



SMOKY MOUNTAIN RC&D
Annual Report 2017-2018

The purpose of the Smoky Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the area by promoting sustainable development and promoting the wise use of cultural and natural resources.

The Smoky Mountain RC&D Council meets quarterly. The largest project that was organized and implemented this year by the Smoky Mountain RC&D Council was the regional Envirothon. The council also sponsored the Knox and Blount Counties' Soil Conservation District Farmer's Banquets on October 19th.

Regional Envirothon: The Envirothon was held on April 12th at Holston River Park in Knox County. A total of 9 teams participated this year, representing 5 schools and 3 counties. It was a fantastic day for the event with beautiful weather. The students and volunteers received reusable water bottles and frisbees as gifts and several students played frisbee while waiting for the test results to be completed. The council had 4 representatives present for the event as well as 20 volunteers including teachers. Once again, we utilized the local restaurant Pizza Palace and they gave us a great discount on our purchase of pizzas for lunch in support of the event and its environmental educational purpose. We also donated compost (coffee grounds, fruit peels, pizza crust, paper towels) to a local non-profit Urban Demonstration Garden, Beardsley Community Farm.

TN State Envirothon: Ashley Caraco was able to attend and observe the state Envirothon and presentations this year which was an amazing experience! Ashley was proud of the team representing the SMRC&D region which ranked 2nd in presentation although did not place in the overall ranking.

Knox & Blount County Annual Banquets: The council participated as a sponsor of Blount County and Knox County Soil Conservation annual banquets. Vice Chair, Justin Teague, and Executive Director, Ashley Caraco, were able to attend one banquet each. The council will again be a sponsor in October 2018.

Board Members

Russell Harris, Chairman
Justin Teague, Vice Chairman
Ashley Caraco, Executive Director
Bill Williams, Council Member and TN RC&D Council President
Broadus Hubbs, Council Member
Andy Daugherty, Council Member
Cynthia Foster, Council Member



Currently in 2018:

- Two representatives of the SMRC&D Council are working on a new website for the SMRC&D and hope for completion at the end of the year!

Future Hopes for 2018-2019

- Have representation on our council from each of the six SMRC&D counties
- Further engage in community building, and educating youth and seniors on healthy sustainable practices