



# The Pilgrim Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.

## 2007 Annual Report & Highlights

Providing assistance to locally elected officials, civic leaders and community organizations to plan and implement projects for natural resource conservation and community development

[www.pilgrimcd.org](http://www.pilgrimcd.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Bill Napolitano

President  
SE Regional Planning & Econ. Devel't District

#### Dick Ward

Vice President  
Plymouth Co. Conservation District

#### Jim Watson

Secretary-Treasurer  
Old Colony Planning District

#### Tim Soverino

Nantucket Planning & Econ. Devel't District

#### Carolyn DeMoranville

Plymouth Co. Commissioners

#### TJ Hegarty

Dukes Co. Commissioners

#### Bill Clark

Barnstable Co. Commissioners

#### David Rose

Bristol Co. Conservation District

#### Allen Reinhard

Nantucket Co. Commissioners

#### Mary McBrady

Community@Large

#### Barbara Hanley

Community@Large

### Associate Members

Susan Guiducci

Linda Rinta

Lee Davis

### USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

#### Irene Winkler

Coordinator

#### Kelly Savary Powers

Secretary

### CONTACT

Pilgrim RC&D  
15 Cranberry Highway  
West Wareham, MA  
02576

Ph: 508 295 1317 x5  
Fx: 508 291 2368

The Pilgrim RC&D Council serves southeastern Massachusetts' 70 towns and cities. In fiscal year 2007 23 projects were completed that received over \$1,000,000.00 in project contributions, and 1 million citizens were served.

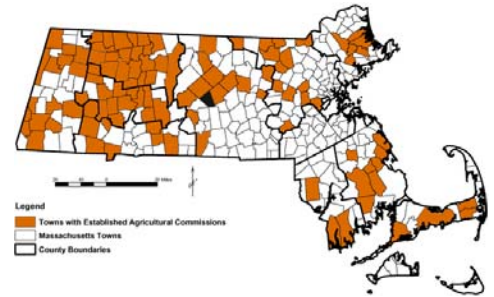
The USDA-NRCS provides technical assistance for the RC&D program. The Pilgrim RC&D Council has successfully brought a return of more than \$7 for every dollar the federal government provides. The Pilgrim RC&D Council receives program and project funding from grants and services provided by federal, state, regional, local, and private entities.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### ORGANIZING AND SUPPORTING TOWN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS

The Pilgrim RC&D continues to provide Agricultural Commission (AgComs) organization and support assistance to farmers and municipalities within the region and throughout the Commonwealth. In the year 2001 there were six AgComs in Massachusetts, today there are 110. The number of AgComs continues to grow.

By establishing an AgCom through a Town Meeting vote, a town goes on record as supportive of retaining farming as a viable business in town. An AgCom is a standing committee of town government, created through a vote of Town Meeting, whose members are appointed by the governing body of the town. The AgCom represents the farming community, provides visibility and a strong voice for agriculture, encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and works to protect, revitalize and sustain agricultural businesses and farmland.

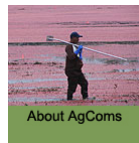


#### AGCOM WEBSITE

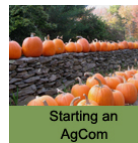
[WWW.MASSAGCOM.ORG](http://WWW.MASSAGCOM.ORG)

Pilgrim RC&D established and maintains the Massachusetts' Agricultural Commission website.

### MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS



About AgComs



Starting an AgCom



What's Happening



Resources



Funding Opportunities



Laws & Regulations

#### AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS LIST SERVE

The Pilgrim RC&D assisted AgComs' ability to communicate with each other by establishing the "agriculturalcommissions" yahoo group list serve. Go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com), go to Groups, find a Group, search on "agricultural commissions," check Join this Group.

#### TOWN & REGIONAL AGCOM INFORMATION, TRAINING AND GATHERING SESSIONS

Martha's Vineyard

Nantucket

Acushnet

Kingston

Barnstable

North-Central Massachusetts

Western Massachusetts

Cape Cod

Pilgrim RC&D provides meeting planning and organizing services and grant writing services to fund AgCom gatherings. Partners supporting AgComs include the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources The Island Foundation, the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, American Farmland Trust, MA Office of Dispute Resolution, Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, the Berkshire Pioneer RC&D Council, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local town AgComs.

## WHAT IS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (RC&D)?

The Pilgrim RC&D Council is a not-for-profit organization, with a Board of Directors that represents a cross-section of interests including community and economic development, environmental planning and management, natural resource conservation, agriculture, outreach and education.

The Council's mission is to assist locally elected officials, civic leaders and community organizations to plan and implement projects for natural resource conservation and community development. The Council is provided a Coordinator and Secretary through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) RC&D Program. The staff assists the Council with implementing their mission, goals, programs and services. The program was created in 1962. RC&D is based on the assumption that local citizens can best identify their needs and develop plans to address these needs. With help provided through the NRCS-RC&D staff, local volunteer officials, community and civic leaders and organizations can plan and carry out action-oriented plans for the environmental, economic and social enrichment of their communities. The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc. is one of 375 Councils serving the nation.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### PILGRIM RC&D HOSTS CHINESE LAND AND WATER RESOURCE OFFICIALS

A delegation of 22 Chinese land and water resource officials from the China Center for Town Reform and Development visited southeastern Massachusetts to learn how this rapidly growing region of the Bay State is dealing with land use issues. Because industrial, commercial, and real estate development are encroaching on China's farmland,

The China Center for Town Reform and Development is working to coordinate development so that it can take place without destabilizing the agricultural base of the countryside. Pilgrim RC&D has been working on issues relating to farm business viability, farmland protection, and retention of rural character for more than a decade and shared their experiences with the delegation.



### EXPLORING THE SMALL FARM DREAM

The Pilgrim RC&D partnered with the Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP), the MA Department of Agricultural Resources and the New England Small Farms Institute to sponsor "Exploring the Small Farm Dream: *Is Starting an Agricultural Business Right for You?*" The course involved one evening a week for four weeks. Fifteen people participated in this course that provided the tools to start making the dream of starting a farm come true. Participants discussed current opportunities in small-scale agriculture, explored objectives, assessed personal and financial resources, conducted preliminary market research, and developed action plans for pursuing their interests in food and farming. Of the 15 participants 12 were planning to advance their plans for developing a farm business.



### WORKSHOP FOR MEAT PRODUCERS: LOCAL, STATE & FEDERAL REGULATIONS AFFECTING MEAT SLAUGHTER & PROCESSING

The Pilgrim RC&D planned and organized a meeting of meat producers, processors and those interested in livestock production to address regulations related to livestock slaughter, processing and sales in Massachusetts. The meeting was the result of southeastern Massachusetts livestock producers' concerns about livestock production and the need for custom and USDA inspected livestock slaughter and processing infrastructure in the region and throughout the state. More than 100 people gathered at Norfolk Agricultural High School to hear from a local Director of Public Health, the Supervisory Inspector for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Food Protection Program, the Director of Biosecurity and Regulatory services from the MA Department of Agricultural Resources and the Deputy District Manager of the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service. Attendees learned of the local, state and federal regulatory and inspection processes and also discussed the opportunity for growth in animal agriculture and the need for additional processing infrastructure to support the industry.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & LAND MANAGEMENT

### GRANT AWARDED FROM DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM

Firefighter safety is critical during wildfire fighting, wildfire prevention activities and structural fire fighting. Much of southeastern Massachusetts is rated as having high potential for wildfires due to soils, vegetation, winds and proximity to suburban populations.

The Carver Fire Department was equipped with turnout gear that did not meet compliance standards of OSHA or NFPA. The Pilgrim RC&D Council provided grant writing services for the Carver Fire Department that resulted in a \$167,000.00 grant award to the department from DHS Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the purchase of Personal Protective equipment for 75 firefighters.



## LAND & WATER CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

### COLE PROPERTY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM (ERT) STUDY

At the request of the Town of Carver's conservation commission, the Pilgrim RC&D, with technical assistance provided by NRCS, organized an environmental review team (ERT) study to develop a land use and management plan for the Cole property. The plan was critical to the town's effort to acquire the 250 acre parcel for conservation, open space, recreation and public water supply development.

Nine specialists with expertise in soils, wetlands, forestry, water supply, wildlife biology, recreation, trails and greenways, and cranberry farm planning completed assessments of the property and provided management recommendations, maps, plans, and photos. The data was compiled into a comprehensive plan and submitted to the conservation commission for approval.

The plan was instrumental to the town in securing \$500,000 from the state Self Help Program for acquisition of the property. The town will continue to use the plan for development of the trails system, management of the forest land, cranberry bogs, and wildlife located on the property.



### GOAL SETTING FOR COMMUNITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

During fiscal year 2007 the Pilgrim RC&D, through its' Coordinator, planned and facilitated goal setting and work plan development sessions for several natural resource conservation and community organizations. Groups established or revisited their purpose, identified challenges they are facing and how they can be overcome, established and prioritized their goals, and set realistic actions. These were recorded and compiled into Annual Work Plans or long term Strategic Plans for each of the groups. Organizations receiving assistance included:

- ✓ Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts
- ✓ Bristol County Conservation District
- ✓ Carver Arts, Culture & Tourism Group
- ✓ Westport Agricultural Commission
- ✓ Carver Farmer's Market Committee
- ✓ The Pilgrim RC&D Council

### 2007 HOWARD & MARY HAYWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Jacob W. Hiller, a resident of Rochester and a student at Rochester Regional High School, was the 2007 recipient of the Howard & Mary Hayward Memorial Scholarship. Jacob received \$500.00 for his award winning essay on "Save Eastover Farms." Jacob attends the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and studies animal and pre-veterinary science. The scholarship is awarded each year to honor the memory of Howard and Mary Hayward who were outstanding agriculturalists, land stewards, and devoted community activists.

**PILGRIM RC&D COUNCIL AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS “CIRCLE OF DIAMONDS” STATUS**

The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc. received Circle of Diamonds status from the National Association of RC&D Councils. As a member of the Circle of Diamonds the Pilgrim RC&D exemplifies responsibility for public accountability. It means that the Pilgrim RC&D has demonstrated a positive impact on the quality of life within southeastern Massachusetts and is producing quality programs and services. Membership in the Circle of Diamonds shows integrity and a strong commitment of the Pilgrim RC&D Council to the RC&D mission.



**PILGRIM RC&D COMPLETES 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Pilgrim RC&D completed a 5-year strategic plan after a year of data collection by public questionnaires and interviews. Data was collected on resource conservation and community development needs within Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Counties. For the next five years the RC&D Council will focus efforts on assisting local officials, civic leaders, and community organizations to plan and implement programs and projects that address:

**LAND & WATER CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT**

- Evaluating land use proposals for impact on surrounding land uses, water resources, land resources etc.
- Planning for forest and wildfire protection on the urban fringe.
- Protecting working farmlands.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- Sustaining agriculture, retaining existing farmers and businesses; developing future farmers and businesses.
- Promoting the development of infrastructure needed to support agricultural production (slaughter & processing facilities).
- Assisting with municipal Agricultural Commission organization.
- Providing support for existing Agricultural Commissions.
- Educating the public regarding health concerns associated with EEE, West Nile, Lyme disease.

**ENERGY CONSERVATION & RENEWABLE ENERGY PROMOTION**

- Assisting with municipal “Green” or “Renewable Energy” Committee promotion and organization.

**PILGRIM RC&D AREA COUNCIL, INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

<b>FY 2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT</b>	
<b>January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007</b>	
<b><u>REVENUES</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>
Public Support	\$150,000.00
Program Revenue	\$ 18,439.00
Investment Income	\$ 279.00
Membership Dues	<u>\$ 1,600.00</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$170,318.00</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	
Non profit Administration (Dues, Insurance)	\$ 1,515.00
Grants and Scholarships	\$ 584.00
Contractors (Grant deliverables)	\$ 10,866.00
Conferences/Meetings	\$ 5,157.00
Publications	\$ 3,920.00
Program Expenses	<u>\$151,842.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$173,884.00</b>
<b>Beginning Year Balance: \$35,066.00</b>	<b>End Year Balance: \$31,500.00</b>

*The Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc. is an equal opportunity service provider and employer*