



Vermont Natural Resources Council
2002
Annual Report



Dear VNRC Member,

The year 2003 marks Vermont Natural Resources Council's 40th Anniversary! The landscape of Vermont would surely be different without the past four decades of conservation efforts made by thousands of VNRC activists, volunteers, members, board and staff.

Luckily we can only imagine a Vermont without the legislation, case law, appropriations and environmental policy VNRC has been instrumental in securing. These milestones include Act 250, Act 200, the Billboard Law, Agency of Natural Resources funding, Water Quality Standards, Threatened and Endangered Species Act, the Heavy Cutting Law, the ban on aerial spraying of herbicides and pesticides, the Champion Land Deal and much more.

As we moved into our 40th year, we paused to take a look at the evolution of our conservation work over the years. In 1963, a group of farmers and foresters, concerned about the loss of Vermont's natural resources, created the Vermont Natural

Resources Council. The Council's mission was to conserve Vermont's natural resources for future generations, through research, education and advocacy. VNRC's mission has remained constant over the decades and our accomplishments have been significant. Thanks in great measure to VNRC, Vermont continues to be home to farms and forests, clean water and vibrant communities.

But there is still an unfinished conservation agenda before us. Who could have predicted, 40 years ago, that the threat to our air and water resources would have become so pervasive or that uncontrolled growth would threaten Vermont so dramatically? As we look ahead to the next 40 years, we can envision a time



Blake Gardner

of significant restoration and conservation as more Vermonters realize that the economy is increasingly dependent upon a clean and healthy environment.



Healthy Forests

VNRC's Forest Program seeks to conserve Vermont's forests and the economic, ecological and recreational values they provide. VNRC has worked with public and private interests over the past 40 years to raise awareness about sustainable forest uses, including timber harvesting, restoring wildlife habitat, watershed protection and recreation.

From its beginnings, the VNRC forest program fostered collaboration between public and private interests, foresters and wildlife biologists, hunters and anglers and recreationists. Through these efforts, VNRC has helped to create good case law, legislation, wise land acquisitions and sound forest stewardship.

Today the Forest program at VNRC is moving ahead to support new programs at the state and federal level to promote the sustainable management of forests from both an ecological and economic perspective.

VNRC will continue to support new Wilderness in the Green Mountain National Forest, and certification for state managed forests in Vermont. In addition, VNRC will be pushing for new legislation to require the state to purchase sustainably harvested Vermont wood products for new buildings and infrastructure to support local wood manufacturers in Vermont.

Finally, VNRC will be thinking creatively about how to shift current debates over forest management to a place where there is acceptance of both managed and unmanaged forests in appropriate quantities across our landscape. VNRC will also be thinking about new funding strategies to specifically facilitate recovery planning for threatened and endangered species, while maintaining adequate funding for sporting and gaming interests in the state.

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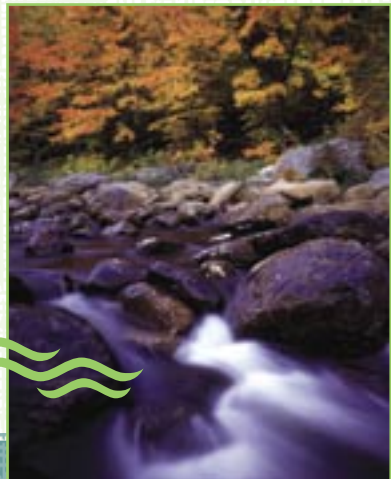


Clean, Free-flowing Water

VNRC's water program advocates to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of Vermont's waters. The water program further recognizes that Vermont's waters are a valuable resource for the citizens of Vermont and for the natural systems upon which they are an inseparable part.

Over thirty years ago, the Vermont legislature passed Act 252, Vermont's Water Pollution Control Act. This Act established the prohibition against discharging waste into the waters of Vermont without express authorization and strict limitations. It also provided for classifications and uses of Vermont's waters, including protection and conservation of the living creatures that depend upon clean, abundant waters. VNRC has sought through the years to utilize the provisions of the Act to ensure that the waters of Vermont are constantly improved, and not allowed to degrade.

Today the Water Program at VNRC is protecting wetlands, changing the operation of hydroelectric facilities that harm our fisheries and natural aquatic systems, petitioning for reclassification of Outstanding Resource Waters and high quality wetland resources, and seeking to conserve our pristine groundwater aquifers.



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Sustainable Communities

VNRC's Sustainable Communities Program promotes the creation of compact, healthy settlements surrounded by farms, forests and unique natural areas. VNRC believes that Vermont's future prosperity depends on our collective ability to maintain and improve the health of our communities while continuing to restore the vibrancy of our natural resources.

It was 1970 and VNRC was seven years old when Governor Deane Davis signed into law Act 250, Vermont's land use development statute. As one of the advocates for Act 250, VNRC has been committed ever since to maintaining the integrity of this landmark legislation for future generations. There have been watershed events along the 33-year history of Act 250 in which VNRC has proudly participated. Since the early days of the Act, there have been cases in which VNRC has made a significant difference, such as the Parker's Gore Bear Habitat Case in Sherburne, the St. Alban's Wal★Mart Case and many others.

Today, VNRC is working to curb the growth of sprawl, better fund the Agency of Natural Resources, help create better transportation alternatives and stimulate markets for renewable energy sources. In

addition to helping to create sound Act 250 case law, VNRC has fought in the Legislature to keep Act 250 whole. This year will mark the tenth straight year that VNRC has lobbied the Legislature to keep the citizen participation aspect of Act 250 strong.

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Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

Since the mid 1970's VNRC has had a strong voice in the debate over Vermont's energy future. At the heart of that discussion have been the questions about where we get our power and what fuels our energy needs. VNRC's energy policy since 1981 has stated that Vermont needs a plan for the "orderly transition to a stable energy future, based on conservation and renewable energy resources."

Today, VNRC is working with a broad coalition of Vermonters and leaders in the Northeast to create the market for renewable energy resources and to build a new economy powered by increased efficiency, conservation and renewable energy sources. VNRC works to bring Vermonters accurate, up-to-date information on the threats of global climate change. Vermonters are burning fossil fuels at an ever-increasing rate. The resulting Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are contributing to global climate change, the consequences of which are widespread and devastating.

One goal of VNRC and its partners in the northeast region is to reduce Vermont's and the northeast's contribution to GHG emissions by 10% below 1990 levels by the year 2020. This will happen if we increase public awareness, pass visionary legislation, cultivate leadership and build coalitions to reduce GHG emissions.



Blake Gardner

Supporting VNRC

VNRC's 40 years of conservation powered by people marks a time for reflection. Learning from the past helps us envision and create a better future.

The Spring 2003 *Vermont Environmental Report* takes a look at the past one hundred years of Vermont's environmental history and VNRC's role in that history. We think that you will agree that VNRC's role in shaping the conservation and environmental movement in Vermont has been significant. And we hope that you will help VNRC make Vermont a better place to live and work and recreate.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Courtney
Executive Director



VNRC Archives

Financials

The 2002 Fiscal Year (from July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002) proved to be challenging. Repercussions from the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 as well as corporate accounting scandals took a toll on the market value of our endowment. With revenues slightly exceeding expenses, VNRC managed well with a solid cash flow.

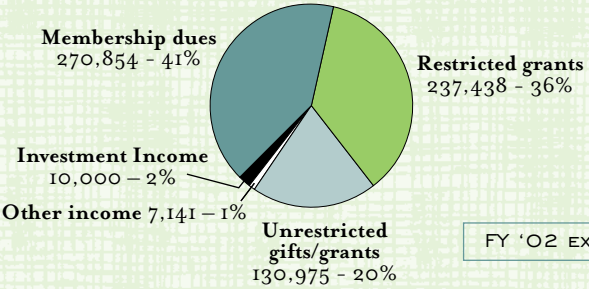
Assets

Current Assets	
Cash	\$ 154,000
Investments	1,513,525
Contributions Receivable	5,000
Total Current Assets	1,672,525
Non-Current Assets	
Property, Plant & Equipment	410,006
Total Non-Current Assets	410,006
TOTAL ASSETS	2,082,531

Liabilities and Net Assets

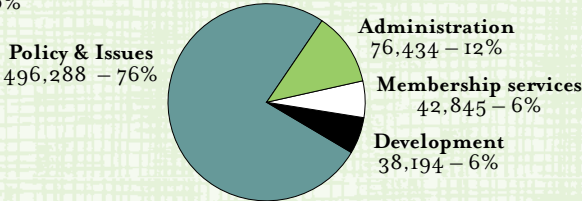
Current Liabilities	41,722
Non-Current Liabilities	0
Total Liabilities	41,722
Net Assets, Unrestricted	1,847,121
Net Assets, Temporarily Restricted	193,688
Total Net Assets	2,040,809
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NEW ASSETS	2,082,531

FY '02 OPERATING REVENUES: \$656,408



FY '02 ENDOWMENT & INVESTMENT INCOME
 Dividends & Interest - 32,896
 (\$10,000 used toward operating expenses)
 Unrealized Losses - (76,624)

FY '02 EXPENSES: \$653,761



Excerpted from the audited financial report for the period ending June 30, 2002 which was prepared by Sullivan, Powers & Co. The full audited financial report for the Vermont Natural Resources Council is available upon request.

List of Donors

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Jane B. Cook Charitable Trust
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** Represents gift-in-kind donation.*

Staff

Elizabeth Courtney, *Executive Director*

Patrick Berry, *Communications Director*

Matteo Burani, *Outreach Coordinator*

Deborah Daniels, *Finance/Membership Coordinator*

Jimmy Fordham, *Office Manager/Administrative Assistant*

Stephen Holmes, *Sustainable Communities Program Director*

Kim Kendall, *Staff Scientist*

Kelly Lowry, *Water Program Director/General Counsel*

Stephanie Mueller, *Development Director*

Megan Kean, *Red Arnold Intern*

Alex Metcalf, *Mollie Beattie Intern*

Best wishes to 2001-2002 departing staff:

Job Heintz, *Forest Program Director*

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