

SWCD

Soil & Water Conservation District Guidebook 2008

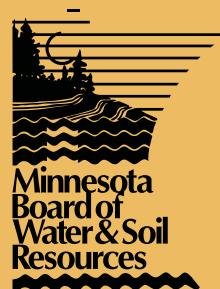
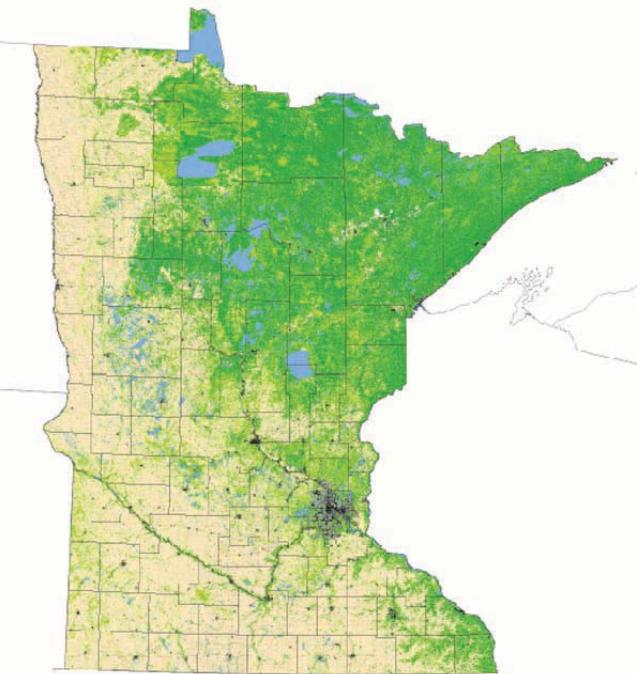


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About

The Soil & Water Conservation District Guidebook



Maps created by the Remote Sensing and Geospatial Analysis Laboratory, University of Minnesota in cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Available at:
<http://www.land.umn.edu/maps/impervious/landbrowse.php>

Minnesota County Land Cover Maps

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) have prepared this guidebook as a component of requirements in Minnesota Statutes 103C.401.

Each SWCD has provided content to BWSR on the following subjects:

- Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns
- Board of Supervisors Contact Information
- Recent Projects / Accomplishments and photos
- Future Projects

The “2005 Expenditures by category” are based on a 2006 survey of SWCDs that was completed by the Office of the Legislative Auditor. For more detailed financial information please contact the appropriate SWCD.

Cover photos (top row, left): Privately owned land with a Forest Stewardship Plan-Wadena SWCD, Shoreline restoration project on Loon Lake-Waseca SWCD, Field Windbreak-Isanti SWCD, (2nd row) Native Vegetation Buffer-Grant SWCD, Wetland Restoration-Blue Earth SWCD, (3rd row) Gully Repair Project-Douglas SWCD.

The following summary of SWCDs is from the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (www.maswcd.org):

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are political subdivisions of the State established under Minnesota Statute 103C. Each SWCD is governed by a board of elected supervisors.

There are 91 SWCDs in Minnesota, providing 100% coverage of the state. There is at least one SWCD in each of the 87 counties, and a few of the larger counties have more than one: East and West Otter Tail SWCDs; East and West Polk SWCDs; North and South St. Louis SWCDs; and Marshall-Beltrami SWCD which consists of the northwestern most portion of Beltrami County, and a portion of eastern Marshall County.

The first SWCD in Minnesota was created in 1938 to encourage landowners to conserve soil and water resources. Statewide, 75% of Minnesota lands are in private ownership. In agricultural regions, the number is quite often 95%.

SWCDs fill the crucial niche of providing land and water conservation services to owners of private lands. Managing private lands in a way that promotes a sound economy and sustains and enhances natural resources is key to Minnesota's environmental health. Private landowners trust SWCDs to provide needed technology, funding and educational services because they are established in each community, governed by local leaders and focused on conservation of local soil and water resources.

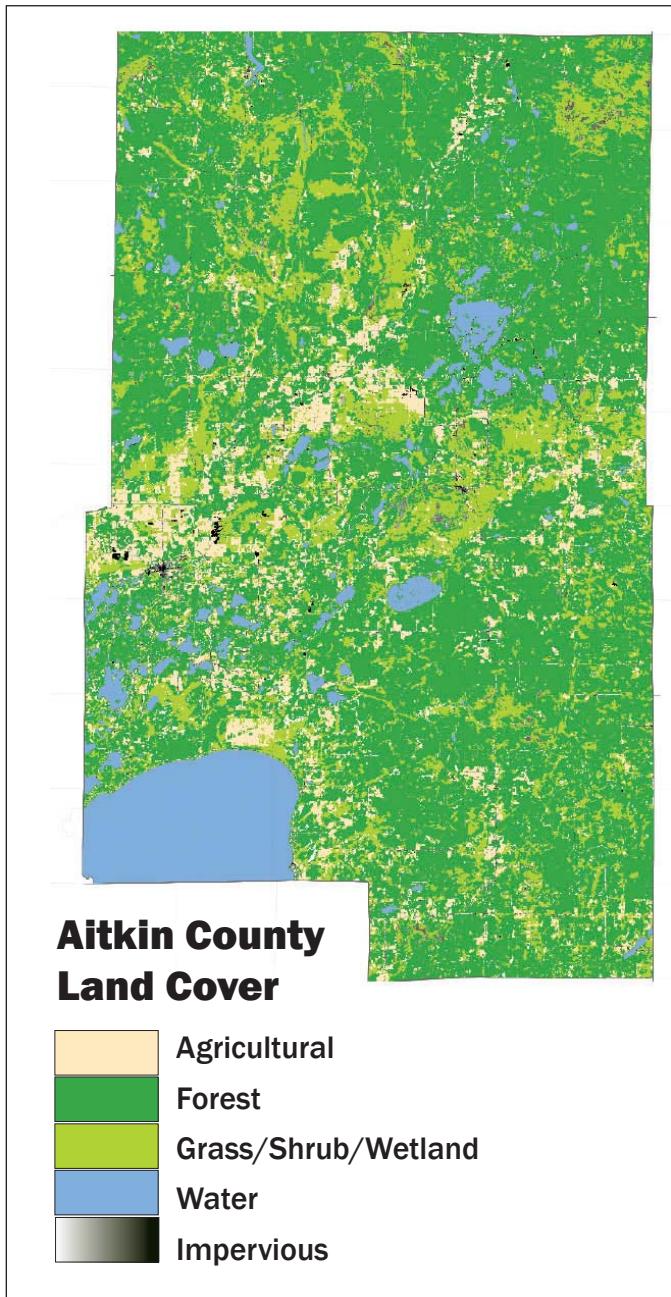
SWCDs work to reduce non-point source pollution to make Minnesota's lakes and rivers fishable and swimmable. Non-point source (NPS) pollution is a term for polluted runoff. Water washing over the land, whether from rain, car washing, or the watering of crops or lawns, picks up an array of contaminants, including oil and sand from roadways, agricultural chemicals from farmland, and nutrients and toxic materials from urban and suburban areas. This runoff finds its way into our waterways, either directly or through storm drain collection systems. The term non-point is used to distinguish this type of diffuse pollution from point source pollution, which comes from specific sources, such as sewage treatment plants or industrial facilities.

Landowners across Minnesota count on SWCD technical assistance with conservation practices that protect the quality of Minnesota's greatest treasure - our natural resources.



Aitkin

Soil & Water Conservation District



130 Southgate Drive
Aitkin, MN 56431
PHONE: (218) 927-6565
FAX: (218) 927-6014

*SWCD board meetings:
3rd Tuesday of month at 10 a.m.*

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

A Shoreland Performance Worksheet to mitigate native shoreland impacts was developed by SWCD staff and Aitkin County Environmental Services. This worksheet is required for all variance applications, and the impacts are mitigated through vegetative buffers, runoff diversion, rain gardens or other shoreland protection tools.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$8,000
Education / Outreach	\$84,800
Wetland Conservation Act	\$36,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$6,200
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$28,400
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$2,400
Programs and Operations	\$26,000
Total	\$191,800

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Franklin Turnock	Chair	13196 360th Street, McGregor	(218) 768-2713	1976
Donna Rae Asp	Vice-Chair	20053 180th Street, McGrath	(320) 592-3391	1999
Russell Ruud	Secretary	43454 Nature Avenue, Palisade	(218) 768-4300	1972
Mike Lentz	Treasurer	41188 - 650 Street, Swatara	(218) 697-8214	1991
Bob Janzen	Reporter	523 1st Street NW, Aitkin	(218) 927-2477	2001



Pictured: (above) A lake protected by a conservation easement and (above right) students participating in the "Farm Olympics" at the 2007 Aitkin County Fair.

A third party certification for private forests was recently completed by the SWCD for landowners that are enrolled in the SWCD's forest stewardship program. Landowners who choose to enroll are Smartwood Certified under the Aitkin County SWCD umbrella. This is one of few SWCDs -- or possibly the only one -- in the nation to provide the certification option to landowners.

High priority lakeshore acres in Aitkin County are protected through the SWCD's Conservation Easement program. The SWCD is the grantee for Conservation Easements, which allows landowners to convey restrictions on their property to protect against future subdivision or development.

Two watershed projects (Big Sandy Watershed and Mille Lacs Watershed) are coordinated by the SWCD, including a TMDL study on Big Sandy.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Shoreland development (too fast and too much) -- enforce ordinances
2. Protecting or restoring water quality in lakes and rivers
3. Providing forest management assistance
4. Reducing impervious surface impacts to water quality
5. Protecting high-priority wetlands

Future Projects

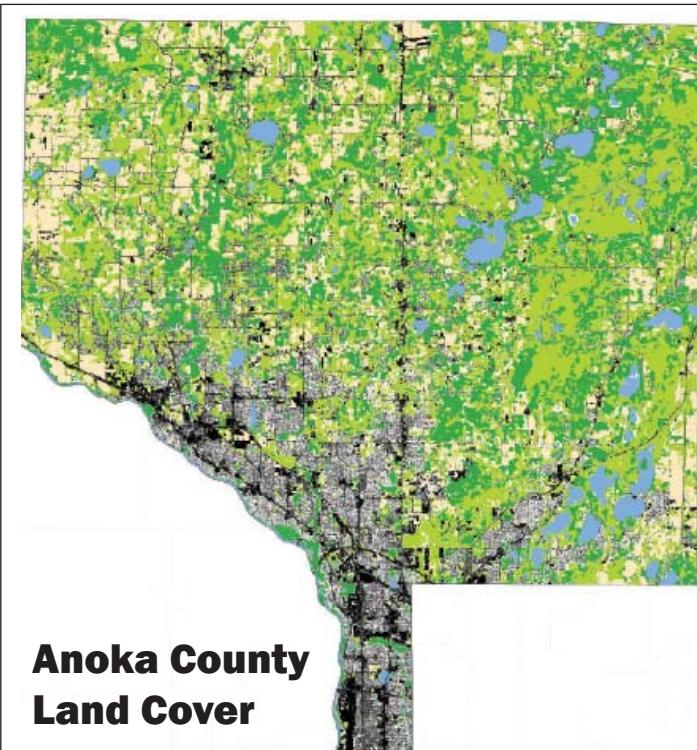
The SWCD plans to coordinate repair and maintenance of the six-mile long Aitkin Flood Diversion Channel. This channel was constructed shortly after the 1950 floods. A mechanism to fund the repair and maintenance will have to be created. Several county departments, the Aitkin County Board and the SWCD are working together on this project.

Anoka

Conservation District



16015 Central Ave. NE, Suite 103
Ham Lake, MN 55304
PHONE: (763) 434-2030
FAX: (763) 434-2094
www.anokaswcd.org
www.anokanaturalresources.com
SWCD board meetings:
3rd Monday of month at 5 p.m.



Anoka County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: The Rum River Central Regional Park riverbank stabilization including root wads, submerged rock vanes, erosion blanket and riparian buffer of deep rooted native species.

ACD secured an LCCMR grant to work with four communities to encourage natural resource planning. Nearing its end, the 2 1/2-year project resulted in work products being prepared for the City of Ham Lake, Burn Township, Linwood Township and the City of East Bethel.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$75,598
Education / Outreach	\$28,146
Wetland Conservation Act	\$92,664
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$190,776
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$115,169
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$17,535
Programs and Operations	\$35,204
Total	\$564,040

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Kim Kovich	Chair	3688 168th Lane NW, Andover	(763) 208-8646	1995
Sean Sullivan	Vice Chair	20160 Quapaw Street NW, Oak Grove	(763) 753-8335	1999
Vici Nass	Treasurer	23340 Isetta Street NE, East Bethel	(763) 462-3923	1992
Mary Jo Truchon	Member	12917 Buchanan Street NE, Blaine	(763) 757-3084	1995
Sandra DeLaForest	Member	12859 Zilla Street NW, Coon Rapids	(763) 712-1191	2007



Pictured: An ACD employee seeds land in St. Francis with native savanna plant species. The landowner intends to deed the 68.5-acre property to the ACD.

Property within wildlife hubs and corridors has been protected by a program initiated by the ACD. The ACD currently holds easements on two properties -- 55 acres in Burns Township and 200 acres along the Rum River in Anoka. In addition to this, a landowner intends to deed ACD his 68.5-acre property in St. Francis (pictured) and has already established a conservation easement with the MN Land Trust. Several acres of prairie, oak woodland, and oak savanna have been restored on this land, which was decimated by oak wilt, and a control burn was done in a wetland area. Funding for this project also came from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, MN DNR, Great River Greening, and volunteer labor was provided by the Boy Scouts.

Hundreds of conservation projects have been accomplished by two ACD employees who serve the seven-county metro area. Over the last three years, their accomplishments include 248 BMP designs, 133 project installations, 183 educational presentations, 14 projects involving under-served clients, and 353 maintenance inspections. The program began in the spring of 2000.

A “Build Your Own Rain Garden Workshop” was recently held by the ACD with 26 attendees. The event promoted rain garden benefits and included a hands-on demonstration of how to install the components of a rain garden. The ACD also presented rain garden information

during a Low Impact Development conference in December 2007.

An ACD supervisor held an open house to promote the work of ACD staff, supervisors and elected officials. The event was part of a larger effort by ACD supervisors and staff toward becoming more visible among county commissioners and other local government organizations.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Preserve/Enhance Natural Habitats: Natural Communities, Wildlife Connectivity, Wetlands
2. Improve Water Quality – Wetland, Lakes, Streams & Groundwater
3. Development (Minimize Impact): Provide guidance, Assistance, Education & Local Accountability
4. Private Land Stewardship: Promote easements, Lakeshore/Stream Restorations & Rain Gardens
5. Influencing Public Policy: State legislature, City ordinances

Future Projects

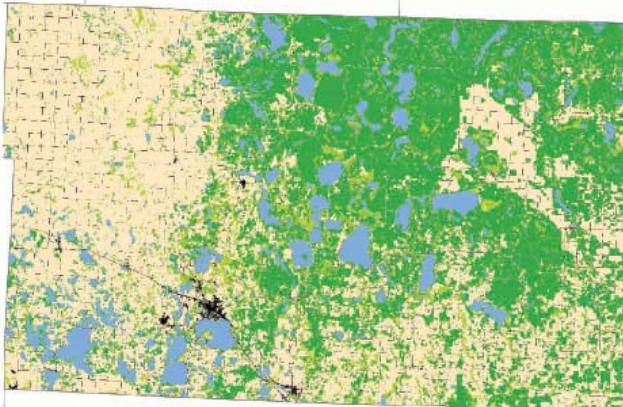
- ACD is currently working with the Upper Rum River WMO to aid them in the completion of water quality, wetland, and infiltration standards for their second generation water plan.
- ACD has been working to build a partnership with several cities and water management organization in southern another county to coordinate efforts in the area of suburban water quality retrofits. This partnership recently submitted a Clean Water Legacy grant application to fund a joint position to facilitate the design and installation of retrofit BMPs. Retrofitting old neighborhood is not required under non-degradation, SWPPP, or NPDES standards but is critical to meet some of the goals associated with TMDLs.

Becker

Soil & Water Conservation District



809 - 8th Street SE
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
PHONE: (218) 846-7360
FAX: (218) 847-8910
www.co.becker.mn.us/soil_water_conservation/d_soil_water.html
SWCD board meetings:
3rd Wednesday of month at 8 a.m.



Becker County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: A shoreline stabilization project on Eagle Lake near Frazee.

The Buffalo-Red Watershed District has awarded the Becker SWCD over \$60,000 over the past several years to augment its cost-share programs. These dollars are used to assist landowners wishing to install conservation measures on their lands. The funds are used in conjunction with State Cost-Share and Federal EQIP dollars to allow for more conservation to be placed on the land.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$5,027
Education / Outreach	\$12,064
Wetland Conservation Act	\$51,522
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$87,491
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$83,761
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$71,841
Total	\$311,706

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Jerome Flottemesch	Chairman	20235 County Highway 14, Callaway	218-375-2141	1968
Don Lefebvre	Vice-chair	21252 U.S. Highway 59, Detroit Lakes	218-847-8745	1972
Roger Tychsen	Secretary	40153 Meadow Bay, Frazee	218-334-2590	2004
Duane Grossman	Treasurer	14355 Grossman Road, Audubon	218-439-6356	2000
Dale Lubitz	Member	44124 100th Street, Frazee	218-346-4020	1983



Pictured: Tile being installed as part of a sediment basin project.

A shoreline stabilization project was completed in 2007 at the Sunnyside Care Center, where the ever rising water level of Boyer Lake has been causing shoreline erosion. In the summer of 2006, staff from the Becker SWCD, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the West Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board engineering technician viewed the site to determine what could be done to repair and prevent further erosion. A combination of rip rap on the higher steeper portion and a buffer of native vegetation on the lower portion was determined to be the most effective solution. The total construction cost was \$38,950 with \$27,400 of cost-share being provided from the Becker SWCD, Buffalo-Red Watershed District and the DNR Shoreland Habitat Program.

60 abandoned wells have been sealed recently by the SWCD in the city of Ogema (population 127). In 2005 and 2006 the city was awarded grants and loans to install a city water system. A problem unique to the city is the high number of flowing wells that had previously been used by residents. Upon installation of the water system the Becker County Commissioners awarded \$12,720 to the SWCD to assist the city to properly seal these wells.

About 25 permit applications in shoreland areas within the Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD) are reviewed each year by the SWCD. Due to limited staff, the PRWD contracts with the Becker SWCD to provide permit application review for persons proposing shoreline alterations, such as ice ridge repair, ice jacking damage, sand blanket, rip rap, etc. By working together the PRWD is better able to serve its clients in a timely manner on permit issues. The SWCD has been providing this service since 2004.

3 water retention dams were repaired in 2007 through efforts of the SWCD and the NRCS. Funding was provided through the State Cost-Share program and the Buffalo-Red Watershed District.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Surface Water Quality
2. Stormwater Management
3. Ground Water Quality: Current water quality data reflects that the quality of the ground water in Becker County is generally good. However with two significant sand plain areas in the county along with the large number of lakes and ISTS systems ground-water quality will continue to be a resource concern.
4. Soil erosion
5. Development Pressures: Traditional agricultural areas have experienced an increase in the development of nonfarm housing, along with increased development pressures being placed on many of the county's small remote lakes. For these reasons development concerns have been identified as a resource concern.

Future Projects

Restoration of Rice Lake: The SWCD is a co-sponsor with the Pelican River Watershed District, the City of Detroit Lakes and NRCS to restore the Rice Lake Wetland complex and land treatment along Campbell Creek in Becker County. Implementation of the plan would reduce the amount of down stream sedimentation in several lakes as well as restore the hydrology to the drained areas and is expected to reduce the amount of phosphorus loading to the lakes downstream. It is hoped that implementation will begin in 2008.

Feedlot Runoff Control: Install a total feedlot runoff and manure management plan for a 1,000 animal feedlot in Becker County. Plans have been completed with construction expected in 2008.

Sediment and Erosion Control: Sediment and erosion control continue to be a high priority with the SWCD and NRCS. Seventeen sediment and erosion control basins are currently scheduled to be installed in 2008 through the EQIP and State Cost-share Programs.

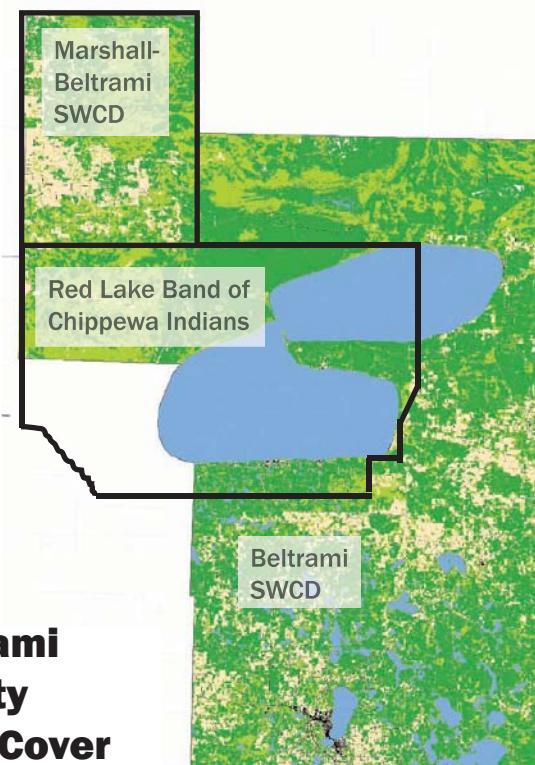
Beltrami

Soil & Water Conservation District



3217 Bemidji Ave N Ste 3
Bemidji, MN 56601-4328
PHONE: (218) 755-4339
FAX: (218) 755-4342
www.beltramiswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
Last Thursday of month at 9 a.m.



Beltrami County Land Cover

- Agricultural
- Forest
- Grass/Shrub/Wetland
- Water
- Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

Technical leadership and support is provided by the Beltrami SWCD in implementing Beltrami County's Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (CLWMP). A tremendous number of accomplishments are credited to the CLWP. Annual surface water testing has gathered water quality information on over 75 lakes and rivers. Educational programs have taught students about water protection. Special funding opportunities are pursued to increase the local success of the CLWP. Other outcomes include the well-sealing cost-share program, riparian erosion control assistance, urban runoff and stormwater management, and wellhead protection assistance to the City of Bemidji for protecting drinking water.

The Healthy Lakes and Rivers

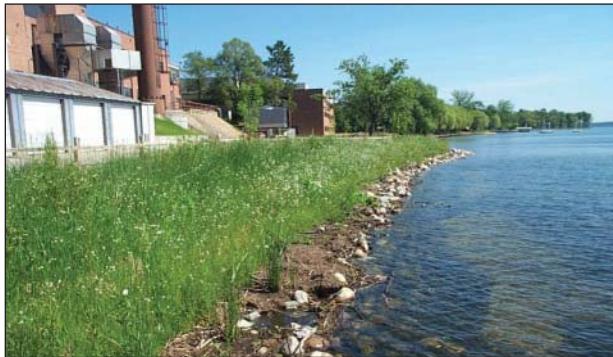
Partnership program was recently completed in cooperation with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. The program facilitated education and civic leadership for interested lakeshore owners' groups that resulted in milestone accomplishments and culminated in a management plan for the water of concern. These groups are now able to work with other interested landowner groups to develop lake management plans for other waters of concern.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$22,800
Education / Outreach	\$3,800
Wetland Conservation Act	\$17,500
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$11,000
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$161,400
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$400
Programs and Operations	\$113,600
Total	\$330,000

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Wesley Frenzel	Chair	34503 Frenzel Road NE, Northome	218-647-8474	1979
Ruth Trask	Treasurer	14194 Grange Road NW, Pinewood	218-243-2749	1999
John Persell II	Secretary	2435 Staghorn Lane SE, Bemidji	218-751-2770	2005
Jerome Geerdes	Vice-chair	18934 Harvey Road NE, Blackduck	218-835-4508	2004
Shane Bowe	Leg & PR	15761 High School Drive, Red Lake	218-679-3959	2007



Pictured: A shoreline restoration project on the Lake Bemidji campus of Bemidji State University. Aggressive ice and wave action resulted in up to six feet of shoreline loss in 2000. Bio-engineering re-vegetation techniques and traditional rock toe protection resulted in project that prevents erosion and provides wildlife habitat and an opportunity for education.

Lake Bemidji has been a priority water body since the late 1970s, when water testing suggested lake water quality was deteriorating. In 1992, an EPA 319 Clean Water Partnership Grant was received through the Beltrami SWCD to conduct a watershed-based assessment of water quality indicators, and to compile a listing of potential sources of water quality degradation. The Lake Bemidji Watershed Clean Water Partnership has concluded its nine-year effort to study water quality issues within the watershed and to implement priority strategies to improve the water quality entering Lake Bemidji. This project received the prestigious “Technical Excellence Award” in 1996 from the North American Lake Management Society, and was voted the Minnesota Local Water Planning “Outstanding Surface Water Project” in Minnesota in 1997.

A property management handbook for lakeshore owners and a Shoreline Buffer Restoration Guide were written and published by the SWCD in 2006. The publications provide clear information on implementing stewardship-based management on the lakeshore. Over 2,000 copies of each publication have been distributed.

The stewardship forestry program encompasses a number of initiatives. Approximately 40 species of low-cost trees and shrubs are available each spring for use in windbreaks, shelterbelts, wildlife habitat plantations or other conservation practices. Many of these species are potentially high-value for wildlife, and they are non-invasive, and they have acclimated seed sources and well-established root systems. The SWCD has provided more than 1 million trees during the life of the tree program.

A native seed mix for shoreline restoration efforts was developed by the SWCD. This perennial mix contains 19 species of native forbs and five species of native grasses selected for their erosion control and wildlife habitat characteristics. The mix has species that will do well in a variety of site conditions, including part sun to full sun, and sandy to organic soils.

Over 15,000 acres of jack pine forest was defoliated by budworm in Beltrami County in 2003. In 2004, the outbreak area expanded into neighboring counties, affecting an additional 43,500 acres. The defoliation killed the already stressed trees, leaving thousands of acres of standing dead jack pine and a potentially serious fire hazard. The seriousness of the fire hazard is compounded because people have made their homes within the jack pine dominated landscape. Of the 1,600 homes assessed, 23% ranked as high risk. The SWCD identified problem areas, recommended ways to reduce the risk, provided assistance in fixing the problems, and helped shoulder the costs.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality and Quantity Management
2. Erosion Control
3. Forage Management
4. Forest Management
5. Wildlife Habitat Management

Future Projects

A surface water assessment program was initiated in 2007 to help citizens collect water quality data on 36 lakes to help MPCA to assess these lakes for impairments. This successful program completed the first year of its 2-year timeline. Interest has also been sparked among lake samplers to consider establishing lake associations on their respective lakes.

An initiative to address the Mississippi River Headwaters dissolved oxygen impairment is underway. Certain areas of the Mississippi River contain dissolved oxygen levels too low to support life, and are subsequently listed as impaired for fisheries. The SWCD is aggressively seeking funding to determine the effects of this impairment to the health and vitality of downstream lakes Irving and Bemidji.

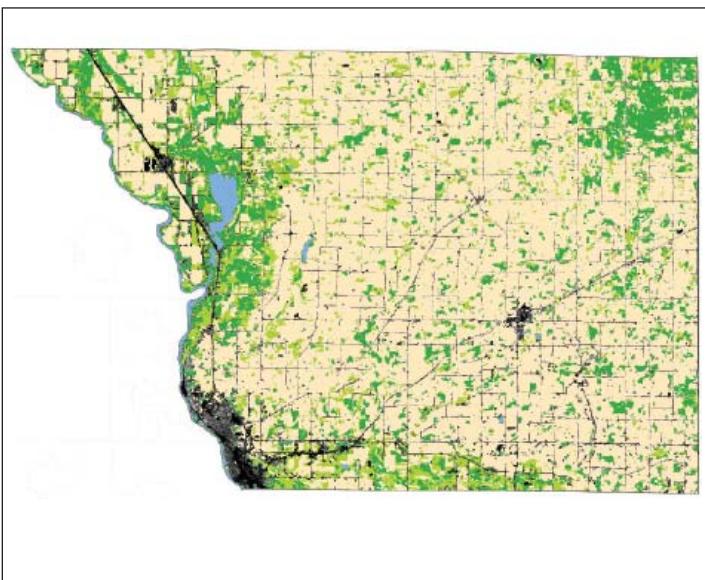
Benton

Soil & Water Conservation District

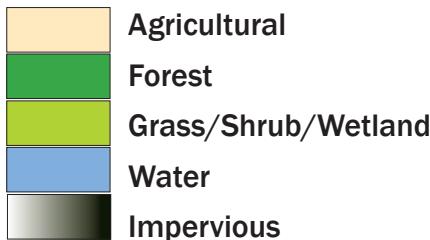


14 Second Avenue West
Foley, MN 56329
PHONE: (320) 968-5300
FAX: (320) 968-5304
www.soilandwater.org

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Wednesday of month at 8:30 a.m.



Benton County Land Cover



Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The SWCD is conducting a TMDL for Little Rock Creek in Benton and Morrison Counties, which has a biological impairment for its fishery. The Benton SWCD has partnered with the MPCA and several other agencies to conduct a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study which will identify the cause and solutions to the trout and warm water fishery problems. We are currently in phase two of a three phase process to complete the TMDL. Phase two includes gathering physical, chemical and biological data from the stream and watershed. This information will be used by technical experts, a consultant and stakeholders in the community to identify the cause of the impairment. The SWCD is nearing the end of the data collection part of phase two and has started meeting with the technical experts and stakeholders to identify the causes of the impairment. When the causes of the impairment are identified, phase three will identify load allocations and develop an implementation plan for correcting the impairment.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$2,630
Education / Outreach	\$4,975
Wetland Conservation Act	\$5,400
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$129,146
Planning/ other local water management duties	--
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$87,682
Total	\$229,833

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Duane Tadych	Secretary	6059 45th Street NE, Sauk Rapids	320-252-0674	2003
Joseph Jordan	Chairperson	575 190th Avenue SE, Princeton	763-856-3192	1997
Phillip Grosland	Member	15828 185th Avenue, Foreston	320-983-2094	2007
Mike Gans	Treasurer	13846 Highway 25 N, Rice	320-393-2454	2005
Rodney Bemboom	Vice Chairperson	3545 Little Rock Road NE, Sauk Rapids	320-252-7897	1999

BEFORE



AFTER



Pictured: This 4.9-acre wetland and upland buffer was restored through the MPCA 319 grant.

The Elk River Watershed Association is a partnership formed 13 years ago by Benton and Sherburne SWCDs and counties. The many accomplishments of the association include the MPCA 319 grant “Elk River Watershed Priority Lakes Phosphorus Reduction.” This grant focused on managing agricultural and lakeshore activities including:

- 1) Installing high visibility manure management BMP demonstration plots to illustrate that proper manure management improves water quality and is profitable;
- 2) Installing filter strips and buffer strips in highly sensitive riparian areas;
- 3) Installing low-cost, common sense feedlot practices on small to medium sized lots to reduce phosphorus discharged into surface waters;
- 4) Demonstrating the re-establishment of natural shoreline vegetation and implementing projects to reduce runoff from developed areas using filter strips and methods to promote infiltration.

The Benton SWCD installed many projects with this program. One of the main successes was to install 41 manure management test plots. These test plots were customized for each farmer and com-

pared Best Management Practices for nutrient management to the farmers’ normal nutrient management strategies. For users of poultry manure, in nearly all cases the manure spreaders being used were not capable of spreading chicken manure at a rate low enough to reduce the nutrient application to recommended rates for crop needs. To overcome this barrier a special manure spreader was purchased with this project and used by cooperators. This proved to be a key component in assisting users of poultry manure to adopt manure management BMPs. Benton County has the highest density of broiler chickens in the state. Yield checks were completed on the plots in the fall to demonstrate that BMP’s maintain yields and are profitable.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Groundwater
2. Feedlot/manure management
3. Development
4. Water quality in the Little Rock Lake Watershed
5. Water quality and quantity in the Elk River Watershed

Future Projects

Clean Water Legacy: In 2007 the Benton SWCD received funding from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources through the Clean Water Legacy Program. The goal of this project is to provide farmers in Benton County the opportunity to manage feedlots and manure in an environmentally responsible manner that is consistent with state rules. Benton County has one of the highest densities of feedlots in the state. The SWCD hired an employee to address these issues and is completing pollution potential assessments of feedlots and designing low-cost treatment systems where applicable. We began our work with the registered feedlots that have signed a 2005/2010 open lot agreement with the MPCA. Additionally, the SWCD has expanded the very popular manure management test plot program to the entire county.

Little Rock Lake TMDL: Little Rock Lake had a Trophic State Index over 80 in 2007, experienced extremely severe algae blooms and is considered impaired for nutrients. The Benton SWCD is working with the MPCA to complete a TMDL study over the next two to three years.

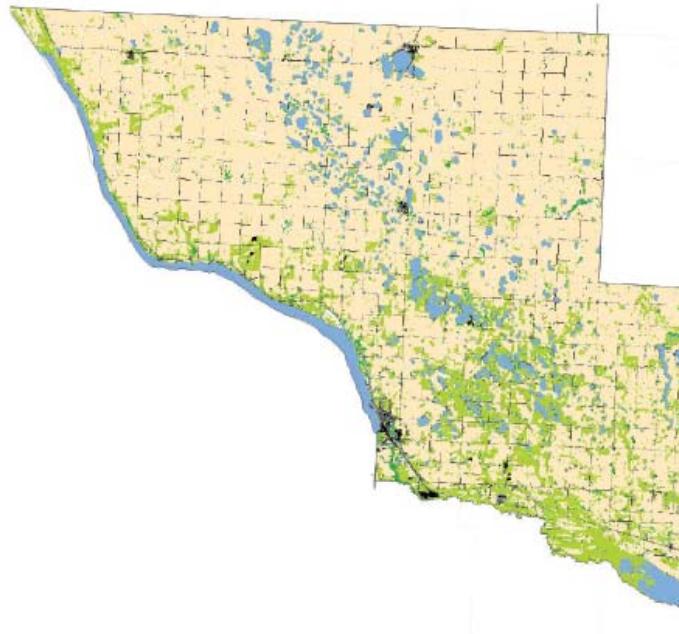
Big Stone

Soil & Water Conservation District



342 NW 2nd Street
Ortonville, MN 56278
PHONE: (320) 839-6149
FAX: (320) 839-3313

SWCD board meetings:
1st Tuesday of month at 4 p.m.



Big Stone County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



This weir regulates the water level for a restored 45-acre wetland in Big Stone County.

Several conservation easements in Big Stone County are showcases for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). These easements total approximately 450 acres, including 156 wetland acres. The designs of the restorations were completed by the Board of Water and Soil Resources, with the SWCD being instrumental in administering the CREP program and assisting BWSR with surveying and construction supervision.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$1,000
Education / Outreach	\$2,150
Wetland Conservation Act	\$20,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$22,719
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$1,900
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$2,750
Programs and Operations	\$86,609
Total	\$137,128

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Irvin Adelman	Chairman	629 Pomroy Street, Ortonville	320-839-6259	1999
Todd Dybdahl	Vice Chairman	67385 – 320th Street, Ortonville	320-325-5285	1999
Lon Moen	Treasurer	414 – 2nd Street East, Odessa	320-273-2279	1999
Vernon Johnson	Member	34761 – 760th Avenue, Ortonville	320-325-5507	2005
Scott Gillespie	Member	22671 County Highway 21, Graceville	320-748-7149	2007



A wetland and native prairie restoration in Artichoke township was named for and dedicated to Charles Hanson, lifelong resident and conservationist of that area. More than 200 acres of land were restored, which includes two restored wetlands totaling 110 acres that were drained more than 50 years ago. The project was made possible by the CREP program and the cooperation of five different landowners. The Big Stone SWCD coordinated the project, and cooperating agencies included USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Big Stone County Highway Department, Artichoke Township, Stevens Township (in Stevens County) and the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District, along with area fourth grade students. Surveying, design, and construction supervision were provided by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Construction was provided by Commerford Construction Inc. The restored wetlands filter sediment and pollutants from runoff water before it enters Artichoke Lake. The upland areas and wetland fringes have been seeded to native grasses. The area will be a permanent tribute to Charles Hanson's legacy.

An 8-foot gully prompted a local landowner, the SWCD and NRCS to work together to complete a grade stabilization structure and waterway project. A cable-crete drop structure stabilized the washout area. A grassed waterway (200 feet upstream and 500 feet downstream) stabilized the existing waterway. A CRP filter strip was also placed along the waterway. NRCS designed the structure and waterway. Approximate funding breakdown was \$17,500 State Cost-Share, \$4,250 EQIP, \$1,600 Local Water Plan funds, and \$11,500 landowner.

The combined efforts of the SWCD, NRCS, Resource Conservation and Development, and local fire departments have surveyed, designed and installed six dry hydrants over the past four years.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water quality of principle waters of the County: Big Stone, Toqua, Artichoke and Long Tom lakes; the Minnesota River and Stony Run Creek
2. Pesticide and nutrient runoff from ag land and fertilizer absorption from flooded cropland
3. Soil Erosion
4. Increasing the amount of buffer and filter strips in Big Stone County
5. Invasive and Exotic species -- Keeping prairie lands from becoming overrun with trees and shrubs, and keeping our naturally wooded areas regenerating with native trees (Oak, Basswood, Hackberry, Ash, etc.), not species such as Siberian Elm and Buckthorn

Future Projects

A **78.4-acre conservation easement project** is underway. The SWCD is currently working with the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the NRCS on this wetland restoration project, funded through the Reinvest In Minnesota and Wetlands Reserve Program (RIM / WRP) partnership. The project will restore nine small basins to 17 acres of wetlands, and the remaining acres will be an upland buffer seeded with a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs.

Incentive payments on filter strips and conservation easements are being offered through the Working Lands Initiative program. The SWCD, DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and NRCS are combining efforts on this program to support innovative conservation projects and rural sustainability. Conservative grazing practices are also options for landowners under this program. A local work group continues to develop program options that meet the conservation and economic needs of the local landowners.

The SWCD is working with a landowner on a wetland restoration plan to potentially be funded through the local road replacement / wetland banking program.

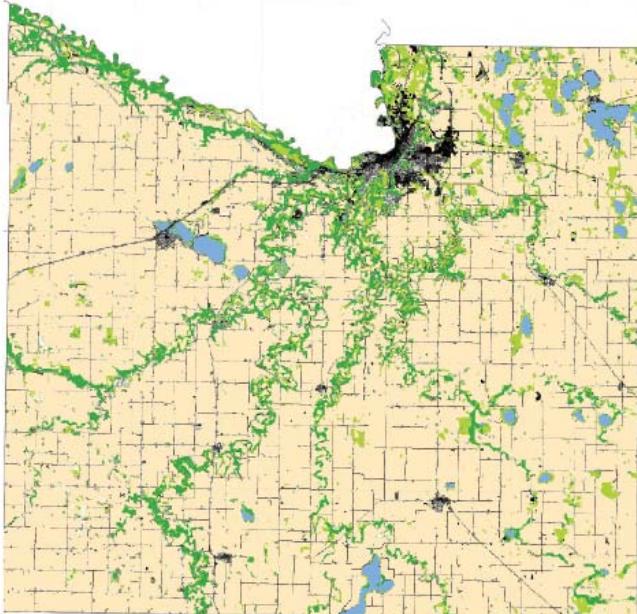
Continued challenges for the Big Stone SWCD are stable funding for basic operations, the difficulty in selling conservation programs and practices which do not compete financially with land values and commodity prices, and selling conservation programs in an agricultural county that currently has 27 percent of its land in some type of conservation cover.

Blue Earth

Soil & Water Conservation District



**1160 Victory Drive, Suite 3
Mankato, MN 56001-5307**
PHONE: (507) 345-4744
FAX: (507) 345-6036
www.blueearthswcd.org
**SWCD board meetings:
1st Thursday after 1st Monday of
the month at 4 p.m.**



Blue Earth County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: A CREP wetland restoration site that was completed after six landowners each enrolled some of their land in a permanent conservation easement.

172 permanent easements have been established on privately owned lands in Blue Earth County through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This initiative has improved water quality, reduced soil erosion, and created wildlife habitat in the Minnesota River basin. The signup period for

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$19,000
Education / Outreach	--
Wetland Conservation Act	\$8,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$65,000
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$8,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$49,785
Total	\$149,785

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Allen Marble	Chair	16602 578th Avenue, Good Thunder	507-278-3139	2005
Bill Gardner Jr.	Vice Chair	20675 515th Avenue, Lake Crystal	507-726-2696	1998
Harold Loeffler	PR&I	19266 610th Avenue, Mankato	507-245-3424	2001
Julie Bach	Sec/Treas	61188 103rd Street, Minnesota Lake	507-462-3256	2001
John Rollings	Supervisor	409 1st Street East, Vernon Center	507-549-3652	1991



Pictured: A CREP wetland restoration site in Blue Earth County.

CREP I went from 1998-2002, creating 172 permanent easements totaling 5,329 acres and spending 4.5 million state dollars in Blue Earth County. Over 100,000 acres across the Minnesota River basin were enrolled into the program. Many projects had landowners that went together to create much larger conservation areas. One group project involved six different landowners who enrolled 340 acres for a large wetland restoration project. Some project work is still being done today along with routine maintenance to many of the easements. The program brought together local, state, and federal officials, conservation groups, and interested landowners to work collectively on restoring the Minnesota River watershed.

The Greater Blue Earth River Watershed Initiative began in 2003 through the SWCD's partnership with Three Rivers RC&D. A grant from the U.S. EPA was received to promote the installation of conservation practices by offering enrollment incentives as well as cost share incentives. Blue Earth County SWCD encumbered and received \$49,469 in grant dollars that enrolled 117.5 acres with a soil loss reduction of 587.5 tons per acre / year and a phosphorus reduction of 1175 pounds /year. This grant is a good example of how multiple agencies such as the SWCD, Three Rivers RC&D, FSA and NRCS can accomplish a lot when partnering together toward a common goal of improved water quality.

The Maple River Watershed Improvement project is sponsored by Blue Earth County, with project management and leadership held by the Blue Earth SWCD. Faribault County conservation and environmental staff are

also actively engaged in this project. The Maple River has a drainage area of 340 square miles. Numerous project committees assist to implement project work plans for surface water quality improvement through conservation practices. Monitoring of the Maple River began in 2003 with one site and has since expanded to two sites. This project will continue implementation, monitoring, and educational activities through 2009. The project's main objective is to reduce the levels of sediment, nitrates, and phosphates in the river. Funding sources include in-kind contributions (about \$335,000) from over 10 groups, cash support from Blue Earth County and a Clean Water Partnership implementation grant of \$474,100.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Classic or ephemeral gully control
2. Water resource protection
3. Wastewater & feedlot runoff control
4. Sheet & rill erosion
5. Wind erosion

Future Projects

Cobb River Watershed Project: The Cobb River Watershed Project is an effort by the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance and Blue Earth County SWCD to concentrate Agricultural and Drainage best-management practices within the Cobb River watershed. The project has funding to hire one full-time employee, working with the Blue Earth SWCD for 2 1/2 years. There is also over \$200,000 in cost share assistance available to land owners for implementation of the varying BMPs within the watershed. An additional \$15,000 is available to the Drainage Authorities in each of the four counties in the watershed. This funding is for upgrading the current drainage information management systems. All while increasing cooperation of local agencies throughout the watershed. With the cost-share funding we hope to implement several BMP projects throughout the watershed. These projects will help in reducing the sediment load as well as several, all too common, pollutants in the watershed.

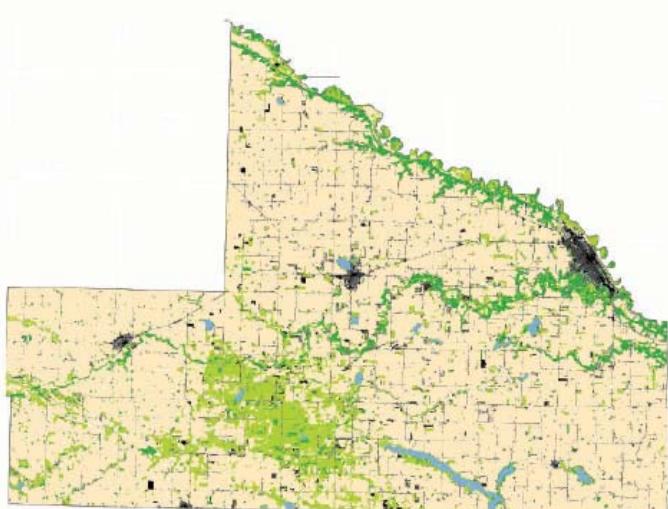
Brown

Soil & Water Conservation District



300 2nd Avenue SW
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
PHONE: (507) 794-2553
FAX: (507) 794-5553

SWCD board meetings:
4th Monday of month at 7:30 p.m.



Brown County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

More than 10,000 feet of terraces have been installed in Brown County in the last two years. Terraces are a best management practice installed to control soil erosion to include sheet, rill and gully erosion. A terrace is an earthen embankment a few feet high around a hillside that stops water flow and stores it or guides it safely off a field.

There are two basic types of terraces -- storage terraces and gradient terraces. Brown SWCD started building terraces in 1958 and it reached the milestone of 500,000 feet in 1984. The SWCD continues to build terraces today and after 50 years has constructed over 600,000 feet. All of these most recent projects were tile outlet, farmable terraces. Interested landowners receive State Cost-Share to help pay for these practices.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	--
Wetland Conservation Act	--
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$75,565
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$136,485
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$1,082
Total	\$213,132

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Ervin Windschitl	Chair	31197 185th Street, Sleepy Eye	(507) 794-6278	1983
Jack Vogel	Vice Chair	10630 County Road 3, Comfrey	(507) 723-5486	2001
Ralph Stadick	Treasurer	16508 170th Avenue, New Ulm	(507) 359-9863	1999
Dick Schroepfer	Secretary	13258 State Highway 4, Sleepy Eye	(507) 794-7751	2000
Greg Roiger	PR&I	22170 Heritage Road, Sleepy Eye	(507) 794-3526	1997

AFTER



BEFORE



A wetland restoration project was completed in 2005 that restored 10 wetland basins on 225 acres (pictured). The project was funded through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The Brown SWCD assisted 125 landowners in enrolling 4,968 acres into the program. Included are 26 wetland restoration projects with 975 acres of restored wetlands.

The Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program began in 1986 with 10-year and permanent easements. In 1987 and 1988 20-year and permanent easements were offered. Three 20-year easements with 61.4 acres were enrolled. From 1986-1996 Brown County landowners enrolled 1,242.2 acres (43 contracts) into permanent easements.

The Wellner-Hageman Dam was discussed for three decades prior to its construction in Section 30 of Stately Township. The SWCD and Soil Conservation Service (NRCS) were heavily involved during this timeframe working with landowners, engineers, permitting agencies, funding sources and the public for project approval. The project was designed to provide significant flood control, water supply, recreation,

tourism and economic benefits to the County. The structure is 56 feet in height and creates a pool of 69 acres with normal depth of 27 feet. Approximately 250 acres were acquired for the structure and flood pool and an additional 49 acres was purchased for the creation of Mound Creek Park. The lake has been stocked with game fish and the park has both a public beach and boat launch. It also has picnic tables, shelters, disk golf and hiking trails. The project cost approximately \$2 million and was constructed over a two-year period beginning in 1991 with completion in 1992. The project and adjoining park are a huge success.

Conservation education is an important role for the SWCD. About 200 5th and 6th grade students each year enter the District's poster contest with a conservation theme. For many years each entrant received a free cherry tree, so each spring they can be seen blooming all over Brown County. Students are now presented an evergreen seedling. Also, each year a South Central Minnesota Envirothon is held at Lake Hanska County Park. This environmental learning competition for high school students consists of stations based on the topics of soil, water quality, forestry, wildlife, a current event topic and an oral presentation. Brown County has sent a team to the state competition almost every year since its inception and had one team win the State Contest and compete in the National Canon Envirothon.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil erosion
2. Pesticide and fertilizer use
3. Septic systems
4. Water quality and quantity
5. Drainage and flooding

Future Projects

Cost-Share projects: Projects that will soon be completed by the Brown SWCD include three Grass Waterways and one Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control Project.

Brown SWCD's 50th Anniversary Event on April 9, 2008: The SWCD will have an Open House for the public to learn about and celebrate 50 years of successful conservation efforts.

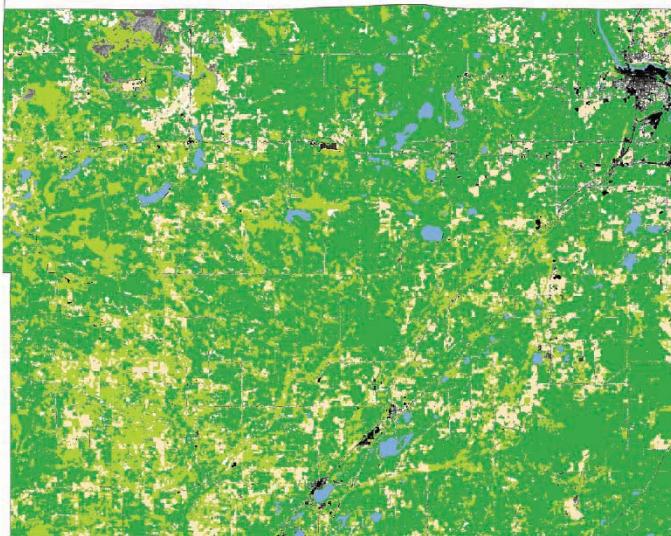
Carlton

Soil & Water Conservation District



115 5th Street South, PO Box 29
Carlton, MN 55718-0029
PHONE: (218) 384-3891
FAX: (218) 384-9730
Carltonswcd.org

*SWCD board meetings:
2nd Monday of month at 4 p.m.*



Carlton County Land Cover

	Agricultural
	Forest
	Grass/Shrub/Wetland
	Water
	Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A forestry services program has been built by the Carlton SWCD, which includes forest stewardship planning, tree planting plans and implementation, and in 2008 the SWCD will conduct its own tree seedling sale. In the past the sale was conducted in conjunction with the South St. Louis SWCD. The SWCD also provides wetland determination services and erosion control site review services.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$7,800
Education / Outreach	\$14,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$18,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$75,500
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$15,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$2,000
Programs and Operations	\$72,648
Total	\$204,948

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Elected
Barbara Dahl	Chair	124 Prairie Lake Road, Wright	4/7/97
Merrill Loy	Treasurer	PO Box 567, Carlton	1/1/97
Larry Sampson	Secretary	10 Maple Drive, Esko	6/12/06
Mark Thell	Vice Chair	2553 County Road. 3, Wrenshall	1/1/01
Carol Hauck	PR	3828 County Road. 4, Mahtowa	1/1/99



Pictured: This trail is part of the Carlton SWCD's school forest project, giving nearly 5,000 students access to a hands-on environmental education facility.

A 40-acre school forest project for the Carlton School District has been developed by the SWCD. The MN DNR Lake Superior Coastal Program has provided funding support of over \$70,000, which was matched by a local share of over \$70,000 to build a trail system, construct a gathering pavilion and rest room facility, and construct a ready-to-use, multi-grade/multi-discipline environmental education curriculum for the facility. 4,800 students from surrounding school districts will have access to the facility.

Annual EQIP signup has been strong.

The SWCD leads the Local Work Group to set priorities and refers landowners to the program for conservation implementation. The SWCD also provides technical assistance to EQIP program participants for project design and implementation. The SWCD assists in allocation of over \$200,000 in EQIP funds in addition to the SWCD's annual state Cost-Share allocation of \$12,000. The SWCD also applies for and often receives special allocations for specific projects such as the Midway River and Nemadji River watershed projects.

A farm bill technician was hired to work for the Carlton SWCD and two neighboring SWCDs. The Carlton SWCD led the effort to jointly hire this employee, who focuses on delivering technical assistance to the agriculture sector.

The Nemadji River Basin project is wrapping up its fourth grant and beginning to plan for the TMDL work ahead. The SWCD will lead the TMDL study project for a turbidity TMDL on the entire Nemadji River Basin. The study project is scheduled for three phases and should be completed in 5-6 years. The study project will be followed by a focused implementation effort to address load allocation issues identified in the study.

The SWCD maintains good working relationships with the Carlton County Board of Commissioners and Carlton County department staff as partners in conservation implementation. The SWCD has provided design assistance and funding for erosion control measures on county highway improvement projects. The SWCD holds tour and meetings to highlight conservation projects throughout the county.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Nemadji River turbidity TMDL
2. Private Land Forest Management county wide
3. Livestock Management county wide
4. Midway River water temperature issues
5. Big Sandy Watershed management

Future Projects

Biomass utilization: The SWCD will be working with partners to develop a biomass utilization project. There is a lot of biomass in the form of grasses, brush, and larger woody products available for harvest if a processing facility was in place to utilize it. Post-processing markets for the energy or pellet-type products also need to be developed. The SWCD can provide sources of the biomass materials and provide land management planning in conjunction with supply contracts.

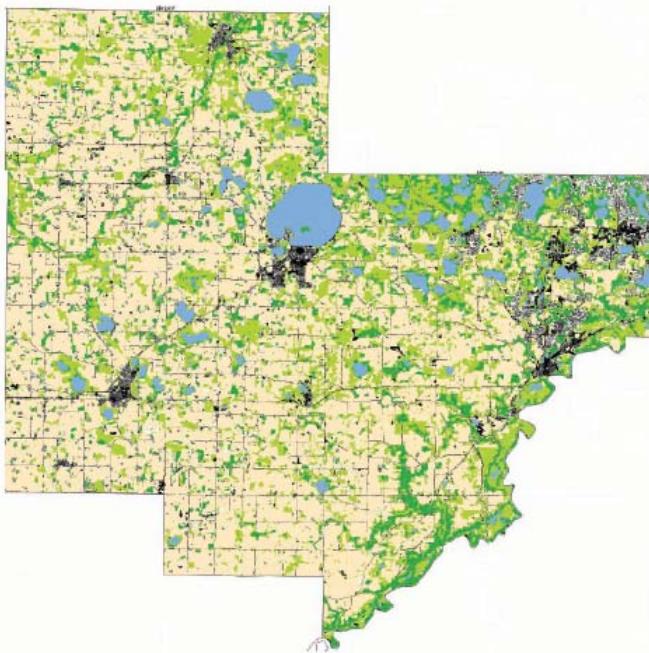
Green building for SWCD and partner agencies: The SWCD will also be pursuing construction of a "green building" to house SWCD and partner agency operations. The plan is to include geothermal, wind, and solar energy components. Green energy concepts will be demonstrated at a small business size level and promoted through live web links to real time energy use data, facility tours, and informational seminars.

Carver

Soil & Water Conservation District



**219 East Frontage Road
Waconia, MN 55387-1862**
PHONE: (952) 442-5101
FAX: (952) 442-5497
[www.co.carver.mn.us/
departments/LWS/swcd.asp](http://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/LWS/swcd.asp)
SWCD board meetings:
3rd Thursday of month at 8:30 a.m.



Carver County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

Construction site inspections are done each year by the Carver SWCD through the Construction Site Erosion & Sediment Control Project. Since 2001, the Carver SWCD has been partnering with the Carver County Land and Water Services Division on inspecting construction sites for best management practices. About 400 site inspections are completed each year, and currently there are more than 90 construction sites in Carver County that are at least 1 acre in size. One site is the new Highway 212 project – a 12-mile stretch of brand new, four-lane highway. SWCD inspections have significantly reduced water pollution by controlling erosion at these sites.

About 200,000 acres in Carver County have been mapped as of December 2007 through the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System mapping process. Land cover is identified and mapped into a GIS system, creating land cover maps that are used to identify high quality natural resources, run watershed models, and identify corridor areas.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$31,643
Wetland Conservation Act	\$22,950
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$310,785
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$69,352
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$24,412
Programs and Operations	\$149,364
Total	\$608,506

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Ted Beise	Chair	1412 Fairway Court, Chaska	952-448-4008	2000 (appointed)
Russ Schlegelmilch	Vice Chair	15040 114th Street, Young America	962-467-2125	1997-2002; 2006-
Bob Burandt	Sec/Treas.	1340 Waconia Parkway South, Waconia	952-442-4216	1997
Harlan Dobratz	Member	17690 42nd Street, New Germany	952-353-2428	2005
Mark Zabel	Member	8464 Pine Court, Victoria	952-443-3116	2003



Pictured: A 10-acre wetland and 20-acre upland buffer before (top) and after (below) construction. This project was funded through Continuous CRP. Project costs were less than \$6,500.

Continuous CRP promotion by SWCD staff has led to the establishment of more than 500 acres of buffer strips and wetland restorations during the past two years.

Feedlot improvement projects completed by the SWCD include 12 complete ag waste systems installed in the past 10 years. Dozens of smaller scale feedlot fixes have been accomplished to stop feedlot runoff from entering into surface waters.

About 325 open tile intakes have been replaced with rock inlets. Rock inlets save about 80 percent of total suspended solids and 50 percent of total phosphorus over open tile intakes. The Carver SWCD was one of the first organizations to promote and install rock inlets as an alternative to open tile intakes. A grant from the Met Council allowed the SWCD to cost-share with landowners on these projects.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Preserving natural resources in the urbanizing areas
2. Protecting and enhancing water quality in urban areas
3. Maintaining agriculture production while protecting water quality
4. Identifying impaired waters and the sources
5. Implementing TMDL's in the impaired watersheds

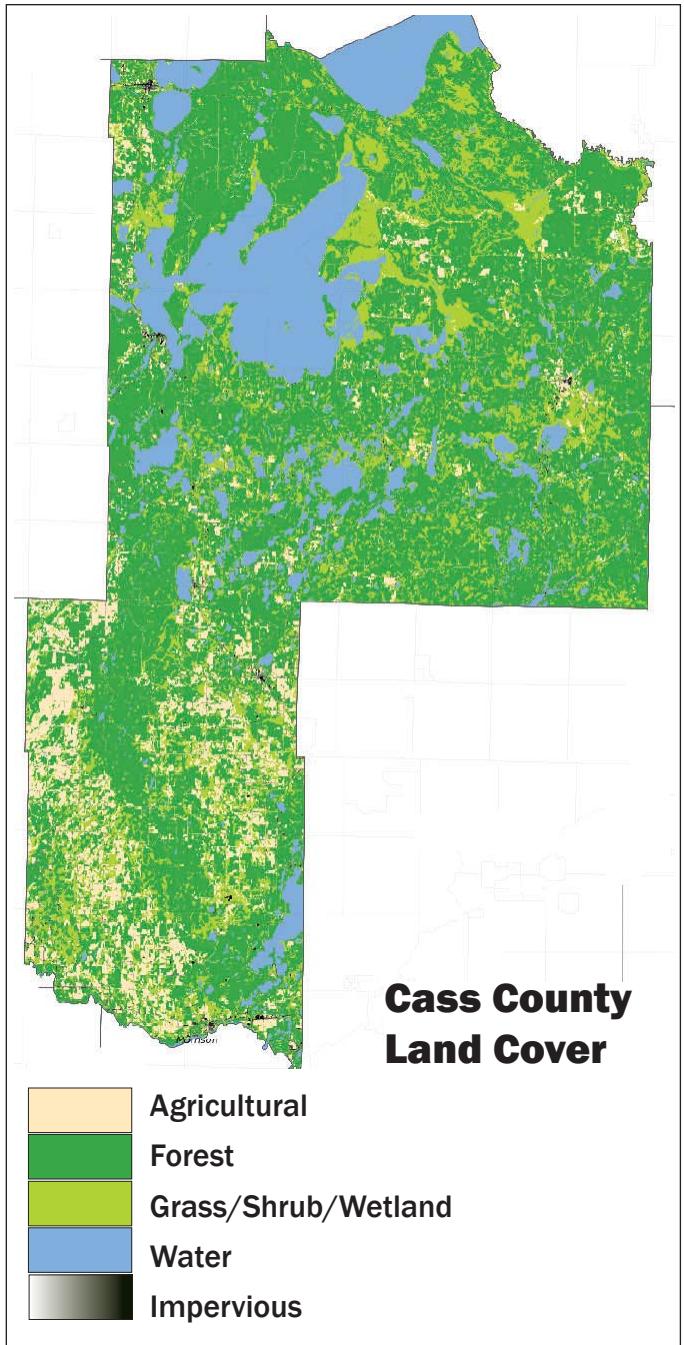
Future Projects

Clean Water Legacy project, implementing TMDL's – The Carver SWCD in partnership with the Carver County Land & Water Services received a grant to implement TMDL's in the Carver, Bevens, and Silver Creek Watersheds. The SWCD recently hired a Marketing Technician to promote BMP's in selected subwatersheds. The goal is to visit with each individual landowner to let them know how they can improve the water quality in their watershed.

Foxford Road rainwater gardens – The Carver SWCD received a grant from the Met Council to design and install an alternative stormwater system for a neighborhood in Chanhassen. Rainwater gardens have been designed with assistance of the Association of Metropolitan Soil and Water Conservation Districts and installation is planned for fall 2007.

Cass

Soil & Water Conservation District



300 Minnesota Avenue
PO Box 3000
Walker, MN 56484
PHONE: (218) 547-7399
FAX: (218) 547-2440
*SWCD board meetings:
1st Thursday of month at 10 a.m.*

www.co.cass.mn.us/soil_conservation/soil_water.html

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The SWCD initiated a shoreland buffer demonstration program to teach lakeshore owners and lake associations the value of buffers for water quality protection. The SWCD board allocated funding to establish five demonstration sites throughout the county. Cass County Environmental Services hired a student intern to coordinate site preparation, planting, and maintenance. Lake associations will "adopt" the sites for ongoing maintenance.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$4,000
Wetland Conservation Act	--
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$3,575
Planning/ other local water management duties	--
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$23,510
Total	\$31,085

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Tom Kuschel	Chairman	3288 84th Avenue SW, Sebeka	218.587.2910	1990
Willard Pehling	Vice Chair	PO Box 665, Walker	218.547.3173	2007
James Ballenthin	Secretary	1897 East Ponto Lake Road NW, Backus	218.682.2055	2004
J. David Harder	Treasurer	6300 County 125 NE, Longville	218.363.2213	1988
Calvin Martin	Member	10420 49th Avenue SW, Pillager	218.746.3918	1994



Pictured: The Rookery wetland banking site.

Two townships were initially targeted for a small woodlot management program that was started by the SWCD. The program is for landowners with 5-20 acres of woodland that is not currently being managed, and the main goal is to improve wildlife habitat and market usable wood fiber. All owners with woodlot acreages were contacted to offer assistance with timber assessments -- services provided by private foresters.

Pasture management workshops to demonstrate good forage management have been co-sponsored by the SWCD, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Minnesota Extension Service, and a local Lions club. This includes an annual tour of farms that have undertaken various pasture management techniques -- plantings, fencing, watering facilities. This group also sponsors a pasture management tour to the University of Minnesota Experiment Station at Grand Rapids, Minn.

Under a formal working agreement that has been established by the Cass SWCD and Cass County, the county provides all staff and support services to the SWCD in order to carry out its program. In exchange, the Cass County Board has assigned the SWCD responsibility for administering certain activities, such as feedlot regulation. The SWCD also seats members on the Environmental Services Citizens Advisory Committee (water plan committee) and the Board of Adjustment.

A strategic plan for the SWCD was developed as part of the Initiative Foundation's Healthy Organizations Program. Two "visioning" meetings were held to gain input from cooperating agencies, county officials and citizens. This plan serves as a working guide for SWCD operations.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Shoreline protection on all public waters
2. Sustainable forestry management
3. Reducing agricultural impacts on receiving waters
4. Stormwater management
5. Wetland preservation

Future Projects

1. Completion of shoreland buffer demonstration areas—expand to 15 sites.
2. Expand small woodlot program county-wide.
3. Complete planning and construction of a wetland banking site in southern Cass.

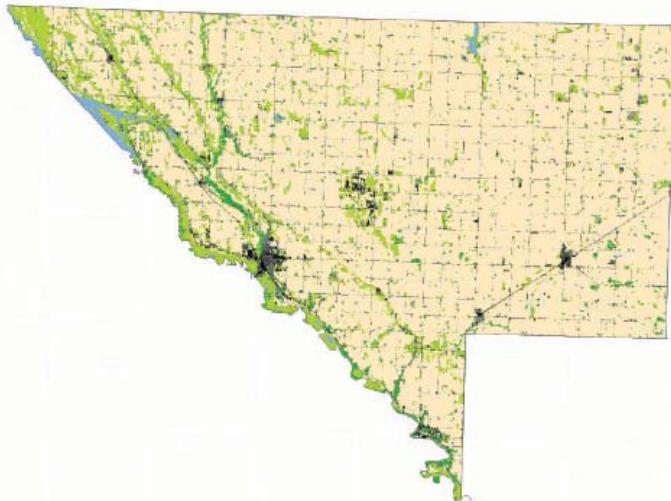
Chippewa

Soil & Water Conservation District



629 North 11th Street
Montevideo, MN 56265
PHONE: (320) 269-2139
FAX: (320) 269-8593
www.chippewaswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
1st Monday of month at 3 p.m.



Chippewa County Land Cover



Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A wetland restoration was recently completed by the SWCD on a local landowner's property (pictured). The three-acre wetland provides habitat for ducks, geese, and numerous species of shore birds. A timely rain completely filled the site shortly after construction. The seven-acre upland area provides excellent nesting habitat for waterfowl and other species of wildlife. The upland also acts as a buffer protecting the water quality of the wetland from chemical contaminants and sedimentation. Financial assistance for the project was provided through CRP, which is administered by the USDA-Farm Service Agency. Funding was also contributed by the Hawk Creek Watershed Project.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$3,000
Education / Outreach	\$23,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$35,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$81,500
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$38,500
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$3,000
Programs and Operations	\$38,000
Total	\$222,000

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Steve Nokleby	chairman	3035 Highway 40 NW, Montevideo	320-269-6669	2001
Robert Dirksen	Vice-Chair	7080 160th Avenue SE, Clara City	320-847-2384	2001
Larry Kittelson	Secretary	8020 150th Avenue NW, Milan	320-734-4645	1987
Dawn Schuler	Treasurer	10070 Palmer Creek Road, Granite Falls	320-269-7861	1983
Steve Sunderland	PR&I/Leg.	2030 20th Avenue, Montevideo	320-269-9618	1988



Chippewa River bank erosion near Big Bend Church

Big Bend Church has been a concern of church members for many years. The erosion problem was most severe near the church cemetery, where many graves were in danger of sliding into the river. The Chippewa SWCD and the Montevideo Field Office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service offered their assistance when asked by a group of church members. The project was recently completed after the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers became involved, bringing the additional funding that was necessary. The project stabilized a 60-foot bluff on 900 linear feet of streambank, which in turn protected 300 graves. Nearly 9,000 tons of rip-rap were used and 1,700 tons of topsoil were placed. The total cost of the project was \$572,000. Other cooperating partners were Chippewa County, Swift SWCD, DNR, the Chippewa River Watershed Project, and the Big Bend Lutheran Church.

The Local Water Management Plan for Chippewa County is in its third generation, and the Chippewa SWCD has been involved with the planning and implementation process since it began in 1991. SWCD staff and supervisors have always been active on Chippewa County's Local Water Plan Committee. The committee has continued to develop, approve, and implement new programs that are locally driven. The local water plan has given financial assistance to best management practices, administered through the SWCD to local landowners.

A balanced livestock grazing program

was developed for a local couple by the SWCD and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Funding for the program became available several years ago from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). An extensive grazing plan was developed by

NRCS staff, which balanced the number of head of livestock with available feed and forage. The plan included all of the conservation practices needed to develop a complete grazing land resource management system, including fencing, livestock pipeline, and water tanks for use by the livestock. In addition, a prescribed grazing practice was initiated. This ensures that all of the other practices were supplemental to the treatment of the actual grazing land resource. Since the system began, field windbreaks were added adjacent to many of the grazing pastures. Two years ago the couple began a nutrient management plan, which brings all elements of the grazing system full circle to complete all parts of a true resource management system.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Improve water quality
2. Reduce soil erosion from wind/water
3. Reduce sedimentation entering the county's rivers, lakes, and streams
4. Protect and restore wetlands
5. Reduce agricultural runoff from cropland and feedlots

Future Projects

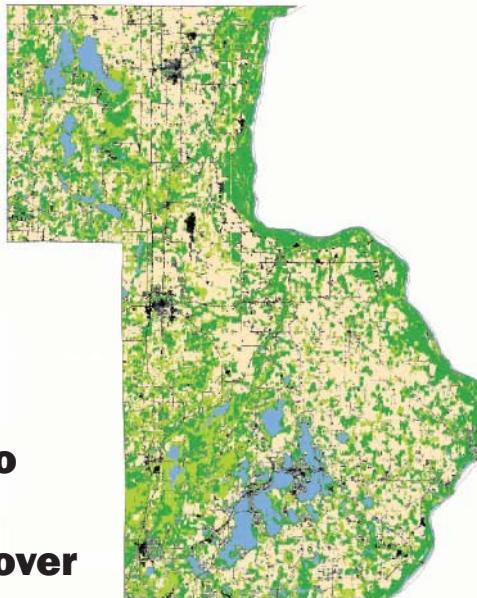
Rain gardens: The City of Montevideo is planning on installing trial rain gardens on city and residential property. Therefore, the planning process is underway. Partners include the Chippewa SWCD, Chippewa River Watershed Project, and the Chippewa County Land and Resource Management Office.

Maintenance of the Shakopee Creek structure:

Chippewa County in the late 1950s and early 60s had a pilot watershed project. Shakopee Creek, a sub-watershed of the Chippewa River Watershed Project, had a retention dam to store high flows of runoff. The structure is in need of repair along with the downstream discharge area. The ditch below the structure has major erosion and needs to be stabilized. The flood control of this structure still remains a vital part of this project and needs to be maintained. Planning and obtaining necessary funds are underway.

Chisago

Soil & Water Conservation District



**Chisago
County
Land Cover**

- Agricultural
- Forest
- Grass/Shrub/Wetland
- Water
- Impervious

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$20,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$10,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$78,606
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$96,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$60,000
Total	\$264,606



**38814 Third Avenue
North Branch, MN 55056
PHONE: (651) 674-2333
FAX: (651) 674-8828
www.chisagoswcd.org**

SWCD board meetings: 2nd Tuesday of month

- 5 p.m. November - March
- 7 p.m. April - October

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: John Frank - DNR Fisheries, shows 5th graders live and replica fish during the annual Water Festival.

The Chisago County Children's Water Festival is a day-long event that provides a hands-on, out of the classroom, educational experience about the water cycle, watersheds, and aquatic life for all 5th grade students in Chisago County. Partners include Chisago County and the Minnesota DNR.

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Joan Barnes	Member	PO Box 214, Lindstrom	651/257-2570	1989
Jim Birkholz	Secretary	17325 Pleasant Valley Road, Shafer	651/257-9159	2006
Roland Cleveland	Treasurer	PO Box 307, North Branch	651/674-8580	1987
Mary Ann Jay	Vice Chair	7628 460th Street, Harris	651/674-2224	2003
Craig Mold	Chair	8336 490th Street, Rush City	320/358-3423	2003



Pictured: This 50-plus -acre wetland enhancement was completed in the fall of 2006. The wetland is home to a nesting pair of Trumpeter Swans along with many other wildlife species. In the background is a newly planted native grass field and tree planting enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program in 2006. This is one of two 2006 General CRP contracts on this wetland. Partners include Pheasants Forever, USFWS, IMPACK6, NRCS, and the DNR.

A streambank stabilization and rain garden project was completed by the SWCD and partners on the Sunrise River. The streambank was stabilized using cedar re-vents, native plants and installing a series of rain gardens that collect, treat and slow down the runoff before it reaches the newly stabilized and vegetated slope. Partners included U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the IMPACK 6 Joint Powers Board.

A Wetland Restoration/Native Grass planting project was completed on the property of three neighboring landowners. The project required two Conservation Reserve Program native grass plantings (24 acres of native grasses were established) and one 50-acre wetland restoration. Partners included Pheasants Forever, USFWS, NRCS, FSA, MN DNR and the IMPACK 6 JPB.

A vegetative filter strip and other best management practices recently were established at a local dairy farm. Utilizing a combination of State Cost-Share, Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant, and EQIP funds, the SWCD installed the filter strip along 1/2 mile of shoreline, a 520,000-gallon manure storage facility, and an earthen berm and filter strip to capture and treat all feedlot runoff. The dairy now implements nutrient and pest management plans. Partners included USDA NRCS and the IMPACK 6 JPB.

The SWCD provides a staff forester to assist landowners with management of their forestry resources. Programs include forest stewardship plans, technical and financial assistance for the control of oak wilt and other shade tree pest, and a spring tree and shrub sale. Partners include the Minnesota DNR.

Water Quality Monitoring is done by SWCD staff on six streams in Chisago County. The SWCD collects water quality data at nine sampling locations, keeps the data locally and makes it available to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to assess the health of local streams. Partners include Chisago County, the Minnesota DNR and the MPCA.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protecting/Restoring Water Quality in the St. Croix River
2. Promote Environmentally Sound Land Practices
3. Lakeshore/Streambank Restoration/Preservation
4. Protection of Ag Base/Open Space Land
5. General Public Awareness of SWCD Programs

Future Projects

North Branch of the Sunrise River fecal coliform reduction project -- In 1998 the MPCA listed the North Branch of the Sunrise River as an impaired water due to elevated levels of fecal coliform. In 2006, Clean Water Legacy funds were received by Chisago County which will allow the Chisago SWCD to work with rural landowners to promote and install best management practices on their property, which will reduce fecal coliform runoff into the North Branch of the Sunrise River.

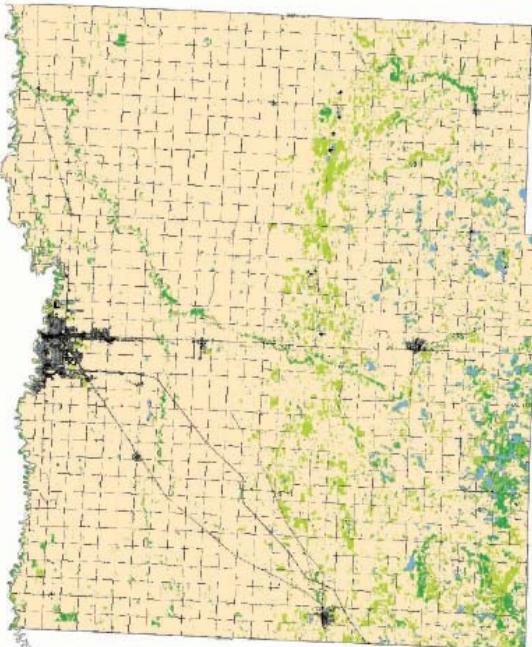
Renewable energy study -- The Chisago SWCD will be assisting Chisago County with a state funded feasibility study of the economic and technical viability of developing a multistream renewable energy biofuels demonstration facility in Chisago, Isanti, or Pine County. A final report is due to the Legislature no later than February 1, 2009.

Clay

Soil & Water Conservation District



**1615 30th Avenue South
Moorhead, MN 56560**
PHONE: (218) 287-2255
FAX: (218) 287-1787
www.co.clay.mn.us/Depts/SoilWatr/SoilWatr.htm
SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at 7 p.m.



Clay County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

A \$1.5 million project to restore a wetland and reconstruct the Dalen Coulee received the 2003 Project of the Year Award from the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts. The SWCD was one of many organizations that contributed funding and staff time to complete this project. The Dalen Coulee is a natural waterway located in Clay and Norman counties on the floor of the Red River Valley. Frequent flooding caused some landowners to seek help to reduce damage to crops, while other people felt that farming too close to the coulee was the cause of the flooding. The project goal was to find a solution that would reduce agricultural flood damages while maintaining the ecological integrity of the waterway.

Project implementation took advantage of numerous funding resources (Reinvest In Minnesota Reserve/CRP, Ducks Unlimited, Wild Rice Watershed District, MPCA, Red River Basin Flood Damage Work Group, Red River Watershed Management Board, DNR, local landowners, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Major features of the completed project include:

- 1) 1 1/2 miles of sinuous (meandered) channel construction/reconstruction
- 2) Flow diversion structure, reducing runoff into Dalen Coulee
- 3) Selective channel clearing, cleaning, and grubbing
- 4) Wetland retention structure, creating 82 acres of permanent pool and wildlife enhancements and flood storage totaling 370 acre feet for a 100-year, 2-hour storm event
- 5) Structure removal, replacement and low water crossings
- 6) Over 470 acres of land set-aside, wildlife habitat, and flood easements

Over 70 acres of wetlands were restored in an 87.4-acre perpetual conservation easement for public road mitigation projects. The Brantner Wetland Bank was established by the Clay SWCD, Board of Water and Soil Resources, and a Clay County landowner, who worked cooperatively to restore this wetland and upland buffer with diverse native vegetation.

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Paul Krabbenhoff	Chair	1119 25th Avenue South, Moorhead	218-233-0313	1985
Carol Schoff	Vice-Chair	8142 200th Street North, Hawley	218-483-4248	1999
Ken Schellack	Treasurer	13077 70th Avenue South, Glyndon	218-498-2103	1973
Duane Janssen	Secretary	21533 120th Avenue South, Barnesville	218-937-5486	1995
Steve Dalen	Reporter	18059 40th Street North, Georgetown	218-790-0567	2005

BEFORE



AFTER



Pictured: Streambank restoration project along the Buffalo River.

Severe streambank erosion was repaired along a stretch of the Buffalo River that runs through the city of Hawley's public golf course. Numerous flood events were undercutting the river bank along this sharp bend in the Buffalo River. A 12-foot vertical bank was formed. A series of six stream barbs, using up to 12-inch diameter rocks, were strategically placed to steer the river's current away from the outer bend of the river and direct its energy towards the center of the stream. This project also involved the use of shaping, seeding, and mulching the river bank. Once established, the grass seeding will provide the reinforcement needed to sustain long-term soil protection.

The SWCD's two No-Till Drills have been used to plant over 26,000 acres since 1993. To educate landowners to the benefits of using reduced tillage in their farming operation, the Clay SWCD purchased the drills and rent them out to interested farmers. Through 2007, 24 farmers have taken advantage of the Ag BMP Low Interest Loan Program and purchased their own no-till drills after renting the SWCD's drills.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$4,127
Education / Outreach	\$37,142
Wetland Conservation Act	\$49,523
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$127,934
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$76,836
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$24,761
Programs and Operations	\$92,367
Total	\$412,690

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality
2. Natural Resource Enhancement & Protection
3. Erosion
4. Flood Damage Reduction
5. Restore Water Quality & Reduce Sedimentation in the Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee

Future Projects

Whisky Creek Tributaries Water Resource Management Project (2006 MAWD Project of the Year): The Buffalo Red River Watershed District Mediation Project Team spearheaded this project, which features a multi-faceted approach to achieve flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement, including flood water retention through an impoundment, stream channel restoration, set-back levees, ring dikes for key homes, buffer strips and two large wetland restorations. The SWCD is working with landowners in the impoundment area to enroll over 120 acres of CREP II easements.

Wolverton Creek Watershed Sedimentation Reduction Clean Water Legacy Project: The Clay SWCD recently partnered with the Wilkin SWCD to secure \$289,000 to address the water resource needs of the Wolverton Creek Watershed. These funds will be used in conjunction with existing programs to address erosion, sedimentation and flood damage reduction by establishing buffer and field windbreaks, side inlet pipes, grade stabilization, and outlet protection.

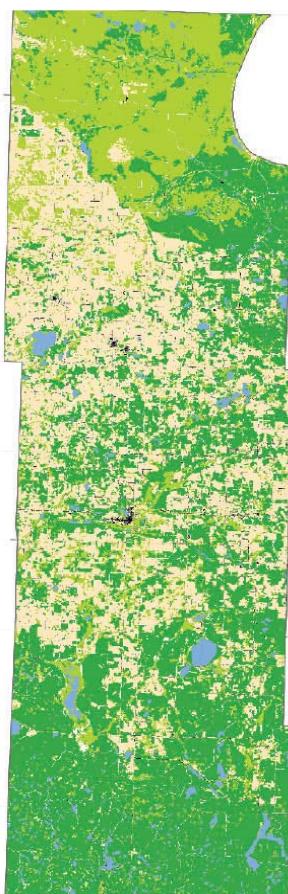
Clearwater

Soil & Water Conservation District



312 Main Avenue North Suite 3
Bagley, MN 56621
PHONE: (218) 694-6845
FAX: (218) 694-6845

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Thursday of month at 9 a.m.



Clearwater County Land Cover

- Agricultural
- Forest
- Grass/Shrub/Wetland
- Water
- Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The Bagley Urban Runoff Pond Project was a joint effort with the Red Lake Watershed District, City of Bagley, Clearwater SWCD and MN DOT to design and construct three urban runoff ponds within the City limits of Bagley. The total project cost came in just over \$200,000 and would not have been accomplished without the cooperation of all agencies involved. This project has served as a pilot project and example for several other small cities in the northern half of the state.

A Forest Stewardship Education Grant was received by the district which helped fund 6 educational workshops held at the Clearwater County SWCD Conservation Farm east of Leonard. Topics included wildlife and bird management, wetland values and restorations, tree planting site prep, private woodland evaluation tools, forest ecology and financial assistance programs available.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$8,425
Education / Outreach	\$34,963
Wetland Conservation Act	\$13,411
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$11,302
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$54,368
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$37,844
Programs and Operations	\$42,433
Total	\$202,746

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Robert Bilden	Secretary	25387 Stockyard Road, Bagley	218-657-2233	1971
Harlan Strandlien	Treasurer	26865 310th Street, Shevlin	218-785-2412	1988
Leonard Stinar	Chair	520 5th Street NE, Bagley	218-694-6195	1995
Paul Imle	Vice Chair	48987 State 92, Gonvick	218-487-5759	1993
Paul Rydeen	Member	49499 199th Avenue, Clearbrook	218-776-3338	2003



The Eddy Township Stream Restoration (pictured) was a joint project with the Red Lake Watershed District, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Clearwater County Commissioners, Eddy Township Board and Clearwater SWCD to restore a portion of the Silver Creek to its natural channel flow. This was a turn back road to the Township and a continuous problem site due to culvert wash outs and overflow. Past project fixes by the DNR and others had been unsuccessful. The solution had been to keep dumping gravel into the Silver Creek to temporarily fix the situation. The project was completed in 2007 with a total cost of \$42,658.

A Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant and EQIP funds recently helped the SWCD complete a project on a local farm with 113 dairy cows and 145 beef cows. The owners/operators constructed a manure storage pit and milk house waste pond to treat all materials, composting barn, several clean water diversions; stream

crossing, several windbreaks, and put in place a rotational grazing for both dairy and beef operations as well as residue management practices.

A 4-year buffer education program, the RRBC Silver Creek 319 Buffer Initiative, was administered by the Red River Basin Commission, and the Clearwater SWCD participated along with the MPCA. The District received approximately \$50,000 to work on a survey of residents within the watershed, landowner contracts, educational and promotional pieces encouraging BMP's within the watershed.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protection of surface waters on lands engaged in agricultural practices
2. Urban runoff and solutions for small cities
3. Restoration, protection and education in Silver Creek Watershed (Silver Creek, Lost River, Ruffy Brook & Clearwater River from Ruffy Brook to West County line)
4. SSTS concerns
5. Shoreland protection and education

Future Projects

The SWCD is in the process of completing the first phase of an urban runoff plan for the City of Clearbrook. The final component in this part of the project will include a proposed design of ponds and locations for the City of Clearbrook by the North Central JPB Engineer. The Red Lake Watershed District has been actively involved with the project and would like to see the implementation phase of the project be adopted by the RLWSD Board.

The SWCD will be completing its Clean Water Legacy projects in 2008. There are four stream bank restorations within the Silver Creek Watershed. North Central JPB and Clearwater SWCD are completing plan specifications and design work this fall with actual construction taking place spring of 2008.

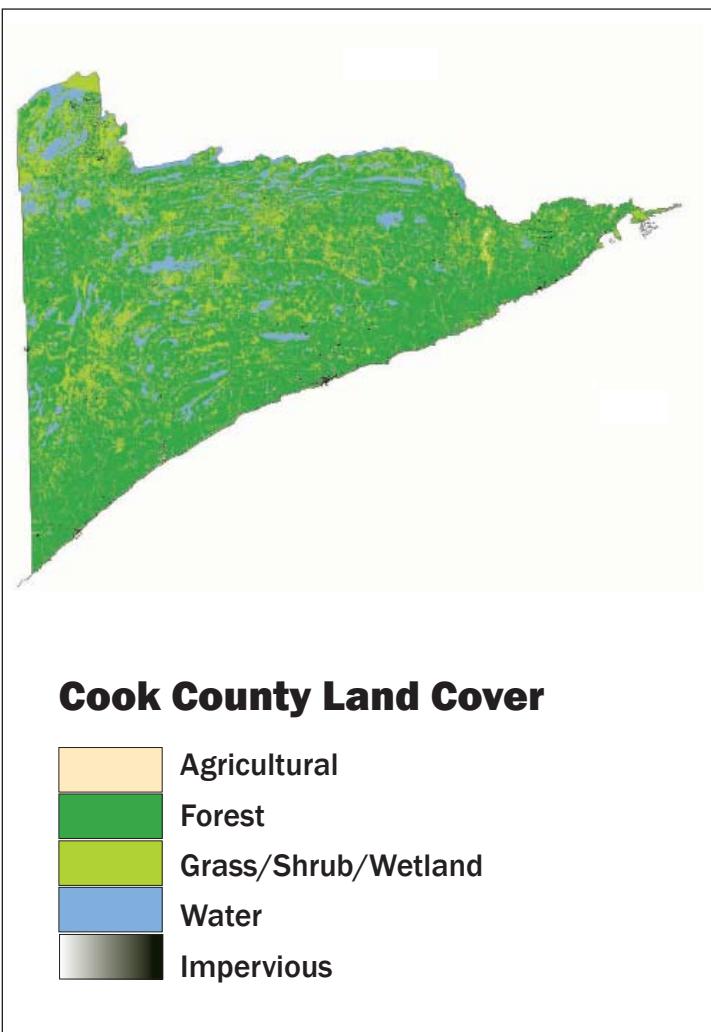
Cook

Soil & Water Conservation District



411 W 2nd Street
Grand Marais, MN 55604
PHONE: (218) 387-3647
FAX: (218) 387-3042
www.co.cook.mn.us/sw

SWCD board meetings:
1st Thursday of month at 1 p.m.



Recent Projects / Accomplishments



On-The-Ground Projects

constructed over the last four years included: two 2-acre stormwater retention basins, 350 feet of vegetated ditches, 150 feet of stream bank erosion control, a 680-foot containment berm, easement purchases, and a City-County agreement for maintenance. Cook SWCD managed grants totaling \$640,300, partnering with the City of Grand Marais, Cook County, MN Lake Superior Coastal Program, and MN DNR Flood Damage Reduction to complete these projects.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$5,218
Wetland Conservation Act	\$4,991
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$43,773
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$33,670
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$10,915
Total	\$98,567

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Don Sivertson	Public Relations	PO Box 123, Lutsen 55612	218-663-7360	2000
Jim Hall	Chair	256 Hall Road, Lutsen 55612	218-663-7377	2002
Jeanne Wright	Secretary	221 CR 44, Grand Marais 55604	218-387-2968	2004
David Berglund	Treasurer	140 CR 56, Grand Marais 55604	218-387-2591	2006
Roger Haertel	Vice Chair	PO Box 28, Hovland 55606	218-475-2649	2006

A stormwater management plan for Grand Marais was developed through the SWCD's partnership with the City of Grand Marais, County of Cook, and MN Lake Superior Coastal Program. The group contracted an Engineer/Hydrologist to model stormwater flow and write the plan. Input was received from 65 citizens, elected officials, and agency staff to identify and prioritize improvement projects. Over the last three years, 15 of 23 projects were completed and six others are in progress. The SWCD collaborated with the U of MN Seagrant to use NEMO for public presentations on storm water.

Two bioengineering streambank projects were completed, partly funded by a \$15,000 MN Lake Superior Coastal grant. Each were 75-foot bioengineered streambank projects, a native planting with signage, live-staking of dogwood and willow by junior high classes, and classroom tours of the projects and watershed.

Stormwater studies were funded by a MN Lake Superior Coastal Program grant for a hydrology study to solve downtown flooding. Another grant was used to compile existing topography layers and create a GIS database for the approximately 3,000 acres in the Grand Marais watershed.

The Cook County Property Owner's Resource Guide was developed to help property owners understand the County Land Use Ordinance. It contains helpful information on purchasing property, building a home, installing and maintaining sewage treatment systems, managing stormwater runoff, building a driveway, protecting your home from wildfire, and protecting water quality through shoreline ordinance.

Conservation education programs include the County Fair booth, 5th Grade Poster Contest, and erosion control workshops for contractors,

The rain and Lake Superior snow monitor network involves 30 landowners who supply daily precipitation readings and phenology observations to the SWCD. Data has been collected since 1988 as a local source of weather and is forwarded to the U of MN State Climatology. Cook SWCD is also connecting volunteers to a state study of snow patterns in a five-mile band along Lake Superior's north shore.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water quality concerns -- eroding streambanks on Lake Superior's North Shore rivers, mercury impairment of inland lakes, nutrient loading on developed lakes. Only 8% of county is owned privately and much of this private land is riparian.
2. Concern for cumulative effects of wetland loss in shoreland areas and in pockets on forested hillsides due to high rate of development and wetland exemptions.
3. Concern for increased stormwater runoff and gullying along roads on steep hills near lakes, streams and wetlands. Development pressure on marginal sites characterized by steep forested slopes, thin soils, and wetlands. Cumulative impacts of erosion at construction sites.
4. Need for public education on the importance of sound land use and the land-use laws that protect water quality.
5. Need for incentives for local food production. County terrain is not amenable to large farms.

Future Projects

Streambank stabilization -- Cook SWCD is managing a \$350,000 Clean Water Legacy grant to repair a large eroding bank on the Poplar River (impaired - turbidity). SWCD technical staff and Joint Powers Engineer are assisting the landowner, Lutsen Mountains. Construction will include a bank stabilization and revegetation to reduce sediment transport into the river and Lake Superior. This will reduce / divert peak flow to prevent further bank degradation. SWCD staff and one supervisor meet monthly with a landowner group working to remove the river from the impaired waters list.

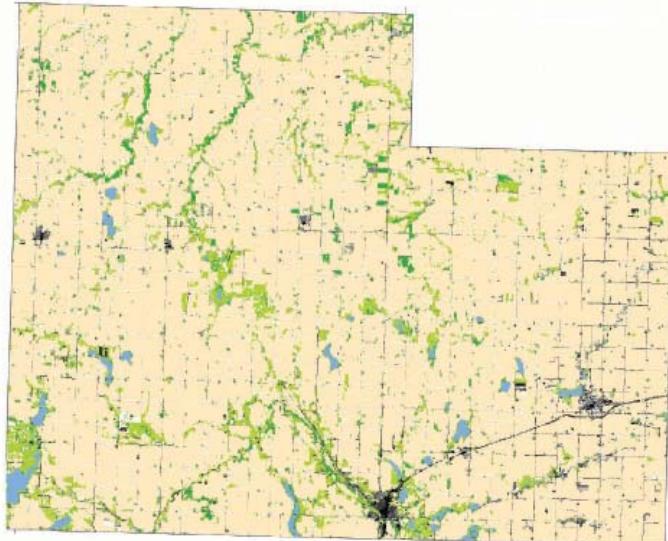
Roadside erosion control near a trout stream -- The 5-county Joint Powers Engineer and County Highway staff will upgrade a culvert, install rock in an eroding ditch channel, and vegetate a clay bank near an intermittent stream near the Flute Reed River.

Cottonwood

Soil & Water Conservation District



339 9th Street
Windom, MN 56101
PHONE: (507) 831-1153
FAX: (507) 831-2928
SWCD board meetings:
4th Thursday of month at
9:30 a.m. (Nov.-March, June-Aug.) or
8 p.m. (April, May, Sept., Oct.)



Cottonwood County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Seven Feedlot Runoff Control projects have been completed through federal, state and local cost-share. These projects have accomplished 100 percent runoff control for feedlot waste on these locations. Pictured is a Mono-Slope Roof Structure.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$ 7,058
Education / Outreach	\$ 21,098
Wetland Conservation Act	\$ 10,176
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$ 163,027
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$ 14,703
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$ 57,947
Programs and Operations	\$ 63,201
Total	\$ 337,210

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Tom Muller	Chairman	41238 County Road 13, Windom	507-831-2031	1999
Jim Bloch	Vice Chair	34310 330th Street, Westbrook	507-274-6477	1999
Clark Lingbeek	Secretary	26992 570th Avenue, Comfrey	507-877-2753	1997
Ron Tibodeau	Treasurer	641 18th Street, Windom	507-831-5429	1997
Verlyn Nickel	PR & I	34332 530th Avenue, Mountain Lake	507-427-2084	1977



Pictured: This CREP easement near Mountain Lake features a trail and rain garden to increase environmental awareness.

An MPCA Clean Water Partnership

Project was completed by the Cottonwood SWCD, the city of Mountain Lake and the Lake Commission. Mountain Lake is the largest body of water in Cottonwood County. About 30 acres of critical area filter strip seeding was completed, and conservation easements were established through CREP on 72 acres of highly erodible land immediately upstream and adjacent to Mountain Lake. A storm sewer sediment removal plunge pool was added for the Mountain Lake municipal storm sewer. A 5.2-mile trail was built around the lake to increase environmental awareness, and a rain garden was constructed adjacent to the lake and trail.

103 easements totaling 3,317 acres of environmentally sensitive land were successfully enrolled in the Minnesota River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. These projects include: wetland restorations, filter and riparian buffer strips. All projects are now complete with a conservation cover of native trees, grasses and restored wetlands.

Over 34,000 trees have been planted per year over the last five years through the SWCD's Tree Program. The Cottonwood SWCD has planted these trees to establish field windbreaks, farmstead windbreaks, wildlife plantings, riparian buffers and living snow fences.

Wellhead Protection Plans for drinking water supply wells have been completed with the SWCD's participation in the development of the Red Rock Rural Water System, City of Jeffers and the City of Windom.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water quality concerns throughout Cottonwood County with a focus on the Des Moines River and Watonwan River Watersheds
2. Residue Management
3. Feedlot runoff and manure application
4. Groundwater concerns as defined by the Drinking Water Supply Management Areas in Cottonwood County
5. Soil loss countywide through sheet, rill and wind erosion

Future Projects

As of June 2006 the Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District has contracted with the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GERBA) to allow Kay Clark and David Bucklin to assume the roles of Administrative Coordinator and Technical Coordinator for the Alliance. These positions will give the Cottonwood SWCD the opportunity to work closely with the SWCD and county staff in eight participating counties located in the basin.

During 2007 GBERBA was awarded through the Clean Water Legacy \$317,000 in loans and cost-share and \$510,000 for technical assistance. Through this funding a Nutrient Management Specialist, Urban Outreach Specialist and a Conservation Agronomist were hired to work in areas of the watershed. Also, \$379,000 was secured through the MPCA 319 grant process to hire a technician for the Big Cobb River Watershed and supply funding for cost-share and drainage system management.

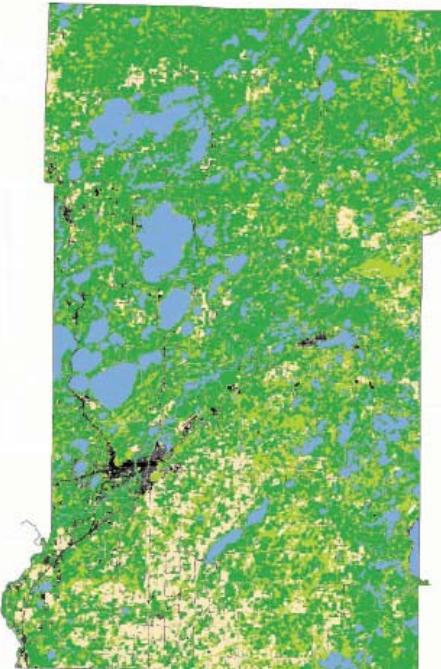
Work has continued with the completion of the Greater Blue Earth River Watershed Fecal Coliform TMDL Implementation Plan for submission to MPCA.

Crow Wing

Soil & Water Conservation District



7118 Clearwater Road
Baxter, MN 56425
PHONE: (218) 828-6197
FAX: (218) 828-6095
[www.mn.nrcc.usda.gov/
partnerships/crowwing](http://www.mn.nrcc.usda.gov/partnerships/crowwing)
SWCD board meetings:
3rd Tuesday of month at 9 a.m.



Crow Wing County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured (above and next page): Rain Gardens have been established to treat stormwater.

A Rain Garden Demonstration

Project was recently completed with assistance from the Crow Wing County (CWC) Water Plan, Crow Wing SWCD, University of Minnesota Extension and the Master Gardener program, CWC Planning and Zoning, and the CWC Parks Department. The CWC Biorentention (Rain Garden) Demonstration Areas are located around the perimeter of the county public parking lot

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$838
Education / Outreach	\$13,073
Wetland Conservation Act	\$57,859
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$21,604
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$88,851
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$209
Programs and Operations	\$81,316
Total	\$263,750

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Robert Becker	Chair	11341 Swanburg Lane, Pine River	218-543-6655	2000
Robert Albrecht	Vice Chair	22 3rd Street NW, Crosby	218-546-6633	1988
Diane Jacobson	Secretary	10287 County Road 8, Brainerd	218-764-3365	2006
Leonard Koering	Treasurer	2397 65th Avenue, Fort Ripley	218-829-8237	1974
Roger Waytashuk	Reporter	28877 Fools Lake Road, Crosby	218-546-2871	2006



of the new Jail and Judicial Center. The bioretention area achieves two purposes; public education and the reduction of stormwater runoff that reaches the Mississippi River.

Due to severe drought conditions in 2006, and authorization by the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) under the authority of the Governor's Executive Order 06-11, the Crow Wing SWCD used cost-share funds to assist 23 livestock producers with the cost of installing various types of livestock watering facilities.

The Army Compatible Use Buffer

(ACUB) program has been a successful cooperation of the Crow Wing SWCD, Camp Ripley, Morrison SWCD, Cass SWCD, and BWSR. The goal is to protect the viability of Camp Ripley as a military training base by allowing surrounding landowners to place an easement on their property that restricts residential, commercial, and industrial development in the future. The SWCD works directly with the interested landowners using a manner similar to Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve, with similar payment rates and forms. The ACUB program works to protect undeveloped land whether it is in agricultural production or forested.

The Construction Stormwater Partnership with MPCA has assisted the SWCD and other local government units with administering the NPDES program. The Crow Wing SWCD is one of the 10 pilot governmental entities in this partnership. By providing educational opportunities, conducting inspections on construction sites, and enforcement support, the SWCD has dramatically improved stormwater control during construction projects.

WCA Administration and Technical Assistance

Assistance is administered by the Crow Wing SWCD in most of the municipalities and outside of shoreland areas within the county. The SWCD also provides technical assistance to landowners, the City of Pequot Lakes, the City of Brainerd, and to Crow Wing County in shoreland areas.

A Soil Survey Update started in 2005 by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, BWSR, Crow Wing County, and the Crow Wing SWCD. The current Crow Wing County soil survey was published in 1965 and does not meet current standards. Only a small portion of the county was completed in detail. The Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources is providing a significant amount of funding for this project. The goal is to complete the survey in format that is compatible with GIS and in a timely manner.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protecting and restoring surface water quality.
2. Protecting groundwater quality and quantity.
3. Proper management of stormwater runoff from commercial and riparian developments.
4. Protection and enhancement of wetlands.
5. Protect marginal lands from development by promoting the use of conservation easements.

Future Projects

Thirty Lakes Watershed District Cooperative

Cost-Share: The Watershed District and the SWCD are creating a cost-share program within the watershed district boundaries. The watershed district would provide the funds and the SWCD would assist them with the erosion and stormwater projects.

Crow Wing County Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) update:

This update will incorporate the Clean Water Legacy into the CLWP. The Priority concerns that were selected are: Protect Surface Water Quality, Address and Minimize Stormwater Runoff, Protect Ground Water Quality/Quantity, Address wastewater needs throughout the county, Protect Marginal Land and address Shoreland Ordinance Violations, and Promote Environmental Education.

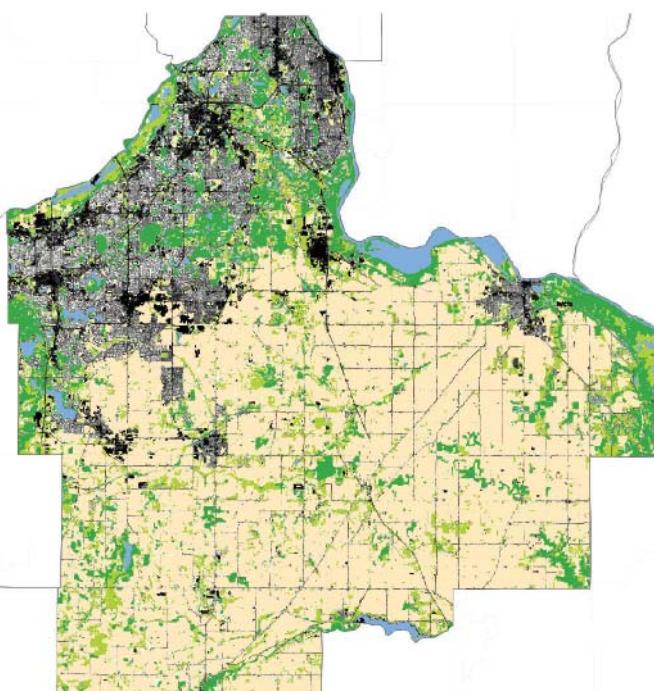
Dakota

Soil & Water Conservation District



4100 220th St. West, Suite 102
Farmington, MN 55024
PHONE: (651) 480-7777
FAX: (651) 480-7775
www.dakotacountyswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
1st Thursday of month at 9 a.m.



Dakota County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

A feedlot improvement project in the Cannon River Watershed improved a dairy operation located less than 150 feet from a tributary. The project included the installation of a 120 x 150 earthen manure pit, a concrete diversion to trap the runoff from the feedlot, a manure transfer system to the pit, and fencing to exclude livestock from the tributary.

The project will prevent approximately 80 pounds of phosphorus from entering the intermittent tributary stream during a 4.8-inch rainfall event. The project cost was approximately \$111,400. The landowner secured USDA EQIP funding, general State Cost-Share funding, Feedlot Water Quality Grant funding, and North Cannon River WMO funding. The landowner was responsible for approximately 27 percent of total project costs.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$57,093
Education / Outreach	\$75,250
Wetland Conservation Act	\$53,370
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$487,720
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$103,894
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$27,019
Programs and Operations	\$114,920
Total	\$919,267

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Scott A. Holm	Secretary	3745 Drexel Court, Eagan	651-681-1902	2007
Marian Brown	PR / Info Officer	7754 142nd Street West, Apple Valley	952-432-7707	2005
Kevin Chamberlain	Chair	9620 132nd Street East, Hastings	651-437-9135	1991
Chris Nielsen	Vice-Chair	25756 Galaxie Avenue West, Farmington	651-463-7116	2005
Joe Meyers	Treasurer	11502 240th Street East, Hampton	651-437-1746	1993



Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water™ workshops are coordinated by the Dakota SWCD in suburban communities throughout the county. This new program is a collaborative effort, created by the Rice Creek Watershed District, which allows partnering organizations to join forces and train homeowners how to “plant for clean water.”



Blue Thumb makes it easy to plan, purchase, design, and plant native gardens, rain gardens and stable shorelines. The SWCD, in cooperation with Dakota County, cities, and the Gun Club Lake WMO, held six Blue Thumb trainings for homeowners in the spring of 2007. Over 140 residents attended the introductory workshops and 50 of these participants got more specific training through a detailed design course.

These classes resulted in the creation of 36 new rain gardens and seven native plant gardens. Because these landscape features help lessen the harmful affects of storm water runoff, the SWCD provides cost-share funding for most of these projects through the Community Cost Share Program. Helping large groups rather than individual landowners is an effective and efficient way for the SWCD to concentrate their technical assistance. This program also helps to streamline the SWCD's Community Cost Share funding assistance program, getting the money “in the ground” and making a difference!

A project to inventory and assess the condition of wetlands and streams within the Vermillion and Cannon River Watersheds was completed by the SWCD in 2006-2007. The project was initiated because existing databases used to locate and evaluate the condition of these resources was outdated and unsystematic. This project creates a new GIS database for Dakota County, which can be continuously updated as projects and fieldwork occur. Ultimately, water quality data will be integrated with the assessment in order to prioritize future protection efforts and detect trends. This project was funded through the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and the Metropolitan Council.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Improving and protecting water quality in all surface waters
2. Reducing agricultural runoff from cropland and feedlots
3. Reducing stormwater runoff volumes in urban areas
4. Protecting and enhancing natural areas, buffers, and greenway corridors
5. Promoting the use of effective standards and criteria in watershed management

Future Projects

Rural Land Incentive Program - A Clean Water Legacy grant helped fund a new program that will provide funding for the installation of buffers and the creation of nutrient management plans and total farm conservation plans. Beginning in 2007 and continuing through June 2009, the SWCD will work with individual landowners to plan for better resource management and buffer installations, often augmenting existing USDA NRCS funding programs and providing further incentives for change.

Heritage Library Rain Garden - Through a cooperative partnership with the City of Lakeville, Dakota County, and the SWCD, a rain garden will be installed to capture stormwater runoff from two parking lots. This project is part of the County's Stormwater Retrofit Program, which is part of its MS4 Permit, coordinated by the SWCD. This project will receive funding from the SWCD's Community Cost Share program.

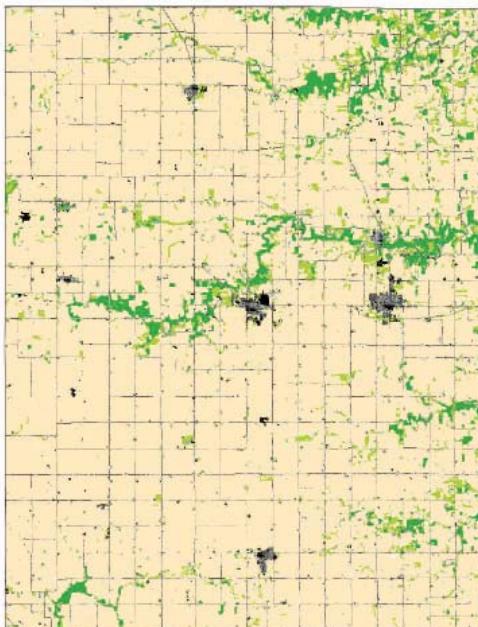
Dodge

Soil & Water Conservation District



916 2nd Street SE
Dodge Center, MN 55927-9601
PHONE: (507) 374-6364
FAX: (507) 374-6333

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Thursday of the month at
• 7:15 p.m. April - October and
• 1:15 p.m. November - March



Dodge County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

11 conservation easements have recently been enrolled in Dodge County through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP II). These contracts include one on excessively eroded cropland, one Wetland Restoration and nine vegetative buffers along Riparian Areas.

State Cost-Share contracts that have been implemented in Dodge County from 2004-2006 include 19 Grass Waterways (D-6), 4 Sediment Basins (D-8) and two Streambank Protection (D-9) projects.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$420
Education / Outreach	\$1,459
Wetland Conservation Act	\$703
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$114,956
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$11,116
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$19,000
Programs and Operations	\$28,504
Total	\$176,158

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Muriel French	Chairperson	56330 State Highway 57, Dodge Center	507-635-5619	2004
Darrel Faulkner	Vice-Chairman	18339 County Highway 24, West Concord	507-527-2537	2004
David Livingston	Secretary	67432 State Highway 56, Dodge Center	507-374-6876	2006
Glenn Hahn	PR&I	24402 Dodge/Mower Road, Sargeant	507-365-8608	2006
John Kvasnicka	Treasurer	20915 604th Street, Dodge Center	507-635-5600	2007

BEFORE



AFTER



Pictured: This recently completed bio-filter demonstration project will be monitored for the next five years to show how these practices significantly reduce nitrates in surface water.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil Erosion
2. Non-Point Source Pollution
3. Water Quality
4. Forestry Management
5. Wildlife Habitat Conservation

Future Projects

The Dodge SWCD has partnered with the Zumbro Watershed Partnership on a tile water bio-filter demonstration project (pictured). The bio-filter will be monitored by the SWCD for the next five years. The goal of the project is to demonstrate how by running tile water through a bio-filter, a significant reduction of nitrates will occur thus reducing nitrates released into surface water.

The Dodge SWCD is an active participant of the newly formed Cedar River Watershed District. SWCD Supervisor David Livingston is an advisor to the CRWD. The WD is currently working to secure CWL funds and is in the process of preparing a 10-year comprehensive plan.

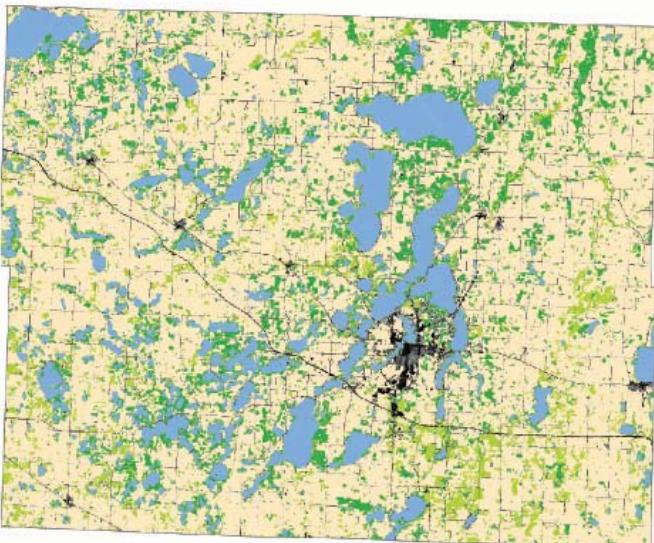
Douglas

Soil & Water Conservation District



900 Robert Street, Suite 102
Alexandria, MN 56308
PHONE: (320) 763-3191
FAX: (320) 762-5502
[www.mn.nrcc.usda.gov/partnerships/
douglas/index.html](http://www.mn.nrcc.usda.gov/partnerships/douglas/index.html)

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Monday of month at
• 8 p.m. (April-October) or
• 3 p.m. (November-March)



Douglas County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

A good working relationship with the Douglas County Commissioners over the last 15 years, and the resignation of the County Water Plan Coordinator in 2004, led to the water planning duties being transferred from Douglas County to the Douglas SWCD. Since 2005, much work has been done with the Douglas County Coalition of Lakes Association, through in-lake water testing, Day of the Lakes Open House and Awake the Lakes Events. Also technical assistance has been provided to many landowners on designs for lakescaping. The SWCD is also very involved with providing technical assistance to the Douglas County Land and Resource Management Office on preliminary Plats and Land Use Permits.

The SWCD also has an excellent working relationship with the Chippewa River Watershed Group. The group has been successful in securing cost-share for erosion control projects. Over the last two years the SWCD has been able to use over \$42,000 of these funds, which were typically piggy-backed with either federal EQIP cost-share or state cost-share through the SWCD. These additional dollars have allowed the SWCD to work with more landowners and get best management practices on the ground.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$5,100
Education / Outreach	\$24,825
Wetland Conservation Act	\$51,785
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$38,341
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$105,486
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$4,600
Programs and Operations	\$114,609
Total	\$344,746

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone
Gary Thoennes	Chairman	856 East Lake Cowdry Road NW, Alexandria	320-763-4811
Paul Barsness	Vice-Chairman	3067 County Road 15 NW, Brandon	320-834-4680
Doug Rutten	Treasurer	2901 Ottartail Trail NE, Osakis	320-859-4406
Glenn Matejka	Employee Relations	10769 Big Chip Road NW, Brandon	320-834-2818
Jon Schneider	Secretary	311 East Lake Geneva Road NE, Alexandria	320-759-1564

BEFORE



AFTER



A gully repair project on Lake Miltona is the largest project that the Douglas SWCD has worked on in the past 18 years (pictured). The gully formed by the ground slumping in April of 2002. Douglas County had experienced extremely warm weather and heavy rain that melted approximately 2 feet of snow in less than a 24-hour period. With these conditions and the soils at this site, water moved horizontally through the soil and supersaturated the toe of the bluff causing it to slump into the lake. The gully was approximately 40 feet wide by 12-15 deep from the top of the bluff to the lake and was within 25 feet of a home. With the help of the NRCS Area Office and NRCS State Office Engineering and Soils Staff, an engineering plan was put together to re-establish the bluff and provide drainage of the soils to prevent this from happening again. Funding for this project was a cooperative effort of the two landowners whose properties were affected, the Douglas SWCD through regular State Cost-Share and Special Project Cost-Share (previously applied for to work in the Lake Miltona Watershed) and from the Lake Miltona Association.

A project to create sensitive area maps of lakes in Douglas County was completed in 2007 by Douglas County and the Douglas SWCD. These maps identify bluffs, wetlands, and sensitive soils around all lakes

of Douglas County. The project began in 2003 with a grant from BWSR. Since the grant ended, Douglas County has funded this staff position, which is now combined with the Water Planner position. In 2007 the maps were adopted by the Douglas County Commissioners and are now part of the Ordinances of Douglas County. These maps are being used as tools for setting stricter restrictions on development within the sensitive areas.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Development pressures and impacts on Douglas County Water Resources
2. Stormwater/drainage management in urban and rural areas of Douglas County
3. Reducing cropland erosion on highly erodible land watershed with TMDL plans
4. Establishing buffers on riparian lands in both agriculture and urban areas
5. Upgrading of failing septic systems in riparian areas of Douglas County

Future Projects

Douglas County has many partially drained shallow lake basins that have been drained by private ditches or County Ditches. Presently the SWCD is working with three private landowners and the MN DNR, who own parts of a shallow lake basin that has been drained by a County ditch and tile. The SWCD is working with the landowners to secure conservation easements and to restore the wetland to its previous state. If this restoration is completed, approximately 85 acres of drained wetland will be restored.

The Douglas SWCD has just started the process of updating the Water Plan for Douglas County and will complete the update in late 2008. With the projected growth within Douglas County over the next 20 years, the local water plan will play an important role in protecting and preserving the natural resources of Douglas County. Since the SWCD has a strong working relationship with the Douglas County Land and Resource Management Office, recommendations from the revised Water Plan can be incorporated into the Douglas County Ordinances to further protect the resources of Douglas County.

Faribault

Soil & Water Conservation District



415 South Grove Street, Suite 8
Blue Earth, MN 56013
PHONE: (507) 526-2388
FAX: (507) 526-2508
www.faribaultcountyswcd.com

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Monday of month at 8:30 a.m.



Faribault County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

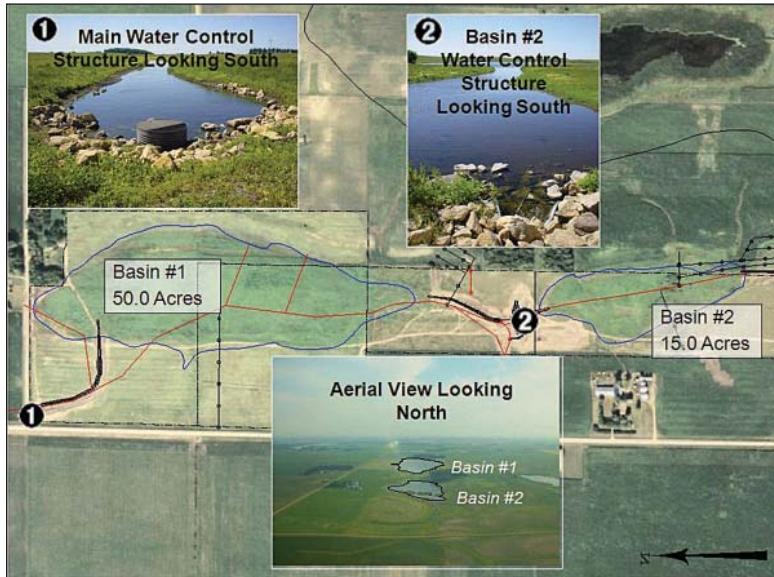
Septic System Upgrades have been the focus of a partnership of the Faribault County SWCD and the county Planning and Zoning Office. Staff in both organizations have been actively involved in establishing a plan to get all non-compliant septic systems throughout the county upgraded, including all unincorporated areas. Faribault County recently adopted an SSTS Ordinance, which requires system upgrade at property transfer and upon application of a building permit. This ordinance will enhance the current 12-year plan and work to increase the current 50 percent compliance rate. The SWCD/Planning and Zoning partnership has also been actively involved with an ongoing wastewater project in the unincorporated village of Huntley. This project involves piping wastewater from 50 homes and 10 businesses to a nearby municipal wastewater treatment facility. The project is currently under construction and scheduled to be completed by Spring 2008.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$9,275
Education / Outreach	\$10,971
Wetland Conservation Act	\$20,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$145,576
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$51,246
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$5,565
Programs and Operations	\$16,500
Total	\$259,132

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Don Ziegler	PR/Info Officer	4915 400th Avenue, Blue Earth	507-943-3377	2004
Larry Wigern	Chair	2958 570th Avenue, Kiester	507-294-3864	2006
Jim Robertson	Treasurer	631 Cleveland Avenue, Winnebago	507-893-4507	1984
Bill Anderson	Secretary	46722 220th Street, Delavan	507-787-2394	2006
Jean Millmann	Vice Chair	13882 390th Avenue, Blue Earth	507-526-7172	2006



Judicial Ditch 10 wetland restoration

This project (pictured) restored two large drained wetland basins along the upper reaches of the JD 10 drainage system. The system drains approximately 2,920 acres of land before emptying into nearby Rice Lake in northwestern Faribault County. The state of Minnesota, through the Board of Water and Soil Resources, working with the Faribault County SWCD, local drainage authority, and several landowners partnered on this project. The intended functions of the project are flood control, drainage system improvement, improved water quality, wildlife habitat, and improved drainage benefits for this public drainage system. The project was an alternative to a major repair or drainage improvement of the JD 10 system. BWSR, through the CREP program, secured four perpetual conservation easements from two landowners covering 156 acres to facilitate this project.

'Guide To Rural Living' This website educates new, existing, and potential rural homeowners within Faribault County on the rules and regulations that exist regarding rural living. The website, produced by the SWCD, addresses some of the many concerns and issues that rural residents face, such as zoning, building, septic systems, wells, solid waste, etc. Individuals looking at building or purchasing a home in a rural setting need to be informed of factors to consider. In providing this information prior to purchase, the SWCD hopes to minimize after-the-fact issues, concerns, and problems.

A joint powers agreement between the SWCD and Faribault County's Planning and Zoning Department allows for stable funding for Comprehensive Local Water Management Planning. The SWCD is also the county water plan coordinator

and recently completed the 2007-2016 Local Water Management Plan.

Rock Tile Inlets have been installed by the SWCD in recent years through its Alternative Tile Inlet Program. Various funding sources have contributed to the success of this program, which provides an alternative to traditional open intakes and provide multiple water quality benefits.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water quality concerns (surface, ground, lake watershed, wastewater, non point source pollution)
2. Stormwater management including stormwater control, LID and flood damage reductions
3. Drainage management including agricultural flood damage reduction, public drainage and water retention
4. Erosion control (soil, streambank and construction site)
5. Agricultural concerns (animal agriculture, manure management, nutrient management)

Future Projects

Urban Outreach Specialist - Faribault County SWCD received grant funding through the Clean Water Legacy and the 319 funding programs to hire an Urban Outreach Specialist to assist the communities of Faribault County with their stormwater needs. This position was created in response to the impaired waters issue, and the contribution of urban runoff to the problem. The SWCD is currently working with city staff, elected officials, and street supervisors to identify the needs of each community and determine the best way to assist them in their stormwater efforts. The cities will all be taking part in a campaign to raise awareness about basic water quality problems and solutions. The urban outreach effort will include initiating and designing some projects to demonstrate the use of innovative stormwater management techniques, and bringing training opportunities on best management practices, LID, NPDES permitting, and other topics.

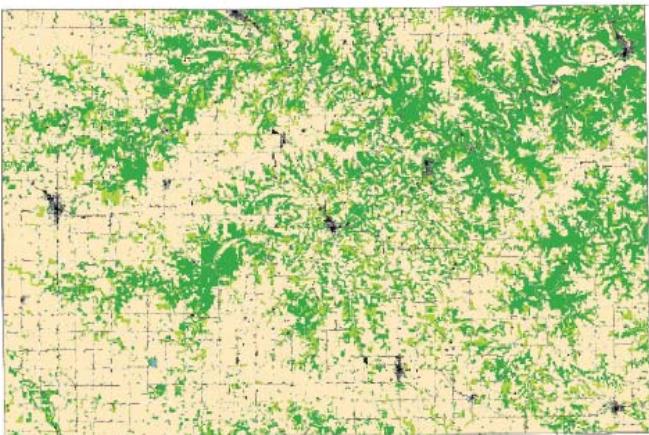
Fillmore

Soil & Water Conservation District



900 Washington Street NW
Preston, MN 55965
PHONE: (507) 765-3878
FAX: (507) 765-4415
www.fillmoreswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Wednesday or Thursday at 7 a.m. (spring and fall), 6:30 a.m. (summer) or 4:30 p.m. (winter)



Fillmore County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The Ag BMP Loan Program has enabled Fillmore SWCD to distribute \$1.18 million from 2004 to 2006. Of that amount, about \$267,000 was used for septic system upgrades, \$521,000 for feedlot fixes, \$134,000 for ag waste equipment, and \$254,000 for conservation tillage. In 2007, the Fillmore SWCD received another \$234,000 in new allocations plus about \$212,000 in revolving funds available for loans to implement more of these best management practices.

A Conservation Partnership grant of \$20,000 from the DNR was received by the SWCD in 2005 to complete pond restorations, which involved removing accumulated sediments in existing conservation ponds to restore their capacity for retaining sediment during runoff events. Nine ponds were restored to their original holding capacity at a total cost of \$48,000. Landowners received 50 percent cost-share up to a maximum of \$6,000. The grant covered \$20,000 of the costs. About 20 acres of disturbed areas were also planted to a native grass mix recommended by the DNR Wildlife Biologist for improved wildlife habitat.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$4,078
Education / Outreach	\$10,526
Wetland Conservation Act	\$20,252
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$371,508
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$1,375
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$8,175
Programs and Operations	\$68,954
Total	\$484,868

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone
Timothy Gossman	Chair	Route 1 Box 110, Chatfield	(507) 867-3129
Brian Hazel	Member	Route 2 Box 166A, Lanesboro	(507) 467-3470
Pamela Mensink	Treasurer	Route 2 Box 170, Preston	(507) 765-3384
Margaret Ness	Secretary	Route 1 Box 26, Chester, IA	(507) 561-4926
Richard O' Connor	Vice Chair	Route 1 Box 236, Mabel	(507) 493-5460



More than 22 feedlot pollution control

projects have been completed in the last four years by the SWCD, working in cooperation with the County Feedlot Officer and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Fillmore SWCD has been one of the top recipients in the state over the last several years for cost-share funds for feedlot projects. Feedlot owners receive 75 percent cost-share up to a maximum of \$50,000 for manure storage structures and other runoff control measures. Smaller non-engineered feedlot fixes have been completed on 73 sites with less than 300 animal units. The producer receives 50 percent cost-share up to a maximum of \$2,000 which helps them to meet the MPCA requirement for control of runoff from their site by 2010.

A septic system pilot project is underway to inventory and fix systems that are an imminent public health threat by 2009. Fillmore County is one of three counties to receive a \$240,000 MPCA grant for this project. The Fillmore SWCD is assisting the County Zoning Office and the SE MN Wastewater Initiative by providing staff for GIS support and inspections, assisting with education, and administering low-interest loans for upgrading septic systems.

The Fillmore SWCD is the lead agency for the South Branch Root River Watershed Project, which began with a Clean Water Partnership Diagnostic Study in 1998. In 2004, the project received a Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 grant for implementation of best management practices to reduce fecal coliform bacteria levels by 20 percent and reduce turbidity by 10 percent in three years. It was designated as a pilot project for Governor Pawlenty's Clean Water Initiative in 2003. The project is sponsored by Fillmore County and involves multiple partners: Mower SWCD, Mower County Environmental Services, Fillmore County Zoning, MN DNR,

MPCA, MDA, NRCS, MN Land Trust, and many citizen volunteers who do monitoring and help to guide the project.

State Cost-Share dollars disbursed in recent years by the SWCD include \$74,000 for grassed waterways, \$9,473 for farmstead windbreaks, \$11,700 for control basins and \$39,570 for terraces. These dollars have translated into 55 miles of grassed waterways, six miles of windbreaks, two control basins and six miles of terraces. Furthermore, the Fillmore SWCD has leveraged federal dollars through a strong working relationship with the USDA FSA and NRCS.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil erosion and runoff control to protect drinking water and source water
2. Human sewage treatment
3. Sinkholes and karst hydrology
4. Fertilizer and pesticide use
5. Feedlots and manure management

Future Projects

Root River Grazing Management: Fillmore SWCD is the fiscal agent for a Clean Water Legacy grant awarded to the Root River watershed to encourage and improve grazing management practices in the watershed. The grant funds have been used to hire a Grazing Management Specialist for two years who is doing grazing plans that meet NRCS standards for producers in the five counties with land draining to the Root River. He also provides education and information through grazing days, newspaper articles, radio interviews, and personal visits, and is assisting the MN Department of Agriculture with monitoring for a grazing study.

Nutrient Management Planning: Fillmore SWCD houses one of two Nutrient Management Specialists hired for two years through a Clean Water Legacy grant awarded to the SE MN Technical Support Joint Powers Board, of which the Fillmore SWCD is a member. The Nutrient Management Specialist works with producers to develop plans for utilizing livestock manure in the most efficient manner along with commercial fertilizer applications, if needed. Producers getting EQIP funding receive plans that meet NRCS standards. The plans also meet MPCA and county feedlot program requirements.

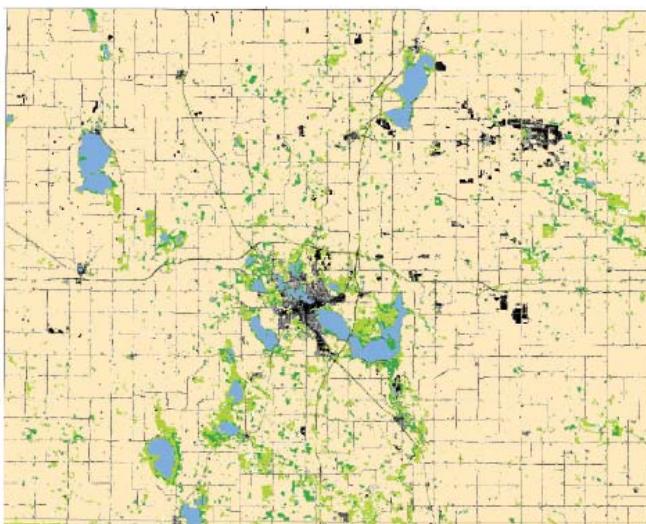
Freeborn

Soil & Water Conservation District



1400 West Main Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007
PHONE: (507) 373-5607
FAX: (507) 373-7654
www.freebornswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of the month at
• 7:30 p.m. (April-November) or
• 1:30 p.m. (December-March)



Freeborn County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A water and sediment control basin (pictured) was recently constructed that solved a critical gully erosion problem on the shoreline of one of our shallow lakes. The basin ridge (foreground) temporarily stores runoff water until the PVC inlet can remove it safely underground. This eliminated the gully problem keeping sediment out of the wetland. State Cost Share Funds helped pay for this installation.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$1,200
Education / Outreach	\$2,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$5,500
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$45,646
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$6,200
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$174,323
Total	\$234,869

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Don Kropf	Chairman	2005 Tower Road, Albert Lea	507-373-1925	1986
Cole Pesterous	Vice-Chair	20770 707 Avenue, Albert Lea	507-373-6758	2002
Obert Haldorson	Secretary	87861 170 Street, Austin	507-351-5094	1994
David Ausen	Treasurer	69128 260 Street, Alden	507-863-2165	2004
Chris Dahl	Member	27296 730 Avenue, Albert Lea	507-826-3463	2007 (Appointed)

13 water and sediment control basins

were installed on land owned by five different landowners working in partnership with the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA). Just under \$20,000 was paid to landowners as cost-share to encourage them to install needed erosion control measures.

About 100,000 acres of the northwest corner of Freeborn County is part of the Minnesota River Watershed. The SWCD is a member of the alliance that seeks out and administers grants aimed at improving water quality and reducing soil erosion in the watershed. An SWCD staff member and supervisor meet regularly with its Technical and Executive Committees.

A Clean Water Legacy Act grant received by GBERBA has made an additional \$19,000 in cost share dollars available to promote soil erosion abatement efforts in Freeborn County. The grant addresses a Turbidity TMDL in the Blue Earth River Basin. Landowners in the Cobb River Watershed of northwest Freeborn County can now receive cost share for a number of traditional conservation practice installations. A separate CWLA grant was received by SE Minnesota Technical Support JPB. This grant addresses a Fecal Coliform TMDL for the Cedar River Watershed. Cost share funds for small feedlot fixes and landowner assistance in Nutrient Management Planning is available as part of the SWCD's participation and partnership in this JPB.

A wetland restoration project was completed with engineering assistance from the SE MN Technical Support JPB. The end of a deep open ditch was stabilized and a wetland adjacent to it was restored by installing an Aluminum Toe Wall Drop Structure. The landowner had a 10-acre wetland that was degrading because the outlet was eroding. The SE MN JPB Engineer provided technical support, designing a structure that controls the outlet for a 350-plus acre watershed. The water level in the wetland was raised and the outlet end was protected from



The black horizontal strip visible behind the orange tile inlet pipe is the ridge of a water and sediment control basin in this field. Parallel ridges are spaced 180 feet apart and help protect a CREP wetland restoration below.

further erosion and degradation. A number of wetland restorations have now been finished as a result of the CREP signup that ended in 2002 in the Minnesota River Watershed. Freeborn has 18 easements covering over 500 acres that have converted marginal ag land into productive wetlands from that sign-up. The native grasses and forbs planted on the fringe areas are now well established and depict the original prairie/pothole landscape that covered much of the county. CREP II ended in 2007, and Freeborn SWCD has applications from 12 landowners currently to enroll over 500 acres of marginal ag land. Five of these applications are contiguous and will produce a significant wetland restoration area.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil erosion caused by surface water run-off
2. Surface Water Quality
3. Ground Water Quality
4. Wildlife Habitat
5. Flood Mitigation

Future Projects

Five landowners in Riceland Township have enrolled over 300 acres of contiguous ag land into a single CREP II Wetland Restoration Project. Agreements for conservation easements have all been signed and the restoration work will begin in 2008.

Preliminary engineering plans have been completed for a large embankment structure complemented by several smaller ones. The large structure will probably have draw-down capabilities and thus provide some storage for flood mitigation in the Turtle Creek Watershed, and more specifically for the City of Hollandale. The smaller embankments will restore additional wetlands outside the pool area created by the large structure. When the easements are done, BWSR Engineers can finalize the plans for the restoration work. As with all CREP easements, the wetland restorations will feature native grass and forb seedings. Food plots and tree plantings are also being planned for this project. This project is being done in cooperation with the Turtle Creek Watershed Board of Managers, The local Farm Service Agency, NRCS and our SWCD. A portion of the construction cost may be paid by the watershed board.

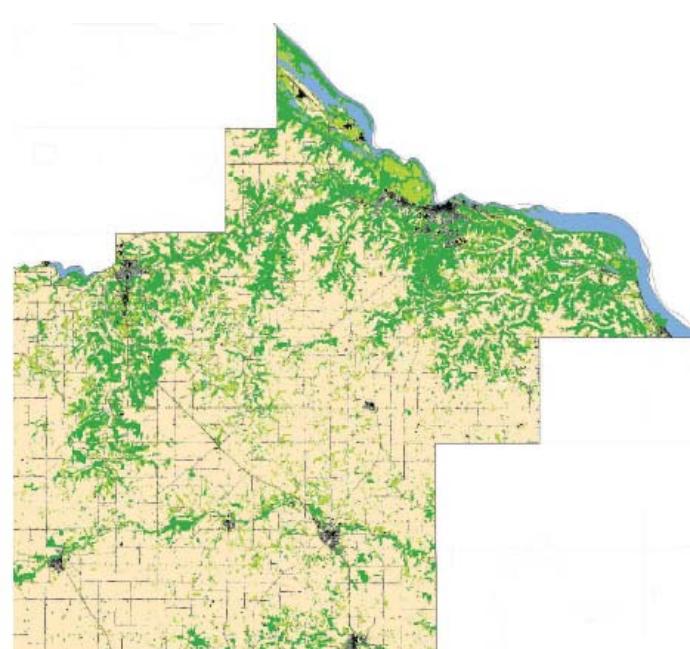
Goodhue

Soil & Water Conservation District



104 East 3rd Avenue, PO Box 335
Goodhue, MN 55027
PHONE: (651) 923-5300
FAX: (651) 923-5304
www.goodhueswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
4th Monday of month at 7:30 p.m.



Goodhue County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program has been promoted and administered by SWCD staff in cooperation with the Board of Water and Soil Resources and USDA. This conservation easement program offers financial incentives for long-term set-aside of marginal cropland with the establishment of conserving plants. More than 425 acres have been enrolled in CREP in Goodhue County.

The SWCD promotes the establishment of vegetative buffers along all streams and rivers to filter out and trap pollutants before they enter the surface water. Working with Goodhue County and local townships, SWCD staff have helped many landowners understand the benefits and requirements for these buffers.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$8,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$38,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$300,982
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$149,052
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$30,000
Programs and Operations	\$93,842
Total	\$619,876

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Paul Voxland	Chair	43625 County 30 Boulevard, Kenyon	507-789-6410	1985
Edward McNamara	Vice Chair	37299 171 Avenue, Goodhue	651-923-4777	1995
Lawrence Thomforde	Treasurer	17468 Sugarloaf Parkway, Zumbrota	507-732-7074	2005
Donald Banks	Reporter	1310 North 6th Street, Cannon Falls	507-263-5540	1961
John Jaeger	Secretary	33202 County 2 Boulevard, Red Wing	651-388-3977	1991



A County Feedlot Officer works as part of the SWCD staff to administer all parts of the County Feedlot Program. The SWCD works closely with county land-use staff on permitting issues when necessary.

Feedlot technical assistance is provided by an engineer through the Non-Point Engineering Assistance program. This gives landowners technical assistance on complex feedlot runoff control projects. The Goodhue SWCD also has on staff an engineering technician dedicated to assisting on similar projects and completing Nutrient Management Planning assistance

with manure spreader calibration equipment.

Through the SWCD's No-Till Drill Program, the SWCD provides a John Deere 1590 no-till drill with an appropriate seed mix for use on newly constructed grass waterways. Seeding is done into the firm untilled soil to reduce erosion potential, and is a time saver to landowners who do not have to purchase small amounts of seed and locate a small drill that fits their new waterway.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Erosion Control on agricultural lands
2. Reducing runoff from animal feedlots
3. Protection and restoration of wetlands
4. Surface Water Quality protection of rivers and streams
5. Promotion of Forestry Stewardship Management practices

Future Projects

Feedlot runoff control practice installations

-- SWCD staff are working with small feedlot owners who qualify for the "Open Lot Agreement" provision of the State Feedlot Rules. This option allows small feedlots with less than 300 animal units to fix their lots in stages, with full compliance by 2010. Cost-share funding from several sources has been secured to help pay for these projects, which can include:

- Fencing livestock out of sensitive areas
- Installing rain gutters or clean water diversions to keep clean water away from the feedlot, so that less water needs to be treated
- Construction of curbs to keep animal manure from leaving the feedlot

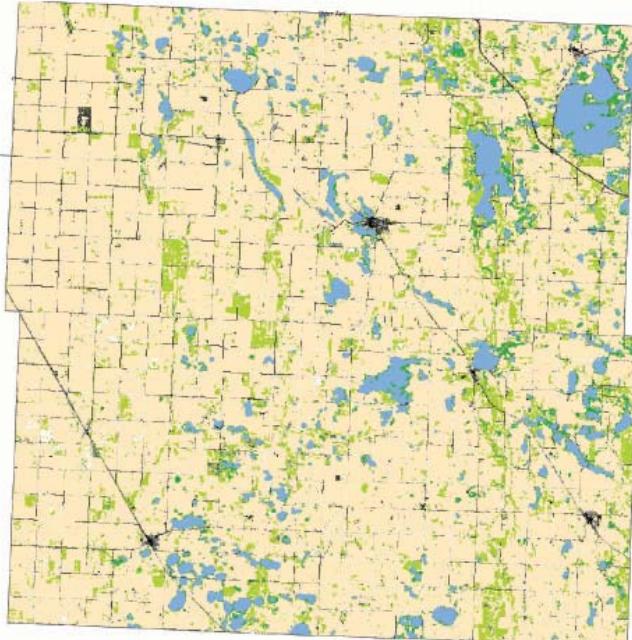
Grant

Soil & Water Conservation District



712 Industrial Park Boulevard
Elbow Lake, MN 56531-0177
PHONE: (218) 685-5395
FAX: (218) 685-6631

*SWCD board meetings:
4th Thursday of month at 9 a.m.*



Grant County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Grant County's Buffer Initiative has enrolled more than 18,000 acres in various buffer programs since 1998. Much of the success can be attributed to the willingness of Township board members, County Commissioners, and SWCD Supervisors who actively participated in the buffer initiative and promoted the program to their constituents.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$2,000
Education / Outreach	\$20,219
Wetland Conservation Act	\$20,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$58,695
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$63,434
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$20,000
Programs and Operations	\$44,121
Total	\$228,468

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Randy Larson	Chair	27507 State Highway 27, Herman	320-677-2763	1996
Arley Ellingson	Vice-Chair	18193 100th Avenue South, Hoffman	320-986-2773	1992
Odell Christenson	Treasurer	24389 270th Avenue, Wendell	218-458-2267	1994
Theo Myron	Pers Director	32869 230th Avenue, Elbow Lake	218-589-8546	1993
Joel Hildebrandt	Pub Relations	13571 State Highway 27, Hoffman	320-986-2232	2007



A water quality monitoring project that began in the early 1990s has enabled the SWCD and other local agencies to develop a Trophic State Index for many of the local lakes. This data indicated that the lakes were all threatened or impaired. Local officials noted that implementing buffers through the CRP would be a good way to address the water quality problems. SWCD staff worked closely with staff from the Grant County Department of Land Management to develop a proposal and plan for implementing a buffer strip initiative. Grant County Commissioners, County Planning Commission, and the SWCD Board of Supervisors adopted the proposal in 1998 and work began in earnest.

Using a challenge grant from BWSR, the SWCD was able to provide a technician to identify potential buffer sites. By assuming a 100-foot buffer between cropland and each bank of a lake, river, or stream, the SWCD and the county developed a program goal of 12,000 acres of new riparian buffers and filter strips. This goal was based on the buffer acreage that would be needed directly along streams, rivers, and lakes to offer the greatest water quality improvement. A number of landowners with land along other sensitive areas also qualified for and participated in the buffer program. Therefore, although the SWCD has met its acreage goal, it plans to continue working with landowners to implement buffers along all primary waterways.

The cooperation of all the local agencies played a key role in the program's success. Local agencies, including the SWCD, FSA, NRCS, and County government, worked very well together to develop and implement the program. All of the conservation district supervisors and county commissioners that owned agricultural land in the District implemented buffers. Almost all of the township

level officials that owned agricultural land followed suit. The example set by the local officials communicated to many landowners that the buffer program was a good idea and would prove beneficial.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Controlling water and wind erosion
2. Reducing sedimentation
3. Protecting and improving surface water quality
4. Protecting ground water quality
5. Improving wildlife habitat

Future Projects

Grant County Working Lands Initiative: Grant SWCD is acting as the Project team leader in a partnership of State, Federal, Local agencies, and organizations to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and reduce flood damages. This effort will be achieved by carrying out water level management activities on selected shallow lakes and implementing BMPs that reduce polluted runoff from agricultural land, acquiring long-term easements that protect existing grassland habitat and agricultural lands from development pressures, and enrolling selected ag land parcels into 10 to 15 year contracts to restore wetland and grassland habitat within the lake shed.

This project will prioritize three shallow lakes (Big Lake, Kube/Swift, and Stoney/Ash) and their lake sheds; where completing a water level control project will improve fish and wildlife habitat. Data will be collected to determine the amount and types of land use, land management and lake management changes needed to provide improved waterfowl habitat, improved water quality and flood damage reduction. In cooperation with landowner and agency representatives, a lake management plan will be developed that is beneficial to water quality, wildlife and flood damage reduction.

When the previous items have been completed, SWCD staff will meet with all landowners within the lake shed to explain which conservation projects will be required, financial incentives available, and the extent these projects will need to be implemented before draw down can occur.

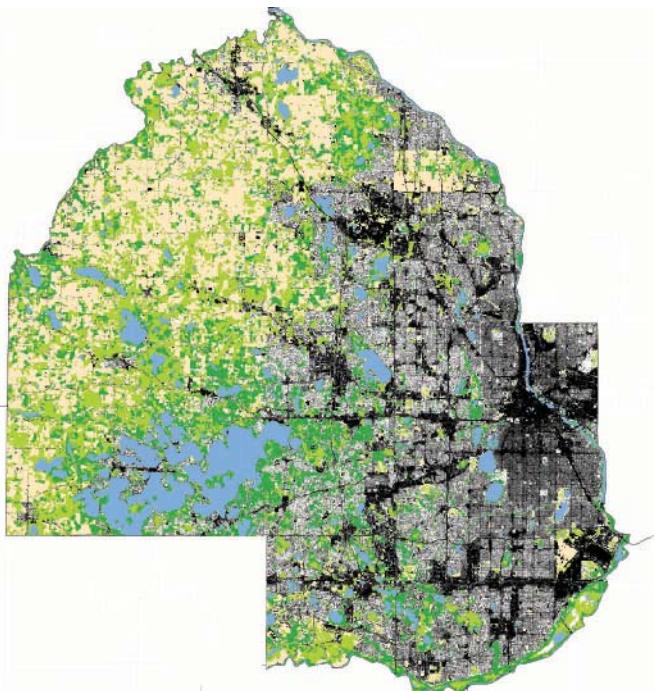
Hennepin

Conservation District



417 North 5th Street, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1397
PHONE: 612-348-9938
www.hcd.hennepin.mn.us

*SWCD board meetings:
2nd Monday of month at 7 p.m.*



Hennepin County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent projects / accomplishments



Pictured (above and next page): the Midtown Rain Garden in Minneapolis was completed by HCD and Hennepin County Environmental Services staff.

A cooperative agreement was signed in November of 2006 by HCD and Hennepin County Environmental Services (HCES). As of March 2007 HCD has no employees and the work load for HCD is provided by HCES staff. HCD board meetings

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$2,055
Education / Outreach	\$4,650
Wetland Conservation Act	\$38,428
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$6,310
Planning/ other local water management duties	--
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$1,000
Programs and Operations	\$27,599
Total	\$80,042

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Kim Boyce	Chair	3501 McNair Drive, Robbinsdale	763-521-0036	2005
Mike Wyatt	Vice Chair	2905 Dean Parkway #205, Minneapolis	612-817-7427	2005
Dan Jones	Secretary	12914 Sunset Trail, Plymouth	763-591-0661	2005
Stephen Jenkins	Treasurer	6417 Nordic Circle, Edina	734-834-7282	2007
Phil Willkie		2625 Hewton Street Minneapolis	612-822-0522	2007



are held at HCES and storage of HCD files is also provided by HCES. Due to this cooperative agreement HCD and HCES were able to provide a system for dealing with the Clean Water Legacy Act dollars. There are currently two projects one in the city of Plymouth and the second is Lake Independence TMDL.

Conservation of wetlands is a high priority of the Hennepin Conservation District (HCD). HCD assists other state and local units of government in monitoring legal and illegal impacts to wetlands. WCA activity includes issuing cease and desist orders, which leads to meetings with landowners to outline corrective actions. HCD staff also participate in Technical Evaluation Panels and suggest ways that projects can avoid impacting wetlands.

Monitoring conservation easements is completed by HCD staff each year. There are 22 easements that have been established in previous years through HCD staff's efforts in recent years through the state Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) program. These annual inspections are necessary to

verify that landowners are honoring the terms of the conservation easements on their properties. All inspection reports have been filed with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Environmental education represents a wise investment in youth and conservation knowledge. HCD provides staff support for the Envirothon, an environmental education program that has local, state and national competitions for high school students. Participating students form teams and prepare an oral presentation and complete exams on environmental topics. The Envirothon mission is to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing and prepared to work toward achieving and maintaining a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Impaired waters
2. Restoring wetlands
3. Improving surface water management
4. Reducing runoff
5. Improved stormwater management

Future Projects

Cost-Share project with the Shriners in western Hennepin County. This site has been an area of water quality concern for over a decade, and under the co-operative agreement this project was funded by HCD Cost-Share funds and Hennepin County Environmental Services Natural Resource Incentives for Critical Habitat funds. With both funding sources the project was able to begin. Estimated to be competed in 2008 or early 2009.

Hubbard

Soil & Water Conservation District



212 1/2 - 2nd Street West

Park Rapids, MN 56470

PHONE: (218) 732-0121

FAX: (218) 732-3994

SWCD board meetings:

2nd Tuesday of month at

- 8 a.m. (March – October),
- 8:30 a.m. (November - February)



Hubbard County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The Healthy Lakes and Rivers

Partnership has been a successful program that the Hubbard County SWCD has had the opportunity to participate in over the last few years. This project works with local lake and river associations to identify priority areas on their lake/river and then complete and implement a lake or river management plan to address those priorities. Since 2004, Hubbard SWCD has worked with 11 lakes in conjunction with the Initiative Foundation, the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the MN DNR and numerous other partners. This program fosters a stronger connection between lake communities by sharing successes and identifying common areas of concern. The “Big 3” concerns that were consistently identified in Hubbard County were: water quality, land use zoning/management, and aquatic invasive species.

Not only have numerous lakes benefited from this program individually, but it has led to an Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force within the county, organized by the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations. This group has accomplished an incredible amount in a short period of time. The AIS Task Force implemented a signage program,

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$ 7,146
Education / Outreach	\$ 7,242
Wetland Conservation Act	\$ 5,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$ 1,012
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$ 18,557
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$ 103,971
Total	\$ 136,928

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Doug Ralston	Chair	25628 Aspen Drive, Menahga	218-732-0485	2004
Duane Splittstoesser	Vice Chair	21608 County 12, Akeley	218-652-2722	2004
Don Rettinger	Secretary	49537 County 3, Bemidji	218-854-7306	2000
Carol Berg	Treasurer	29394 450th Street, Laporte	218-224-2127	1995
Don Sells	PR & I	13672 County 18, Park Rapids	218-732-5910	2006

BEFORE



AFTER



Pictured: A cost-share erosion control project at Camp Wilderness Boy Scout Camp on Bad Axe Lake.

partnering with other agencies to sponsor billboards around the area warning against aquatic invasive species, and developing its own, smaller signs to place throughout the county. Emphasis has also been placed on training volunteers to inspect watercraft at various lake accesses, working with resorts and campgrounds in Hubbard County to educate their guests, and actively engaging the local units of government in an ongoing discussion of how best to protect the waters of Hubbard County from aquatic invasive species.

The Local Water Management Plan

update for Hubbard County was approved in January of 2007 by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. A task force, made up of county residents and agency representatives, had worked on the plan for months, with the Hubbard SWCD coordinating the effort. The purpose of the plan is to focus on water and related land resource issues within the

county. Through the plan update process, three priority concerns were identified: Groundwater-based Drinking Water Protection, Surface Water Quality and Quantity Protection, and Wetlands and Habitat Protection.

The Wetland Conservation Act in Hubbard County is administered by the SWCD, which took on this role in 2007. Most of the District's programs are offering services to landowners, so the new role of administering state law has been a daunting task. The transition has gone relatively smoothly, however, with the end result being conservation of the county's wetlands.

The Freshwater Festival has been put on by the SWCD for the last eight years. This Festival is a day-long event for 6th graders in the county and surrounding areas to learn the importance of good stewardship for our lakes and rivers. The event takes place at Camp Wilderness, a Boy Scout camp, and presentations are given by numerous agencies, as well as the Science Museum of Minnesota, and a professional environmental educator. Support for the Freshwater Festival comes from throughout the community, but especially the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations which donates both money and volunteer time to the event.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Groundwater-based Drinking Water Protection
2. Surface Water Quality Protection and Improvement
3. Surface Water Quantity Protection
4. Wetlands Protection
5. Habitat Fragmentation

Future Projects

The Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District has been looking to implement a long-term groundwater quality monitoring network. The soils in the southern third of the county are very sandy, and therefore especially susceptible to leaching contaminants. At this time, the main concern is the level of nitrates in citizens' drinking water. The SWCD puts on a free nitrate testing clinic each year for landowners, but would like to begin a monitoring network to track the trends of nitrates and other contaminants, including pesticides.

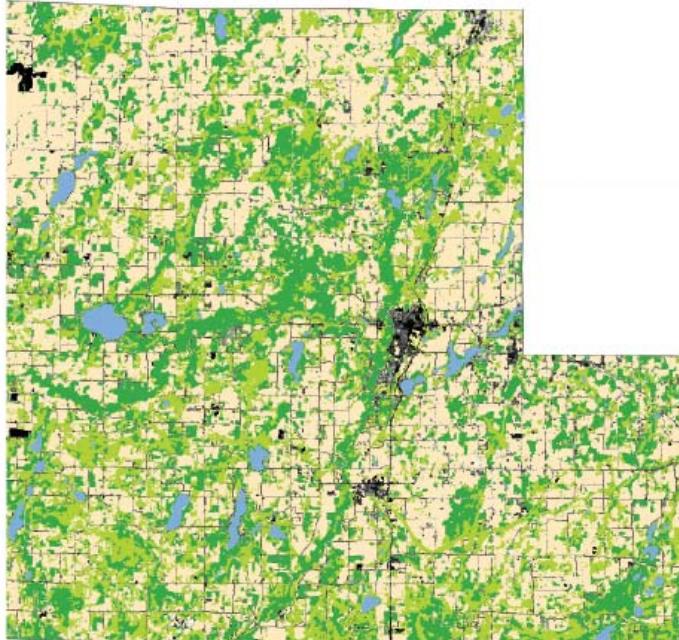
Isanti

Soil & Water Conservation District



380 Garfield Street South
Cambridge, MN 55008
PHONE: (763) 689-3224
FAX: (763) 689-2309

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Tuesday of month at 8 a.m.



Isanti County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



The Isanti Conservation District works with the Local Isanti County Pheasants Forever Chapter to establish habitat in Isanti County.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$10,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$5,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$30,625
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$38,913
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$148,824
Total	\$233,362

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Wayne Calander	Chairman	4019 - 311th Avenue NE, Cambridge	763-689-4771	2000
Clifford Edblad	Vice-Chairman	2100 County Road 6 NW, Cambridge	Unlisted	1998
Raymond Marsh	Secretary	4690 - 285th Avenue NE, Isanti	763-444-5461	2004
Allan Koczur	Treasurer	1255 South Adams Street, Cambridge	763-689-4993	2004
Earle Stoeckel	Public Relations	6910 - 253rd Avenue NW, St. Francis	763-444-5789	1981

The District helped with a streambank biostabilization project in Spencer Brook Township in 2002.



Field windbreak



Native prairie seeding



Wetland restoration

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Restoring water quality in North Branch of the Sunrise River Watershed
2. Native Prairie seeding in Metro wildlife corridor
3. Restoring water quality on impaired waters in Isanti County
4. Protecting wetlands
5. Restoring wetlands

Future Projects

1. Streambank Erosion Control-project in progress
2. Wastewater for Feed lot Diversion and grass filter strips-project in progress

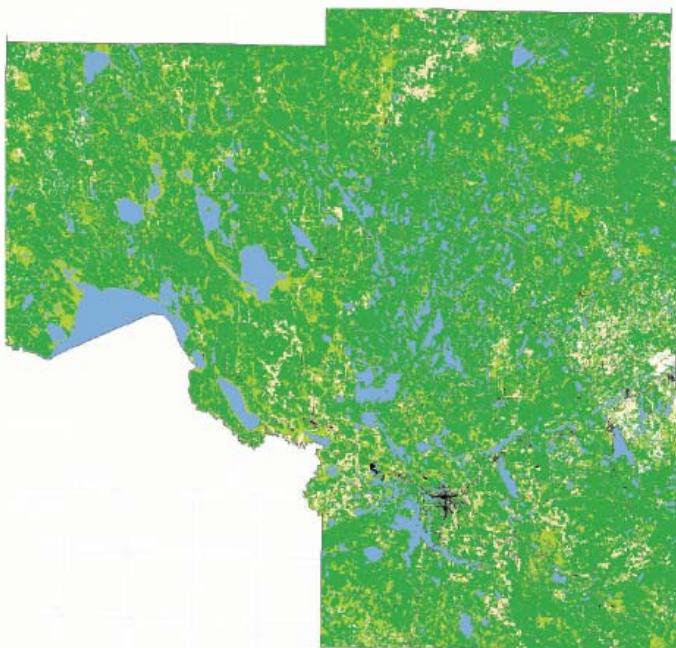
Itasca

Soil & Water Conservation District



1889 East Highway 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
PHONE: (218) 326-0017
FAX: (218) 326-8938
itascaswcd.org

*SWCD board meetings:
1st Tuesday of month at 9 a.m.*



Itasca County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

A lake sensitivity model is being developed by the Itasca SWCD to be used in guiding development and shoreland management strategies for protecting lake water quality into the future. In addition to the more immediate benefits to lake management, updating this resource information has long-term benefits for evaluating wetland protection strategies, establishing a solid baseline inventory of wetland resources, and evaluating wetland impairments.

The annual Native Plant Sale is a popular program with landowners. The purpose of the sale is to provide Itasca County landowners a source for smaller quantities of conservation grade trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and sedges. The SWCD only offers species that are native to Minnesota and are well adapted to Itasca County growing conditions.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$50,620
Education / Outreach	\$12,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$61,296
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$6,441
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$41,854
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$4,000
Programs and Operations	\$12,756
Total	\$178,167

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Charles Isaacs	Chairman	38180 County Road 44, Deer River	246-9119	1986
Ted Lovdahl, Jr.	Vice Chair	34486 County Road 40, Effie	743-3686	1986
Terry Tillotson	Secretary	15042 County Road 564, Nashwauk	885-1451	1994
Donald C. Simons	Treasurer	12506 River Road, Grand Rapids	326-2184	1990
Darrell Lauber	Reporter	32340 LaPlant Road, Grand Rapids	326-5791	2000

BEFORE



AFTER



An oil spill recovery and mitigation project recently was completed by Itasca SWCD staff. A large crude oil transport line ruptured in a wetland adjoining the Mississippi River on July 4, 2002. 6,000 barrels of crude oil (330,000 gallons) were spilled, impacting more than 11 acres of wetlands. The area was then burned to reduce the amount of free oil on site, the remaining oil was recovered through the use of suction pumps, oil absorbent booms, and ultimately through the excavation of the contaminated soil. The restoration effort has included the removal of earth berms to re-establish area hydrology, the area has been seeded and planted with native species, Native trees and shrubs have also been added. Although this area will never be the same as it was prior to this event, it is currently a functioning wetland.

Shoreland Revegetation Workshops

teach area residents about natural, potentially low cost, wave action erosion prevention options, such as willow-wattles and live stakes. These workshops have helped many property owners who are losing shoreline because of wave action erosion.

The Water Plan Update (2007-2017) for Itasca County addresses the water-related issues across the entire county, regardless of jurisdictional, political, municipal or watershed boundaries. This plan provides a means of consistency across the county and is consistent with other state, regional and local planning processes. It will look at ground and surface water and those activities that may influence water quality or quantity. The plan will look specifically at the top six priority concerns that were developed through the SWCD's scoping process. The concerns that were identified are addressed as county wide, however, when necessary or applicable they will be implemented on a watershed-wide basis.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality Protection/Restoration
2. Shoreland Stabilization
3. Forest Stewardship / Firewise
4. Wetland Conservation
5. Upgrading of non-compliant septic systems

Future Projects

Minnesota Steel Industries: This is the construction of a new steel mill, taconite pellet plant, new open pit mine development and all of its related infrastructure including roads, railways, and utilities.

Other ongoing projects:

- Development of local wetland mitigation banks.
- Development of the Jessie Lake TMDL study.

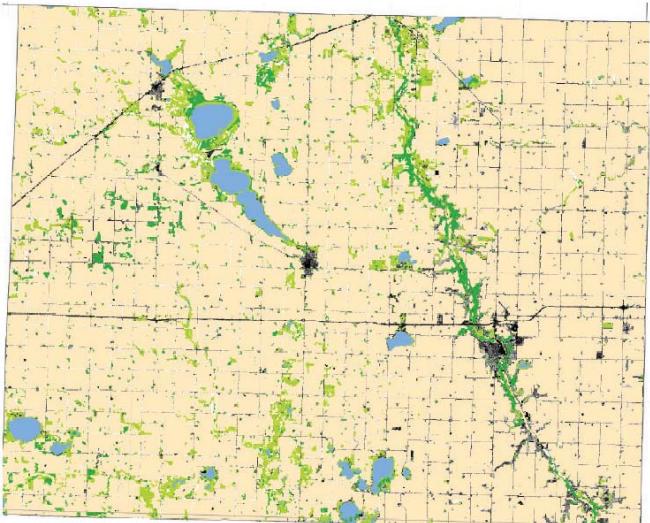
Jackson

Soil & Water Conservation District



603 South Highway 86
Lakefield, MN 56150-3295
PHONE: (507) 662-6682
FAX: (507) 662-5600

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Monday of month at 7 p.m.



Jackson County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

A long-standing relationship with Pheasants Forever has led to many successful initiatives. Since 1998, the SWCD has partnered with the Jackson County PF Chapter on the planting of over 119,000 trees on nearly 400 acres at a cost of \$81,394.46. These projects have been on General CRP, Continuous CRP and RIM contracts. PF has also been a huge supporter of the Farm Bill Assistance Technician, a staff position at the Jackson SWCD that promotes conservation options to landowners. In 1999 the Jackson SWCD was nominated as the local "Conservationist of the Year" for coordination of the Switchgrass Seed Distribution Project. The SWCD also developed the Max Habitat Program for CREP II which a short time later was adopted for the entire CREP II signup.

The rock inlet / alternative tile intake program has been a big success. Since its inception in 1999, over 350 rock inlets have been installed in Jackson County. These low-cost projects have been a favorite with many farmers who have now replaced all of their open tile intakes with rock inlets.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$6,191
Wetland Conservation Act	\$5,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$49,592
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$8,500
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$79,195
Total	\$148,478

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Paul E. Nelson	Chair	71202 Petersburg Road, Jackson	507-847-3203	1997
Dan Riley	Vice Chair	33762 760th Street, Round Lake	507-945-6560	2002
Larry G. Hansen	Treasurer	87247 520th Avenue, Jackson	507-847-2617	1983
Dave Hussong	Secretary	84926 380th Avenue, Okabena	507-853-4660	2005
Dennis Daberkow	PR&I	44331 860th Street, Lakefield	507-662-5320	2005



The Conservation Reserve

Enhancement Program (CREP II) has been a staff priority since its beginning in June of 2005. SWCD staff are processing 29 contracts on over 800 acres of land in Jackson County. These contracts vary in size from a 1.1-acre filter strip to a 110-acre wetland restoration. Nearly 47 percent of the CREP contracts being enrolled are in the Heron Lake Watershed. The Des Moines River has also been a priority area, and 29 percent of the acres are either adjacent to the river or within its watershed. The SWCD has also worked closely with the MN DNR Working Lands Initiative. The two programs have been a perfect fit for the goals of the SWCD, the DNR and the landowner.

Project eligibility and feasibility can easily be determined thanks to LIDAR data acquired in 2007. The SWCD and the Local Water Plan staff cooperated with the Iowa DNR and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to acquire the LIDAR data for Jackson County's portion of the Iowa Great Lakes Watershed. This data, covering over 25,000 acres of the county, provides us with 1-foot contours as well as high resolution photos.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Prevention of Soil Erosion
2. Improvement of Surface Water Quality
3. Drainage Management
4. Ground Water Management
5. Feedlots

Future Projects

CREP II wetland restorations will require much of the SWCD's attention in the immediate future. There are 274.7 acres of wetland to restore on nine contracts. These projects will result in almost 540 additional acres of new wildlife habitat that will also reduce soil erosion, increase water quality and provide a multitude of other benefits. These acres will be a welcomed addition to the already existing 2,300 acres of Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve in Jackson County.

Construction will soon begin on a feedlot run-off control system for a 375-head beef operation in Sioux Valley Township. This \$140,000 pollution abatement system is adjacent to a Type IV wetland. The FLEVAL score was high on this site and corrective action needed to be taken. The EQIP program will provide \$70,000 worth of financial assistance; State Cost-Share will provide an additional \$30,000; and the landowner will pay the balance.

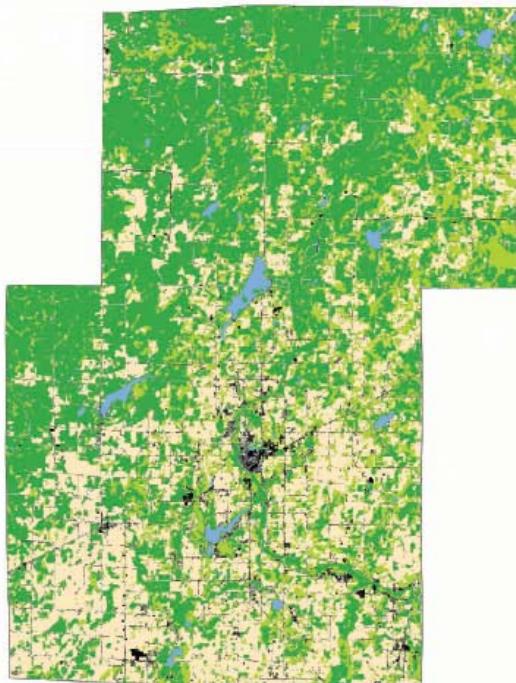
Kanabec

Soil & Water Conservation District



2008 Mahogany Street, Suite 3
Mora, MN 55051
PHONE: (320) 679-3982
FAX: (320) 679-4692

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Tuesday of month at 4:30 p.m.



Kanabec County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: A riverbank protection project.

A Clean Water Legacy Grant

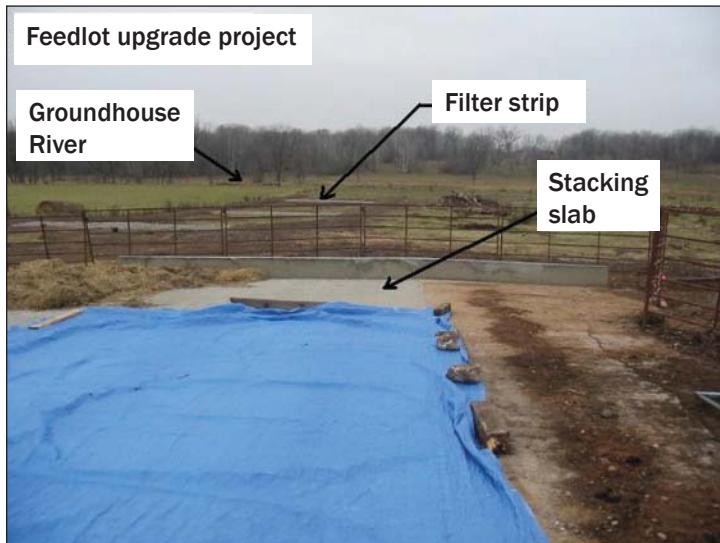
was received by the SWCD to hire a vegetation restoration specialist position for two years. Through the Non-Point Engineering Assistance (NPEA) Technical Service Area, this vegetation restoration specialist provides technical assistance to landowners to implement native vegetative buffers along riparian areas.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$2,111
Education / Outreach	\$350
Wetland Conservation Act	\$10,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$11,860
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$2,653
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$180
Programs and Operations	\$62,117
Total	\$89,271

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Paul Larson	Chairman	2564 Pheasant Street, Brook Park	320-679-3593	2004
Karen Longerbone	member	2328 250th Avenue, Mora	320-679-0040	2006
Kevin Belkholm	member	1438 Melody Street, Braham	320-679-2491	2004
Jeff Gryskiewicz	Sec./Treasurer	3169 310th Avenue, Brook Park	320-384-0180	2000
Ralph Wahlstrom	Vice Chair	1175 Garden Street, Olgilvie	320-272-4241	1982



Pictured: This feedlot upgrade project borders the Groundhouse River. Good participation for the Ag BMP Loan Program has enabled the SWCD to complete many septic system upgrades and other projects, purchase conservation equipment and install conservation practices.

The SWCD has a very strong working relationship with the local Watershed Management Organization. The partnership has enabled the two organizations to leverage funds for the implementation of conservation projects, including surface water monitoring and educational programs. Ten recent projects that were completed through this partnership accomplished the following pollution reduction estimates:

- 85 tons/year of soil loss reduction
- 106 pounds/year of phosphorus reduction
- 6,174 pounds/year of chemical oxygen demand reduction
- 1,661 lineal feet of streambank and lakeshore protection from erosion

Kanabec SWCD has been cooperating on an impaired waters study for the Groundhouse River watershed, called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). This study is in the process of being completed in cooperation with the MPCA, Dept. of Natural Resources, Private Consultant, Snake River Watershed Management Board and Kanabec County. A new TMDL study will also begin for the Ann River Watershed in the near future.

The SWCD has worked well with Kanabec County to implement the Wetland Conservation Act and

to develop and implement the county's Comprehensive Local Water Management plan.

A reforestation pilot program is underway through the SWCD's involvement with the DNR Forest Stewardship Program. The SWCD, along with the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and the East Central Landscape Committee, promotes reforestation and provides technical and financial assistance to landowners in a changing and declining forest landscape.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protecting surface and groundwater quality near lakes, streams and wetlands, by implementing conservation practices and providing technical assistance
2. Streambank and lakeshore protection and stabilization
3. Feedlot runoff control and nutrient management
4. Well sealing and abandonment
5. Ag. BMP Loan program

Future Projects

Ann Lake erosion control project: The SWCD received a Special Projects Grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a "cooperative erosion control and runoff project" to improve the water quality of Ann Lake in Kanabec County. The project partners include the local Sportmen's Club, private landowners, a business, DNR Trails and Waterways, and the County Highway Department. This is a very visible project to the public. The project includes improvements to the DNR public access and adjoining lands.

Floodplain erosion control project: The SWCD is working with a local township, Kanabec County, a private consultant, and landowners to control erosion and runoff in a floodplain area. The project will help protect a township road and stabilize the river banks of an impaired stream.

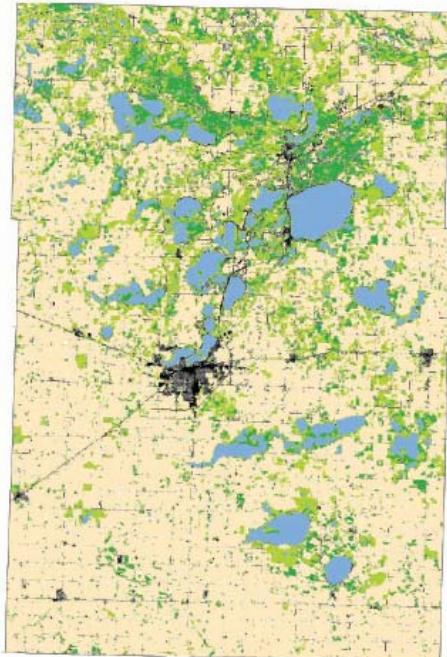
Kandiyohi

Soil & Water Conservation District



1005 High Avenue NE
Willmar, MN 56201
PHONE: 320. 235.3906
FAX: 320. 235.0984

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Tuesday of month
• 7:30 p.m. May - October
• 10 a.m. November - April



Kandiyohi County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent projects / accomplishments



Five sediment blocks were installed to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality, especially benefiting Eagle Lake and other downstream waters. During rain events prior to the installation of the sediment blocks, water was overtopping the township road adjacent to the project and creating farming problems. Since the completion of the project, erosion has been eliminated and water volume has been controlled. Funding for the project came from State Cost-Share, Hawk Creek Watershed Project and Kandiyohi County Water Plan funds.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$3,040
Education / Outreach	\$27,356
Wetland Conservation Act	\$9,118
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$115,501
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$6,080
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$60,790
Programs and Operations	\$117,394
Total	\$303,951

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Douglas L. Hanson	Chairman	1601 8th Street SW, Willmar	320.235.0938	2000
Sherman Mankell	Vice-Chairman	17197 County Road 5 NW, New London	320.354.2690	1980
Roger Rasmussen	Secretary	6409 County Road 1 NW, Pennock	320.599.4461	1984
Kevin Clough	Treasurer	11299 195th Street SE, Lake Lillian	320.974.3085	1998
Terry Schaefer	PR & Info	28820 175th Street NE, Paynesville	320.243.5022	1997

BEFORE



AFTER



A streambank stabilization project (pictured) was recently completed to control erosion occurring near a feedlot and farm site. Stabilizing the bank in turn improves water quality downstream to Rice and Koronis Lakes. The project has a direct impact on water quality and public safety by decreasing total suspended solids and total phosphorous entering the North Fork Crow River. Funding for this project included: State Cost-Share, Kandiyohi County Water Plan, Crow Joint Powers, Rice and Koronis lake associations, and Crow River Organization of Water (CROW) Watershed Project.

A wetland restoration to alleviate flooding problems in the city of Kandiyohi was completed in June 2007. This was a joint project with the Kandiyohi SWCD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Kandiyohi County Water Plan and the city of Kandiyohi. The project restored four wetlands totaling 23 acres, two grassland areas totaling 16 acres, restored wildlife habitat and diverted overflow to an adjacent system that bypassed the city.

Design and construction of an ag waste pit was recently completed by the SWCD at a local farm. The synthetic-lined pit is designed to hold the manure from the dairy barn and the runoff from the feedlots. Wastewater from the milk house is also emptied into the pit. Along with SWCD assistance, the landowner received EQIP cost sharing from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and cost sharing from one of the watershed projects. This also included assistance on a manure pump and a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan.

A Living Snow Fence pilot project

grant of \$20,000 was received from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), along with a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant of \$111,609 and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) funds to establish living snow fences (LSF) to reduce the costs associated with snow removal and energy reduction. Other benefits of LSF's include safer driving conditions, soil erosion, protection for livestock, habitat for wildlife and landscape aesthetics.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Improve and protect water quality in lakes, wetlands, rivers, streams and ditches
2. Decrease stormwater runoff from urban and agricultural land, including feedlots and cropland
3. Reduce wind and water erosion on cropland to tolerable levels
4. Protect and improve wildlife habitat and control invasive species
5. Promote responsible development

Future Projects

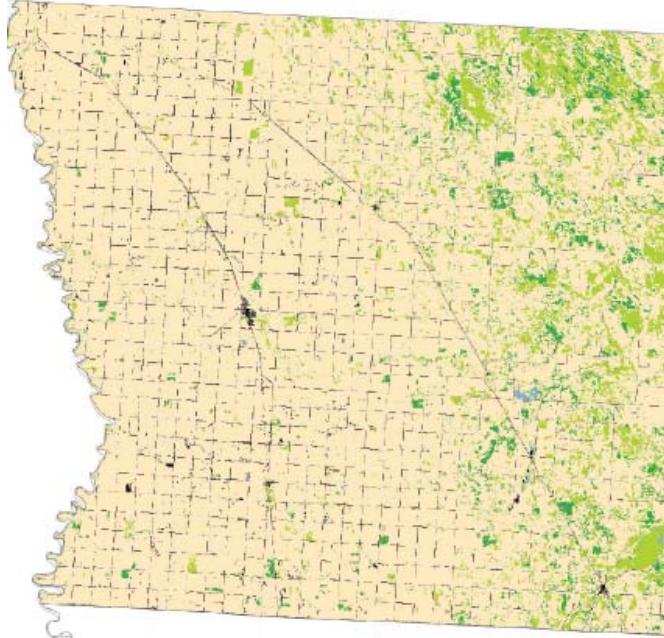
Grass Lake Prairie Wetland restoration -- The 1,200 acre site is located in the headwaters of the South Fork Crow Watershed, southeast and adjacent to the city of Willmar. Efforts are currently underway to restore the drained lakebed for the purposes of improving downstream water quality, providing downstream flood reduction, and restoring wildlife habitat benefits. The Kandiyohi SWCD, county, city and other project partners have agreed to cooperate and undertake this project to help secure the remaining easements, conduct the necessary drainage proceedings, and make the necessary site modifications to restore the drained lakebed. Just over 1,100 acres of land have been previously secured under permanent Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve easements to facilitate the Grass Lake Restoration. Restoration work could begin as soon as property rights are secured on the remaining six properties affecting approximately 400 additional acres.

Kittson

Soil & Water Conservation District



410 S 5th Street, Suite 106
Hallock, MN 56728
PHONE: (218) 843-2619
FAX: (218) 843-2772
www.nwmnswcd.org
SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at 7 a.m.
(8 a.m. in winter months)



Kittson County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



04/17/2006



Pictured: Before (top) and after an erosion control project at the Two Rivers Golf Club in Hallock

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$25,000
Education / Outreach	\$2,600
Wetland Conservation Act	\$8,225
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$6,000
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$25,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$83,175
Total	\$150,308

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Greg Peterson	Chairman	3471 270th Avenue, Lancaster	218-762-7461	2000
Scott Klein	Vice chair	1946 200th Avenue, Hallock	218-843-2752	2004
Joe Wilebski	Treasurer	3988 320th Avenue, Lancaster	218-762-7251	2000
Justin Dagen	Secretary	1148 360th Avenue, Karlstad	218-436-2156	2002
Ron Anderson	Public Relations	1371 430th Avenue, Karlstad	218-436-2164	2006

Countywide zoning and the Ag Inspection programs for Kittson County are administered by the Kittson SWCD. The SWCD also administers the traditional SWCD programs, including tree planting, local water management, feedlot upgrades, Wetland Conservation Act, shoreland stabilization, and ISTS replacement.

Seven perpetual conservation easements through the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program have been established by the SWCD on privately owned lands in Kittson County.

Nearly \$270,000 was loaned through the Ag BMP program at an interest rate of 3 percent in 2006. The program helps landowners pay for best management practices, including equipment and septic systems. Nearly \$1.9 million has been loaned out of the Kittson SWCD revolving loan account since 1997.

Rain gauge monitoring is done by 25 volunteers who report rainfall amounts from April through October each year. The information is compiled through the SWCD office and forwarded to the Minnesota Climatology Office. This is essential baseline data acquired for Kittson County through the help of volunteer landowners.

The Kittson SWCD sponsors the Public Law-566 project proposed by the Two Rivers Watershed District. The SWCD sponsors this and other such projects by providing technical assistance, cost share or by donating work space for staff working on these projects.

The Springbrook erosion control project is one example of how the cost-share funds are used to improve water quality. The project included the installation of flow control, resloping road ditches, relocating dikes away from waterway edges and seeding grass buffers. The outcomes are to reduce highly erosive water velocities, prevent bank sloughing, increase ditch-holding capacity, and improve water quality.

Educational events include the Envirothon, the Northwest Minnesota Water Festival, Arbor Day presentations, Riverwatch, Crop Improvement, and Kittson County Fair booths and career days at local schools.

Forty-five wells have been sealed through the Kittson SWCD since 2000, with a combination of funding from EQIP, State Cost-Share and CLWP Cost-Share.

Livestock producers have received over \$4,000 from the SWCD to help with the expense of disposing of dead animals through the dead animal pickup cost share program since 2000.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reduce erosion
2. Protect and restore water quality
3. Promote wildlife management
4. Educate the public on natural resource issues
5. Administer cost share to accomplish established priorities

Future Projects

The Kittson SWCD recently received a Local Water Management challenge grant for a project at the Greenwood Cemetery, Hallock. A work group has been formed to help deal with the details of the rotational failure, and to work with TSA 1 Engineer Jim Hest. The project will have several phases, with the first phase being the removal of several graves in danger of falling into the nearby Two Rivers.

A streambank stabilization project has been surveyed and designed by Hest on another stretch of the Two Rivers. This project is designed to save a cabin on a bluff that has been severely eroding over the past few years. Once a permit has been obtained from the DNR, the project will begin.

The Riverside Cemetery in Lake Bronson is another streambank stabilization project in which the SWCD is involved. A survey and design will be completed in the fall/winter of 2007-2008.

The SWCD is also currently working with landowners in the sealing of 10 wells.

Koochiching

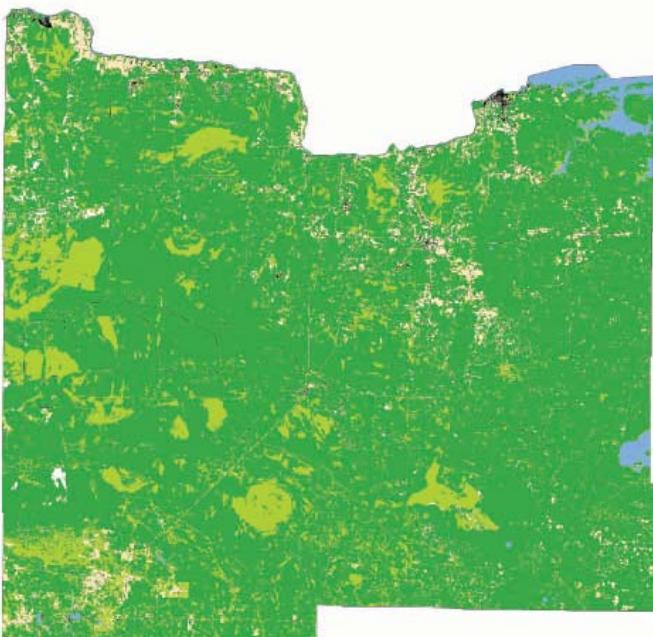
Soil & Water Conservation District



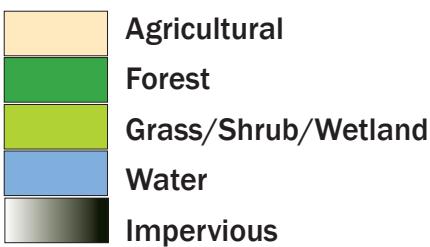
715 4th Street
International Falls, MN 56649
PHONE: (218) 283-1174
FAX: (218) 283-1176

[co.koochiching.mn.us/dept/soil_&
water/soilwatermain.htm](http://co.koochiching.mn.us/dept/soil_&_water/soilwatermain.htm)

SWCD board meetings: 1st Monday of month at 7 p.m.
(November-April) or 6:30 p.m. (May-October)



Koochiching County Land Cover



Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The Renewable Energy Clean Air Project (RECAP) utilizes the environmentally clean technology of plasma gasification to produce synthetic gasses and other value-added by-products. This process uses all forms of biomass as feedstock, including municipal solid waste. RECAP is the first project of its kind in North America. Located in International Falls, RECAP is administered by a partnership of the Koochiching County Board, Laurentian RC&D, CORONAL and the SWCD. The project received state funds through the Legislature and Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Many environmental outcomes are projected, including: reducing the need for landfills, increasing recycling, reducing the amount of mercury that goes into landfills, and reducing methane generation, a greenhouse gas that is produced by existing landfills. This will also create a green energy source for businesses in the International Falls area. The project fits nicely with the SWCD's mission of protecting and ensuring the sustainability of our natural resources.

The Margie Cemetery, located along the state-designated trout stream Diner Creek, was experiencing severe erosion that had been

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$16,661
Wetland Conservation Act	\$20,678
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$30,853
Planning/ other local water management duties	--
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$50,537
Total	\$118,729

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Ralph Lewis	Treasurer	10990 Highway 11, Birchdale	218-634-2048	1969
Troy Promersberger	Chair	5410 T.R. 249, Littlefork	218-278-4234	2005
Eldon Voigt	Member	2216 Crabtree Boulevard, International Falls	218-285-7870	2007
Bernard Uran	Secretary	11881 Highway 71, Northome	218-897-5586	2000
Allen Linder	Vice Chair	3309 Highway 217, Ray	218-875-2195	1994

BEFORE



AFTER



undercutting the bank, felling trees, and endangering grave sites. Funding for the project included State Cost-Share through the Koochiching SWCD and supplemental funding through the Koochiching County Board. The North Central MN Joint Powers Board provided engineering services, and construction was completed in the fall of 2005, using a variety of restoration measures including clearing and grubbing, bank shaping, geo-textile fabric, rock riprap, seeding, erosion control blankets, and critical area plantings of trees and shrubs. This erosion control project continues to hold steady and appears to have provided much needed relief to an environmentally and emotionally sensitive area.

A Natural Resources Video was produced by the Koochiching County Board and the Koochiching SWCD, working with Rat Root River Enterprises. This locally produced video focuses on natural resource management efforts by local landowners and various agencies. This educational video is used to promote natural resource awareness and provide viewers with a comprehensive overview of Koochiching County. The local Chamber of Commerce has utilized this video as a promotional tool for

individuals and businesses looking to relocate to the area.

The Voyageurs National Park Bike Trail

was recently completed with assistance from the Koochiching SWCD. At the request of Voyageurs National Park, the SWCD provided wetland delineation assistance to facilitate the construction of a bike trail leading from Highway 11 to the Rainy Lake Visitor Center. Established in 1975, Voyageurs National Park provides year-round activities for visitors, and this project will provide bicyclists, pedestrians and automobile drivers with safe access to the visitor center while protecting the park's natural resources.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Shoreline Stabilization/Restoration along Rainy River, Rainy Lake, and Littlefork River
2. Forest Management Education/Stewardship Planning
3. Wetland Education/Technical Assistance
4. Sedimentation/Erosion Control
5. Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Future Projects

Wetland Banking and Shoreland Restoration Workshops:

With a staff of just two, the Koochiching SWCD relies on valued partnerships with multiple agencies to accomplish shared goals. In the spring and summer of 2008, the SWCD looks forward to partnering with the Army Corps of Engineers, MN Extension Service, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Lake of the Woods SWCD, Department of Natural Resources, and the Environmental Services Department to deliver two hands-on workshops:

- The spring workshop will provide a comprehensive look at wetland banking that will offer participants a realistic view of the time, materials, site feasibility, and agency requirements necessary to create high-value wetland banks.
- The summer workshop on site preparation and planting will allow participants an opportunity to "get their hands dirty" by working on an actual shoreline revegetation project. The workshop will offer information on erosion control methods and other shoreland management options.

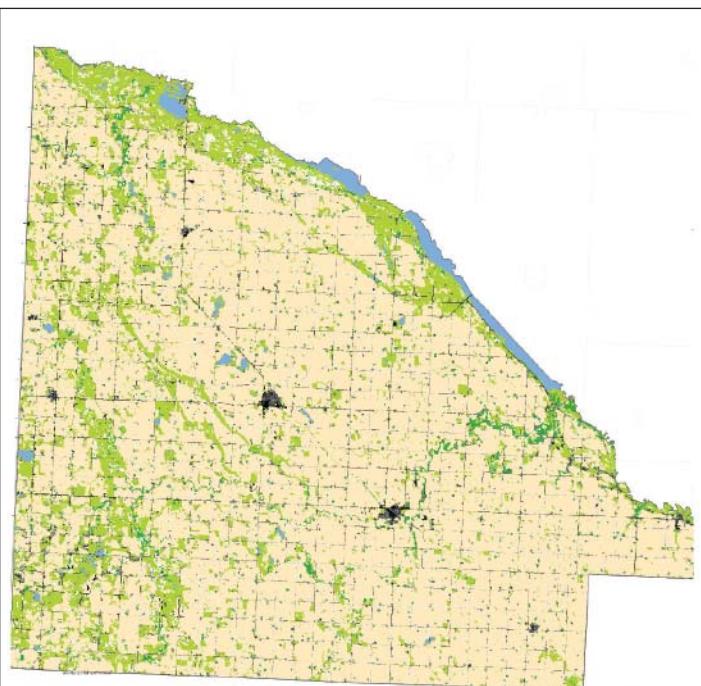
Lac qui Parle

Soil & Water Conservation District



122 8th Avenue South, Ste 1
Madison, MN 56256
PHONE: (320) 598-7321
FAX: (320) 598-3432

*SWCD board meetings:
1st Thursday of month at 8 a.m.*



Lac qui Parle County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Ten dry hydrants have been installed in Lac qui Parle County by the SWCD, working with Prairie Country Resource Conservation & Development, and local fire departments. Dry hydrants provide year-round emergency water sources to fight fires.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$8,000
Education / Outreach	\$13,597
Wetland Conservation Act	\$10,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$209,617
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$3,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$32,830
Programs and Operations	\$41,636
Total	\$318,680

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
John Rebehn	Chairman	3211 221st Avenue, Louisburg	320-568-2280	1989
Ed Radermacher	Vice-Chair	1144 330th Street, Bellingham	320-568-2110	1995
Bob Ludvigson	Treasurer	1979 Highway 212, Madison	320-598-7897	2005
LeRoy Schuelke	Secretary	1181 335th Street, Boyd	320-855-2590	2003
Jeff Johnson	PR & I	2195 361st Avenue, Montevideo	320-769-4674	2007



Several youth education programs are popular in Lac qui Parle County. An SWCD employee visits every K-6 classroom in the county to introduce the SWCD's coloring contest (K-2), picture contest (grades 3-4), and poster and essay contest (grades 5-6). The theme is based on the contests promoted by the Minnesota Association of SWCDs (MASWCD), and the SWCD develops an interactive presentation on the theme. Recent topics have included "Community Waters" and "Trees – Rooted in Our Future."

The SWCD created a Living Snow

Fence project using funds generated by the Minnesota River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Eligible landowners enroll in Continuous CRP and receive a one-time payment (like CREP) for an additional 15-year easement with the county for a total of 30 years. The county highway department identifies the sites and reimburses the SWCD for half the costs.

Trees lost to Dutch elm disease have been replaced through the efforts of the SWCD and the city of Madison. The city and SWCD received a MN ReLeaf grant of \$12,000 and developed a Cooperative Working Agreement. The SWCD did the education, promotion,

grant management and planting event management. The project was so successful that the SWCD has received three additional requests for future projects.

The first-ever Lac qui Parle Outdoor

Expo was held in 2007. The SWCD worked with the city of Madison Chamber of Commerce, the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership coordinator and other partners to put on the event at the county fair grounds April 28-29. Tony Dean, James Meger and a wide variety of other speakers gave presentation on topics such as rain gardens, dog training and first aid, bird watching 101, healthy soil, healthy plants, healthy people, and others. Outdoor activities like a kids fishing derby, archery and sporting clay shooting were offered. Approximately 1,200 attended and plans are underway for 2008. By working closely with these partners, the SWCD was able to focus the event on the mission to increase awareness of relationships between people, wildlife and a healthy environment, and to build appreciation of western Minnesota resources.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect/restore soil health
2. Protect/restore water quality (reducing priority pollutants)
3. Improve surface water management
4. Establish/maintain quality conservation tree plantings
5. Coordination and partnering to get the most out of financial resources to help landowners protect their natural resources

Future Projects

Lac qui Parle County Highway 31 Project --

The SWCD received a Clean Water Legacy grant to stabilize the bank of the Lac qui Parle River near the bridge where it crosses Lqp CSAH 31. The project will be completed in the spring of 2008.

Field Day -- Because of the quality of our Summer Success field days (since 2004), the elementary principal for the Appleton/Milan school has asked us to sponsor a field day at Lac qui Parle Valley School's Emily Creek Environmental Learning Center for grades K-4.

Lake

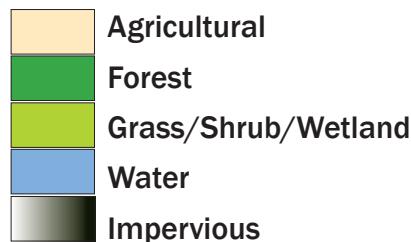
Soil & Water Conservation District



616 3rd Avenue
Two Harbors, MN 55616
PHONE: (218) 834-8370
FAX: (218) 834-8545
www.co.lake.mn.us.
countydepartment.soil&water
SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at 7 p.m.



Lake County Land Cover



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Improving stormwater management
2. Improving erosion and sediment control on construction sites
3. Protecting surface water quality
4. Assist Lake County with enforcement of existing land-use laws and use of BMPs in development activities and forest management activities
5. Natural resources education on land and water issues

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: Skunk Creek before a recent stream stabilization project. (See next page)

An award-winning education program implemented by the Lake SWCD includes:

- Natural Resources Field Day for 6th graders,
- Making Paper Activity for 6th graders,
- Participation in the Lake County Fair,
- Administered Envirothon natural resources competition for high school students for 13 years,
- Lake County Demonstration forest for six years, and
- Erosion Control Workshops for contractors for three years.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$500
Education / Outreach	\$11,020
Wetland Conservation Act	\$10,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$15,908
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$31,667
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$3,800
Programs and Operations	\$40,986
Total	\$110,081

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Brenda K. VanBergen	Public Relations	5157 Silver Hill Drive, Finland	218-353-7604	1988
David W. Falk	Secretary	842 Larsmont Road, Two Harbors	218-834-7021	1998
Don E. Warner	Treasurer	4760 Highway 3, Silver Bay	218-226-4858	1973
Phillip R. Goutermont	Chair	4651 Highway 3, Silver Bay	218-226-3015	2001
Thomas R. Gelineau	Vice-Chair	110 South Avenue, Two Harbors	218-834-4432	2003



Pictured: Skunk Creek stream stabilization project before (above left) and after (above middle and right) construction.

A Stormwater Management Plan

was developed in 2001 by the city of Two Harbors with leadership and assistance from the Lake County SWCD. This plan laid out a template of specific actions the city could take to minimize the negative impacts from storm water runoff. Major efforts were targeted along Skunk Creek to control streambank erosion, flooding, property damage, and public safety concerns. Since the public water intake for the city of Two Harbors is located 1/2 mile from the mouth of Skunk Creek, contaminants discharged from storm water runoff into Skunk Creek can quickly move into Lake Superior and enter the public water supply system. To date the accomplishments have included the development of an Urban Forest Management Plan, and the design and construction of four projects – Cemetery Storm Water Detention Basin, 19th Street Storm Water Detention Basin, Segog Diversion, and Skunk Creek Streambank Stabilization Project. Partners have included the city of Two Harbors, Lake County Highway, Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program, Great Lakes Commission, MnDOT, and University of Minnesota Extension.

The Lake County Demonstration Forest

was established in 2001 by the Lake County Board. The board designated 400 acres of tax-forfeited property for the demonstration forest to increase awareness and understanding of sound forest management practices. The forest is located eight miles northwest of Two Harbors and is situated in the headwaters of the Knife and Stewart rivers. The forest contains a broad mix of forest types, a variety of wetlands, and has a colorful history including railroading, gravel mining, logging, a railroad camp, and an old homestead. Thanks to the efforts of a 12-member committee and grant support from Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program, the forest now has over 4.5 miles

of hiking trails, two interpretive brochures, two rest rooms, an informational KIOSK, trail signage, a restored gravel pit for parking, and a Forest Management Plan. Partners include: Lake SWCD, Lake County Forestry, Lake County Highway, Minnesota Conservation Corps, Louisiana Pacific Corp., Hedstrom Lumber, Minnesota DNR, Superior Hiking Trail, and University of Minnesota Extension.

'Property Owner's Resource Guide

'... A Place in Lake County' is an award-winning booklet that was developed to help property owners understand the Lake County Land-Use Ordinance. It contains helpful information on purchasing property, building a home, installing and maintaining sewage treatment systems, managing stormwater runoff, building a driveway, protecting your home from wildfire, and protecting water quality. Through the use of checklists, helpful hints, and commonly asked questions, readers can get answers to real-life questions to help them make good land-use decisions. Residents and out-of-area property owners are using the guide because it contains practical information and is arranged in a format that is easy to read.

Future Projects

Lake County Demonstration Forest -- The SWCD's vision is to assist in developing a comprehensive natural resources education program for elementary and secondary students from the Lake Superior School District. In addition to the current facilities at the site, a pavilion for classroom and recreational activities is being planned to promote year-round use.

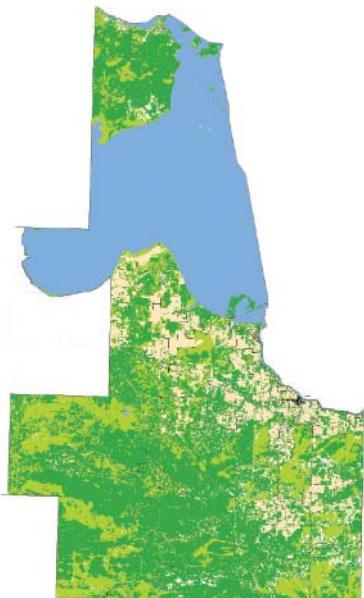
Lake of the Woods

Soil & Water Conservation District



PO Box 217
Baudette, MN 56623
PHONE: (218) 634-1842
FAX: (218) 634-1726

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at 6 p.m.



Lake of the Woods County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



The Rainy River Basin River Watch Program began in 2006, when the LOW SWCD staff teamed up with the Lake of the Woods School District staff to assemble and coordinate a volunteer group of students (pictured) to assist in water quality testing. This testing gathers baseline data on two tributaries of the Rainy River. The testing will provide students and citizens with hands-on opportunities, which will raise the level of awareness about the Rainy River Basin Watershed within the community and surrounding region.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$5,000
Education / Outreach	\$6,141
Wetland Conservation Act	\$10,355
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$109,148
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$4,480
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$1,500
Programs and Operations	\$37,431
Total	\$174,054

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Marshall Nelson	Chair	1942 - 23rd Street SW, Baudette	(218) 634-1209	2006
Roger Krause	Vice Chair	2980 Main Street W, Baudette	(218) 634-1691	1992
Russ Hansen	Treasurer	1501 - 59th Street SW, Baudette	(218) 634-2164	1990
John Sonstegard	Secretary	693 20th Ave NW, Baudette	(218) 634-2474	2007 (appointed)
Scott Pieper	Promotion	7696 - 40th Street NW, Williams	(218) 783-4041	2004



Thousands of feet of shoreline have been stabilized through State Cost-Share and technical assistance from the North Central MN JPB Engineers. The need for assistance compounded following major flooding in 2002. Projects have ranged from DNR recommended rip rap along the southern shore of Lake of the Woods to bioengineering projects along the Rainy and Rapid Rivers. A vegetated buffer component has been recently added as an eligibility requirement for cost-share assistance. In addition to this, hands-on workshops held in conjunction with U of MN Extension Service have assisted both landowners and local natural resource staff in learning bioengineering techniques, while putting projects on the ground.

An increase in SWCD staff has been possible through the SWCD and the County working together. In 2002, the SWCD office consisted of one full-time employee. In 2004, the County Environmental Services office and the SWCD created a joint manager position. The goal of this merger is to better serve landowners by streamlining the permitting process and to improve cooperation between the County and SWCD. In addition to adding the joint District manager position, the SWCD has increased its staff to two full-time resource technicians.

Low-interest ISTS loans for local residents are available, thanks to a partnership with Border State Bank of Baudette, the SWCD and the Department of Agriculture. Starting in 2006, these loans have been offered through the AgBMP Loan Program. Prior to this, the ISTS component was not available to most residents within the county. The SWCD also increased promotion of the AgBMP Program through its newly established newsletter and notices published in the local papers. The AgBMP Loan Program, in conjunction with the NRCS EQIP program, has encouraged local farmers to make the switch to no-till farming.

Bringing feedlots into MPCA compliance has been facilitated with cost-share assistance through the

SWCD. Since 2003, the SWCD has received over \$200,000 through the Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant Program (FWQMG) to assist local livestock producers in minimizing feedlot runoff and improving water quality. To help livestock producers upgrade their feedlots, the SWCD has been working with farmers to provide up to 75 percent cost-share to construct windbreaks, install grassed waterways, provide alternative watering sources, and create clean water diversions. This assistance gives producers the opportunity to improve their operation and come into compliance without breaking the bank.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Erosion, sedimentation, flood damage reduction
2. Land use management
3. Individual Sewage Treatment Systems
4. Water Quality
5. Education

Future Projects

Bostic Watershed Investigation: In 2007 the county partnered with the SWCD and received a BWSR Challenge Grant to explore erosion and sedimentation issues within the Bostic Watershed. Historical ditching and channelization of ditches has caused major issues within the watershed. The NC MN JPB Engineer has begun working on a study of the project area to provide a plan of action for future implementation projects. This watershed is a priority outlined in both the Rainy River Basin Plan and the LOW Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan. Future projects may include: wetland restorations, ditch maintenance, establishment of a meandering stream with set back levies, water retention, and more.

Baudette Estuary TMDL: MPCA has contracted with the SWCD to investigate the Baudette River Watershed as part of a TMDL study. The Baudette River is on the MPCA's impaired waters list for low dissolved oxygen. District staff will assist with surface water monitoring, storm water runoff and sediment analysis, and hydrological modeling. Data acquired over 2008 and 2009 will be used in conjunction with the current TMDL report to address additional concerns within the watershed.

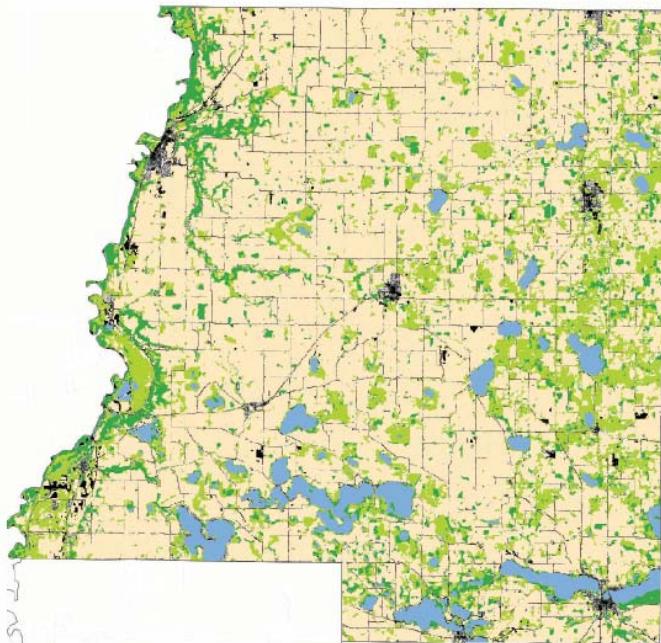
Le Sueur

Soil & Water Conservation District



181 West Minnesota Street
Le Center, MN 56057
PHONE: (507) 357-4879
FAX: (507) 357-6982

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Tuesday of month at 9 a.m.



Le Sueur County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Buffers were established along all of the ditches reaching Lake Volney. The SWCD worked with all landowners to install the buffers, and the landowners received reimbursement through the Clean Water Partnership and enrolled into the CRP program.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$4,800
Education / Outreach	\$15,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$50,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$59,000
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$51,596
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$20,000
Programs and Operations	\$35,000
Total	\$235,396

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Glendon Braun	Chairman	25842-340th Street, Le Center	507-665-3758	1966
Alvin Dietz	Vice Chairman	30731-151st Avenue, New Prague	952-758-4682	1959
Jerry Regenscheid	Secretary	31224 State Highway 99, St. Peter	507-934-5419	1991
Charles Gregor	Treasurer	940 Waterville Road, Waterville	507-362-8362	1971
Robert Riebel	PR&I	27548-376th Street, Le Sueur	507-665-2868	1983



A dam was restored near Rice Lake in Elysian Township which has slowed the water running into the Cannon River and reduced sediment flow. The original dam and dike failed, and landowners were using the area for hay. The SWCD worked with landowners to replace the dam and build a dike to restore Rice Lake.

Living snow fences have been installed in Montgomery Township and Kilkenny Township. The SWCD worked with two landowners to install living snow fences along state highways. District employees, supervisors and landowners planted shrubs and stapled matting down for weed reduction. The snow fences measure 800 feet by 500 feet and are doing very well.

The SWCD employees completed a study on all county ditches (200+ miles). The study including inspecting, walking, using the GPS unit to mark all inlets, roads, driveways, buffers, culverts, etc., and then information was placed in Arcview.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil erosion
2. Restoring water quality in County lakes
3. Reducing runoff
4. Preserving ag land from development
5. Preserving wetlands

Future Projects

Restoration of Renneberg Lake – The SWCD is teaming up with landowners, Zone 10, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Le Sueur County to refurbish the dam that deteriorated over time in Rennenberg Lake. In the 1980s, water began to go around the dam and lower the lake. Landowners requested repairs and the US F&WS are securing funds for surveying, designing and installation of the new dam.

Lincoln

Soil & Water Conservation District



PO Box 32
Ivanhoe, MN 56142
PHONE: (507) 694-1630
FAX: (507) 694-1850
www.lincolnswcd.net
SWCD board meetings:
3rd Wednesday of month

- 7 a.m. (April - October)
- 10 a.m. (November - March)

Lincoln County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Groundwater protection for the Verdi well field
2. Surface water quality deterioration focusing on two TMDL sites:
Lake Shaokatan and the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River
3. Erosion and sediment control on agricultural land, with several priority areas being the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed, Norwegian Creek, Coon Creek, Lake Benton Lake and Dead Coon Lake
4. Lake management improvement (water quality) and recreational opportunities targeting lakes Benton, Shaokatan, and Hendricks
5. Addressing surface water runoff volume and water quality through drainage management

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A Farm Bill Assistant works for the SWCD through a partnership with Pheasant's Forever, the DNR, BWSR and the SWCD. By promoting conservation programs directly to landowners, the SWCD has completed many projects to improve water quality and wildlife habitat, including:

- Two joint wetland restoration projects funded by CREP and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. One restored 60-plus-acre wetland basin between the two properties. The other restored more than 50 acres.
- Enrolled two Working Lands Initiative Projects into state easements which will be restored in 2008.
- Designed a Buffer Initiative support letter, asked and received County Commissioner endorsement and sent out endorsement letters to 533 landowners involved with a county drainage system. This was done in part through the Water Plan Challenge Grant-Lincoln County Drainage Ditch Survey and Management Plan.
- Worked with landowners on promoting the different options available by enrolling areas into CRP and helping to design plans to fit what they wanted.
- In the past year, developed over 240 new conservation plans for new and expiring CRP contacts.

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Daniel Christianson	Chairman	3479 County Road 101, Hendricks	507-275-3460	1971
Glen Sorensen	Vice-Chairman	2777 County Road 125, Arco	507-487-5771	1985
Conrad Schardin	Secretary	1638 State Highway 14, Lake Benton	507-368-4876	2003
Joseph Weber	Treasurer	1978 County Highway 13, Lake Benton	507-368-4681	1995
John Boulton	PR&I	2589 State Highway 68, Porter	507-296-4668	1967



The TMDL plan for Lake Shaokatan

has led to efforts to promote and install best management practices in the Watershed including the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River and Lake Shaokatan Watershed, in cooperation with the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District. Practices installed through the SWCD's efforts include:

- 20-Rock/blind intakes
- A drainage tile diversion and wetland enhancement project installed in cooperation with Lake Shaokatan Sportsman's Club and a private landowner
- A wetland restoration on a 48-acre pasture site, where tile was re-routed to a wetland for filtering before entering the lake, and a control structure was added to the outlet of the wetland to control nutrients from entering the lake. This project was done in cooperation with DNR, Lake Shaokatan Sportsmen Club, Yellow Medicine River Watershed District, Lincoln County Parks and Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area.

The Water Management Plan for Lincoln County is implemented by the SWCD. More than 600 wells have been sealed through these efforts. Conserving Use Acres Program annually provides dollars to six landowners to plant small grain for summer construction of approximately 15-25 water and sediment control basins. Nearly 30 Rock Inlets have been installed to date. A Drainage Ditch Survey and Management Plan through a Challenge Grant was completed through the SWCD and Lincoln County GIS specialist.

Lincoln County has the second highest number of acres of living snow fences in which the SWCD utilizes county highway department funds for this project, administered in partnership with MN DOT. Over the past five years 50,000 - 104,000 trees have been planted per year.

The SWCD's Wetland Conservation Act duties have led to some development project being modified to avoid impacting wetlands. On one recent project, SWCD staff worked with golf course designers in Tyler in 2002. The SWCD's involvement ensured that the course did not substantially alter the hydrology of existing wetlands, and a diverse mix of native vegetation was planted to enhance the ecological and aesthetic value of the existing wetlands.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$10,837
Wetland Conservation Act	\$20,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$229,803
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$7,438
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$39,123
Programs and Operations	\$166,889
Total	\$474,090

Future Projects

Clean Water Legacy Grant: 1) Work with the Lyon and Yellow Medicine SWCDs and the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District to install conservation practices throughout the TMDL designated sites in the Yellow Medicine River Watershed area. 2) Work with the Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) and the SWCDs in the RCRCA area on a Clean Water Legacy Grant.

WCA: Five projects to construct new dams or repair existing dams in cooperation with Area II MN River Basin, the DNR, NRCS and RCRCA.

Living Snow Fences: install approximately 2 miles of living snow fences planned for State Highways 14 & 75.

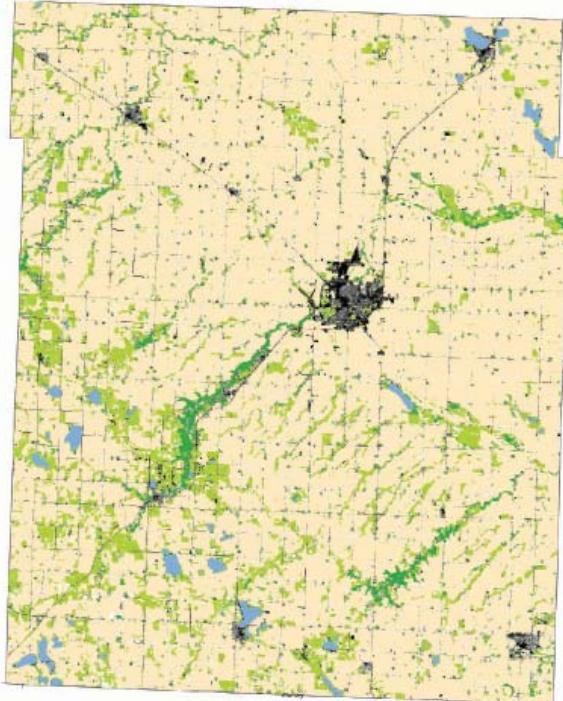
Lyon

Soil & Water Conservation District



1424 East College Drive, Suite 600
Marshall, MN 56258
PHONE: (507) 537-0396
FAX: (507) 532-7479

SWCD board meetings:
4th Tuesday of month at 10 a.m. (November - March) or 7 p.m. (April - October)



Lyon County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Eight Ag Waste systems have recently been completed in Lyon County. The SWCD provided grants and low-interest loans to landowners to complete these projects. Cost-Share funds of nearly \$200,000 provided 25 percent of the costs. Low-interest loans were given that totaled \$400,000. To date Lyon SWCD has over \$1.2 million in low-interest AgBMP loans for ag waste facilities, manure handling equipment, conservation tillage equipment and upgrades of septic systems. These funds are used often in partnership with watershed, federal and state programs.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$4,366
Education / Outreach	\$22,974
Wetland Conservation Act	\$21,667
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$267,582
Planning/ other local water management duties	--
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$22,377
Programs and Operations	\$38,119
Total	\$377,084

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Otto Nyquist	Chairman	3246 County Road 2, Tracy	507-629-4844	1969
Mark Meulebroeck	VChairman	1767 230th Avenue, Balaton	507-823-4696	2004
Jon Mohn	Sec/Treas	275 East 4 Street, Cottonwood	507-423-6678	2006
Gary Crowley	PR&I	2994 210 Ave, Marshall	507-428-3827	2006
Steve Prairie	Member	1062 200th Avenue, Balaton	507-734-4374	1998



Pictured: A wetland restoration done through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Impaired waters and TMDL are high priorities for the Lyon SWCD. The SWCD is working closely with the watershed organizations to address this in our county. Three Clean Water Legacy grants are in place that are in the process of being encumbered and implemented.

Serving on governing boards of Joint Powers agencies has enabled the Lyon SWCD Supervisors to establish strong working partnerships with organizations including Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA), the SW MN Technical Service Area, the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D). Supervisors also serve on advisory boards for the Lyon County Water Plan and the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District.

Partnership projects with the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District, Lyon County Water Task Force, Area II, RCRCA and area sportsman groups have made many projects possible in the county. A few projects include: a stream bank stabilization that saved a township road from serious erosion and a major safety concern, wildlife enhancement projects with wetland restorations and tree plantings, and installation and repairs of small impoundment structures that reduce sediment loading and provide flood water storage.

An Environmental Fair for 6th grade students is sponsored by SWCDs in the 14-county SW area. Average attendance is more than 2,000 students each year for this two-day, hands-on event. Support is given by the SWCD supervisors, NRCS, and local businesses and agencies to continue this popular event for over 10 years.

A Certified Wetland Delineator and a Certified Nutrient Management Planner are employed by the Lyon SWCD; and the SWCD is designated as the Local Government Unit for the Wetland Conservation Act.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Addressing impaired waters: those identified at this time Yellow Medicine, Redwood, Cottonwood watersheds
2. Reduction of sediment and pollutants entering water resources and erosion of soil by wind and water
3. Preserve and restore wetlands
4. Promotion and program implementation of Nutrient management plans, feedlot run-off control projects and septic system upgrades
5. Education of residents in the importance of protection and preserving our resources

Future Projects

Clean Water Legacy streambank restoration and stabilization project: The SWCD will complete a project in 2008 that partners funding from the Clean Water Legacy grant with in-kind work and funds from the partnership of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District, city of Minneota, and engineering assistance from the SW MN Technical Service Area. This project is located in Minneota on the Yellow Medicine River. The area is located next to a ball park that is used by the school and private groups. Stabilizing the streambank will protect the water quality and reduce the sediment from erosion. It will also address safety issues for the children and public utilizing the park and several privately owned buildings on the other side of the river.

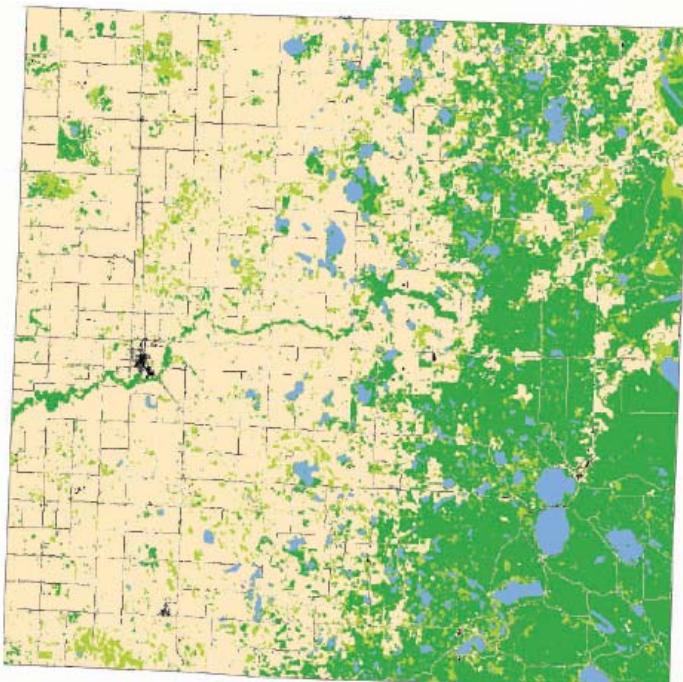
Education Program: The SWCD entered into a contract agreement with Yellow Medicine SWCD to share an education coordinator. Lyon SWCD will be implementing a program that has activities and workshops for all schools, organizations and age groups in the area. The education coordinator will also facilitate education workshops with neighboring SWCDs in areas where the schools have students from neighboring counties to provide programs that do not overlap and are even better because of the partnering.

Mahnomen

Soil & Water Conservation District



123 West Monroe Avenue, PO Box 381
Mahnomen, MN 56557
PHONE: (218) 935-2987
FAX: (218) 935-5221
nwmnswcd.org
SWCD board meetings:
2nd Tuesday of month at 7 a.m. April
- October, 8 a.m. November - March



Mahnomen County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

A feedlot runoff control practice was designed as a roof runoff management system for a 273 animal unit beef operation. The SWCD was awarded a Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant, based on a FLEVAL rating of 59. Total cost of the project was \$53,949, and the FWQMG provided 67 percent cost-share.

Recent projects / accomplishments

A Joint Powers Agreement between five SWCDs and one watershed district received \$13,000 for the Beaver Damage Control Program Challenge Grant. The grant provides 50 percent cost-share on prevention, beaver removal and dam removal projects.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$3,805
Education / Outreach	\$8,599
Wetland Conservation Act	\$22,189
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$60,007
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$10,756
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$18,409
Programs and Operations	\$29,270
Total	\$153,044

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Everett Kjelbertson	Chair	27238 County Rd. #4, Naytahwaush	935-9177	1999
Pete Revier	Vice Chair	2354 250th Street, Mahnomen	473-2653	1983
Victor Eiynck	Secretary	2856 120th Avenue, Mahnomen	473-2589	2007
Terry McCollum	Treasurer	1468 170th Avenue, Bejou	935-2468	1995
Daniel McNamee	PR & I	1851 220th Avenue, Mahnomen	935-2391	2005

BEFORE



AFTER



Pictured: Rock rip-rap shoreline protection project on Tulaby Lake.

Five water and sediment control basins and one grade stabilization structure were completed by combining the State Cost-Share Program with an EQIP project. Together these practices will control storm runoff flows from a 180-acre drainage area, reducing erosion and improving water quality. Total cost of the project was \$49,094. The SWCD provided 15 percent cost-share on top of the EQIP 50 percent to help reduce costs for the landowner.

A Farm Bill Assistance Grant was split by the Mahnomen and Norman SWCDs. Our goals were surpassed with 1,360 contacts, 106 contracts and 3,927 acres enrolled into CRP/CCRP. Mahnomen's 1,680 acres of CRP will bring landowners approximately \$974,400 in 10 years of annual payments.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Restoring water quality in the White Earth River.
2. Restoring water quality in Marsh Creek.
3. Developing wellhead protection plans for public water supply areas.
4. Sealing unused, unsealed wells in wellhead protection areas.
5. Implementing erosion control practices where soil loss is impacting water resources.

Future Projects

South Twin Lake Shoreline Protection Project: A Clean Water Legacy pre-proposal was denied, but the Mahnomen SWCD didn't give up and received 50 percent cost-share from the Wild Rice Watershed District for the South Twin Lake Shoreline Protection Project. A 715-foot rock rip-rap project will be installed to reduce sedimentation of surface waters due to shoreline degradation. The total cost of the project will be \$22,308 and it should be installed by the fall of 2008. The project will provide valuable benefits to Mahnomen County's natural resources. With estimated 19.01 tons / year sediment reduction and 16.16 pounds / year phosphorus reduction, local water management goals will be achieved.

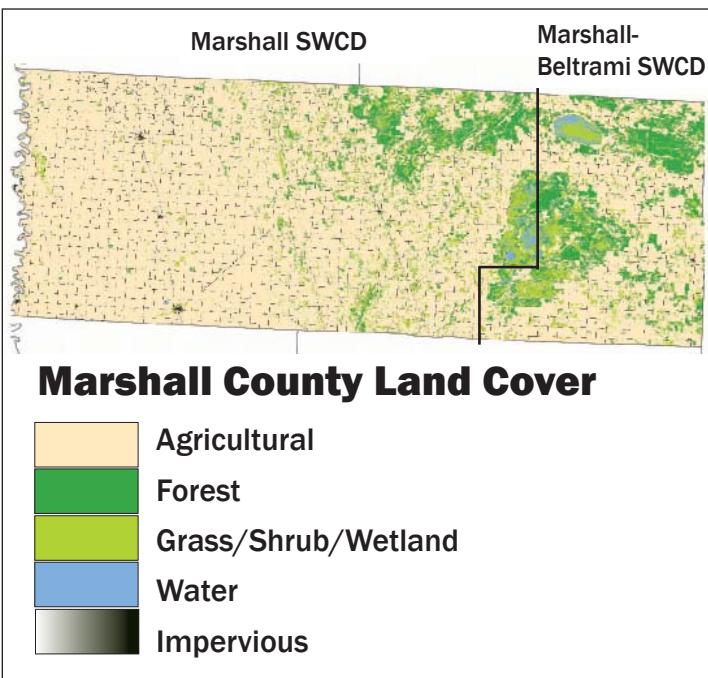
Marshall

Soil & Water Conservation District



PO Box 74
Warren, MN 56772
PHONE: (218) 745-5010
FAX: (218) 745-6806
www.nwmnswcd.org

*SWCD board meetings:
3rd Tuesday of month at 8 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Controlling wind erosion
2. Water quality
3. Reducing agricultural runoff
4. Maintaining of existing wetlands and wetland restoration
5. Awareness of conservation issues through educational programs

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



More than 50,000 trees have been planted by the Marshall SWCD in the past two years. The trees were sold for field, farmstead and wildlife plantings. The SWCD provides a complete tree-care maintenance program by offering Tubex Treeshelters (pictured above), chemical weed control and mechanical weed control through the use of its tractor and weed badger machine.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$8,231
Wetland Conservation Act	\$11,787
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$117,601
Planning/ other local water management duties	--
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$47,994
Total	\$185,613

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Earl McGregor	Chairman	25464 270th Street NW, Warren	218-745-5610	2003
Leif Aakre	Vice-Chairman	36299 440th Avenue NW, Stephen	218-478-3086	1999
Wallace Bengtson	Secretary	15855 390th Street NE Middle River	218-222-3345	2003
Larry Kuznia	Treasurer	25737 270th Avenue NW Argyle	218-437-8190	2002
Stuart Nordling	PR&I	27142 420th Avenue NW Warren	218-745-4958	2007



A project planting a warm-season grass cover between tree rows is underway in Marshall County. The purpose of the project is to see how permanent grass cover between tree rows affects erosion control, weed suppression, snow catch, wildlife use and other environmental benefits. The grass was broadcast, harrowed and then packed with a roller. A tour was held in the summer of 2007 to see the progress on this project. The SWCD has worked closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); the Plant Materials Center in Bismarck, N.D.; and the Area I Plant Materials Committee.

A filter strip buffer area is being established along the Middle River. The SWCD and Middle-Snake-Tamarac River Watershed District are working with 12-15 landowners to plant native grasses and shrubs to control sloughing and filter runoff. Other partners in this project include the local electrical company (PKM and Minnkota Power), the Pembina Trail Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), and Marshall County's Comprehensive Local Water Plan Coordinator.

A planting of 17,000 trees for fiber production was completed by the SWCD on a Red River Valley Set Aside contract in the spring of 2007.

Two WHIP contracts in the county have been completed, and the SWCD will be working with another landowner on a project in the spring of 2008. The completed projects involved planting 9,600 trees. The project for the spring of 2008 involves planting 7.9 acres to native grass and approximately 2,000 trees will be planted. The SWCD is working with the NRCS on this project.

Conservation education throughout the county is a high priority of the SWCD. The SWCD works very closely with all of the schools in Marshall County. The SWCD has presented information on the poster and mural contest sponsored by Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and has given black hills spruce seedlings to the kindergarten classes. Annual conservation education programs that are coordinated with other SWCDs in the area include the Northwest Minnesota Water Festival and the local Envirothon competition. The SWCD donates trees each year for the local Boy Scout auction fund raiser. The SWCD also donated trees to the new 4-H members in cooperation with the County Extension Service. Soil stewardship materials are presented to the churches throughout the county. The SWCD also holds a banquet each year to honor our conservation cooperator, farmstead beautification award winner, and winners of our local poster and essay contest. In 2007 the Marshall SWCD celebrated its 50th anniversary.

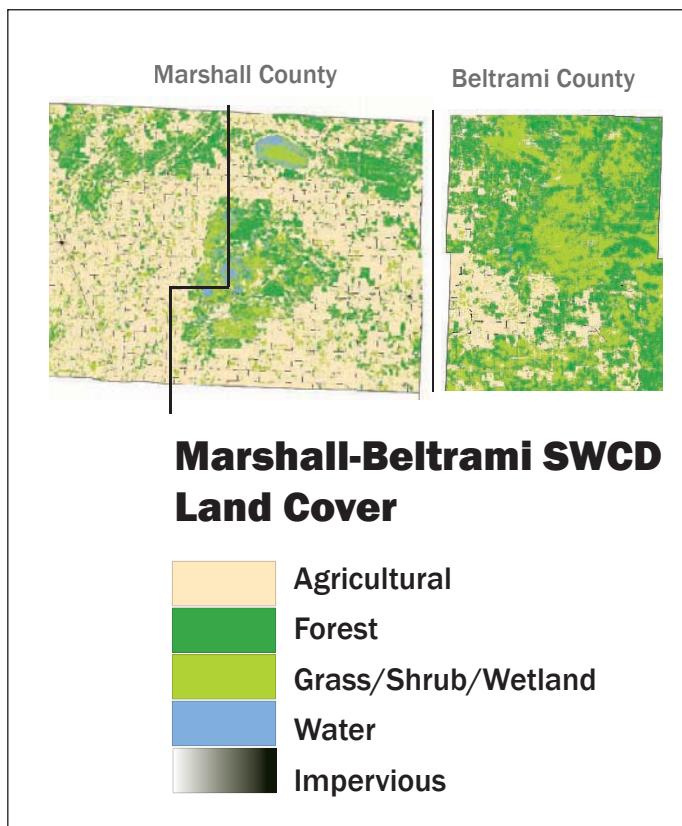
Future Projects

Warm season grass cover project: The SWCD will continue to monitor the seeding of the warm season grass cover project between tree rows as a possible future cost share item available to landowners.

Tree planting changes: The SWCD will be planting Black Cherry trees as a test plot starting in 2008 as an alternative to Green Ash trees to reduce the risk of potential ash borer damage.

Marshall-Beltrami

Soil & Water Conservation District



231 East State Street
Grygla, MN 56727
PHONE: (218) 294-6144
FAX: (218) 294-6182
nwmnswcd.org

SWCD board meetings: 4th Tuesday of month

- 8 a.m. (April - October)
- 9 a.m. (November - March)

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

A FIREWISE grant was received by the Marshall-Beltrami SWCD, working with the Grygla Fire Department, the DNR Forestry Division and local townships. FIREWISE is a federally funded program to help communities assess their vulnerability to wildfire. Priorities identified were the growing number of cabin owners in forested areas and large acreage of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land.

Accomplishments through the FIREWISE program included two mass mailings and articles in two newsletters to all landowners in the Grygla Fire Department area, six newspaper articles, displays at two Firemen's Suppers, a display at the Grygla Fall Festival and installation of one dry hydrant. Additionally, 446 on-site assessments were made to evaluate a 30-foot perimeter around the building site. The landowner received educational materials and suggested corrective measures, if needed.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$4,000
Education / Outreach	\$534
Wetland Conservation Act	\$28,968
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$108,799
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$9,057
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$85,200
Total	\$236,558

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Wallace Byklum	Chairman	39651 Heron Road NW, Grygla	218-294-6352	1998
Lloyd Wiseth	Vice- Chairman	21833 State Highway 219 NE, Goodridge	218-378-4117	1971
Milton Anderson	Secretary	45388 370th Avenue NE, Gatzke	218-425-7573	1990
Sheldon Peterson	Treasurer	119 South Marshall, Grygla	218-294-6176	2004
Orvis Byklum	Reporter	68770 Highway 89 NW, Grygla	218-294-6252	1994



Pictured: The SWCD re-sloped and stabilized both banks of the Moose River near the impoundment outlet.

Cleaning up the Moose River is listed as a priority for the Marshall-Beltrami SWCD and was also deemed a priority area by the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) local work group committee. The river was added to the MPCA impaired waters list in 2006. Projects along the Moose River are compounded by the river being the north outlet for the Moose River Impoundment and multi-agency jurisdictions.

The Marshall-Beltrami SWCD has been working with other local governmental entities to stabilize the banks on both sides of the Moose River. In 2002, The SWCD matched funds from the Red Lake Watershed District with funds from the State Cost-share Program to rip-rap a portion of the river bank. Engineering assistance was provided by the Beltrami County Highway Department. In 2005, another portion of the bank was stabilized with financial assistance from the State Cost-share Program, the Red Lake Watershed District and the Beltrami County Con-Con funds. Engineering assistance was again provided by the Beltrami County Highway Department.

A funding request for a third phase of the stream bank stabilization of the Moose River through the Clean Water Legacy was not funded. The SWCD is continuing to work on the possibility of completing a portion of that project.

In 2005, the SWCD also utilized State Cost-share funds with local landowners to install two grade stabilization structures and a grassed waterway adjacent to another portion of the Moose River.

Wetland delineation was done by the Marshall-Beltrami SWCD on proposed All-Terrain Vehicle trails in 2005. The SWCD entered into a contract with the DNR to delineate these wetlands.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Addressing water quality impairments on the Thief River.
2. Addressing water quality impairments on the Mud River.
3. Addressing water quality impairments on the Moose River.
4. Reducing sediment from agricultural land and feedlots.
5. Addressing wetland issues through the Wetland Conservation Act.

Future Projects

Culvert inventory: The Marshall-Beltrami SWCD will be starting the first year of a project to conduct a culvert inventory in northwestern Beltrami County. There are approximately 450 miles of drainage ditches in the 12 township area. Culverts will be GPS mapped and a worksheet showing location, size, length, type, condition and other characteristics will be noted and ultimately entered onto a computerized data base system with the Beltrami County Highway Department. This project is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2010.

Moose River Riparian and Stabilization: The Marshall-Beltrami SWCD is in the initial planning stages of a riparian and stabilization project along a curve in the upper reaches of the Moose River. This project was submitted for funding through the Clean Water Legacy and consisted of 7 vortex weirs and biological engineering to stabilize the banks. Without CWL funding, a smaller project with rip-rap and possibly some bio-engineering practices is being looked at.

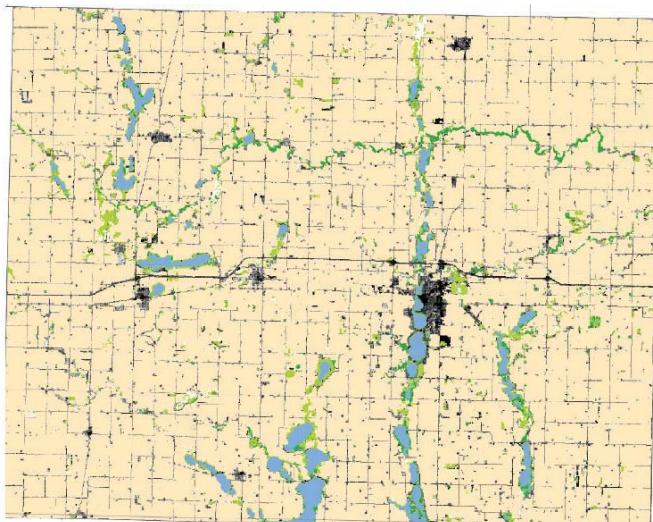
Martin

Soil & Water Conservation District



923 North State Street, Suite 170
Fairmont, MN 56031
PHONE: (507) 235-6680
FAX: (507) 235-8171
www.martinswcd.net

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at 9 a.m.



Martin County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A native planting was done by the SWCD at the Martin County Courthouse (pictured) to celebrate their Centennial in June of 2007. The county commissioners requested a small planting of native plants on the courthouse lawn. It turned out to be a huge project of selecting the proper plants for the location and planting on three sides of the courthouse. Each plant has been labeled. This will be a great educational tool for many people that visit the courthouse each day. The SWCD plans to add plants in the coming years.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$27,200
Education / Outreach	\$21,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$20,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$55,733
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$32,218
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$137,700
Programs and Operations	\$92,512
Total	\$386,363

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Darwin Roberts	Chair	1838 260th Avenue, Granada	(507) 447-2281	2004
Duane Petrowiak	Vice-Chair	14 Carol Lane, Fairmont	(507) 235-5745	1988
Wendell Rode	Member	1311 105th Street, Welcome	(507) 728-8576	2002
Linda Meschke	Member	3824 Cedar Creek Court, Fairmont	(507) 235-3127	2006
Steve Flohrs	Member	1056 230th Street, Ormsby	(507) 639-3071	2002



Elm Creek Township - wetland restoration



Wetland restoration funded through CREP.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Impaired Water and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)
2. Drainage System Management
3. Best Management Practices (BMP's)
4. Wetland Protection and Restoration
5. Water Quality in Area Lakes

Future Projects

Drainage Issues are one of the areas identified in our Water Plan. Martin County is a leader in the State of Minnesota for re-determination of public ditches and repair of these ditches. The District is going to become involved at the request of the County to assist in the establishment or re-establishment of buffers on all these ditches.

An LCCMR Grant Proposal will be submitted this fall and other grants will continue to be pursued with a goal of buffering all drainage ditches (both public and private) in Martin County. An estimate is 127 miles that need buffering.

The Martin SWCD has a goal to become more involved with water quality in our area lakes. In the city limits of Fairmont there is a chain of five lakes which are used for recreation, fishing and are heavily developed. We are going to begin this fall with a series of educational workshops for citizens and also city officials learn more about shore land issues.

Through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP I and CREP II) the Martin SWCD -- in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources -- enrolled 150 contracts and 4,547 acres into the CREP I Program. Of these 150 contracts the CP-23 Wetland Restoration Practice was installed on 93 contracts for 1,965 acres. These restorations were a huge workload for the district. The SWCD also seeded most of the upland acres in native prairie plantings. Several easements in Elm Creek Township are being monitored by the University of Minnesota for water quality and water retention. Martin County is intensively farmed and has highly productive soils. It was not an easy job convincing landowners that a better use for their wet areas would be a wetland restoration. The district has also been working hard to enroll land into the CREP II Program. SWCD staff are pleased with the results, having enrolled 12 enrollments in the Des Moines River Basin.

A Clean Water Partnership Project has entered its second phase starting in June 2006 and continuing through June 2009. The Lily and Center Creek and Blue Earth River Watershed Clean Water Partnership Project has primarily targeted implementation, education, monitoring and technical assistance efforts with the Center and Lily Creek sub-watershed. Citizen monitoring and septic upgrade loan funds will be offered throughout the Blue Earth River Watershed.

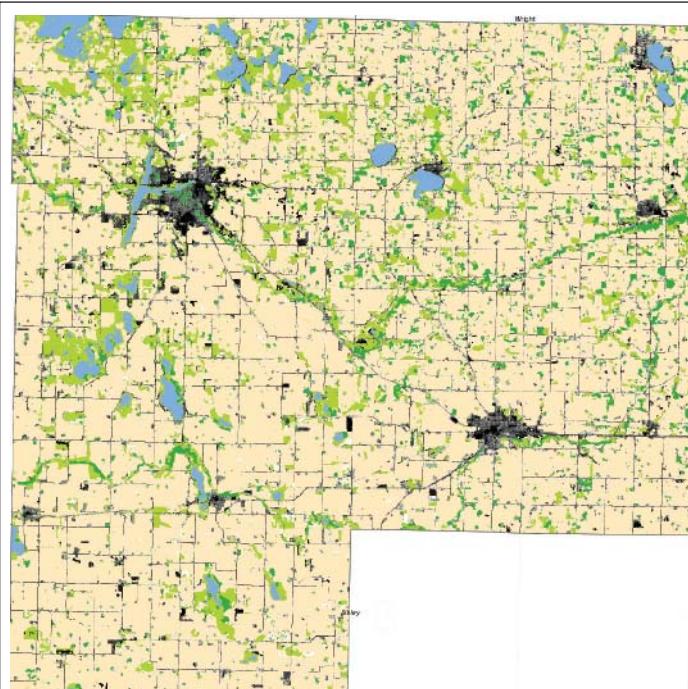
McLeod

Soil & Water Conservation District

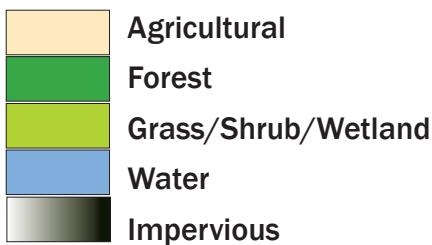


2570 9th Street East
PO Box 160
Glencoe, MN 55336
PHONE: (320) 864-5176
FAX: (320) 864-5737

SWCD board meetings:
1st Wednesday of month at 9 a.m.



McLeod County Land Cover



Recent projects / accomplishments

42 wells have been sealed in McLeod County utilizing the state Cost-Share program. While working on their drinking water supply management plan, the city of Hutchinson noted several abandoned wells within their management area. Many of the 42 that have been sealed are within the management area, and several each year are sealed as we move forward with our plan to seal each abandoned well within their management area.

The Sumter Township Board was trying to protect their citizens when they replaced a bridge in their township. Little did they know that they would cause a problem for the downstream neighbor. After the bridge was replaced, it became apparent that the bridge focused water at the neighbors' streambank with their home placed directly on top. The McLeod SWCD, the Crow River Organization of Water (CROW), Buffalo Creek Watershed District, and Sumter Township set out to correct the problem. Engineering services came from the watershed district, and funding was provided by the SWCD, CROW, and the township. About 400 feet of streambank was protected by this project, which installed peakstone and bendway weirs.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$2,500
Wetland Conservation Act	\$11,942
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$16,920
Planning/ other local water management duties	--
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$2,823
Programs and Operations	\$118,711
Total	\$152,896

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Roger Schultz	Chair	1424 Queen Avenue North, Glencoe	320-864-5451	1997
Charles Mathews	Vice Chair	14918 Bergen Road, Glencoe	320-395-2137	1997
Joseph Paffel	Secretary	14738 230th Street, Hutchinson	320-587-5707	2005
Mark Schnobrich	Reporter	24209 Unit Avenue, Hutchinson	320-587-3760	2005
Joey Schuft	Treasurer	14007 20th Street, Brownton	320-328-4262	2005

AFTER



BEFORE



This wetland was restored through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

A manure pit was constructed in Hutchinson Township to allow the owner's open lot to be collected prior to reaching a tributary to the Crow River. While collecting runoff from this open lot, it was also constructed to contain all manure produced on this site. The immediate collection does not allow the phosphorus and fecal coliform to reach the stream, and it allows the owner timely application of this manure. It gives the landowner a chance to incorporate this, while reducing runoff from his cropland fields.

The SWCD worked with the city of Glencoe, Crow River Organization of Waters (CROW), and the Buffalo Creek Watershed District on stabilizing a streambank adjacent to the city's wastewater treatment plant. Nearly 300 feet of streambank was protected by rip-rap, bio-engineering, and bendway weirs. Along with the 110 cubic yards of rock, 1 acre of seeding took place above the rock, and 200 live stakes were placed among the seeding.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Sediment and Erosion Control
2. Wastewater and Stormwater Control
3. Wetland Preservation and Restoration
4. Manure Management
5. ISTS systems

Future Projects



A Clean Water Legacy grant to the Buffalo Creek Watershed District is funding two streambank restoration projects that are underway. The SWCD has been working with the watershed district on completing plans to allow for this construction. Depending on project costs, the SWCD has identified another section of the Buffalo Creek that we would like to restore to the original channel, while protecting the streambank above and below this cut.

A housing development on Hook Lake directed large amounts of sediment into the lake. The SWCD has been working with two landowners in the development who have taken the initiative to fix the problem. The McLeod SWCD along with the Joint Powers Area 5 engineers have created a plan for a large waterway to be constructed, which will correct the erosion problem and allow others to enjoy the lake.

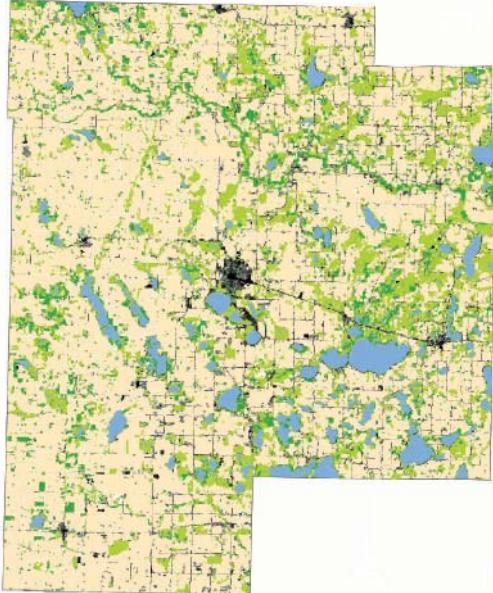
Meeker

Soil & Water Conservation District



916 East St. Paul Street
Litchfield, MN 55355-5300
PHONE: (320) 693-7287
FAX: (320) 693-5823

*SWCD board meetings:
1st Tuesday of month at 8 a.m.*



Meeker County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A Feedlot Improvement Project was completed in the shoreland district of Schultz Lake, which is a direct tributary to Jewetts Creek, which is an impaired water. To correct the runoff problem a manure basin was created (pictured). The final project involved reducing the size of the open lots, planting grass between the lake and the feedlot, constructing an access lane to the pasture and an HDPE lined manure basin. The manure basin has capacity for all runoff from the open lots and 12 months of manure, and it allows the producer to better manage the nutrients from the manure for his

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$2,000
Education / Outreach	\$3,500
Wetland Conservation Act	\$36,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$23,838
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$6,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$7,000
Programs and Operations	\$127,416
Total	\$205,754

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Robert Schiefelbein	Chairman	35359 732nd Ave. Kimball	320.398.8400	1998
Douglas Carlson	Vice-Chair	70228 218th St. Dassel	320.275.3288	1996
Thomas Burr	Secretary	51941 CSAH 20 Paynesville	320.276.8341	1998
Fred Behnke	Treasurer	57263 260th St. Grove City	320.693.3883	1994
Dan Barka	Member	61056 CSAH 28 Litchfield	320.693.8073	1996



Pictured: Big Swan Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project.

crops. With the installation of the basin over 8 pounds of phosphorous have been prevented from reaching Schultz Lake. The project was completed with cooperation of producer, NRCS and the EQIP program, and Meeker SWCD and the FWQMG program.

A Waterway was established on a site located in the shoreland district of Lake Koronis. Sediment from a gully was accumulating in a county road ditch and then entering a culvert that discharged into the lake. The project involved filling in the gully, installing a concrete drop structure for high flows, and redirecting low flow runoff. Water from the farmsteads and pasture is now directed into the waterway, to the road ditch and is bypassed from Lake Koronis to the North Fork of the Crow River. The installation of this project has reduced 140 pounds of phosphorous from entering Lake Koronis, which is considered a General Development Lake by MN DNR with many public accesses and a Joint County Park for Stearns and Meeker counties. This project was completed with the cooperation of producer, Meeker SWCD, NRCS, Meeker County Highway Department, and the Koronis Lake Association.

Big Swan Lakeshore Restorations have been completed on eight sites. The lake is a flow-through, Recreational Development Lake with a very large watershed. The outlet of Big Swan is the North Fork of the Crow River. Numerous slope failures have occurred due to the fluctuation of the water level of 6-8 feet combined with the bluffs that surround the lake. These projects have prevented 20 pounds of phosphorous per site from discharging into the lake. These projects have been completed with the cooperation of the

landowners, Meeker SWCD, Joint Powers Board Area 5, MN DNR, and Meeker County.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protecting lake water quality
2. Protecting stream and river water quality
3. Assisting producers with agricultural runoff
4. Protecting and restoring wetlands
5. Assisting all landowners with resource needs and concerns

Future Projects

Manannah Township Feedlot Improvement: This site is located wholly in shoreland, and partially in the floodplain of a tributary to Vails Lake in the Sauk River Watershed. The proposed plan would direct all open lot runoff and pump it uphill onto a filter strip. With the proposed changes to the system there is an expected reduction of 56 pounds of phosphorous. This project is being completed with the cooperation of the producer, NRCS and the EQIP program, and Meeker SWCD and the FWQMG program.

Forest Prairie Township Feedlot Improvement: This site is located in the shoreland of the Clearwater River. This site contributes open lot runoff to County Ditch 44 which is a direct headwaters/tributary to the Clearwater River, which is an impaired water. The plan for the site is to direct all open lot runoff into a temporary holding basin, then using a picket fence, discharge the runoff into a filter strip. With the proposed changes to the system there is an expected 31 pounds of phosphorous reduction. This project is being completed with the cooperation of the producer, Meeker SWCD and the FWQMG program, the Joint Powers Board Area 5, and the Clearwater River Watershed District.

Forest City Township Drop Structure: This site is a ditch with a 400-acre watershed that has an active gully at the head of the ditch. The ditch is a direct tributary to the North Fork of the Crow Watershed which is an impaired water. The proposal is to install a 6-foot aluminum drop structure to eliminate the gully. The project is being completed with the cooperation of the landowner, Meeker SWCD and the NRCS.

Mille Lacs

Soil & Water Conservation District



1016 5th Street SE, Milaca, MN 56353
PHONE: (320) 983-2160 • FAX: (320) 983-2107
www.millelacsSWCD.org

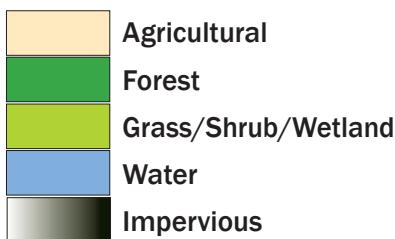
SWCD board meetings:
2nd Tuesday of month at 5:30 p.m. (Nov. - April)
or 7 p.m. (May - Oct.)

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The Milaca Library rainwater garden project was a joint venture between The Friends of the Library, The City of Milaca and the Mille Lacs SWCD. A Local Water Management Challenge Grant through the Board of Water and Soil Resources funded the project, which had a two-fold goal. First, to treat stormwater runoff. Increases in stormwater runoff rates and volume have been shown to have a detrimental effect on stream quality and habitat. During typical rains, the rainwater garden will infiltrate the runoff generated from this site and use it to sustain the native plantings. The rainwater garden will also function to remove much of the pollutant load as well. Second, the project will act as an educational tool and demonstration model, showing how collecting stormwater runoff into a rainwater garden can benefit water quality. The site chosen was at the new Milaca Public Library, next to the City Government Center. This site has an educational benefit because the location will be highly visible to the public.



Mille Lacs County Land Cover



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Encourage development patterns that protect, enhance, maintain or restore surface and groundwater quality
2. Improve stormwater runoff quality throughout the County
3. Maintain or improve groundwater quality throughout the County
4. Assess the ability of water resources in Mille Lacs County to meet their designated uses
5. Work with land managers, land owners and operators in the County, regardless of land use to encourage best management practices

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Kurt Beckstrom	Chair	17466 60th Avenue, Milaca, MN 56353	320/556-3403	1987
Ray Schultz	Vice Chair	12429 250th Street, Milaca, MN 56353	320/983-3442	1997
Gene Gerth	Treasurer	4181 60th Avenue, Princeton, MN 55371	763/389-2979	1996
Marcella Hoefert	Secretary	35445 State Hwy 47, Isle, MN 56342	320/676-3177	2002
Barb Eller	Member	12722 350th Street, Onamia, MN 56359	320/532-4946	2006 (appointed)

The Mille Lacs SWCD strives to partner with all local governments and county departments to coordinate effective assistance to Mille Lacs County residents. We are providing assistance to the Mille Lacs County Zoning and Environmental Services office with feedlot requirements, water management plan activities, and Wetland Conservation Act requirements. Mille Lacs County has also appointed the County Agricultural Inspector (CAI) position out of the SWCD office. Through the CAI position assistance is provided to the Mille Lacs County Highway Department, townships and cities by offering technical expertise for targeted noxious and invasive weed management based on site specific planning.

The noxious weed leafy spurge

(Euphorbia esula) continues to be one of the most difficult noxious weeds in Mille Lacs County to control. Leafy spurge is toxic to most livestock and poses a serious economic threat to grazing and hay crops, as well as detrimental environmental impacts. A variety of management plans are in place including biological control where appropriate.

A hands-on small acreage horse

pasture workshop was offered June 14, 2007. Recommendations were provided to correct over-grazed areas including stocking rates, rotational grazing, and pasture rest periods. Participants were taught how to identify plants in their pasture and how to control weeds. Presenters from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the University of Minnesota Extension Service discussed managed grazing, fencing options and watering systems for horse owners.

Free nitrate well water testing clinics are held by the SWCD at local fairs and business expos. The clinics increase public awareness of nitrates in rural drinking and livestock water supplies. Participants receive results from the testing, along with information about the dangers of high nitrate levels, where nitrates come from and how to protect our groundwater supplies.

Stormwater runoff was the educational theme for the 2006 County Fair display. The SWCD built a model representing a stormwater tunnel that kids could walk through. The tunnel depicted how leaves, grass clippings and litter deposited on city streets can wash into storm drains and end up in our rivers. The message encouraged efforts to collect grass clippings and leaves before they are washed into storm drains.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$300
Education / Outreach	\$9,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$10,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$9,025
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$11,077
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$240
Programs and Operations	\$50,258
Total	\$89,900

Future Projects

A streambank and shoreline restoration project is in progress on the bank of the Rum River in Milaca Riverview Park. The shoreline shows considerable erosion and exhibits large areas of bare and eroding soil. This project proposes to incorporate both hard and green engineering to stabilize the site. The eroded bank will be reshaped as necessary to place the rip rap. Native shrubs will be incorporated into the riprap and riverbank. The project also includes approximately 2,500 square feet of upland native buffer to improve runoff water quality. Because this area is used by walleye and smallmouth bass as a nursery and spawning area, this project will also provide habitat improvement.

A Mille Lacs Lake shoreland restoration demonstration project has a twofold goal. First, this project will function to restore fish habitat and treat runoff along 100 feet of shoreland, and to treat highway runoff that flows directly into the lake through a 240-foot channel. Second, the project will be used as demonstration model, showing how the restoration of shoreland will benefit fish habitat and water quality in a visually beautiful and functional manner. The lakeshore and channel can be restored using soft engineering techniques incorporating both rock and native vegetation. Aquatic habitat and water quality treatment will be improved by restoring the natural vegetation to this channel and lakeshore. The DNR has agreed to provide in-kind assistance with the vegetative plans due to the site's habitat importance. The SWCD plans to partner with the Mille Lacs Watershed Management Group to host a demonstration workshop on the site both during planting and the following seasons to demonstrate important maintenance techniques critical to the success of a project.

Morrison

Soil & Water Conservation District



16776 Heron Road
Little Falls, MN 56345
PHONE: (320) 616-2479
FAX: (320) 616-5401
Morrisonswcd.org
SWCD board meetings:
4th Thursday of month at 9 a.m.



Morrison County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

An “On the Water” assessment of Lake Shamineau was conducted by the Morrison SWCD to assist the County Local Water Plan effort. This is the second lake to be completed, the other being Crook Neck Lake. The sites of each lot are GPS located, photographed and documented for the conditions of the bank and any structures. Recommendations will be made to the association on Best Management Practices and funds will be made available for shoreline restoration for riparian buffers.

The SWCD conducted 26 environmental reviews for the Morrison County Planning and Feedlot Officer between 2006 and 2007. The county requires any feedlot producer changing their livestock operation either with a new building or increasing their animal numbers to a different tier to have a review. This enables the SWCD and the county to assure that adequate acres are available for manure application, as well as any environmental concerns addressed prior to a permit granted. The SWCD been doing these reviews for approximately 10 years, and it has successfully assisted the Planning Commission and the County Board in the permitting process.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$1,600
Education / Outreach	\$8,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$70,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$113,031
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$75,722
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$117,394
Total	\$396,951

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Robert Holmgren	Chairman	5979 230th Street, Randall	320-749-2487	1993
Tom Brutscher	V. Chair	20386 175th Avenue, Little Falls	320-745-2280	2004
Cynthia Anez	Secretary	12229 125th Street, Little Falls	320-632-9085	1993
Marvin Stangl	Treasurer	P.O. Box 368, Pierz	320-468-6170	1984
Claude Dahmen	Public Relations	16724 295th Avenue, Pierz	320-468-6523	1984



This Feedlot Water Quality project was completed in 2007. The FLEVAL rating was 70, and the SWCD allocated \$46,000 for the project. The receiving water is the Platte River, which is just beyond the feedlot, and there was a wetland basin in the feedlot that had to be addressed.

Many feedlots have been upgraded by the SWCD through Feedlot Water Quality Grants from BWSR, and the SWCD has continued to submit applications with high pollution ratings in riparian areas. However, the ability to clean up some very problematic sites on other rivers will be reduced, because new rules require those funds to be used only in TMDL watersheds. The Little Rock Lake watershed is the only TMDL in the county. Most of the feedlot problems in that watershed were dealt with using Challenge Grant money over the past 10 years. This change of direction for the FWQ funding is going to affect the SWCD's ability to address the Open Lot Agreement producers.

Work began in the Swan River Watershed with the 319 grant that the Morrison SWCD received from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Several hundred letters were sent to residents in the watershed in Morrison and Todd Counties to solicit projects and to announce funding available to assist with erosion control and nutrient management planning. The Swan River was formerly listed as a TMDL but de-listed due to the efforts of the SWCD in assisting feedlot producers with their pollution problems. There is still an interest in reducing the amount of phosphorus in the watershed, mainly due to the vast number of poultry producers spreading their manure on too few acres. Landowners are coming forward at this time and both Todd and Morrison SWCD technicians are developing plans for producers.

The Army Compatible Use Buffer

(ACUB) program has been a successful conservation easement program of the SWCDs in Morrison, Cass and Crow Wing counties near Camp Ripley. Camp Ripley is one of the few remaining soldier-readiness training sites in the country, and the U.S. Department of Defense is attempting to secure the 3-mile radius around it from further encroachment of residential development. The three SWCDs stepped up to the plate to convey the easements using the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve profile. The work in Minnesota is being profiled across the country as a model for other ACUB sites.

SWCD staff are an integral part of the county's comprehensive land-use planning and the re-writing of county ordinances. SWCD staff provided feedback based on their work with feedlot producers to the county that has driven several changes in the permitting process. The SWCD's recognition of environmental concerns on shoreland use permits has also been well received.

Wetland Conservation Act administration has required an increasing amount of SWCD staff time. Morrison had 65 violations in 2006 and 40 to date for 2007. The SWCD resolved all of the 2006 with Restoration Orders and did not have any appeals. This year, Morrison has had two appeals to BWSR on the Restoration Orders, which has required enormous time and staffing to resolve.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reducing ag run-off
2. Protecting wetlands
3. Protecting surface waters
4. Nutrient management planning
5. Protecting ag land

Future Projects

The Swan River 319 grant will be completed in the next 3 years. An inventory of the tributaries is being conducted in 2007-2008, and that should locate erosion-control needs within the watershed. Several landowners have enrolled for nutrient management planning and are working with SWCD staff, NRCS specialists, and private consultants to begin a better job of applying their manure with proper calibrations of their spreaders and the use of soil testing.

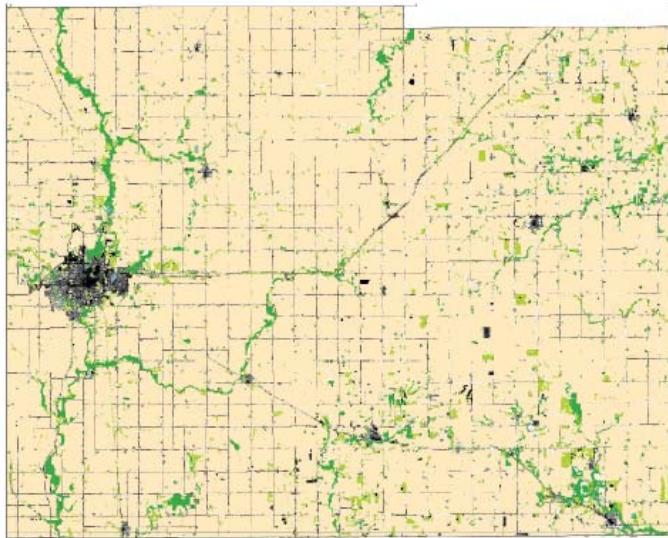
Mower

Soil & Water Conservation District



1408 21st Avenue NW, Suite 2
Austin, MN 55912
PHONE: (507) 434-2603
FAX: (507) 434-2680
www.mowerswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Wednesday of month at 8:30 a.m.



Mower County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: Aerial view of a recently completed wetland restoration and flood reduction project along Cedar River.

Flooding issues have been a significant concern in Mower County. In response to the flooding challenges, the district took the lead on the initiative to establish a watershed district in the Cedar River Watershed. The watershed district was created in May 2007, with the SWCD joining in a unique partnership as coordinator and administration.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$3,755
Education / Outreach	\$48,700
Wetland Conservation Act	\$40,190
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$180,455
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$30,967
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$40,441
Programs and Operations	\$46,288
Total	\$390,796

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
James Gebhardt	Chair	31776 State Highway 56, Waltham	507-477-2184	1991
William Lonergan Jr.	Vice Chair	15443 570th Avenue, Austin	507-433-4875	1973
Jon Erichson	Secretary/Treasurer	911 18th Street SW, Austin	507-437-2437	2005
Rick Gehling	Member	73498 300th Street, Grand Meadow	507-754-5851	2005
John Grass	Member	76742 115th Street, LeRoy	507-324-5805	2007



Pictured: (Above) Installation of a water retention structure for a controlled drainage project and (below) a wetland restoration project funded through CREP II.

Researching the benefits of controlled drainage systems

is a recent initiative for the Mower SWCD. In 2006, the district entered into a cooperative initiative with the MN Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota Extension to study the benefits related to water quality of controlled drainage systems on agricultural land. District staff targeted suitable areas and recruited willing participants, and they have also participated in the monitoring efforts and local education of the benefits.



The CREP II program has been a challenge and fell short of the target goals. Mower County did have relative success delivering the program to the public. The district enrolled approximately 30 contracts for 680 acres. Although this was far short of the program goals, Mower County will finish with the top counties for acres and contracts.

All wetland questions from Mower County landowners are directed to the Mower SWCD. A contribution agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has delegated the federal farm program wetland workload to the district. The goal was to provide the public with a “one-stop-shop” for providing compliance reviews for all wetland issues, whether they are addressed in the state Wetland Conservation Act or in the federal farm program. The district also serves as the WCA Local Government Unit for Mower County. The project has been very successful. Landowners have a primary contact in the county for all wetland projects, and the district has been addressing the federal and state wetland challenges in an efficient manner.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Agriculture runoff
2. Improving surface water management
3. Flood reduction
4. Protecting and restoring wetlands
5. Restoring water quality in the Cedar River watershed

Future Projects

TMDL in Cedar River Watershed: MPCA has approached the district about coordinating the development of the TMDL for turbidity in the Cedar River Watershed. This would be a coordinated effort between the Shell Rock, Turtle Creek and Cedar River watershed districts. This project is currently in the planning stages. The Mower SWCD is continuing to look into how they can contribute or possibly coordinate this effort.

Water Monitoring: The Mower SWCD is looking to accelerate the water monitoring programs in the county. The district currently is monitoring Turbidity, PH, Dissolved Oxygen, Organic Phosphates, Total Phosphates, Chlorides. Water monitoring has been fairly limited in the past. With the potential opportunities of working with local watershed districts and the needs for additional water quality data, the SWCD is working with MPCA to target areas for additional area to acquire this data.

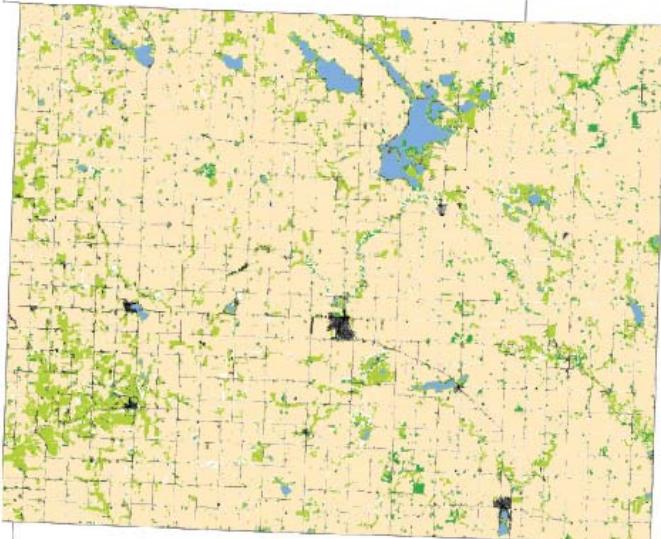
Murray

Soil & Water Conservation District



2740 22nd Street, Suite 3
Slayton, MN 56172
PHONE: (507) 836-6990
FAX: (507) 836-6697

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at 1:30 p.m.



Murray County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



412 wetland acres were restored along Murray County Ditch 65. SWCD staff worked with multiple landowners over a period of several years to enroll the land in permanent conservation easements. This project has improved water quality, improved the flood storage benefits of the ditch system and created wildlife habitat. Engineering for the project was provided by the Southwest Prairie JPO and BWSR.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$1,680
Education / Outreach	\$7,917
Wetland Conservation Act	\$20,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$21,150
Planning/ other local water management duties	--
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$750
Programs and Operations	\$136,616
Total	\$188,113

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Gary Brinks	PR/Info	1577 US Highway 59, Slayton	507-763-3775	1999
Shannon Cohrs	Vice-Chair	244 Hanes St., Westbrook	507-274-5531	2005
Arland Moger	Chair	709 280th Ave, Fulda	507-274-5131	1983
Paul Posthuma	Treasurer	1609 State Highway 91, Lake Wilson	507-879-3102	1999
Roger Steinman	Secretary	710 Normal Ave, Lake Wilson	507-879-3194	1987



Pictured: Several water control structures (above) were installed to manage the water level in the wetland area created by the Murray County Ditch 65 project, and (right) native seeding and rip rap were some of the techniques used to prevent erosion in the areas surrounding the restored wetland.



A shared storage shed to house the district's field equipment was built by the SWCD in partnership with Murray County.

The SWCD developed its own special cost-share program to help fund implementation of best management practices after the state cost-share funding ran out.

The District offers to county landowners a Vi-con spreader and a land packer to assist them in seeding down small areas for CCRP and CREP programs.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Improve Surface Water
2. Protect Ground Water
3. Storm water Retention
4. Wind and Water Erosion
5. Feedlots

Future Projects

The SWCD is pursuing the idea of developing demonstration plots of native grasses for cellulosic ethanol production, as this type of biomass is currently being pursued as a viable sustainable energy source.

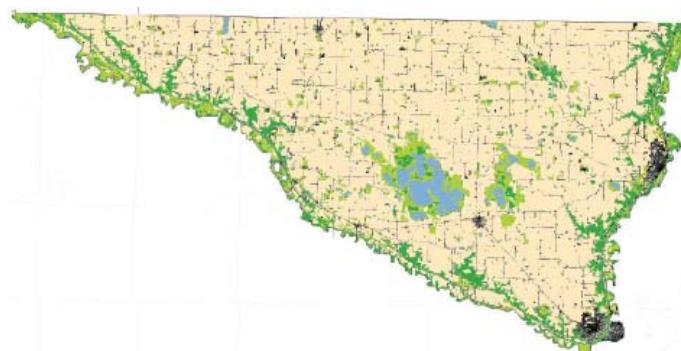
Nicollet

Soil & Water Conservation District



424 South Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082
PHONE: (507) 931-2550
FAX: (507) 931-3792
www.nicolletswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
1st Wednesday of month at 6:30 p.m.



Nicollet County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



An earthen manure pit was constructed in Bernadotte Township to store all manure, feedlot runoff, and milk house waste for 12 months. The earthen manure pit is designed to hold 1.4 million gallons of waste, which includes manure, milk house wastewater, bedding, and yearly feedlot runoff. Total project cost was \$109,566. State Cost-Share paid \$10,000, \$54,050 was paid by the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program, and \$45,516 was paid by operator.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$2,956
Wetland Conservation Act	\$7,367
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$45,166
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$27,700
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$5,235
Programs and Operations	\$37,430
Total	\$125,855

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Gerald Rodning	Chair	45996 350th Street, Gaylord	507-246-5215	1975
John Kral	Vice Chair	64325 County Road 21, New Ulm	507-354-6592	1994
Eldon Brown	Treasurer	38603 460th Street, St. Peter	507-934-1523	1987
William Hohenstein	Secretary	40997 425th Avenue, St. Peter	507-931-1186	2002
Bruce Hulke	PR/Member	51589 County Road 21, Courtland	507-359-2788	1996



Pictured: One of 25 sedimentation reduction projects that were recently completed in the upland areas of State Highway 169 in Nicollet County.

Sedimentation problems along State Highway 169 between Mankato and Le Sueur led the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) office in Mankato to seek assistance from the SWCD and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. It was determined that to be successful in reducing the sedimentation along State Highway 169 the projects needed to be implemented in upland areas of the watersheds, with cost-share incentives for the participating landowners. The NRCS and SWCD spent many hours in the engineering and construction inspection. If that work had been done by a private firm, those engineering costs would have exceeded \$40,000. The SWCD and NRCS worked with seven local landowners to complete 25 sedimentation reduction projects. Total construction costs were \$153,607. The estimated tons of soil saved per year is 657, and total reduction of peak flow is 150 percent.

A wetland Restoration project was recently completed in the northeast quarter of Belgrade Township. The restoration included native grass seeding and re-routing county tile #58. This restored wetland on the public drainage system has proven to be an effective way to treat Nitrogen, resulting in improved downstream water quality.

Thousands of feet of terraces were installed in New Sweden Township to reduce sediment from entering receiving waters. The SWCD along with NRCS completed 3,900 feet of terraces. The total project cost was \$53,270, \$19,177 of which was funded through the State Cost-Share Program, \$15,000 was funded through the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program, and \$19,093 was paid by the operator.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reducing agricultural runoff from cropland and feedlots
2. Maintain, enhance and increase wetlands within the county
3. Reduce stormwater runoff
4. Drainage management
5. Filter strips along riparian corridors, bluff land interface and drainage ditches

Future Projects

Integrating solar/wind powered pumps with restored wetlands to treat agricultural drainage water: The SWCD along with the Brown - Nicollet Water Quality Joint Powers Board will be using restored wetlands to pump water from an existing drainage system to the wetland using solar/wind powered pumps. This project will demonstrate new technologies and engineering to reduce nitrate loads at the watershed scale.

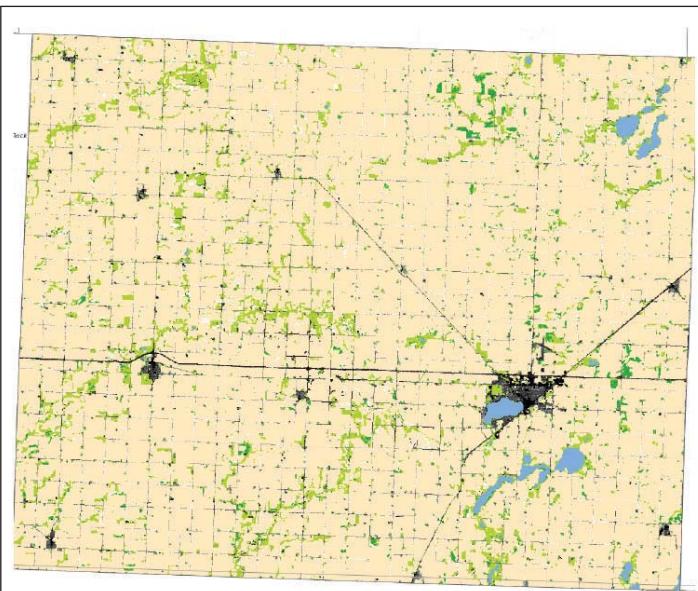
Nobles

Soil & Water Conservation District



13454 200th Street, Suite #3
Worthington, MN 56187
PHONE: (507) 376-9150
FAX: (507) 372-7751

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Wednesday of month at 7:30 a.m.



Nobles County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A rain garden was recently created next to the St. Mary's School building and parking lot. Students from Worthington High School, St. Mary's School, and staff from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service helped to design and plant the rain garden. Stormwater runoff from this area will now slowly filter through the rain garden into the ground before it gets to the city storm sewers. The SWCD provided funds for the project, and materials were also donated by local businesses. This project will be used as a demonstration plot for future rain gardens in the city.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$575
Education / Outreach	\$10,720
Wetland Conservation Act	\$20,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$70,792
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$8,750
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$33,000
Programs and Operations	\$79,839
Total	\$223,676

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Lynn Darling	Chairman	26197 260th Street, Rushmore	478-4185	1989
Paul Langseth	Vice-Chair	35505 280th Street, Worthington	376-5686	1997
Vern Suedkamp	Secretary	26028 State Highway 91, Adrian	483-2782	1999
James Knips	Treasurer	13510 Chaney Avenue, Lismore	475-8231	1981
Richard Nelsen	PR&I	12947 US Highway 59, Fulda	425-3193	2007



Pictured: This diverse mix of native grasses along the Kanaranzi Creek was restored to protect Topeka Shiner habitat and for other environmental and educational benefits.

A segment of the highly erodible and flood-prone Kanaranzi Creek was restored to native grasses for educational purposes and to protect Topeka Shiner habitat. Over the last three years the Nobles SWCD, Kanaranzi Little Rock Watershed District, City of Adrian, Nobles NRCS, and Adrian High School's advanced biology class worked cooperatively on the project. The seven-acre site had been seeded to native prairie. A small manmade wetland was created on the site along with walking paths, a creek crossing, and several hundred native shrubs and oaks planted along the streambank for additional stabilization. The Nobles NRCS and SWCD has organized an educational session utilizing the Adrian High School's advanced biology class to provide a learning opportunity for several 5th grade classes in the area.

As part of the Wellhead Protection Plan for the city of Adrian, the Nobles SWCD sought out landowners to follow best management practices to protect the vulnerable Adrian Wellhead Area. The Nobles SWCD worked with a single landowner to protect the wellhead area. With the cooperation of the city of Adrian and Nobles NRCS and Farm Service Agency, a 2,500-foot waterway was constructed to

control and prevent surface runoff of chemicals, fertilizers and soil into the areas adjacent to the city's wells. The landowner worked with SWCD personnel to enrolled 30 additional acres of land that is highly vulnerable to nutrient leaching, into land that is enrolled in CRP.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality Protection
2. Water Erosion Control
3. Wind Erosion Control
4. Flood Control
5. Resource Management Education

Future Projects

Feedlot Improvement Project -- The Nobles SWCD working with NRCS will be assisting a Feedlot owner/operator to control runoff and construct a manure storage area. Using State cost-share funds paired with EQIP dollars corrective measures will be taken on the site to protect a DNR Protected Stream course.

Raingardens -- The Nobles SWCD and cities within Nobles County are working together on an RC&D project proposal to install 10 raingardens in urban areas of the county, as an educational tool. Projects are presently being planned with the Worthington Lakes Association for public lands draining into Lake Okabena. Minnesota West and Technical colleges are also planning to install raingardens on each of their five campuses.

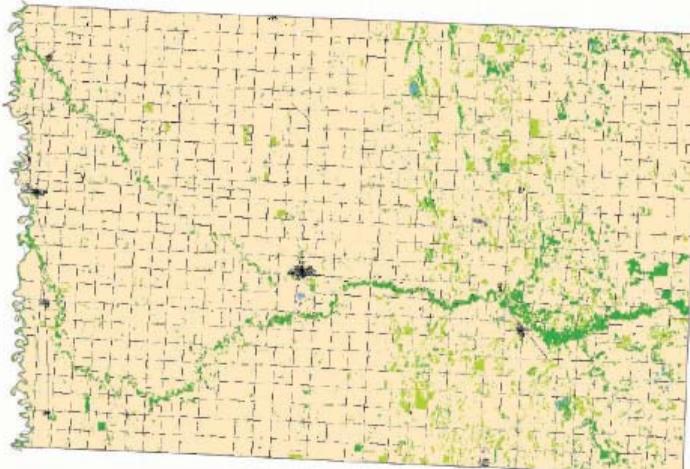
Norman

Soil & Water Conservation District



100 Main Avenue East, PO Box 60
Twin Valley, MN 56584
PHONE: (218) 584-5169
FAX: (218) 584-5667
nwmnswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Tuesday of month at 8 a.m.



Norman County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: A streambank restoration project to prevent the loss of this home into the river.

Major flood damages have led to numerous requests for streambank restoration projects. During the most recent floods, the river moved 200 feet closer to one home, leaving about 60 feet of the yard bordering the river. Before the project was finished, the floodwaters reached the top of the bank. Cooperation from USDA, Wild Rice Watershed District, West Central MN Joint Powers Board, and the SWCD made this project a success.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$500
Education / Outreach	\$11,200
Wetland Conservation Act	\$14,793
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$89,700
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$9,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$10,000
Programs and Operations	\$45,193
Total	\$265,277

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Ron Thorsrud	Chairman	PO Box 111, Twin Valley	584-8448	2004
John Jossund	Vice Chair	1053 140th Street, Perley	861-6631	1998
Kelly Skaurud	Reporter	4494 State Highway 200, Gary	356-8772	1995
Gene Ueland	Secretary	2952 180th Street, Ada	886-8570	2005
Chuck Hopwood	Treasurer	1757 300th Street, Ada	784-4643	2004



Pictured: (Above) A field windbreak being planted and (below) Tree matting is used to establish the windbreak to control weeds and conserve moisture for tree survival.

Establishing field windbreaks across the county has reduced wind erosion, provided wildlife habitat and improved water quality. The SWCD has worked with many Norman County landowners to install windbreaks.



Norman County SWCD has successfully worked together with many agencies to implement small-scale conservation projects. SWCD staff work with landowners to identify water quality / quantity problems and work with the watershed district to obtain funding, permitting and construction dollars to implement these projects.



Pictured: Maintenance is being done to extend the life of a Multi Purpose Dam

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Install practices that will reduce wind erosion on agricultural land in Norman County
2. Promote and install small flood storage projects
3. Educate residents on appropriate uses of natural resources
4. Reduce stormwater runoff to improve water quality
5. Increase the number of wetlands in the county

Future Projects

Moccasin Creek Restoration: This project will restore the channel of Moccasin Creek and protect it with buffers and wetland restorations. The SWCD will work with adjoining landowners, townships, counties, watershed district, DNR, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, private environmental groups, state and federal government agencies to complete the project in the next three years.

Home Lake Water Storage Project: The Norman County SWCD will work with the Wild Rice Watershed District, Norman County, Home Lake Township and local landowners to install a structure to control the lake level for water storage and create an erosion-free outlet.

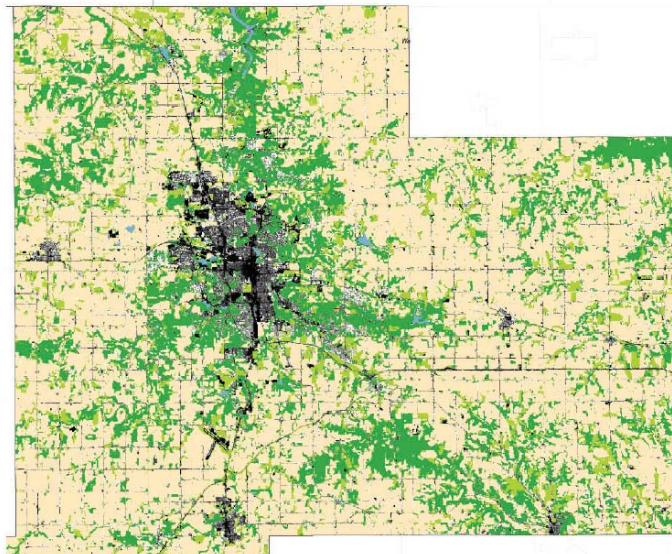
Olmsted

Soil & Water Conservation District



1485 Industrial Drive NW,
Room 102
Rochester, MN 55901
PHONE: (507) 280-2850
FAX: (507) 280-2858

*SWCD board meetings:
4th Thursday of month at 8 a.m.*



Olmsted County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A wetland restoration project that was included in the state wetland banking program was completed by Olmsted SWCD staff working cooperatively with a landowner and a consultant. Hydrology and hydrophytic plant communities were successfully established by creating a unique infiltration channel system that took advantage of both the ground and surface water regime. The project restored 17.88 acres of wetlands, which provides replacement credits to be used as mitigation.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	--
Wetland Conservation Act	\$11,683
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$84,418
Planning/ other local water management duties	--
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$268,714
Total	\$364,815

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Steve Connelly	Supervisor	PO Box 681, Byron	507-261-4386	2001
George Poch	Supervisor	1639 6th Avenue SE, Rochester	507-282-7022	2003
Paul Uecker	Supervisor	5219 70th Avenue NE, Rochester	507-282-2419	2003
Andy Hart	Supervisor	10723 County Road 11 NE, Elgin	507-876-2256	2003
John Keefe	Supervisor	15963 Highway 14 East, Dover	507-932-4656	2007



Pictured: 319 Grazing Grant water quality monitoring site in Pleasant Grove Township. Sites were selected in response to findings of the regional TMDL study identifying fecal coliform impairments in area streams. Olmsted and Fillmore SWCD have partnered with MDA to provide ongoing monitoring on four sites in two counties.

A conservation plan was developed

for two young farmers in Marion Township that resulted in many best management practices being installed. Two brothers purchased a 200-acre farm that had been farmed conventionally for decades. They approached the Olmsted SWCD for assistance in developing a conservation plan that would help rebuild the soil and place smart conservation practices on the land. A plan was developed by SWCD and NRCS staff to assist the landowners with the installation of 8,250 feet of terraces, 2,100 feet of grassed waterways and a grade stabilization structure to reduce erosion, improve soil condition and improve water quality.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement

Program (CREP II) has created long-term wildlife habitat, protected erosion-prone soils and improved water while retiring about 73 acres of cropland. Olmsted SWCD is working in conjunction with the southeast Minnesota conservation districts, USDA Farm Service Agency, NRCS and the Board of Water and Soil Resources to provide the landowners of Olmsted County with an opportunity to enroll their most marginal acreages into conservation easements. The program offers landowners a 15-year USDA - CRP contract with a 30 percent incentive on soil rental rates, as well as a one-time easement payment from the state of Minnesota. Olmsted SWCD has contracts with seven landowners enrolling 73.2 acres of land into long-term conservation easements.

Hundreds of acres of native prairie have been restored by the SWCD in recent years. Olmsted SWCD has assisted 117 landowners with planting 381 acres of native prairie in the county since 2001. These plantings have been completed using conservation program cost sharing as well as private money and interest in restoring wildlife habitat for personal enjoyment and aesthetics.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water quality improvement
2. Reduce erosion and sediment delivery to streams
3. Stormwater management and urbanization
4. Conservation education to public
5. Work with feedlot owners to comply with MPCA feedlot regulations

Future Projects

Zumbro Watershed Partnership: Bear Creek target watershed –The SWCD is working with watershed residents to install erosion control measures and improve water quality as part of a targeted vision of the larger Zumbro Watershed Partnership. Five volunteers are monitoring the stream as part of the MPCA's Citizen Stream Monitoring Program and will help provide the baseline information needed for the turbidity TMDL study to be completed June 2009.

319 Grant Grazing Project with MDA: Olmsted SWCD has been working with a producer in Pleasant Grove township in conjunction with Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Fillmore SWCD to place a water quality monitoring station on rotational pasture to monitor nutrient discharge from the pastured site.

Quarry Hill Nature Center Rain Garden Project: Nature center staff, City of Rochester, Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Olmsted SWCD, a retired NRCS soil scientist and local landscape architect are partnering to survey, design, construct and plant a rain garden. This will collect water from part of the nature center for treatment before it discharges into Silver Creek. The rain garden will reduce basement flooding in the nature center and provide educational opportunities to local citizens who are interested in creating a rain garden. A "how to" brochure on rain gardens will be created during the process.

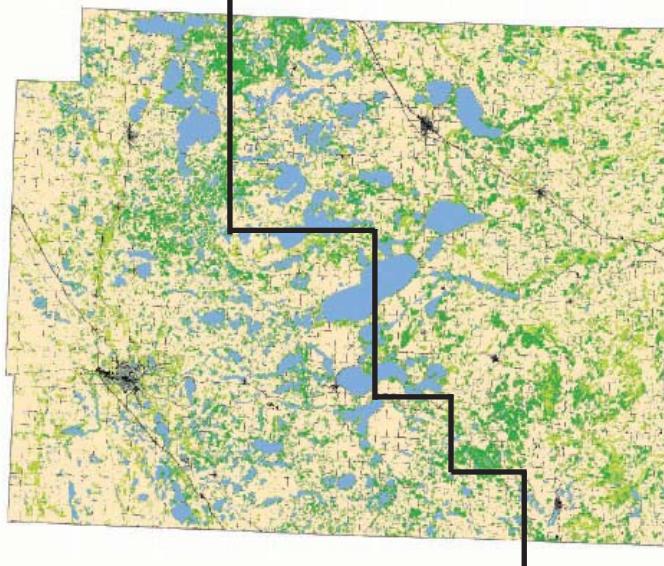
Otter Tail-East

Soil & Water Conservation District



801 Jenny Avenue SW, Suite 2
Perham, MN 56573
PHONE: (218) 346-4260
FAX: (218) 346-4262
www.eotswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Wednesday of month at
• 7:30 a.m. April - October
• 8:30 a.m. November - March



Otter Tail County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

Nearly 70,000 acres are irrigated in Otter Tail County, making it the highest number of acres in Minnesota. With this in mind the EOT SWCD adopted the Irrigation Scheduler Program to provide a service to help area producers manage their irrigated acres using the irrigation checkbook computer program developed by the University of Minnesota that tracks crop water use for the specific crops, and crop stage.

Through its Farm Bill

Assistance Program the SWCD promotes federal and state conservation programs to landowners with a focus on increasing the grassland and wetland acres enrolled into the farm bill conservation programs. This is done through direct mailings to landowners explaining the opportunities that they may have on their properties along with various news releases to media outlets in the area on program opportunities.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$2,490
Education / Outreach	\$2,073
Wetland Conservation Act	\$41,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$249,775
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$6,250
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$30,000
Programs and Operations	\$47,594
Total	\$466,465

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Lyle Dittmann	Chair	54589 County Highway 58, New York Mills	218-385-2392	1997
Steve Inwards	Vice-Chair	14159 County Highway 42, Parkers Prairie	218-338-5866	1999
Gary Cruff	Treasurer	33483 Sybil Shores Drive, Vergas	218-342-3344	2001
Gary Zeise	PR/Information Officer	28386 600th Avenue, Wadena	218-462-2424	2001
Marion Gill	Secretary	40122 Aeroville Road, Perham	218-346-7295	2007



With 1,048 lakes and many miles of streams and rivers that have been rapidly developed there are many water quality and shoreland erosion issues that need to be addressed. In 2006 The EOT SWCD approached the WOT SWCD, the Otter Tail County Commissioners, and area lake associations to establish a joint effort to provide technical assistance to shoreland landowners with water quality and erosion issues. Through this partnership a shoreland specialist was hired in 2007 who is located in the EOT SWCD office and provides technical assistance countywide. The shoreland specialist has visited more than 60 sites, given 12 presentations to various organizations, and installed 7 lakescaping demonstration projects, with many more in the works for 2008. These lakescaping demonstration projects are being partially funded through a County Water Plan cost-share assistance program. Through developing a working relationship with the various resource agencies we hope that this position will be able to assist landowners in the various stages of applying conservation practices to their properties.

Participating producers report weekly rainfall and irrigation amounts for their specific fields. These fields are also visited weekly by the SWCD irrigation technician to check in-field soil moisture conditions. With this information the SWCD produces a weekly soil moisture graph for each field that is provided to the producer. These graphs project the crop water used and help producers decide if and when to irrigate. This helps them to maintain healthy crops while conserving water, energy, and preventing the leaching of nutrients and pesticides due to over-irrigation. In

2007 this program was used by over 30 producers to help them directly manage well over 10,000 irrigated acres on 118 different fields. The EOT SWCD has also set up an “ET” (Evapo-Transpiration) Hotline. This recorded message provides information on daily crop water use for the various crops commonly grown in the area. This hotline is accessible to the general public.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Development Pressure - Protecting agricultural land, lakes, streams, wetlands and forested areas that are being developed for housing and recreational purposes.
2. Ground Water Quality – Maintaining the quality and quantity of ground water for residential, industrial and agricultural uses.
3. Surface Water Quality – Protect, preserve, and improve surface water quality through the use of various conservation practices like filter strips, conservation tillage, feedlot and manure management.
4. Wind Erosion
5. Forest Land Improvement and reestablishment

Future Projects

Lakescaping Demonstration Projects – Through the Otter Tail County Water Plan we have set aside cost-share funding to establish Lakescaping Demo Projects on different lakes throughout the county. These demonstration projects will be used for future training or field tours for the SWCD's and lake association groups. One project will be located in Amor Park on Otter Tail Lake. We plan to have educational signs or displays in Amor Park that explain the benefit of having native vegetation on the shoreline.

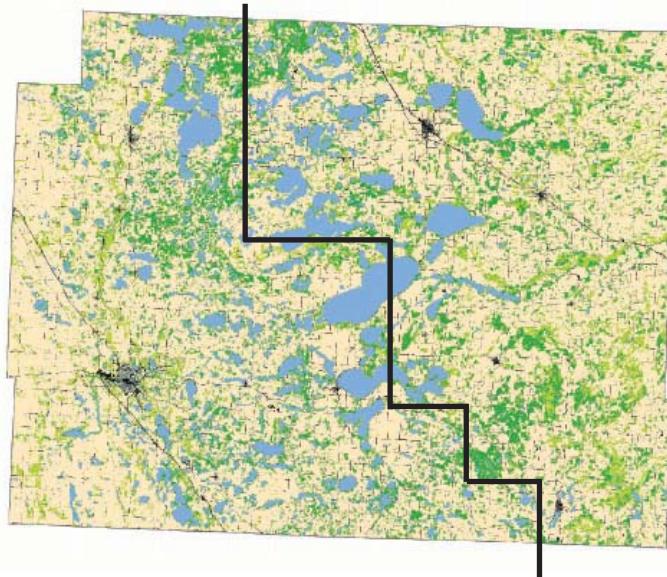
Minnesota Master Naturalist Program – This program is an educational program through the University of Minnesota Extension Service that trains adult volunteer's about Minnesota's natural resources, teaching them how to educate others, and provides opportunities to do conservation projects. An EOT SWCD staff member has been certified as an instructor and will be offering classes in conjunction with the Douglas SWCD.

Otter Tail-West

Soil & Water Conservation District



506 Western Avenue North
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
PHONE: (218) 739-1308
FAX: (218) 739-1309
[www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/
partnerships/wottertail](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/wottertail)
SWCD board meetings:
3rd Wednesday of month at May-
Oct. 9:00 a.m., Nov.-April 9:30 a.m.



Otter Tail County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The Pomme De Terre

watershed improvement project is underway in an effort to improve water quality. The Otter Tail County board signed an agreement to participate with surrounding counties in the watershed to implement a TMDL work plan.

A living snow fence

demonstration area was installed adjacent to interstate 94 in the city of Fergus Falls. The area is open to the public and features native prairie seeding to promote these options for landowners.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$10,000
Education / Outreach	\$11,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$30,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$83,000
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$9,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$11,000
Programs and Operations	\$30,000
Total	\$184,000

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Richard Viger	Chair	12598 US HWY 59 Fergus Falls	218-589-8782	1992
Rod Wenstrom	Secretary	25811 Co HWY 18 Fergus Falls	218-739-9578	1990
Julian Sjostrom	V. Chair	17890 Co HWY 28 Pelican Rapids	218-863-7785	1984
Charles Piekarski	Treasure	24678 Co HWY 11 Fergus Falls	218-736-7918	2006
John Walkup	Publ. Rel.	11301 150th Ave Campbell	218-739-2580	2006



Pictured: Before (top) and after photos of a lake shore stabilization project.

Construction of Amor Park was part of a lake shore restoration project. Amor Park is owned by Amor Township on Otter Tail Lake, which has been made available for public use. The West Otter Tail SWCD with cooperation with East Otter Tail SWCD, Minnesota DNR and Otter Tail County commissioners constructed the park, and in 2006 the SWCD installed wave protection along the park's 310 feet of shoreline. In 2007 and 2008 the SWCD will be stabilizing the upland bank, using various lake landscaping techniques. Permanent signs will be placed describing each conservation practice along with contact information.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Surface and Ground Water Quality
2. Water Erosion
3. Wind Erosion
4. Wetland Preservation
5. Education and Information

Future Projects

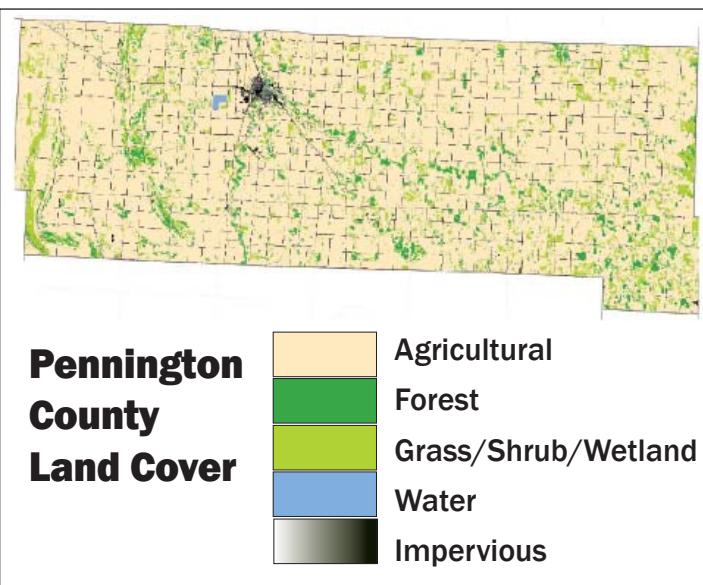
Lightning Lake Watershed project- In the WOT SWCD in cooperation with DNR, NRCS, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received funding for the working lands initiative. Upper Lightning Lake watershed was chosen as a target area because of its importance to nesting waterfowl and wildlife. There is an importance to install buffers around the watershed in order to clean the lake. The SWCD will use grant funds to increase CCRP payments to landowners within this high-priority watershed. The district signed an agreement in April of 2007 with state of Minnesota. The goals of this round of funding are to enroll 150-200 acres of CCRP contracts that consists of buffer strips and wetland conservation project areas.

Pennington

Soil & Water Conservation District



201 Sherwood Avenue South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
PHONE: (218) 683-7075
FAX: (218) 681-3259
nwmnswcd.org
SWCD board meetings:
3rd Monday of month at 9 a.m.



Pennington County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$5,379
Education / Outreach	\$16,683
Wetland Conservation Act	\$15,760
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$85,425
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$25,791
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$60
Programs and Operations	\$26,642
Total	\$175,380

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



More than one mile of coulee was restored on a section land in Pennington County (pictured). Over the last 50 years, the coulee has been modified and farmed so that its capacity had been greatly reduced. Water would flow out of bank during runoff events, cutting gullies into the cropland where water would find a new path. The landowner obtained a contract with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to restore the coulee. A contribution agreement was made between NRCS and the Pennington SWCD to develop a plan and design. SWCD Technical Service Area (TSA) 1 engineering services surveyed, designed and provided construction inspection for the project. The coulee had been reduced to about 20 feet in width between top slopes. The bottom width was increased to 14 feet with 3:1 side slopes and averaged 2.5 feet in depth. A one-rod buffer strip was installed on each side, making the total width almost 60 feet. The total project cost was \$30,761.13. The project was funded 50 percent through EQIP, 25 percent from State Cost-Share and the landowner provided 25 percent.

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Linda Hanson	Chair	35400 State Highway 1, Goodridge	378-4588	1998
Brenda Szymanski	Vice-Chair	34866 120th Street NE, Goodridge	378-4119	2005
Greg Hilgeman	Treasurer	32470 140th Street SE, Oklee	796-5395	2000
Ricky Peterson	PR&I	16642 State Highway 1 NE, Thief River Falls	681-2895	2008 (appointed)
Ray Olson	Secretary	15648 200th Street NW, Thief River Falls	681-2259	1974



Pictured: Water quality monitoring has been done by Pennington SWCD for 10 years on nine sites. Data is compiled and sent to the MPCA each year for further analysis. This information helped the MPCA to determine that the Thief River is impaired for turbidity and the Clearwater River is impaired for dissolved oxygen.



A streambank stabilization project on the Thief River was completed to control surface water runoff from the Thief River Golf Club's paved parking lot (pictured). Instead of forming a gully, the flow saturated the steep river bank to the point of sliding into the river. The slope of the river bank was flattened, causing the golf club to lose about 20 feet of parking lot along that side. A 300-foot curb was installed between the parking lot and the river bank to capture the water. The river bank was seeded, and willow stakes were installed to provide additional stability. The SWCD TSA 1 provided survey information for the project. Total project cost was \$52,256.50. Funding partners were the SWCD, Pembina Trail Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) and the Red Lake Watershed District.

Conservation education is one main focus of the SWCD. Starting as young as kindergarten, students learn the importance of trees by receiving their own seedling to plant and nurture. Sixth graders get hands-on learning with the Outdoor Education Day. Some of their experiences include the Adventures of a Raindrop, making an Incredible Edible Landfill, Tree Bingo, and surviving the Deer Population Game. Other education activities the SWCD is involved with include: NW Water Festival, Conservation Poster and Mural Contest, local Essay Contest, Envirothon, Science Fair, sponsoring a Minnesota Science Museum presentation, and sending two youth to Long Lake Conservation Camp.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Improve water quality by carrying out the objectives in the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan
2. Educate youth and general public of soil and water conservation practices
3. Increase productivity of ag producers through conservation practices
4. Promote conservation of wildlife and wetland areas
5. Implement economic assistance programs

Future Projects

Jerome Street Group – The Pennington SWCD has been working with a group six landowners, commonly referred to as the Jerome Street Group, who live along the Red Lake River in Thief River Falls. They live below the Power Dam where ice and high water flows have undercut this bank to point of cracking the top slope. A stream bank protection project has been surveyed, designed and agreed to by the landowners as a viable project. Stabilizing the toe and restoring the floodplain will allow the construction without removing existing vegetation. The \$85,000 price tag to restore this 700 feet of shoreline is out of sight for the SWCD and the landowners. The Red Lake Watershed District is aware of this project and is willing to cooperate. With homes as close as 20 feet to the top of the bank, SWCD staff are seeking additional funding opportunities as soon as possible.

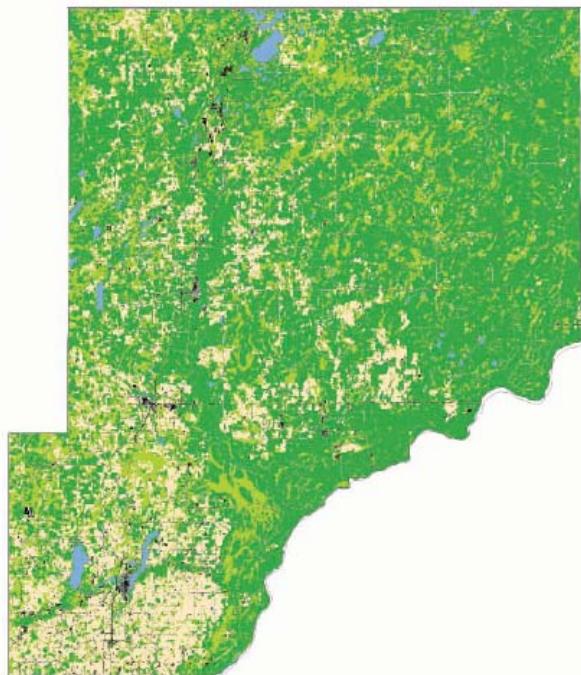
Pine

Soil & Water Conservation District



260 Morris Avenue North
Hinkley, MN 55037
PHONE: (320) 384-7431
FAX: (320) 384-6763
www.pineswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
4th Tuesday of month at 4:30 p.m.



Pine County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Shoreland Planting Workshops were held in 2006 on the Snake River watershed near Pine City in conjunction with the University of MN Extension Service. At the first site, 180 feet of shoreline was planted with native plants. Fabric and coconut fiber logs were also used (pictured) and funded by a DNR Shoreland Grant. At the second site, 50 feet of rock gabion tube was installed.

A soil survey is underway in Pine County. Light Detection and Ranging Imagery photos were recently flown. Pine is one of the first counties in Minnesota to have this new 3-D photo technology which will speed up the overall mapping process.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$2,492
Education / Outreach	\$14,544
Wetland Conservation Act	\$71,782
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$28,960
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$2,639
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$25,310
Total	\$145,727

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Paul Olesen	Public Relations	61715 Beaver Tail Road, Askov	320-838-3435	2003
Norman Nelson	Vice-Chair	43979 Fleming Logging Road, Hinckley	320-384-6067	1979
Basil Serfin	Chair	12914 Rutledge Road, Finlayson	320-233-7781	2001
Douglas Odegard	Secretary	31159 St. Croix Road, Pine City	320-629-6502	2007
Kelly Osterdyk	Treasurer	16539 Henriette Road, Pine City	320-629-7180	1999



Pictured: Pine River streambank restoration project.

The heavy rains in June 2003 caused some streambank on the Pine River to fall in (pictured - left). The eroded area was about 60 feet wide and was a drainage area where water seeped through the bank. At the tow of the bank, 30 cubic yards of rock rip-rap and fill were placed, and tile installed. Erosion control fabric was placed and trees, shrubs, and native plants were planted (pictured - right). Pine SWCD funded this project through State Cost-Share dollars and through the Pokegama Lake Association.

Several streambank, lakeshore, and gully erosion projects have been completed in the Pokegama Lake watershed by the SWCD, working closely with the Pokegama Lake Association. The SWCD in partnership with NRCS, has also completed numerous nutrient and ag waste management practices. The PLA has donated nearly \$100,000 to help offset the landowners' portion of their projects which are being cost-shared at 75 percent by the NRCS EQIP Conservation Priority Area funding. The PLA provided funding by donating an additional 15 percent to bring the total amount of cost-share to 90 percent for those conservation practices.

The Snake River Watershed Management
Board and Pine SWCD have worked very closely to complete several streambank, lakeshore, and gully erosion projects in the Snake River watershed. Funding by both agencies has been used on most projects, providing each landowner close to 75 percent cost-sharing.

Fill, rock and native seed were used to stabilize the slope for three sites of the Lower Snake River. In October 2005, heavy rains caused several spots on the streambank to slump, give way and fall into the river.

A geological atlas and sinkhole study for Pine County was completed in 2004 with the assistance from the U of M, Minnesota Geological Survey, and funding from Pine SWCD. Ten maps on geology and hydrogeology are available for land-use planning.

The 'Guide to Rural Living,' produced in 1999, was recently revised. The original guide was intended to provide resource information to new land-owners with smaller parcels of land. The guide includes a variety of topics such as land issues and zoning, wetland and wildlife management, small acreage farming and living in rural areas among many others. A resource directory is included, which features an extensive list and contact information for many federal, state and local public service agencies, educational resources and more. The guide is available on CD for \$5 or can be accessible on-line for free at www.extension.umn.edu/ruralliving

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect and improve the surface water quality
2. Assure an adequate supply of safe ground water
3. Reduce the phosphorous concentrations in Pokegama Lake
4. Reduce nuisance algae and invasive aquatic plant growth in Cross Lake
5. Protect sinkholes from contamination

Future Projects

Clean Water Legacy Project - Nordrum Dairy
nutrient management – CWL funds will be used to complete Phase I (sediment basin and filter strip) for a dairy operation in the Snake River Watershed. CWL funds will cost-share at 25 percent in addition to NRCS EQIP dollars at 50 percent.

Nelson nutrient management – A Feedlot Water Quality Grant was received for this applicant for installation of a filter strip and stacking slab for his beef operation. These funds will cost-share at approximately 25 percent in addition to NRCS EQIP dollars at approximately 50 percent.

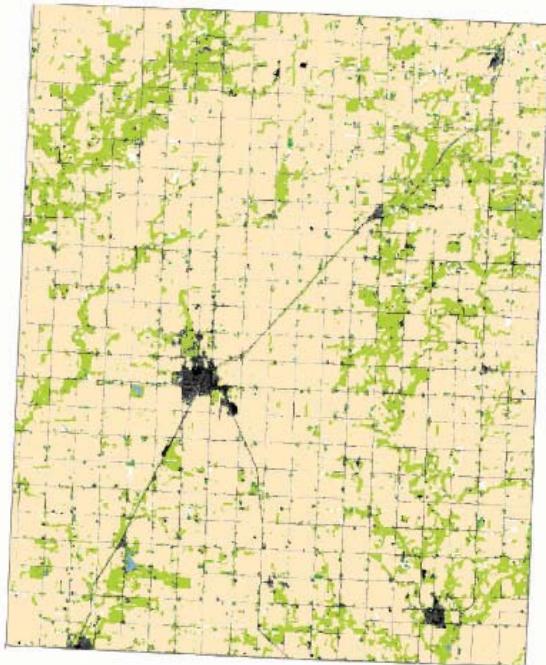
Grindstone River Water Monitoring – A water monitoring project has just begun on the Grindstone River, which is on the MPCA Impaired Waters List. This preliminary monitoring will provide data that can be used for a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study when funding becomes available for this area. Monitoring data being collected are solids, phosphorous, chloride, E-coli, and nitrogen. A River Watch Program is also planned to be initiated by possibly using local high school students to do monitoring.

Pipestone

Soil & Water Conservation District



119 2nd Avenue SW, Suite 13
Pipestone, MN 56164
PHONE: (507) 825-4268
FAX: (507) 825-6782
[www.pipestone-county.com/
departments/planning/SWCD.htm](http://www.pipestone-county.com/departments/planning/SWCD.htm)
SWCD board meetings:
1st Thursday of month at 9 a.m.



Pipestone County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Through its Septic Loan Program, Pipestone County designated \$200,000 of reserve funds for loans to be made to producers who are in need of updating their septic system. SWCD staff developed and administers this loan program along with other loan funds made available through MPCA.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$5,000
Education / Outreach	\$8,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$20,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$27,000
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$21,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$35,000
Programs and Operations	\$25,000
Total	\$201,315

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
LeRoy Stensgaard	Chairman	135 Aetna Street, Box 118, Ruthon	507-658-3681	1997
Ed Loll	Vice-Chair	1696 60th Avenue, Pipestone	507-825-2732	2005
Anna Mae Fritz	Sec/Treas	1310 141st Street, Holland	507-825-4058	1999
Cal Spronk	Programs	84 130th Avenue, Edgerton	507-442-5334	2001
Ian Cunningham	PR & I	565 81st Street, Pipestone	507-825-2296	2001



Pictured: Pipestone Creek.

The Pipestone Creek TMDL Study

was completed by staff of the Pipestone SWCD working cooperatively with MPCA. SWCD staff coordinated the water quality monitoring of Pipestone Creek with the Pipestone National Monument who collected and submitted water samples to the Department of Health lab for analysis. A local advisory board was created and local meetings were held for input on the creek's water quality and potential contributing sources. SWCD staff conducted a complete watershed field survey. The watershed was driven and data was collected and stored as a graphic layer on arc-gis in the field with a tablet PC. Information collected included: locations where filter strips are needed, pasture livestock numbers, pasture management practices, potential runoff concerns from livestock facilities, Individual Sewage Treatment System (a survey was conducted with residents of the watershed to determine type of system, compliance and if discharging where sewage is discharged), crop, tillage, and residue management, and other watershed water quality contributing sources were identified. This data along with monitoring and rating curve data was compiled and the Pipestone Creek TMDL Study was created. Local review meetings were published and held for local input. MPCA review was then completed and the Study is currently awaiting EPA approval.

The SWCD maintains and provides Geographic Information Systems assistance to Pipestone County. Supervisors have allowed staff to attend GIS classes held by the GIS Department at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. A county GIS committee was created to provide direction and information to the County Commissioners and other County departments on uses and benefits of GIS. The SWCD has been creating and making available many useful layers to county departments and the public. Layers include road maps, commissioner districts, SWCD supervisor districts, other committee districts, county zoning layer districts, feedlot layer, gravel pit layer, and others, a county parcel map is currently being created through a contract with 6E RDC. Staff also have created and made available GIS projects for the staff at the courthouse to utilize through Arc-reader software.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality
2. Feedlot Runoff
3. Soil Erosion
4. Nutrient Management Planning
5. Grazing Management Practices

Future Projects

Pipestone Creek and Rock River TMDL Implementation plans: The Pipestone Creek TMDL Implementation Plan is currently being written by the SWCD and will soon be submitted to the MPCA for approval. The SWCD also serves on the Rock River TMDL committee which is also in the process of developing a TMDL implementation plan.

Feedlot Level 3 Inventory: SWCD staff are conducting site visits on all county registered feedlots and collecting site data. Mnfarm is then run on sites to determine pollution potential. A complete level 3 inventory is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2008.

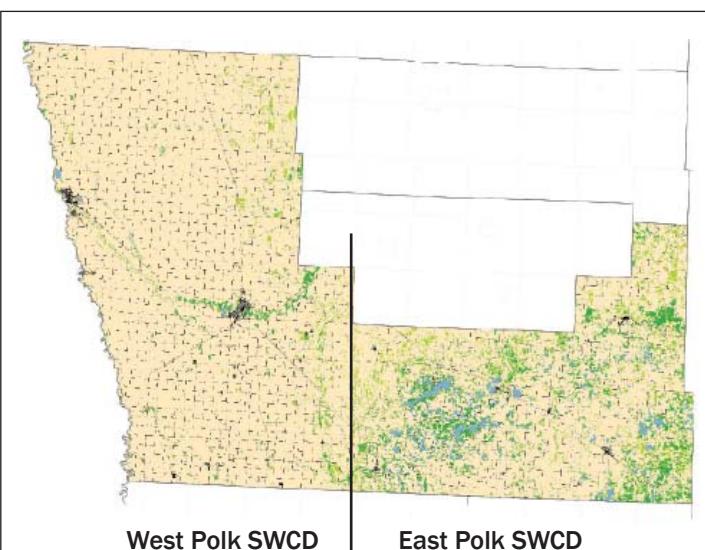
East Polk

Soil & Water Conservation District



PO Box 57
Mcintosh, MN 56556
PHONE: (218) 563-2777
FAX: (218) 563-2978
nwmnswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at 9 a.m.



Polk County Land Cover



Recent Projects / Accomplishments

Win-E-Mac School students helped the SWCD install a grade stabilization/grass waterway on school property. Prior to building a new school along Highway #59 north of Erskine, the site was enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program. The site is located on a hill overlooking Oak Lake, which includes the school, bus garage, athletic fields, play ground and large parking lot.

When water erosion became a concern, instructor Bob Nephew contacted the SWCD to come up with a solution that would provide an opportunity for his environmental science class to have hands on learning experience. The Northwest Joint Powers engineer was called upon to assist. The site was evaluated with different options to remedy the problem. The students helped survey, determine flow rates, culverts sizing, safety issues, aesthetics, maintenance, cost factors, and water quality issues. The plan design included a grass waterway with a drop inlet structure. The students were involved completely in the project from start to finish. Total project cost: \$13,000.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$522
Education / Outreach	\$5,604
Wetland Conservation Act	\$31,800
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$10,000
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$9,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$1,807
Programs and Operations	\$2,000
Total	\$58,733

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Lawrence Vettleson	Chairman	39391 270th Street SE, Gully	218-268-4079	1991
Scott Balstad	Vice Chairman	33393 420th Street SE, Fosston	218-435-2173	2005
Al Bauer	Secretary	22118 370th Street SE, Erskine	218-687-5357	2000
Kenneth Pederson	Treasure	11574 380th Street SE, Fertile	218-574-2476	1978
Bruce Grundyson	Public Relations	27258 330th Street SE, McIntosh	218-563-4353	1990



The lakeshore on a Union Lake property was eroding due to high water, loss of vegetation, ice and wave action, so the SWCD completed a lakeshore stabilization project on the site. Rock riprap and sod was placed on the shoreland with riprap extending out into the water. Riprap placed into the water also served as a fish spooning area. Total project cost: \$6,500.

The SWCD completed a shoreland restoration on Lake Sarah recently. Due to high water and flooding for several years, all aquatic and lakeshore plants were lost. The landowner's goal was to restore the buffer zone and lake area with native species. The first step included a shoreland revegetation workshop that covered environmental and regulatory considerations. Classroom participants looked at suitable plant materials for the different shoreland zones, quantities needed, and erosion control materials and techniques. This was done with the help of the University of Minnesota Extension Shoreland Program. The second phase included hands-on planting of over 6,000 square feet of lakeshore to native trees, shrubs, flora, and fauna. Project cost: approximately \$3,000.

Several best management practices were installed on an existing drainage system that began to displace soil directly into Union Lake due to land-use changes. A grade stabilization structure was designed to use a depression area by installing a berm perpendicular to the flow and piping the water to a discharge point approximately 80 feet from the lake. The pipe drop-down structure consists of a 24-inch drop tube and 70 feet of 18-inch dual wall plastic pipe. An existing waterway was upgraded to take the flow from the new discharge point to the lake. Rock riprap will protect the outlet of the structure. Total cost: \$6,500.

A grade stabilization structure

with 1,800 feet of 24-inch dual wall tile was completed at a cost estimate of \$45,000. There are numerous sediment basins included with this project. The site was in a priority area as it drains into the Sand Hill River.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Surface water quality, specifically as it pertains to the human impacts on the lakes
2. Quantity of water passing through the county by evaluating the drainage systems
3. Preservation and enhancement of the county's natural resources through county, state, and federal programs
4. Reduce wind and water erosion from agricultural and urban areas
5. Inspect feedlots within shoreland / floodplain areas

Future Projects

Union Lake Erosion Control: Property owners on Union Lake came to the SWCD concerning sediment loading of the lake. The existing waterway has deep gullies and eroded banks resulting in the loss of soil, trees, and shrubs. The proposed improvements to the waterway may include sloping, grading, and seeding. Other best management practices such as drop structures, cable concrete, and rock riprap may be included. The immediate drainage area has been farmed intensively. Land above the project has been enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program. Sediment loading will be reduced resulting in better water quality. Cost estimate is \$100,000.

Grade Stabilization Structure: Soil erosion has been occurring in the field with moderate slopes. The ditch has incised resulting in sediment issues in the county ditch. A drop grade stabilization will be designed to reduce field erosion in the existing ditch system and improved water quality. Cost estimate is \$17,500.

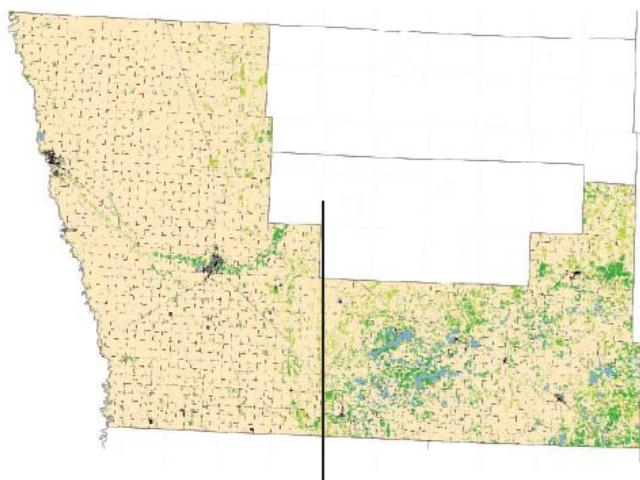
West Polk

Soil & Water Conservation District



528 Strander Avenue
Crookston, MN 56716
PHONE: (218) 281-6070
FAX: (218) 281-6071
nwmnswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Thursday of month at 7 a.m.



West Polk SWCD

East Polk SWCD

Polk County Land Cover



Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Sand Hill River Restoration & City of Climax Trail Crossings Project

West Polk SWCD, in partnership with the City of Climax, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and American Crystal Sugar Inc., have been implementing a restoration project on the Sand Hill River as well as promoting fish passage on the Sand Hill River by replacing two Texas-crossings associated with the City's trail system with removable, floating bridges.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$5,357
Wetland Conservation Act	\$42,138
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$86,232
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$17,173
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$74,370
Total	\$225,271

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Todd Radi	Chair	20110 320th Avenue SW Fisher	218.281.1769	2002
Dale Peterson	Vice-Chair	18717 Highway 75 NW Warren	218.745.4923	1991
Russ Severson	Treasurer	28247 160th Avenue SW Crookston	218.281.3248	1994
Mark McWalter	Secretary	506 12th ST NW East Grand Forks	218.773.8053	1994
Ben Larson	PR&I	35781 State Highway 220 SW Climax	218.857.3303	2004

Northwest Minnesota Water Festival

The Northwest Minnesota Water Festival was established in 2002 to provide an annual hands-on water

resources learning opportunity for fourth grade students in Northwest Minnesota. Funding and coordination is provided by northwest area soil and water conservation districts. Approximately 640 students and their teachers attend every year.



Area I Website—nwmnswcd.org

In 2006 SWCDs in Area I jointly established the Area I Website. This website is a portal-based website which makes it exceptionally user-friendly for the public user as well as the webmaster. The Area I website can be accessed at: nwmnswcd.org

Geist's Streambank Restoration and Stabilization Project, Burnham Creek

This was a streambank stabilization project along Burnham Creek south of Crookston. The eroding bank toe was causing bank failure and subsequent sedimentation of the creek. The failure was occurring at a fairly rapid rate and put the landowners home in jeopardy. This project used bio-engineering practices to help establish a stable bank. Minnesota State Cost-Share money was used in this project. Partners include the Technical Service Area I and the Red Lake Watershed District.

West Polk SWCD Tree Program

West Polk SWCD promotes and implements a successful tree program offering Minnesota State Cost-Share to landowners who want to install field and farmstead windbreaks for the purpose of reducing erosion. An estimated 275,000 trees have been installed in western Polk County over the past 5 years. The District, through the tree program, also offers a Tree Maintenance Program which includes the installation of fabric mat weed barrier, tube/stake enclosures, and chemical weed-control applications for landowners.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Monitoring, protecting and where needed, restoring surface water quality
2. Assessing water quantity by inventorying, assessing and evaluating the drainage infrastructure of minor watersheds
3. Preservation and enhancement of natural resources within the Glacial Lake Agassiz Beach Ridge area
4. Reduction of soil erosion through the implementation of living snow fences, field windbreaks, as well as conservation tillage practices
5. Reduction of agricultural runoff by promoting Best Management Practices

Future Projects

Clean Water Legacy Projects:

The West Polk SWCD will be partnering with the Nature Conservancy, the East Polk Soil and Water Conservation District and the Red Lake Soil and Water Conservation District on restoration of a stream to its historical function by reestablishing menders and streambanks. Funding will be sought through the Clean Water Legacy Grant process.

Junior Envirothon:

The West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District would like to initiate a Junior Envirothon for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Currently the District sponsors and participates in the Rydell Area Envirothon for high school students and West Polk County schools have been active participants and we would like to expand on that success with a Junior Envirothon.

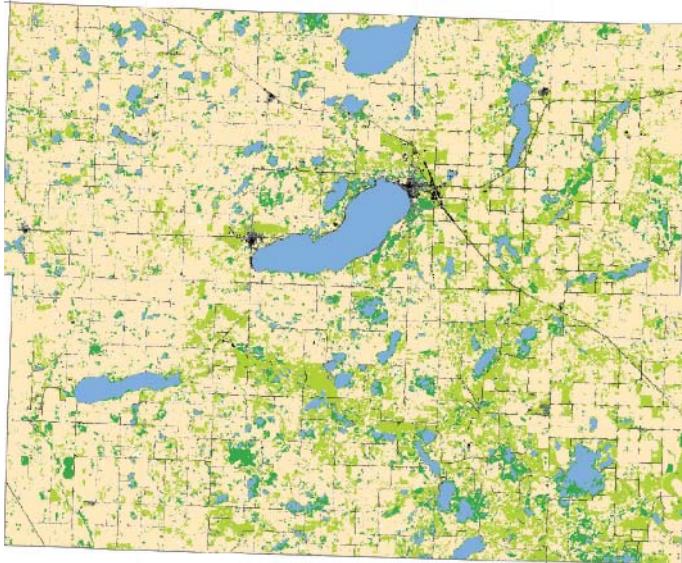
Pope

Soil & Water Conservation District



1680 Franklin Street North
Glenwood, MN 56334
PHONE: (320) 634-5327
FAX: (320) 634-4278
www.popeswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Tuesday of month at 7 a.m.



Pope County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A **manure pit** was constructed to collect all of the runoff from the feedlot on the Nate Walter farm. The pit is designed to hold all of the feedlot runoff from a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event (4.5" rainfall over 24 hours), preventing phosphorus from entering nearby water resources. The total cost of the project is \$84,000. Funding is provided by State Cost-Share (through the Board of Water and Soil Resources), Sauk River Watershed District, EQIP (through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service), and by the local landowner.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$2,490
Education / Outreach	\$3,247
Wetland Conservation Act	\$35,502
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$90,956
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$170,848
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$11,024
Programs and Operations	\$78,376
Total	\$392,443

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Keith Nygaard	Chairman	27378 180th Street, Starbuck	320-239-4279	2002
D. Gary Reents	Vice-Chair	15821 County Road 29, Villard	320-554-3328	1988
Ralph Peterson	Secretary	960 East Minnesota Avenue, Glenwood	320-554-3328	2004
Randy Anderson	Treasurer	27458 County Road 13 Starbuck	320-239-2579	2002
Mark Halls	Public Relations	30523 State Highway 104, Brooten	320-278-3285	2002



Our mission: The Mission of Pope SWCD is to promote, guide, and provide high quality technical assistance for Pope County and for the enhancement and protection of land and water resources through implementation that will lead toward effective conservation of soil and water.

The 20th Anniversary of CRP saw huge success. About 285 people attended the banquet for the event. Other activities included a conservation tour, five seminars, 18 booths, a conservation forum, and a wonderful locally grown meal. Pope County was the only location to hold an event of this magnitude. This type of event says a lot about this area. The day was sponsored by Pheasants Forever, Inc.; Pope County Pheasant Restoration; Gobblers of Glacial Ridge; Harrison Company; Agassiz Seed; Glacial Ridge Cattleman's Association; Arnie Gerzewski; and Lakeland Foods, Inc. This event was coordinated by the Pope SWCD in conjunction with USDA's Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A portion of Judicial Ditch 4 (JD4) in the Chippewa River Watershed was stabilized with rock rip rap. JD4 is located near Lake Leven and is contributing sediment from the erosion of the banks. Lake Leven is one of the lakes in Pope County that is on the Pollution Control Agency's impaired waters list for excess nutrients. The project estimate was \$38,610. This project was a joint effort between the Pope SWCD and Pope County Land and Resource Department. Pope SWCD did the survey and assisted with the implementation phase. Engineering was done by Minnesota River Joint Powers Board out of Montevideo.

Water and sediment control basins

are the most used practice for controlling sedimentation and erosion from water and wind action. The Pope SWCD works with landowners to install these conservation practices to prevent gully erosion. A total of 15 basins were completed in 2007 in Pope County. These projects involved repairing gullies ranging from 400 to 2,920 feet and at least one foot deep and two feet wide. About 200 tons of soil loss each year is prevented by these projects, which prevents hundreds of pounds of phosphorous from entering surface water.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. To improve water quality in our lakes, streams, and water bodies
2. Help reduce water, soil, and wind erosion to improve water quality
3. Reduce non-point source pollution from agricultural runoff
4. Reduce point source pollution from feedlots.
5. Continue to promote and educate the public on conservation practices

Future Projects

The Johnshoy grass waterway project will be done to correct gully erosion. The erosion is moving sediment into the outlet of outlet creek which eventually ends up in Lake Emily. Lake Emily is currently on the MPCA's impaired waters list for excess nutrients. This project will help clean up the waters by correcting the gully erosion.

Three ag waste management systems are being planned. One system is for the Martin Jenniges farm. The runoff from the operation runs into the Chippewa River and into Lake Gilchrist causing nutrients including phosphorus to end up in the lake. An ag waste management system is also planned for the Roger & Jason Mrnak farm, which will help with the nutrient runoff that ends up in Lake Villard. Roger & Matt Mattson are also working on a plan for an ag waste management system that will help control runoff into Pike Lake, which outlets into the west branch of the Chippewa River.

Many sediment and water control basins and other projects will be completed by the Pope SWCD.

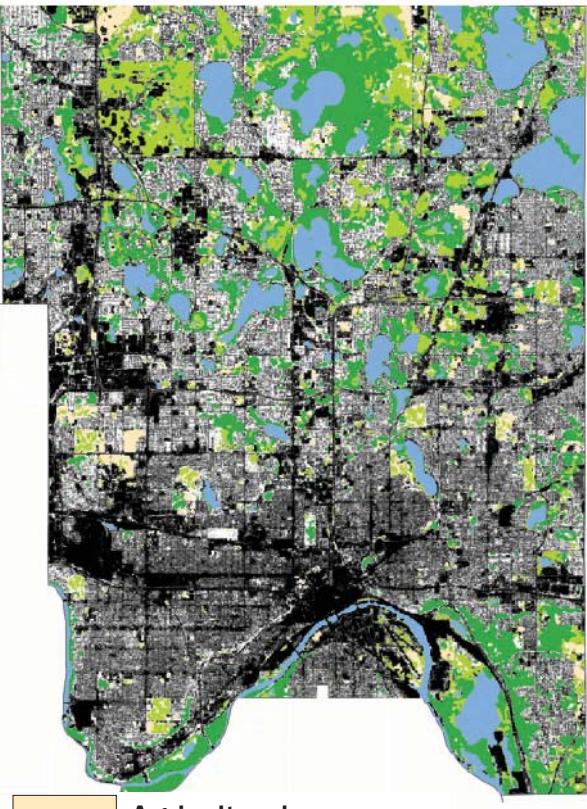
Ramsey

Conservation District



**1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive
Arden Hills, MN 55112
PHONE: (651) 266-7270
FAX: (651) 266-7276
www.ramseyconservation.org
SWCD board meetings:
3rd Thursday of month at 10 a.m.**

Ramsey County Land Cover



Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Assistance on native plant best management practices (BMPs) has been provided annually to nearly 100 customers, including public sector organizations and private landowners, by Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) staff over the last three years. The RCD provides cost-share, design assistance and installation of native plant BMPs through the Native plant Alternatives Towards Urban Restoration and the Environment (NATURE) program. Native plant BMPs protect surface water quality and recharge groundwater through storm water infiltration, enhance and diversify urban wildlife habitat, and stabilize/restore eroding lake shoreline.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$4,800
Education / Outreach	\$3,300
Wetland Conservation Act	\$19,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$20,990
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$ 237,971
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$87,500
Total	\$373,561

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Karen Eckman	Treasurer	966 Cobb Road, Shoreview	651-483-8460	2007
Joe Fox	Chair	1821 Myrtle Street, Maplewood	651-777-6514	1997 (appointed)
Maryjane Reagan	P. R. & I.	1917 Pine Hurst Ave., St. Paul	651-698-1038	1997
Dorothy Waltz	Vice-Chair	1666 Coffman Street, Apt. 313, Falcon Heights	651-917-0930	2005
Jill Wilkinson	Secretary	1019 Fremont Ave., St. Paul	651-210-2546	2005



A premier waterfowl breeding and migration sanctuary was established on a former community gardening site in Roseville. The project, called the Woodview Marsh Wetland Restoration (pictured), was funded through a \$250,000 Wetland Road Replacement grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources and additional funding from the Capitol Region Watershed District. The RCD and the Ramsey County Public Works Department created 20 acres of new-wetland habitat and Public Value Credit wetland habitat. Construction of a weir and removal of 30,000 cubic yards of soil has restored wetland hydrology on the site, and a supplemental planting established diverse wetland plant materials.

Two rainwater gardens have been retrofit within existing storm sewer systems that previously conveyed polluted storm water directly to Lake Phalen and the Mississippi River. Both projects were completed by the RCD in cooperation with the city of St. Paul. Urban runoff management is the greatest challenge to protecting and improving water quality in an urban land-use environment. Infiltrating stormwater runoff has proven to be a cost-effective best management practice for surface water quality protection.

Through a joint powers agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the RCD routinely inspects over 250 active construction sites within Ramsey County for compliance with permit requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). When necessary, the RCD assists the MPCA with regulatory enforcement and compliance. Nationwide, sediment is the number one non-point source pollutant affecting our water resources, and the NPDES permit program dramatically reduces sediment runoff from construction sites. The RCD is one of only 10 local government units that has this kind of joint powers agreement with the MPCA.

Wellhead protection plans

for the cities of North St. Paul and Saint Anthony Village were developed by RCD staff as a pilot project to implement the Ramsey County Groundwater Quality Protection Plan. The plans will be used by city officials to insure that their fields containing municipal potable water wells will remain operational and free of contamination into the future. The plans contain an assessment of the geographic area from which the public wells "pull" water (wellhead protection zones) and establishes controls within these areas to prevent the movement of potential pollutants into water supply wells.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Groundwater quality/quantity protection
2. Surface water quality protection/improvement
3. Wetland and open space restoration/protection
4. Urban runoff management through low-impact-development BMPs
5. Environmental stewardship education

Future Projects

Crosby Bluff Restoration -- Crosby Farm Park is a large regional park managed by the city of St. Paul. The park is located on the north bank of the Mississippi River, below West 7th Street, between the 35E and Mendota bridges. A large portion of the park's landscape is a very steep escarpment that has been severely eroded/denuded by poorly managed urban runoff that has been allowed to flow over the bluff. Many invasive weed species have further destabilized the bluff. As a follow-up to the Crosby Farm Park Bluff Stabilization/Restoration Study, commissioned by the RCD, the RCD will partner with the City of St. Paul Parks Department and other agencies to develop and implement construction plans to divert stormwater away from the bluff and restore the native plant community and the bluff to a stable condition.

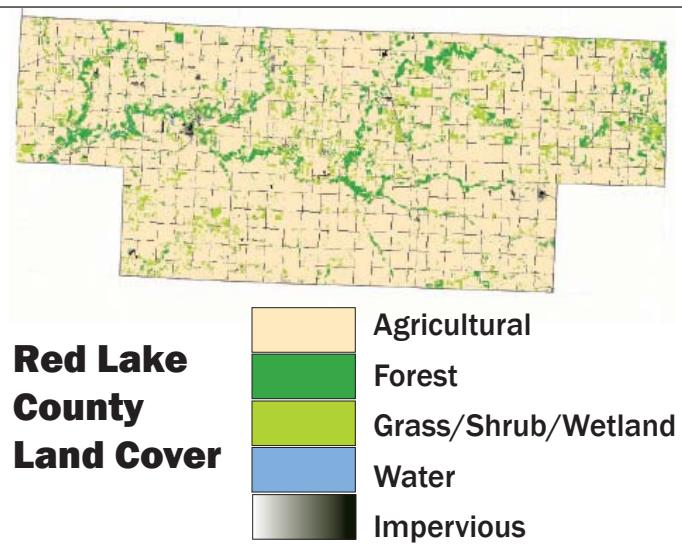
Revision of the Ramsey County Groundwater Quality Protection Plan -- With pilot funding from the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the RCD prepared a comprehensive groundwater quality protection plan for the citizens' Ramsey County Board in the early 1990s. Since this plan was adopted by the Ramsey County Board and put into effect in late 1996, many changes have occurred in groundwater use. Better information is now available on past contamination sources, the extent to which contamination has spread, and of the hydro-geologic conditions of the aquifers beneath Ramsey County. In 2008, the RCD hopes to revise the current plan to reflect the changes to our groundwater system.

Red Lake

Soil & Water Conservation District



2602 Wheat Drive
Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
PHONE: (218) 253-2593
FAX: (218) 253-4112
www.nwmnswcd.org
*SWCD board meetings:
2nd Monday of month at 8 a.m.*



**Red Lake
County
Land Cover**

- | |
|---------------------|
| Agricultural |
| Forest |
| Grass/Shrub/Wetland |
| Water |
| Impervious |

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$5,034
Education / Outreach	\$15,987
Wetland Conservation Act	\$17,882
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$34,364
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$20,189
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$5,920
Programs and Operations	\$37,074
Total	\$136,449

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



The Northwest Minnesota Water Festival is an educational opportunity for fourth grade students to learn about Minnesota's water resources. Students participate in a series of hands-on activities throughout the day, which teach them about ground water, water quality, watersheds, flooding, and much, much more.

Red Lake SWCD staff organize the two-day event along with SWCD staff in Norman, Polk, Kittson, Marshall-Beltrami, Marshall and Pennington counties. About 600 students attend this event each year.

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
David Miller	Chairman	15885 200th Street SE, Red Lake Falls	218-253-4337	1994
Les Hofstad	Vice-Chairman	25514 180th Street SE, Plummer	218-465-4427	1999
Orville Knott	Secretary	10905 170th Street SE, Red Lake Falls	218-253-2804	1997
David Bachand	Treasurer	706 Minnesota 222, Oklee	218-796-5765	1988
Mark LaCrosse	Reporter	1005 Chicago Avenue SW, Red Lake Falls	218-253-4124	2001



A wetland restoration project was recently completed by SWCD staff in Red Lake Falls Township, Section 13. It is a 5-acre wetland mitigation site for the Ditch #10 Project in Red Lake County.



The River Watch Program is geared toward providing high school students “hands-on” experience in water quality and quantity monitoring. The program helps educate students in several scientific areas such as chemistry, biology, geology, and hydrology. Another major benefit of the program is the collection of meaningful natural resource data. Lafayette High School (pictured) and Red Lake County Central High School participate in the River Watch Program in Red Lake County.

The city of Red Lake Falls is working on developing additional lots within the city limits. The Red Lake County SWCD has assisted the city with wetland mitigation planning. Also, the SWCD will be assisting the city with a future city park within the development area.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Flooding
2. Erosion Control
3. Surface Water Quality
4. Ground Water Quality
5. Drainage Maintenance

Future Projects

Red River Corridor Enhancement Project

-- Red Lake County SWCD will begin to participate with the Red River Corridor Enhancement Project. This project aims to protect and restore the river’s natural corridor to enhance water quality and fish and wildlife habitat that will provide for educational, recreational and economic opportunities. The specific goal resulting from the SWCD’s most recent efforts is to produce culturally and environmentally sensitive planning and design documents for boat access points, city and county parkland and trails, and a geographic information system focusing on a 5-mile-wide corridor from Lower Red Lake to East Grand Forks.

Other projects include:

Updating the Red Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.

Assisting the USDA Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS) with surveying and design work on several Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) projects in the future.

Continuing to assist the City of Red Lake Falls with its city development project.

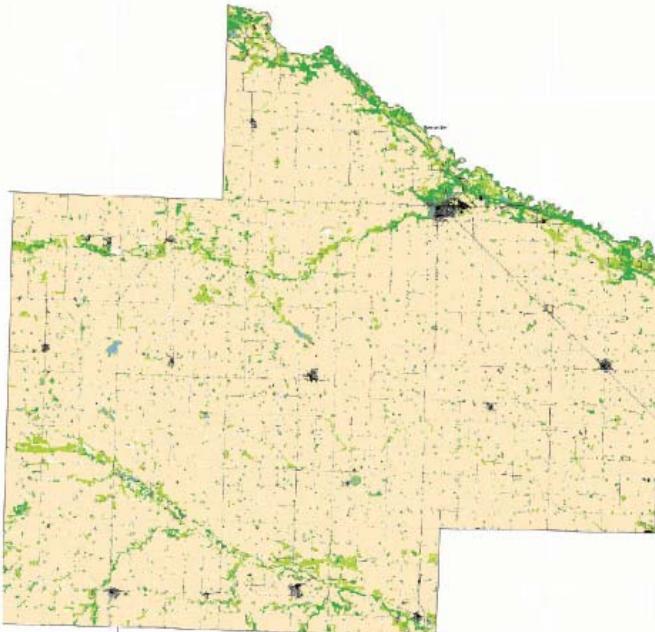
Redwood

Soil & Water Conservation District



1241 E Bridge Street, Suite C
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
PHONE: (507) 637-2427
FAX: (507) 637-6002
www.redwoodswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at 8 a.m.



Redwood County Land Cover



Recent Projects / Accomplishments



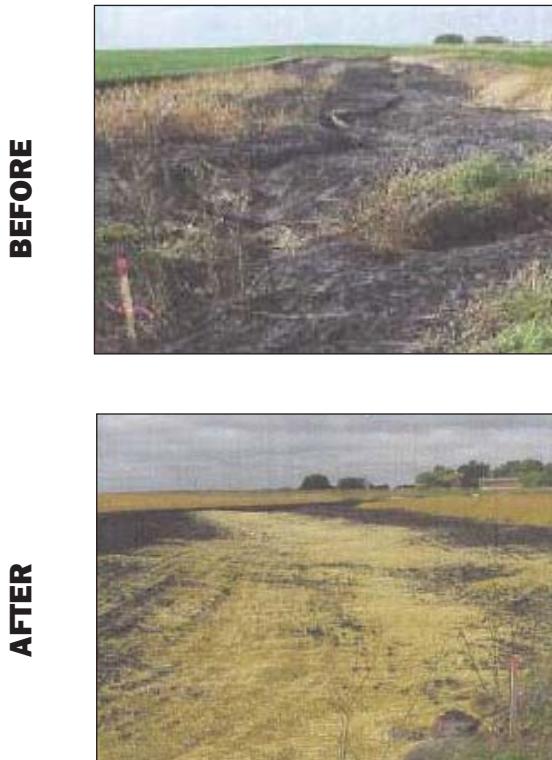
With wetland restoration programs such as Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve, CREP and FWP, the Redwood SWCD has restored more than 4,000 acres of wetlands. These restorations along with other grassland plantings have helped to improve water quality and wildlife habitat in the county. Redwood County is located within the prairie pothole region in Minnesota. Since the 1950s many of the potholes have been drained, leaving Redwood County with only six percent of the wetlands remaining.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$10,634
Education / Outreach	\$49,118
Wetland Conservation Act	\$22,218
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$92,198
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$62,109
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$28,730
Programs and Operations	\$76,963
Total	\$340,971

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Tom Daub	Chair	26376 280th Street, Wabasso	(507) 342-5493	1989
Mike Hewitt	Vice-Chair	13027 Duncan Avenue, Walnut Grove	(507) 859-2406	1999
Thomas Morley	Secretary	152 Baker Drive, Redwood Falls	(507) 637-3742	2007
Donald Steffen	Treasurer	31382 120th Street, Sanborn	(507) 648-3485	2002
Ralph Heiling	PR & I	41802 State Highway 68, Morgan	(507) 249-3568	1998



The highest rate of sedimentation problems in Redwood County are found in five sub-watersheds in the southwest corner. A diagnostic study confirmed the amount of sediment that was loading into these five sub-watersheds. As a result of the study, the SWCD has been concentrating on the establishment of conservation practices in this area. In the last five years, the SWCD has been able to secure approximately 70 conservation easements that provide cover to some of the most vulnerable areas. The SWCD has also installed 33 best management practices that have reduced the amount of sediment from entering the surface water. This year, there are 13 additional best management practices that will be installed.

'Taking the Office on the Road' has generated a renewed interest in protecting and conserving Redwood County's natural resources. The SWCD office is located at the north end of the county, so the SWCD has set up places to meet in six of the 14 communities in hopes of informing more people about conservation. About 10 days before going to the different communities, SWCD staff placed posters in about 30 locations in the county, placed news releases in the five county newspapers and had programs on the radio that mentioned the meeting times and locations. The meetings were a huge success as we met with 53 individuals who would not have traveled all the way across the county to attend an SWCD meeting.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Restore water quality in the Minnesota, Cottonwood and Redwood Rivers
2. Address impaired waters by major watershed for priority pollutants: phosphorus, nitrogen, and fecal coliform bacteria
3. Control erosion and sedimentation by addressing residue management and installation of filter strips county wide
4. Control gully and concentrated flows in the southwest portion of the county through terraces, basins, and waterways
5. Reduce potential for flooding by wetland restorations

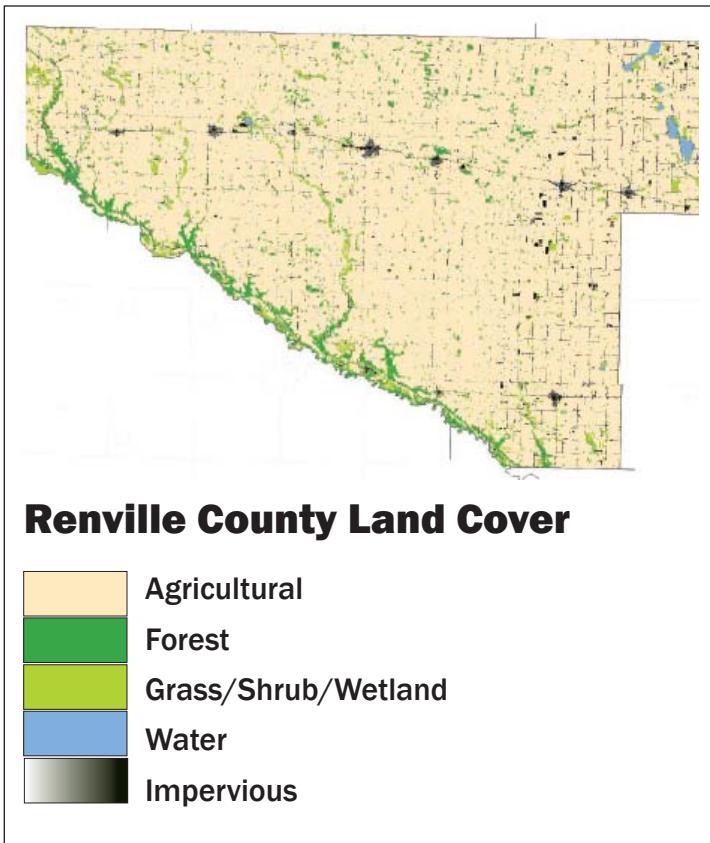
Future Projects

Clean Water Legacy: Redwood SWCD along with five other SWCDs received a Clean Water Legacy Grant in 2006 to work on the Dissolved Oxygen TMDL in the Redwood and Cottonwood River Watershed. Practices that will be implemented include a variety of best management practices, alternative intakes, no-till incentives and nutrient management incentives. This will be part of an on-going program to improve water quality in both rivers.

Best Management Practices Used As Teaching Tool: Southwest Research and Outreach Center, a division of the University of Minnesota has entered into an agreement to address their resources concern. Starting the fall of 2007 they will be installing 8,100 feet of grassed waterway and 4,150 feet of terraces. Once these practices are installed, it is estimated that 106 tons of sediment will be prevented from entering the Cottonwood River each year. Not only will they help to improve water quality, but the practices will continue to be a teaching tool. The staff will monitor the practices to show their effectiveness in protecting water quality as well as being part of the tours conducted at the station.

Renville

Soil & Water Conservation District



1008 West Lincoln
Olivia MN, 56277
PHONE: (320) 523-1559
FAX: (320) 523-2389
www.renvinceswcd.com

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at 7 a.m.,
Ag Services Building, Olivia

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: This CREP easement in Renville County borders the Minnesota River.

Renville boasts the largest number of conservation easement acres through Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve and CREP in Minnesota. SWCD staff continue to work with landowners on maintenance and improvement of their easement acres. In addition to offering advice and technical assistance, staff assist landowners with the process of obtaining funding from various sources. This requires a positive working relationship and partnership with USDA offices, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel and DNR private lands specialists.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$12,500
Education / Outreach	\$62,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$14,631
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$51,500
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$80,096
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$27,500
Programs and Operations	\$40,000
Total	\$288,227

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Loyal Fisher	Chair	PO Box 222, Renville	320-329-3925	1998
Marc Iverson	Sec/Treas	420 Pine Avenue, Bird Island	320-365-4354	2006
Kathryn K. Kelly	PR&I	402 South 10th Street, Olivia	320-523-1283	2005
Bill Radermacher	Vice Chair	38544 County Road 2, Franklin	507-557-8213	2000
James Schafer	Member	51777 780th Avenue, Hector	320-833-2083	1970

A Farm Bill Technician at the Renville SWCD works full-time promoting the conservation programs in the USDA Farm Bill. Through his promotion efforts, Renville County continues to enroll acres in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). Workloads for SWCD employees and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff prevent them from doing the one-on-one contacts with landowners that are essential in keeping them informed of possible CCRP projects. The position is funded through the Board of Water and Soil Resources, Pheasants Forever and through matching funds from the SWCD.

An outdoor event called WALK

(Water*Air*Land*Knowledge) is coordinated each year by the Renville SWCD. WALK is an event for sixth graders that teaches them about wise land use and how human decisions affect wildlife populations. Students hike through cropland areas and conservation easement acres. In 2007 four school districts attended with a total of 200 students. SWCD staff are assisted by employees from Renville County, Hawk Creek Watershed Project, NRCS and the DNR.

Renville SWCD successfully partners with Renville County in several areas. SWCD staff provide the feedlot inspections required by MPCA Chapter 7020 (2003). SWCD staff have been able to help landowners correct problems with noncompliant feedlots by assisting them in obtaining cost-share from various sources, including EQIP, State Cost-Share, Watershed project funds, and Ag BMP loans. These funds have enabled feedlot operators to pay for projects that control runoff, which results in improved water quality in Renville County.

Renville SWCD staff also partner with Renville County by providing assistance to landowners who are required by county zoning rules to install rain gardens. Staff assist landowners with location and design and then approve the project for the zoning office. SWCD staff also work with mining companies on reviewing and approving reclamation plans that are required as part of the permitting process.

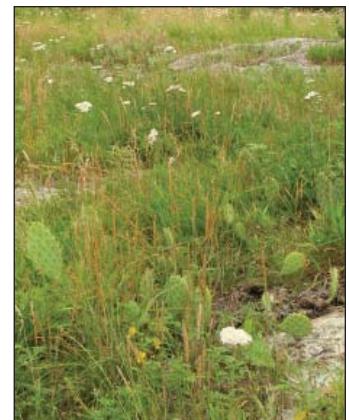
Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect rare and unique species and landscapes within the Minnesota River Corridor
2. Reduce nutrient runoff into ditches, streams and rivers by installing buffer strips
3. Reduce ag waste runoff by inspecting and correcting all animal feedlot runoff in Renville County
4. Reduce wind erosion through conservation tillage methods
5. Improve water quality through wetland restorations and critical area seeding, and by enrolling poor and marginal ag land into perpetual conservation easements

Future Projects

Granite Rock Outcrop and associated wetland easements

-- Renville SWCD partnered with Redwood SWCD to submit an LCCMR grant application for a RIM-like easement program. The project was funded and will provide \$563,000 to protect Granite Rock Outcrops and associated wetlands in the Minnesota River Valley. In mid-2007 staff began the process of promoting the easements to landowners. This is a two-year grant that will require SWCD staff involvement



in promotion, easement processing and practice implementation over the coming years. The SWCDs have prepared and submitted a Phase II grant proposal to the LCCMR for funding to protect additional acres.



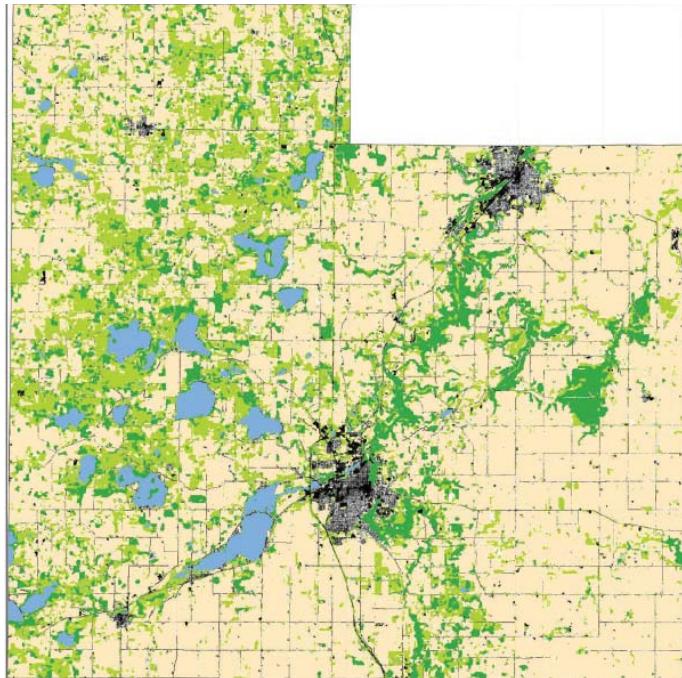
Pictured: Prickly pear cactus and other rare plants thrive in Granite Rock Outcrops like this one in Renville County.

Rice

Soil & Water Conservation District



1810 N.W. 30th Street
Faribault, MN 55021
PHONE: (507) 332-5408
Fax: (507) 332-9892
www.riceswcd.org
SWCD board meetings:
3rd Wednesday of month at 1 p.m.



Rice County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Installing water and sediment control basins on cropland results in a continued reduction in soil erosion and sediment control. In the last several years, the Rice SWCD has averaged more than 100 new basins per year. Most of the funding for this work is provided through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP program.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$57,093
Education / Outreach	\$75,250
Wetland Conservation Act	\$53,370
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$487,720
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$103,893
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$27,019
Programs and Operations	\$114,919
Total	\$919,267

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Elected	Position	Address	Phone
Gary Wagenbach	1999	Chair	10400 Jenkins Trail, Nerstrand	507-645-8549
Robert Duban	1995	Vice-Chair	12084 Bagley Avenue, Dundas	507-645-8024
Richard Huston	2005	Treasurer	4425 195th Street, Faribault	507-332-8533
Robert Borchert	2003	Secretary	1319 Highland Place, Faribault	507-334-9835
Wally Hildebrandt	1959	PR / Info	10810 East 240th Street, Kenyon	507-789-6703



A feedlot runoff control project was completed in 2006 near Lonsdale. In 2004, the feedlot was identified as a significant pollution problem. Runoff from the lot drained into a ravine, which led directly to a small lake. Engineering was provided by the Southeast Minnesota Joint Powers Board Technical Support group. The Rice SWCD secured a grant through the State Water Quality Management program to provide funding for the project, which was completed in 2006. The lot was relocated further away from the discharge point, and a grassed filter strip was installed to filter the runoff from the lot before it is released to the ravine.

A large gully erosion problem on Cedar Lake was repaired in 2005. The Rice SWCD assisted a lake property owner whose land had a large gully that had formed over many years and has been contributing large amounts of sediment into Cedar Lake. With state Cost-Share dollars and engineering help from the Southeast MN Joint Powers Board Technical Support group, the SWCD installed a grade stabilizer and protected the lake from further degradation in this area.

Education and assistance at construction sites in Rice County began in December 2004 as a pilot project with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This project has focused heavily on educating contractors and developers about the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) rules and identifying areas on their sites that need attention. Rice SWCD employees inspect an average of 120 permits annually, and this project has led to a large gain in compliance with the NPDES permit rules. This means less sediment, nutrients, and other chemicals are entering surface waters.

Strong partnerships with conservation groups have led to many successful projects. One in particular is the Cannon River Watershed Partnership (CRWP), an organization that has been very active in seeking grants for conservation and water quality projects. The Rice SWCD and other organizations have recently worked together on the Straight River Fecal Coliform Reduction project, which was funded partly through a grant that was secured by the CRWP. The SWCD's role was to identify sites where conservation practices are needed and contact the landowners to discuss what they can do to reduce fecal coliform levels in the Straight River. Like most grants with CRWP, the project was a success, and many new filter strips are yet to come from this effort. Working together with groups like CRWP has enabled the Rice SWCD to accomplish its goals much faster than if they were not part of the conservation movement.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Gully and ephemeral erosion control
2. Water quality protection
3. Wetland restoration and preservation
4. Feedlot runoff control and nutrient management
5. Construction site erosion and sediment control

Future Projects

A wetland restoration project that involves four landowners and about 96 acres of land is currently underway. The project, funded through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP II), will abandon a portion of a county ditch and allow sediment and nutrients from the upland areas to settle out before entering the ditch.

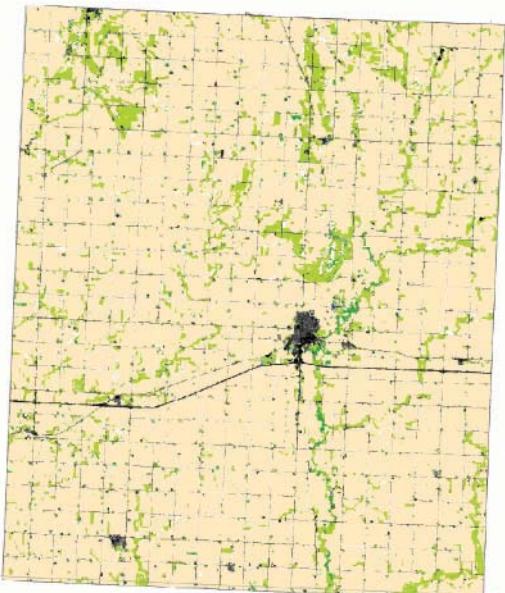
A feedlot adjacent to a small stream will be fixed using Feedlot Water Quality Grant funding within the next year. Curbing the yard, separating clean water, and installing a filter strip will greatly improve the quality of the stream.

Rock Soil & Water Conservation District



311 W Gabrielson Road
Luverne, MN 56156
PHONE: (507) 283-8862
FAX: (507) 283-5006
[www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/
partnerships/rock/index.htm](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/rock/index.htm)
SWCD board meetings:
3rd Monday of month at

- **9:30 a.m. November - March**
- **7:30 a.m. April - October**



Rock County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The Land Management Office for Rock County was created through a Joint Powers Agreement in 1996 between the Rock SWCD and Rock County. The SWCD promotes and supports the Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and State Cost-Share programs to eligible landowners, plants shelterbelts and windbreaks, and promotes riparian buffers and streambank stabilization projects. The office and its staff assist in new construction and expansion of animal feedlots. The office has been the key contact point for conservation easement programs. The office is also involved in providing technical assistance for SRF-funded conservation practices and coordinates with the Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Organization (SWPJPO) for engineering and technical assistance services to landowners. The Land Management Office is also the local contact for Rock County Planning and Zoning, the Minnesota Delegated Feedlot Program, County Ag Inspection, Comprehensive Local Waterplanning, Countywide Geographic Information System (GIS), Individual Septic Treatment Systems (ISTS), and Conservation and Environmental Education Programs.

A grant to provide technical and engineering expertise to area landowners has enabled

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$800
Wetland Conservation Act	--
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$266,863
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$485
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$8,545
Total	\$276,693

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Vicky Smook	Chair	1707 181st Street, Luverne	507-283-4565	1996
Don Reker	Vice-Chair	496 181st Street, Jasper	507-348-7476	1996
Alan Leuthold	Secretary	149 60th Avenue, Hills	507-962-3412	1994
Eugene Cragoe	Treasurer	402 South Fairview, Luverne	507-283-1839	1978
Norman Overgaard	P R & I	584 170th Avenue, Luverne	507-283-8267	2000



Pictured: A feedlot upgrade project under construction.

the Rock County Land Management Office to hire an employee for this purpose. The office has been participating in this Non-Point Engineering Assistance (NPEA) Grant since 2004 with the Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Organization (SWPJPO). The staff person also works with the other nine SWCDs in the area.

A major portion of 90 feedlots have been brought into compliance with the State Feedlot Rules. These feedlots were identified as environmental concerns through a countywide Level III Feedlot Inventory, conducted from June 2002 to December of 2004. Rock County has helped to provide several thousand dollars in federal and State Cost-Share dollars to producers for corrections to feedlot runoff concerns. Engineering has been provided by the NPEA grant.

Projects to stabilize streambanks along the Rock River have been completed by the Rock County Land Management Office, in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota DNR. The Rock River is a federally impaired surface water, with turbidity identified as one of the pollutants. Streambank erosion (sloughing off) is a contributing factor to turbidity. The Rock River has also been identified as habitat for the federally endangered Topeka Shiner.

140 acres in the Wellhead Protection Area of the Rock County Rural Water Systems were enrolled in conservation easements through the CREP II program. The Rock SWCD has been involved in the promotion of the CREP II program. These enrolled acres were considered extremely sensitive, due to the shallow aquifer involved in providing a safe supply of drinking water to many of the rural residents and farmsteads in Rock County. This rural water system provides drinking water alone to at least 25 percent of the residents of Rock County.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect groundwater quality and quantity, especially in the designated Drinking Water Supply Management Area
2. Feedlot program management through the Minnesota Delegated Feedlot Program to help promote and ensure countywide compliance with the 7020 Feedlot Rules
3. Protect surface water quality
4. Restore surface water quality in the Impaired Waters through TMDL Assessment and Implementation planning
5. Reduce agricultural runoff from cropland and feedlots

Future Projects

The Rock County Land Management Office is leading the planning and development of the TMDL involving the Rock River, which is on the federal impaired waters list. The ongoing process includes monitoring and sampling water in seven locations within the county. The process involves bi-monthly meetings with Rock SWCD and County Environmental Services Offices staff and staff from the other participating counties of Nobles, Murray, and Pipestone, as well as staff from the MPCA and Minnesota State University (Mankato). The group will develop an overall Implementation Plan to submit to the EPA, obtain federal approval, apply for grant dollars, including Clean Water Legacy funds, and work to install conservation practices to ultimately de-list the river.

The SWCD is working with various partners, including Rock County, the City of Luverne, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and Minnesota DNR in a dam removal project on the Rock River, within the city limits of Luverne. There have been two drownings associated with it, and it has proven to be a substantial sediment trap, quite likely an additional factor to the impairment of the Rock River. It has also been an impediment to the natural movement of the Topeka Shiner, an endangered species.

Root River

Soil & Water Conservation District



805 N Hwy 44/76, Suite 1
Caledonia, MN 55921
PHONE: (507) 724-5261
FAX: (507) 724-5448

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Wednesday of month at 9 a.m.



Houston County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A multi-purpose water retention structure was recently completed. An earthen dam was installed, controlling a 960-acre drainage area, with 31.9 acre feet of storage volume. The effective fill height is 25 feet. This structure provides flood control, sediment reduction, erosion control and wildlife habitat. The \$49,000 cost was shared by USDA EQIP funds, State Cost-share and landowner contributions. Technical assistance was provided by USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service and Root River SWCD.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$282
Education / Outreach	\$5,066
Wetland Conservation Act	\$17,497
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$333,903
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$4,432
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$3,318
Programs and Operations	\$35,445
Total	\$398,943

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Vernon Fruechte	Chairman	18418 Simmental Road, Caledonia	(507) 724-2524	1999
Glen Kinneberg	Treasurer	14824 County Road 17, Spring Grove	(507) 498-5157	2001
Joe McManimon	Vice-Chair	21860 County Road 13, Houston	(507) 864-7439	1972
Doug Meyer	Secretary	906 Redwood East, La Crescent	(507) 895-8879	1968
Tony Becker	Reporter	11721 Ridgeview Road, Hokah	(507) 894-2437	2007

Sixth Grade Education Day

is one of several resource conservation education activities that are among the Root River SWCD's top priorities. This very popular event is held early each fall, and students are invited from area schools to attend the outdoor classroom event. The intent of this program is to increase their knowledge and awareness of the many natural resources that surround them. Resource experts from various fields work with the students discussing important issues and incorporating material that makes for a fun day. Learning stations have included wildlife, forestry, water, soils, fisheries, outdoor safety, and much, much more. Between 200-300 enthusiastic students participate each year. The hands-on learning experience has been very successful and a great educational tool for our district.



The Push-up Pond program in Houston

County has been a huge success, due in part to conservation-minded landowners and the Citizen Advisory Committee for Houston County's comprehensive water plan. The program goal is to provide resource protection by reducing stormwater runoff, gully erosion, and sedimentation loads, while at the same time creating additional benefits such as wildlife habitat, livestock watering, and improved water quality. The program provides \$300-500 in exchange for meeting certain program requirements. Over the last five years the SWCD has constructed 77 ponds! That was achieved despite 2003 budget cuts that resulted in the cancellation of push-up pond incentive payments that year.

Open lot agreement technical assistance is provided through the cooperation of Houston County, SE MN Water Resources Board, and MPCA. The Root River SWCD offered technical assistance to landowners in registering their feedlots and developing plans to meet MPCA's Open Lot agreement.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Changes in Agriculture and Affects on Water Resource
2. Sensitivity of the Karst Topography and Changes to Land Use and Development
3. Recreational Uses of Water and Impact to the Environment
4. Education and Awareness of Resources and Sensitivity
5. Ground Water Sensitivity in Karst Topography

Future Projects

Bobwhite Quail Release: In an on going effort to increase Bob White Quail in Minnesota, Root River SWCD has joined forces with several partners to promote establishments of critical Bob White Quail habitat. In addition to technical and financial assistance with USDA's CRP program, the SWCD had offered several promotional and educational events to encourage partnership in Habitat development. Partners included are USFWS, Houston County Quail Forever, MN Pheasants Forever, USDA NRCS and FSA, private sponsors and more.

Winnebago Watershed Flood Control: Root River SWCD is currently working on a group of large retention structures to address flooding in the Winnebago Watershed. When a USDA-Small Watershed Assistance project (PL-566) was denied, Root River SWCD and Houston County started looking for other ways to fund flood control measures in this watershed. Currently, 5 structures are planned with a variety of partners including USDA-NRCS Technical Assistance, Townships of Caledonia, Wilmington and Winnebago, Houston County DOT, Houston County Water Plan and private landowners. Funding from a variety of sources includes EQIP, State Cost-Share, Township Road & Bridge funds and Clean Water Legacy (applied for).

Roseau

Soil & Water Conservation District



502 - 7th Street SW, Suite 8
Roseau, MN 56751
PHONE: (218) 463-1903
FAX: (218) 463-3919
nwmnswcd.org
SWCD board meetings:
2nd Tuesday of month at 7 a.m.



Roseau County Land Cover



2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$14,311
Education / Outreach	--
Wetland Conservation Act	\$26,461
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$42,861
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$43,931
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$97,912
Total	\$224,884

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

Two Grade Stabilization projects were recently completed with cost-share and technical assistance provided by the Roseau SWCD. One was on the Warroad River located within the Warroad River Watershed. The project utilized a combination of rock riprap and woody vegetative planting for erosion control, as well as stabilizing the bank and residents' home. The second was located on the Roseau River within the Roseau River Watershed.



This project (pictured above) was needed to repair river bank damage from flooding in 2002. Repair was done by pulling back sloughed materials and placing fabric and large rock riprap to hold and stabilize the river bank.

Tree plantings of shelterbelts and windbreaks and Side Water Inlets have also recently been completed by the SWCD.

Drought assistance was provided in 2007 by the SWCD in the form of cost-share for wells and pond reclamation during drought conditions, and the SWCD assisted with EQIP program of Mulch till and No-Till as well as grazing rotations plan.

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Glenn Darst	Chairperson	21797 230th Street, Greenbush	782-2746	2001
Jay Estling	V. Chair	32935 690th Avenue, Roosevelt	442-7972	1988
Gary Johnson	Secretary	23014 County Road 13, Roseau	424-7510	1984
Warren Ulvin	Treasurer	306 5th Street SE, Roseau	463-2866	2001
John Gaukerud	Public Relations	27841 County Road 119, Badger	528-3529	2003



Pictured: An erosion control project in Roseau County.

Tree Programs

- 46,000 trees sold for conservation practices in the county.
- 228 people bought 14,428 trees through general orders
- 29 people each purchased over 200 trees, which totaled 8,132 trees

State Cost-Share Program

- Farmstead shelterbelts – 11
- Field windbreaks – 1
- Replants – 1
- Well decommissioning – 5
- Grade stabilization – 1

WCA: 64 landowner or wetland contacts

- 23 contacts needed no further work
- 35 contacts avoided all wetlands
- 6 contacts minimized wetland impacts
- 4 Cease and Desist Orders issued
- 4 Restoration Orders issued
- Continue to work on completing the Wetland Bank in county

Rainfall Monitoring Program

- 32 townships, 33 individuals and local governments
- Program in full operation from April through October
- A few individuals measure water in snowfall over winter
- Rainfall data is very important to County Commissioners, Extension, Farm Service Agency, State Climatology Office, and people in times of farm disaster and flood control issues

River Water Analysis / Well Water Clinics, Analysis / Rainfall Network

- 13 river sites were monitored for 4 months using Hach and Sonde equipment. Sites are on Roseau River, Warroad River, Sprague Creek, Hay Creek and Pine Creek
- A certified laboratory tests river water samples for fecal coliform counts, total phosphorus and nitrate
- Roseau SWCD water monitoring parameters are stage depth, pH, air and water temperature, conductivity, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen
- 2 Nitrate Clinics were held in the District booth at the Roseau County Fair with a total of 14 water samples being tested
- Provided funding for fair booth rental
- Supplies for calibrating water monitoring equipment was obtained
- Well water test kits are continually on hand for anyone needing to test their water

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Work with cooperators in reducing erosion from wind and water with emphasis on critical areas in the county
2. Protect and improve surface and groundwater quality
3. Provide professional services, skills and leadership for all Roseau County residents
4. Provide technical and administrative assistance for eligible landowners who signup for conservation assistance
5. Ensure no net loss in wetlands remaining in the county

Future Projects

32 people, Roseau River WMA, Hayes Lake State Park and the US Customs are currently participating in the SWCD Rainfall Monitoring Network, which is used by the State Climatology Office, Emergency Services, and the Farm Service Agency.

Scott

Soil & Water Conservation District



7151 West 190th Street Suite 125
Jordan, MN 55352-2103
PHONE: (952) 492-5425
FAX: (952) 492-5422
www.scottswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Wednesday of month at 8 a.m.



Scott County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The 21st annual Outdoor Education Day was hosted by the SWCD in 2007 at the John Bisek Farms in New Prague. Approximately 1,140 students from 14 different Scott County schools attended the event. The days included seven learning stations on environmental health, plants, soils, forestry, waters, wildlife and mosquito control. Cooperating agencies included: Mosquito Control, Scott County Environmental Health, CLIMB Theatre, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service, Scott County Master Gardener's, City of Shakopee, MN Naturalist, DNR – Forestry, DNR – Waters, Scott County Natural Resources, Prior Lake/ Spring Lake Watershed District and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$99,204
Education / Outreach	\$30,600
Wetland Conservation Act	\$35,459
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$263,478
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$152,531
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$1,739
Programs and Operations	\$196,432
Total	\$779,432

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Ewald Gruetzmacher	Chair	12775 Belle Plaine Trail, Belle Plaine	(952) 873-2918	1999
Paul Krueger	Vice-Chair	17746 Fairlawn Avenue, Prior Lake	(952) 447-9412	1999
Jim Schwingler	Secretary/Treasurer	7989 Old Highway 169, Jordan	(952) 492-6184	1995
Jim Fitzsimmons	Member	14704 Glendale Avenue, Prior Lake	(952) 447-6492	2003
Scott Tracy	Member	22761 Forest Ridge Drive, Lakeville	(952) 985-5916	2005



Pictured: This streambank stabilization project repaired a water body that was sending 255 tons of soil through erosion each year into the Minnesota River.



A streambank stabilization project

was constructed on a DNR public watercourse in Belle Plaine Township that outlets directly into the Minnesota River. The site was unstable and hazardous to farming equipment; the banks were a vertical drop ranging up to 20 feet. This was causing a soil loss of about 255 tons per year and 400 pounds of phosphorus per year. The stream channel was stabilized through a series of six weir dams and rock chutes. The banks were reshaped, mulched, seeded to grasses to stabilize the side slopes. The contractor who completed the project was Jeff Klehr Construction, and the total project cost was \$79,400. Cost-Share Funds were provided by a Metropolitan Environmental Partnership Grant and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

The Scott SWCD hosts the NPEAP for the Metro area. In 2007 the Scott SWCD secured 13 contracts to establish conservation protection projects including six grade stabilization, seven streambank

stabilization, one wetland restoration and one lakeshore stabilization project totaling funds of \$56,500. In the past seven years the District has worked diligently to administer this program for the seven metro area districts.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Agricultural Land Management – Reduce soil erosion (sheet, rill, wind, gully and streambank) on agricultural land to recommended “T” value or below
2. Surface Water Quality – Protect to the greatest extent possible, all surface and groundwater resources from soil erosion, sedimentation, nutrient and chemical contamination
3. Storm Water/Flood Management – Encourage coordination between cities and township with implementation of the Scott WMO, Prior Lake Spring Lake WD, and Vermillion River WMO Comprehensive Water Resource Management rules, on developing lands, which address storm water and downstream assessment of water conveyance systems
4. Wetland Management – Preserve, protect and enhance areas to improve water quality, prevent flooding and erosion from surface flows, protect fish and wildlife habitat and promote groundwater recharge
5. Urban Land Development – Encourage the protection and preservation of prime and important farmland and the reduction of soil erosion (sheet, rill, wind, gully) from urban land disturbing activities

Future Projects

Massive slope failures in Spring of 2006 and 2007 have resulted in an estimated 560 tons of soil lost directly into Sand Creek. Unstable soils are the primary cause of the failure. The proposed corrective measures include stabilizing the hillside, re-constructing the hillside in geo-grid layers, and installing perimeter drains behind and under the project area.

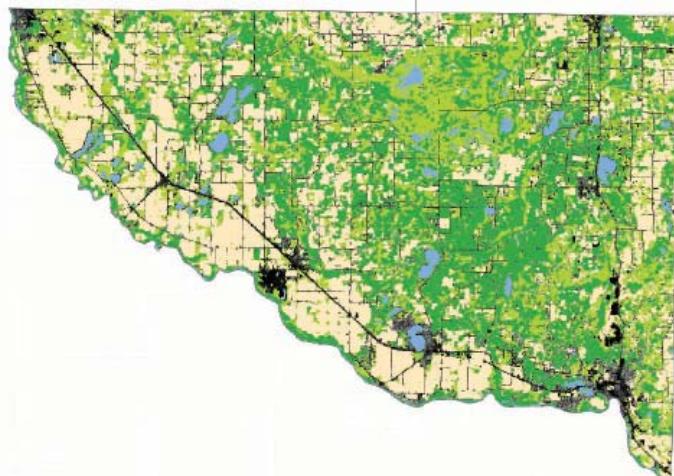
Sherburne

Soil & Water Conservation District



14855 Highway 10
Elk River, MN 55330
PHONE: (763) 241-1170
FAX: (763) 241-1162
www.sherburneswcd.org

*SWCD board meetings:
1st Monday of month at 3 p.m.*



Sherburne County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: A rain garden and filter strip were installed in Lake Orono Park by SWCD staff. The lower photo shows the rain garden during construction.

A stormwater runoff treatment project was recently completed by the Sherburne SWCD. Staff installed a rain garden and filter strip to treat runoff from a road and parking areas.

Prairie restoration projects have been completed on nearly 70 sites totaling more than 300 acres.

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Debra Seeley	Chair	9728 River Road SE, Clear Lake	320-259-1527	1988
Leander Schlosser	Vice Chair	15945 227 Avenue NW, Elk River	763-263-3444	2003
Larry Goenner	Secretary	6526 75 Avenue SE, St. Cloud	320-743-3224	1996
Douglas Manthei	Treasurer	23130 112 Street, Elk River	763-441-6352	2004
William Harju	Reporter	10733 201 Circle NW, Elk River	763-441-5617	2005



A Pollinator Day Celebration recently highlighted the critical role of pollination in healthy and productive ecosystems. The SWCD held this event in partnership with Sherburne County History Center, The U.S. Postal Service, USDA, and Co-Evolution Institute to celebrate National Pollinator Week. The event featured the unveiling of a Pollinator Garden (pictured above) installed at the History Centers interactive trail system.

A two-year water quality monitoring project, the Briggs Lake Chain - Phosphorous Mass Balance Study, was recently completed by the SWCD and the Briggs Lake Chain Association.

The SWCD has installed 10 projects on six lakes through the Shoreland Buffer and Revegetation Demonstration Project.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$4,482
Education / Outreach	\$28,176
Wetland Conservation Act	\$28,816
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$122,611
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$77,484
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$120,112
Total	\$381,682

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Impaired and degraded lakes and streams in the Elk River Watershed
2. Increasing urban and residential land use causing increasing runoff
3. Quality and quantity of riparian and aquatic vegetation
4. Loss of native vegetation and habitat
5. Wind erosion on cropland, water erosion, stormwater runoff on construction sites

Future Projects

Prairie restoration project: The SWCD plans to restore native prairie on 20 acres surrounding the new Sherburne County Public Works building.

Lake Julia erosion control project: Stormwater runoff best management projects will be installed on a high-priority soil erosion and water quality problem site on Lake Julia.

TMDL Study: The SWCD has prepared an application for a TMDL Study with MPCA on selected reaches of the Elk River and Mayhew Creek, and is partnering with Sherburne and Benton Counties, Benton SWCD and the Elk River Watershed Joint Powers Board for outreach, education and projects in the Elk River Watershed.

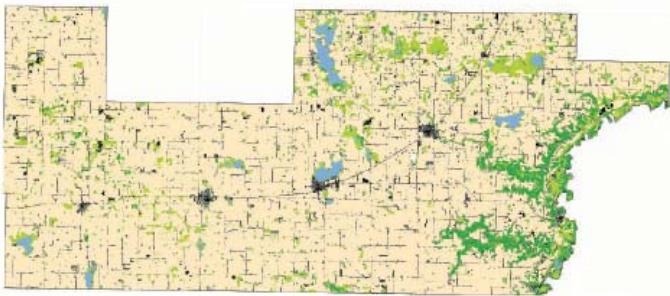
Sibley

Soil & Water Conservation District



111 6th Street, PO Box 161
Gaylord, MN 55334
PHONE: (507) 237-5435
FAX: (507) 237-5249

*SWCD board meetings:
2nd Tuesday of month at 4 p.m.*



Sibley County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Maintain and improve water quality
2. Reduce soil loss in critical areas of Sibley County
3. Promote education on the wise use of soil and water resources
4. Promote preservation and protection of wetlands
5. Improve wetland and upland wildlife habitat

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Structural erosion control measures; terraces, water and sediment control basins, diversions, and waterways have been established by the Sibley SWCD through its annual State Cost-Share allocation. Combining state funding with the USDA EQIP funding has brought about the implementation of several multi-terrace projects, which would have taken several years to complete if using only the state monies. Since 2005, sealing of unused wells has been added to the cost-share docket. About 30 wells have been sealed to-date.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$7,382
Wetland Conservation Act	\$30,650
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$13,524
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$1,500
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$5,585
Programs and Operations	\$142,370
Total	\$201,011

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
David Trebelhorn	Chairman	501 North Carver, Winthrop	507-647-5518	1992
John Paulmann	Vice-Chairman	45543 216 Avenue, Gaylord	507-964-5543	1975
Thomas Pfarr	Treasurer	23906 387 Avenue, Arlington	507-964-2537	2007
Gerald Smith	Secretary	28118 Scenic Byway, Belle Plaine	952-873-6409	2004
Gary Schafer	Reporter	780 Birch Avenue, Gibbon	507-834-6474	1995



Pictured: This 161.3-acre project is a highly visible easement along State Highway #19. The project was funded through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

A wetland restoration was constructed and completed in 2003 through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). This 161.3-acre project (pictured) includes 69.8 acres of native prairie upland vegetation and 91.5 acres of wetland restorations/enhancements. This is the third largest easement that the SWCD manages, and the largest wetland restoration in Sibley County. The location is along State Highway #19 and is highly visible to the passing motorist.

Conservation tillage practices have been monitored and promoted by SWCD staff since 1978. In those early years, less than 5 percent of the county's cropland was planted into what could be considered conservation tillage. Today more than half of the planted acres are using some form of reduced tillage. Thirty percent are practicing conservation tillage, leaving 30 percent or greater residue after planting.

Educational field days, demonstration plots, one-on-one interaction with cooperators, and utilization of Agricultural Best Management Practice Loan Program funds to purchase equipment have brought about positive changes. For the money, conservation tillage offers the best conservation bang-for-the-buck of any soil saving, soil and water quality practice out there.

Watershed projects completed

recently include a water and sediment control basin that was designed by SWCD staff and constructed using High Island Creek Watershed Clean Water Partnership Phase II Implementation funds. The project is located near a major county highway, just outside of the city of Arlington. It is hoped that this visibility will generate further interest in conservation work throughout the watershed.

Surface inlet improvement projects have been promoted by SWCD staff as alternatives to open tile intakes. Rock tile inlets, slotted riser pipes, and more intensive tile patterning are the methods being used to replace the traditional open inlet. With an estimated density of one open intake for every eight acres of cropland, there is plenty of work remaining to be treated in Sibley County. It is felt that the open intake is playing a large role in sediment delivery to the surface waters of the county. Incentive monies are available to producers in the Rush River and High Island Creek Watersheds of Sibley, Nicollet, and McLeod Counties, to bring about positive changes.

Future Projects

Three water and sediment control basins and one diversion project are currently on the drawing board and will likely be installed this season.

St. Louis-North

Soil & Water Conservation District



307 First Street South, Suite 114
Virginia, MN 55792-5601
PHONE: (218) 742-9504
FAX: (218) 741-9407
www.nslswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at noon



St. Louis County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect streams, inland lakes and the Lake Superior Basin
2. Reduce, mitigate or eliminate environmental impacts caused by development including implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act
3. Educating all age groups regarding priority soil and water conservation issues
4. Provide forest management assistance to private property owners
5. Protect and improve ground water quality

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: Youth from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area planting seedlings at Camp Vermillion where trees had been harvested. This annual activity is part of their Forest Stewardship Plan and EQIP contract.

Educational programs and activities for youth in the area are being increased with each passing year. In 2008 the Area III Envirothon is being split due to the increasing number of teams participating, so staff in the North and South St. Louis SWCDs are co-coordinating this event to be held at the Cloquet Forestry Center on May 5, 2008.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$5,000
Education / Outreach	\$8,102
Wetland Conservation Act	\$30,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$3,575
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$2,898
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$22,920
Total	\$117,174

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Margaret Pearson	Chair	1302 Samuelson Road, Angora	(218) 666-5424	1998
Sharon Chadwick	Vice-Chair	2869 Elliot Lake Road, Eveleth	(218) 744-4141	2000
Lizbeth Voelker	Sec./Treasurer	11252 Kekke Road, Chisholm	(218) 254-3190	2002
Jerome Flaschberger	Board Member	4577 Spirit Lake Road, Mt. Iron	(218) 744-1942	2004
Gary Rantala	Board Member	4790 Salo Road, Embarrass	(218) 984-3601	2004



The SWCD and CCLNS Joint Powers Board #3 worked in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service to protect 108 lineal feet of shoreline on Birch Lake (pictured) for lease holder Joe Caulfield. The U.S. Forest Service covered the loading and hauling of material for the riprap shoreline stabilization project. The SWCD provided \$8,681 of State Cost-Share funds, which was 75 percent of the land occupier's expenses to install the project.

Forest Stewardship planning assistance to private property owners has been successful for many years now due to grant funds received through the MN DNR Forestry Division. The SWCD does not have a certified forester on staff, so foresters are hired on a contract basis for this assistance. For fiscal year 2007 the SWCD assisted in the management of 1,617 acres in northern St. Louis County paying private foresters a combined total of \$9,230. To satisfy the incoming requests for these services, the SWCD will continue to submit grant applications annually.

Through the Coastal Implementation Grant intended to implement nonpoint source technical assistance, an enhanced level of field reviews was made possible with the use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) and a Geographic Information System (GIS). SWCD staff use these tools to make technical recommendations to landowners and local government units regarding erosion control, riparian plantings, nutrient runoff management, wetland conservation and the enhancement of wildlife habitat. A laptop purchased under this grant has been used in the field and will provide the educational tools necessary for PowerPoint presentations in the future to audiences of all ages. Field review and technical assistance has been provided to 10 private landowners, one ATV/Snowmobile Association and one township.

With the Drought Disaster Relief funds made available to landowners by the state of Minnesota in 2007, the SWCD was able to provide technical assistance via the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to restore five stock ponds for one producer and complete a well drilling and stock pond project for another, both in Iron. A total of \$9,000 in Cost-Share was provided through the SWCD to cover 50 percent of the expenses for these projects.

'**Road, Building Layout**' educational sessions were conducted in Hackensack and Zim by the SWCD Resource Conservationist Klingsporn to inform loggers of conservation issues regarding temporary crossings. The Minnesota Erosion Control Association, Minnesota Logger Education Program, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources requested these educational efforts.

Future Projects

A Clean Water Legacy Act grant and work began in 2007. Barber and Dempsey Creeks, located within the Upper East Swan Watershed, are targeted for reduction in the amount of runoff in efforts to reduce the amount of sediment loading and in turn reducing the temperature to benefit overall water quality. The SWCD and cooperating agencies (CCLNS JPB#3, MN DNR Fisheries and MPCA) put together a work plan to compile a minimum of five riparian forest buffers, five forest stewardship plans and one open land reforestation project.

The Tree Program is an important service to citizens of northern St. Louis County. The county water plan may require, as part of the planning phase for land owners, re-vegetation plans for shorelines, riverbanks and areas where wetland impacts may be allowed. Many of these re-vegetation plans require the services of the SWCD to review a property owner's plan to stabilize shoreland impact zones, riparian areas, or wetlands. The seedlings offered through the SWCD Tree Program is one place where these individuals can get the trees they need at a reasonable cost. Landowners enrolled in the federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) also utilize the tree sales for their habitat planting requirements. The priority resource concerns in the area as determined by the Local Work Group include 1) Sharp-tail management areas, using the lek shapefile from the MN DNR and 2) Barber Dempsey Creek Watershed.

St. Louis-South

Soil & Water Conservation District



215 North 1st Ave. East, Room 301
Duluth, MN 55802

PHONE: (218) 723-4867
FAX: (218) 723-4731

www.southstlouisswcd.org

SWCD board meetings: 3rd Wednesday of month at 7 p.m.



St. Louis County Land Cover

- Agricultural
- Forest
- Grass/Shrub/Wetland
- Water
- Impervious

South St. Louis SWCD

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

The South St Louis SWCD is working on many projects to address resource concerns. Some highlights include:

- Recently completed an innovative stormwater control project.
- Working with several landowners to correct erosion problems on streams and lakes.
- Partnering with the Pollution Control Agency on construction site erosion and sediment control.
- Preparing Forest Stewardship Plans for private landowners.
- Working on impaired waters investigations and restorations.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$27,849
Education / Outreach	\$5,364
Wetland Conservation Act	\$30,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$38,890
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$123,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$3,800
Programs and Operations	\$45,446
Total	\$280,549

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
David Davis	Chair	5916 Morris Thomas Road, Duluth	(218) 624-7901	1988
Albert Moline	Secretary	6515 Highway 29, Floodwood	(218) 476-2712	2002
Hartley Sandstrom	Treasurer	9090 Overton Road, Meadowlands	(218) 427-2383	1968
Marcia Stromgren	Member	6179 Lakewood Road, Duluth	(218) 525-5008	2002
Debra Taylor	Vice Chair	4415 Regent Street, Duluth	(218) 525-3820	1996



Streambank Stabilization
Whiteface River



Innovative Stormwater Demonstration
Lake Superior College



Rain Garden Construction
North Shore School

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Lake Superior water quality protection
2. Protecting trout streams
3. Protecting other streams and lakes
4. Managing forest land
5. Conserving wetlands



Lake Superior Erosion Control
Glensheen Historic Mansion

Future Projects

A major focus for us over the coming years will be the issue of impaired water.

The SWCD has nearly completed the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for the Knife River. A similar study is under way for Miller Creek.

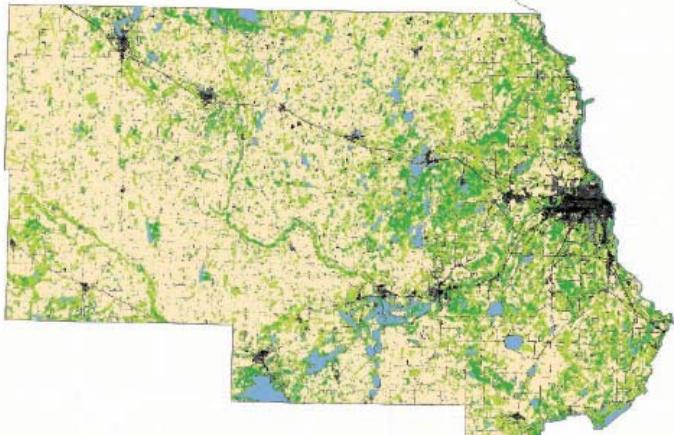
Over the next several years we will continue to work with partners to endure restoration efforts on these streams continues.

Stearns Soil & Water Conservation District



110 Second Street South, Suite 128
Waite Park, MN 56387
PHONE: (320) 251-7800
FAX: (320) 251-9171
www.soilandwater.co.stearns.mn.us

*SWCD board meetings:
2nd Tuesday of month at 9 a.m.*



Stearns County Land Cover

	Agricultural
	Forest
	Grass/Shrub/Wetland
	Water
	Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: Volunteers at Lions Park restoring a mowed shoreline to a native plant buffer.

A native plant buffer was established by the Stearns County SWCD working with the city of Cold Spring and volunteers at Lions Park. The group restored what had been a mowed shoreline to a native plant buffer. Three rain gardens were also established to capture the first flush of runoff from the site and infiltrate it into the ground.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$84,049
Education / Outreach	\$102,259
Wetland Conservation Act	\$39,596
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$821,875
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$232,729
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$7,919
Programs and Operations	\$164,727
Total	\$1,453,155

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Jerome Bechtold	Treasurer	24353 125th Avenue, St. Cloud	320-685-3213	1957
David Brinkman	Vice-Chair	14317 County Road 180, Paynesville	320-243-4296	2004
Larry Salzer	Reporter	5549 398th Street, Rice	320-654-9002	2003
Urban Spanier	Secretary	26501 County Road 175, Belgrade	320-987-3384	1966
Chuck Uphoff	Chair	35319 315th Avenue, Melrose	320-837-5204	1999



A waste storage facility near a lake was designed and installed with assistance from the Stearns County SWCD.

Unpermitted manure storage basin

investigations are completed by an SWCD licensed professional soil scientist and the Technical Service Area Five professional engineer. This is one of several MPCA/EPA 319 grants administered by the SWCD which include funds to provide technical assistance to farmers. The investigation includes an examination of the basin liner and separation distance to the water table to determine if the basin can be permitted by the MPCA. These investigations have been very successful in identifying basins in ecologically sensitive areas that may leak contaminants into the groundwater. The SWCD also provides technical and cost-share assistance to the landowners who choose to repair or abandon the manure storage basins that do not meet MPCA's specifications.

A partnership with Pheasants Forever

(and watershed districts and lake associations) has enabled the SWCD to successfully promote the CRP program to landowners. The partnership also includes the USDA NRCS and FSA, DNR, BWSR, Sauk River Watershed District, Clearwater River Watershed District and North Fork Crow River Watershed District. The partnership helps support a Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist who works closely with the watershed districts to identify and prioritize ecologically sensitive areas for the promotion of Continuous CRP (CCRP), which gives landowners additional incentives for enrolling windbreaks, filter strips, farmed wetlands, and buffers.

A stormwater pilot program is underway in an effort to educate and assist local developers, contractors, and excavators, in complying with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and protecting our

natural resources. The SWCD and the Stearns County Environmental Services Department received an MPCA grant to assist with the implementation of the NPDES General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity. The MPCA is using the pilot program to evaluate the feasibility of allowing local staff to conduct site inspections in Stearns County for the MPCA.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Improve water quality in impaired waters areas in the county and adjacent watersheds
2. Provide source water protection for safe drinking water for all residents
3. Protect natural resources from residential and commercial development
4. Protect groundwater quality and quantity through nutrient & pesticide management, irrigation water management, and related programs
5. Provide urban conservation assistance to cities to identify and protect natural resources

Future Projects

Treating Feedlot Runoff with Woodchip Biofilter

Demonstration: Animal agriculture has the potential to adversely affect surface water quality through the uncontrolled overland conveyance of manure particulates from feedlots to adjacent water bodies during the melting of the winter snow pack or from storm-water generated runoff. An MPCA/EPA 319 grant has provided funds to construct a prototype woodchip biofilter and assess its performance at a feedlot site near Melrose.

Manure Storage Basin Abandonment Alternatives and

Water Quality Improvement Demonstration: As the number of farm operations is decreasing, the number of unused manure storage basins is increasing. This study will develop a low-cost effective abandonment procedure to ensure landowner participation and protect the integrity of our ground water. Basins in the study will have all the manure removed along with a portion of the contaminated soil, the berms pushed in, and contaminated soil reapplied over the top of the basin and seeded with an aggressive plant species. The Risk-Based Site Evaluation process will be used to determine effectiveness of the bioremediation procedure.

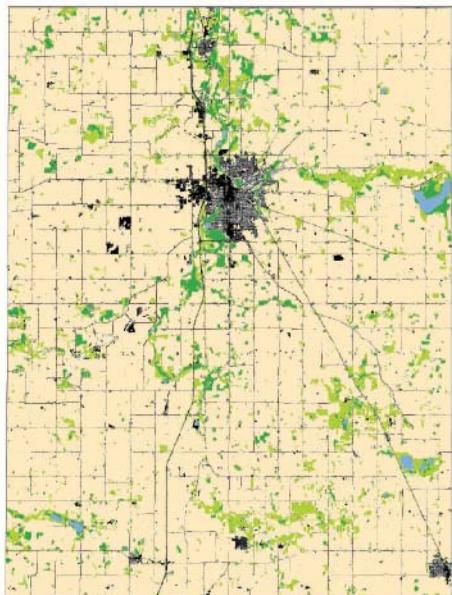
Steele

Soil & Water Conservation District

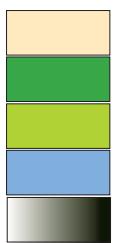


235 Cedardale Drive SE
Owatonna, MN 55060-4417
PHONE: (507) 451-6730
FAX: (507) 444-2421

*SWCD board meetings:
2nd Wednesday of month at 7 p.m.*



Steele County Land Cover



- Agricultural
- Forest
- Grass/Shrub/Wetland
- Water
- Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: A drainage ditch with buffers in Steele County.

The SWCD's vigorous promotion of the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program has led to Steele having the most CCRP contracts in MASWCD Area VII. The SWCD has focused on establishing buffers adjacent to all surface waters in Steele County.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$428
Education / Outreach	\$642
Wetland Conservation Act	\$9,200
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$23,180
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$48,010
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$3,539
Programs and Operations	\$172,441
Total	\$257,441

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Mark Ihlenfeld	Chairman	6148 NW 50th Street, Owatonna	507-451-5864	1991
Doug Pirkl	Vice-Chairman	4202 SW 28th Street, Owatonna	507-451-4670	2000
James Klecker	Secretary	10263 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna	507-451-0129	1988
Dan Hansen	Treasurer	7111 SW 75th St., Ellendale	507-451-1191	2000
Kyle Wolfe	Reporter	2980 Northridge Lane NE, Owatonna	507-451-6139	2007



The Straight River Marsh Wetland

Restoration Project has been very successful in restoring 1,600 acres of wetland and associated adjacent uplands. The Steele SWCD has been instrumental in facilitating this project with the assistance of several other agencies and groups including the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. This project began in 1997, and 27 landowners have enrolled in permanent easements to accomplish this unique project. The SWCD was recently awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for its dedication to this project.

A 319 Total Maximum Daily Load

Grant recently expired in Steele County. The SWCD in cooperation with the Cannon River Watershed Partnership, MPCA, and Steele County completed an effort to reduce fecal coliform levels in the Straight River. The SWCD's responsibility for implementation of this grant was to focus on assisting landowners with the implementation of buffers and filters through the CCRP. From 2004-2006, conservation practices have been installed on more than 1,800 total acres. Accomplishments are as follows:

Year	2004	2005	2006
Landowner Contacts	195	229	123
New Contracts	52	40	52
Farmed Wetland Program acres	873	229.2	211
Acres of Filter Strips	73.3	52.5	57.9
Acres of Grassed Waterways	2.2	10.4	15.3

The Ellendale Wetland Restoration

Project was facilitated by the SWCD in cooperation with Steele County, NRCS, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The City of Ellendale had been experiencing flooding and degraded drainage because of a failed County drainage system (Public Tile #11). The solution to the problem included restoring a large wetland and re-routing the public tile resulting in better drainage and less flooding in the City of Ellendale.

A No-Till Drill Program is offered by the SWCD to cooperators for native prairie and waterway seedlings. The SWCD Board and staff feel it is important to make these drills available because most landowners do not have drills capable of seeding the fluffy native seed.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Maintain and improve ground water quality through promotion and application of conservation practices which reduce soil erosion by water to tolerable levels on all land in the county.
2. Reduce wind erosion to tolerable levels on all land in the county.
3. Reduce water erosion to tolerable levels on all land in the county.
4. Assist with restoring wetlands in designated areas in the county.
5. Educating general public of the need of protecting and restoring our natural resources in the county.

Future Projects

Easement Maintenance Program: The SWCD is planning to establish an easement maintenance program. SWCD staff have identified the need for maintenance to existing permanent conservation easements. Many of the people that own permanent easements are absentee owners that have no equipment or other means of maintaining their easements on their own. The focus will be to offer the service of spot spraying trees and brush that are encroaching on the easements.

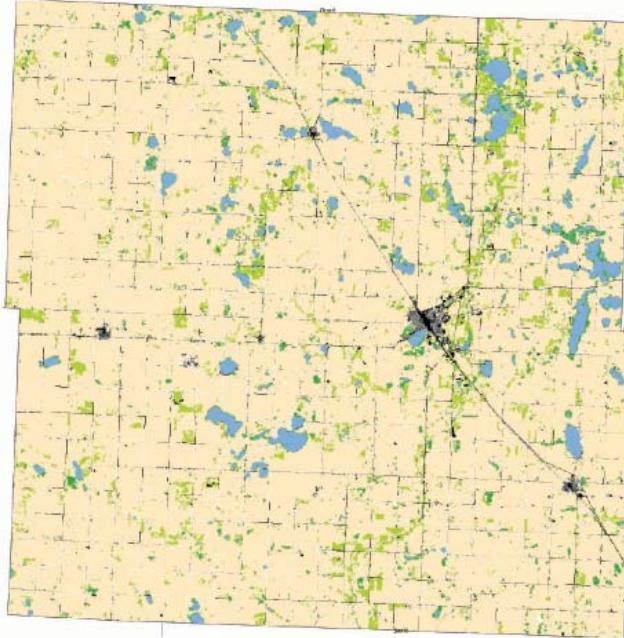
Stevens

Soil & Water Conservation District



12 Highway 28 East, Suite 2
Morris, MN 56267-9505
PHONE: (320) 589-4886, ext 3
FAX: (320) 589-8836
www.co.stevens.mn.us/SWCD/Main.html

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Tuesday of month at 9:30 a.m.



Stevens County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Planting native vegetation along waterways helps reduce runoff and improves water quality. The Stevens SWCD, with the purchase of a 20-foot, no-till drill, has seeded just shy of 3,000 acres in Wetlands Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Program in the last three years. Large tracts of natives provide excellent habitat for numerous species of birds and animals.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$6,530
Education / Outreach	\$10,486
Wetland Conservation Act	\$5,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$521,129
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$5,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$3,800
Programs and Operations	\$117,394
Total	\$669,339

Stevens SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Elected	Position	Address	Phone
Don Huntley	2005	Chair	40402 230th Street, Cyrus	320-795-2491
Dave Lonergan	2001	Vice Chair	14802 470th Avenue, Donnelly	320-589-4559
George Libbon	1981	Secretary	62574 130th Street, Chokio	320-677-2777
Mary Ann Scharf	2001	Treasurer	17733 US Highway 59, Morris	320-589-4688
Jim Krosch	2004	Reporter	56407 320th Street, Alberta	320-324-2520



Two stream barb projects in Stevens County have recently been completed on sensitive areas of the Pomme de Terre and Chippewa Rivers. Stream bars are low rock structures installed on a meandering stream to protect the outside edge of the bank from washing away as water flows around a curve.

The rock structures transfer the flow of the stream from the outside edge to the middle of the stream, which deepens the flow in that area and causes silt to fill in behind the bars. The concentrated flow in the middle makes the stream become narrower and cuts down the erosion on the bank. Stevens SWCD assisted with the planning and funding for the projects. Grant funds for 75% of project costs were secured through the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The SWCD is promoting ongoing efforts to add stream barbs in other locations along both rivers.

Conservation education for both youth and adults has become an important focus. Many of our educational efforts are done in partnership with one or more other SWCD offices in the area. Most of the opportunities we provide are outdoor, hands-on sessions for youth. Examples include Water Fest, Conservation Day and the Area II Envirothon, which Stevens SWCD has coordinated for over 10 years.

Working with the Morris Area Schools, we've begun a partnership through their Serve America program that enables us to teach students of all ages about various environmental topics, including nitrates, water testing, watersheds, and community tree planting, while meeting the state graduation standards.

Working trees make agriculture systems more sustainable by protecting crops and livestock, conserving natural resources and improving environments. Tree planting practices include:

- Field, farmstead and livestock windbreaks
- Riparian forest buffers along streams and ditches

Most trees that are planted by the Stevens SWCD are shelter belts for farmsteads. These help reduce heating costs in the home and shelter livestock from cold and wind. They also improve habitat for deer, pheasants, rabbits, squirrels and other small animals. Field windbreaks and riparian buffers help reduce or eliminate wind and water erosion, and protect soil from loss of valuable nutrients, organic matter and soil structure.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protecting wetlands and controlling urban erosion and sedimentation
2. Reducing soil erosion
3. Reducing runoff from cropland and feedlots
4. Protecting and enhancing greenways
5. Decreasing stormwater runoff

Future Projects

Rain Gardens slow and filter surface water run-off, recharging the aquifer and preventing erosion and flooding. The Stevens SWCD has begun to promote rain gardens and is seeking funding sources to help interested cities and individuals pay for the installation costs.

Biological Weed Control - The Stevens SWCD has acquired some weevils from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture that attack the root of the spotted knapweed plant. It takes about three years for the population of the weevils to build up to a level where knapweed decreases significantly. This form of weed control has been found to work better than other methods such as herbicides, grazing and re-vegetation with desirable, competitive plants. This is one of several biological weed controls that the SWCD is using as an alternative to chemical herbicides.

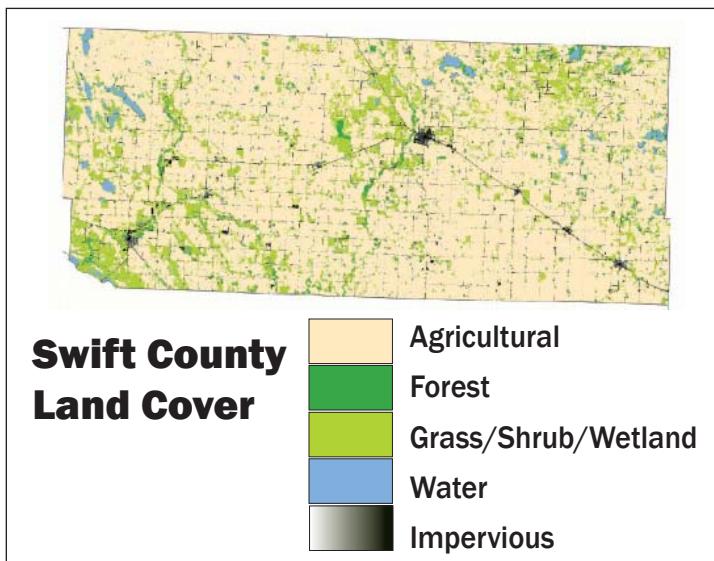
Swift

Soil & Water Conservation District



1430 Utah Avenue North
Benson, MN 56215
PHONE: (320) 842-7201
FAX: (320) 843-4168
www.swiftswcd.org

*SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at 8 a.m.*



Swift County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$ 6,530
Education / Outreach	\$ 10,486
Wetland Conservation Act	\$ 5,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$521,129
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$ 5,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$3,800
Programs and Operations	\$117,394
Total	\$669,339

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: Grassed waterways and stream bars (next page) are some of the conservation practices that have been installed by the Swift SWCD.

The Swift SWCD works closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to get conservation implemented on the land through contribution agreements. This is work done by the SWCD office to do conservation work in their counties. Swift SWCD works on contribution agreements mostly with the EQIP and CRP programs.

Living snow fences have been installed by the Swift SWCD, working with the Swift County Highway Department and local landowners. The SWCD and Highway Department staff have mapped all snow problem areas in the county and continue to work with landowners to install living snow fences. Incentive funds are set aside by the county to use on projects each year, up to \$500 per acre for eligible projects.

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Mark Weimerskirch	Chairman	1155 150th Avenue SE, Kerkhoven	320-264-5167	1987
Orvin Gronseth	Vice Chair	425 140th Avenue NE, Murdock	320-366-3754	1986
Sheldon Ahrndt	Treasurer	600 10th Street South, Benson	320-843-3516	2003
Dale Schlieman	Secretary	1470 30th Street NW, Holloway	320-394-2445	2007
Clinton Schuerman	PR & I	945 60th Street SW, Danvers	320-567-2136	1978



The Chippewa River Watershed Project
local work group meets monthly to discuss which conservation projects to fund in the watershed. The Swift SWCD technician is a member of the work group. In 2005-2007, wetland restoration and enhancements were completed as well as buffer strip incentives in the East Branch of the Chippewa River.

Water quality and quantity monitoring
has been done by the SWCD from 2004-2007 in the Pomme de Terre River. In 2007, the local work group applied for a grant to continue monitoring work in the Pomme de Terre River Watershed and to provide incentives to landowners for implementation projects.

Construction of 123 wetland restorations
has been completed by the Swift SWCD through the Minnesota River CREP program. These 123 wetland restorations restored about 1,115 acres.

The third annual water festival was held September 14, 2007. The Swift SWCD has been one of the sponsors of the annual water festival since its initiation in 2005. Other collaborating groups include the City of Benson, DNR, Chippewa River Watershed Project, KSAX Channel 5 TV, Swift County Environmental Services, Swift County Pheasants Forever, Shakopee Creek Watershed Project, Prairie Country Resource Conservation and Development, and many other local businesses and volunteers. Continued community support has made the water festival a success. Through various activities, students learn what they can do to conserve our water and soil resources, reduce pollution, and learn about wildlife and the environment.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water quality: Clean up the Chippewa and Pomme de Terre Rivers by reducing the amount of sediment and excess nutrients entering the rivers.
2. Soil Erosion: Restore wetlands and associated upland buffers along drainage ways leading to the river. Increase the level of conservation tillage in the county by encouraging no-till, mulch till, and strip tillage.
3. Nutrient Management: Work with livestock producers to implement Best Management Practices on the land and follow Nutrient Management Plans for their farm. Educate the public on the effects of over-applying fertilizer and water quality degradation.
4. Wildlife Habitat: Work with producers to install buffer strips, tree and shrub plantings, wetland restorations, and native grass seeding through the various programs available such as CRP, WRP, FWP, EQIP, etc. Work with local conservation organizations to use program funds along with local dollars for projects.
5. Economic development: Promote conservation practices and hunting and fishing opportunities in the county. Encourage the public to invest money into green space and restoring open spaces for public use.

Future Projects

The Swift SWCD is working closely with the Chippewa River Watershed to get manure management plans installed. Incentive funds are available to producers who qualify.

The SWCD is working the Pomme de Terre River Watershed and WES MIN RC&D to secure funds for projects to improve water quality. Currently, there is an application in to secure funds for implementation projects as well as continued monitoring.

Another goal of the Swift SWCD is to work with livestock producers in the county to become permitted feedlots.

Todd

Soil & Water Conservation District



607 9th Street NE
Long Prairie, MN 56347
PHONE: (320) 732-2644
FAX: (320) 732-2565
www.toddsowcd.com

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Thursday of month at 9:30 A.M.
in January, March & December
9:00 A.M. in April, June, July,
August, September, & October



Todd County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Enviro-Fest is an all-day environmental education experience for all 6th grade students in Todd County. Learning stations are set up in a rural location, providing a “hands on” experience, in a variety of environmental and natural resource subjects, including the Minnesota Science Museum. The 2007 Enviro-Fest was the 13th annual and is usually held the 4th Thursday of September.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$10,561
Education / Outreach	\$5,307
Wetland Conservation Act	\$36,983
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$261,898
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$5,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$128,564
Total	\$474,061

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone
Lee Buchholz	Chairman	27817 170th St, Grey Eagle	320-285-5401
Kenny Pesta	Vice Chair	P O Box 11, Clarissa	218-756-3724
Norm Krause	Secretary	43035 County 21, Staples	218-894-5165
Tom Williamson	Treasurer	20805 133rd Ave, Osakis	320-859-2727
Gerry Ruda	Member	315 2nd Ave N, Long Prairie	320-732-2437



The Todd SWCD 2007 Grazing Tour

was attended by 51 participants, and consisted of a bus tour of three farms in various stages of developing rotational grazing plans & feedlot pollution control practices for livestock production. The 1st site had a nearly complete grazing plan in place, the 2nd site was just starting to convert cropland to rotational grazing paddocks, and the 3rd site had installed a feedlot filter strip along with his grazing plan, to bring his livestock operation into compliance with the feedlot regulations.

As part of the TMDL implementation plan for the Long Prairie River Watershed, the Todd and Douglas SWCDs are working in close partnership to install rain gardens and shoreland restorations in high priority shore land sites, in addition to regular BMPs.

A complete survey of culvert elevations for all Todd County ditches was completed through a joint effort of the Todd SWCD, the Todd County GIS Department, and the Todd Public Works Department, and partially funded with a Challenge Grant from BWSR.

A three-year LCCMR project for nitrogen reduction to improve water quality on central Minnesota sands was initiated in July 2005, and has both research and demonstration components. The major focus of the project is to determine the potential for a polymer coated urea to reduce nitrate leaching in potato and edible bean production, and whether deep tillage is needed for edible bean production. A new cover crop (Caliente Mustard) is also being evaluated for nitrogen recovery following short season crops as well as for disease suppression in subsequent crops. The research phase is being conducted at two sites; the Central Lakes College Agricultural Center in Staples and the Sand Plain Research Farm in Becker. On-farm demonstrations are being conducted in Long Prairie, Verndale and Perham.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. TMDL implementation and clean water legacy in the Long Prairie River Watershed
2. Initiate and complete TMDL studies for impaired waters in the Sauk and Swan River watersheds
3. Bring livestock operations into compliance through feedlot systems and grazing plans
4. The development and installations of ag and shoreland BMPs throughout Todd County
5. Orderly growth and development in rural, urban and shoreland areas

Future Projects

The Todd SWCD received a combination of grants from Clean Water Legacy to fund the development and installation of BMP's, for erosion and pollution control, for forestry stewardship plans, and for low-interest loans for conservation tillage and to update failing septic systems.

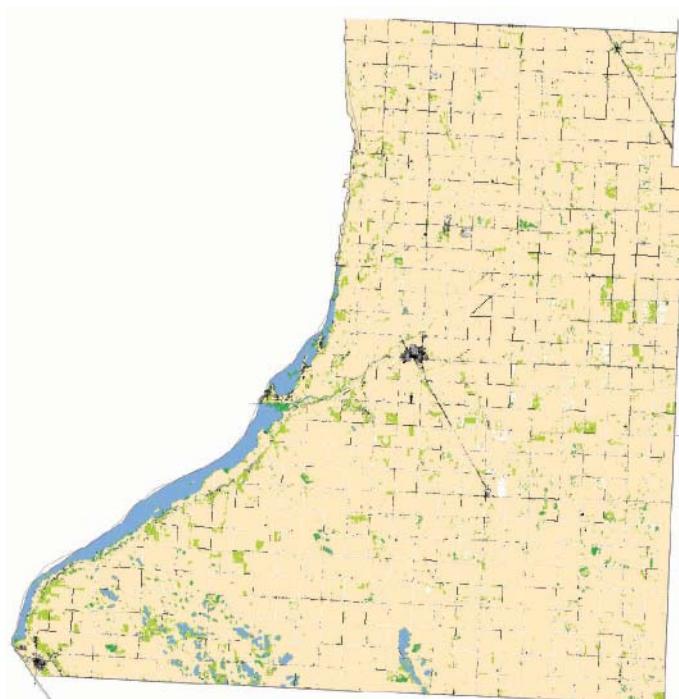
Traverse

Soil & Water Conservation District



1700 Third Ave. South, Room 205
Wheaton, MN 56296
PHONE: (320) 563-8218
FAX: (320) 563-8219
www.traverseswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
1st Thursday of month at 7:30 a.m.



Traverse County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



The Traverse SWCD arranged a feedlot siting and Wetland Conservation Act rule training for township supervisors in March of 2007. Almost 50 people attended the workshop at the Wheaton American Legion. Guest speakers came from the MN Department of Agriculture and the U of M Extension Service and addressed some concerns from the recent proposal of large feedlots in Traverse County. The SWCD manager also spoke to the group of township officials about Wetland Conservation Act Rules.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$650
Education / Outreach	\$18,550
Wetland Conservation Act	\$10,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$163,000
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$20,520
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$38,400
Programs and Operations	\$68,503
Total	\$319,623

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Paul Kruger	President	5908 550th St, PO Box 143, Beardsley	320-265-6265	2004
Greg Hoppe	Vice President	5084 County Road 9, Graceville	320-748-7934	1986
Carol Johnson	Secretary	6257 720th Ave, Wheaton	320-563-8063	2006
Alan Bruce	Treasurer	6413 760th St, Wheaton	320-563-4032	1968
David Rinke	PR&I	6738 610th St, Wheaton	320-563-4864	2001



Traverse SWCD Manager Sara Gronfeld receives a plaque from Pete Waller, Board of Water and Soil Resources, to recognize the SWCD's 50 years of conservation delivery.

More than 75 people attended an open house for the Traverse SWCD's 50th anniversary in 2007. The SWCD was presented with plaques from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Board of Water and Soil Resources for this achievement.

A program for the proper sealing of abandoned and un-used wells is an example of the Traverse SWCD's grant funding from the Comprehensive Local Water Plan for priority water resource protection/improvement projects. The funding is allocated from the Local Water Plan grant. In 2006, 10 abandoned wells were sealed with cost-share assistance from these funds. In 2007, 10 additional abandoned wells are scheduled to be sealed. This practice is a priority in Traverse County because abandoned wells are one of the primary sources of contamination to groundwater aquifers used for drinking water in our region. In 2007, funding from the Local Water Plan grant was provided to the City of Browns Valley for studying a solution for the remediation of the flooding problems that occurred in the city earlier in the year. Reduction of local flood damage is also a top priority of the Local Water Plan and the Traverse SWCD.

The SWCD has established excellent working relationships with the Traverse County Board of Commissioners and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District. The SWCD manager provides technical advice to the county's Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment. The SWCD manager also serves on work groups for the watershed district as needed. The SWCD and watershed district work together to share information to benefit the natural resources of Traverse County as well as landowners. The SWCD administers county programs including the Wetland Conservation Act, the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan, and the Feedlot Program. County board members and watershed district managers are faithful participants at quarterly Local Water Plan meetings. The county board pledges consistent financial support to the Traverse SWCD.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reduction of Erosion by Wind and Water
2. Reduction of Regional and Local Flood Damage
3. Reduction of Contaminated Runoff
4. Prevention of Groundwater Contamination
5. Improvement of Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat

Future Projects

Responsibility for the county's planning and zoning, shoreland, and septic system programs has recently been transferred to the Traverse SWCD. The transition of administrative duties officially began on September 1, 2007. The SWCD manager will assist county staff with site inspections of proposed construction and ensure that county ordinances and state rules are being met. Responsibility of these additional duties will be shared between all SWCD staff.

The Traverse SWCD is working to address water erosion problems adjacent to a DNR-protected wetland in the southern part of the county. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is providing technical designs and financial assistance for two sediment collection basins. The Local Water Plan funds will match financial assistance provided through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program to cover up to 75% of the project's expenses.

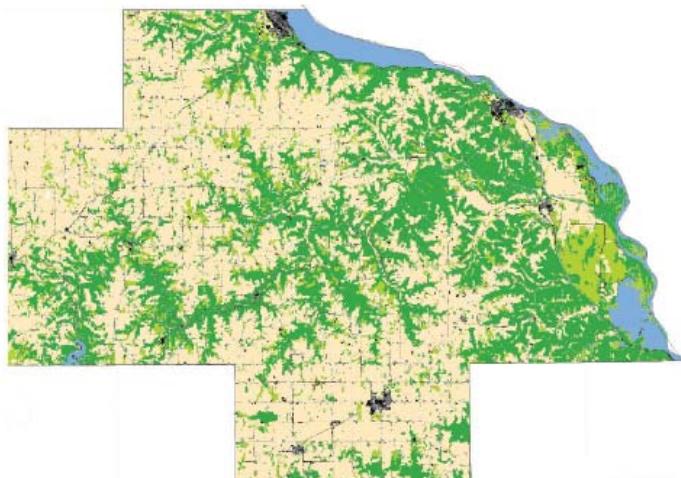
Wabasha

Soil & Water Conservation District



611 Broadway Ave Ste 10,
Wabasha, MN 55981-1600
PHONE: (651) 565-4673
FAX: (651) 565-2630
wabashaswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Tuesday of month at 9 a.m.



Wabasha County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Pictured: This Wabasha County farm features a variety of conservation practices, including contour strips and waterways.

Waterways have been installed to help control the eroding gullies while allowing productive farming.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$1,557
Education / Outreach	\$4,018
Wetland Conservation Act	\$12,454
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$557,636
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$73,165
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$3,114
Programs and Operations	\$14,107
Total	\$666,049

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Nate Arendt	Chair	66272 430th Avenue, Mazeppa	5072738411	2004
Ralph Breuer	Vice Chair	69022 310th Avenue, Lake City	6513453551	2000
Chuck Fick	Secretary	57569 275th Avenue, Plainview	5075342289	2000
Tom Gosse	member	511 E 2nd Street, Wabasha	6515654795	1997
Roland Wood	Treasurer	22060 County Road 27, Plainview	5075342384	2006



Pictured: Aerial view of conservation practices in Wabasha County.

Contour strips have been installed by the SWCD on highly erodible cropland. About 72 percent of the land in Wabasha County has an erosion problem (138,824 acres of a total 194,063). Contour strips have the potential to decrease up to 75 percent of the soil erosion on a site.

Grade stabilization embankments structures help control the eroding gullies and create wetlands.

Sink hole sealing and abandoned well sealing are high priorities for the SWCD. If not sealed properly, sink holes and abandoned wells can be a direct conduit for ground water pollution.

Manure management and small feed lot assistance has been successful with Wabasha County's 456 feedlots that have between 50-300 animal units. The SWCD has been providing technical assistance to these landowners to design and install low-cost feedlot fixes. In addition the SWCD has been assisting with low-cost, cost-share programs through the Southeast Minnesota

Water Resource Board (SEMNRWB), Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), and the County Feedlot Program.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil (Productive soil, eroding steep topography subject to flash flood storm events)
2. Water (quality of surface and ground water in an area subject to nutrient / manure runoff)
3. Ground water (Protection from contaminants to water in sinkhole prone, karst area)
4. Woodland and pasture (productivity with concern of soil / runoff to water systems)
5. Impaired waters

Future Projects

Riparian Buffer Project: Partner with local watershed groups to assess buffer needs, conduct farm visits, and install buffers to improve water quality

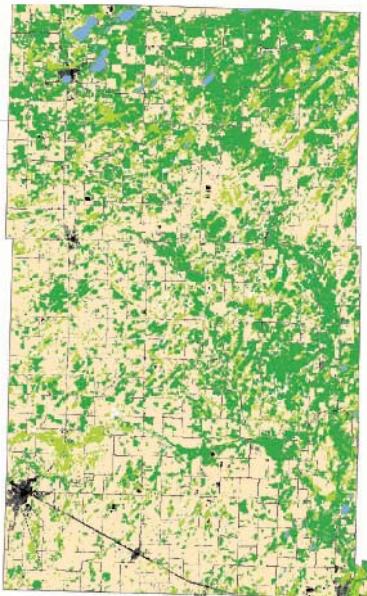
Volunteer Nitrate Program: A volunteer project that tests the nitrate content of private wells throughout the county in an effort to better understand the ground water quality in southeastern Minnesota. Sponsored by the SEMNWRB and partnered with Wabasha County.

Wadena

Soil & Water Conservation District



4 Alfred Street NE
Wadena, MN 56482-2303
PHONE: (218) 631-3195
FAX: (218) 631-1625
[www.mn.nrccs.usda.gov/
partnerships/wadena](http://www.mn.nrccs.usda.gov/partnerships/wadena)
SWCD board meetings:
3rd Monday of month at
• 1 p.m. (November-March) or
• 7:30 p.m. (April -October)



Wadena County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A Forest Stewardship Program

was started by the Wadena SWCD with grant funds. A full-time Forester on staff is writing and implementing Forest Stewardship Plans for landowners. Funding for this program is from the DNR Forest Stewardship Program and Clean Water Legacy Grant funds. The program is so popular that there is a waiting list of interested landowners, and there are several who are doing tree pruning, planting, bud capping, fire breaks and other practices.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$3,014
Education / Outreach	\$5,515
Wetland Conservation Act	\$24,544
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$13,757
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$44,725
Conservation easement funding / assistance	--
Programs and Operations	\$191,342
Total	\$282,896

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Ken Berg	Treasurer	10869 255th Avenue, Sebeka	218-894-3384	1999
Melvin Kinnunen	Chairman	34730 County Road 23, Menahga	218-564-4334	1995
Marvin Runyan	Vice Chair	10293 County Road 23, Verndale	218-445-5810	1983
Nancy Benson	PR & I	23064 County Road 26, Verndale	218-472-3232	2007
Tom Schulz	Secretary	27027 County Road 23, Sebeka	218-837-5728	1975



The Conservation and Wildlife Expo

in Wadena County is a new event that has been organized by the SWCD for the last two years. Each year about 2,250 people attended the event, which includes vendors, archery competition, clay pigeon shooting competition, dog trial training and educational seminars on WCA Rules, Rotational Grazing, Organic Farming, Water Quality, Soils Interpretation, Food Plot Mixes, Pheasant Habitat, Forestry, and Conservation Programs and You. Educational events for children such as presentations from the MN Zoo (pictured) were also available. This three-day event is an excellent opportunity for the SWCD to inform a very large group of people about the conservation projects and programs that are available.

400-500 5th and 6th grade students

and teachers attend Conservation Days at the Old Wadena County Park each year in September. Seven stations are set up around the park with speakers on subjects like Soils, Water, Nature, Wildlife, Forestry, History of the Park and “Babou” -- a Voyageur from the 18th century. This three-day event is very much appreciated by the teachers and students.

The Spirit Lake Stormwater Pond was developed three years ago in the City of Menahga. The Pond is the first of its kind in Wadena County and was put to the test in 2007 during a heavy rain event while a Highway 71 construction project was in progress. About 130 gallons of oil and tar flowed into the pond and coated the rocks and plants with a tight seal. The pond held the material and nothing got into the lake. The pond had to be excavated out and resurfaced, but it did its job and held the oil and tar.

A feedlot water quality project was recently completed in North Germany Township. A large beef and dairy operation had a barnyard very close to the Red Eye River, so a slab was installed in the barnyard and a diversion was installed between the barnyard and the river, which diverted the runoff to a hay field.

Several WCA violations have occurred in the past few years. Landowners have been very cooperative and replaced or repaired any wetlands that were disturbed.

A volunteer monitoring program has collected data on all of the county's lakes and streams. Thanks to the efforts of 85 volunteers from around the county, the SWCD has water quality data on clarity, temperature, phosphorus and other chemicals.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Erosion Control
2. Nutrient Management
3. Water Resource Protection
4. Forest Management
5. Grazing

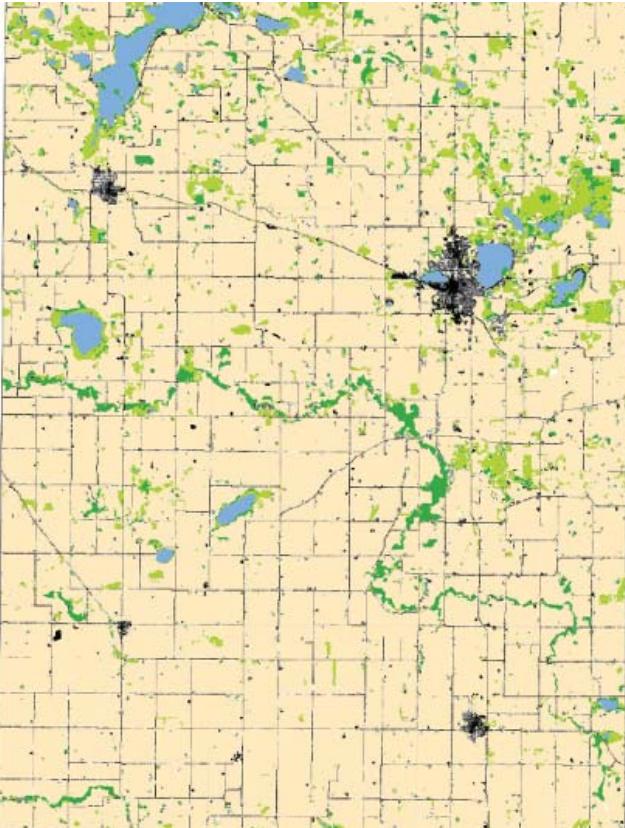
Future Projects

The SWCD is working with the DNR on a newly established Shoreline Habitat Block Grant project to complete seven projects on Spirit Lake and one on Stocking Lake. These are shoreline restoration projects that will be installed on private property, and a different type of control on each project will be used to find out what works best in the sandy soil of northern Wadena County. Some types of materials are native trees, shrubs, plants and seeds; temporary biodegradable toe protection; and erosion control fabric and mulch.

The SWCD is also working on a CWL Spirit Lake Stormwater Abatement Grant to minimize the quantity of stormwater runoff and improve the quality of stormwater that enters the storm drains by bringing the treatment of stormwater up into the watershed through low-impact design and BMPs such as rain barrels, rain gardens, swales and innovative technologies. The SWCD is also working with the Laestadian Church to showcase stormwater treatment in their parking lot area.

Waseca

Soil & Water Conservation District



Waseca County Land Cover



**105 22nd Avenue NE
Waseca, MN 56093
PHONE: (507) 835-4800
FAX: (507) 835-7895**

**SWCD board meetings:
2nd Thursday of month at 6:30 p.m.**

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

An 80-acre farm was recently donated to the Pheasants Forever Land Trust, and the SWCD had the opportunity to work with the owner to restore the native prairie and wetlands. Paul Miller, a life-long farmer of Waseca County, donated the land because of his passion for natural resources. He was a small operator from a time long gone when small family farms ruled the day in rural America. Only 65 of his 80 acres were tillable, and that's all he farmed to make a living. Over the past several years the SWCD had been looking for a program that would accommodate his goals and wishes. The area will be posted for no hunting and maintained by the local PF chapter. This was the first tract to be enrolled in Pheasants Forever's "Forever Land Trust" program.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Preserving and protecting the remaining forest areas
2. Restoring wetlands
3. Protect ground and surface water from contamination due to land use practices
4. Restoring water quality in lakes and stream reaches identified on the MN PCA 303 (d) list of Impaired Waters
5. Maintain high quality RIM easement areas

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Wayne Cords	Chairman	37341 35th Street, Janesville	507.234.6165	2000
Roger Androli	Vice-chair	43067 78th Street, Janesville	507.362.4866	2004
Ron Purcell	Treasurer	809 7th Avenue N.W., Waseca	507.835.4757	2004
Jurgen Peters	Secretary	30529 128th Street, Waseca	507.835.4117	2002
Bob Drager	Member	20870 10th Street, Minnesota Lake	507.462.3627	2002



Pictured: This shoreline restoration on Loon Lake is one of many projects where the SWCD works with landowners to install conservation practices that improve water quality.

Over 8,000 aquatic and upland native forbs and grasses were planted with the volunteer help of the local Garden club, Waseca Lakes Association members, and the Loon Lake Lakeshed committee to restore an area of degraded shoreline on Loon Lake. In 2002 the Waseca SWCD submitted a DNR Shoreline Habitat Restoration grant requesting to restore this area. The project proposal was submitted with the cooperation of the Waseca Lakes Association and the city of Waseca. The established width of the 1,100 feet of shoreline buffer was 35 feet. As a result of the success of that project, the SWCD continues to work with landowners annually on Loon Lake with projects installed at various stages. The SWCD has also completed several shoreline restoration sites on Clear Lake and Lake Elysian.

The Waseca SWCD has partnered with SWCD offices in Freeborn, Blue Earth and Faribault Counties to focus on the Big Cobb watershed located in portions of all four counties. The 303(d) list of Impaired Waters has listed reaches within the Big Cobb watershed for biota. The grant will provide Cost-Share funding to landowners to install conservation practices, including water retention ponds and funding for technical services provided by the Zone 10 Joint Powers staff. The Big Cobb is the top contributor to the LeSueur River for Total Suspended Solids and total phosphorus.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$7,872
Wetland Conservation Act	\$29,750
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$79,578
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$5,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$36,795
Programs and Operations	\$59,603
Total	\$213,598

Future Projects

Wetland restoration near Iosco Creek -- The Iosco watershed is located in the northern portion of Waseca County and is a major contributor to Lake Elysian. Historically the Iosco Creek was used by fish to move upstream to spawning areas throughout the watershed. Working cooperatively with the DNR, the Waseca SWCD has installed fish ladders downstream of culverts that have caused barriers for fish. The SWCD now has an opportunity to work with a landowner to restore a 30-acre partially drained wetland. A downstream culvert through a township road was lowered 15 years ago to allow the wetland to drain. The installation of rock cross veins and weirs downstream of the wetland will help eliminate the downcutting of the creek and allow suspended sediment to settle out and re-establish the original creek bed.

Conservation projects at local dairy operation -- Currently the District and staff from Zone 10 JPO are working with a dairy farm with 300 head of cattle. With the decrease of dairy farms in Waseca County, the district has prioritized funding for producers, to continue to operate. The staff will look at correcting and treating the milk house waste, feedlot runoff and silage stacks.

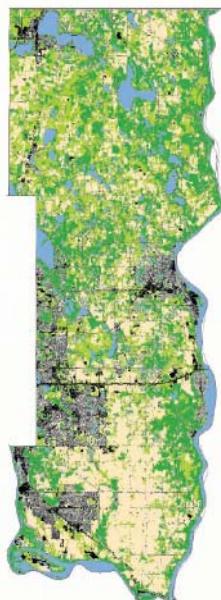
Washington

Conservation District

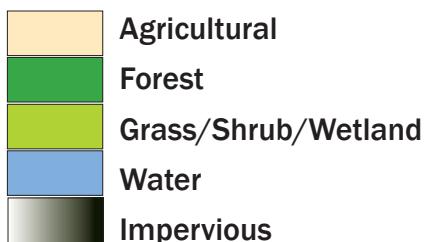


1380 W Frontage Road Hwy 36
Stillwater, MN 55082
PHONE: (651) 275-1136
FAX: (651) 275-1254
www.mnwcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Wednesday of month at 1 p.m.



Washington County Land Cover



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Monitoring, protecting, and enhancing the surface water and groundwater quality
2. Urban and rural runoff, erosion, and sedimentation issues
3. Preservation and reconstruction of natural ecosystems (prairies, forests, savannas, water bodies)
4. Wetland issues
5. Outreach and education

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

Several Best Management Practice (BMP) installations each year are facilitated by the WCD by making technical and financial assistance available to landowners. The benefits of BMP projects include improved surface water quality, reduced erosion and sedimentation, enhanced groundwater recharge, and reduced stormwater runoff. Recently installed BMPs include grassed waterways, feedlot runoff management systems, bioretention systems (including rain gardens), wetland restorations, gully stabilizations, and shoreline stabilizations. Cost-share funding is provided by state grants through the Board of Water and Soil Resources, WCD, local government units, federal agricultural programs, and other sources.

A comprehensive education and outreach program within Washington County – the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) – is a partnership formed by the WCD, five watershed organizations, six cities, and Washington County. The goal of EMWREP is to reduce non-point source water pollution

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$290,808
Education / Outreach	\$22,200
Wetland Conservation Act	\$62,337
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$311,900
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$148,434
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$1,000
Programs and Operations	\$174,287
Total	\$1,012,969

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Louise Smallidge	Chair	10992 Point Douglas Road, Hastings	651.459.5600	1996
Tom Armstrong	Vice Chair	8280 15th Street North, Lake Elmo	651.738.2450	2003
Tom Meyer	Treasurer	7079 Sherwood Court, Woodbury	651.470.3301	2003
Gary Baumann	Secretary	10600 Joliet Avenue North, Stillwater	651.653.6922	2003
Rosemary Wallace	PR and Information	580 Eagle Ridge Trail, Stillwater	651.342.0077	2005

ONE YEAR AFTER PLANTING



DURING CONSTRUCTION



Pictured: Washington Conservation District staff designed, supervised construction, and even helped with the installation of four rain gardens on the Washington County Fairgrounds.

from stormwater runoff and illicit discharges by educating citizens, municipal staff and officials, developers and businesses.

The WCD water monitoring program is one of the largest local government monitoring programs in Minnesota. Current activities include monitoring 37 stream, stormwater discharge, and/or water quality sampling sites, 55 lake water quality monitoring sites, over 100 lake gauges for monitoring lake elevation, and four infiltration monitoring sites. Yearly summary reports allow partner organizations to make sound water resource decisions. Monitoring budgets and plans may be modified on a yearly basis to address changes in resource priorities and water quality concerns.

The WCD's Wetland Specialist provides

technical assistance to many local units of government on issues related to wetlands. Of the nearly 30 local units of government in Washington County that have authority for administering the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), six have their own staff dedicated to WCA. The others rely on the WCD Wetland Specialist. Considering the documented impacts, approved mitigation plans and non-regulatory wetland restoration since 1996, Washington County has achieved no-net-loss of wetlands.

The Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) is a method of GIS land cover mapping that describes what is on the ground based on the type of vegetation and the amount of impervious surface. WCD has collaborated with public agencies and private firms since 2004 to obtain countywide coverage, including an update that was completed in 2007. WCD is working with several communities that will use the MLCCS data for natural resource decision-making and comprehensive planning.

Future Projects

Afton-Lakeland Gully – WCD staff, working with the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization, obtained \$8,500 in engineering design funds from the AMSWCD NPEA Program and a \$75,000 BWSR Challenge Grant to stabilize an actively eroding gully. The proposed project includes increasing upstream water capacity and stabilizing the side slopes and bottom of the gully.

Impaired Biota TMDL – Brown's Creek is the first stream solely within Washington County to have a TMDL performed. The work is being done in cooperation with the Brown's Creek Watershed District, WCD, Emmons and Olivier Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Minnesota. The TMDL will address a lack of macroinvertebrate population and diversity as well as the lack of a coldwater fish assemblage within a designated trout stream. The project has been broken into multiple phases to address particular sections within the TMDL process. Phase 1 of the study is complete and included monitoring and stressor identification on the creek. The remaining phase(s) will address determining load allocations and implementation to meet water quality standards.

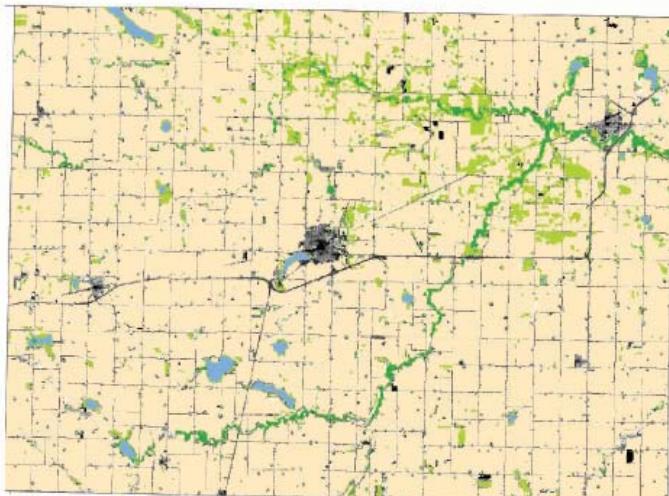
Watonwan

Soil & Water Conservation District



823 1st Avenue South, Suite 2
St. James, MN 56081
PHONE: (507) 375-3104
FAX: (507) 375-3193

SWCD board meetings:
3rd Monday of month at 8:30 a.m.



Watonwan County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments



A series of sediment basins and streambank stabilization sites have been installed on a 1-mile section of Watonwan County JD #7 to reduce sediment and phosphorous from entering the Watonwan River. Six sediment basins have been constructed for a total of 1,300 feet and three riprap sites have been installed for a total of 1,100 feet. Also a 1 rod filter strip has been established on this 1 mile section. This project will have a sediment reduction of 27 tons per year and a phosphorous reduction of 29 pounds per year.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$14,148
Education / Outreach	\$5,895
Wetland Conservation Act	\$8,733
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$80,223
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$4,244
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$35,739
Programs and Operations	\$53,661
Total	\$202,643

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Board member information not available.



Pictured: A local family browses the displays at Green Saturday.

This project was funded through the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance, EPA Watershed Initiative grant and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

A 10-acre tree and shrub planting in Long Lake Township is enrolled in the Third Crop program, a 10-year easement program that is funded through the Blue Earth river Basin Initiative (BERBI). This planting consists of many different woody perennials that include dogwood, willow, cranberry, spruce, cedar, pine, walnut, and poplar. As these woody perennials mature they will be used in the 3rd Crop industry. This is a well maintained easement with weed fabric installed on all plants, tree protectors installed on the hardwood trees, and wire mesh installed on the pines. Native grasses and forbs were seeded between the rows.

The Goose Lake wetland restoration project is a 438-acre Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) easement. This project has been proposed many times over the years by different organizations. When the CREP program became available it was the right program for this land. There is a large basin, approximately 95 acres, on this easement and three smaller basins of approximately 20 acres each that were restored on the south side. Many hours of work by many different people went into getting this easement on the ground.

Two educational opportunities have been developed for area residents. Green Saturday was started to

introduce environmental issues to the general public and the Habitat Workshop targets property owners who have developed wildlife habitat on their property. Each year the SWCD also does programs for local schools. An Arbor Day Program is given to all the county first grade students and an Environmental Awareness Program is conducted for the sixth grade students.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Wind and water erosion on crop land – reduce erosion by using more conservation tillage practices
2. Surface water protection – increase water quality by implementing BMP's
3. Implement more water storage projects
4. Tree plantings – living snow fence and field windbreaks
5. Youth and adult education

Future Projects

Riverdale Feedlot Improvement Project: The feedlot in Riverdale Township is a 200-head beef cattle feeding operation. The work that needs to be done includes relocating the existing well to the proper setback from the feedlot, constructing two new feeding floors with two-foot side walls to divert runoff, constructing a concrete reception pit, constructing a 600-foot long filter strip, and constructing a new access road to the reception pit. This project should be completed in 2008.

Antrim Township Sediment Basins to Protect Perch Creek: The Antrim Township project is a series of 4 sediment basins that will protect the water quality of Perch Creek. The 4 sediment basins range from 400-500 feet long and will be farmable basins. These 4 basins will save many tons of soil and sediment from entering Perch Creek and also reduce phosphorous. This project is a combination of EQIP and state cost share. This project should be completed in the near future.

Wilkin

Soil & Water Conservation District



1150 Highway 75 North
Breckenridge, MN 56520
PHONE: (218) 643-2933
FAX: (218) 643-8823
www.co.wilkin.mn.us/conservationhome.asp

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Tuesday of month at 8 a.m.



Wilkin County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

A TMDL report and TMDL plan for the Otter Tail River has been developed by the SWCD and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Since 2002, SWCD and MPCA staff have monitored the water quality of the Otter Tail River, located in west-central Minnesota with the mouth of the river at Breckenridge. The MPCA has listed the lower 8.2 mile section of the Lower Otter Tail River as impaired for exceeding the turbidity standard for aquatic life. The SWCD will implement activities to reduce erosion, sedimentation, and turbidity with funds received from the Clean Water Legacy (CWL) program. CWL funds will be used in conjunction with existing state and federal conservation funds to install conservation practices that reduce erosion, sediment, and turbidity. All of these programs will be targeted in high-priority areas of the watershed where they will have the most beneficial impact on the impaired reach of the Lower Otter Tail River itself.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$1,230
Education / Outreach	\$21,300
Wetland Conservation Act	\$10,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$163,400
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$25,000
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$42,669
Programs and Operations	\$24,275
Total	\$265,374

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Dennis Larson	Chairman	718 South 3rd Street, Breckenridge	218-643-2596	1992
Ross Aigner	Vice Chair	1689 160th Avenue, Wolverton	218-995-2173	2003
Karlo Etten	Treasurer	3138 370th Street, Foxhome	218-643-5864	2003
Richard Kruse Jr.	Secretary	2788 320th Street, Foxhome	218-643-3621	2005
Pam Hendrickson	PR & I	2062 State Highway 9, Rothsay	218-867-2592	2007



5 1/2 miles of living snow fences have been installed along State Highway 210 in Wilkin County since 2002. The Wilkin SWCD has partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to install the living snow fences. The Wilkin SWCD is responsible for more than half of the living snow fences in Minnesota.

Some primary benefits of living snow fences include:

- Preventing big drifts that lead to stranded motorists,
- Improving driver visibility to reduce vehicle accidents,
- Reducing use of public funds by reducing plowing,
- Lessening the impacts on our environment with less salt use, fewer truck trips and less fuel consumption.
- Some secondary benefits of living snow fences include:
- Control soil erosion and reduce springtime flooding,
- Improve water quality,
- Provide wildlife habitat,
- Sequester carbon to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reduce erosion and sedimentation
2. Improve the quality of surface water
3. Control runoff and reduce flood damages
4. Improve fish and wildlife habitat
5. Protect ground water resources

Pictured: Living snow fences near Foxhome (left) and side inlet structures (above), which greatly reduce sedimentation to ditches and streams by metering runoff from fields and field drainage ditches.

Future Projects

Lower Otter Tail Clean Water Legacy Project:

In 2007 the Wilkin SWCD received a Clean Water Legacy grant to reduce sedimentation levels in the Otter Tail River. Project goals / accomplishments as of December 2007 are as follows:

CWL Project Goals:

750 acres of no-till 0 acres

2,250 acres of minimum tillage 1,118.7 acres

1,000 acres of cover crops 4,873.4 acres

15 miles of windbreaks 6.25 miles

200 acres of buffer strips 8.2 acres

Bio-fiber rolls in 10 field ditches 3 ditches

Stream barbs to restore

3,200 feet of streambank 0 feet

Sediment control structures 8 miles of dikes
in 4 ditches and 50 side-inlets

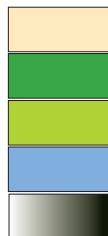
15 side inlets 15 side inlets

Winona

Soil & Water Conservation District



Winona County Land Cover



- Agricultural
- Forest
- Grass/Shrub/Wetland
- Water
- Impervious



PO Box 39
Lewiston, MN 55952
PHONE: (507) 523-2171
FAX: (507) 523-3717
www.winonaswcd.org

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Wednesday of month at 9 a.m.

The Conservation Reserve

Enhancement Program (CREP II) has been a huge success. Of the 39 counties that participated in CREP II, Winona County had the third highest number of acres enrolled. This replaced cropland on highly erodible land with native grasses and forbes on over 600 acres. The program also protected seven sinkholes which could lead to groundwater contamination if left alone. In one contract, over 100 acres were protected in the upland of Knopp Valley, which is a developed valley near Winona. These long-term conservation easements will improve water quality for generations to come.

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

A good working relationship with the Winona County Planning Office has led to good conservation outcomes. The SWCD was helpful in choosing a firm to help with rewriting the zoning rules for the county. Also, one SWCD Supervisor is on the County Planning Commission which decides conditional use permits in the county. SWCD staff assist County staff with stormwater issues by reviewing any soil or technical related stormwater plans.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$5,342
Education / Outreach	\$4,500
Wetland Conservation Act	\$10,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$391,549
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$16,026
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$15,000
Programs and Operations	\$66,511
Total	\$508,928

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Rudie Spitzer	Chair	23847 County Road 37, St. Charles	507-932-3658	1996
Dave Rupprecht	Vice Chair	18172 Highway 14, Lewiston	507-523-3156	2003
Victor Ormsby	Secretary/Treasurer	32063 Wiscoy Co-op Lane, Winona	507-454-7676	1996
Dale Marmsoyer		25273 Little Trout Valley Road, Winona	507-643-6965	2003
John Bronk		26636 Highway 14, Winona	507-454-3568	2007



Pictured: This photo of a feedlot runoff control system was taken after a 17-inch rainfall.

A runoff control system was designed to control the release of liquids and solids by means of a picket fence and a buffer area to effect adequate treatment of feedlot effluent on a local farm (pictured). A curb wall was constructed to direct liquids through the picket fence where most of the solids are collected. Liquids then enter a rock level spreader where more solids are collected, and the remainder of the liquids are spread out and enter the buffer at a level sheet. A milk house waste irrigation system was also installed, with two irrigation zones to alternate infiltration areas. This project is a design from the University of Minnesota.

A project to stabilize a closed landfill site was completed by the SWCD working with Winona County Environmental Services. The project area was about 30 acres, and it involved installation of numerous structures including rock chutes, water and sediment control structures, diversions, and final vegetative cover of native prairie. The SWCD was also involved with the stabilization of the landfill site during the recent cell replacement project, and another 25-acre restoration project was completed in the fall of 2007.

A project to filter milk house waste was developed by the SWCD, University of Minn. Extension and MPCA. This demonstration project included experimental practices like bark bed filtration of waste, and a sprinkler system to distribute waste evenly across crop ground according to soil type. This project resulted in being a component of the cost-share program through EQIP.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Erosion from wind and water on steep slopes
2. Sedimentation that adversely affects water resources from a quality and quantity perspective
3. Feedlots in high priority areas within 300 feet from a water resource or sinkhole
4. Promoting soil and water conservation and environmental protection through landowner assistance
5. Coordinating public and private efforts by serving as a forum on natural resource issues

Future Projects

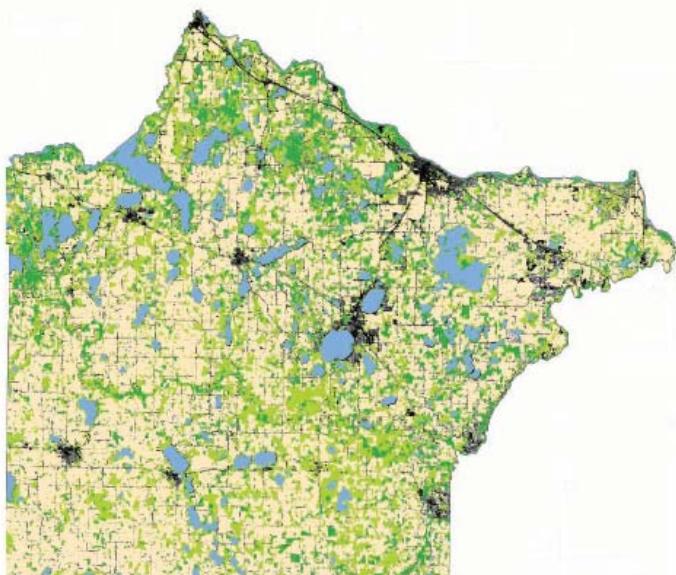
Prairie Sustainable Bionergy Project: Winona County has a unique opportunity to be a distributor of energy from biomass. Eric Kreidermacher owns Pork and Plants nursery in the Whitewater watershed in Winona County. He currently uses 20,000 bushels of corn to burn in his boiler to keep the greenhouses heated. Because of the high cost of corn and input costs, he researched another source of fuel to heat his greenhouses. He chose to grow perennial native grasses on marginal and prime farmland to reduce his dependence on high-input corn. He has planted and harvested the native grasses on his land, pelletized them, and now burns them in his boiler to heat his greenhouses. A biofuel committee was formed by the Winona SWCD to help expand this project. The committee is seeking grants to study the effects of this project on wildlife habitat, soil, and economics. Eric and the Winona SWCD see this project as an opportunity to start small; have research completed by Winona State University to answer many different questions; and then potentially develop contracts with electrical energy producers to supply those companies with perennial biomass as an alternative fuel for electrical generation. This will be the pilot project for larger alternative energy production in Winona County, and be a demonstration area for the rest of the state to follow.

Wright Soil & Water Conservation District



311 Brighton Avenue South Suite C
Buffalo, MN 55313
PHONE: (763) 682-1970
FAX: (763) 682-0262
[www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/
wright/index.htm](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/wright/index.htm)

SWCD board meetings:
2nd Monday of month at 4:30 p.m.



Wright County Land Cover

Agricultural
Forest
Grass/Shrub/Wetland
Water
Impervious

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

A project in the Granite Lake
watershed was installed to capture all the water from a 30-plus acre watershed, hold it on a sandy field and allow it to infiltrate into the ground. The soils are a sandy loam conducive to infiltration so the entire runoff is captured and infiltrated on most storms. This project has basically eliminated phosphorus input into the lake from this area.

An Educational Field Day

is offered to all fifth grade students in Wright County through a partnership of the SWCD and the Wright County Parks Department. Young people are exposed to the outdoors and a myriad of topics associated with resource issues. Ney County Park has served as the location of the Field Day for many years and the event has grown from a two-day spring event to a spring and fall session comprised of six days. Serving about 1,300 students every year this is the major educational activity the SWCD undertakes with the schools. The SWCD Board and the Parks Department realize that the children of today will be the leaders of tomorrow, and an appreciation of

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$16,000
Education / Outreach	\$28,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$98,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$164,000
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$72,400
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$5,000
Programs and Operations	\$118,018
Total	\$501,418

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Chris Uecker	Chairman	3328 County Road 6 NW, Annandale	320-963-6732	2000
Mark McNamara	Vice-Chairman	315 Prairie Road, Monticello	763-295-8272	2000
Duane Dahlman	Secretary-Treasurer	3624 County Road 3 SW, Cokato	320-286-5913	1988
Mary Wetter	Member	180 Ibarra Avenue SE, Buffalo	763-477-5723	2002
Michael Zieska	Member	11803 Gulden Ave NW, Maple Lake	320-963-6082	2002



Pictured: Water Management Specialist Jacobs instructing us-
ing the Stream Table at the Field Day

the outdoors and the environment will pay dividends in the future.

Intensive monitoring is being conducted with the help of the MPCA on Wright County lakes that are on the impaired waters list. The SWCD has partnered with the Initiative Foundation and various lake associations to help these entities gain consensus on priorities, create plans around those priorities and put them into action. These efforts give people who live on and near the lake the opportunity to learn about lake issues and potential actions to deal with identified problems. This has led to a cooperative monitoring program where volunteers have been gathering water quality data on 33 lakes for five years.

By hiring an Urban Conservationist and as cities have stepped up their activity related to the Wetland Conservation Act, construction sites have had much better compliance with stormwater concerns and other environmental priorities.

As the lead Wetland Conservation Act administrator and a reviewer on all county permits the SWCD has fostered review of these issues on wetland applications and county land-use applications. The Wright SWCD and DNR enforcement have been serious with wetland issues in the county, and many violations have been dealt with. Numerous water impoundments, wetland restorations and improved stormwater projects have been built into applications as a result of these efforts.

A buffer program has been created by the SWCD, Pheasants Forever, lake associations and the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) to further enhance payments to landowners that replace cropland with buffers of native vegetation. This program can be used as a stand-alone program to encourage buffers that can be harvested or as an incentive program for the use of CRP. The program can also be used on tile intakes that lead to ditches or streams that flow to these lakes which are not currently eligible for CRP. Since 1999 almost \$62,000 has been used to replace cropland in critical areas with narrow strips of grass.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water quality and quantity concerns
2. Soil erosion and resulting damage to soil resources
3. Wetlands protection and enhancement activities
4. Urban development problems (erosion and sediment control)
5. Loss of farmland to development and other uses

Future Projects

The Sugar Lake gully project has been in the works for a number of years. It appears the project will be constructed in 2008. A lined waterway with a rock center for low flow and rock check dams has been designed. A small water and sediment basin will also be a component of the project. The plan was designed around a wooded wetland which should be enhanced by the project. Funding is being secured and final design plans are being drawn up.

The SWCD is undertaking a TMDL process on Ann Lake in southern Wright County. Stream flow stations have been established in some areas and samples are being taken. Ann Lake is fed by a 20,000-acre watershed directed by County Ditch 10. This watershed contributes to the North Fork of the Crow River and has been identified as a problem for that river system as well. When sampling is completed a phosphorus budget will be established and internal loading will be compared to the load delivered from the watershed and that leaving the lake. If it is determined that improvements are possible, agricultural lands will need to be targeted with some type of new program to garner enough reduction in phosphorus loads to realize improvements.

Yellow Medicine

Soil & Water Conservation District



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Clarkfield, MN 56223
PHONE: (320) 669-4442
FAX: (320) 669-6011

SWCD board meetings:
*4th Thursday of month at 7 p.m.
(6 p.m. in winter)*

Recent projects / accomplishments

A Farm Bill Assistant (FBA) continues working for the SWCD through a partnership with the Board of Water and Soil Resources, DNR, and Pheasants Forever. This FBA gives the SWCD an employee who is able to devote time to meet one-on-one with the landowner to explain all of the options for establishing conservation practices and wildlife habitat. This also provides a critical link connecting the landowner and/or operator with available conservation programs that best fit their operation. In the last five years the FBA has enrolled over 4,178 acres into CRP.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect and improve the soil resources and surface water quality in the county by reducing erosion and sediment problems to sustainable levels by promoting the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs)
2. Enhance and restore the county's water quality by reducing priority pollutants to sustainable levels with concentration on the Lac qui Parle Watershed, Yellow Medicine Watershed and Redwood Watershed TMDL listing of impaired waters in each watershed
3. Implement sound surface water and drainage management strategies in the county by applying watershed-based principles while properly managing drainage systems
4. Promote and educate the public on the SWCD's ongoing programs
5. Protect and improve the quality and quantity of groundwater in the county by supporting good land-use decisions, assisting with well-head protection planning, and expanding groundwater monitoring

SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Menno Fokken	Chairperson	201 2nd Street West, Canby	507-223-7707	1981
Dennis Kruger	Vice-chairman	4623 290th Avenue, Clarkfield	320-669-7363	1995
Norris Peterson	Secretary	2412 260th Avenue, Canby	507-223-5457	1994
Burton Kuehn	Treasurer	1521 630th Street, Belview	507-925-4389	1993
Steve Hubbard	P.R. & I	710 9th Avenue, Clarkfield	320-669-4916	2007



Pictured: Terraces like this one collect runoff from fields, catching sediment to prevent it from being carried into water bodies.

The SWCD has been very successful in promoting, implementing and installing conservation practices, reducing the amount of sediment and pollutants entering water bodies in our county. In the last five years the SWCD has spent \$233,375 (\$208,655 through the State Cost-Share Program and \$24,720 of local dollars), resulting in:

- 24,713 feet of terraces
- 4,905 feet of field windbreaks
- 4,100 feet of sediment control basins
- 49 acres of farmstead windbreaks
- 2.6 acres of grass waterways
- 1 streambank stabilization project

According to the state e-LINK reporting system, by installing the above practices, Yellow Medicine County showed a soil loss reduction of 543.2 tons/acre, sediment reduction of 454.9 tons/acre and phosphorus reduction of 506.3 lbs/acre. The SWCD also utilized dollars from the federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Yellow Medicine Watershed Clean Water Partnership, the Redwood Clean Water Partnership and the Lac qui Parle Watershed Clean Water Partnership to install:

- 2,707 feet of terraces
- 75,495 feet of field windbreak
- 4,850 feet of sediment control basins
- 60 acres of farmstead windbreaks
- 54 acres of grass waterways
- 9,050 feet of living snow fences
- 302,819 feet of fabric mulch
- 97.6 acres of wildlife plantings

Future Projects

The SWCD will continue to provide technical and financial support to assist with implementing the Yellow Medicine Watershed and the Lac qui Parle Watershed Clean Water Partnership Grants. The SWCD will also assist with the implementation of the Clean Water Legacy dollars received for the Yellow Medicine Watershed and the Redwood Watershed by contacting landowners and promoting the installation of groundwater infiltration practices and phosphorus reducing practices that will help achieve the TMDL. Priority practices include: installation of conservation BMP projects that will slow the flow of water during rainfall events, (basins, waterways, etc.); encourage the producers to apply only needed amounts of fertilizers (including manure) and pesticides and to leave residue on cropland to hold soil and water in place; and to promote the establishment of buffers that will filter and slow down water runoff.

The SWCD assisted the Lac qui Parle Watershed in applying for Clean Water Legacy dollars in 2007. The SWCD worked closely with the Lac qui Parle Watershed District, Lac qui Parle SWCD, and Lincoln SWCD to develop a work plan for the Lac qui Parle Watershed's TMDL. The SWCD will have a major role in the implementation of this plan, promoting and installing conservation practices that will assist in improving the impaired water in this watershed.

The SWCD is currently working on designing a website and plans to publish it in 2007. This will be another means of getting out the conservation message and sharing information with landowners, governmental agencies and organizations. The SWCD plans on developing a campaign to increase the SWCD's visibility. Educating the public, landowners, land operators, elected officials, teachers, students and all citizens of the county is the number one priority of the board of supervisors.

2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	--
Education / Outreach	\$9,419
Wetland Conservation Act	\$22,723
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$117,768
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$5,388
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$43,806
Programs and Operations	\$62,288
Total	\$261,393