

Annual Report

2021



CUMBERLAND COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report Outline

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Message from our Chair

After an action-packed 2021, the District Board and staff are eager to build upon their successes and continue improving the programs and services provided to Cumberland County. This Annual Report highlights the vital work we implemented in the areas of soil health, water protection, and education throughout the region.

As we look forward to 2022 the District will continue to provide resources to address soil and water conservation issues. Please show your support for the District by participating in one or more of the many activities we are planning for 2022. The following are some examples:

- Become a stormwater hero by participating in our annual Urban Runoff 5k fundraiser. This year we're offering participants the option of partaking virtually during the month of April or on our timed course on April 23rd. All proceeds from this fundraiser support our Youth Education Program.
- Attend the Maine Stormwater Conference on November 1st and 2nd to learn about novel stormwater management techniques and reflect on 50 years of the Clean Water Act.
- Attend one (or more) of our workshops! We present of a variety of soil and water conservation topics including YardScaping, Erosion and Sediment Control, Invasive Forest Pests, Soil Health, and much more.

As always, if you have questions, need assistance, or are looking for information on soil and water conservation issues, please give the District a call.

Be safe,

Carol Ann Doucette, Chair

Year in Review



Soil Protection

Maine's climate change goals aim to increase local food consumption to 30% by 2030. Our soil health programs provide resources and support for people growing their own food.

Portland Soil Lead Awareness and Testing Project

The District was awarded funds by the EPA to raise awareness about soil lead and conduct targeted soil and plant tissue testing in four neighborhoods in Portland. A key finding is lead contamination of food depends on the outside texture of the produce in addition to the actual soil contamination. Phase I of the project concluded in September 2021. The District was awarded another grant to expand this project to the Greater Portland area in 2022.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDED:

- ✓ DISTRIBUTED THREE FACT SHEETS TRANSLATED INTO FOUR LOCALLY USED LANGUAGES
- ✓ 191 SOIL SAMPLES AND 29 PLANT TISSUE SAMPLES TAKEN
- ✓ 33% OF SAMPLES COLLECTED INDICATED “HIGH” LEAD LEVELS (<100PPM), 38% INDICATED “MINOR” LEAD LEVELS (100-400PPM), 29% INDICATED “NORMAL BACKGROUND LEVELS” (>400PPM)
- ✓ DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED FOR SITES BASED ON LEAD RESULTS
- ✓ 77 SAMPLES WERE COLLECTED FROM TWO SOIL TESTING CLINICS AT PORTLAND FARMERS MARKET
- ✓ PRESENTED PROJECT FINDINGS VIA WEBINAR AND CASE STUDY REPORT

A background image showing a group of people sitting around a table in an outdoor setting, possibly a community garden or park. The image is overlaid with a dark blue diagonal shape on the right side.

Community Agriculture Planning Project

The District received grant funding from the National Association of Conservation Districts to develop community agriculture plans for four communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDED:

- ✓ DEVELOPED A MODULE-BASED TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE PLANS
- ✓ WROTE COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE PLANS FOR GORHAM, GRAY, PORTLAND, AND SOUTH PORTLAND
- ✓ COMPLETED DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES
- ✓ PRESENTED PROJECT THROUGH A WEBINAR AND DISTRIBUTED TOOLKIT

Soil Steamer Grant

The District received grant funding from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for a soil steamer.

This soil steamer serves as an alternative method to treating diseases or weeds that lie dormant in the soil during the winter. By pressing steam into the soil to the desired depth, it sterilizes anything that may make the growing season burdensome, without long term effects on the beneficial living parts of the soil.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDED:

- ✓ PROVIDED SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS WITH INNOVATIVE EQUIPMENT THROUGH COOPERATIVE SHARING
- ✓ FARMERS CAN NOW “RENT TO OWN” THE EQUIPMENT AND IN FIVE YEARS WILL FULLY OWN IT AS A CO-OP
- ✓ WILL PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO OTHER SMALL-SCALE FARMERS
- ✓ WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE FOR FARMERS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BENEFITS AND USE OF A SOIL STEAMER



Water Protection

Our water protection projects continued to protect and improve water quality throughout the County's streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and Casco Bay.



The District offers a variety of technical assistance services throughout Cumberland County including services to municipalities, partners, businesses, and landowners.

MUNICIPAL

Regional municipal services include coordination of the Interlocal Stormwater Working Group, a collaboration of 14 municipalities, University of Southern Maine, and Southern Maine Community College to efficiently meet stormwater permit requirements and other stormwater protection projects. The District also partnered with the Southern Maine Planning Development Corporation on two grants through the Maine Coastal Program. The first grant provided recommendations for improved municipal ordinances to regulate erosion and sedimentation control at construction sites. The second grant will develop model ordinances for erosion and sedimentation control and low impact development.

The District also assisted individual municipalities to achieve water protection goals including:

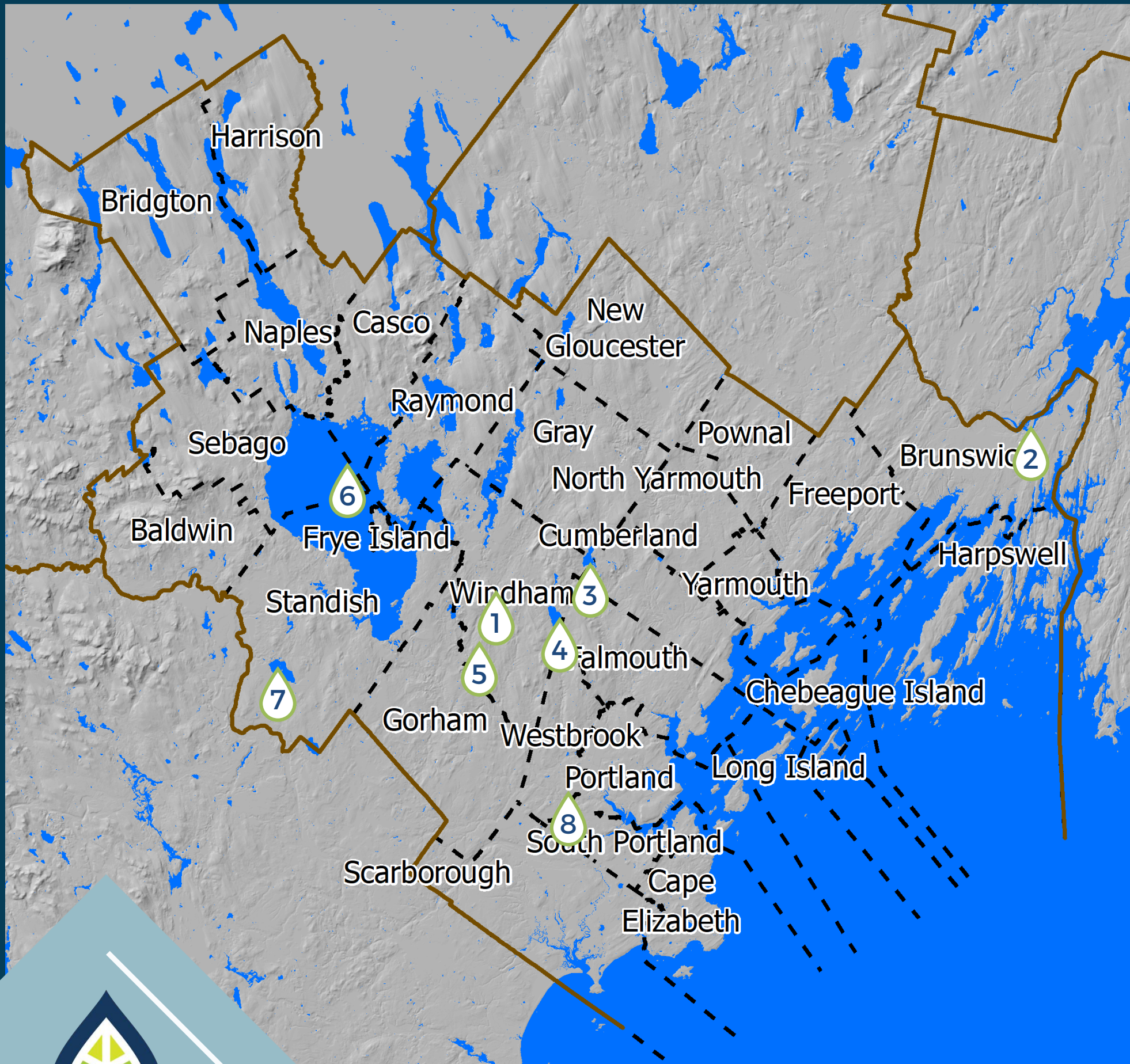
- The Towns of Windham and Falmouth in fulfilling the goals of the Highland Lake Watershed Management Plan
- The Town of Freeport on reducing coastal bluff site erosion on Bustins Island through a Maine Coastal Program Coastal Communities Grant

PARTNERS

- Served as an active member of Casco Bay Estuary Partnership's Management Committee and collaborator of their Coastal Academy
- Served as an active member of Maine DEP's Nonpoint Source Training Center Advisory Committee
- Produced a series of maps to assist the Little Sebago Lake Association's annual aquatic plant survey

LANDOWNERS

We helped over 35 landowners needing technical assistance. Many requests were regarding stormwater drainage and erosion concerns.



Watershed Protection and Restoration Projects

Maine DEP 604b Grant Projects

1. **Black Brook, Windham:** Conducted survey work and additional water quality sampling
2. **Mare Brook, Brunswick:** Completed Watershed Management Plan

Maine DEP 319 Grant Projects

3. **Forest Lake, Windham/Gray:** Completed three stormwater project sites and provided four residential recommendations
4. **Highland Lake, Windham/Falmouth:** Completed one large stormwater project and advised on all Highland Lake Leadership Team committee meetings
5. **Pleasant River, Windham/Gray:** Conducted additional water quality sampling, reviewed Town of Windham sites, and explored solutions to upgrade a large private road crossing on Baker Brook
6. **Sebago Lake, Sebago/Standish/Naples:** Drafted preliminary designs for a living shoreline installation at Sebago Lake State Park
7. **Watchic Lake, Standish:** Provided engineering support, recommendations, and designs for private road sites

Long Creek Watershed Management District:

8. Conducted annual inspections, assisted best management practices installation projects, and provided technical support to stream restoration projects, sweeping, and catch basin cleanouts.



*319 and 604b projects refer to grant projects funded in part by corresponding Sections of the US Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Act administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Development Review

Development in southern Maine continued at a rapid pace in 2021. The District's Development Review program assisted landowners and municipalities in the following projects:

Performed third party inspections for erosion and sediment control for the Maine DEP at six active construction sites located from South Portland to Bridgton.

Performed third party inspections for erosion and sediment control for the City of South Portland at 41 active construction sites.

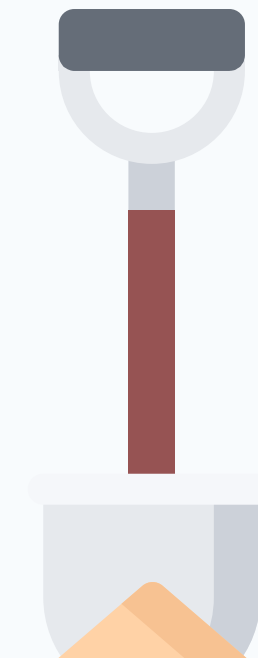
Provided 28 desktop third party reviews of proposed stormwater management plans on urban development projects.

Assisted the Town of Standish with the permitting of two mineral extraction projects. The District provided review of the proposed stormwater management, erosion and sediment control plans, and the rehabilitation plans for after operations.

Designed Stream Smart culvert replacements for several road projects within Urban Impaired Stream watersheds. Replacements included multi-arch plates, concrete boxes, and elliptical corrugated pipes with natural stream bottoms.

Provided erosion and sediment control inspections at a private residential development/soil extraction project for the Town of Cumberland.

Performed field inspections of existing stormwater infrastructure at 19 privately owned properties.





Education

We provided classroom lessons, workshops, and outreach to our communities through in person, online, and hybrid presentations.

Events

38

WORKSHOPS

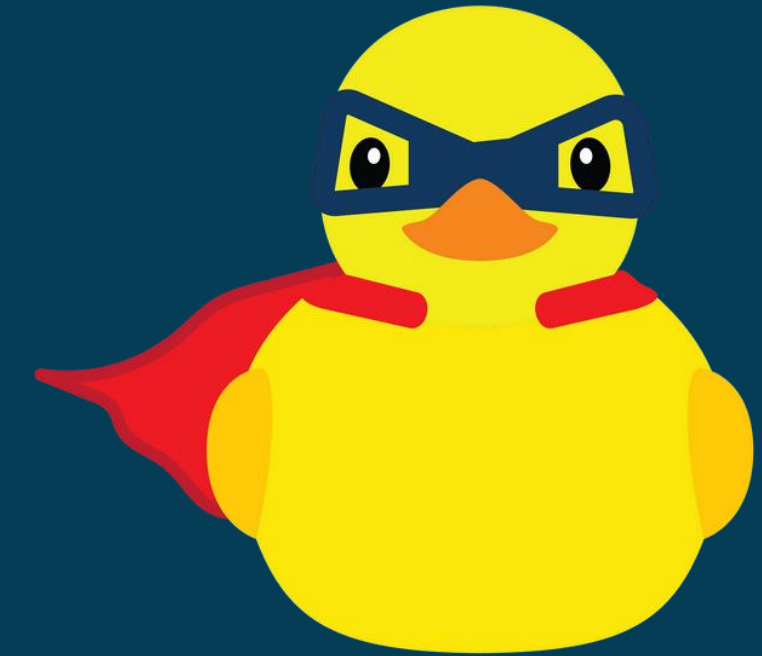


796

ATTENDEES

Workshop topics: Stormwater, Healthy Lawn Care, Municipal Trainings, Soil Health & Agriculture, and Invasive Forest Pests

REGISTRATION IS NOW
OPEN FOR APRIL 2022!
www.urbanrunoff5k.org



URBAN RUNOFF
Virtual event in April 2021

150

REGISTRANTS

Youth Education

District educators supported teachers and students by providing online lessons on the water cycle, stormwater pollutants, watersheds, and brook trout in addition to outdoor and classroom lessons. We also made our lesson kits easier for teachers to borrow and provided teacher trainings.

982 STUDENTS



8 COMMUNITIES



4,154
CONTACT HOURS



Invasive Forest Pests

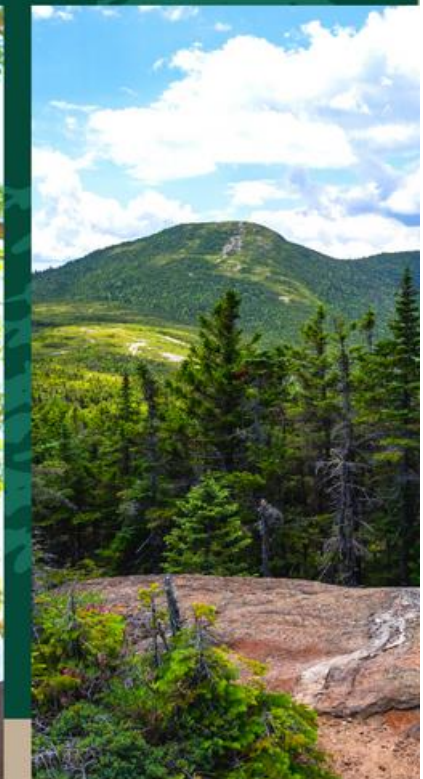
The District continued its coordination of the statewide invasive forest pest prevention program through a USDA-APHIS grant. Since switching to a more regular and coordinated social media outreach campaign, our partners at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry have received increase public reports of sightings and inquiries from neighboring states on the success of our outreach. We also provided "Don't move firewood" signs to all private and state campgrounds and public lands.

Together

We can save Maine's forests

ALWAYS USE LOCAL FIREWOOD

Help prevent the
spread of insects
and diseases that
harm our forests.



LEARN HOW YOU
CAN HELP SAVE
MAINE'S FORESTS:
www.maine.gov/firewood



DO YOU WANT TO ENSURE CLEAN WATER AND HEALTHY SOILS IN YOUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME?

The District Board guides on-the-ground soil and water conservation efforts. We are looking for candidates for future board members who are connected to their community and are looking for a satisfying opportunity to make a difference. **Could you be a good fit?**

Join Our Board

Retirements:

BETTY MCINNES

Betty McInnes served the District for 40 years developing and implementing District programs and services. Her many accomplishments included: establishing the District's classroom education program, creating the Interlocal Stormwater Working Group which has grown to support 14 municipalities and two college campuses, implementing numerous watershed protection grants throughout the County, and working with District technical staff to build the Development Review program.

BILL RUST

Bill Rust joined the District Board in 1966 as a local dairy farmer in Gorham. Bill's farming experience gave him a wealth of knowledge in the fields of soil conservation and agriculture which he applied to District programs and practices. When you visit our office, you'll most likely be meeting with us in the newly dedicated "Bill Rust Conference Room" to commemorate his 55 years of Board service.

Moving On:

JOHN CLARK

John Clark served as our Maine Conservation Corps/AmeriCorps Environmental Steward in 2021. During his service term, John helped us reach more community members and provide more soil and water conservation programs to our service area, including our soil lead, YardScaping, dog waste surveying, Urban Runoff, and community agriculture programs.

Join us in wishing Betty, Bill, and John the very best in their next endeavors.

Thank You For Your Service

The image features a blue-tinted background of a business meeting with people looking at a laptop. Overlaid on this are several white line-art icons within hexagonal frames: a scatter plot, a line graph, a magnifying glass, a bar chart, a dollar sign, and a calendar. A large green triangle is in the bottom-left corner, and a light blue triangle is in the top-right corner. The text 'Financial Statement' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font in the lower right area.

Financial Statement

2021 Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Income & Expense

Operating Revenues	<u>\$797,43</u>
Operating Expenses	
Advertisements	2,826
Bank Fees and Service Charges	491
Construction Projects	2,500
Deprecation	16,231
Dues and Subscriptions	9,267
Equipment Rental	1,824
Insurance	1,260
Maintenance and Repairs	17,499
Other Expenses	1,770
Payroll, Benefits and Payroll Taxes	515,631
Printing and Postage	2,611
Professional Development	937
Professional Fees	66,591
Program Expense	26,686
Sponsorships	30,000
Supplies	15,887
Travel	2,257
Utilities	12,194
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$726,462</u>
Net Operating Income	<u>\$70,970</u>
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	
Interest and Dividends	1,131
Interest Expense	<u>(17,587)</u>
Total Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>(16,456)</u>
Change In Net Position	<u>\$54,514</u>

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$451,861
Accounts Receivable	221,273
Total Current Assets	673,134
Property and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	440,621
Total Assets	\$1,113,755
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$5,164
Projects in progress (deffered revenue)	285,349
Other current liabilities	40,432
Total Current Liabilities	330,945
Long-Term Liabilities	
Mortgage	409,716
Total Long-Term Liabilities	409,716
Total Liabilities	740,661
Net Position	
Net Assets	318,581
Change In Net Postion	54,514
Total Net Position	<u>\$1,113,755</u>

The District particularly thanks the Cumberland County Finance Committee and County Commissioners, as well as the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry for their continuing support, which has made much of our work possible.

Contact

Stay in the loop and sign up for our newsletter at www.cumberlandswcd.org



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