supervisor and the area CFSA District Director attended a portion of the meeting. I gave my vision of AmeriCorps and explained my role as facilitator. I tried to be specific as to how I could help them and displayed the variety of resources I have accumulated since last October. I gave them copies of the handout the facilitators received from David Gibson, RHCDS, in Washington, D.C. regarding RDT activities. The members were very appreciative of this. I briefly explained the other on-going USDA AmeriCorps projects. The RECD members were not aware of the RARE members in their area. All in all, it was a very good meeting. The members appear to have a sincere interest in accomplishing their objectives.

There was a concern brought up at the cluster meeting regarding the volume of 502 and 504 loans which would inundate the RECD field offices. The county supervisor desired the help process the applications. I had a concern over the rule regarding the disbursement of federal employees. The supervisor argued that there

was not a displacement as the employees as the increased workload of applications would never have been there had an AmeriCorps member securing clients. COULD YOU PLEASE GET ME A CLARIFICATION OF THIS ISSUE? I recommended to the members to balance the loan activity with other community outreach activities.

The members also asked me if there would be a problem concerning the movement of a member from time to time to another field office within the cluster if workload activity varies. In other words, if one member is under a heavy workload, can a member from another RECD field office assist the other member? PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHETHER THIS CAN OR SHOULD BE DONE.

The RECD Eastern Oregon cluster asked for my opinion whether they should attend a professional training conference, which has a large registration fee. Although the topics were very good, I had a concern about the cost. Please see the attached information I received from the members and GIVE ME YOUR THOUGHTS. THANK YOU!

TRAVEL ITINERARY:

I plan to be at the following cluster meetings:

RD1 February 8 Coquille
RARE February 17 Florence

MONTHLY EXPENSE REPORT:

\$75.48 spent in February so far. Total so far in FY '95: \$1361.58.

FACILITATOR'S TIME INVOLVEMENT IN AMERICORPS:

19 hours so far in February. Total so far in FY '95: 167 hours.

OTHER CONCERNS:

An EnviroCorps assistant asked what the liability clause was for members. I told them what you told me in Washington, D.C., i.e., the members are covered under the Federal Torts Claim provisions similar to federal employees.

The concerns brought up in the last report were taken care of. There is a 1-800 number access to Internet through St. Louis. This will allow free access. The RECD member who had rental problem found another place.

CC: SED

Barbara Roberts

AMERICORPS SITE VISIT

Member's name _____ Interviewer _____
Project name/site _____ Date _____

Current projects being worked on (include measured accomplishments if available).
Examples: partnerships developed, financial or other resources generated, etc.

Discuss member's objectives and planned activities (both short and long-term).

Discuss existing problems and possible alternative solutions. What kind of help or training do you need?

Visit a site the member is working on if reasonably accessible and report findings.

Meet sponsors, supervisors, others affiliated with the member; ask about member's progress and effect on targeted objectives.

Other observations:



01/24/95 08:40 PM

AMERICORP NATIONAL SERVICE

504's

LOANS

RACHEL ARIAS--LOAN: \$2,600 check signed, GENE can get started.
(Hermiston)

PAUL & KATHLYNN BUES--LOAN: \$15,000 check signed GARY can get started.
(Pendleton)(CAPECO REFERRAL)

EDITH LOWE--LOAN: \$5,500 SBA @ 1st INTERSTATE signed, BLU can get
started. (Condon Area)

KATHY MENDOZA--LOAN: \$9,160; \$8,000 Paid & ALLEN will be done next week.
(Milton-Freewater) (CAPECO REFERRAL)

GRANTS

BERNARD DUFFY--GRANT: \$4,910 check signed TOM can get started (Milton-
Freewater) (CAPECO REFERRAL)

FINISHED

• JUDY BEAN--LOAN: \$1,980 Construction completed & all documents signed
and recorded. (Condon Area)

• GEORGIE LEARMAN--LOAN: \$3,430 Construction completed & all documents
signed and recorded. (Condon)

• JENNIFER MALLGREN--LOAN: \$275 Construction completed & all documents
signed and recorded. (Condon)

AWAITING BIDS

VERONICA BENNETT: LOAN: New metal roof, repaint water damaged ceilings,
repair or replace range (elements, wiring & on/off indicator light)(Hermiston)



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AMERICORP NATIONAL SERVICE

FUTURE GOALS

502's GRH: 10-15 Application Packages processed and approved, this number could rise to 50 loans or more.

504's LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM: Community out-reach program involving CAPECO's Director and staff for referral for any very low income applicants that don't qualify under their guidelines.

25-30 Application Packages processed and approved, hopefully this number could rise to 50 plus loan/grant combinations or more.

TRIBAL ASSISTANCE: Further involvement with Tribal needs that include Housing Authority, Water Department, Planning Department, Transportation Department, Fire Department and General Tribal Council.

MILTON-FREEWATER FARM LABOR CAMP: Assist Tom Newton from the RECD Ontario office in procurement of a 386 IBM-PC & software. Develop tracking system for the labor camp and provide key personnel the needed training to aid in billings, adjusted income calculations, employment locators, housing locators, along with needed records on family size, INS, Social Security numbers, driver licenses, and skill levels.

USDA RECD PORTLAND: Further training for Bud Fisher's staff and more development of forms and paper work for the AMERICORP NATIONAL SERVICE.

SPECIAL THANKS to the STATEWIDE RECD STAFF MEMBERS:
SCOTT DUFF, STAN SCHMIDT, BUD FISHER & MARICELLE CARLBERG, DAVE WILSON,
WAYNE DUNLOP, DARYL MOSER and the entire support staff in the Portland Office.

SPECIAL THANKS to: STEVE DUBE, DICK PORTER, and TOM NEWTON in ONTARIO

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to: DAVE FITZSIMMONS, COUNTY SUPERVISOR,
PENDLETON, OREGON and his staff for their guidance and patience.

GETTING THINGS DONE in PENDLETON, OREGON:
AMERICORP NATIONAL SERVICE VOLUNTEER STEPHEN T. HOAR 01/24/95 08:40 PM

Statement of Purpose

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation envision an Interpretive Institute that comprises two complementary facilities, the Interpretive Center and the Cultural Resource Service. The Interpretive Center incorporates exhibits and interactive media to impart the history and heritage of the Cayuse, Walla Walla and Umatilla tribes. The Cultural Resource Services provides the tribal community with resources in the on-going effort of restoring and preserving the Tribes' enduring traditional and contemporary culture. The Interpretive Center and the Cultural Resource Service mutually support a range of educational programs for the general public and tribal community that address traditional culture and contemporary issues.

Project Site

The greater project site for the Interpretive Institute is a 640-acre parcel east of Pendleton at Mission, Oregon. It is bounded on the north by Indian Agency Headquarters and the Mission community along the Umatilla River. The area surrounding the project site is currently used for agriculture. The project site area is predominantly flat with a gradual slope north toward the Umatilla River basin. The site offers a breathtaking 360 degree panorama of the Plateau Region landscape, with the Blue Mountains and their foothills dominating the eastern and southern horizons.

The project site is immediately accessible by the north-south OR Hwy 331 between I-84 and OR Hwy 11, as well as by County Hwy 30 from Pendleton. I-84 is the major east-west route of the Interstant system. To the west, I-84 connects the Plateau Region with the metropolitan areas of Portland/Vancouver, and to the east, I-84 connects with Baker City, The Oregon Trail Center at Flagstaff Hill, and southern Idaho including Boise. Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland in south-central Washington are linked via I-82. OR Hwy 11 reaches population areas of Milton-Freewater, Walla Walla and points in eastern Washington and northern Idaho.

ONABEN NEWS



OREGON NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORK

Meet ONABEN's Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board

Charles V. Jackson is the General Manager of the Business and Economic Development Department at The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon.

Executive Director

Patrick Bonada is an MBA and Certified Management Consultant. For the 11 years prior to joining ONABEN, Patrick owned and operated The Navigator Group, a national strategic management consultancy.

Director

Mitch Conley is the Economic Development Director of The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. His background includes international trade negotiation and business management.

Director

Gordon Thompson is the Economic and Business Developer for the Klamath Tribes. Previously, he worked with the Metlakatla Indian Community in a variety of positions.

Director

Henry Downey is the Vice President of Cascade Controls Northwest, Inc., a supplier of industrial process control devices. Henry is a member of the Siletz Tribe.

ONABEN Cited as Development Model

Convened by The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), the first Northwest Tribal Leaders Economic Summit was held in Seattle from October 25 to October 27, 1994. Participants included representatives from many of ATNI's 50-plus member tribes, as well as industry leaders from throughout the country. The focus of the conference was on increasing profitable economic activity among member tribes.

One landmark result of this Economic Summit was that Northwest tribal leaders concluded an expanded private sector is necessary to achieving adequate standards of living for Indian people. The Oregon Native American Business & Entrepreneurial Network, currently available only in the State of Oregon, was specifically cited as a model to be employed by Tribes throughout the Northwest region.

Nearly a dozen specific sessions were held on various economic topics of interest to the tribes. A recurring theme was the importance of supplementing the two familiar economic engines of (1) tribal enterprise and (2) tribal government with new private businesses.

Dave Tovey, Director of the Department of Economic & Community Development at The Umatilla Indian Reservation, stated that tribes

could not reach economic abundance when all the people work for the tribe because dollars earned on the reservation through tribal employment immediately "leak off" the reservation (as consumer spending). Private enterprise would guarantee that more dollars would be spent and retained on the reservation.

Charles Jackson, General Manager of Business/Economic Development at The Warm Springs Reservation, observed that tribal governments will be hard-pressed to

provide jobs and business opportunities to match the growth rate of tribal communities. The private sector is essential to pick up supplemental businesses.

Others observed that for the many Indians living off-reservation, business ownership may be the only means of achieving economic stability for their families. In those cases where businesses are successful in the general economy, they create substantial economic independence for owners.

Whether on or near a reservation, or in one of the Northwest's cities, the ONABEN approach to growing small enterprise was repeatedly mentioned as a model that will build more successful, Indian-owned businesses in the region and throughout Indian Country. The ONABEN approach addresses access to technical knowledge, access to capital, and access to markets.

The ONABEN approach to growing small enterprises ... is a model that will build more successful, Indian-owned businesses throughout Indian Country.



ONABEN NEWS is printed on recycled paper — please recycle this newsletter again.

January 1995

Volume 1 Issue 2

ANNOUNCING

The third Pacific Northwest Regional Training Institute is sponsored by Rural Community Assistance Corporation and Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Training Institute brings you a selection of the best practical management and production training courses from Neighborhood Reinvestment's highly acclaimed national Training Institute.

Who should attend

Staffers, volunteers and board members of community-based housing development organizations, economic development organizations, other nonprofit community organizations and government agencies. If you want to learn how others in the community development field are accomplishing their goals and increasing their productivity, then you should attend the Pacific Northwest Regional Training Institute.

Why we offer two-day courses

Our goal is to provide community development professionals and volunteers with the best training possible. The Institute is an opportunity to intensely study a single topic, to learn from a seasoned professional and to interact at length with your peers. In this regard, the Pacific Northwest Regional Training Institute differs from other conferences. And because the Institute is a series, you will be able to take more courses in the future.

OPTIONAL FORM 38 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

1 of pages 4

TO: Chris Gandy
FROM: Ha ✓
DEPT: JAGENCY
FAX # 981-4304
FAX # 981-4304
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NSN 7540-01-917-288
5038-101



COURSES & INSTRUCTORS

The Institute offers
and ending:

Advanced Construction Project Management

An advanced overview of the construction process. The course includes tips on how to finish a project on time and on budget and uses a variety of educational methods which bring this topic to life. Examine the roles and responsibilities of key players such as architects, contractors and engineers, and learn how to assemble and get the best work from a professional development team. Recommended for anyone who is experienced in construction project management or who has completed NRTI's Construction Project Management course. Taught by George Marks, whose architectural firm is a leader in affordable housing design. An experienced carpenter before becoming an architect, George has extensive hands-on construction experience. His affordable housing design and construction projects range from single-family sales projects to a 30-unit, mixed-use, multifamily mid-rise.

Affordable Housing Finance Clinic

Discuss strategies to produce affordable housing and analyze their financial feasibility. Use case studies to learn the impact on financial feasibility of changes in project cost, income and expenses, and capital. Review the roles, risks and rewards of affordable housing financing. Recommended for staffers and board members of organizations with experience in housing finance. Taught by Alan Arthur, executive director of Central Community Housing Trust of Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is responsible for the development of over 700 units and has worked with a variety of project types, including historic preservation projects. As a trainer he brings with him nearly 20 years of building, development and management experience. Alan has a bachelor's degree in political science from St. Benedict's College.

Home Ownership Programs

Find out what works! Compare models of home ownership programs that have been successful in various communities. Examine eligibility criteria for different types of loan products, review applicable government regulations, and learn how to negotiate effectively with other lenders to create participation agreements. Useful for all involved in developing home ownership programs. Taught by Corrine Cahill, executive director of the NHS of Pocatello, Idaho. Corrine has 10 years of experience in community development, including coordinating the expansion of the Neighborhood Housing Services of Milwaukee to a multi-neighborhood system.

Grantwriting Basics

Learn by doing, how to identify appropriate public and private funding sources; how to organize and complete a proposal/application; how to write goals and objectives; and what to do before and after the proposal is submitted. Also look at the most common mistakes made by grantseekers. Recommended for those new to the trials and tribulations of developing and writing funding proposals. Taught by June Otow, program developer for Rural Community Assistance Corporation. June has 20 years of experience in federal, state, local, private foundation and corporate grantwriting, fundraising and program development. She also has participated in the development and distribution of requests for proposals; reviewed and rated proposals and written recommendations for funding awards.

The Institute offers five courses, each running for a full two days, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Monday and ending at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday. Register early to get your first choice of courses!

Commercial Real Estate Development and Community-Based Organizations

Review the commercial real estate development process and the roles community-based organizations can play in it. Discuss how commercial leases are structured, and issues particular to distressed markets. Learn to construct and analyze financial pro formas. Analyze the feasibility of case study projects, explore gap financing techniques, and review common pitfalls. Recommended for staffers and board members considering economic development. The course is taught by Margaret (Peg) Barringer, senior project manager overseeing economic development work at OKM Associates in Boston, Massachusetts. Peg has consulted on commercial real estate projects, small business loan funds and micro-enterprise development initiatives in more than 50 communities. Over the last 15 years, she has worked in economic development for nonprofit organizations, municipalities, real estate developers and financial institutions. Peg also teaches at the Graduate School of Urban Policy at Tufts University.

Special thanks to:

Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

U.S. Bank of Oregon 

for their support of the 1995 Pacific Northwest Regional Training Institute.

LOCATION & ACCOMMODATIONS

All courses will be held at:

Red Lion Hotel, Columbia River

1401 North Hayden Island Drive (Hayden Island and Interstate 5)

Portland, Oregon 97217

503/283-2111 or 206/696-2565

A block of sleeping rooms will be held until February 24 at a special daily rate of \$57/single or \$82/double (does not include room tax). Please make your reservations early.

Make your room reservations directly with the hotel at 503/283-2111 or 206/696-2565. For your convenience, you can reserve your car and airline reservations with one call to Uniglobe Eclipse Travel at 800/359-8929 or 800/738-0445. Identify yourself as a participant with the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) Pacific Northwest Regional Training Institute. Call between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Pacific time, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Special needs:

If you have special needs, including dietary requirements or needs addressed by the Americans With Disabilities Act, please notify RCAC at 816/447-2854 no later than March 15, 1995.



REGISTRATION

Pacific Northwest Regional Training Institute
Red Lion Hotel, Columbia River
1401 North Hayden Island Drive
Portland, Oregon 97217

March 27-28, 1995

Tuition and Discounts

Tuition is \$295 and includes your course and materials, a networking lunch and breaks, and a nonrefundable registration fee of \$35. Register by February 24 for a \$45 early registration discount! Take a \$30 per person discount for multiple registrations from a single organization. There are no refunds for no shows.

Early registration discount deadline - February 24, 1995

Course Selection

First Choice _____
Second Choice _____

Mr./Ms. _____
Title _____
Organization _____
Address _____

Phone (Day) _____ Fax _____

Payment (payable to RCAF)

☐ Early Registration - \$250 ☐ Registration - \$295
☐ \$30 discount for multiple registrations
☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Will be mailed by _____
☐ Purchase Order Enclosed

Visa # _____ Exp. Date _____

MasterCard # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature on card _____

Print name as on card _____

Mail or fax this form to:
Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)
2125 19th Street, Suite 203 Phone 916/447-2854
Sacramento, CA 95818 Fax 916/447-2878

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MasterCard # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature on card _____

Print name as on card _____

Mail or fax this form to:

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)

2125 19th Street, Suite 203

Sacramento, CA 95818

Phone 916/447-2854

Fax 916/447-2878

FEB 03'95 10:05 FR FMHA CO EUGENE
503 465 6483 TO 91202720461
FROM 41061 CFSR UNION OR

FEB 1 '95 11:35