



## Belknap County Is Listening !

Looking ahead to the 2010 County Budget, the Belknap County Commissioners and the Belknap County Convention want to listen to your thoughts regarding the proper role of county government and how it relates to the funding of 'outside agencies'. 'Outside agencies' in Belknap County include the Conservation District, UNH Cooperative Extension, the Economic Development Council, Mutual Fire Aid, Genesis, Citizen's Council, Juvenile Restorative Justice, the Laconia Airport Authority and the Community Action Program.

**Please attend any one of the county listening sessions listed below**

**OR**

**Let your Town Selectmen know your thoughts before the session takes place!**

### Meeting Schedule

June 1 Meredith  
June 8 Alton Town Hall at 6 PM  
June 9 Barnstead Town Hall at 7 PM  
June 10 Sanbornton Town Hall at 6:30  
June 15 Belmont Corner Meeting House at 5 PM  
June 17 Center Harbor – Cary Mead Meeting Room in the Municipal Building 7:15 PM  
June 22 Laconia City Hall at 7:30 PM  
June 24 Gilford Town Hall at 7 PM  
June 25 Tilton Town Hall at 7 PM  
June 29 Gilmanton Town Hall at 6:05 PM  
July 2 New Hampton Town Offices at 6:30 PM

## Points to Know About Your Conservation District

### **Main Purpose of Belknap County Conservation District (BCCD):**

To prevent the loss of soil through erosion, contamination or depletion and to maintain or improve water quality both above and below ground in Belknap County.

(BCCD programs and services are offered free of discrimination and public participation is voluntary.)

### **Funding:**

- Every dollar spent by Belknap County for the Conservation District generates 2 to 3 dollars in products and services back to the county. BCCD uses a multi-level approach to fund its operation.
- The Conservation District uses the funds provided by the county to cover most of the cost of the district's payroll. This is vital to the ability of the District to apply for grants that bring additional dollars into Belknap County. Grantors see a contribution from the county as a validation of support. Without that validation grantors are not likely to award grant dollars. Most grants do not pay for staff, only the supplies for a project.

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- BCCD works with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to bring federal dollars into the county. These federal dollars are used for conservation and currently represent over ninety projects adding up to approximately 1.2 million dollars being dispersed throughout the county. These funds could be in jeopardy if the District ceases to exist.
- The federal government annually supplies approximately \$300,000 dollars worth of conservation related technical expertise, equipment and rental space to Belknap County through the Conservation District. This support could be in jeopardy if the District ceases to exist.
- BCCD supplements its funding from the county with grants. Over the last three years this adds up to \$125,000 dollars brought into the county for conservation based projects.
- BCCD supplements its funding by holding annual sales, charging for programs, and holding fund drives.

## **Services and Funding Generated by BCCD:**

### **State, County, and Municipal Involvement in 2008**

BCCD is working with several entities to provide service and funding to Belknap County.

- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA- NRCS) – federal cost share programs
- USDA - NRCS - reducing pollutant load in Hunkins Pond (multi agency effort)
- NH Dept. of Resource & Economic Development –agreement for land management in Laconia
- Belknap County – working with Gunstock to reinstate desired programs formerly provided by BCCD and increased conservation awareness through public displays at the ski area
- Belknap County – coordinated and managed Community Garden program including installation of solar powered water pump
- Belknap County - hosted a workshop presenting information on Easy Access To Locally Grown Food. Other workshop topics include – Pond Maintenance, Pet Waste Management, Tree Planting
- Lakes Region Community College – provided college with consultation and land access for compost facility
- Towns of Alton, New Hampton, Belmont and City of Laconia – contracted engineering consultation
- Town of Gilford – project management of Ramblin’ Vewe Farm conservation easement and funding acquisition of more than \$325,000
- Town of Meredith – identification of non-conforming sewage systems abutting town water supply
- City of Laconia – consultations on Jewett Brook, hayfields, park programs, and street tree program
- Town of Center Harbor – facilitating grant funded project to improve storm water drainage and improve Center Harbor Bay water quality
- Town of Sanbornton – Facilitated funding and performed installation of windmills and solar panel to improve water quality at Hunkins Pond

### **ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS IN BELKNAP COUNTY**

BCCD also assists individual citizens with conservation related projects and programs. Conservation methods employed by individuals results in lowered labor and financial demands of public entities in addition to management our soil, water and other natural resources.

#### ***Projects of Note:***

- Assisted homeowner to prevent stream bank from eroding along Durkee Brook in Laconia
- Assisting Swain Dairy Farm to improve quality of water leaving their Sanbornton farm

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### **OTHER AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS IN 2008**

BCCD partners with other agencies and organizations to enhance programs offered by the partnership. These partnerships help to eliminate ‘overlap’ in programs offered, enhance project proposals to funders, and broaden agency knowledge and skill base that in turn benefit the county.

*Partnerships this year have been with:*

- Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association
- Lakes Region Community College
- Lakes Region Planning Commission
- UNH Cooperative Extension – Belknap County, Hillsborough County, Community Tree Stewards
- Plymouth State University – Center for the Environment
- Municipalities of Laconia and Meredith
- USDA Forest Service – White Mountain National Forest
- North Country Resource, Conservation & Development Area Council
- Belknap County Restorative Justice
- Laconia Chamber of Commerce

### **NON-COUNTY FUNDING**

In 2008 BCCD will have received funding from the NH ‘Mooseplate’ program, USDA-NRCS, Northway Bank, the Opechee Garden Club, individual donors, and proceeds from program sales.

To Contact BCCD:

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# **Your Voice Supports Conservation Funding**