

SWCD

Guidebook

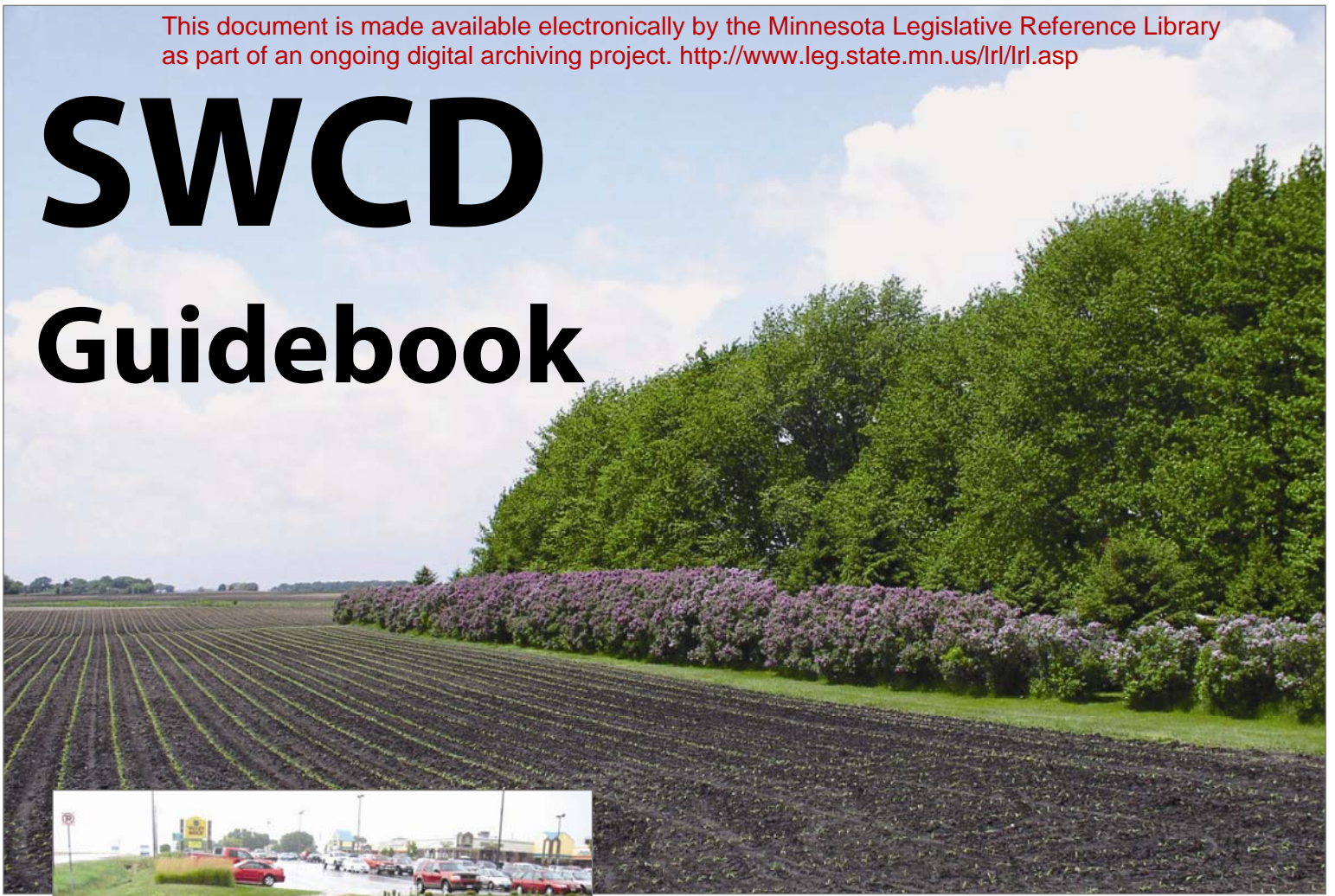


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About

The Soil and Water Conservation District Guidebook

Published February 2010

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) have prepared this guidebook to partly comply with 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
- Future Projects
- 2008 Total Revenue

For more information, a directory with links to each SWCD website is available on the MASWCD website: **www.maswcd.org**

Cover photos

Clockwise from top: Shelterbelt (Watonwan SWCD), streambank stabilization (Pennington SWCD), multi-purpose trail at demonstration forest (Lake SWCD), and retrofit stormwater management practices (Washington 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 90 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; and North and South St. Louis SWCDs.

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

Conservation District

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

www.aitkincountyswcd.org

SWCD Board Meetings:
Third Tuesday of month at 10 a.m.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

- Surface water management
- Land use and development
- Ground water quality
- Fish and Wildlife habitat
- Education

2009 Revenue

Total \$253,793

Recent Projects

In 2009 we completed our project obligations for several grants including the Big Sandy Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Diagnostic Study. This project takes a comprehensive look at land use, lake nutrients, stream flows and nutrients.

We will soon be moving into the implementation phase of the TMDL. Our district serves as fiscal agent for this project and several others.

Farm Island Lake



The photo above shows a recently completed shoreland re-vegetation project with several landowners that share a small harbor on Farm Island Lake. IMPACK6 Technical Service Area staff from Mora designed and helped install a native shoreland planting to stop erosion and provide wildlife habitat.

Water Planning

In 2009 we completed the fourth generation County Water Plan. We expanded the plan by including a large lakes assessment that is a model for future lake and watershed management. The updated plan is on our SWCD website for ease of viewing.

Other Aitkin SWCD projects and duties:

1. Rivers and Lakes Fair
2. Aitkin County Fair
3. Tree sales
4. Forest Stewardship plans
5. Wetland Conservation Act
6. Forest certification
7. Water quality information
8. Lake Association presentations and assistance
9. Water Plan Coordination
10. Many other natural resource projects

Russell Ruud

A long-time Aitkin County SWCD Supervisor passed away in late 2009. Russell Ruud served for more than 30 years and was very active in regional and state committees. Russ' knowledge and experience will be greatly missed.

SWCD Staff:

Steve Hughes
Lori Nelson
Janet Smude
Dennis Thompson

Future Projects

Shallow Lake / Wild Rice Protection

An extremely rare (worldwide) resource exists in abundance in Aitkin County. Wild Rice lakes provide shallow water habitat for dozens of wildlife species. We are developing partnerships that will move forward to protect these gems before they are severely damaged by development.



Board of Supervisors

| Name | Position | Phone | Address |
|------------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Bob Janzen | Vice Chair | (218) 927-4488 | 523 1st St NW, Aitkin, MN 56431 |
| Donna Rae | Asp Chair | (320) 592-3391 | 20053 180th St, McGrath, MN 56350 |
| Michael Lentz | Treasurer | (218) 697-8214 | 41188 - 650 St, Swatara, MN 55785-9712 |
| Russell Ruud | Secretary | (218) 768-4300 | 43454 Nature Ave, Palisade, MN 56469 |
| Franklin Turnock | Reporter | (218) 768-4300 | 13196 360th St, McGregor, MN 55760-9746 |

Anoka

Soil and Water Conservation District



16015 Central Ave NE #103
Ham Lake, MN 55304
PHONE: (218) 927-6565
FAX: (218) 927-6014

www.anokaswcd.org

SWCD Board Meetings: Third Monday of month

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality
2. Water Quantity
3. Natural Habitats
4. Wetlands
5. Soils

2008 Revenue

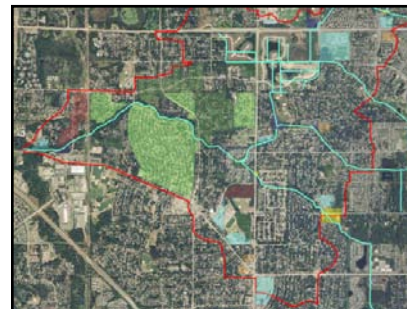
| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Federal Grants | \$42,648 |
| State Grants & Services | \$116,299 |
| County General Services | \$145,600 |
| County Grants | \$42,026 |
| Local Grants | \$102,455 |
| Fees for Service | \$127,194 |
| Interest | \$2,680 |
| Total | \$578,902 |

Recent Projects

Subwatershed Assessments

The ACD partnered with the Metro Landscape Restoration Program and local watershed districts to complete subwatershed assessments for Sand Creek and Rice Lake. The purpose of the assessments was to find places where BMPs can be implemented, and to rank projects in terms of cost-effectiveness to maximize the use of limited staff and financial resources. The assessments found stormwater retrofit opportunities (such as rain gardens or pond modifications) and used modeling to estimate pollution reduction. Cost estimates were developed for each project so projects could be compared in terms of cost per unit of pollution reduction. The assessments will be a great tool in assisting stormwater managers to prioritize future projects.

Pictured: GIS software is used to identify potential stormwater retrofit projects.



Glen Creek Corridor Study

Glen Creek is a 1/4 mile stretch of open stream that serves as stormwater drainage for a portion of the City of Fridley and empties into the Mississippi River. Several residents living on Glen Creek contacted the ACD about severe erosion issues on their properties. The ACD utilized available NPEAP funding and hired an engineer to assess the cause of the erosion and to design a solution to stabilize the creek. A final plan is in the works and will be presented to residents upon completion.

Educational Workshops

In 2009 the ACD partnered with the cities of Blaine, Lino Lakes, Andover and Ramsey to hold a total of nine educational workshops for residents. Topics included rain gardens, water-smart landscaping and shoreland management.

Pictured:
Workshop participants look on during the demonstration portion of a rain garden workshop.



Conservation Easements

Herb Beach Conservation Easement

On July 27, 2009 one of the ACD's long time easement holders passed away. He left his 65 acre property to the ACD in his will to be protected from development and enhanced for wildlife benefit. Several restoration efforts are underway and will continue in the future.

Melanie Kern Conservation Easement

After several attempts to do a controlled burn over the past few years, conditions were finally perfect in the spring of 2009. Burning the 19 acre savannah restoration reduced competition from weed species and allowed for an explosion of previously unseen little bluestem, prairie dropseed, switchgrass, rudbeckia and many other native species.

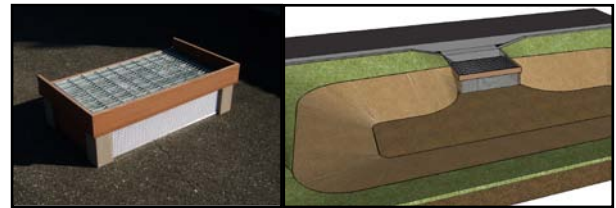
Pictured:
Prairie Restorations Inc. crews conducted the prairie burn in the spring of 2009.



Future Projects

Rain Garden Pre-treatment Chamber

One of the biggest concerns people have with constructing a rain garden on their property is the amount of maintenance required. To alleviate this concern, the ACD produced a curb-cut rain garden pre-treatment chamber designed to filter sediment and debris from stormwater before it flows into the garden. The chamber is comprised of three solid walls and one removable filter wall. A strong heavy metal grate on top of the chamber allows water to flow through while keeping children out. As the chamber fills with sediment, landowners simply remove the filter wall and shovel out the debris. The chamber will simplify maintenance while extending the garden's effective life.



Pictured: Concept drawing and prototype of the pre-treatment chamber. The chamber will greatly reduce the maintenance time required for curb-cut rain gardens. ACD is pursuing a patent for the design.

Expansion of the LRP

In 2009 the ACD approached the Minnesota Legislature with a concept of a new program to work within the metro area to assist with subwatershed assessments and project implementation. The Legislature allocated \$1,000,000 over two years from the new Legacy Amendment fund to help facilitate the installation of projects identified in assessments. The ACD is overseeing the funding and working with other metro SWCD's to complete assessments and install projects.

Board of Supervisors

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| Mary Jo Truchon | Chair | (763) 757-3084 |
| Sandra DeLaForest | Vice Chair | (763) 712-1191 |
| Karla Komec | Member | (763) 434-3467 |
| Jim Lindahl | Member | (763) 753-3449 |
| Vici Nass | Treasurer | (651) 462-3923 |

12917 Buchanan St NE, Blaine, MN 55434
 12859 Zilla St NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448
 352 Swan Lake Lane, Cedar, MN 55011
 17275 Tulip St NW, Andover, MN 55304
 23340 Isetta St NE, East Bethel, MN 55005

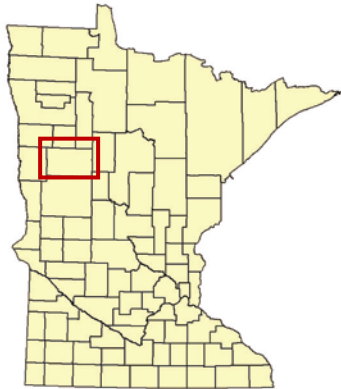
Becker

Soil and Water Conservation District

809 - 8th St SE,
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
PHONE: (218) 846-7360
FAX: (218) 847-8910

www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/soil_water

SWCD Board Meetings: Third Wednesday at 8 a.m.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Surface water quality
2. Stormwater management
3. Groundwater quality: current data indicates generally good groundwater quality in Becker County. However two significant sand plain areas and a large number of lakes and septic systems make groundwater quality a resource concern.
4. Soil erosion
5. Development pressures: Traditional agricultural areas and small remote lakes have experienced an increase in the development of nonfarm housing.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| Total | <u>\$463,237</u> |
|-------|------------------|

Recent Projects



Storm Water Retention Pond- Buffer Seeding



Established Native Vegetation

Native Buffer Seeding Program

In 2008 the Becker SWCD in cooperation with the City of Detroit Lakes developed a program to establish native buffer seeding around 8 storm water retention ponds. Not only does the native species provide excellent sediment and nutrient reduction, it also reduces maintenance costs by eliminating the need for mowing.



In addition to the storm water pond initiative 99 acres of native buffers were established in the Hay Creek Watershed in western Becker County. Water and Sediment Control Structure installed in the Hay Creek Project Area.

Hay Creek Watershed Project

In 2008 work began in the Hay Creek Watershed as part of a Clean Water Legacy Grant in partnership with the Buffalo Red River Watershed District. Fifty four sediment and erosion control basins and 125 acres of native buffers are expected to be installed by the end of 2010.

Board of Supervisors

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Don Lefebvre | Chair | (218) 847-8745 | 21252 US Hwy 59, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-7687 |
| Tony Beck | Treasurer | (218) 346-4237 | 49028 St. HWY 87, Menahga, MN 56464 |
| Jerome Flottemesch | Vice Chair | (218) 375-2141 | 20235 County Hwy 14, Callaway, MN 56521 |
| Duane Grossman | Secretary | (218) 439-6356 | 14355 Grossman Rd, Audubon, MN 56511 |
| Joe Stenger | Member | (218) 334-2590 | 18048 360th Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 |

Beltrami

Soil and Water Conservation District

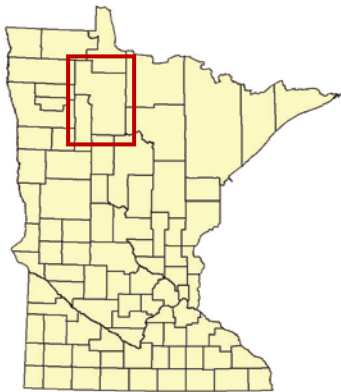
3217 Bemidji Ave N Ste 3,
Bemidji, MN 56601-4328

PHONE: (218) 755-4339

FAX: (218) 755-4342

www.beltramiswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meetings: Last Thursday of
Month at 9:00 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

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

2009 Revenue

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Grants..... | \$31,365 |
| Contracts..... | \$108,053 |
| Self-generated..... | \$190,627 |
| TOTAL..... | \$330,045 |

NOTE: Beltrami County financial support since 2004 has been on a contract for services basis, via an Inter-governmental agreement signed by both the County and SWCD Boards.

Recent Projects



The Beltrami SWCD recently completed a comprehensive tree installation project at ISD#31 J.W. Smith Elementary School. The school is in a highly urbanized setting, adjacent to residential, light commercial, and the Bemidji State University campus, which results in limited opportunity for first hand contact with nature. The project provides increased environmental science opportunities to the school's students. The plan was to create an outdoor classroom (pictured above and next page), shaped as the state of Minnesota, with trails that follow major river courses and forest cover that geographically represents the vegetation of Minnesota's biomes.





This project was made possible by the singularly-unique capacities of the SWCD to bring together multiple partners and provided the planning, implementation, and maintenance. Funding came from multiple sources that included public, private and corporate contributions. This is a story of partnerships and bringing together available resources to build a living classroom that reflects both simple and complex interactions within the natural environment. The legacy created will last for generations and provides an outdoor learning experience for students and the community's residents. Additionally, the completed project will integrate solutions to site-specific environmental issues such as storm water management, green space, and bio-diversity.

The Beltrami SWCD's **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. These species include a variety of potentially high wildlife-value trees and shrubs, and are selected because they are non-invasive, have acclimated seed sources, well-established root systems, and provide suitable species opportunity for all soils/drainage applications. The District has provided over one million trees during the life of their tree program.

A **lakeshore owner's** property management handbook providing clear information on implementing stewardship-based management on their lakeshore was written and made available. A subsequent Shoreline Buffer Restoration Guide was written and published to help lakeshore owners return their shoreline to a more natural condition. Over 2,000 copies of each publication have been distributed since 2006, with another edition published in 2008.

The Beltrami SWCD developed its own Shoreline Seed Mix for **shoreline restoration** efforts. This perennial mix contains 19 species of native forbs and 5 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.

Provide technical leadership in implementing Beltrami County's Comprehensive **Local Water Management Plan (CLWMP)**. Annual surface water testing has gathered water quality information on over 75 lakes and rivers. Other successful highlights include a strong water quality protection component in the District's programs, riparian erosion control assistance, urban runoff and storm water management.

Future Projects

An initiative to address the **Mississippi River Headwaters impairments** 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. Lake Irving will be listed on the 303(d) impaired waters listing for nutrients in 2010, elevating the priority of this issue. The SWCD is aggressively seeking funding to address these impairments.

Board of Supervisors

Jay Frenzel , Secretary
Shane Bowe, Legislative & Public Relations
Jerome Geerdes, Vice-Chair
Jay Backstrom, Chair
Ruth Trask,Treasurer

(218) 647-8929 26620 Hwy 1 NE, Northome, MN 56661
(218) 444-0917 4436 Scotchpine CT NW, Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 835-4508 18934 Harvey Rd NE, Blackduck, MN 56630
(218) 444-8737 7821 Apollo Court, Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 243-2749 14194 Grange Rd NW, Pinewood, MN 56664

Benton

Soil and Water Conservation District



14 Second Ave W,
Foley, MN 56329
PHONE: (320) 968-5300 Ext. 3
FAX: (320) 968-5304

www.soilandwater.org

*SWCD Board Meetings: Third Wednesday of
Month at 8:30 a.m.*

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Feedlot and Nutrient Management
2. Development
3. Groundwater Quality and Quantity
4. Water Quality in the Little Rock Watershed
5. Water Quality and Quantity in the Elk River Watershed

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Charges for Services | \$53,661 |
| Operating Grants & Contributions | \$267,693 |
| Capital Grants & Contributions | \$1,203 |
| County Allocation | \$142,500 |
| State Aid | \$25,212 |
| Investment Earnings | \$15,310 |
| Miscellaneous | \$3,425 |
| Total | \$509,004 |

Recent Projects



(Pictured left to right: Annie Felix – SWCD, Jeff Jaspersen – MPCA Biologist, and Steve Marod – MN DNR Fisheries are shown conducting geomorphological sampling – Rosgen Survey) 2008 was the third year of the Little Rock Creek TMDL study. The Benton SWCD completed the Little Rock Creek Biological Stressor Identification Report, September 2009, based on available data and Technical Committee and stakeholder input. This report describes impairments, identifies candidate causes of impairment, evaluates relationships of these with the biological community, and identifies the most likely stressors using elimination and strength of evidence analysis. Based on the stressor identification analysis, TMDLs will be developed for the identified pollutants. The SWCD distributed a watershed newsletter in September 2009 to report stressor identification findings to approximately 1,500 watershed residents. Completed documents and publications were posted on the project webpage: www.soilandwater.org/LRC_TMDL.html

New partnerships have been established as a result of this project, including staff involvement from all associated State Agencies (MN Dept. of Agriculture, MN Dept. of Health, MN DNR, BWSR, MPCA), Federal Agencies (NRCS, US Fish and Wildlife Service), and private companies (Natural Resource Research Institute). Continued support and contributions of the agency staff will be essential for the project's long-term success in Phase III and beyond.



(Tiffany Determan, SWCD, stream flow gauging on Lilly Creek)

In 2008 the Elk River Watershed Association

started work on several TMDLs in order to address impaired surface waters in the Elk River Watershed. The SWCD received funds from MPCA that will provide the means to complete TMDLs on three waters on the Clean Water Act 303(d) impaired waters list.

TMDL waters include Big Elk Lake (excess nutrients), Mayhew Lake (excess nutrients), and the Elk River from Big Elk Lake to the St. Francis River (turbidity and fecal coliform).

Shortly after the first stakeholder meeting in March 2009 the streams began to flow kicking off Phase II of the TMDL process. Between March and October twenty stream sites were monitored for a gamut of chemical parameters, such as total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and E.coli bacteria as well as stream flow. In addition to the collection of water samples, a bank erosion survey was completed on the Elk River for the portions listed as impaired for turbidity.

Data collected in the summer of 2009 has been sent to Wenck Associates, Inc. which is the project consultant for this TMDL. Over the winter of 2009/2010 Wenck Associates, Inc. will review, analyze and interpret the flow and water quality data.

Once the data analysis is complete there will be another opportunity for stakeholders to hear about and comment on the results of data analysis as well as to discuss the development of the TMDL Implementation Plan.

Future Projects

The SWCD is currently implementing a Native Buffer Program to help address water quality issues within the Little Rock Lake watershed. A native buffer demonstration area was developed in 2009 in conjunction with the Little Rock Lake Association and Benton County.

Funding for the Native Buffer Program is provided by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The Little Rock Lake Association is also contributing by paying for landowner's out-of-pocket expenses for projects installed on Little Rock Lake by utilizing an Initiative Foundation Grant.



(Pictured left to right: Project consultant Bill Walker, MPCA Hydrologist Mark Evenson, and Wisconsin DNR Research Scientist Paul Garrison analyze a paleolimnological sediment core sample that was taken from the deepest part of Little Rock Lake)

The Little Rock Lake TMDL officially began June 16, 2008 and is scheduled to be completed by May 2010. The purpose of this project is to identify the source of excessive phosphorus in Little Rock Lake. This project combines the data collected from the ongoing Little Rock Creek Biological TMDL Phase II Stressor Identification Study.

To date, the Benton SWCD has completed the Internal Phosphorus Loading Report, the Sediment Core Investigations Report, and has distributed a watershed newsletter. The SWCD is currently developing and organizing a Little Rock Watershed Stakeholder Committee.

Board of Supervisors

| | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Wade Bastian | Chair | (320) 387-2765 |
| Phillip Grosland | Treasurer | (320) 983-2094 |
| Joseph Jordan | Vice Chair | (763) 856-3192 |
| Charles Rau | Secretary | (320) 393-4834 |
| Bernard Thole | Member | (320) 393-2158 |

8880 65th Street NE, Foley, MN 56329
 15828 185th Avenue NE, Foreston, MN 56330
 575 190th Avenue SE, Princeton, MN 55371
 11275 West Lake Road, Rice, MN 56367
 15205 55th Avenue NE, Rice, MN 56367

Big Stone

Soil and Water Conservation District

342 NW 2nd St,
Ortonville, MN 56278
PHONE: (320) 839-6149
FAX: (320) 839-2933



www.bigstoneswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting:
First Tuesday of Month,
4 pm*

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water quality of principle waters of the County: Big Stone, Toqua, Artichoke & 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
5. Controlling invasive and exotic species in prairie lands and naturally wooded areas

2008 Budget

| | INCOME | EXPENSE |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Charges for Services | \$16,713 | |
| County Annual Allotment | \$57,500 | |
| Cost-Share Services | \$12,239 | \$11,083 |
| *WCA | \$10,000 | \$27,000 |
| General Services | \$22,075 | |
| RIM Services | \$10,000 | |
| *WLI | \$150,718 | \$149,718 |
| Native Buffer Grant | \$10,000 | |
| RIM/WRP Grant Program | \$6,000 | |
| Interest and misc. income | \$1,903 | |
| *Farmbill Biologist | \$40,500 | \$42,750 |
| Programs and Operations | | \$108,776 |
| | \$337,648 | \$339,327 |

*Pass-through dollars not available for SWCD use.

Recent Projects

Big Stone PF Farm Bill Biologist

Big Stone SWCD began a new era in conservation with the hiring of Travis Issendorf as the new Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist. Travis began his tenure in this newly created position in October 2008. The position's primary focus is to promote, coordinate, and implement the conservation provision of the Federal Farm Bill and other related state conservation programs for landowners.

Funding for this position comes from Pheasants Forever, Big Stone SWCD, and the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership, which is comprised of the Minnesota DNR and Board of Water and Soil Resources. With wildlife becoming an ever-increasing focus in the Farm Bill, the need for more technical assistance grows each day as well. This position serves that need.

Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative

One of the Farm Bill Biologist's primary duties are promoting and implementing the Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative (WLI). The WLI program is a state-funded conservation program that began in 2007 to promote healthy lands



while supporting the agricultural community. The program fosters new and innovative ideas for conservation-minded farming through incentive payments for enrolling in conservation programs, new conservation techniques, and other ways of creating wildlife habitat on lands that are in agricultural production. The WLI program has allocated more than \$300,000 in the county and planned projects that will impact over 800 acres.



One of many wetlands amongst granite outcroppings which, due to WCA, will be avoided in a proposed mining operation plan in Big Stone County.

Saving Wetlands Through The Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act

The Big Stone SWCD has been the LGU (local government unit) for administering the WCA in Big Stone County since 1995. Because of the ever increasing workload with WCA, and no increases in administrative funding from the state, the SWCD had no alternative than to ask if the county would take back the administrative responsibilities of WCA. With little if any increase in state funding for nearly a decade, the SWCD could not afford to hire new help, or to let other programs, such as the Tree Program, and RIM, which bring in some operating dollars, fall by the wayside. The SWCD is still required to provide a staff person to the TEP for WCA, which it will continue to do.

In 2009 numerous WCA projects arose that required a large amount of District Staff time. Some of these included several large ditch cleaning projects, a wetland replacement project, a banking application, and an ongoing mining operation proposal. Hours spent on WCA in 2009 totaled nearly 40% of 1 staff year.

On-going Programs

Trees - Despite the workload from numerous other conservation programs, the Big Stone SWCD, as well as other SWCDs, attempt to keep their tree programs functioning. The tree services provided by the SWCDs supply a necessary source of funding, partially making up for the lack of administrative funding that is associated with most of the state's conservation programs. Services include tree sales and planting, fabric sales and installation.

Board Members

| | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Scott Gillespie | Chair | (320) 748-7149 |
| Vernon Johnson | Vice Chair | (320) 325-5507 |
| Mike Jorgenson | Member | (320) 325-5369 |
| Holly Wellendorf | Member | (320) 839-2636 |
| Lon Moen | Treasurer | (320) 273-2279 |

Native Grass Drill – The District owns and operates a native grass drill available to local landowners to establish cover on their conservation acres.

RIM/WRP – Several wetland restorations are underway, including six funded applications for 2009.

Conservation Cooperator – The SWCD participates in this statewide event, choosing a conservation minded farm operator from Big Stone County. Along with some local publicity, the conservation cooperator is invited to attend the annual MASWCD Convention, where their efforts are acknowledged by “The Farmer” magazine.

Future Projects

The Big Stone SWCD is cooperating with several other federal, state, and local agencies to form a CWMA (cooperative weed management area). The first year, 2010, interested parties are allowed to apply for a \$15,000 dollar grant from BWSR as start-up money to help get the CWMA up and running. The group initially chose 3 priority noxious weeds to target – Wild Parsnip, Queen Anne’s Lace, and Leafy Spurge. If the increased funding levels are achieved, the group plans to add other invasive species to the target list.

Four wetland restoration projects are underway. The SWCD is currently working with the BWSR and NRCS on these wetland restoration projects, funded through the Reinvest In Minnesota and Wetland Reserve Program (RIM/WRP) partnership. These four projects, on six separate properties, will restore 4 major basins as well as a few smaller basins, to nearly 100 acres of wetlands. Surrounding upland will be seeded with a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs, serving as a buffer and providing clean water to the wetlands as well as essential upland wildlife habitat. 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.

22671 Cty Hwy 21, Graceville, MN 56240
 34761 760th Ave., Ortonville, MN 56278
 33626 660th Ave., Clinton, MN 56225
 74695 Ridgeview Dr., Ortonville, MN 56278
 414 2nd St E, Odessa, MN 56276

Blue Earth

Soil and Water Conservation District

1160 Victory Dr Ste 3,
Mankato, MN 56001-5307
PHONE: (507) 345-4744
FAX: (507) 345-6036

www.blueearthswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 1st Thursday after the
1st Monday of Month*



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| County | \$56,917 |
| Local | \$5,000 |
| State Grant | \$104,064 |
| Special Grants | \$153,824 |
| Charges for Services | \$32,189 |
| Interest | \$1,405 |
| Other Misc | \$12,601 |
| Total | \$366,000 |

Recent Projects



Maple River Clean Water Partnership

Pictured: Maple River School students participating in a field day and learning about the ecological values of wetlands and prairies, and the steps included when restoring these areas.

The Maple River CWP came to an end in 2009. The CWP grant was extremely influential in the project watershed for the past 7 years. The Maple River CWP awarded 30 education grants and offered a number of educational programs to students in the watershed. Continuous and storm event stream monitoring from both staff and volunteers produced a wealth of data for partners. Through the partnering counties and agencies in the watershed, the Maple River CWP was able to promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) to landowners. The following is a list of BMPs that were successfully implemented.

Neighbors Working Together for Conservation

Over the past few years we have had the privilege of working with three neighboring landowners to implement multiple conservation best management practices in one section. The cooperation of the landowners has lead to the installation of conservation projects that are protecting the most vulnerable locations for erosion. In total 6-Water and Sediment Control Basins,



Pictured: Water and Sediment Control Basin between neighboring landowners.

1-Grade Stabilization, and 1-Waterway were constructed. Approximately 300 acres of local watershed runoff are being managed with the help of these very willing neighbors.



The Crystal, Loon, Mills Watershed

Pictured: Rock tile inlet installed by a local landowner. Inlet was later planted with a 10 foot grass buffer.

The Crystal Loon Mills project targeted phosphorus reductions through wetland restorations, ditch buffers, alternative tile intakes, nutrient management, and community cleanups. Effective monitoring was

conducted by collecting lake and county ditch samples throughout the 13,800 acre watershed. Using grant funds and local match the SWCD helped implement \$72,000 worth of cost share projects in the watershed. 1,300 ft of ditch buffers, 10.6 acres of wetland, 15 alternative tile inlets, and 4,077 acres of nutrient management were implemented during the two year period. Many community educational activities and events were held to help educate people on ways to become more environmentally friendly.

Future Projects

Many Grants Pending

The SWCD has applied for many different grants in the hopes of being able to continue to serve the conservation needs of Blue Earth County. Some of the grants applied for are for emerald ash borer preparedness, green steambank stabilization, drainage ditch buffering along with water retention and wetland restorations. We have also applied for funds in order to be able to better serve the urban community with rain gardens, bioretention basins, and other storm water management. As of December 2009, we have scheduled already for 2010 construction four grade stabilization structures, two feedlot projects, two wetland restorations, one bioretention basin and one shoreland restoration.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|---|
| William Gardner | Chair | (507) 726-2696 | 20675 515th Ave, Lake Crystal, MN 56055 |
| Harold Loeffler | Secretary/Treasurer | (507) 245-3424 | 19266 610th Ave, Mankato, MN 56001 |
| Allen Marble | Vice Chair | (507) 278-3139 | 16602 578th Ave, Good Thunder, MN 56037 |
| John Rollings | PR+I | (507) 549-3652 | 409 1st St E, Vernon Center, MN 56090 |
| John Shanahan | Member | (507) 340-0420 | 204 6th Ave NE PO Box 728, Mapleton, MN 56065 |

Brown

Soil & Water Conservation District



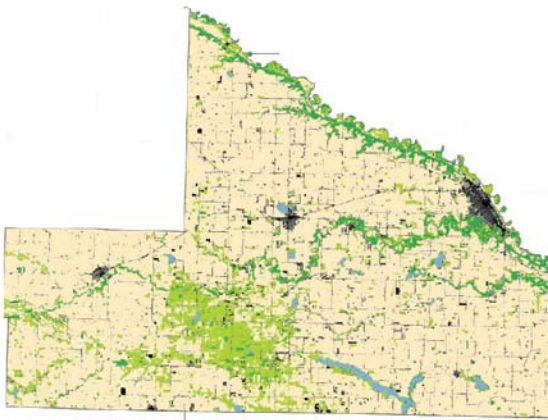
300 2nd Ave SW
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
PHONE: (507) 794-2553
FAX: (507) 794-5553

<http://www.co.brown.mn.us/brownsacd/>

*SWCD Board Meeting:
4th Monday of Month at 7:30 p.m.*

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



**2008 Revenue
\$160,633**

Recent Projects

The Wellner-Hageman Dam

was discussed for three decades prior to its construction in section 30 or 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 still today.

The Reinvest in Minnesota

(RIM) Reserve program is offering a Riparian Buffer Easement sign-up. Easements are perpetual. Buffers must be a minimum of 50 feet wide and a maximum of 100 feet long. Buffers must be adjacent to public waters, streams, ditches, and lakes

Recent Projects



A diversion was constructed in early Fall 2009. It eliminates a large gully and will safely outlet storm water into an intermittent stream. The

landowner secured USDA EQIP funding and State Cost-Share funding for the project.

Cost-Share Projects completed by the Brown SWCD include three Grass Waterways and one Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control Project.

Future Projects

Clean Water Legacy: Brown SWCD along with several other SWCD's in southwestern MN have applied for a FY2010 Clean Water Legacy Grant. The money will be used to reduce sedimentation and improve water quality in the Redwood and Cottonwood River Watersheds. Practices that will be implemented include a variety of best management practices, alternative intakes, no-till incentives, and nutrient management incentives.

Projects that will be completed in 2010 include five terraces and one large Grade Stabilization Structure.

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

SWCD Board of Supervisors

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|----------------|
| Jack Vogel | Chair | 10630 County Rd 3, Comfrey, MN 56019 | (507) 723-5486 |
| Ervin Windschitl | Vice Chair | 31197 185th St, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 | (507) 794-6278 |
| Richard Schroepfer | Secretary | 13258 State Hwy 4, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 | (507) 794-7751 |
| Ralph Stadick | Treasurer | 16508 170th Ave, New Ulm, MN 56073 | (507) 359-9863 |
| Greg Roiger | Member | 22170 Heritage Rd, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 | (507) 794-3526 |

Carlton

Soil and Water Conservation District

115 5th St S PO Box 29
Carlton, MN 55718-0029
PHONE: (218) 384-3891



www.carltonswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Monday at 4:00
p.m., Office Meeting Room*

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. TMDL Studies and Implementation
2. Private Land Forest Management
3. Livestock Management
4. Sustainable SWCD Funding
5. Adequate Office Space

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Governmental | \$131,000 |
| Charges for Services | \$32,000 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$163,000</u> |

Recent Projects

The Deer Creek/Nemadji River Turbidity TMDL study is underway. The Carlton SWCD is leading the project in partnership with the MPCA. Staff are monitoring the impaired streams and tributaries in order to quantify the sediment load in the system and allocate the sources. Volunteers are monitoring additional sites to aid in identifying additional sediment source areas and non-source areas that may need further protection. The project has brought together state and local professionals and citizens from three counties and two states to address the project concerns and move forward to implementation plans.



Recent projects (continued)

TMDL study and implementation work also continues in North Western part of the county as part of the Big Sandy Watershed and in the Kettle River watershed as part of the St. Croix Basin TMDL.

In Cooperation with Carlton County Water Planning the SWCD completed the first year of volunteer lake monitoring as part of a Surface Water Assessment grant. More monitoring through a growing citizen network is planned for future years.

The Carlton SWCD recently completed a Cooperative weed management project through a grant from the BWSR. The project raised awareness of the invasive weed issues in the county and completed a demonstration of Buckthorn control. The MCC was used as the labor force for the demo project.



Future Projects

The Red Clay Project was a 1970's era project that encompassed watersheds in the Lake Superior Basin portion of North East Minnesota and Northern Wisconsin. Primary partners included the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with local Soil and Water Conservation District support. In Minnesota efforts focused on sediment retention structures in two sub watersheds of the Nemadji River Basin, Skunk Creek and Deer Creek in Carlton County. Sixteen structures were constructed in the Skunk Creek Watershed and four structures were constructed in the Deer Creek Watershed. The design life of these structures was 10 – 25 years depending on the specific project. Either design life has now been exceeded. The SWCD is currently seeking funding to complete a detailed assessment of the sites and develop recommendations on repair of the structures or restoration of the stream habitat.

The Carlton SWCD also continues to pursue programs to increase biomass utilization in the county.

Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Larry Sampson | Chair | (218)879-9730 | 10 Maple Drive, Esko, MN 55733 |
| H. Merrill Loy | Vice Chair | (218) 384-4362 | PO Box 567, Carlton, MN 55718 |
| Kim Samuelson | PR Officer | (218)273-3281 | 6222 Cty. Rd. 130, Kettle River, MN 55757 |
| Barb Dahl | Secretary | (218) 644-3691 | 55733124 Prairie Lake Rd, Wright, MN 55798 |
| Mark Thell | Treasurer | (218)384-3878 | 2553 County Rd 3, Wrenshall, MN 55797 |

Carver

Soil and Water Conservation District

11360 Hwy 212 Suite 6
Cologne, MN 55322
PHONE: (952) 466-5230
FAX: (952) 466-2070



<http://www.co.carver.mn.us/swcd>

*SWCD Board Meeting: 3rd Thursday of Month
at 8:30 a.m.*

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protecting and enhancing the water quality of Carver County water bodies.
2. Working with landowners to enhance soil quality and reduce soil erosion.
3. Promoting the use of Best Management Practices in developing areas.
4. Protecting and enhancing natural areas for the enjoyment of future generations.
5. Continued coordination with partner agencies for effective natural resource management.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Charges for Services | \$38,156 |
| County Allocation | \$431,900 |
| Grant Funds (CWL, PCA, WCA) | \$175,619 |
| State Funds & Grants | \$63,448 |
| Miscellaneous/Interest | \$18,901 |
| Federal Funds | \$2,924 |

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$730,948</u> |
|--------------|------------------|

Recent Projects

The Foxford Road neighborhood in Chanhassen installed a series of 6 rain gardens as well as a channel stabilization to reduce nutrient loading into Lake Riley. This area has no other form of stormwater treatment and the raingardens act as a filter to clean the runoff before it drains to the lake. The Carver SWCD took the lead on this project and partnered with the Met Council, the City of Chanhassen, and the Metro Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board.



Old McDonald's farm – Carver SWCD staff worked with Phillip and Bill McDonald to enroll their marginal cropland into the federal Conservation Reserve Program. Mr. McDonald hosts youth pheasant hunts as well as Education Days for the Watertown and Waconia High School Conservation Clubs. During these events teenage students learn about the importance of conservation for improving water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat and reducing flooding by keeping water on the land.

Recent projects (continued)

Burandt Lake has been identified as an impaired water and a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has been established for the watershed. Carver SWCD staff have worked along with the Carver WMO to identify and install 3 curb-cut raingardens and a shoreline restoration project to reduce loading into the lake. Additional federal clean water dollars have been secured and more Best Management Practices will be installed

Future Projects

Wetland Restorations - The RIM/WRP program will secure a 90 acre permanent conservation easement on a sod farm that currently drains directly into Lake Waconia. This project will start in 2010 and will restore a 40 acre wetland that is currently drained through a pump system.

The project will treat a 400 acre drainage area and improve water quality in Lake Waconia and downstream water bodies. Several other large wetland restorations are ready for easements when additional funds become available.

TMDL Implementation – The list of impaired waters that do not meet state standards continues to grow as more water bodies are being tested. The SWCD will continue to be the lead agency working on private and public lands to reduce the negative impacts of surface water runoff. The new Reinvest in Minnesota Buffer program and other state, federal, and local programs provide opportunities for landowners to protect our natural resources.

Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Ted Beise | Chair | (952) 448-4008 | 1412 Fairway Ct, Chaska, MN 55318 |
| Bill Bohnen | Member | (952) 467-3680 | 10125 Vega Ave, NYA, MN 55397 |
| Bob Burandt | Secretary/Treasurer | (952) 442-4216 | 1340 Waconia Pkwy S, Waconia, MN 55387 |
| Harlan Dobratz | Member | (952) 353-2428 | 17690 42nd St, New Germany, MN 55367 |
| Mark Zabel | Vice Chair | (952) 443-3116 | 8464 Pine Crt, Victoria, MN 55386 |

Cass

Soil and Water Conservation District

303 Minnesota Ave W
PO Box 3000, Walker, MN 56484
PHONE: (218) 547-7399
FAX: (218) 547-7429

[www.co.cass.mn.us/soil_conservation/
soil_water.html](http://www.co.cass.mn.us/soil_conservation/soil_water.html)

*SWCD Board Meeting: First Thursday of
Month at 10:00 a.m.*



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Cost-share | \$7,703 |
| Education | \$4,000 |
| Programs & Operations | \$31,276 |
| Total | \$42,979 |

Recent Projects

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 cosponsored 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.

County / SWCD partnership

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.



Pictured: The Rookery wetland bank site.

Future Projects

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

Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| J. David Harder | Chairman | 6300 County 125 NE, Longville | 218-363-2212 |
| Willard Pehling | Vice Chair | PO Box 665, Walker | 218-547-3173 |
| Thomas Kuschel | Secretary | 3288 84th Ave SW, Sebeka | 218-587-2910 |
| Kenneth LaPorte | Treasurer | 4086 112th St SW, Pillager | 218-746-3927 |
| James Ballenthin | Member | 1897 E. Ponto Lake Rd NW, Backus | 218-682-2405 |

Chippewa

Soil and Water Conservation District

629 N 11th St Ste 7
Montevideo, MN 56265
PHONE: (320) 269-2139
FAX: (320) 269-8593

www.chippewaswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 1st Monday of Month,
3:00 pm*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

6. Improve Water Quality
7. Reduce soil erosion from wind/water
8. Reduce sedimentation entering the county's rivers, lakes, and streams
9. Protect and restore wetlands
10. Reduce agricultural runoff from cropland and feedlots

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| County | \$85,000 |
| State | \$73,000 |
| Federal | \$4,000 |
| Charges for Services | \$94,898 |
| Interest | \$5,000 |
| Total | \$261,898 |

Recent Projects



In 2009 a rain garden was installed adjacent to the Chippewa County Courthouse parking lot in Montevideo. The project was completed through a partnership with the Chippewa SWCD, Chippewa County Extension, the Local Resource Management Office and the Chippewa County Master Gardeners. The rain garden was planted with native wildflowers and other plants that would soak up rain water or melted snow from the parking lot.

Local Water Management Plan

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 the 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.

Future Projects

Rock outcrop easements

Chippewa is one of several counties that has received state funds to protect granite rock outcrops. The source of funding is the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). Minnesota River Valley that host a number of rare plant and animal species and even small wetland complexes found nowhere else in the state.



Two of these easements are in Chippewa County. Other counties that are participating in this effort are Renville, Redwood, Lac Qui Parle, and Yellow Medicine. Permanent easements will protect these geological rarities and enhance the native vegetation on and around the outcrops.

Maintenance of the Shakopee Creek structure

Chippewa County in the late 1950s and early 60s had a pilot watershed project. Shakopee Creek, a subwatershed 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.

Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|--|
| Larry Kittelson | Chair | (320) 734-4645 | 8020 150th Ave NW, Milan, MN 56262 |
| Robert Dirksen | PR&I | (320) 847-2384 | 7080 160th Ave SE, Clara City, MN 56222 |
| Steve Nokelby | Treasurer | (320) 269-6669 | 3035 Hwy 40 NW, Montevideo, MN 56265 |
| Dawn Schuler | V-Chair | (320) 269-7861 | 10070 Palmer Creek Road, Granite Falls, MN 56241 |
| Steve Sunderland | Secretary | (320) 269-9618 | 2030 20th Avenue SE, Montevideo, MN 56265 |

Chisago

Soil and Water Conservation District

38814 Third Ave
North Branch, MN 55056
PHONE: (651) 674-2333
FAX: (651) 674-8828

www.chisagoswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of Month
at 8 a.m.*



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Charges for Services | \$75,736 |
| Federal Grants | \$20,741 |
| State Grants | \$92,416 |
| County Grants | \$60,000 |
| Other General Revenue | \$86,376 |
| Total | \$335,269 |

Recent Projects

The Children's Water Festival is one of many educational programs in Chisago County. Approximately 750 fifth grade students take part in the Water Festival for a hands on environmental education day. Other activities include a local poster contest for grades K-6th. The Chisago SWCD also partners with various agencies throughout the year to present on many different environmental topics to all ages.



Students have fun while learning about water quality from some friendly amphibians!

Water Quality Monitoring has expanded over the years to include many watersheds throughout the County. Monitoring has been completed to help assess currently unassessed waters for impairments, including 24 lakes and over 40 stream segments. Monitoring has been completed by staff and volunteers. Partners include: Goose Chain of Lakes Association, Rush Lake Improvement Association, Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District and the MPCA.

Recent projects

Rain Gardens and Infiltration Practices have been planned and completed throughout the County. In 2009, several projects were completed; including rain gardens and infiltration basins that were installed at the Wyoming Library, the Lakeside Elementary School and the new Chisago County Business Park. Many more infiltration practices will be installed in 2010. Partners included, Wyoming Area Library Society, Great River Greening, Chisago Lakes School District, Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District, Chisago County, Center City and the Minnesota Conservation Corps.



Students and about 50 other volunteers spent the morning planting five Rain Gardens at Lakeside Elementary School in Chisago City, MN

Several Best Management Practices (BMP's) installed - each year the Chisago SWCD facilitates the installation of numerous BMP's on private and public land to improve surface water quality, reduce erosion and stormwater runoff and to improve wildlife habitat. Technical and financial incentives to install BMPs are provided to landowners through a combination of local, state and federal programs.

The SWCD has a staff forester to assist landowners with the management of their forest resources. Programs include The Four Corners Forestry Pilot Project, forest stewardship plan writing, oak wilt management, Emerald Ash Borer detection and the SWCD tree & shrub sales. Partners include the MN DNR, MN Forest Resource Council, East Central Landscape Committee, and MN SWCD Forestry Assoc.

Future Projects

Lake St. Croix TMDL - The Lake St. Croix Basin Nutrient TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study is proceeding with implementation of phosphorus load reducing practices scheduled to begin in 2010. The project has identified a goal of 100 tons of phosphorus reduction from throughout the St. Croix Basin with a majority of the load reduction coming from nonpoint source conservation practices. As a result of this TMDL the Chisago SWCD, along with seven other SWCDs on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix Basin formed a unified and cooperative effort called Conservation St. Croix. This group will work together to develop goals and strategies to meet the TMDL reduction goal of 100 tons of phosphorus within the watershed.

Stormwater Retrofit Assessment Program – Through a cooperative effort of the eleven Metro SWCDs the Chisago SWCD will be completing sub-watershed assessments in high priority urban regions of Chisago County to identify pollutant hot-spots within each sub-watershed. This information will allow local communities and the SWCD the ability to prioritize neighborhoods and project sites where the installation of stormwater retrofit best management practices will provide the greatest benefit to the environment per dollar spent.

Board Members

| | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Jim Birkholz | Chair | (651) 257-9159 |
| Roland Cleveland | Vice Chair | (651) 674-8580 |
| Craig Mold | Treasurer | (320) 358-3423 |
| Justin Wilson | Secretary | (651) 257-8707 |
| David Tollberg | Member | (651) 583-3103 |

17325 Pleasant Valley Rd, Shafer, MN 55074
PO Box 307, North Branch, MN 55056
8336 490th St, Rush City, MN 55069
12895 Chisago Blvd, Chisago City, MN 55013
36312 Locke Ave, North Branch, MN 55056

Clay

Soil and Water Conservation District

1615 30th Ave S
Moorhead, MN 56560
PHONE: (218) 287-2255
FAX: (218) 287-1787

www.co.clay.mn.us/Depts/SoilWatr/SoilWatr.htm

SWCD Board Meeting: Second Thursday of Month at 7 p.m. Nov-April; 8 p.m. May - October.



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| Total | <u>\$532,341</u> |
|-------|------------------|

Recent Projects



Pictured: Before (top) and after photos of a 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.

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

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 multifaceted 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 conservation 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.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Paul Krabbenhoft | Chair | (218) 233-0313 | 1119 - 25th Ave S, Moorhead, MN 56560 |
| Steve Dalen | Member | (218) 784-5501 | 18059 40th St N, Georgetown, MN 56546 |
| Duane Janssen | Secretary | (218) 937-5486 | 21533 - 120th Ave S, Barnesville, MN 56514 |
| Kenneth Schellack | Treasurer | (218) 498-2103 | 13077 - 70th Avenue So., Glyndon, MN 56547 |
| Carol Schoff | Vice Chair | (218) 483-4248 | 8142 - 200th Street No., Hawley, MN 56549 |

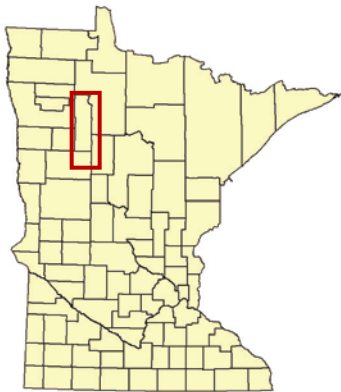
Clearwater

Soil and Water Conservation District

312 Main Ave N Ste 3
Bagley, MN 56621
PHONE: (218) 694-6845
FAX: (218) 694-6845

www.clearwaterswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: Third Thursday at 9 a.m.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Surface Water Quality Protection and Enhancement
2. Drinking Water Source Protection
3. Exotic & Invasive Species Management
4. Land Use Impacts on Water Quality Issues
5. Sustainable Forest Management

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental | \$130,300 |
| Clean Water Legacy | \$25,000 |
| State Grants | \$65,074 |
| Charges for Services | \$25,794 |
| Miscellaneous | \$8,016 |
| Total | \$254,184 |

Recent Projects

A Clean Water Legacy Grant was received by the District to help fund three different streambank restoration/protection projects along Silver Creek. With these funds the SWCD, with the help of the Red Lake Watershed District and Minnesota Conservation Corps was able to repair almost 400 feet of badly eroding streambank. One project required the repair of a streambank failure that was 25' high and nearly 180' long. Through these projects we were able to reduce sediment loading to Silver Creek as well as keeping landowners from losing more property.



The receipt of an Agricultural Watershed Restoration Grant helped the Clearwater SWCD determine sources of pollution and ways to reduce nutrient loading in Silver Creek, a fecal coliform/E.coli Impaired Water. The grant allowed district staff to assess land uses, buffers, and possible sources of pollution in the stream as well model the watershed to see how we could reduce loading in the most economically & environmentally efficient way with help from the UND EERC. With the money set aside for implementing projects in the upcoming year the SWCD will begin to take on some of those problem areas along the stream.

Clearbrook Challenge Grant – for this project the SWCD extended its hand to all its partners including the Red Lake Watershed District, City of Clearbrook, and even the Good Samaritan Center in Clearbrook. To start the project off on the right foot the SWCD worked with the Good Samaritan Center to install a rain garden to catch runoff from their nearby parking lot. To plant the rain garden the SWCD along with the U of M Extension held a workshop for all members of the public on the design and installation of a rain garden. We also did a P8 model of the area to find the best place in or around the city of Clearbrook to install stormwater catch basins, to reduce pollutants heading to Clear Brook. The basins are scheduled to be installed in 2010 in partnership with the Red Lake Watershed District.

With the help of Citizen Volunteers, nineteen lakes were monitored in 2008 and 2009 through a Surface Water Assessment Grant from the MPCA. After receiving training on how to collect water samples, the 19 volunteers were responsible for taking water samples and transparency readings on their respective lakes and dropping the samples at 2 drop-off points established in the county and coordinated by the Clearwater SWCD. Samples were sent to a RMB Labs and tested for chlorophyll-a and total phosphorus. Chlorophyll-a and phosphorus are both good indicators of water quality and provide a key to assessing lake conditions.

Three more lakes will be monitored in 2010-11 with the help of citizen volunteers, through another SWAG.

A **Lakeshore Protection Project** was installed on Roy Lake in western Clearwater County. The landowner installed a native plant filter strip on the upland along with planting wetland vegetation in the shallow water near the shore to re-establish the native wetland vegetation, critical in protecting shorelines from erosion. Financial assistance through the State Cost Share program helped offset costs for the landowner.

Along with this project, the Clearwater SWCD and Clearwater County Environmental Services sponsored a hands-on workshop to any interested participants. The workshop included classroom instruction as well as hands-on experience for participants to learn how to install a lakeshore project. Mary Blickenderfer, U of M Extension Shoreland Specialist, was the workshop instructor. Participants attended from a 3 county area.



Future Projects

The upcoming construction season has many promising projects to work with. Our district will be working hard to implement projects in the Silver Creek Watershed to reduce fecal coliform/E.coli numbers and to complete the Agricultural Watershed Restoration Grant. We now have a Forest Stewardship Plan Writer working for the district and are looking forward to continue to work with private landowners on Sustainable Forestry Management on their lands. To continue our work with the public we are going to continue to work with volunteers around the county on monitoring water quality and clarity on area lakes; this program has proven to be a great success and a positive way to engage the public in our work. The SWCD also looks forward to doing more successful projects with landowners through the State Cost-Share Program, this program is essential to doing valuable projects and creating life long partners in conservation in Clearwater County.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Robert Bilden | Chair | (218) 657-2233 | 25387 Stockyard Rd, Bagley, MN 56621 |
| John Gunvalson | Member | (218) 487-5788 | 11617 506th Street, Gonvick, MN 56644 |
| Paul Rydeen | Secretary | (218) 776-3338 | 47499 - 199th Avenue, Clearbrook, MN 56634 |
| Leonard Stinar | Treasurer | (218) 694-6195 | 520 - 5th Street NE, Bagley, MN 56621 |
| Harlan Strandlien | Vice Chair | (218) 785-2412 | 26865 310th St, Shevlin, MN 56676 |

Cook

Soil and Water Conservation District

411 W 2nd St
Grand Marais, MN 55604
PHONE: (218) 387-3647
FAX: (218) 387-3042

www.co.cook.mn.us/index.php/soil-and-water

SWCD Board Meeting: 1st Thursday at 1 p.m.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality
2. Density of building on lakes/streams
3. Landowner education regarding disturbed areas
4. Road sediment management
5. Erosion control of river/stream

2008 Revenue

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| County | 40,181 |
| State | 225,439 |
| Federal | 16,401 |
| Other | 17,040 |
| Total | \$299,061 |

Recent Projects

Poplar River TMDL



The Poplar River is the first water body to be listed as impaired in Cook County. In the TMDL process, the unique nature of the North Shore has been highlighted to residents and government agencies. With input from stakeholders, it has been determined that the combined effects of logging at the turn of the century, lack of historical data and the nature of non-point source pollution warranted very detailed research by the University of Minnesota. This study will be complete in 2011 and will inform the Preliminary Draft TMDL, also scheduled to come out in 2011. Above: Cook SWCD utilized Clean Water Legacy funding to construct four sediment reduction projects in the Lower Poplar River Watershed including this natural-looking streambank stabilization project.

Citizen Lake Water Quality Monitoring

Below: Two volunteer lake monitors practice their Secchi Disk reading skills at Rockwood Lodge on Poplar Lake. Volunteers like this enabled Cook SWCD to monitor 7 lakes for phosphorus, chlorophyll-a and Secchi depth from 2008-2009. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency provided the funds for this project.



Future Projects

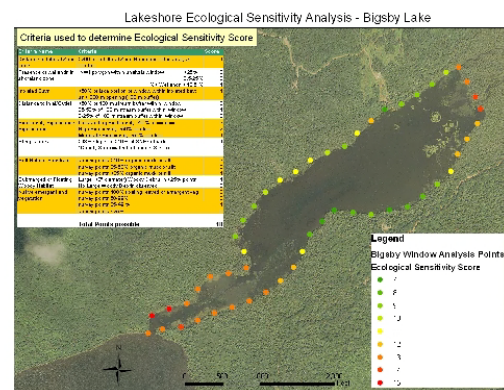


Stream Crossing Inventory

With the assistance of a Lake Superior Coastal Program grant, SWCD staff conducted a technical inventory and assessment of stream crossings on a portion of the county road system in 2009 (Above). The inventory will identify stream crossings that are fish barriers and/or significant sources of sediment to sensitive trout stream systems. This methodical process will allow the SWCD to identify priority projects for restoration. The SWCD is pursuing funding opportunities to continue the inventory for the entire road system.

Lakeshore Ecological Sensitivity Study

Right: A GIS pilot study of sensitive lakeshores was funded through a special BWSR resource protection fund. The funding allowed Cook SWCD staff to collect field and GIS data to identify ecologically sensitive areas of four pilot lakes in the county. The SWCD worked closely with area lake associations to identify areas of concern. Final recommendations for areas of in need of additional protection through reclassification or other means will be made to the County Board in 2010.



Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| David Berglund | Treasurer | (218) 387-2591 | 140 County Rd 56, Grand Marais, MN 55604 |
| Don Goodell | Secretary | (218) 663-8112 | 5080 W Hwy 61, Lutsen, MN 55612 |
| Jim Hall | Chair | (218) 663-7377 | 256 Hall Rd, Lutsen, MN 55612 |
| Roger Haertel | Vice Chair | (218) 475-2649 | PO Box 28, Hovland, MN 55606 |
| Joan Farnam Morrison | Public Relations | (218) 387-3101 | P O Box 1232, Grand Marais, MN 55604 |

Cottonwood

Soil and Water Conservation District

339 9th St
Windom, MN 56101
PHONE: (507) 831-1153
FAX: (507) 831-2928



www.cottonwoodswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 4th Thursday at 8 p.m.
April, May, Oct; 9:30 a.m. Nov.-March June - Sept*

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality concerns throughout Cottonwood County with a focus on the Des Moines and Watonwan River Watersheds.
2. Soil and water protection through residue management.
3. Feedlot runoff and manure application.
4. Groundwater protection as defined by the Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA) in Cottonwood County.
5. Soil loss county wide through water and wind erosion.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Cottonwood County | \$97,300 |
| State | \$71,141 |
| Federal | \$500 |
| Charges for services | \$41,140 |
| Local - GBERBA | \$109,145 |
| Other | \$3,819 |
| Total | \$323,045 |

Recent Projects



Education: The key to our Future!

Pictured above is Cottonwood SWCD Technician David Bucklin with Mountain Lake kindergarten and first grade classes learning about watersheds.

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

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

**In 2009 GBERBA was awarded
\$458,445.00 dollars in competitive grant funds!**

Special Clean Water Legacy Funds for Cottonwood County

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers- Clean Water Legacy Funds (08) | \$ 41,300 |
| GBERBA CWL Funds (07-08) | <u>\$179,566</u> |

Total **\$220,866**

Channel Repair Project

Pictured below is a recent channel repair/protection project adjacent to Mountain Lake. This project has prevented tons of sediment from washing into the lake. The project was funded through the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance.



Future Projects

Reinvest in Minnesota

The Reinvest in Minnesota Clean Water Fund –Riparian Buffer Program was rolled out in late 2009. Acceptance by landowners has been very positive and the Cottonwood SWCD expects this to be a very successful program in 2010.

Nutrient Management

The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance Nutrient Management Specialist Annalie Plaetz, is housed in the Cottonwood SWCD Office. Covering an area of nine counties in South Central Minnesota, the Nutrient Management Specialist position was created to offer no cost nutrient planning, soil and manure testing, to area producers. From inception in 2007, the nutrient management position has designed nutrient/manure management plans covering 8,500 acres. In December, 2009, this position received funding from MPCA for a one year extension. With these funds, the goal is to coordinate a basin wide nutrient management education program and write 25 new nutrient management plans.



Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Ron Tibodeau | Chair | (507) 831-5429 | 641 18th St, Windom, MN 56101 |
| Clark Lingbeek | Member | (507) 877-2753 | 26992 570th Ave, Comfrey, MN 56019 |
| Cody Duroe | Treasurer | (507) 628-4320 | 28687 500 th Ave, Jeffers MN 56145 |
| Jim Bloch | Secretary | (507) 274-6477 | 34310 330th St, Westbrook, MN 56183 |
| Tom Muller | Vice Chair | (507) 831-2031 | 41238 County Rd 13, Windom, MN 56101 |

Crow Wing

Soil and Water Conservation District

7118 Clearwater Rd
Baxter, MN 56425
PHONE: (218) 828-6197
FAX: (218) 828-6095

www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/swcd

SWCD Board Meeting: 3rd Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.



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.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| State Revenues | \$154,044 |
| County Revenues | \$185,047 |
| Charges for Services | \$42,969 |
| Other Program Revenues | \$8,967 |
| General Revenues | \$4,755 |
| Total | \$395,782 |

State revenues include grants for projects such as cost-share, BWSR service grant, WCA, and Water Plan. County revenues include the annual allocation, WCA, and Water Plan. Charges for services includes a contract with MPCA for NPDES inspections and WCA services. General Revenues includes interest earned.

Recent Projects

Continue to Promote and Assist Citizen Water Quality Monitoring through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Surface Water Assessment Grants. The district assessed 50 lakes and two rivers based on the MPCA requirements for lakes and rivers. Furthermore, the district trained 150 citizens on how to monitor. Beginning in Spring 2010 the district will assist the MPCA in the Crow Wing River Watershed Intensive water Monitoring project.

Whitefish Chain: Big Island Bank Stabilization Project: The Crow Wing SWCD partnered with the Rollie Johnson Recreational Area, WAPOA, and MNDNR to address severe shoreline erosion and widespread bank failure on Big Island, which is located in the Whitefish Chain. The SWCD designed a plan to minimize disturbance and maximize long term stability. Slope breaks, constructed from local willow and alder shrubs, were installed in various intervals across the slope and willow wattles were installed at the toe. Emergent vegetation was planted between a wave break and the toe. The steep slopes were planted with a wide range of native tree, shrub, and plant species for long term above and below ground stability. Volunteers installed these practices on 150 feet of shoreline and 5,500 square feet of sandy bank. Adjacent banks will be stabilized in subsequent years using the methodology applied on this project. Information about the plants and practices will be available to the public in 2010.



Volunteers placed these erosion control devices for the shoreline buffer on Big Island.

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.



Spring 2009, volunteers planted native plants for the bioretention basins. In Crosby

Stormwater Retrofit Serpent Lake: The SWCD partnered with Serpent Lake Association, City of Crosby, CWC Master Gardeners, and Minnesota DNR to install 300 feet of native shoreline buffer and two bioretention basins. The project is located at Crosby City Hall and serves as a demonstration site to the community. The basins were sized to capture stormwater that had been running off the city's streets into Serpent Lake. Now, this polluted runoff is

funneled from the streets into the basins through concrete valley gutters built into the street. The basins were planted with native plants to remove nutrients and pollutants in the runoff, infiltrate water, and help restore natural hydrological processes. Overall it will reduce annual sediment loads into Serpent Lake by about ½ ton and nutrient loads by 6 lbs! That reduction means about a 1 ton reduction in algal blooms.

Prioritizing protection strategies for lake rich northern counties through the Clean Water Legacy Grant, the District collaborated with Aitkin SWCD, Cass County, and RMB Laboratories to develop water quality assessment and watershed analysis reports for lakes larger than 1000 acres in size. These reports are being used to identify high priority protection areas for future forest, shoreline, and wetland easements and high priority projects for future state cost-share or grant funds.

Future Projects

Recharge! Restoring Natural Hydrology in Urban Communities: The SWCD will partner with local government units to cost-share on non-riparian rain gardens, shoreline buffers, and provide alternatives to riprap, and turf grass lawns. This project will target riparian and non-riparian parcels located within lakesheds containing a high ratio of impervious to pervious surfaces which includes the Cities of Breezy Point, Crosslake, Crosby, and Fifty Lakes.

Soil Survey: Continue to support and promote the soil survey update that began in 2005. It is anticipated that first data from soil survey update will be available online in 2010

Partnerships: Work on creating and enhancing partnerships with the Thirty Lakes Watershed District, municipalities, and lake associations.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Robert Becker | Chair | (218) 543-6655 | 11341 Swanburg Ln, Pine River, MN 56474 |
| Robert Albrecht | Vice Chair | (218) 546-6633 | 22 - 3rd St NW, Crosby, MN 56441 |
| Dianne Jacobson | Secretary | (218) 764-3365 | 10287 Cty Rd 8, Brainerd, MN 56401 |
| Leonard Koering | Treasurer | (218) 829-8237 | 2397 65th Ave, Fort Ripley, MN 56449 |
| Roger Waytashek | Member | (218) 546-2871 | 28877 Fools Lake Rd, Crosby, MN 56441 |

Dakota

Soil and Water Conservation District

4100 220th St W 102
Farmington, MN 55024
PHONE: (651) 480-7784
FAX: (651) 480-7775

www.dakotaswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting:
1st Thursday of Month at 5:30 p.m.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Improving and protecting 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

2008 Revenue by Category

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Monitoring / Research | \$162,390 |
| Education / Outreach | \$94,556 |
| Wetland Conservation Act | \$60,158 |
| Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance | \$65,200 |
| Planning / other local water management duties | \$115,473 |
| Conservation easement funding / assistance | \$45,125 |
| Programs and Operations | \$551,862 |
| Total | \$1,094,764 |

Recent Projects

A shoreland stabilization project was completed in a residential neighborhood within the City of Inver Grove Heights. The waterbody is referred to as Bohrer Pond, a DNR protected lake and the project covered 1,300 linear feet of shoreline. Reconstruction work was completed on the eroded and unstable portions of the shoreline and bank. Native grasses and forbs were seeded throughout the project area and were supplemented with live seedlings and shrubs.

Before:



After:



Twelve agricultural best management practices were installed within Trout Brook located within the Cannon River Watershed. These conservation practices included water and sediment control structures, grassed waterways, filter strips, grade stabilization structures, and grassed terraces.

New Filter Strip Installed:

These practices will help to reduce sediment, bacteria, nutrients and other pollutants from entering Trout Brook and the Cannon River.



Recent Projects (continued)

Blue Thumb Planting for Clean

Water Workshops are coordinated by the Dakota County SWCD in communities throughout the county. This 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" and reduce the negative effects that can occur from storm water runoff. From 2007 to 2009, the SWCD conducted 15 introductory workshops, 32 project design workshops, and provided on-site technical assistance to landowners



during project installations. A total of 792 residents attended Blue Thumb introductory classes during the 2007 to 2009 events and 70 projects

were installed. Projects consisted of native gardens, raingardens, and native shorelines.

A new GIS mapping tool was developed that provides better education and outreach opportunities by connecting to the web. This new GIS project links the location of where conservation projects are installed to a Fact Sheet used to highlight the activity completed. An electronic database also allows staff to efficiently and accurately track project details over time, generate statistics, and then place that information on GIS mapping sources. The map layer and Fact Sheet are then linked through the web and available for public access. You can experiment with this new mapping tool by going to www.dakotaswcd.org and from our home

Future Projects

Thermal Reduction Conservation and Comparison Study

will be completed through a partnership with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO). The Dakota County SWCD is assisting the VRWJPO in the implementation of a Clean Water Act 319 Demonstration, Education, and Research Grant. The goal of the study is to model, install and measure stream cooling conservation practices on the Vermillion River, a designated trout stream. Beginning in 2010 and continuing through 2012 the Dakota County SWCD will work within the upper Vermillion River watershed to identify and install demonstration sites and identify cost-effective methods to maintain cool stream temperatures within stream reaches known to reproduce or inhabit trout.

Cannon River Bacteria Reduction

Project is also a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant project that will seek to establish vegetated filter strips and other conservation practices on private lands. This project is being completed with assistance from the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. The conservation measures will address bacteria impairment within the Lower Mississippi River and the project will run from 2010 to 2013.

Vermillion River Watershed

Inventory and Assessment the Dakota County SWCD is creating an inventory and assessing erosion control, filter strip, and wetland restoration opportunities on private lands within the Vermillion River Watershed. This effort is being done in cooperation with the VRWJPO. The SWCD provides outreach to landowners and serves as their point of contact to identifying acceptable conservation practices and cost share opportunities.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Kevin Chamberlain | PR&I | (651) 437-9135 | 9620 132nd St E, Hastings, MN 55033 |
| Scott Norstad | Secretary | (952) 431-3081 | 6815 135th Street West, Apple Valley, MN 55124 |
| Scott Holm | Chair | (651) 688-2407 | 3745 Drexel Court, Eagan, MN 55123 |
| Joseph Meyers | Treasurer | (651) 437-1746 | 11502 240th St, Hampton, MN 55031 |
| Chris Nielsen | Vice-Chair | (651) 463-7116 | 25756 Galaxie Ave W, Farmington, MN 55024 |

Dodge

Soil and Water Conservation District

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

www.dodgeswcd.org

*SWCD Meeting: 3rd Thursday of the Month:
7:15 pm, April-Oct and 1:15 pm, Nov-March*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil Erosion
2. Non-Point Source Pollution
3. Water Quality
4. Grazing Systems
5. Forest Management

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| Total | \$210,979 |
|-------|-----------|

Recent Projects

Regular State Cost-share contracts which have been implemented in Dodge County from 2007-2009 include: 13 grassed waterways and 2 well sealing's for a total of \$35,365.

SE Flood Relief Cost-share contracts which have been implemented in Dodge County from 2007-2009 include: 3 streambank restorations, 3 lined waterway outlets and 1 grassed waterway for a total of \$83,775.

SE Flood RIM Easement: 1 Wetland Restoration easement was enrolled for a total of 13.9 acres.

Native Grass and Forbs Planting – Partnered with local DNR wildlife specialist and planted a native grass and forbs demonstration plot at the local USDA Service Center.

County Drainage Systems – Assisted Dodge County in the re-determination of benefits for their county drainage ditch and tile systems. Two systems were completed in 2009. Two other systems are in the re-determination progress for 2010. The Dodge SWCD has been designated the county's county ditch and tile inspector.



SE Flood Relief Cost-share Funds were used for this Streambank Stabilization Project near the sewage treatment plant for the City of West Concord West.



This Woodchip Bioreactor was installed in the fall of 2007. The District has collected 27 samples from the bioreactor between November 2007 and August 2009. The average nitrate concentration before the bioreactor was 18.6 ppm and 8.8 ppm after the bioreactor. MDA is also sampling for nitrites, ammonia, pH, Ortho-P, E.Coli and fecal coliform.

Future Projects

Small Feedlot Fixes

The Dodge SWCD has entered into a contribution agreement with Dodge County to assist with the implementation of the “Open Lot Agreement” provision of the State Feedlot Rules. Seventy-one (71) open lot agreements were signed into. Twenty – nine of these feedlots have been brought into compliance. SWCD staff will provide technical assistance for small feedlot fixes on the remaining 42 feedlots to bring them into State compliance by December 31, 2010. Cost-share funding has been secured for several of these projects from the “Clean Water Fund”.

Board Members

| | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Larry Scherger | Chairman | (507) 374-2170 |
| Darrel Faulkner | Vice Chair | (507) 527-2537 |
| Glenn Hahn | Treasurer | (507) 365-8608 |
| David Livingston | Secretary | (507) 374-6876 |
| Muriel French | PR&I | (507) 635-5619 |

| |
|---|
| 63209 165th Ave, Dodge Center, MN 55927 |
| 18339 County Hwy 24, West Concord, MN 55985 |
| 24402 Dodge Mower Rd, Sargeant, MN 55973 |
| 67432 State Hwy 56, Dodge Center, MN 55927 |
| 56330 State Hwy 57, Dodge Center, MN 55927 |

Douglas

Soil and Water Conservation District

900 Robert St Ste 102
Alexandria, MN 56308
PHONE: (320) 763-3191 ext. 3
FAX: (320) 762-5502

www.douglasswcd.com

*SWCD Meeting: 2nd Monday @ 8 p.m. April-
Oct; 3 p.m. Nov.-March*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Development Pressure and Land use
2. Natural Habitat Destruction
3. Waste and Storm water Management
4. Water Quality
5. Reducing cropland erosion on Highly Erodible Land in Watersheds with TMDL Plans

2008 Revenue

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental Revenue | \$291,923 |
| Charges for Services Revenue | \$ 99,540 |
| Investment Earnings | \$ 5,626 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | \$ 753 |
| Total | \$397,842 |

Complete financial statement and notes can be found on the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation Districts website at douglasswcd.com

Recent Projects

Wetland restoration completed through the Reinvest in Minnesota/Wetland Reserve Program (RIM/WRP) Program. Six RIM/WRP easements were funded in Douglas County last year, restoring nearly 60 plus acres of wetlands and 200 plus acres of native grasses.



Wildlife tree planting in Douglas County. In 2008 over 2300 trees and shrubs covering 7.9 acres were planted for wildlife. In 2008 over 40,000 trees and shrubs were sold to over 300 Douglas County residents to benefit wildlife and water quality.



Before and after picture of rain garden completed near Lake Geneva. Cost-share provided through a cooperative grant with Minnesota Waters, Conservation Partnership grants program.



Before and after picture of a Lakescaping Project on Lake Mary. Cost-share provided through a cooperative grant with Long Prairie Watershed group.



Future Projects

The Douglas County Local Water Plan was updated and approved in 2009. This document lays out many water quality projects to be completed over the next 10 years. Projects include wetland restorations, stream bank and lake shore erosion projects, storm water improvement projects, and education programs. A complete copy of the Douglas County Water Plan can be found on the Douglas SWCD website at douglasswcd.com. With the passing of the outdoor heritage amendment three large lakeshore gullies are being proposed to be fixed in the next two years. One other project to be completed is to fence out cattle on three different lakes. Local Lake Assn. will partner on these projects.

Board Members

| | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Gerhard Thoennes | Chair | (320) 763-4811 |
| Paul Barsness | Vice Chair | (320) 834-4680 |
| Doug Rutten | Treasurer | (320) 859-4406 |
| John Schneider | Secretary | (320) 759-1564 |
| Dave Wolf | Member | (320) 834-3999 |

856 E Lake Cowdry Road NW, Alexandria, MN 56308
18579 Co. Rd. 8 NW, Brandon, MN 56315
2901 Ottetail Trail NE, Osakis, MN 56360
311 E Lake Geneva Rd NE, Alexandria, MN 56308
10761 Big Chippewa Rd NW, Brandon, MN 56315

Faribault

Soil and Water Conservation District

415 S Grove St Ste 8
Blue Earth, MN 56013
PHONE: (507) 526-2388
FAX: (507) 526-2508

www.faribaultcountyswcd.com

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Monday of Month
at 8:30 am*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns — From County Comprehensive Water Plan

1. Water quality concerns (surface, ground, wastewater, non point source pollution)
2. Stormwater management including 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. Agriculture concerns (animal agriculture, manure and nutrient management)

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Local | \$ 6,487 |
| County | \$105,392 |
| State | \$173,837 |
| Federal | \$ 9,555 |
| Charges for Services | \$ 29,823 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 15,911 |
| Total | \$341,005 |

Recent Projects / Accomplishments

Rain Barrel Program - A

rain barrel truckload sale in August was a huge success. Altogether, a total of 125 barrels were distributed throughout the county. Rain barrels sold included 55 gallon recycled oak (wine) and 55 gallon plastic barrels, with or without hardware kits.

Rain barrels store rooftop runoff to be used later for watering lawns and gardens. Connected to your downspout they are a great way to keep stormwater out of the storm sewer and cut down on your water bill! They are an effective and inexpensive way to be green!



Drainage Records Modernization – In 2009 Faribault County received a BWSR Drainage Records Modernization Challenge Grant. The grant includes three phases: historic documentation and records preservation, GIS data development, and drainage records accessibility.

With GIS data development currently underway, the county has begun to provide greater access to drainage data through the creation of an interactive web GIS map. The interactive map supports map navigation, searching, querying, printing, markup tools, and buffering.

With the completion of this project in 2010, Faribault County will have one central location for all drainage documents and information to be updated and accessed, benefitting all stakeholders involved and improving local drainage and land use decision making.

Urban Outreach/Stormwater Project – This position, established in 2007, has worked closely with the small, non-MS4 communities in the county on stormwater management assessments and mitigation. An extensive education and outreach campaign is underway, with the creation of the *Stormwater Connections* newsletter for elected officials, multiple workshops for homeowners, contractors and municipal staff and personalized assessment interviews. The establishment of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) began with the installation of one community and seven residential rain gardens, as well as the rain barrel program. Future projects include bioretention basins, two additional community rain gardens, a community park pervious paver demonstration and low-impact design for road reconstructions in two communities.



GBERBA Joint Powers Partnership – Faribault County is a member of the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA). In 2009, this watershed based organization secured \$15,000.00 for implementation of urban and agricultural BMP's, and technical

assistance for Faribault County. An additional \$3,000.00 was awarded for professional development. GBERBA continues to apply for grant funds that will enhance local watershed efforts.



Future Projects

East Branch Blue Earth River Watershed Approach - Faribault County SWCD received grant funding through the Clean Water Partnership program to utilize a systematic approach to identify principal sources of sediment contributions and work towards coordination and implementation of critical BMPs, demonstration sites, education and outreach efforts to determine sources and to identify the mechanism by which the sediment is eroded and introduced into the surface water system. This project will focus on selected drainage watersheds within the East Fork of the Blue Earth River. It will be a cooperative effort between the SWCD, county, and landowners.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Larry Wigern | Chair | (507) 294-3864 | 2958 570th Ave, Kiester, MN 56051 |
| Bill Anderson | Secretary | (507) 787-2394 | 46722 220th St, Delavan, MN 56023 |
| Neal Mensing | Member | (507) 526-3552 | 14136 365th Ave, Blue Earth, MN 56013 |
| Jean Millman | Vice Chair | (507) 526-7172 | 13882 390th Ave, Blue Earth, MN 56013 |
| Milton Steele | Treasurer | (507) 526-2454 | 4940 360th Ave, Blue Earth, MN 56013 |

Fillmore

Soil and Water Conservation District

900 Washington St NW
Preston, MN 55965
PHONE: (507) 765-3878, ext. 3
FAX: (507) 765-4415

www.fillmoreswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meetings: Thursday after the 2nd
Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. at the USDA Service
Center*



Top 6 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil erosion and runoff control
2. Human sewage treatment
3. Sinkholes and karst topography
4. Fertilizer and pesticide use
5. Feedlots and manure management
6. Drinking water protection

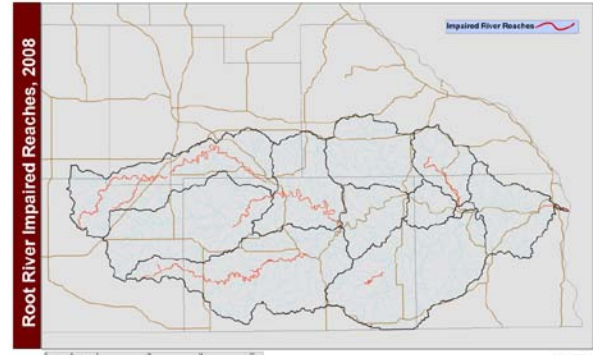
2008 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Local grants | \$ 258,336 |
| State grants | \$536,043 |
| Charges for services | \$ 48,024 |
| Miscellaneous revenue | \$47,411 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$889,814</u> |

Note: About half of the revenues are from BWSR Flood Relief Grants and Feedlot Water Quality Grants. The SWCD is responsible for the tracking and reporting of more than 20 grants ranging from \$5000 to \$300,000 plus CREP and RIM contracts and the Ag BMP Low-Interest Loan program.

The Ag BMP Loan Program distributed over \$537,000 in 2008 through 26 loans to upgrade existing septic systems, 6 loans for feedlot fixes, and 1 loan for manure handling equipment. Fillmore

SWCD ranks fifth in the state with \$3.69 million in loans issued since the program began.



Root River Turbidity TMDL

Fillmore SWCD is the lead agency for the Root River Turbidity TMDL, which began in 2008. The three-year project is focused on monitoring and assessment to calculate the sediment load and allocate sources of sediment in the river's impaired reaches, which are shown on the map above. Monitoring stations are established at 12 locations in the watershed where stage and turbidity are measured continually from March to October. About 25 rounds of grab samples are collected each year from March to October at those sites. The implementation plan will be completed in 2011 which will include strategies for reducing sediment from the sources identified.

Grazing Management

A Grazing Lands Management Specialist hired for the Root River Watershed in 2007 is housed in the Fillmore SWCD office with funding provided by Clean Water Legacy Grants awarded in 2007 and 2009. Over 60 new grazing management plans have been completed for approximately 4000 acres. Another 5-10 plans are in progress. There are 33 plans being implemented in the watershed on over 3300 acres using EQIP and state cost-share funds. Technical assistance is provided to producers to implement grazing practices and to help them get cost share funding. A MDA Sustainable Ag Grant is evaluating the use of cover crops and fall grazing of hay to extend the grazing season.

Nutrient Management



Fillmore SWCD houses one of two Nutrient Management Specialists hired through Clean Water Legacy grants awarded in 2007 and 2009 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 utilizing livestock manure along with commercial fertilizer in the most efficient manner. Producers getting EQIP funding receive plans that meet NRCS standards. The plans also meet MPCA and county feedlot program requirements. There are 84 plans completed, updated, or in progress covering 32,149 acres in five counties.

Fillmore SWCD Cover Crop Program



The SWCD cost-shared aerial seeding of winter rye as a cover crop on 147.8 acres in 2008 at a cost to the District of \$2,956. This picture shows a corn silage field 34 days after seeding.

Payments to Landowners in 2008

\$ 267,619 State Cost-Share

6 Waterways, 1 Terrace, 5 Windbreaks,
1 Sediment Basin, 1 Well Sealing, 7
Feedlots

\$ 4,000 SE MN Technical JPB Cost-Share

1 midsize feedlot fix

\$ 3,311 Hiawatha Valley RC&D Cost-Share

2 small feedlot fixes

\$ 10,220 Grazing Management Cost-Share

2 projects: Fencing, watering systems, etc.

\$ 125,167 CREP Easements

13 contracts on 128.1 acres

\$ 298,701 Flood Relief

\$ 70,055 BWSR and DNR Cost-Share

\$ 228,646 RIM Easements and C/S

(6 easements/74.6 acres)

Almost \$2 MILLION in federal NRCS funds went to Fillmore County landowners in 2008 because of the cooperative efforts between the SWCD and NRCS. The SWCD provides free technical assistance for the implementation of federal projects.

Future Projects

The Fillmore SWCD is a partner with MDA on a project to evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs in three small (3000 to 5000-acre) watersheds in the Root River to begin in 2010. The funding to the SWCD will support two part-time employees. One will work one-on-one with farmers, and the other will do water quality monitoring. The farmers will evaluate their farming practices with the phosphorus index, soil conditioning index, basal stalk nitrogen tests, and other evaluation methods.

The Root River TMDL Implementation Plan will be completed in 2011. Along with the completion and implementation of the plan will come more funding opportunities to address soil erosion in the watershed.

Board Members

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| Tim Gossman | Chair | (507) 867-3129 |
| Brian Hazel | Vice Chair | (507) 467-3470 |
| Travis Willford | Secretary | (507) 886-6891 |
| Pamela Mensink | Treasurer | (507) 765-3384 |
| Leonard Leutink Jr. | Supervisor | (507) 273-3855 |

31924 Ninebark Rd, Chatfield, MN 55923
27919 State Hwy 250, Lanesboro, MN 55949
33568 County 30, Harmony, MN 55939
23852 County 14, Preston, MN 55965
617 North Broadway, Lot #4, Spring Valley, MN 55975

Freeborn

Soil and Water Conservation District

1400 W Main St
Albert Lea, MN 56007
PHONE: (507) 373-5607
FAX: (507) 373-7654

www.freebornswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Thursday of
Month: 1:30 pm, Dec.-April and 7:30 pm, May-
Nov.*



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental | \$195,601 |
| Charges for Services | \$ 23,590 |
| Interest | \$ 3,524 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 205 |
| Total | \$222,920 |

2008 Expenses

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Conservation | \$224,940 |
| Capital Outlay | \$ 0 |
| Total | \$224,940 |



*Driving steel sections of a Sheet Pile Structure.
Backhoe on right, Steel I beam on ground, string for*

Recent Projects

Construction started this year on a large CREP II Wetland Restoration Project. Five landowners enrolled over 300 contiguous acres in a group project near Clarks Grove, MN. Numerous tile blocks and tile re-routes were completed to restore the hydrology to the hydric soils in the area. An open ditch re-route was constructed and a large "Sheet Pile" steel structure was installed to maintain a minimum water level in one of the wetland pools created. All of this was the first phase of the planned project.



Cutting and shaping top for cap installation.

The main event will be next year (Phase II) when a large concrete drop spillway structure controlling a 2000 acre watershed will be built. This project will have significant benefits for wildlife and waterfowl, water quality improvement, sediment yield reduction to a county ditch and some flood control benefits for the City of Hollandale, located downstream a short distance away.



Finished Product with paint applied.

A large “Side Inlet Pipe” structure is being installed in this picture below to provide a safe transition for surface water from field level down to the bottom of the open ditch. Previously the water from almost 400 acres was running over the edge of the ditch bank causing serious bank erosion. This resulted in sediment deposit in the ditch system and degradation of water quality. Since channel erosion in ditches, streams and rivers is now being recognized as a major sediment source for turbidity in our larger water bodies, installation of relatively small scale structures like this is a benefit to the overall system.



Pipe assembled and ready for backfilling.

Future Projects

Our SWCD is involved in two pending grant applications as part of our participation with the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA). One is a Clean Water Legacy Act, Conservation Drainage Application for the Cobb River Ditch System. This watershed and ditch system originates in Freeborn County. The application seeks funding to conduct a Resource Assessment and develop a 5 – year Implementation Plan to reduce the sediment yield from this drainage system. The Cobb and LeSueur Rivers have been identified as being extraordinarily high sediment contributors to the Minnesota River. The other pending application is for a MN Department of Ag, Emerald Ash Borer Planning and Preparedness Grant. One of our small cities with a high percentage of existing Ash Trees will participate in this program if funding is approved.

We still have five CREP Wetland Restoration Projects that will be constructed in 2010. We received engineering plans for most of these a few weeks ago from the BWSR Engineering Staff. However, because local contractors were busy finishing projects they had committed to earlier, bids for these CREP Projects were slow in coming in.

Our county has had a very popular RIM/WRP signup. We have 17 easements that are in the process of being finalized and another 11 that have restoration work to be done. These easements will add another 1500 acres of wetland and associated benefits to Freeborn County.

In addition to the above items, we'll continue working with our local partners applying conservation practices designed to control erosion, enrolling RIM/WRP Wetland Restoration Easements and helping landowners participate in various other conservation programs.

Because funding for SWCD's is becoming more of a challenge each year, we need to strengthen our relationships with local legislators, involve ourselves more with local government officials, and continue to develop and maintain good working relationships with our conservation partners.

Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Donald Kropp | Chair | (507) 373-1925 | 2005 Tower Rd, Albert Lea, MN 56007 |
| Cole Pectorious | Vice Chair | (507) 373-6758 | 20770 707th Ave, Albert Lea, MN 56007 |
| David Ausen | Treasurer | (507) 863-2165 | 69128 260th St, Alden, MN 56009 |
| Christopher Dahl | Secretary | (507) 826-3463 | 27296 730th Ave, Albert Lea, MN 56007 |
| Roger M. Nelson | Member | (507) 373-6357 | 79184 180th St, Albert Lea, MN 56007 |

Goodhue

Soil and Water Conservation District

104 E 3rd Ave PO Box 335
Goodhue, MN 55027
PHONE: (651) 923-5300
FAX: (651) 923-5304

www.goodhueswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 4th Monday of Month at
9:30 am - Dec.-Mar. or 7:30 pm - Apr.-Nov*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Erosion & Sediment Control
2. Reducing Runoff from Animal Feedlots
3. Nutrient Management
4. Land Use
5. Flooding

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| County Revenue | \$435,015.00 |
| Local Revenue | \$28,792.17 |
| State Revenue | \$169,001.66 |
| Charges for Services | \$46,849.13 |
| Misc. Revenue | \$40,493.19 |
| Total | \$720,151 |

Recent Projects

Pilot Program: Hayable Stream Buffers



Grass Waterway



Recent projects (continued)

Contour Strip Cropping



Stream Buffer coordinated with CRP



Future Projects

Streambank Buffer Promotion

Feedlot Runoff Control

Minneola Township Erosion / Flood Reduction Structures

Grassed Waterways

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Donald Banks | Treasurer | (507) 263-5540 | 1310 N 6th St, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 |
| John Jaeger | Vice Chair | (651) 388-3977 | 33203 Co 2 Blvd, Red Wing, MN 55066 |
| Ed McNamara | Chair | (651) 923-4777 | 37299 171st Ave, Goodhue, MN 55027 |
| Larry Thomforde | Secretary | (507) 732-7074 | 7468 Sugarloaf Pwy, Zumbrota, MN 55992 |
| Paul Voxland | Reporter | (507) 789-7238 | 43625 County 30 Blvd, Kenyon, MN 55946 |

Grant

Soil and Water Conservation District

712 Industrial Park Blvd
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
PHONE: (218) 685-5395
FAX: (218) 685-5343

www.grantswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Fourth Thursday of
Month at 9:00 am*



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
5. Improving Wildlife Habitat

2008 Revenue Categories

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental Revenue | \$193,527 |
| Charges for Services | \$ 31,379 |
| Investment Earnings | \$ 4,921 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | \$ 19,469 |
| Total | \$249,296 |

Recent Projects:



Grant County's Buffer Initiative

Grant SWCD 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. 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 SWCD 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 for the protection and improvement of surface water quality in Grant County. The Grant SWCD continues to pursue and renew Buffer Strips through the Farm Bill Assistance Grant.

Grant County Working Lands Initiative



Grant SWCD acting as the Project team leader in a partnership of State, Federal, and Local agencies, to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and reduce downstream flooding by targeting two lakesheds for accelerated Best Management Practice implementation.

The Stony Lake/ Ash Lake lakeshed is located in Stonybrook and Lawrence Townships. These shallow lakes have a long history of waterfowl use and Ash Lake is a DNR designated waterfowl lake with a water level control structure in place.

Land use in the 14 square mile lake shed is predominantly cash grain agriculture.

The Kube/Swift lakeshed target area is located in Lawrence Township, and directly downstream of Upper Lightning lake. DNR and Ducks Unlimited have developed plans for a water level control structure and lake management plans as part of the Upper

Lightning lake project and on Denton slough. Land use in the 7.5 square mile lake shed is primarily cash grain agriculture. Many of the original wetlands have been drained for agricultural purposes within both of these lakeshed areas.

Long-term goals for the target areas include Improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and reduce flood damages by carrying out water level management activities on selected shallow lakes and implementing BMP's 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 habitats. To date this project has resulted in converting over 1000 acres of cash grain cropland into grasslands and wetlands within the Kube/Swift, and Stony/Ash lake target areas.

Future Projects:

Pomme De Terre River Turbidity TMDL Implementation Plan

The Grant SWCD is working with other SWCD's and Counties within the Pomme De Terre River watershed area to develop and implement a protection and restoration strategy to reduce the turbidity in the Pomme De Terre River. When this plan is completed the Grant SWCD will be actively promoting and implementing the BMP's outlined within the TMDL implementation plan.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Randy Larson | Chair | (320) 677-2763 | 27507 State Hwy 27, Herman, MN 56248 |
| Paul Groneberg | Vice Chair | (320) 986-2347 | 14727 130 th Street, Hoffman, MN 56339 |
| Odell Christenson | Treasurer | (218) 458-2267 | 24389 270 th Ave, Wendell, MN 56590 |
| Theo Myron | Personnel Director | (218) 589-8546 | 32869 230 th Ave, Elbow Lake, MN 56531 |
| Mike Anderson | Member | (320) 986-2451 | 18853 CR 5, Barrett, MN 56311 |

Hennepin

Conservation District

417 N Fifth St Ste 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1397
PHONE: (612) 348-9938

www.hcd.hennepin.mn.us

HCD Board Meeting: Third Monday of month at 7 p.m.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

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

2009 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Easement Services | \$2,180 |
| General Services Base Grant | \$27,623 |
| State Cost Share Base Grant | \$12,040 |
| DNR Obwell | \$1,350 |
| Total | \$43,193 |

Recent Projects

In 2007 HCD entered into a cost-share contract to install a rain garden in a Minneapolis neighborhood. This project was completed in 2009. The rain garden was installed in the backyard of a housing development and much of the planting was done by volunteers. Rain gardens are especially important in areas that have a lot of impervious surfaces, such as pavement. Rain gardens help to catch rain water and infiltrate it through the ground rather than having the water flow directly into the sewer system. Rain gardens help to reduce contaminants in rain water because the process of infiltration removes some of these contaminants. Rain gardens also help to reduce flooding after heavy rains by capturing some of the water that would otherwise flow directly into the sewer.



Rain garden installed in Minneapolis, August 2009.

Future Projects

HCD has plans to work with several cities in 2010 to utilize the state cost share funds.

HCD has quarterly conservation forums on various topics and plans to continue the forums in 2010.

Board Members

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Kim Boyce | Chair | (763) 521-0036 |
| Stephen Jenkins | Treasurer | (952) 941-4842 |
| James Wisker | Secretary | (763) 657-0634 |
| Jeffrey Beck | Public Relations | (952) 428-8440 |
| Vacant | | |

Hubbard

Soil and Water Conservation District

212 1/2 2nd St W
Park Rapids MN 56470
PHONE: (218) 732-0121

www.hubbardswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Second Tuesday of
Month at 8:00 a.m. March-October, 8:30 a.m.
November-February*



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| County Revenue | 72,979 |
| State Revenue | 46,011 |
| Local Revenue | 13,710 |
| Charges for Services | 20,788 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | 6,493 |
| Total | \$159,981 |

Recent Projects



Pictured: The fifth annual River Clean-up Day was held on August 16, 2009 to collect debris from a portion of the Fish Hook River.



Pictured above: The Freshwater Festival is an annual event for 6th grade students in Hubbard County.



Pictured: Cost-share projects have included several lakeshore protection projects in the county.

Healthy Lakes and Rivers Initiative: This on-going project began as a cooperative effort with the Wadena SWCD and University of Minnesota in 2004. In 2005 this program was continued by partnering with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. Several lake associations in Hubbard County have completed management plans and have received grants for plan implementation.

Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG): Eleven lakes were part of the SWAG funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency under a Citizens' lake Monitoring grant. Water samples were collected by SWCD staff and lake resident volunteers for secchi transparency, chlorophyll-a and total phosphorus.

Forest Management for Wildlife Workshop: Held in May, 2008, the District partnered with the Giziibii RC&D to conduct this seminar for landowners. Six agencies presented about their role in assisting landowners meet their management objectives. Over 30 private landowners attended.



Future Projects

The district has partnered with the Northwest Foundation on a new round of the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program. The new round will begin spring of 2010 and will result in the development of lake management plans for 6 lakes in Hubbard County. Each lake will receive funding to address at least one of the priority concerns listed in their plan through the program.

The district will be working with the MPCA to complete their Intensive Watershed Monitoring Program in the Crow Wing River Watershed in 2010 and 2011.

A 2010-2011 Surface Water Assessment grant was approved and will begin in June.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Donald Sells | Chair | (218) 732-5910 | 13672 Co 18, Park Rapids, MN 56470 |
| Carol Berg | Secretary | (218) 224-2127 | 29394 - 450th St, Laporte, MN 56461 |
| Lynden Nelson | Member | (218) 732-1921 | 9962 Knotty Pine Dr, Park Rapids, MN 56470 |
| Doug Ralston | Treasurer | (218) 732-0485 | 25628 Aspen Dr, Menahga MN 56464 |
| Don Rettinger | Vice Chair | (218) 854-7306 | 49537 Co 3, Bemidji, MN 56601 |

Isanti

Soil and Water Conservation District

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

www.isantiswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Third Tuesday of
Month at 8:00 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Wind and water erosion control
2. Wetland protection and restoration
3. Wildlife habitat improvement
4. Promotion of public education on conservation practices
5. Restoring water quality on impaired waters

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| County Revenue | \$50,000 |
| State Revenue | \$48,477 |
| Charges for services | \$190,195 |
| Pheasants Forever | \$21,106 |
| Total | \$309,778 |

Recent Projects



1: Before



2: After

In the fall of 2009 a riverbank stabilization project was completed along a bend in the Rum River. Rock barbs were installed along the 1,100 ft bend to divert the main flow of water away from the rapidly eroding riverbank. Also, evergreen trees were anchored to the bank above the rock barbs for added protection. Project implementation took advantage of state cost share as well as numerous other funding sources including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a local landowner. The barbs and trees are functioning as expected to protect a stretch of one of Minnesota's Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Recent projects (continued)

The SWCD uses its tractor, no-till drill, and tree planter to provide conservation services to landowners throughout the county. The availability of these services allows landowners to be more open to the idea of reduced tillage and soil protection. In 2009 the District planted 1,252 acres of no-till soybeans, and 600 acres of native prairie and pasture seeding.



3. District employees plant trees for wildlife

Future Projects

1. Establish and maintain native prairie in Anderson County Park
2. No-till seeding
3. Tree planting
4. Native prairie seeding

Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Wayne Calander | Chair | (763) 689-4771 | 4019 311th Ave NE, Cambridge, MN 55008 |
| Ryan Carpenter | PR | (763) 444-6142 | 2591 261st Avenue NW, Isanti, MN 55040 |
| Brian Devries | Vice Chair | (763) 689-8675 | 5693 399th Trail NE, Cambridge, MN 55017 |
| Al Koczur | Treasurer | (763) 689-4993 | 1255 S Adams St, Cambridge, MN 55008 |
| Raymond Marsh | Secretary | (763) 444-5461 | 4690 285th Ave NE, Isanti, MN 55040 |

Itasca

Soil and Water Conservation District



1889 E Hwy 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
PHONE: (218) 326-0017
FAX: (218) 326-8938

www.itascaswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: First Tuesday at 9 a.m.
- call for confirmation of day and time*

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality
2. Forest Stewardship/ Implementation
3. Native Buffers
4. Erosion Control
5. Environmental Education

2009 Revenue

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| Total | <u>\$492,572</u> |
|-------|------------------|

Recent Projects



Recent projects (continued)



Future Projects

We have several Surface Water Assessment Grants that we are gathering data for, including 47 lakes and 5 stream sites.

Native plant, shrub and tree sale expansion.

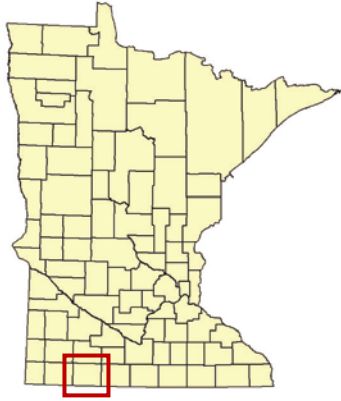
Forest Stewardship and Conservation plan writing.

Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Charles Isaacs | Chair | (218) 246-8119 | 38180 Co Rd 44, Deer River, MN 56636 |
| Darrel Lauber | Member | (218) 326-5791 | 32340 LaPlant Rd, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 |
| Ted Lovdahl, Jr. | Vice Chair | (218) 743-3686 | 34486 Co Rd 40, Effie, MN 56639 |
| Donald Simons | Treasurer | (218) 326-2184 | 12506 River Rd, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 |
| Terry Tillotson | Secretary | (218) 885-1451 | 15042 Co Rd 564, Nashwauk, MN 55769 |

Jackson County

Soil and Water Conservation District



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

www.co.jackson.mn.us
(see "Departments" and "Jackson County Soil
and Water Conservation District")

*SWCD Board Meeting: 3rd Monday of Month,
Nov - March 1 pm, April - Oct 7:30 pm*

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reduce Soil Erosion
2. Improve Surface Water Quality
3. Reduction of Flooding Impacts
4. Protection and Restoration of Wetlands
5. Riparian Buffers

2008 Revenue

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| County | \$101,166 |
| State | \$94,104 |
| Federal | \$1,000 |
| Other | \$10,365 |
| Charges for Service | \$16,118 |
| Total | \$222,775 |

Recent Projects

CREP II Wetland Restorations-

In the summer of 2009 alone, 146.8 acres of wetland were restored. These wetlands and their associated uplands, many of which are within an Impaired Watershed, will provide not only benefits to wildlife, but water quality and quantity benefits forever. The total acres enrolled in CREP II in Jackson County were 766.5 acres.



Working Lands Initiative-

In partnership with the MN DNR we have promoted the Working Lands Initiative concept to Jackson County landowners. Our Phase I and II grants have been very successful with many quality projects already implemented in the field. To date \$184,664 dollars have been spent, in partnership with \$1,247,766 additional partner dollars. These dollars have benefited 437.2 acres in the WLI Focus Areas. The targeted acres have been wetland restorations and riparian buffers.

Recent projects (continued)

Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG)-

Two years of water quality data have been collected in partnership with MPCA for the Little Sioux River Watershed in the southwestern part of Jackson County. Samples have been collected in four sub watersheds of the Little Sioux River.



Future Projects

RIM-WRP Partnership-

The Jackson SWCD has made the RIM-WRP partnership a priority since the Phase I application period began in June 2008. We had one application for 57.2 acres funded. The Phase II signup resulted in 4 funded projects on 180.2 acres. These applications are currently being processed with hopes of beginning the restoration work in the fall of 2010.

RIM Buffers-

Great emphasis will be put on this new continuous signup program. Enrollment of these critical areas from the Clean Water Fund for RIM Buffers program will be a high priority for the future.

Working Lands Initiative-

Through preliminary GIS work, it has been well documented that we are short on grassland acres. This is also reflective of the remainder of Jackson County. The phase III WLI grant will again focus on establishing grasslands on the landscape, with an emphasis on harvestable buffers for livestock.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Dan Riley | Chair | (507) 945-8910 | 33762 760 St, Round Lake, MN 56167 |
| Dennis Daberkow | Vice Chair | (507) 662-5320 | 44331 860 St, Lakefield, MN 56150 |
| Larry Hansen | Member | (507) 847-2617 | 87247 - 520th Ave, Jackson, MN 56143 |
| David Hussong | Treasurer | (507) 853-4660 | 84926 380th Ave, Okabena, MN 56161 |
| Paul Nelson | Secretary | (507) 847-3203 | 71202 Petersburg Road, Jackson, MN 56143 |

Kanabec

Soil and Water Conservation District

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

www.kanabeccounty.org
(see Kanabec Soil and Water)

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Tuesday at 4:30
p.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protecting and maintaining surface and groundwater quality and quantity near lakes, streams and wetlands.
2. Impaired waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) for lakes and streams within the sub - watersheds.
3. Reduce levels of sedimentation, nutrient and bacteria deposition, to surface and ground waters.
4. Native plant vegetation management and invasive species control.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$160,640</u> |
|--------------|------------------|

Recent Projects

Ann Lake Sediment basin and roadside runoff / erosion control



Cropland tile intake / sediment basin and runoff control near Spring Brook



Future Projects

319 Groundhouse River - TMDL
Implementation Grant approval - 2009

Ann River TMDL study completion - 2009 and
2010

Cooperate with Snake River Watershed -
TMDL study beginning in 2010

Cooperate with Snake River Watershed -
Clean Water Partnership (CWP)
Implementation grant in 2009 and 2010.

Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Wayne Anderson | Secretary/Treasurer | (320) 679-4338 | 3386 Hwy 65, Mora, MN 55051 |
| Kevin Belkholm | Member | (320) 679-2491 | 1438 Melody St, Braham, MN 55006 |
| Tom Demarais | Vice-Chair | (320) 679-1276 | 212 N Wood St, Mora, MN 55051 |
| Paul Hoppe | Chair | (320) 272-0033 | 1012 230th Ave, Ogilvie, MN 56358 |
| Karen Longerbone | Member | (320) 679-0040 | 2328 250th Ave, Mora, MN 55051 |

Kandiyohi

Soil and Water Conservation District

1005 High Ave NE
Willmar, MN 56201-2667
PHONE: (320) 235-3906
FAX: (320) 235-8751

www.co.kandiyohi.mn.us/swcd

*SWCD Board Meeting: 3rd Tuesday of Month;
May-Sept at 9:00 am, Oct-April at 10:00 am*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| County | \$137,600 |
| Federal | \$ 6,420 |
| State | \$190,735 |
| Charges for Services | \$118,237 |
| Interest | \$ 9,160 |
| Other | \$ 3,046 |
| Total | \$465,198 |

Recent Projects

RIM/WRP Easements

The Reinvest in Minnesota and Wetlands Reserve Program (RIM/WRP) partnership to establish conservation easements, restore wetlands, and restore prairie habitats has been very successful for Kandiyohi County. In 2008 and 2009, 27 perpetual conservation easements were purchased on 2,031 acres of private lands in Kandiyohi County. These conservation easement lands contain previously drained or altered wetlands that once restored will provide many important benefits such as water quality improvements, ground water recharge, flood reduction, as well as quality and rare wildlife habitat. Easement compensation payments to RIM/WRP participants in Kandiyohi County 2008-2009 totaled \$6,338,976.

Wetland Restorations

This last year we restored 19 wetlands on 12 tracts of land. Wetland restorations in Kandiyohi County have been a big part of our workload.

We work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to restore wetlands where feasible to improve water quality and improve wildlife habitat. This has been an on going practice that will only improve in years to come, with the continuing interest in CRP and the excellent RIM/WRP signup and contracts that are in the process. We have also worked on several wetland restoration projects with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

AG Waste Pit

Construction of a Concrete Ag waste pit for hog manure was completed this fall in cooperation with the NRCS office and cost sharing under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). This pit will hold the manure from two existing hog barns along with a third barn to be constructed some time in the future. A nutrient management plan is also a vital part of this practice. The plan makes sure that the fertilizer value of the manure is not applied to cropland above agronomic rates. It is very important to the future of livestock production in our county and state to make sure we protect and improve both ground water and surface water quality and Ag Waste Pits like this one help protect both.

Streambank, Shoreland & Roadside Protection

The goal of this project was to stabilize this high priority sites by reducing bank erosion and sediment transportation. The project required some stream re-alignment along with placing rock rip rap and bio-engineering stream stabilization techniques, along with reshaping the slope and reseeding it with natives and woody material. Within the stream channel itself we constructed several stream ripple areas offering habitat and flow reduction. This project will have a direct impact on water quality due to the decreases in total suspended solids (TSS), turbidity and dissolved oxygen (DO) during heavy rain events on the upstream. This project ties directly to the Kandiyohi County's local water plan and the Soil and Water Conservation District work plan in controlling sediment and nutrient transportation.

**Before****After****Future Projects**

Grass Lake Prairie Wetland Restoration The 1,200 acre drained shallow lakebed 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 water quality, providing upstream and downstream flood reduction, as well as restoring wildlife habitat benefits. The Kandiyohi SWCD, Kandiyohi County, City of Willmar and other project partners have agreed to cooperate to restore the drained lakebed. Just over 1,600 acres of land have been secured under permanent Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve easement to facilitate the Grass Lake Restoration. Restoration work could begin as soon as 2010.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Douglas Hanson | Chair | (320) 235-0938 | 1601 8th St SW, Willmar, MN 56201 |
| Kevin Clough | Treasurer | (320) 974-3085 | 11299 195th St SE, Lake Lillian, MN 56253 |
| Sherman Mankell | Vice Chair | (320) 354-2690 | 17197 County Rd 5 NW, New London, MN 56273 |
| Roger Rasmussen | Secretary | (320) 599-4461 | 6409 County Rd 1 NW, Pennock, MN 56279 |
| Terry Schaefer | PR&I | (320) 243-5022 | 28820 175th St NE, Paynesville, MN 56362 |

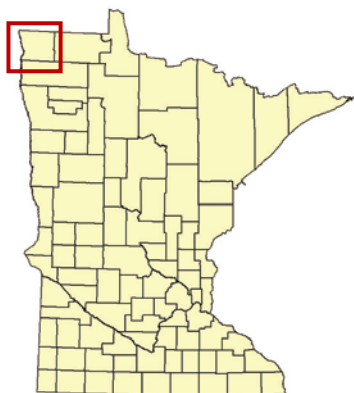
Kittson

Soil and Water Conservation District

410 S 5th St Ste 106
Hallock, MN 56728
PHONE: (218) 843-2619
FAX: (218) 843-2020

www.nwmnswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Second Thursday of
Month at 8 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reduce soil erosion from wind and water.
2. Maintain and improve water quality.
3. Flood Damage Reduction.
4. Educate the public on natural resources issue.
5. Promote wildlife habitat/management.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Wetland Conservation Act | \$18,737 |
| Planning/other local water management duties | \$41,770 |
| Programs and Operations | \$124,423 |
| Education/Outreach | \$3,000 |
| Cost Share/project construction, implementation and maintenance | \$10,000 |
| Total | \$197,930 |

Recent Projects

A streambank stabilization project on the South Branch Two Rivers was constructed on this DNR public watercourse in Percy Township. The site was unstable and hazardous to the local residents and their homes; the banks were a vertical drop ranging up to 30 feet. The banks were reshaped, mulched, seeded to grasses and some rock riprap was used to stabilize the side slopes. The contractor who completed the project was Glenn Anderson and the total project cost was \$32,357. Cost-Share funds were provided by Minnesota State Cost-Share money and the federally funded Environmental Quality Incentives Program.



Recent projects (continued)

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

The Local Water Management Plan for Kittson is in its fourth generation. The Kittson SWCD houses the LWP Coordinator and has been involved with the planning and implementation process since the first plan was adopted in 1990. Kittson SWCD staff and supervisors make up a portion of the Water Resources Advisory Committee. This 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 that are implemented throughout Kittson County.

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.

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.

Future Projects

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

The SWCD will provide Geographic Information Systems assistance to Kittson County. The SWCD will be creating and making available many useful layers to county departments and the public. Layers will include commissioner districts, SWCD supervisor districts, feedlot layer, gravel pit layer, sealed and unsealed well layer.

A streambank stabilization project in a nearby cemetery will be survey and designed in the near future.

Continue assistance/teamwork with the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) on their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) projects and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) projects.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| Scott Klein | Chair | (218) 843-2752 | 1946 - 200th St, Hallock, MN 56728-9423 |
| Greg Peterson | Vice Chair | (218) 762-7461 | 3471 - 270th Ave, Lancaster, MN 56735 |
| Ron Anderson | Public Relations | (218) 436-2164 | 1371 430th Ave, Karlstad, MN 56732 |
| Justin Dagen | Secretary | (218) 436-2156 | 1148 360th Ave, Karlstad, MN 56732 |
| Joe Wilebski | Treasurer | (218) 762-7251 | 3988 - 370th Ave, Lancaster, MN 56735-9686 |

Koochiching

Soil and Water Conservation District

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

www.koochichingswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 1st Monday at
6:30 p.m. Nov-Apr and 7:00 p.m. May-Oct;
Courthouse Basement*



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| County | \$110,234 |
| State | \$34,326 |
| Charges for Services | \$29,424 |
| Interest Earnings | \$5,769 |
| Miscellaneous | \$4,011 |
| Total | \$183,764 |

Recent Projects

Ivan Crawford Erosion Control Project:

The Ivan Crawford landing is a public water access that, as a result of frequent use, became unstable along the shoreline of Rainy River.

The Koochiching SWCD provided cost share assistance to address the erosion and sedimentation problem. This project utilized a combination of concrete blankets and rip rap, something that was new for us in this area. The results are shown below.



Before



After

Construction time: 3 days
Total Project cost: \$12,519

Living Snow Fence Initiative:

At the 2009 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District (MASWCD) State Convention, the Koochiching SWCD was recognized with an award for implementing a county-wide Living Snow Fence Initiative. This program, which was funded by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, provided landowners cost-share assistance to establish living snow fences along high-priority highways. Increased public safety, fewer plow trucks on the road, reduced shipping delays for goods & services, improved wildlife habitat, and decreased heating expenses for homeowners are just a few examples of the benefits these living snow fences provide. The lessons learned over the past few decades have provided the SWCD with a new plan that will protect roads from drifting snow and provide better public safety for all who travel throughout Koochiching County. A snow trap survey was completed for the county which identified stretches of highway that received increased snow drifting. Landowners were contacted through an outreach project and the response was incredible. In 2009, over six thousand feet was enrolled in the living snow fence initiative.

City Wetland Plan:

In 2009, the city of International Falls was provided with a grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to complete a city-wide comprehensive wetland protection and management plan. The ultimate goal of the plan was to maintain and improve the quality, quantity, and biological diversity of the wetland resources within city limits and also to provide for prioritization of existing wetlands and strategically select replacement sites. The plan, which involves input from local governments, BWSR, Army Corps of Engineers, and the public, was an important step for the city in its ultimate goal of sustainable economic development. The SWCD will continue to assist with the wetland inventory and assessment of existing wetlands. When completed, this plan will provide the local government with the resources it needs to stimulate economic development and at the same time, meet all of the requirements of the regulatory programs.

Future Projects:

White Cedar Preservation:

Currently, the SWCD is researching a wetland mitigation pilot project for Koochiching county that involves the preservation of white cedar in the county. Not only will this provide the county with wetland mitigation credits for future development, it will also provide for a sustainable future of our declining white cedar areas. SWCD staff, along with the county's forestry department, are working to locate areas that fit into both the county's wood harvest goals and the preservation program of our county wetland flexibility plan and ordinance.

Big Fork River Watershed Assessment:

For fiscal year 2010, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency plans to complete an Intensive Watershed Assessment on the Big Fork River Watershed. The SWCD has submitted a Surface Water Assessment Grant application to the MPCA to complete the inventory work within the watershed. This work involves the investigation of several parameters for water quality at selected points throughout the watershed. If approved, the SWCD will begin training with the Lake of the Woods SWCD staff to complete the inventory work.



Board Members

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Allen Linder | Chair | (218) 875-2195 | 3309 Hwy 217, Ray, MN 56669 |
| Ralph Lewis | Vice Chair | (218) 634-2048 | 10990 Hwy 11, Birchdale, MN 56629 |
| Wayne Meyers | Member | (218) 278-6730 | 4269 CO RD 79, Little Fork, MN 56653 |
| Bernie Uran | Treasurer | (218) 897-5586 | 11881 Hwy 71, Northome, MN 56661 |
| Eldon Voigt | Secretary | (218) 285-7870 | 2216 Crabtree BLVD, International Falls, MN 56649 |

Lac qui Parle

Soil and Water Conservation District

122 8th Ave S, Ste 1
Madison, MN 56256
PHONE: (320) 598-7321 x 3
FAX: (320) 598-3432

www.lacquiparleswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: First Thursday of
Month at 10:00 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reduce soil erosion
2. Protect and improve water quality
3. Establish/maintain quality conservation tree plantings
4. Promote wise stewardship of resources
5. Coordinate and partner to get the most out of financial resources to help landowners protect their natural resources

2008 Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| State Revenue | \$77,202 |
| Water Plan | \$21,991 |
| Wetland Conservation Act | \$5,000 |
| County Revenue | \$95,368 |
| Charges for Services | \$49,430 |
| Affiliate Program | \$1,200 |
| Miscellaneous | \$9,070 |
| Total | \$259,261 |

Recent Projects

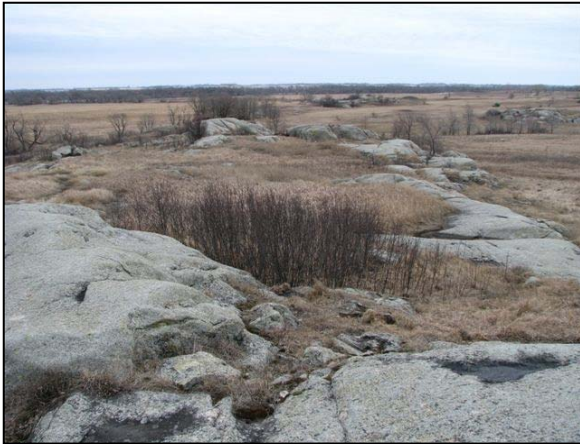


Clean Water Legacy Project

The LqP SWCD applied for a \$122,000 Clean Water Legacy grant, matched with various local funds, to stabilize a section of the Lac qui Parle riverbank. The river was eating toward the right-of-way on the west side of a county highway, adding tons of soil to Lac qui Parle Lake in the process. The SWCD coordinated the project which consisted of a combination of stream barbs, selective riprap, and bank re-sloping with reseeding of native grasses and some shrubs. The bank was protected with erosion control blanket held in place by willow stakes. Together they will do the job and maintain a natural appearance.

A severe windstorm....left tornado-like damage across a large swath of Lac qui Parle County July 30, 2008. Older farmstead windbreaks were especially hard hit. Trees left standing had many broken limbs, leaving them susceptible to insects and disease which may not allow them to survive long term. While many windbreaks were replaced with District assistance in 2009, a large workload remains.

Granite Rock Outcrops



By partnering with other SWCDs in the MN Minnesota River Valley, some very unique and endangered areas are about to be protected in Lac qui Parle County. Minnesota Valley Granite Outcrops that are among the oldest rock formations in the world, with their unique land forms and rare vegetation makes these rock formations worth protecting. These areas contain many rare and endangered species including many plant species, birds, and amphibians. The Legislative Citizens Committee on Minnesota Resources Grant, LCCMR, will help to protect over 75 acres of these fragile rock ecosystems with a permanent easement so that future generations may enjoy this beautiful, rare, and fragile blend of rocks, plant, and animal life.

Appearances can be deceiving... A system of 6 water and sediment control basins, 3 diversions, and 1 terrace were needed to control erosion on a field that appears fairly flat to the naked eye, saving more than 215 tons of soil per year.

Highlights of diverse education-outreach program include...

a weekly live radio program; booths at the LqP County Fair, farm/home show, and Parent Expo; classroom presentations on a variety of topics; photography contest; workshops for Girl Scout Day Camp, community tree planting project, junior high Service Learning, and an Early Childhood Project WILD workshop for 48 preschool teachers; parade entries; area education events such as the high school Envirothon and the SW MN Environmental Fair for 6th graders; and more.



Future Projects

The SWCD will continue to work closely with the Lac qui Parle YellowBank Watershed Clean Water Partnership providing technical and financial support implementing the Watershed's Clean Water Partnership grants, and promoting and installing conservation practices that will help achieve the TMDL.

LqP SWCD, Lincoln SWCD, and Yellow Medicine SWCD submitted a Clean Water Fund Water Quality Project application to reduce nitrogen, sediment, and phosphorus in the Lac qui Parle River using incentives and assistance in the application of selected BMPs.

Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Ed Radermacher | Chair | (320) 568-2110 | 1144 330th Street, Bellingham, MN 56212 |
| Jeff Johnson | Vice Chair | (320) 752-4674 | 2195 361st Ave, Montevideo, MN 56265 |
| Bob Ludvigson | Treasurer | (320) 598-7897 | 1979 Highway 212, Madison, MN 56256 |
| LeRoy Schuelke | Secretary | (320) 855-2590 | 1181 335th Street, Boyd, MN 56218 |
| John Rebehn | PR&I | (320) 568-2280 | 3211 221st Ave, Louisburg, MN 56256 |

Lake

Soil and Water Conservation District

616 3rd Ave
Two Harbors, MN 55616
PHONE: (218) 834-8370
FAX: (218) 834-8545

www.co.lake.mn.us
(see "County Departments" and "Soil and Water")

SWCD Board Meeting: Second Thursday of Month at 7:00 pm



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 landuse laws and use of BMPs in development activities and forest management activities
5. Natural resources education on land and water issues

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| Total | \$194,621 |
|-------|-----------|

Recent Projects

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 15 years,
- Lake County Demonstration forest for eight years, and Erosion Control Workshops for contractors for three years.

Streambank Restoration Project on Beaver River



Rock waterway inlet to storm water detention basin



Demonstration Forest



New half-mile multi-purpose trail completed at Demonstration Forest

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 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.

Kawishiwi Watershed Protection Project

Lake County SWCD is partnering with the White Iron Chain of Lakes Association (WICOLA) to assist them in implementing the Kawishiwi Watershed Clean Water Protection Project. WICOLA was awarded \$225,000 in Clean Water Legacy Funds and Lake SWCD will administer the project by serving as the Project Sponsor. The project will gather historical and current water quality data to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan. Specific project activities will include expanding the current water quality monitoring program, coordinating existing water monitoring activities, assessing the presence and status of aquatic invasive species, studying the effects of SSTs on surface water, conducting public outreach and education, and developing an implementation plan.

Land-Use Ordinance

'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.

Board Members

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Phillip Goutermont | Chair | (218) 226-3015 | 4651 Hwy 3, Silver Bay, MN 55614 |
| David Falk | Secretary | (218) 834-7021 | 842 Larsmont Rd, Two Harbors, MN 55616 |
| Thomas Gelineau | Vice Chair | (218) 834-4432 | 110 South Ave, Two Harbors, MN 55616 |
| Thomas Martinson | Member | (218) 353-7719 | 6129 Hwy 1, Silver Bay, MN 55614 |
| Don Warner | Treasurer | (218) 226-4858 | 4760 Hwy 3, Silver Bay, MN 55614 |

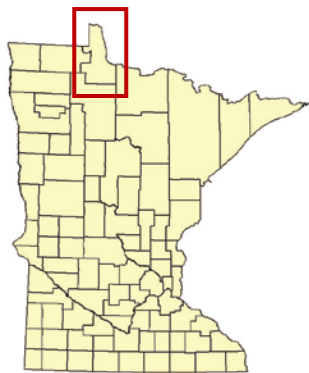
Lake of the Woods

Soil and Water Conservation District

119 1st Ave NW
PO Box 217, Baudette, MN 56623
PHONE: (218) 634-1842 ext. 3
FAX: (218) 634-1726

www.lakeofthewoodsswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Second Thursday of
Month at 6:00 pm*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Erosion and Sedimentation
2. Land Use Management
3. Sewage Treatments Systems
4. Water Quality
5. Education

2008 Revenue

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Local Government Grants | \$1,089 |
| County Allocation | \$25,000 |
| Delegated Feedlot Program | \$16,850 |
| Water Plan Program | \$20,814 |
| Wetland Conservation Act | \$25,961 |
| State Cost Share Program | \$17,000 |
| General Service Grant | \$22,075 |
| BWSR Challenge Grant | \$7,366 |
| TMDL Contracts with MPCA | \$30,846 |
| Charges for Services | \$12,881 |
| Misc. Rev (Interest & Other) | \$12,506 |

Total **\$192,388**

*Over \$42,000 of these funds, including \$17,000 of State Cost Share funds and \$5,000 of Water Plan funds and \$20,000 of District funds were budgeted for on-the-ground projects.

Recent Projects

Bostic and Zippel Watershed Protection Projects



Erosion and sedimentation issues within the Bostic and Zippel Watersheds have been a focus of the SWCD. The LOW SWCD, working with the County, received a State Challenge Grant to investigate a severely eroded stretch of ditch within the Bostic Watershed. Through this funding, a two-stage ditch design was engineered. Using this design, the Public Works Department completed construction on a mile long stretch of ditch in 2009.

To further investigate the issues within these two minor watersheds, the SWCD has requested the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Water Resources Staff (WRS). The WRS are currently conducting a two-year study with the help of the local SWCD staff.



Natural resource education is another focus of the SWCD. In addition to holding various workshops and trainings, the SWCD publishes the only local natural resource newsletter. Through this venue, the SWCD gets the word out about agriculture BMPs, financial incentives for forest landowners, and state/federal conservation funding programs. The SWCD also uses this newsletter to promote its annual tree sales program and to present the most current information on noxious weeds, insect threats, ISTS and wetland rule changes.

Providing cost share incentives and low interest loans for conservation projects is a high priority. Each year, the SWCD has set aside local funds and used state grants to seal abandoned wells, protect shorelines from erosion, control erosion through sidewater inlets and grassed waterways, and upgrade feedlots and ISTS to protect water quality. In 2009, over \$150,000 in cost share and AgBMP loans were utilized for projects.



Due to severe erosion damages from a 2002 flood, this house was just feet from the riverbank's edge. In 2009, a combination of subsurface drintile, major reshaping, and riprap was used to restore the bank and protect the house.

Water quality monitoring has been a focus of the District over the last six years. Lake of the Woods SWCD has contracted with MPCA to investigate the Williams Creek and Baudette River for low dissolved oxygen, and Lake of the Woods for nutrients. The SWCD has also investigated other minor watersheds utilizing funds from BWSR challenge grants and local matches, and through in-kind contributions via an international cooperative monitoring effort and the establishment of a River Water Program at Lake of the Woods High School. Recently, LOW SWCD has partnered with Koochiching SWCD to begin a water quality assessment of the Big Fork Watershed. Data collected through these efforts is used on a state and local level to address concerns within the watersheds.

Future Projects

Pine and Currys Island Investigation and Restoration: The SWCD is currently working with the DNR and the County to address erosion concerns on these barrier islands. Several years of high waters within an extremely complex lake/basin system has taken its toll on the islands.

Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area – The SWCD has been a strong proponent of establishing an outdoor learning area immediately adjacent to the Lake of the Woods K-12 School on 120 acres of School Forest lands. The SWCD has assisted in building partnerships, writing grants and creating a plan of action. A wetland restoration, nature trail, and amphitheatre are all slated for 2010 construction. The outdoor learning area will be open to students and the general public.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Marshall Nelson | Chair | (218) 634-1209 | 1942 - 23rd St SW, Baudette, MN 56623 |
| John Sonstegard | Secretary | (218) 634-2474 | 693 20th Ave NW, Baudette, MN 56623 |
| Russell Hansen | Treasurer | (218) 634-2164 | 1501 - 59th St SW, Baudette, MN 56623 |
| Roger Krause | Vice Chair | (218) 634-1691 | 2980 Main St W, Baudette, MN 56623 |
| Scott Peiper | Public Relations | (218) 783-4041 | 7696 - 40th St NW, Williams, MN 56623 |

Le Sueur

Soil and Water Conservation District

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

www.lesueurswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of Month
at 9:00 am*



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| Total | \$333,763 |
|-------|-----------|

Recent Projects



RENNEBERG LAKE DAM

The SWCD teamed up with the neighboring landowners, South Central Technical Service Area, USFWS, and Le Sueur County to replace a deteriorated dam at the outlet of Renneberg Lake. This dam will restore the lake to its original level that existed in the 1980's when the original dam failed.



Recent projects (continued)

The SWCD worked with South Central Technical Service Area, MN DNR, and Le Sueur County to install a dike and a pipe along County Ditch #43 to re-establish the water level of wetland 136W. The bank of the ditch had washed out allowing water from the wetland to enter the county ditch.

Wetland Banking

Two Wetland Conservation Act “banking” sites were completed in 2009. A total of about 50 acres of replacement credits will eventually be available at the sites within the middle and lower Minnesota River watersheds.

Future Projects

Sanborn Lake – The SWCD is working with Ducks Unlimited, MNDNR, USFWS and Le Sueur County to possibly replace two lake outlet pipes. An adjustable outlet to control vegetation and fish populations would be installed. Due to the high outlet elevation, runoff from thousands of acres of watershed is bypassing the lake and entering Sand Creek at this time.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Alvin Dietz | Chair | (952) 758-4682 | 217 7th St SE, New Prague, MN 56071 |
| Glendon Braun | Vice Chair | (507) 665-3758 | 25842 - 340th St, Le Center, MN 56057 |
| Cletus Gregor | Treasurer | (507) 595-3658 | 40650 135th Lane, Kilkenny, MN 56052 |
| Robert Riebel | Member | (507) 665-2868 | 27548 - 376th St, Le Sueur, MN 56058 |
| Jon Schabert | Secretary | (507) 934-6039 | 31800 421st Ln, St Peter, MN 56082 |

Lincoln

Soil and Water Conservation District

PO Box 32
Ivanhoe, MN 56142
PHONE: (507) 694-1630
FAX: (507) 694-1666

www.lincolnswcd.net

SWCD Board Meeting: Third Wednesday



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

Ground Water Protection for the Verdi Well Field

*Surface Water Quality Deterioration focusing on MPCAs list of TMDLs and Impaired waters.**

*Erosion and Sediment Control on agricultural land primarily gully erosion and concentrated flow with several priority areas throughout Lincoln County.**

Lake Management Improvement (water quality) and Recreational Opportunities targeting Lake Benton, Lake Shaokatan and Lake Hendricks.

Surface water runoff and drainage addressing runoff volume and water quality through drainage management.

**Includes: TMDL-South Branch Yellow Medicine River for Fecal Coliform. Impaired waters- various river reaches and lakes including: Dead Coon, Benton, Perch, Shaokatan and Hendricks. TMDLs underway: Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank-Bacteria, Turbidity and Low Dissolved Oxygen; Lake Shaokatan-Excess Nutrients; Redwood River-Fecal Coliform; and Minnesota River-Turbidity.*

2008 Revenue

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| County Revenue | \$112,352 |
| State Revenue | \$86,276 |
| DNR-Working Lands Initiative | \$317,974 |
| Local Sportsman Club C-S | \$29,036 |
| Charges for Services | \$119,311 |
| Misc. Revenues | \$26,620 |
| Total | \$691,569 |

Notes: Over 55% of the revenue is landowner and operator programs including cost-share and incentive programs.

Recent Projects



Before construction



After construction

Drammen 15 Small Dam Project

This project was completed in cooperation with the landowner, Area II-MN River Basin, Lincoln SWCD and NRCS. Total cost of project was \$115,470.13 with funding from EQIP, Area II, State of MN Bonding and the landowner. Purpose of the project is for flood control and wildlife habitat protection.

The Lincoln SWCD, the LGU for the Wetland Conservation Act in Lincoln County, had the role of assuring that all wetland impacts were replaced in accordance with state law. The SWCD worked closely with Area II, BWSR, DNR and Army Corps of Engineers on the wetland plan of impacts and replacement. It was determined that .7 acre of type 2 sedge meadow wetland would be impacted. The replacement ratio would be a 2.5 to 1. The .7 acre wetland impact was mitigated by purchasing from the Lyon County wetland bank. The remaining 1.05 acre of mitigation needed was mitigated by restoring the native prairie vegetation that surrounds the dam. 4.2 acres of native prairie was the minimum public value credit needed to buffer the dam area. The landowner chose to set aside 12.3 acres for this buffer area. This area, which includes the dam, has been fenced off for livestock exclusion. As of Dec. 15, 2009, the dam was 75% full of water. The permanent pool of the dam is approximately 1.7 acres.

Living Snow Fence Program

The Lincoln SWCD's Living Snow Fence Program, in cooperation with the MN Department of Transportation, was a huge success in 2009. 10.9 acres of living snow fences were planted along State Highway 14 for three different landowners. Approximately one mile of road will be protected by these living snow fences. Total costs for the three sites-\$13,045.57. Total length of all of the planted tree rows were 9,466 feet. These three sites are a nice addition to the many existing living snow fences planted by the Lincoln SWCD in past years along Highway 14.

Installation of Conservation Practices



This picture shows a newly constructed water and sediment control basin in Lincoln County. These type of projects reduce sediment and nutrient runoff by capturing peak flows and releasing them over a 48 hour period through a controlled orifice and underground outlet. Water and Sediment Control Basins can also be designed with a "blind intake" to further reduce pollutants from reaching "waters of the state". In 2009 the following conservation practices were installed in Lincoln County through various funding sources: 54-water and sediment control basins, 1,100 feet of waterway (one total), and one-wetland restoration.

Native Grass Drill – Roadsides for Wildlife

Along with the Haybuster Drill through DNR, the district purchased a second Haybuster Drill to help with our planting effort. 2009 Native Grass Drill-DNR Roadsides for Wildlife include:

- Total number of operations/operators 39
- Total Acres Planted 791.7 ac.
- Between new tree rows 31.3 ac.
- Landscaping (golf course interseed) 3.0 ac.
- Pasture interseeding 45.2 ac.
- Construction projects/roadsides 9.0 ac.
- Crops (beans) 6.5 ac.
- CRP, Filter Strips, Native Buffers 696.7 ac.

This was a huge year for "Natives". Total area planted is the equivalent of planting from Mankato, MN to Denver, CO with a 10 foot drill in the ground. Considering the amount of miles in delivery and return of the drill by the 39 different operations it is possible to believe that we could have reached Phoenix, AZ.

Lake Shaokatan Sportsmen Club Projects

The Sportsmen Club provided the Lincoln SWCD with \$30,000 to use on practices (cost-share and incentives) in the Lake Shaokatan Watershed. Through these efforts the following projects were installed along with the total cost associated with each practice:

- Small Dam Project 1-ea. \$7,290.25
- Blind Intakes 14-ea. \$6,822.75
- CRP Incentive 2.7ac. \$ 810.00

Farm Bill Assistant

The Farm Bill Assistant (FBA) position in Lincoln County assists landowners in finding the best options and programs available to them. Program and incentive funding such as: CRP, WRP/RIM, Working Lands Initiative (WLI), along with the various watershed incentive programs available, provide the landowners with a variety of easement options. Projects completed with the various funding sources in 2009 include:

- CRP programs, Lincoln County had just under 100 contracts enrolling over 1600 acres.
- WRP/ RIM programs, one completed easement with two more being processed.
- WLI dollars, projects completed include: two Rim easements for 110 acres and 13 incentive contracts for 418 acres with the Lincoln SWCD paying out over \$400,000.00 in 2009.
- Watershed incentives include dollars for landowners in the Yellow Medicine, Redwood River, and the Lac Qui Parle watersheds. Lincoln County landowners took advantage of the filter strip incentives for a total of approximately \$60,000.

Working with the local Buffalo Ridge Pheasants Forever Chapter, local sportsman's groups, and lake associations is the norm for the Lincoln SWCD. The FBA position is made available in Lincoln County through the cooperation of BWSR Grant and Pheasants Forever.

Future Projects

Clean Water Funds: The Lincoln SWCD along with neighboring SWCD's submitted Clean Water Fund Grant Applications for the Redwood-Cottonwood, Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed Projects.

Lake Shaokatan Sportsmen Club Projects: Dam construction, wetland restorations, grass filter strip.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Daniel Christianson | Chair | (507) 275-3460 | 3479 Co Rd 101, Hendricks, MN 56136 |
| John Boulton | PR&I | (507) 296-4668 | 2589 State Hwy 68, Porter, MN 56280 |
| Conrad Schardin | Secretary | (507) 368-4876 | 1638 State Hwy 14, Lake Benton, MN 56149 |
| Glen Sorensen | Vice Chair | (507) 487-5771 | 2777 Co Rd 125, Arco, MN 56113 |
| Joe Weber | Treasurer | (507) 368-4681 | 1978 Co Hwy 13, Lake Benton, MN 56149 |

Lyon

Soil and Water Conservation District

1424 E College Dr Ste 6
Marshall, MN 56258
PHONE: (507) 537-0396
FAX: (507) 532-7479

www.lyonswcd.org

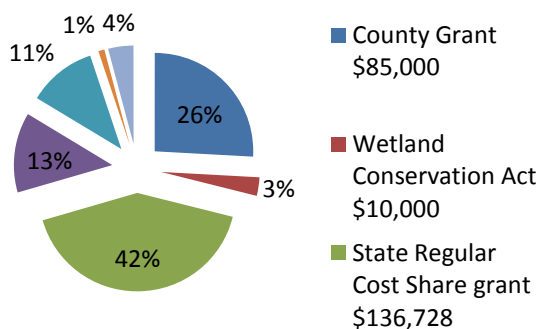
*SWCD Board Meeting: 4th Tuesday at 7:00
p.m. May-October; 10:00 a.m. Nov.-Apr.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reduction of sediment and pollutants entering water resources, reduction of soil erosion by wind and water
2. Assist Lyon County with Level III feedlot inventory and provide assistance to producers to solve any pollution problems through BMP implementation
3. Preserve and restore wetlands through administration of the State WCA law and programs to restore and buffer.
4. Workshops to provide information to land users and promote environmental projects to address them.

2008 Revenue



Total \$328,622

- State Cost Share grant is funding that was paid to landowners to install practices
- Charges for Services is the SWCD tree program
- Misc Other: includes dividends from MCIT (insurance coop) Cobra insurance payments and contributions from business & landowner groups for workshops offered to landowners.

Recent Projects:

The landowner was not sure about a project that was proposed to him a couple of years ago but decided to go with it, after completion of the project he was impressed at the improvement of his field in controlling erosion and started long range planning for additional projects. To date he has completed waterways, sediment control basins, a rotational grazing project and is looking at tree plantings and additional waterways.

Programs utilized to complete his long-range conservation planning include: Clean Water Legacy funds, MPCA 319 funds, Lyon SWCD regular cost share funding and EQIP incentive funds. The projects completed by this landowner to date have provided the following pollution reductions: 78 tons/yr of soil loss savings and 30 ton/yr of phosphorus reduction to our waters.



Waterway ~ seeded and mulched, the picture above was taken right after construction



Waterway after grass was established

Recent projects (continued)

Stream bank Project completed in 2009:
Funded with Public Interest CWL funds
For the City of Minneota project grant cost \$56,025
In-kind contributions: \$19,630
Project partners included: Yellow Medicine River Watershed, City of Minneota, Lyon SWCD, SWCD Joint Powers Engineer and 6 private landowners.
Soil/Sediment reduction of 22 Tons/per year.



Above ~Shows part of the before project area, invaded by buckthorn



Above ~ same area after MN Conservation Corp removed buckthorn and project construction is complete.

The SWCD's in SW MN have long understood the importance of partnering to complete successful projects. One of the more outstanding partnerships has occurred the past few years in successfully securing and implementing funding for watershed projects. Funding for 2008-09 includes grants for the Redwood, Cottonwood and Yellow Medicine River watersheds.

Lyon SWCD has utilized the following funds in our county from these partnerships:

Redwood/Cottonwood River Watershed:

\$205,204.00 Clean Water Funds

Redwood/Cottonwood River Watershed: \$115,340.00 MPCA 319 funds

Yellow Medicine River Watershed:

\$105,651.00 Clean Water Funds

Yellow Medicine River Watershed: \$65,530.00 MPCA 319 Funds

The SWCD's in these watersheds have applied for additional funding for 2010.

Future Projects:

SWCD Partnerships:

We have several projects that will be designed this winter for completion in 2010; these projects have encumbered funds from Clean Water funding, EQIP & 319 MPCA funds. These funds were grant funding received through SWCD's watershed partnerships.

Environmental organizations, government units and groups in Lyon County have formed a team to work together to better and more efficiently get our messages and education on the importance of protecting our resources to our area residents.

The group consists of Southwest Minnesota State University professors and students, Lyon County staff, Lyon SWCD, Staff from the SWMN Service Coop, City Utilities and Local schools.

By combining our staff talents & resources we are able to provide more opportunities for all ages in education, workshops and information events and in turn make better use of tax payer dollars that provide the majority of the funding for our organizations.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jon Mohn | Chair | (507) 423-6678 | PO Box 289, Cottonwood, MN 56229 |
| Gary Crowley | Vice Chair | (507) 428-3827 | 2994 210 Ave, Marshall, MN 56258 |
| Mark Meulebroeck | Member | (507) 823-4696 | 1767 230th Ave, Balaton, MN 56115 |
| Otto Nyquist, Jr. | PR&I | (507) 629-4844 | 3246 Co Rd 2, Tracy, MN 56175-2206 |
| Steve Prairie | Sec/Treas. | (507) 734-4374 | 1062 - 200th Ave, Balaton, MN 56115 |

Mahnomen

Soil and Water Conservation District

200 US HWY 59
PO Box 381, Mahnomen, MN 56557
PHONE: (218) 935-2987
FAX: (218) 935-5221

www.nwmnswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Third Monday of
Month; Nov-March at 8:00 am, April-Oct at
7:00 am*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Erosion & Sediment Control
2. Surface Water Quality
3. Impaired Waters/TMDLs
4. Groundwater Quality
5. Wetland Protection

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental | |
| County | \$ 78,747 |
| State Grant | \$ 49,892 |
| Charges for Services | \$ 1,978 |
| Miscellaneous | |
| Interest Earnings | \$ 1,666 |
| Other | \$ 5,069 |
| Total Revenue | \$137,352 |

Recent Projects

The Mahnomen SWCD 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 was installed to reduce sedimentation of surface waters due to shoreline degradation. The total cost of the project was \$24,947. The estimated sediment reduction of 19.01 tons/yr, assisted in achieving local water management goals.

South Twin Lake before photos:

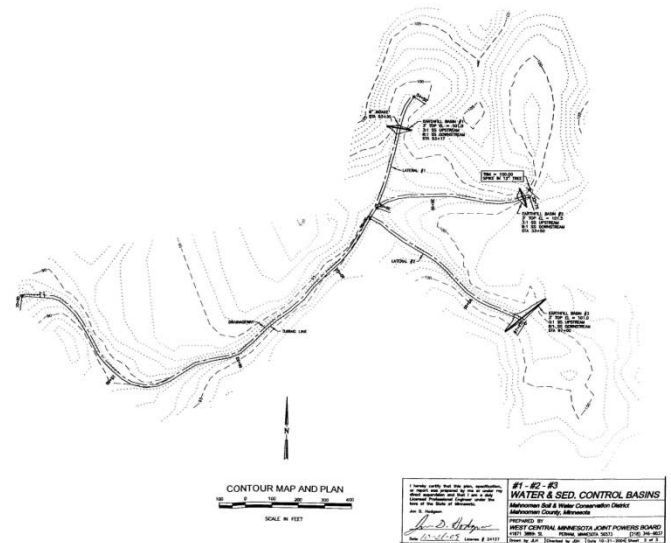


South Twin Lake after photos:



In 2006 through 2009, forty-seven Water and Sediment Control Basins were installed in Mahnomen County. Total cost of these projects was \$290,383. The basins eliminate gully erosion and provide 24 to 48 hour temporary flood storage, during 10 year frequency storm events.

Water & Sediment Control Basin Design:



Future Projects

Twenty-two Water and Sediment Control Basins are planned to be installed in the Marsh Creek sub-watershed during the next two years. Marsh Creek is listed as impaired for turbidity on the current MPCA impaired waters list.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Peter Revier | Chair | (218) 473-2653 | 2354 - 250th St, Mahnomen, MN 56557 |
| Dan McNamee | Vice-Chair | (218) 935-2391 | 1851 - 220th Ave, Mahnomen, MN 56557 |
| Victor Eiyneck | Secretary | (218) 473-2589 | 2856 - 120th Ave, Mahnomen, MN 56557 |
| Terry McCollum | Treasurer | (218) 935-2468 | 1468 - 170th Ave, Bejou, MN 56516 |
| Jerry Handyside | PR & I | (218) 935-5734 | 3138 - 200th St, Lengby, MN 56651 |

Marshall

Soil and Water Conservation District

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

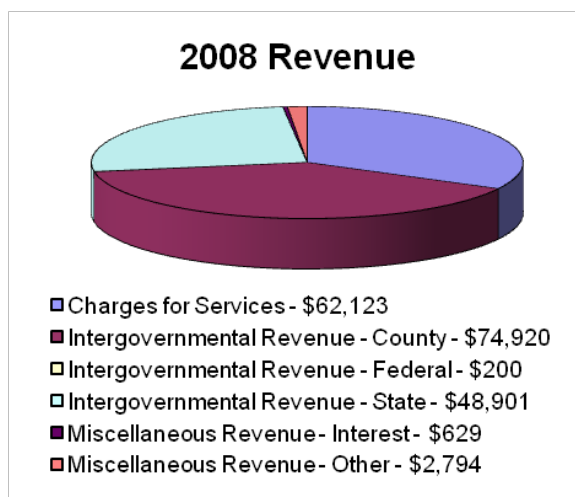
www.nwmnswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Third Tuesday of
Month at 8:00 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



Total \$189,567

Recent Projects



Water Festival

Education Activities

- Envirothon
- Water Festival
- Soil Stewardship Materials
- Tree Presentation to Kindergarten Students
- Newsletter
- New Articles

Programs

- District Tree/Planting/Maintenance Program
- Wetland Conservation Act
- Observation Well Monitoring
- Ag BMP Revolving Loan Program – amounts:
 - 2008 = \$709,000
 - 2007 = \$1,121,503
- Rainfall Monitoring Network
- State Cost Share
- RIM
- Drought Disaster
- Native Buffer Cost Share
- County Water Plan
- Red River Valley Set Aside Program

SWCD Partnership with USDA NRCS/FSA

Funded Programs

| | | | |
|------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| 2009 | EQIP | 2,371.90 ac. | \$ 198,277 |
| | WHIP | 42.8 ac. | \$ 58,906 |
| 2008 | EQIP | 24,591.80 ac. | \$1,052,950 |
| | WHIP | 114.3 ac. | \$ 7,937 |
| | CSP | 11,849.9 ac. | \$ 181,699 |
| 2007 | EQIP | 5,355.2 ac, | \$ 215,864 |
| | WHIP | 48.5 ac. | \$ 12,843 |

CRP 192,485.9 acres
\$7,988,127.50/year
annual payment

Services Provided

- Tubex Tree Shelters
- Mechanical Weed Maintenance
- Staking Tree Rows
- Plantskydd – Deer/Rabbit Repellent
- Layout/Design – Tree Shelterbelts

2009 Tree Program

25 Plantings

- 8 EQIP sites
- 6 State Cost Share sites
- 11 non cost shared sites

Tree Numbers by the Years

- 2006 – 127 customers
- 24,500 trees sold
- 2007 – 128 customers
- 21,200 trees sold
- 2008 – 133 customers
- 19,887 trees sold
- 2009 – 130 customers
- 16,532 trees sold

Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Leif Aakre | Vice Chair | (218) 478-3086 | 36299 440th Ave NW, Stephen, MN 56757 |
| Wallace Bengtson | Vice Chair | (218) 222-3345 | 15855 390th St NE, Middle River, MN 56737 |
| Carl Green | Secretary | (218) 597-2861 | 43590 210th Ave NW, Strandquist, MN 56758 |
| Stuart Nordling | Treasurer | (218) 745-4958 | 27142 420th Ave NW, Warren, MN 56762 |
| Duane Potucek | PR&I | (218) 745-5658 | 26486 270th ST NW, Radium, MN 56762 |

Martin

Soil and Water Conservation District

923 N State St Ste 110
Fairmont, MN 56031
PHONE: (507) 235-6680
FAX: (507) 235-8171

www.martinswcd.net

SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Thursday of Month



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

- To improve water quality by addressing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the county.
- Provide source water protection for safe drinking water for all residents.
- Drainage System Management
- Wetland Protection and Restoration
- Provide rural and urban conservation assistance for Best Management Practices (BMPs).

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Intergovernmental Revenues | 390,001 |
| Total Charges for Services | 56,597 |
| Total Interest Earnings | 4,390 |
| Total Miscellaneous | 25,842 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$476,830</u> |

Recent Projects

A Fairmont lakeshore is being restored by removing buckthorn, and using local ecotype native plants for replacement. This restoration was funded through a DNR Shoreland/Habitat Grant, and will serve as an educational project for our public.



A Martin SWCD intern is shown collecting native local-ecotype seed. A grant was received to allow native plant seeds to be collected, identified and categorized, and planted on permanent conservation easements. Funding was provided through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).



Students from Martin County West helped the Martin SWCD collect seeds for an LCCMR project. Our local 4-H clubs were also involved in collecting seeds.



Source water protection: Martin SWCD continues to work with agricultural producers, residents, contractors, city officials and engineers to install vegetation, buffer strips and offer educational workshops. Martin SWCD received a DNR Shoreland/Habitat grant for a lakeshore restoration/educational site. Construction on this site was started June 2009 and will be completed June 2010.

Drainage System Management: Martin SWCD is working in conjunction with the Martin County Drainage Authority to administer the one rod buffer on all County and Judicial ditches. To date, 122 of the 188 miles of buffers (64%) have been flagged for seeding in 2010, or already flagged and seeded.

Wetland Restorations: Five wetland restorations and one repair on a wetland restoration were completed in 2009. Martin SWCD has completed over 80 of these restorations.

Future Projects

Since the 1970s, over 35 studies have been completed on Dutch Creek that identify specific problems and pollutants. The Martin SWCD has applied for grants to implement solutions:

1. Upland treatment; including alternative perennial crops, residue management, nutrient management, conservation crop rotations; and approved treatments for lakeshore owners located on Budd and Hall Lakes (designed according to the USDA Field Office Technical Guide and Urban Stormwater Standards).
2. Install filter and infiltration strips and vegetate seasonal and intermittent streams.
3. Installation of wetland restorations / water retention in key locations throughout the watershed.
4. Construct a water treatment area near the mouth of Dutch Creek.

The SWCD has been working with five lakeshore homeowners to stabilize their property with native plants and to install rain gardens. These projects will serve as educational tools and diverse demonstration sites.

Continuation of the Martin County Native Buffer Cost-Share Program will allow the SWCD to develop a seed source for local ecotype native species (Martin County Origin) emphasizing rare and declining species.

A grant was received by the Martin SWCD to administer and implement the Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area (GBE CWMA). The project focus has been to control and reduce the spread or introduction of invasive species that are in or near the CWMA with emphasis on natural areas and replacing invasive species, with local ecotype natives.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Duane Petrowiak | Chair | (507) 235-5745 | 14 Carol Ln, Fairmont, MN 56031 |
| Steve Flohrs | Treasurer | (507) 639-3071 | 1056 230th St, Ormsby, MN 56162 |
| Linda Meschke | Vice Chair | (507) 235-3127 | 3824 Cedar Creek Ct, Fairmont, MN 56031 |
| Darwin Roberts | Member | (507) 447-2281 | 1838 260th Ave, Granada, MN 56039 |
| Wendell Rode | Secretary | (507) 728-8576 | 1311 105th St, Welcome, MN 56181 |

McLeod

Soil and Water Conservation District

2570 9th St E
Glencoe, MN 55336
PHONE: (320) 864-5176
FAX: (320) 864-5737

www.mcleodswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: 1st Monday of Month at 8:00 p.m.



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| County Allocation | \$60,000 |
| County WCA Allocation | \$5,500 |
| County Pipeline Contract | \$9,000 |
| State Grant | \$95,607 |
| Charges for Services | \$13,905 |
| Interest | \$2,279 |
| Other | \$276 |
| Total | \$186,567 |

Recent Projects



WRP Wetland Restoration

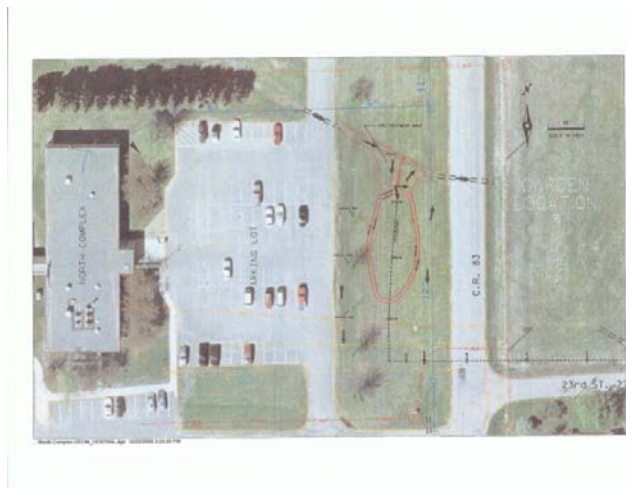


Work on the Bernie Hanson Streambank Restoration

Future Projects



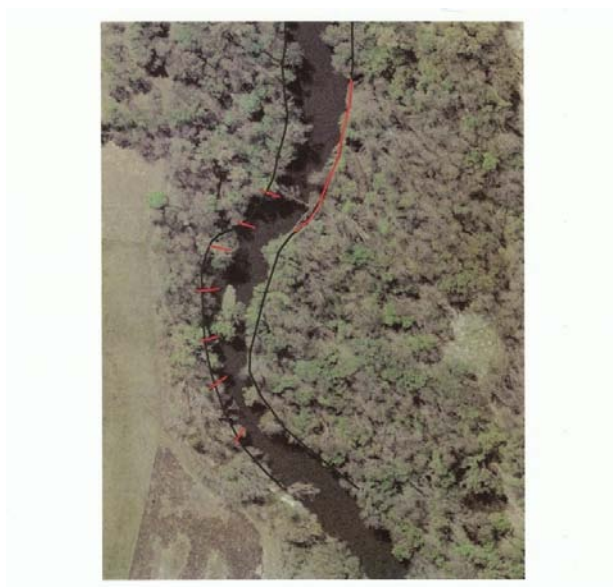
Rain Garden Installed at Christ Lutheran Church in Glencoe.



Bio-retention Basin at the McLeod County North Complex



Swan Lake Restoration under the RIM-WRP partnership. This along with 13 others hope to be restored in the next couple of years.



Restoration of the Buffalo Creek Streambank

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Roger Schultz | Chair | (320) 864-5451 | 1424 Queen Ave, Glencoe, MN 55336 |
| John Adamek | Secretary | (320) 587-7357 | 23497 County Rd 7, Hutchinson, MN 55350 |
| Charles Mathews | Vice Chair | (320) 395-2137 | 14918 Bergen Rd, Glencoe, MN 55336 |
| Mark Schnobrich | Member | (320) 587-3760 | 24209 Unit Ave, Hutchinson, MN 55350 |
| Joey Schuft | Treasurer | (320) 587-5707 | 14007 20th St, Brownton, MN 55312 |

Meeker

Soil and Water Conservation District

916 E Saint Paul Street
Litchfield, MN 55355-5300
PHONE: (320) 693-7287
FAX: (320) 693-5823

www.co.meeker.mn.us
(see "SWCD")

*SWCD Board Meeting: First Tuesday of Month
at 8:00 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protecting water quality in lakes and streams
2. Controlling erosion on all lands
3. Assisting producers with agricultural runoff
4. Protecting and restoring wetlands
5. Assist all landowners and units of government in land use management and decisions

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| County | \$159,000 |
| State | \$56,570 |
| Federal | \$500 |
| Charges for Services | \$26,120 |
| Other | \$6,753 |
| Total | \$248,943 |

Recent Projects



Manannah Township feedlot improvement was installed to catch runoff from two feedlots. A concrete wall with a slotted fence with one intake caught the runoff from the second lot. The runoff water from the lots was carried by a pipe to a sump which lifts the polluted water to a 600-foot long filter strip. This project will reduce 54 lbs. of phosphorus from reaching the Sauk River tributary which empties into Vails Lake.

Forest City Township drop structure was installed to eliminate head gullying at the end of a ditch. The structure controls the runoff from a 385-acre watershed and eliminates the gully. Extra anchors and backfill were required due to the silty soils at this site. Over 10-tons of sediment, 15-tons of phosphorus and 10-tons of soil per year were saved with the



installation of this structure.



Future Projects

Water and Sediment Control Basins: Twenty five water and sediment control basins have been planned on four sites to control runoff and reduce ephemeral and gully erosion. A significant amount of sediment has left these sites causing extensive downstream damage. Two sites will protect rivers, two will protect a lake and the fourth will protect a wetland complex.

Forest Prairie Feedlot Improvement: A feedlot site is located on the edge of a wetland with surface drainage to the Clearwater River. The beef/dairy heifer operation is on a steep slope to the wetland. The practice will be to divert and filter manure runoff. This project will reduce 55 lbs. of phosphorus out of the Clearwater River Watershed.

Grazing Systems: Three landowners are working with the NRCS Grazing Specialist to improve their grazing lands. Additional cropland will also be converted to pasture. The rotational grazing systems will improve grass cover, reduce runoff from improved infiltration, and reduce erosion with improved grass and lessen livestock trails.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Robert Schiefelbein | Chair | (320) 398-8400 | 35359 732nd Ave, Kimball, MN 55353 |
| Dan Barka | Secretary | (320) 693-8073 | 61056 CSAH 28, Litchfield, MN 55355 |
| Fred Behnke | Treasurer | (320) 693-3883 | 57263 - 260th St, Grove City, MN 56243 |
| Thomas Burr | Member | (320) 276-8341 | 51941 CSAH 20, Paynesville, MN 56362 |
| Douglas Carlson | Vice Chair | (320) 275-3288 | 70228 218th St, Dassel, MN 55325 |

Mille Lacs

Soil and Water Conservation District

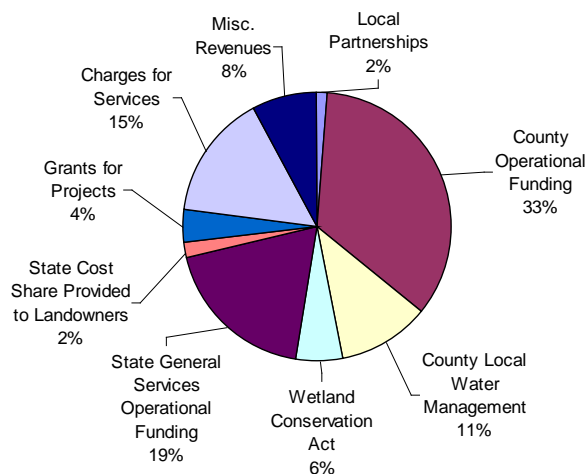
1016 5th St SE
Milaca, MN 56353
PHONE: (320) 983-2160
FAX: (320) 983-2107
www.millelacsswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Second Tuesday
Monthly Nov-April 5:30 p.m. May-Oct 7:00 p.m.*



2008 Revenue

Total \$175,522



Charges for services include services such as tree sales for conservation, tree planter and no-till equipment rental, DNR groundwater observation well reading.

Misc. Revenue includes revenues from hosting two conservation association conferences, interest on bank accounts and insurance dividends.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Encourage development patterns that protect, enhance, maintain or restore surface & 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.

Recent Projects

In September 2009 Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District and Minnesota Waters with the help of the Onanegozie Resource and Development Council presented a macroinvertebrate training at Riverview Park in Milaca, MN. The training is part of a Surface Water Assessment Grant that the Mille Lacs SWCD and Isanti County are working on to collect data that will help determine the health of the Rum River.





Recent projects (continued)

This shoreline restoration on Mille Lacs Lake replaced a failing railroad tie retaining wall that ran the length of a channel feeding into the lake. The rail-road tie wall was removed and the bank was reshaped to a more natural slope. Native shrubs, sedges, grasses and flowers were planted into the new shoreline and a 10 to 25 foot buffer was planted just upland from the restoration area greatly improving the quality of water runoff to the lake. The project included an educational workshop for local children.



Future Projects

Mille Lacs SWCD is working to help a landowner secure funding for a shoreline restoration and buffer on the West Branch of the Rum River. Failure to maintain healthy deep rooted vegetation, combined with the concentrated energy of the river as it rounds a hair pin turn, contributed to this current erosion problem. This project will re-vegetate approximately 7,500 square feet of steep river bank with native plants and shrubs and replace approximately 2,750 square feet of turf grass with a native plant buffer. Once established, the extensive root systems of hardy native grasses and shrubs will hold the sandy soil in place, as well as infiltrate runoff from upland areas. Stream barbs installed in the river and tree revetments cabled into the toe area will deflect the energy of the river and prevent further erosion of the riverbank and sedimentation of the Rum River.



Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Kurt Beckstrom | Chair | (320) 556-3403 | 17466 60th Ave, Milaca, MN 56353 |
| Barb Eller | Secretary | (320) 532-4946 | 12722 350th St, Onamia, MN 56359 |
| Gene Gerth | Treasurer | (763) 389-2979 | 4181 60th Ave, Princeton, MN 55371 |
| Ray Schultz | Vice Chair | (320) 983-3442 | 12429 250th St, Milaca, MN 56353 |
| Robert Hoefert | Member | (320) 676-3177 | 35445 St. Hwy 47, Isle, MN 56352 |

Morrison

Soil and Water Conservation District

16776 Heron Rd
Little Falls, MN 56345
PHONE: (320) 616-2479
FAX: (320) 616-5401
www.morrisonswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 4th Thursday at 9:30
a.m., Ag Service Center*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect the quality and quantity of groundwater resources
2. Protect, preserve and improve surface water resources
3. Promote and implement sound land use practices that reduce the impacts on natural resources
4. Wetland protection and enhancement
5. Maintain agriculture production while protecting natural resources

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| Total | \$649,498 |
|-------|-----------|

Recent Projects



The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program has been a successful conservation easement program of the SWCDs in Morrison, Cass and Crow Wing counties in cooperation with Camp Ripley and BWSR. The goal is to protect the viability of Camp Ripley as a military training base by allowing surrounding landowners to place conservation easements 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, except the landowner may continue agricultural use of the land. The ACUB program works to protect undeveloped land whether it is in agricultural production or forested. The Federally funded ACUB initiative has successfully enrolled 50 perpetual conservation easement totaling 8,292 acres in Morrison, Cass and Crow Wing Counties. The initiative improves water quality and sustains wildlife habitat by restricting residential, commercial and industrial development. Furthermore, it preserves the counties current land use, particularly agriculture, forestry, recreation, and helps maintain the rural character of the counties.

An "On the Water" assessment of Fishtrap Lake was conducted by the Morrison SWCD to assist the County Local Water Plan effort. This is the third lake to be completed, the others being Crook Neck Lake and Lake Shamineau. 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.

Many riparian feedlots with pollution

ratings have been upgraded using FWQ and EQIP funding. However, the ability to clean up some very problematic sites on other riparian areas 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 12 years. This change of direction for the FWQ funding is going to affect the SWCD's ability to address the Open Lot Agreement producers.



Pictured: Before (top) and After photos of a shoreline bank stabilization project along the Mississippi River.

The SWCD staff is an integral part

of the county's comprehensive land-use planning, the re-writing of county ordinances and have taken the lead on the Local Water Management Plan update. 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.

Morrison SWCD promotes and

implements a successful tree sales program offering State cost-share to landowners for the installation of field windbreaks, farmstead shelterbelts, riparian buffers and living snow fences. Many others are assisted with wildlife and landscaping plantings. Over 232,600 trees have been planted in the past 5 years.

State Cost-Share contracts 2008 – 2009

- \$62,280 State Cost-Share dollars disbursed
- Farmstead Shelterbelts – 22
- Field Windbreaks – 35
- Critical Area Plantings – 1
- Shoreland Plantings – 1
- Well decommissioning – 9
- Grassed Waterways – 2
- Sediment Basins – 2
- Shoreline Bank Stabilization - 2
- Terraces – 2
- Water Control Structures - 1
- Diversions - 1
- Ag Waste Storage Facilities – 2

Future Projects

- Updating and implementing the Morrison County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.
- Complete planning and construction of a wetland banking site.
- SWCD staff are working with small feedlot owners who qualify for the "Open Lot Agreement" provision of the State Feedlot Rules. Cost-share funding from several sources has been secured to help pay for these projects.
- Work to complete a geological atlas.
- Assisting Benton SWCD in completing the Little Rock TMDL.
- Continued work with the ACUB program

Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|---|
| Robert Holmgren | Secretary | (320) 749-2487 | 5979 230th St, Randall, MN 56475 |
| Cynthia Anez | Chairman | (320) 632-9085 | 12229 125th St, Little Falls, MN 56345 |
| Thomas Brutscher | Public Relations | (320) 745-2296 | 20386 - 175th Ave, Little Falls, MN 56345 |
| Claude Dahmen | Treasurer | (320) 468-6523 | 16724 295th Ave, Pierz, MN 56364 |
| Marvin Stangl | Vice Chair | (320) 468-6170 | PO Box 358, Pierz, MN 56364 |

Mower

Soil and Water Conservation District

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

*SWCD Board Meeting:
2nd Wednesday of Month at 8:30 am*



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 District

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Local | \$85,005 |
| County | \$220,950 |
| State | \$214,508 |
| Federal | \$18,103 |
| Charges for Services | \$152,841 |
| Misc Revenues | \$19,332 |
| Total | \$710,739 |

Recent Projects

Two Stage Ditch



A demonstration two stage ditch system was constructed in Adams Township. Two State Ditch systems utilize the stream flow process to create a stable ditch which requires less maintenance. As seen in the photo, there is a small main channel with vegetated benches. Other benefits include improved water quality and reduced velocity by bringing back a meandering path. Partners in this project include Mower SWCD, University of Minnesota, MPCA, Dept of Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy and the landowners. A comprehensive monitoring program will start in 2010.

Wetland restorations for flood control



In response to the escalating flood events and increased damages involved, the Legislature designated funds to target wetland restorations for upland flood control treatment in the Cedar River Watershed. The landowners responded and enrolled 20 sites for over 1,100 acres.

The response was great and the enrollments showed that the best way to address water quality and quantity issues is through landowner driven conservation programs. The SWCD is already ramping up its efforts to target priority projects for the next sign-up. With good support and attractive easement rates, we're hitting our goals and achieving results.



Dobbins Creek Project

In 2009, the SWCD began focusing on a small agricultural watershed project, to study water quality and flood reduction opportunities. Dobbins Creek is a small stream, with a 25,000 acre watershed feeding into the Cedar River. The study is sponsored by BWSR and looks at landscape, land use and monitoring data to analyze the effects of incorporated conservation practices on the land. The goal of the project is to identify practices that will result in a measureable difference, on a small scale. As the study winds down, the SWCD is gearing up to deliver the treatment programs to landowners. The work area is quite small and has required landowner involvement to make it a success. The result of the project is truly a cooperative effort between SWCD and landowners to surgically treat the landscape and "restore" the water quality and quantity concerns in Dobbins Creek.

SWCD/Cedar River Watershed District Partnership

For the last 3 years the Mower SWCD has contracted services with the Cedar River Watershed District. Administrative and technical services have been provided. This partnership has provided many opportunities for both the CRWD and the SWCD. A comprehensive monitoring program, many grant opportunities, as well as building the programs for flood reduction and improving water quality.

Future Projects

TMDL for Turbidity in the Cedar River Basin

2010 will be the last year for monitoring and data gathering in the Cedar River Basin. The TMDL study will then be written and the implementation plan developed. A partnership between the 3 Watershed Districts (Cedar River WD, Shell Rock River WD and Turtle Creek WD) and 4 SWCDs (Mower, Freeborn, Steele and Dodge) is a part of the success of this TMDL project.

City of LeRoy Wellhead Protection Program

The City of LeRoy now has an approved wellhead protection plan. With the assistance of the Mower SWCD and the Hiawatha Valley RC&D, a demonstration of well sealing in the City of LeRoy will take place. We will also be developing a cost share program for other residents to seal their wells.

Evaluating Conservation Practices

Mower SWCD staff will be working with the Department of Agriculture on monitoring surface water that is outletting from farm fields with conservation practices. Monitoring efforts will show effects on water and soil quality. This 10 year project will provide science based information that will refine management practices and technologies that are designed to help farmers operate profitably while protecting natural resources.

Board Members

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|--|
| James Gebhardt | Chair | (507) 477-2184 | 31776 State Hwy 56, Waltham, MN 55982 |
| Jon Erichson | Secretary/Treasurer | (507) 437-2437 | 911 18th St SW, Austin, MN 55912 |
| Rick Gehling | Member | (507) 754-5851 | 73498 300th St, Grand Meadow, MN 55936 |
| John Grass, Jr | Member | (507) 324-5805 | 76742 115th St, Le Roy, MN 55951 |
| Bill Lonergan, Jr. | Vice Chair | (507) 433-4875 | 15443 570th Ave, Austin, MN 55912 |

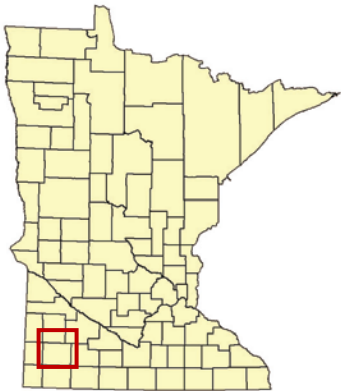
Murray

Soil and Water Conservation District

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

www.murrayswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Thursday



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| County | \$139,614 |
| State | \$52,502 |
| Charges for Service | \$71,961 |
| Interest Earnings | \$2,929 |
| WCA | \$10,000 |
| Prepaid Rent | \$20,000 |
| Other | \$892 |
| Total | \$297,898 |

Recent Projects

1 water retention dam was repaired in 2009 through the efforts of the SWCD, NRCS, Murray Co. Water Resources Office with engineering and design assistance provided by the Southwest Prairie TSA.



A CREP II wetland restoration project was completed that restored a basin 91 acres in size on 150 acres.





Future Projects

The Murray Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with the Heron Lake Watershed District is applying for an educational Environmental Protection Agency grant to fund the Community Education through Rain Gardens project.

WCA Administration and technical assistance is administered by the Murray SWCD throughout the whole county including municipalities.



Educational events include the Envirothon, Environmental Fair, Murray County Fair Booth, Women's Day Event, and a Poster Contest at the local schools.



Over 50,000 trees have been planted in the last four years through the SWCD's Tree Program to establish field windbreaks, farmstead windbreaks, and wildlife plantings

Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Roger Steinman | Chair | (507) 371-2290 | 710 Normal Ave, Lake Wilson, MN 56151 |
| Paul Posthuma | Vice Chair | (507) 879-3102 | 1419 80th Avenue, Hadley, MN 56151 |
| Gary Brinks | Secretary | (507) 763-3775 | 1577 US Hwy 59, Slayton, MN 56172 |
| Arland Moger | Treasurer | (507) 425-3137 | 504 260th Ave, Fulda, MN 56131 |
| Shannon Cohrs | PR&I | (507) 274-5531 | 244 Hanes PO Box 66, Dovray, MN 56125 |

Nicollet

Soil and Water Conservation District

424 S Minnesota Ave,
Saint Peter, MN 56082
PHONE: (507) 931-2550 Ext. 3
FAX: (507) 931-3792

www.nicolletswcd.org



SWCD Board Meeting: 1st Wednesday of month

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Nicollet County | \$92,052 |
| Minnesota State Grant | \$42,292 |
| Charges for Service | \$20,097 |
| Miscellaneous | \$12,960 |
| Total | \$167,401 |

Recent Projects



Conservation Education:

- Staff Presented at 2 career day events for local High School Students.
- Staff presented to St. Peter Elementary School 1st grade Students on the importance of trees.
- Staff partnered with the Science Museum of MN and presented to 7th grade students at St. Peter High School on the importance of Ground Water.
- Staff attended Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting held in December at the Duluth Convention Center.
- Conservation newsletters published.



Conservation Projects

- Forty-one Rock tile inlets installed, 146 cover crops planted and 2 terraces constructed in the Rush River Watershed.
- Over 300 Cost Share proposals mailed out to the Rush River and 7-Mile Creek Watersheds, with the assistance of student interns.
- Two Water and Sediment Control Basin installed.
- Two Grade Stabilization Projects completed.
- One Grassed Waterway installed.
- Two Well sealing projects completed.
- One Acre of farmstead windbreaks installed using State Cost Share Dollars.

- Assisted in distributing \$167,279.00 in assistance to Nicollet County Landowners for Conservation practices, through the Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- 9,000 Trees and shrubs distributed to Nicollet County Residents.
- Staff partnered with the MN DOT to plant shrubs along the Minnesota River

FUTURE PROJECTS

Sedimentation Reduction Project along State Highway 169

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) office in Mankato and the SWCD are looking at sedimentation problems along State Highway 169 between Mankato and Le Sueur. The SWCD and MNDOT hope to partner with landowners on projects in the upland areas of these watersheds with cost share incentives.

Board Members

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| John H Kral | Chair | (507) 354-6592 | 64325 Co Rd 21, New Ulm, MN 56073 |
| Eldon H Brown | Secretary | (507) 934-1523 | 38603 460th St, St Peter, MN 56082 |
| William Hohenstein | Vice Chair | (507) 931-1166 | 40997 425th Ave, St Peter, MN 56082 |
| Bruce Hulke | Treasurer | (507) 354-2788 | 51589 Co Rd 21, New Ulm, MN 56073 |
| Robby Gieseke | Member | (507) 246-5454 | 47947 370 th St. Nicollet, MN 56074 |

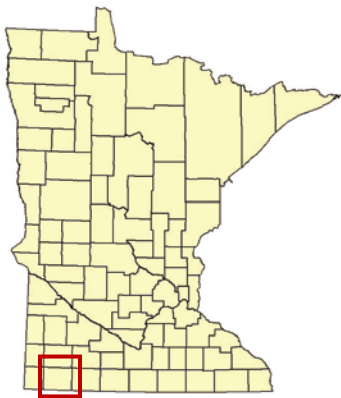
Nobles

Soil and Water Conservation District

1567 McMillan St Ste 3
Worthington, MN 56187
PHONE: (507) 376-9150
FAX: (507) 372-7751

www.noblesswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 3rd Wednesday at
7:30am*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| Total | <u>\$243,966</u> |
|-------|------------------|

Recent Projects



Minnesota West Technical College Raingardens

Multiple rain gardens were designed and installed by the Nobles SWCD with assistance from NRCS, USFW and Minnesota West Technical College. The rain gardens varied in size and were designed to take in roof and parking lot runoff. The completion of these projects addressed local water quality concerns with all runoff previously being directly discharging onto Lake Okabena via the City of Worthington's stormwater system. Minnesota West staff and students participated in all aspects of the creation of these raingardens.

Recent projects (continued)

Nobles County Comprehensive Waterplan

The Nobles SWCD, Nobles County and 2 Watershed Districts combined their efforts to create a unified water management plan. The Kanaranzi – Little Rock Watershed, Okabena – Ocheda Watershed worked with the County and SWCD to develop a single water management plan. Diverse interest groups participated in the planning process, including members of city councils and town boards, farm bureaus, farm unions, lake associations, construction companies, rural water, and public utilities. Pheasants Forever and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service also were active participants. The result of this effort included a document that satisfied all four local government units' needs as well as the state of Minnesota requirements. The combined plan demonstrated the cooperation LGU's can achieve when common interests and goals need to be met on a larger scale.

Future Projects



The Nobles SWCD and the Kanaranzi – Little Rock Watershed District were allocated \$300,000 of cost-share through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This stimulus funding is designated to be used for structural erosion control practices such as grassed waterways and terraces, as well as residue management. All funds have been encumbered and projects are ready to be installed as soon as sites and landowners are ready.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Paul Langseth | Chair | (507) 376-5686 | 35505 280th St., Worthington, MN 56187 |
| Lynn Darling | Secretary | (507) 478-4185 | 26197 260th St, Rushmore, MN 56168 |
| James Knips | Member | (507) 472-8231 | 13510 Chaney Ave, Lismore, MN 56155 |
| Rick Nelsen | Vice Chair | (507) 425-3193 | 12947 US Highway 59, Fulda, MN 56131 |
| Ken Wolf | Member | (507) 483-2179 | 14501 275th St, Adrian, MN 56110 |

Norman

Soil and Water Conservation District

100 Main Ave E PO Box 60
Twin Valley, MN 56584
PHONE: (218) 584-5169
FAX: (218) 584-5667

www.nwmnswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Third Wednesday of
Month at 8:00 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Enhance water quality by promoting conservation projects.
2. Promote wetland restorations and stream buffers with program incentives.
3. Work with the local watershed districts to reduce flooding.
4. Minimize soil erosion through conservation plans and financial assistance.
5. Educate the public on the importance of protecting and preserving our natural resources.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Monitoring/Research | \$23,057 |
| Education/Outreach | \$39,000 |
| Wetland Conservation Act | \$14,793 |
| Cost share/project construction, implementation and maintenance | \$92,173 |
| Planning/other local water management duties | \$50,029 |
| Conservation easement funding/assistance | \$16,388 |
| Programs and operations | \$60,936 |
| Total | \$296,376 |

Recent Projects

A number of wetland restorations were completed in 2009 as a result of a

combination of state and federal programs. In an intensive farming area, there are more wetlands being created or restored. The success of wetlands will continue with state support.



Recent projects (continued)

Improvements were made to 6 multi-

purpose dams in Norman County. Inlet structures were installed to increase flood storage and reduce maintenance.

SWCD staff and volunteers worked together to complete the projects.



Future Projects

Water erosion repairs from the flood of 2009 will be completed with the help of state programs. There are as many as 30 sites that will be converted to sediment basins, grade stabilization structures and streambank repairs.

RIM conservation easements will be implemented on a number of sites in 2010.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Ron Thorsrud | Chair | (218) 584-8448 | PO Box 111, Twin Valley, MN 56584 |
| Brian Borgen | Vice Chair | (218) 861-6511 | PO Box 64, Hendrum, MN 56550 |
| Erik Rockstad | Treasurer | (218) 784-3741 | 2806 190 th Ave, Ada, MN 56510 |
| Kelly Skaurud | Member | (218) 356-8772 | 4494 St Hwy 200, Gary, MN 56545 |
| Gene Ueland | Secretary | (218) 886-8570 | 2952 180th Street, Ada, MN 56510 |

Olmsted

Soil and Water Conservation District

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

www.co.olmsted.mn.us
(see "County Departments," "Public Works"
and "Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation
District")

*SWCD Board Meeting: 4th Thursday of the
Month, Feb-Oct; 3rd Thursday of the Month,
Nov-Jan at 8 a.m.*



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| Total | \$545,067 |
|-------|-----------|

Recent Projects

Flood recovery



Pictured: A grade stabilization structure located in Whitewater watershed in Olmsted County was repaired as part of the flood recovery effort by local-state-federal conservation partners.

Flood recovery



Olmsted SWCD provided landowners assistance for damages obtained from 14 inches of rain in August 2007. This structure, constructed in 1957 and had minor repairs in 1977, sustained substantial damage requiring replacing the principle spillway, shaping and reseeding the structure.

Wetland restored through banking program

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.

Future Projects

The Olmsted SWCD will continue completing flood recovery projects, and promoting opportunities for landowners to implement conservation best management practices.

Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Paul Uecker | Chair | (507) 282-2419 | 5219 70th Ave NE, Rochester, MN 55906 |
| Steve Connelly | Vice Chair | (507) 282-1527 | 7130 - 10th St SW, PO Box 681, Byron, MN 55920 |
| Andy Hart | Member | (507) 876-2256 | 10723 County Rd 11 NE, Elgin, MN 55932 |
| John Keefe | Member | (507) 254-9971 | 15963 Hwy 14 SE, Dover, MN 55929 |
| George Poch | Secretary | (507) 282-7022 | 1639 5th Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904 |

East Otter Tail

Soil and Water Conservation District

801 Jenny Ave SW Ste 2
Perham, MN 56573
PHONE: (218) 346-4260
FAX: (218) 346-4262

www.eotswcd.org

*Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of Month at 8:30 am,
Nov-March; 7:30 am, April -Oct*



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$543,69</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|

Recent Projects

The Native Shoreland Buffer Incentives Program

- In 2008 Otter Tail County was fortunate to receive one of two \$75,000 grants available from the MN DNR to assist local governments using social indicator research to develop innovative shoreland programs. A survey of local shoreland owners was performed to guide initial program development. The survey gauges current knowledge, attitudes, and practices to identify any barriers to native shoreland restoration. Methods, materials, and incentives are being developed by the project partners to overcome the local barriers. A follow-up survey in 2010 will measure changes in knowledge, attitudes, and practices. These indicators will be used to gauge program effectiveness before water quality changes or other physical results become apparent on the ground. Partners in the grant include the UMN Water Resource Center, Extension, MN DNR, the Coalition of Otter Tail County Lake Associations, OTC Land & Resource Management, OTC GIS, and USFWS. Funding for this grant comes from the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Irrigation Scheduler Program - 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.

Lakescaping and Shoreline Stabilization Program – Through a partnership with WOT SWCD and Otter Tail County the EOT SWCD has been able to hire a shoreland specialist to assist landowners with shoreland stabilization and lakescaping projects. Since 2008 the shoreland specialist has visited over 100 sites and has assisted in installing 36 stabilization or lakescaping projects. We currently have another 12 projects scheduled for installation in



Conservation Tour - The East Otter Tail and West Otter Tail SWCDs held a joint conservation tour in 2009 (pictured). Stops included an ag waste facility, a wetland restoration, a shoreline stabilization project, a lakescaping site, several tree and native grass plantings, and other conservation practices.

2010. Funding for these projects comes from



various sources including the Native Buffer Cost Share Program, County Water Plan Cost Share, EQIP, and the DNR Shoreland Habitat Grants program.

Future Projects

Invasive species removal in high quality oak savannas and adjacent to or on public property. The EOT SWCD is working in conjunction with the Minnesota Forest Resource Councils West Central Committee to obtain grant funding to target buckthorn control in priority areas of East Otter Tail County.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Lyle Dittmann | Chair | (218) 385-2392 | 54589 County Hwy 58, New York Mills, MN 56567 |
| Marion Gill | Secretary | (218) 346-7295 | 40122 Aerovilla Rd, Perham, MN 56573 |
| Steve Inwards | Vice Chair | (218) 338-5866 | 14159 Co Hwy 42, Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 |
| Dennis Reynolds | Treasurer | (218) 758-2162 | 38596 Egret Road, Richville, MN 56576-9634 |
| Open due to resignation | | | |

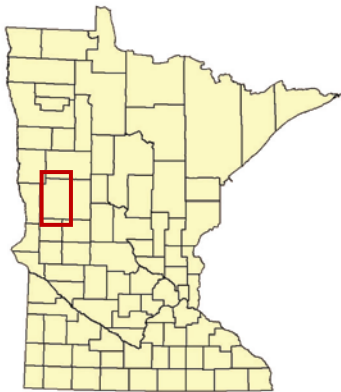
West Otter Tail

Soil and Water Conservation District

506 Western Ave N
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
PHONE: (218) 739-1308
FAX: (218) 739-1309

www.wotswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Monday of Month
at 9:00 A.M.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Monitoring / Research | \$1,800 |
| Education / Outreach | \$6,000 |
| Wetland Conservation Act | \$38,000 |
| Cost Share / Project Construction | |
| Implementation and Maintenance | \$540,000 |
| Planning / Other Local Water | |
| Management Duties | \$4,000 |
| Conservation Easement Funding | |
| / Assistance | \$11,000 |
| Programs and Operations | \$7,500 |
| Total | \$608,300 |

Recent Projects



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizens Stream Monitoring Program is a joint water quality monitoring program between the PCA and the West Otter Tail SWCD. Pictured is SWCD Supervisor Charles Piekarski taking weekly samples of the Pelican River northwest of Fergus falls.

Working Lands Initiative

The West Otter Tail (WOT) SWCD in cooperation with DNR, NRCS, Fish and Wildlife Service, has received funding for Working Lands Initiative. Mud Lake and Haldorsen Lake are two recent areas that have been targeted for their importance to nesting waterfowl, wildlife, and natural resources concerns. Landowners will be educated on the need for native grass buffers to help clean up the watersheds that contribute to the targeted lakes. The Mud Lake WLI area has 58 acres and Haldorsen Lake WLI area has over 165 acres in CRP that is being enrolled, and is ongoing.

A Shoreland Buffer was created on scenic Lake Alice, located in Fergus Falls. This native buffer will be used as a demonstration site for the city of Fergus Falls to build on. The WOT SWCD has been working with the City of Fergus Falls on targeting lakes with water quality issues in the city limits. This buffer will help demonstrate how native grasses and wildflowers will help control eroding shorelines and filter contaminants from entering lakes and streams.

RIM/WRP Partnership



(Before and After)

(2009 Planting of a 180' Native Prairie Shoreland Buffer on Lake Alice in Fergus Falls. This project was funded using state cost share dollars).

The RIM/WRP Program is a premier wetland restoration program in Minnesota. It combines the states Re-Invest in Minnesota (RIM) and USDAs Wetland Restoration Program (WRP). West Otter Tail SWCD is currently working with 5 landowners to restore 290 acres of drained wetlands. Lands surrounding these restored wetlands will be seeded to native grasses and wildflowers, which will provide nesting habitat for area wildlife.

Future Projects

Rural Preserves Program

New to Otter Tail County in 2010 will be the Rural Preserves Program. SWCDs in Otter Tail County will be assisting over 900 landowners with their conservation needs by developing/assisting landowners with conservation plans. These conservation plans will address Best Management Practices (BMPs) for landowners in Otter Tail County with eligible class 2b land.

Pomme De Terre Watershed

The MPCA has listed two lower reaches of the Pomme De Terre River as impaired for excess levels of fecal coliform and turbidity (clarity). The Pomme De Terre River association and Joint Powers Board (made up of county commissioners and SWCD supervisors within the watershed) received grant funding from MPCA to address these impairments. The project coordinator along with SWCD staff will work with landowners within the watershed to implement conservation practices and best management practices to these impairments. Any landowners interested in water quality within the watershed are asked to contact their local Soil and Water District.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|---|
| Rod Wenstrom | Chairman | (218) 739-9578 | 25811 County Hwy 18, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 |
| Charles Piekarski | Vice Chairman | (218) 736-7918 | 24678 Co Hwy 11, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 |
| John Walkup | Secretary | (218) 739-2580 | 11301 150th Ave, Campbell, MN 56522 |
| Richard Viger | Treasurer | (218) 589-8727 | 12598 US Hwy 59, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 |
| Julian Sjostrom | Public Relations | (218) 863-7785 | 17890 County Hwy 28, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 |

Pennington

Soil and Water Conservation District



201 Sherwood Ave S
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
PHONE: (218) 683-7075
FAX: (218) 681-3259

www.nwmnswcd.org/pennington

*SWCD Board Meeting: Third Monday of Month
at 9:00 a.m.*

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect and improve surface water quality and groundwater resources
2. Reduce water and wind erosion
3. Promote and educate the public about the SWCD and our conservation programs
4. Conservation of wetlands and wildlife areas
5. Flood damage reduction

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Charges for Services | \$72,898 |
| Federal | \$5,168 |
| State | \$54,925 |
| County | \$137,828 |
| Interest and other | \$9,589 |
| Total | \$280,408 |

Recent Projects



We were successful in securing funds for the Jerome St. Group Project that was listed in the 2008 guidebook. This 700' streambank stabilization project is located just downstream of the power dam in Thief River Falls where ice flows and high water undercut the bank to the point of cracking the top slope. The Pennington SWCD worked with the group of five landowners for the last five years to acquire funding. Meanwhile the price tag increased from \$85,000 to \$100,000. The project is located across the Red Lake River from a highly used city park where aesthetics are a major factor. The landowners' privacy from the park was also something to consider. The large number of people that use the park along with water quality benefits convinced the Red Lake Watershed District and the City of Thief River Falls to participate. Finally, in 2009 the project became a reality. Construction started in October with stabilizing the toe by creating a 15' wide bench, restoring the floodplain without removing existing vegetation. The City donated 2,000 cubic yards of fill along with trucks and drivers. Their in-kind work reduced the project cost by \$28,000. Pennington SWCD used state cost-share to cover 25% of the cost and the Red Lake Watershed District provided the remainder. The project will be completed in the spring of 2010 with grass seeding and installing live stakes. The Red River Valley Conservation Service Area provided the engineering services.



In cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Pennington SWCD, nine grade stabilization structures were installed in 2009. The Pennington County Comprehensive Local Water Plan and the EQIP Local Work Group have identified sedimentation and turbidity as a high priority resource concern. These structures transfer water from fields to drainage ditches without erosion. There are 16 more planned for 2010.



Outdoor Education Day provides hands on learning for 200 sixth graders in Pennington County. Stations include the Incredible Edible Landfill, Tree Bingo, the Deer Population Game, Archery, Trapping, the Adventures of a Raindrop, Glaciers, Water Hauling and the Water Arcade.



This problem will be corrected with a streambank stabilization project to be constructed in 2010 in cooperation with the Red Lake Watershed District. Ice jams not only contribute to flooding upstream of the dam but cause erosion like this from flood water flowing around them. Partnering with the Watershed District has filled the gap of lost cost-share funding from the State.

Future Projects

Clean Water Fund grants have been requested to stabilize 1.25 miles of Judicial Ditch 30. This reach is the last portion of a 30 mile main stem ditch system that outlets into the Thief River. The Pennington SWCD will partner with Pennington County to flatten the side slopes and create a two stage ditch design. During high flows, water will spread out into a wider channel, creating a floodplain effect.

We also applied for funds to stabilize 1700 feet of the Thief River. The Thief River is impaired for turbidity and low dissolved oxygen. Two landowners and the golf course are losing ground and trees to the river. Stream barbs are planned to resolve this situation.

Board Members

| | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Brenda Szymanski | Chair | (218) 378-4119 |
| Linda Hanson | PR&I | (218) 378-4588 |
| Greg Hilgeman | Treasurer | (218) 796-5395 |
| Raymond Olson | Secretary | (218) 681-2259 |
| Ricky Peterson | Vice Chair | (218) 681-2895 |

| |
|---|
| 34866 120th St NE, Goodridge, MN 56725 |
| 35400 St. Hwy. 1 NE, Goodridge, MN 56725 |
| 32470 - 140th St SE, Oklee, MN 56742 |
| 15648 - 200th St NW, Thief River Falls, MN 56701 |
| 16642 State Hwy 1 NE, Thief River Falls, MN 56701 |

Pine

Soil and Water Conservation District

1602 Hwy 23 N
Sandstone, MN 55072
PHONE: (320) 216-4240
FAX: (320) 216-4244

www.pineswcd.com

*SWCD Board Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of
Month at 4:30 in the Pine County HHS Board
Room, Sandstone, MN*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protection of ground water quality/quantity
2. Protection/improvement of surface water quality
3. Participate in TMDLs with MPCA and other partners
4. Streambank and lakeshore protection and stabilization
5. General public awareness of SWCD programs

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| County | \$185,473 |
| State | \$123,835 |
| Local | \$ 8,883 |
| Charges for Services | \$ 59,675 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 6,513 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$384,379</u> |

Recent Projects

Community Plants Woodpecker Ridge



Pine City's neighborhood planting event on May 31, 2008 came to fruition, and over 30 rainwater gardens are now planted in Woodpecker Ridge.



Approximately 35 volunteers met for a brief orientation, and then were dispersed to plant and mulch. A picnic lunch, provided by SEH (Short Elliot Hendrickson, the city's engineering firm) was held at Lion's Park for all of the volunteers. City Planner Nathan Johnson said the city staff was impressed that they were able to rely on the neighborhood to come together to donate time, energy and experience in a variety of areas.

The gardens will serve as a natural way of treating storm water before it enters the Snake River or Cross Lake. Pine City is one of the first cities in greater Minnesota to develop rainwater gardens. The planting of the rainwater gardens was one of the final components of the 2007 street reconstruction project.

Volunteers Clean & Stabilize Inlets to Pine Lakes



Volunteers from the Big Pine Lakes Association cleaned up two creeks draining into Pine and Big Pine Lakes. In July, volunteers cleaned up Sunset Creek located on the east side of Pine Lake. Approximately 5 yards of debris was removed, which included: metal parts, bed springs, wood, logs, car parts, pop cans, and tires. Once the cleanup was completed, 12 yards of river rock was laid down in the creek bed. The sides of the entire creek were riprapped to reduce erosion and to stabilize the creek sides. Trees and shrubs were planted. Future improvements include the planting of native vegetation along the sides of the creek to help stabilize the banks and to filter sediment and nutrients entering the creek.

In September, more volunteers cleaned up Whiskey Creek located on the east side of Big Pine Lake. River rock was laid down in the creek bed to stabilize the soil and minimize erosion and sediment transport into the lake. Trees and shrubs were also planted. Care was taken to maintain natural vegetation and minimize disturbance to the areas of concern. Natural vegetation will be planted on the creek banks to stabilize the soil with the long roots and to act as a buffer to reduce sediment and nutrients from entering the creek.

Hinckley-Finlayson Students Receive MN Waters Training To Assess Grindstone River

Several students at Hinckley Finlayson High School participated in Stream Health Evaluation Project (SHEP) workshops Sponsored by Minnesota Waters this fall. The purpose was training for macroinvertebrate and habitat assessment in the Grindstone River on a yearly basis. The students attended a Field Training to learn sampling techniques and two Lab ID sessions for identification of invertebrates to family level. The group will monitor four Grindstone River sites in or near Hinckley each fall.

The first year of sampling involved some trial and error. The students learned to sort detritus in the field more thoroughly and to sort immediately after sampling to ensure having the minimum of 100 organisms required for reliable data. Lab ID went well so the group is confident that they will have solid baseline data in 2009 and the future. Initial results indicated high biodiversity and the presence of stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies, and other low pollution tolerance organisms, which would show good water quality.

This program is a partnership of Minnesota Waters, Hinckley-Finlayson High School, Pine County SWCD, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency designed for citizen monitors interested in and committed to finding out the health of our streams. The group is led by Dennis Boxrud HFHS Life Science/Conservation teacher, and Don Grice HFHS biology teacher.

Future Projects

The district's major focus in the next few years will be the implementation of the updated county water plan, and TMDL implementation in the Snake River Watershed, St. Croix Watershed Basin, and Grindstone Lake.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| Douglas Odegard | Chair | (320) 629-6502 | 31159 St Croix Rd, Pine City, MN 55063 |
| Paul Olesen | Secretary | (320) 838-3435 | 61715 Beaver Tail Rd, Askov, MN 55704 |
| Kelly Osterdyk | Vice Chair | (320) 629-7180 | 16539 Henriette Rd, Pine City, MN 55063 |
| Skip Thomson | Secretary | (320) 345-2469 | 55685 Thomson Rd, Sandstone, MN 55072 |
| JJ Waldhalm | Public Relations | (218) 372-4117 | 8848 General Andrews Dr, Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783 |

Pipestone

Soil and Water Conservation District

119 2nd Ave SW Ste 13
Pipestone, MN 56164
PHONE: (507) 825-4268
FAX: (507) 825-6782

www.pipestoneswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting:
Second Thursday of each Month at 9:00 am*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

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

2008 Revenue

Program Revenues:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Charges for Services | \$35,426 |
| Federal Grants | \$11,054 |
| State Grants & Entitlements | \$92,809 |
| County | \$162,774 |
| General Revenues | \$13,998 |
| <u>Total:</u> | <u>\$316,061</u> |

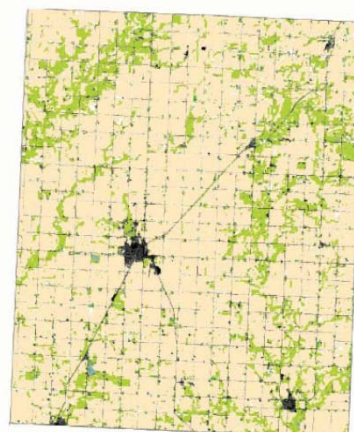
Recent Projects



Feedlot Runoff Control Structure Completed in 2008

STATE COST-SHARE PROGRAM AND FEEDLOTWATER QUALITY GRANT FUNDS

Projects included the installation of 8 Sediment Control Basins from 5 contracts and 3 Ag Waste practices. Projects expenditures were \$104,083 in cost-share assistance and \$11,840 for Technical Assistance.



Pipestone County Land Cover

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

AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES LOAN PROGRAM

Approximately \$176,000.00 of low interest loans were issued to 7 producers who implemented non-point source reduction projects. Projects included Ag wastes, SSTS updates, and no-till equipment purchases.

LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT

Pipestone County Promotes Conservation Education through the Prairie Ecology Bus. Funds were utilized by area school to host the bus. Program dollars were utilized to provide 50% cost-share assistance to seal 28 abandoned wells, and assist in BMP projects.

Clean Water Legacy grant applications were submitted for both the Pipestone Creek and Rock River watersheds TMDL's.



Pipestone Creek

FEEDLOT DELEGATION

Pipestone County is delegated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to oversee and manage feedlots. Accomplishments included: 120 onsite compliance inspections, 5 interim, 5 construction short form permits issued, and 3 complaints were filed. Local producer manure management training was also held in which approx 40 producers attended. We also continue to assist local producers with manure spreader calibration each year.

2009 Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Anna Mae Fritz | Chair | (507) 825-4058 | 1310 141st St, Holland, MN 56139 |
| Ian Cunningham | Member | (507) 825-2296 | 565 81st St, Pipestone, MN 56164 |
| Ed Loll | Treasurer | (507) 825-2732 | 1696 60th Ave, Pipestone, MN 56164 |
| Cal Spronk | Secretary | (507) 442-5334 | 84 130th Ave, Edgerton, MN 56128 |
| LeRoy Stensgaard | Vice Chair | (507) 658-3681 | 135 Aetna St, Ruthton, MN 56170 |

COUNTY WIDE RECYCLING COLLECTIONS



Inside view of the Pipestone County Recycling Center

In 2008 we began to offer free monthly residential electronic, appliance, fluorescent bulb / ballast, empty pesticide container, and lead acid battery recycling collections. In the same year we also held three house hold hazardous waste collections to clean up the environment. The amount of material that was recycled amounted to 35 tons of electronics, 8,400 lbs. of hazardous material, 6,635 florescent bulbs, and an estimated 200 major household appliances.

With the popular demand of the program the number of materials recycled in 2009 has dramatically increased.

Future Projects

- *REINVEST IN MINNESOTA (RIM)*
- *CLEAN WATER AMENDMENT FUNDS*
- *SSTS ORDINANCE UPDATE*
- *FEEDLOT RE-REGISTRATION*

East Polk

Soil and Water Conservation District

PO Box 57
McIntosh, MN 56556
PHONE: (218) 563-2777

www.nwmnswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Second Thursday of
Month at 8:00 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reduce wind and water erosion.
2. Focus on surface water quality specifically as it pertains to the human impact on the lake region.
3. Focus on the quantity of water passing through the County.
4. Assist feedlot owners to comply with the feedlot requirements.
5. Assist landowners with wetland issues.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Comprehensive Water Plan | \$ 12,941 |
| Wetland Conservation Act | \$24,655 |
| Feedlots | \$6302 |
| Cost share/owner assistance | \$62841 |
| Program/Operational | \$75142 |
| Total | \$181,881 |

Recent Projects

Minnesota Recovers

The SWCD applied for and received funding for projects through the Minnesota Recovers Task Force State Disaster Assistance Program. Funds requested were through the Sedimentation/Soil Erosion/Water Quality section. District projects included: repairing field washouts on private land and a local golf course had overland flooding from the Sand Hill River causing parts of the golf course to erode away, also causing huge sediment deposits on the freeways. Funding was received in the amount of \$160,000.



East Polk County Cooperative Weed Management

The East Polk SWCD received funds to assist the local townships to control invasive species along the township road right –a-way's. Species of concern were leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and canada thistle. The goal of the program is to: a) Develop a map of invasive/noxious weeds within the townships. This map would be used to identify critical areas for future reference. b) Contract with a license chemical applicator to spray the sites identified by the township. The sites controlled

Recent projects (continued)

would be GPS and put into the County data base. Treated area's would need to be controlled in a timely manner with the correct chemical used and proper application rate.

Educational activities include the District Rydell Conservation Day's for 7th grade, Envirothon, Northwest MN Water Festival, booth at the Polk County Fair, and Lake Leader Newsletter.

Effects of Rolling Bean Ground

The District along with the MN Dept of AG and the UM Extension conducted a research project to see the effects of rock rolling beans from runoff after heavy rainfall. While rollers leave the surface smooth and exposed, does this practice foster soil erosion and nutrient runoff? A rain simulator was set up that would equal a 2" rain. Runoff was collected and measured. A portion of the sample will be analyzed for sediment loading and phosphorus runoff.

Practices will compare: planting followed by rolling, roll then plant, rolling after emergence of beans at three different stages of growth and not rolling beans at all.

Future Projects

Many of the projects that have been done in the past are still on-going.

Sand Hill Watershed Partnership – The Sand Hill Watershed District cost-shares with landowners to install BPM's with the District on projects within the Sand Hill Watershed District. The SWCD has a list of landowners waiting for assistance.

Continue to work with the Townships on the Cooperative Weed Management Grant.

Complete the remaining projects that were funded through the Minnesota Recovers program.

The East Polk SWCD applied for funding through the Clean Waters Assistance Grant. This request is to assist 8 landowners install 25 sediment basins within the Sand Hill Watershed area.

Continue doing MPCA citizen stream monitoring on 5 rivers and recording DNR lake levels on 13 lakes monthly.

Board Members

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|---|
| Al Bauer | Chair | (218) 687-5356 | 22118 - 370th St SE, Erskine, MN 56535 |
| Scott Balstad | Member | (218) 435-6311 | 33393 420th St SE, Fosston, MN 56542 |
| Bruce Grundyson | Secretary | (218) 563-4353 | 27258 - 330th St SE, McIntosh, MN 56556 |
| Kenneth Pederson | Treasurer | (218) 574-2476 | 11574 - 380th St SE, Fertile, MN 56540 |
| Lawrence Vettleson | Treasurer | (218) 268-4079 | 39391 - 270th St SE, Gully, MN 56646 |

West Polk

Soil and Water Conservation District

528 Strander Ave
Crookston, MN 56
PHONE: (218) 281-6070
FAX: (218) 281-6071

www.nwmnswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Third Thursday of
Month 7 a.m.*



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| Total | <u>\$238,552</u> |
|-------|------------------|

Recent Projects

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.



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.

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 meanders 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.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Todd Radi | Chair | (218) 281-1769 | 20110 - 320th Ave. SW, Fisher, MN 56723 |
| Ben Larson | PR&I | (218) 857-3303 | 35781 State Hwy. 220 SW, Climax, MN 56523 |
| Mark McWalter | Secretary | (218) 773-8053 | 506 - 12th St NW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721 |
| Dale Peterson | Vice Chair | (218) 745-4923 | 18717 Hwy 75 NW, Warren, MN 56762 |
| Russ Severson | Treasurer | (218) 281-3248 | 28247 - 160th Ave SW, Crookston, MN 56716 |

Pope

Soil and Water Conservation District

1680 Franklin St N
Glenwood, MN 56334
PHONE: (320) 634-5327
FAX: (320) 634-4278

www.popeswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the
Month @ 7:00 am*



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 point source pollution
5. Continue to promote and control invasive species through education, treatment, and monitoring.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$404,198</u> |
|--------------|------------------|

2008 Expenditures by Category

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Monitoring/research | \$3,454 |
| Education/Outreach | \$5,256 |
| Wetland Conservation Act | \$35,502 |
| Cost Share/Project Construction and Management | \$57,678 |
| Conservation Easement Funding and Assistance | \$31,125 |
| Planning / Other Local Water Management Duties | \$27,539 |
| Programs and Operations | \$143,391 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$303,946</u> |

Recent Projects

Rain Garden Installation and Workshop



Pope Soil and Water Conservation District, Farm Service Agency and Land & Resource Management partnered to design a rain garden at the Pope County Fair grounds. With funding from the Chippewa River Watershed and plants from Glacial ridge Growers, a rain garden was installed between the sidewalk and industrial building at the fair grounds. Volunteers from the fair board, Master Gardeners, and 4-H youth prepared the site, completed planting, and installed ground cover. The site is very visible and accessible to the general public.



Working Land Initiative Project

Pope Soil & Water Conservation District worked with several producers and agencies on a cooperative demonstration project to compare similarities and differences in grassland management techniques funded by the Working Land Initiative Project. Through cooperation, the demonstration project compared the similarities and differences in grassland management techniques including prescribed burning, haying, grazing, and idling of various different sites in the county.



Demonstration site included 3-5 acres so that management tools could be compared. Treatment options during 2008 were controlled burn, graze, bale or lay idle. The sites were monitored for vegetation, soil analysis, and the nutritional value of grasses. The sites were tested again in 2009 for vegetation, and soil analysis. Tours were conducted August 19 and 20, 2009 to release the results of the Working Lands Initiative Project.

Total Maximum Daily Load Study

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency initiated a project entitled the "Pope County 8 Lake TMDL Study". Over fifty (50) people attended the public meeting In May 2009 to discuss this study. During the meeting, consultants presented a summary of the available data, review assessments of the existing water quality of each lake, and answer questions regarding TMDL testing. A test known as 'Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)' is used to identify impaired water for excessive nutrients, usually phosphorus. The study will identify sources of pollutants in a body of water, determine the reductions in nutrient loads for the lake to meet State standards for water quality and develop a strategy to restore the lakes.

The lakes identified in this project are: Ann, Emily, Gilcrest, Leven, Malmedah, Pelican, Reno, and Strandness. Pope SWCD is acting as the administrator for this project.

Future Projects

Complete cost share projects for three (3) manure handling facilities.

Complete invasive species treatments for eight landowners.

Secure additional funding to implement best management practices.

Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Keith Nygaard | Chairman | 27378 180t Street, Starbuck | 320-239-4279 |
| D. Gary Reents | Vice-Chair | 15821 County Road 21, Villard | 320-554-3328 |
| Ralph Peterson | Secretary | 960 East Minnesota Avenue, Glenwood | 320-634-3328 |
| Randy Anderson | Treasurer | 27458 County Road 13, Starbuck | 320-239-2579 |
| Mark Halls | Public Relations | 30523 State Highway 102, Brooten | 320-278-3285 |

Ramsey

Conservation District

1425 Paul Kirkwold Dr
Arden Hills, MN 55112
PHONE: (651) 266-7270
FAX: (651) 266-7276

www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cd

*RCD Monthly Board Meeting:
2nd Friday at 11:30 am*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Groundwater quality protection
2. Surface water quality protection/improvement
3. Sustainable land and water resource use
4. Urban green-space restoration and protection
5. Environmental stewardship education

2008 Operating Budget Revenues

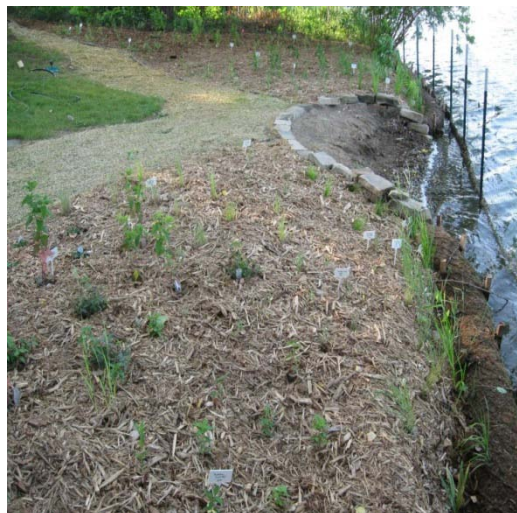
| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Ramsey County Tax Levy | \$31,058 |
| Agricultural Conservation Fees | \$169,795 |
| Fee-for-Service other Gov. Units | \$144,550 |
| BWSR grants | \$71,832 |
| DNR Ob-well monitoring Services | \$1,320 |

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$418,555</u> |
|--------------|------------------|

Recent Projects

Shoreline/stream bank restoration:

Ramsey County is the smallest, most densely populated, and highly urbanized county within the state. We are very fortunate to have the Mississippi River and over 200 lakes, wetlands, and streams that are inventoried and recognized by the DNR. With the rapid advance of urbanization, most of our water resource shoreline has been subject to erosion and degradation. In response, the RCD has developed a very active shoreline restoration program that provides technical assistance, education, and cost-share assistance to private and public land owners. To more effectively address these needs, we have created partnerships with watershed management organizations and sought grant funding from state agencies to assist property owners. On average, we assist over 40 landowners per year with shoreline erosion problems. In 2008 and 2009, we acquired over \$200,000 in grant funding from BWSR to assist property owners install shoreline BMP's. BWSR grant funding leverages both local government and property owner match.



Gene Beasley residence shoreline restoration project on Pike Lake in New Brighton. Project funded by BWSR Native Buffer Grant, Rice Creek Watershed District, and the property owner.

Urban Stormwater Infiltration:

Impervious surfaces such as roof-tops, concrete, asphalt, and other hard surfaces “shed” rainfall that lands on it. Under pre-settlement conditions, it has been estimated that up to 85% of precipitation infiltrated into the ground where any pollutants in the water can be filtered by the soil. In Ramsey County, with our large percentage of impervious surface, this amounts to billions of gallons of rainwater flowing directly into our water resources via storm sewers. Impervious surface also collects non-point source pollution and in concert with storm sewers, makes these water management systems the number one source of pollution to our water resources. Raingardens have become a very popular choice for property owners to manage their runoff. In an average year, RCD staff will consult with over 200 landowners seeking technical and financial assistance to establish them.



Hoffman raingarden in Shoreview, constructed in 2008. Project funded by cost-share funding from the Grass Lake WMO and RCD. The raingarden manages urban runoff from 2/3 acre.

Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control Permit Inspection:

Sediment, primarily from land disturbed for development/redevelopment, is a major source of pollution to our water resources. Ramsey County cities and state agencies require permits that imposed regulations to prevent sediment from leaving construction sites and being deposited in our water resources. Through a joint powers agreement and professional services agreements, the RCD has assisted the MPCA and cities monitor 300+ sites per year for compliance with rules governing soil erosion and sediment control.

Future Projects

Urban Stormwater System Retro-fit Analysis:

Urban land use and storm sewers are the leading cause of water quality degradation in Ramsey County. If we are to protect and improve our water resources, we must modify our stormwater drainage systems to include water quality best management practices. The RCD will partner with local units of government to assess/analyze their existing stormwater management systems, identifying cost-effective opportunities to implement BMPs to protect and improve the water quality of our lakes, streams, and wetlands.

Groundwater Protection:

Ramsey County adopted a Groundwater Protection Plan 1996, and since then many changes have occurred in groundwater use and additional threats to quality have been identified. The District will work with the County, State agencies, and local units of government to adopt and implement a revised plan that will address current and future threats to groundwater quality.

Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Karen Eckman | Treasurer | (651) 483-8460 | 966 Cobb Rd, Shoreview, MN 55126 |
| Margaret Behrens | Secretary/Education | (651) 484-6911 | 1393 Kohlman Ave E, Maplewood, MN 55109 |
| Mara Humphrey | Vice- Chair | (651) 722-5436 | 1510 E Shore Dr, St Paul, MN 55106 |
| Nick Quade | Member | (651) 786-9035 | 1875 - 29th Ave NW, New Brighton, MN 55112 |
| Carrie Wasley | Chair | (651) 774-4305 | 1150 Cushing Circle #302, Saint Paul, MN 55108 |

Red Lake

Soil and Water Conservation District

2602 Wheat Dr
Red Lake Falls, MN 56



PHONE: (218) 253-2593
FAX: (218) 253-2593

www.nwmnswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: Second Monday of Month

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Focus on surface water quality and impaired waters; especially as it relates to human impacts for recreational use and as a downstream domestic use of the water supply.
2. Focus on quantity of water: flooding causes loss of income to farmers which greatly impacts local economy and contributes to sediment deposits in the rivers and streams.
3. Focus on ground water quality. Ground water quality is important because of all the public and private wells that are located throughout the county.
4. Focus on Erosion and Sedimentation, two issues that the county will always be trying to address and prevent.
5. Focus on improving the recreational opportunities in Red Lake County.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Charges for Services | \$3,109 |
| Total Intergovernmental-County | \$102,843 |
| Total Intergovernmental-State | \$44,895 |
| Total Misc. Revenue | \$9,030 |
| Total | \$159,877 |

Recent Projects

Completed the Comprehensive Local Water Management Program Update (2010-2020)

A Grazing Tour was held on July 15th in Red Lake County. There were 40 individuals who participated.

Erosion control project completed in 2009



Before



After

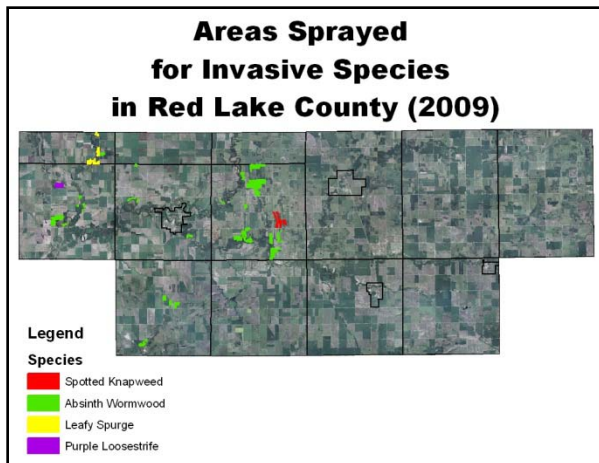
Flood recovery



Received \$290,250 from the Minnesota Red River Valley Flood Recovery Grant.

CWMA

Established a Cooperative Weed Management Program in the County from a \$36,000 grant that was received from BWSR in 2008.



Future Projects

Below are some pictures of the projects that are planned to be repaired from the MN RRV Flood Recovery Grant:



Board Members

| | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|
| David Miller | Chair | (218) 253-4337 |
| Mark LaCrosse, | Vice-Chair | (218) 253-4124 |
| Orville Knott, | Secretary | (218) 253-2804 |
| David Bachand, | Treasurer | (218) 796-5765 |
| Linda Mickelson, | Reporter | (218) 796-5378 |

15885 - 200th St SE, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
1005 Chicago Ave SW - RLF, MN 56750
10905 - 170th St. SE - RLF, MN 56750
706 State Hwy. 222 - Oklee, MN 56742
21886 270th Ave. SE - Oklee, MN 56742

Redwood

Soil and Water Conservation District



1241 E Bridge St Ste C
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
PHONE: (507) 637-2427
FAX: (507) 637-6002

www.redwoodswcd.org

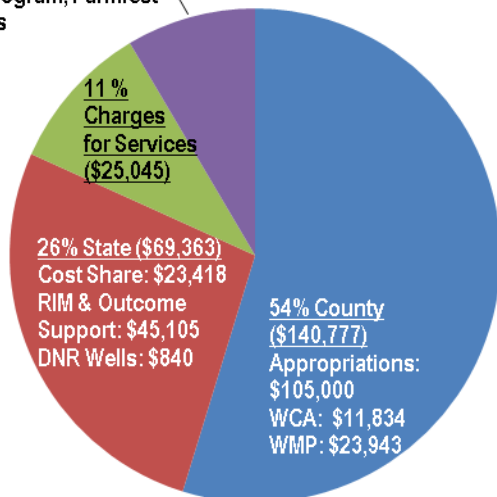
SWCD Board Meeting:
Second Thursday of each month 8:00 am except
December - March @ 9:30 am

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Restore water quality in the Minnesota, Redwood and Cottonwood Rivers.
2. Address impaired water by major watershed for priority pollutants: phosphorus, nitrogen, turbidity and fecal coliform bacteria.
3. Control erosion and sedimentation adding residue management and installation of filter strips county wide.
4. Control gully and concentrated flows in the southwest portion of the county through installation of best management practices.
5. Reduce potential for flooding by wetland restorations and installation of small multi-purpose dams.

2008 Revenue

9% Miscellaneous (\$21,879)
Education and promotion,
Affiliate Program, Farmfest
and others



Recent Projects

Redwood SWCD, along with seven other SWCDs in the surrounding area, received a competitive grant through the Clean Water Legacy Act in 2007. These funds were used to work on the Dissolved Oxygen TMDL as well as other impairments that have been identified through completed diagnostic studies. This successful partnership between the SWCDs has helped apply conservation to the most vulnerable areas in the watersheds of the Redwood and Cottonwood rivers. The districts received a total of \$315,000, which includes \$165,000 in state dollars and \$150,000 in EPA 319 dollars. The state dollars alone resulted in projects that reduced an estimated 1,626 tons of soil from entering the surface water bodies of the two watersheds. A total of \$186,040 was spent in Redwood County from these two funding sources.

In 2008, the Redwood SWCD received a total of \$600,000 in state grant dollars and 319 dollars. Many of these projects are in the planning stages; and they will reduce water erosion in the most vulnerable areas in the watershed.

We feel these partnerships will be the most successful in reducing sediments, nutrients, and other impairments that will help us reach the water quality goals of the Minnesota River.

The Renville, Redwood, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa and Lac qui Parle SWCDs have created a permanent easement program to protect granite rock outcrops. These sites house many of Minnesota's rarest native plant species, including Plains Prickle Pear cactus (pictured) and Prairie Bush Clover. The program protects these areas from mining, overgrazing or other future destruction, and it has already successfully established six easements protecting a total of 376.4 acres of granite rock outcrop in Redwood County alone. Funding for the program is through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).



Spring runoff erosion fixes



Pictured: Brian Pfarr, USDA NRCS technician (who is 6'4") stands in a gully that is more than 9 feet deep from one snow melt. The lower photo shows the repaired gully.



In the spring we can have warm temperatures early with snow cover still on the fields. Rapid snow melt can cause a large amount of surface runoff that creates a gully like the one pictured. The snow follows the furrows of the tillage practice from the fall and establishes a new path for the water to flow. It was calculated that this one-time event resulted in the deposit of 655 tons of sediments and nutrients that went directly into the Cottonwood River, which is just to the north of the field.

In order for the project to be completed successfully, a waterway needed to be installed on the adjoining landowner's property. With the cooperation of the two landowners, the gully was fixed with a waterway and water and sediment control basin. It is estimated that 175.7 tons of sediment and 240.1 pounds of phosphorus were reduced from entering the Cottonwood River.

Future Projects

Soil sampling for precision agriculture:

In the past our emphasis in agriculture has been placed toward each field, however with all the new technology at our fingertips it's time to start placing our emphasis on specific information per acre. This would precisely match fertilizer application to the needs of the crop. For example, in the past soil sampling has always been conducted per field and the same amount of nutrients is applied on the entire field, whether it is a 10 acre field or 160 acre field. New technology however allows us to grid sample the entire field and variably apply the nutrients to each specific location within the field. This is more effective than the previous nutrient management practices that follow the University of Minnesota recommendations simply due to the fact that is site specific.

The environmental benefits that can be achieved by variable application are limitless. With variable application, if nutrients currently exist, fewer nutrients need to be applied on site, causing less leaching, run-off and evaporation. Reduced nitrogen and phosphorus leaching will lead to the reduction of eutrophication causing our lakes, rivers, streams and ditches to become cleaner and healthier for wildlife, aquatic, and plant species. Not to mention saving most operators thousands of dollars in fertilizer costs.

This is one of the incentive practices that the Redwood-Cottonwood River Watershed Partnership has applied for in the 2010 Clean Water Fund.

Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Mike Hewitt | Chair | (507) 859-2406 | 13027 Duncan Ave, Walnut Grove, MN 56180 |
| Ralph Heiling | PR & I | (507) 249-3568 | PO Box 194, Morgan, MN 56266 |
| Thomas Morley | Secretary | (507) 641-3742 | 152 Baker Dr, Redwood Falls, MN 56283 |
| Joseph Plaetz | Treasurer | (507) 747-2803 | 20177 250th St, Lucan, MN 56255 |
| Donald Steffen | Vice Chair | (507) 648-3485 | 31382 120th St, Sanborn, MN 56083 |

Renville

Soil and Water Conservation District

1008 W Lincoln
Olivia, MN 56277
PHONE: (320) 523-1559
FAX: (320) 523-2389

www.renvilleswcd.com

SWCD Board Meeting: Second Thursday of Month at 7 am at the Ag Services Building in Olivia MN



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect rare and unique species and landscapes within the Minnesota River corridor.
2. Reduce and slow 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. This will also help to address water quantity issues including flooding and groundwater recharge.

2008 Revenue

\$358,812

Recent Projects

Granite Rock Outcrop Easements

In 2007 Renville and Redwood SWCD offices partnered on a \$563,000 project funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) which protected 212 acres of Granite Rock Outcrops in the Minnesota River Valley. The Granite Rock Outcrops are a rare and unique landscape and are home to many threatened species of plants and animals. These areas are susceptible to mining and other development. In 2009 the original partners were joined by Chippewa, Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine SWCDs. The ENRTF provided \$1.5 million to protect an additional 540 acres. Recently the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) recommended an additional \$1.8 million for the project. This money will be available in July 2010 and will protect approximately 700 additional acres. The program gives landowners an opportunity to protect their property while deriving some financial benefits. Applications have far exceeded the amount of funds available.



Pictured: Granite Rock Outcrop easements.

Partnerships

Renville SWCD successfully partners with Renville County in several areas. The SWCD and the Renville County Environment and Community Development office work together on the Feedlot Program. SWCD staff provide the feedlot inspections required by MPCA Chapter 7020 (2003). Through the USDA/SWCD partnership as well as partnerships with Watershed Projects, the SWCD staff have been able to help landowners correct problems with noncompliant feedlots by assisting them in obtaining cost-share from the various sources. The result is controlled runoff, which improves water quality in Renville County.



An ag waste project funded with a state Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant and federal EQIP dollars.

SWCD Staff also assist Renville County residents who are required by County zoning laws to install rain gardens on their property. Staff assist with location and design and then approve the project per zoning requirements. SWCD staff also work with mining companies on reviewing and approving the reclamation plans that are required as part of the permitting process.

Close working relationships with USDA NRCS and with MN DNR Private Lands Specialist have created opportunities for landowners to improve existing conservation easements with management funds available through the USDA/NRCS WHIP program and through DNR.

Farm Bill Biologist. Through a partnership with Pheasants Forever, Renville SWCD has a full-time Farm Bill Biologist promoting the conservation programs of the USDA Farm Bill. Because of his promotion efforts, Renville County continues to enroll acres in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) and other local, state and federal conservation programs.

An outdoor event called WALK

(Water*Air*Land*Knowledge) is coordinated each year by the Renville SWCD staff. 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 both private and public conservation easement areas. In 2009 four schools attended with nearly 200 students participating. SWCD staff are assisted by employees from Renville County, the Hawk Creek Watershed Project, NRCS and the MN DNR.

Future projects

Staff will continue to work with landowners who have noncompliant feedlots to help them find the cost-share necessary to fix their ag waste problems. With limited cost-share funds from all sources, this requires not only coordination and cooperation with several agencies and offices but also requires a keen knowledge of the grant opportunities available through a variety of sources.

Staff are dedicated to promoting perpetual easements for buffers on drainage ditches, streams and rivers. They will continue to use the programs available to enroll as many acres as possible and will partner with other offices/agencies as additional funding opportunities present themselves. The passage of the Constitutional Amendment in 2008 has created new and exciting opportunities in the areas of water quality and wildlife habitat. Renville SWCD looks to supplement existing programs and funds by taking advantage of competitive grant opportunities. Board and staff will not hesitate to propose new programs to meet the natural resource needs of Renville County and will actively pursue funding for those programs.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Marc Iverson | Chair | (320) 523-3640 | 420 Pine Ave, Bird Island, MN 55310 |
| Loyal Fisher | Vice Chair | (320) 329-3925 | PO Box 222, Renville, MN 56284 |
| Dave Guggisberg | Secretary/Treasurer | (507) 426-7418 | 50427 640th Ave, Fairfax, MN 55332 |
| Kathryn K Kelly | Member | (320) 523-1283 | 302 S 4th, Olivia, MN 56277-1428 |
| James Schafer | Member | (320) 833-2083 | 51777 780th Ave, Hector, MN 55342 |

Rice

Soil and Water Conservation District

1810 - 30th St NW
Faribault, MN 55021
PHONE: (507) 332-5408
FAX: (507) 332-9892

www.riceswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of
Month at 1:00 p.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Sheet and Rill Erosion
2. Gully Erosion
3. Lake and Stream Water Quality
4. Nutrient Management
5. Urban water runoff management

2008 Revenue

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| County Funds | \$178,500 |
| State Operating Funds | \$108,459 |
| State Pass-thru Grants | \$75,873 |
| Fees for Services | \$4,150 |
| Tree and other sales | \$36,624 |
| Other Misc. Rev. | \$35,394 |
| Total | \$439,000 |

Recent Projects



Sediment basin built in 2008 with State Cost-Share.



Raingarden built in 2008 for demonstration purposes. Funded by Rice SWCD, City of Faribault and other volunteers.

NPDES

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.

Partnerships

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.

Future Projects



This site is currently under construction for a feedlot runoff control system. Funding source is State Water Quality Feedlot Management Grant.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Robert Duban | PR&I | (507) 645-8024 | 12084 Bagley Ave, Dundas, MN 55019 |
| Robert Borchert | Vice Chair | (507) 334-9835 | 1319 Highland Place, Faribault, MN 55021 |
| Wallace Hildebrandt | Treasurer | (507) 789-6703 | 10810 E 240th St, Kenyon, MN 55946 |
| Richard Huston | Chair | (507) 332-8533 | 4425 195th St W, Faribault, MN 55021 |
| Gary Wagenbach | Secretary | (507) 645-8549 | 10400 Jenkins Trail, Nerstrand, MN 55053 |

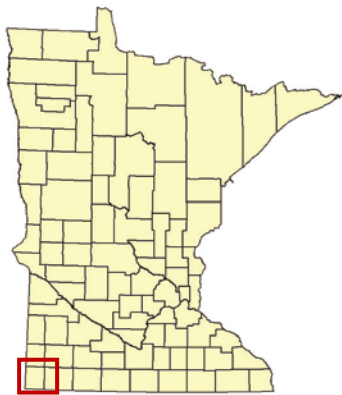
Rock

Soil and Water Conservation District

311 W Gabrielson Rd
Luverne, MN 56156
PHONE: (507) 283-8862
FAX: (507) 283-5006

www.rockswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Third Monday of Month
at 8:00 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. City of Luverne Wellhead Protection Area – groundwater resources
2. Rock County Rural Water Wellhead Prot. Area – groundwater resources
3. Ensuring feedlot compliance with Minnesota's 7020 Feedlot Rules
4. Rock River Watershed TMDL Project
5. Continued reductions in agricultural runoff from cropland and feedlots

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Charges for Services | \$ 61,821 |
| Federal Grants | \$ 10,800 |
| State Grants | \$ 265,064 |
| Other Misc | \$ 23,589 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$361,274</u> |

Recent Projects

Streambank Stabilization Projects



Former Hatting Street Dump



Beaver Creek Cemetery



Ahrendt/Ehde Properties

Raingarden projects in Luverne

- Rock County Opportunities
- Blue Mound Ice Arena

Other projects:

Rock River Watershed TMDL

Water Sampling – Rock River

Water Sampling – Mud and Beaver Creeks

Native Buffer/Invasive Species Removal
projects on banks of Rock River

Future Projects

TMDL on Rock River

319 Manure Management Grant

Future Rock River Streambank Stabilization
projects

Removal of the Rock River dam located in
Luverne

Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Vicky Smook | Vice Chair | (507) 283-4565 | 1707 - 181st Street, Luverne, MN 56156 |
| Eugene Cragoe | PR&I | (507) 283-1839 | 1294 - 141st St, Luverne, MN 56156 |
| David Esselink | Treasurer | (507) 962-3699 | 422 – 60 th Ave, Hills, MN 56138 |
| Norman Overgaard | Chair | (507) 283-8267 | 584 - 170th Ave., Luverne, MN 56156 |
| Don Reker | Secretary | (507) 348-7476 | 496 - 181st Street, Jasper, MN 56144 |

Root River

Soil and Water Conservation District

805 N Hwy 44/76, Suite1
Caledonia, MN 55921
PHONE: (507) 724-5261
FAX: (507) 724-5448

www.houstoncounty.govoffice2.com
(see "County Offices and Departments" and
"Soil and Water Conservation District")

*SWCD Board Meeting: Second Wednesday of
Month at 8:30 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Changes in Agriculture and Affects of Water Resources.
2. Sensitivity of the Karst Topography and Changes to Land Use and Development.
3. Recreational Uses of Water and Impact to the Environment.
4. Educational and Awareness of Resources and Sensitivity.
5. Ground Water Sensitivity in Karst Topography.

2008 Revenue

Intergovernmental

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| County | \$218,818 |
| Local | 24,968 |
| Federal | 501,507 |
| State | 335,765 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total intergovernmental | \$1,081,058 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|

Charges for services

| |
|-----------------|
| \$10,746 |
|-----------------|

Miscellaneous

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Interest earnings | \$21,762 |
| Other | 596 |

Total miscellaneous

| |
|-----------------|
| \$22,358 |
|-----------------|

Total Revenues

| |
|--------------------|
| \$1,114,162 |
|--------------------|

Recent Projects



Flood Control Structure Built in Winnebago Watershed

Winnebago Watershed – As a result of flooding in 2007 & 2008, FEMA has funded Phase I of the Winnebago Watershed Project.

This project involves design and construction of six (6) flood control structures to reduce flooding in the 39,500 acre watershed.

Three other structures are planned with other funding. Phase I involves engineering, design and environmental review, plus a detailed cost/benefit analysis.

Future Projects



Flood Damage on Twp. Road in Winnebago Watershed

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Joe McManimon | Reporter | (507) 864-7439 | 21860 County 13, Houston, MN 55943 |
| Tony Becker | Secretary | (507) 894-2437 | 11721 Ridgeview Rd, Caledonia, MN 55921 |
| Vernon Fruechte | Treasurer | (507) 724-2524 | 18418 Simmental Rd, Caledonia, MN 55921 |
| Glenn Kinneberg | Vice Chair | (507) 498-5157 | 14824 County 17, Spring Grove, MN 55974 |
| Doug Meyer | Chair | (507) 895-8879 | 906 Redwood East, La Crescent, MN 55947 |

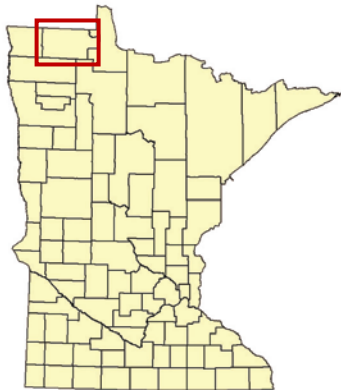
Roseau

Soil and Water Conservation District

502 - 7th St SW, Ste 8
Roseau, MN 56751
PHONE: (218) 463-1903
FAX: (218) 463-3919

www.nwmnswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of Month
at 7:00 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Work with landowners to reduce erosion from wind and water with emphasis on critical erosion areas in the county
2. Protect and improve surface and groundwater quality
3. Ensure no net loss of wetlands remaining in the county
4. Control, eradicate and inventory noxious weeds within the county
5. Provide professional skills and leadership for county residents/landowners who need conservation assistance

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Charges for Services | \$41,635.00 |
| Intergovernmental – County | \$114,249.50 |
| Intergovernmental – State | \$47,056.16 |
| Misc. Revenue | \$10,313.00 |
| Total | \$213,253.66 |

Recent Projects

Grazing Tour

Photo courtesy of NRCS



A grazing tour was offered to approximately 40 producers, who were eager to learn more about pasture management. The Pembina Trail RC&D, in cooperation with the Roseau County SWCD and NRCS, designed a tour that included prescribed grazing systems, livestock water management and a fencing demonstration. The University of Minnesota Extension was also available that day to field questions regarding bovine tuberculosis.

Krog-Heggedal Wetland Banking Project

Photo Courtesy of DNR



An additional 50% was completed this year, bringing a total of 194.2 acres out of 346.5 acres finished. The Roseau SWCD continues to work with the monitoring plan and moves to completion of all remaining acres for banking credits.

Lindahl Wetland Banking Project

This WCA project was initiated in 2008 and projected to include 37 acres of BWSR road mitigation wetland credits. We are continuing to work on completion of the bank.

Warroad Port of Entry

The SWCD worked with GSA and COE on wetland delineation. An alternative site was used, moving the port $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of the original location to minimize wetland impacts by approx. 7.2 acres. The project was then turned over to United States Customs and Border Patrol.

Through the Roseau County Cooperative Weed Management Grant, the SWCD is identifying invasive weeds, recording locations and applying measures to control and eradicate invasive species that are becoming established throughout the County. The goal is to continue the program for future years and provide public awareness and education for better management of invasive species in the County.



Roseau County SWCD Photo

Ross 7 Dry Impoundment



Photo by C. Eaton

The Two Rivers Watershed District completed a dry impoundment project in Ross Township. The project drainage area includes 18.2 square miles. Gated storage holds 2.55 inches of runoff and total storage holds 3.73 inches of runoff. The SWCD was instrumental on the Project Work Team, wetland delineation, TEP review and project application, replacement plan, monitoring plan review, and final project approval for construction. The dry impoundment was completed in 2008.

Future Projects

- Develop an inventory of invasive species (Spotted Knapweed, Purple Loosestrife, Leafy Spurge) in the county
- Generate a map of known areas of invasive weed species in Roseau County to give to landowners
- Eradicate/control/monitor invasive weed species in new and known areas in the county
- Finish Water Plan update

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| Glenn Darst | Chair | (218) 782-2746 | 21797 230th St, Greenbush, MN 56726 |
| Jay Estling Jr. | Vice Chair (| (218) 442-7972 | 32935 - 690th Ave, Roosevelt, MN 56673 |
| John Gaukerud | Public Relations | (218) 528-3529 | 27841 Co Rd 119, Badger, MN 56714 |
| Gary Johnson | Secretary | (218) 424-7510 | 23014 Co Rd 13, Roseau, MN 56751 |
| Warren Ulvin | Treasurer | (218) 463-2866 | 306 - 5th St SE, Roseau, MN 56751 |

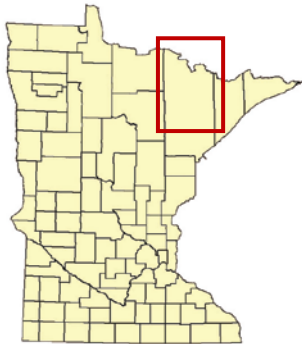
North St. Louis

Soil and Water Conservation District

307 First St S Ste 114
Virginia, MN 55792-5601
PHONE: (218) 742-9504
FAX: (218) 742-9515

www.nslswcd.org

SWCD Board Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at Noon, no meeting in May.



2008 Revenue

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| County (includes WCA pass thru \$) | \$94,916 |
| Interest Earnings | \$1,026 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | \$7,570 |
| State Cost-Share Project funds | \$8,337 |
| State General Svc. funds | \$24,046 |
| Clean Water Leg. Act Grant | \$4,005 |
| DNR Coastal Non-point Grant | \$5,500 |
| DNR Forest Stewardship Grant | \$7,753 |
| Barber/Dempsey Creek F&W | \$4,520 |
| SWCD Charges for Services | \$5,638 |
| SWCD Tree Program Rev. | \$20,348 |
| Total | \$183,659 |

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

An ongoing challenge of the SWCD is maintaining trained employees to provide the technical assistance required by state mandates and local county ordinances along with the program assistance as outlined in our Annual Plan of Work. Often times this requires submitting grant applications to maintain knowledgeable employees while offering competitive wages and benefits. Grant funds supplement the annual budget's BWSR General Services Grant dollars, County funds, Wetland Conservation Act pass through funds and revenues received for services such as conservation tree sales, lake monitoring and wetland determinations.

The opportunities to address water quality issues before the natural resource is impaired seems to be turning in our favor where many of the surface water grants allow protection and prevention efforts in areas like northern St. Louis County where sedimentation and other pollutants have not contaminated the diverse natural resources enough to place them on the MPCA Impaired Waters List (i.e. TMDLs). We were fortunate to receive a DNR Coastal Non-Point Grant and Clean Water Legacy dollars in FY'09 and part of the on the ground project included implementing forestry practices in the Barber/Dempsey Creek watershed. Property owners received cost-share to plant trees while improving wildlife habitat and preventing erosion adjacent to any surface waters and where soils were exposed.

Recent Projects



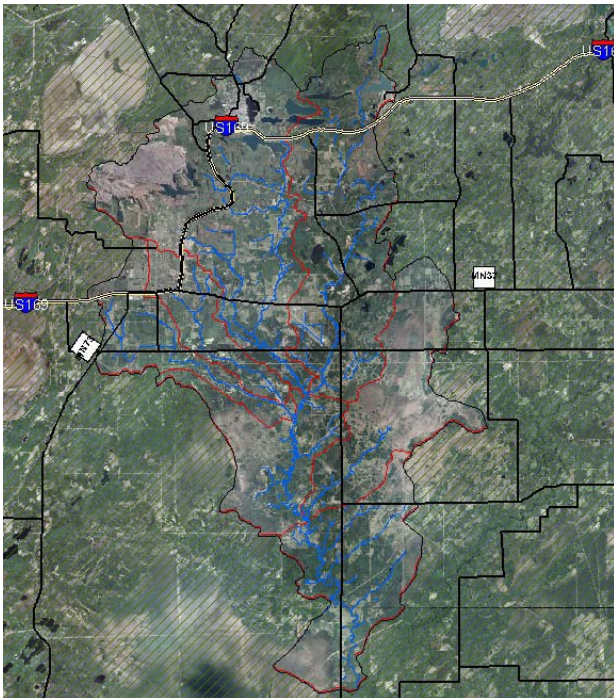
**Clean Water Legacy Act Reforestation
Landowner Assistance in Barber- Dempsey
Creek Watershed**

Shoreline Restoration on Whiteface Reservoir



Future Projects

We were awarded a Clean Water Partnership Grant for assessment of the East Swan River Watershed. Monitoring will begin next spring.



Board of Supervisors

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Peggy Pearson | Chair | (218) 666-5424 | 1302 Samuelson Rd, Angora, MN 55703 |
| John Calgaro | Member | (218) 744-1982 | 3782 Admiral Rd, Iron, MN 55751 |
| Gary Rantala | Member | (218) 984-3601 | 4790 Salo Rd, Embarrass, MN 55732 |
| Liz Voelker | Secretary/Treasurer | (218) 254-3190 | 11252 Kekke Rd, Chisholm, MN 55719 |

South St. Louis

Soil and Water Conservation District



215 No 1st Ave E Rm 301
Duluth, MN 55802
PHONE: (218) 723-4867
FAX: (218) 723-4731

www.southstlouisswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of
Month @ 7 p.m.*

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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| County | \$94,316 |
| Local | \$19,015 |
| State Grant | \$263,033 |
| Charges for Services | \$56,924 |
| Miscellaneous | \$41,998 |
| Total | \$475,285 |

Recent Projects

The South St Louis SWCD is working on many projects to address resource concerns. Some highlights include:

- Recently completed three stormwater control project retrofit projects.
- Working with several landowners to correct erosion problems on streams and lakes.
- Preparing Forest Stewardship Plans for private landowners.
- Working on impaired waters investigations and restorations.



**Miller Creek Restoration Energy Plus
stormwater control bio-retention basin**



**Miller Creek Restoration Irresistible Ink
stormwater control bio-retention swale**



Miller Creek Restoration 22nd Ave West
stormwater control basin



Amity Creek erosion control - before



Amity Creek erosion control - after

Future Projects

A major focus for us over the coming years will Continue to be restoration of impaired water.

Future projects include:

- Completed the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for Miller Creek.
- Complete projects identified in the Knife River Watershed Implementation Plan.
- Provide conservation assistance to private landowners.
- Work to restore and protect other area. Streams.

Board Members

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| David Davis | Chair | (218) 624-7901 |
| Albert Moline | Secretary | (218) 476-2712 |
| Hartley Sandstrom | Treasurer | (218) 427-2383 |
| Marcia Stromgren | Member | (218) 525-5008 |
| Debra Taylor | Vice Chair | (218) 525-3820 |

5916 Morris Thomas Rd, Duluth, MN 55810
6515 Hwy 29, Duluth, MN 55804
9090 Overton Rd, Meadowlands, MN 55767
6179 Lakewood Rd, Duluth, MN 55804
4415 Regent St, Duluth, MN 55804

Scott

Soil and Water Conservation District



7151 W 190th St Ste 125
Jordan, MN 55352-2103
PHONE: (952) 492-5425
FAX: (952) 492-5422

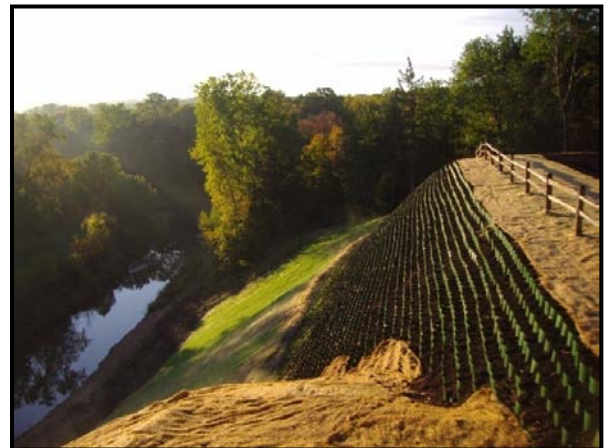
www.scottswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting:
2nd Wednesday of
Month at 8:00 a.m.*

Recent Projects



Landslides in 2006 and 2007 deposited an estimated 560 tons of sediment directly into Sand Creek. The primary cause for the slope failure was underground seeps. Construction took place in 2008 and included the use of cellular confinement systems to hold soil in place and allow vegetation to establish.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Surface Water Quality Management – Improve and protect the water quality of area lakes and streams
2. Agricultural Land Management – Reduce soil erosion on agricultural land
3. Urban Land Management – Encourage sustainable planning for urban development and the use of erosion and sediment control practices during construction
4. Wetland Management – Preserve, protect and restore wetland areas to prevent flooding, improve water quality, reduce erosion, enhance wildlife habitat and promote groundwater recharge
5. Education – inform, educate, and involve stakeholders in the protection and restoration of the county's natural resources

2008 Revenue (from Work Plan)

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| State Grant | \$24,321 |
| RIM | \$2,000 |
| Interest | \$33,000 |
| Tree Program | \$15,000 |
| Scott County WMO | \$323,607 |
| Scott County Funds | \$110,000 |
| Construction Inspection Program | \$90,000 |
| NRBG – Feedlot Program | \$20,000 |
| NRBG – Wetland Conservation | \$47,337 |
| NRBG – Shoreland Program | \$1,490 |
| NRBG – ISTS Program | \$1,500 |
| Vermillion River Wtshd JPO | \$25,000 |
| Prior Lake Spring Lake WD | \$15,000 |
| Lower MN River WD | \$18,000 |
| Met Council | \$8,000 |
| Miscellaneous Income | \$39,312 |
| Total | \$773,567 |

Streambank stabilization

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.



Before (top) and After pictures of the streambank stabilization project

Biomass Conservation Technician

Scott SWCD has hired a Biomass Conservation Technician this past year, who is currently shared with Carver, Dakota, and Rice SWCDs. This technician deals with bioenergy opportunities in the area, as well as markets programs that assist with the establishment of bioenergy crops, specifically native grasses.

Having a bioenergy facility nearby has the potential to increase the profitability of lands in conservation. Since native grass areas need to be managed by means such as periodic clipping, the resulting biomass which is removed can be sold for a profit. With having additional income on conservation lands, it is hoped that native grass plantings will become more competitive with agricultural crops, and the presence of prairies will be more prevalent across the landscape. The treatment and removal of woody species, which encroach on historic prairies, may also be conducted at a lower cost due to the opportunity to sell the biomass.

Future Projects

Picha Creek Stabilization – A feasibility study has been completed and designs are underway to stabilize the banks and prevent sediment pollution from 2,650 feet of Picha Creek, a tributary of Sand Creek. The channel is currently in an active state of widening and will continue to dump sediment into the stream until a stable cross section is achieved. The newly constructed channel will include buried grade controls (rock weirs or step pools) and exposed cobble and gravel riffle features. Both will contribute to long term bed stabilization by preventing bed sediment loss and headcutting.

Board Members

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Ewald Gruetzmacher | Chair | (952) 873-2918 | 12775 Belle Plaine Trail, Belle Plaine, MN 56011 |
| Paul Krueger | Vice Chair | (952) 447-9412 | 17746 Fairlawn Ave, Prior Lake, MN 55372 |
| James Schwingler | Secretary/Treasurer | (612) 718-4651 | PO Box 237, Jordan, MN 55352 |
| James Fitzsimmons | Supervisor | (612) 867-0706 | 14704 Glendale Ave SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 |
| Linda Brown | Supervisor | (952) 461-3634 | 11537 270th St E, Elko, MN 55020 |

Sherburne

Soil and Water Conservation District

14855 Hwy 10
Elk River, MN 55330
PHONE: (763) 241-1170
FAX: (763) 241-1161

www.sherburneswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: First Monday of the Month at 3:00 p.m.



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Charges for Services | \$87,831 |
| Grants & Contributions | \$99,185 |
| County Allocation | \$311,527 |
| Investment Earnings | \$5,419 |
| Total | \$511,541 |

Recent Projects



Pictured: A rain garden and filter strip designed by SWCD staff were installed at Lake Orono Park.

7 stormwater runoff treatment projects have recently been completed by the Sherburne SWCD. Rain gardens, filter strips and infiltration trenches have been installed to treat runoff from parking lots and roads.

The SWCD has installed 19 projects on six lakes through the Shoreland Buffer and Revegetation Demonstration Project.

In 2008 the Elk River Watershed Association started work on several TMDLs in order to



address impaired surface waters in the Elk River Watershed. The SWCD received funds from MPCA that will provide the means to complete TMDLs on three waters on the Clean Water Act 303(d) impaired waters list.

Once the data analysis is complete there will be another opportunity for stakeholders to hear about and comment on the results of data analysis as well as to discuss the development of the TMDL Implementation Plan.

Recent projects (continued)



Pollinator Protection

We are active in the National Pollinator Protection Campaign. In 2009 we hosted a pollinator event promoting planting for pollinators. The event was captured by the KARE 11 news crew and also covered by the local newspapers. Third – sixth grade students participated in the event with presentations on specific native plants used by pollinators. The end result is a 2,000 square foot pollinator garden planted to demonstrate the simplicity of what small property owners can do to offset the loss of habitat that is accepted as a factor in pollinator population decline.

Future Projects

A seven acre Oak Savanna in the City of Big Lake McDowall Park restoration is planned for 2010 in conjunction with our Annual Pollinator Day Celebration.

A Quarterly E-Newsletter to our cooperators will begin publication.



Forestry

In 2009 the SWCD assumed the Forest Resources responsibilities from the County.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Debra Seeley | Reporter | (320) 743-2485 | 9728 River Road SE, Clear Lake, MN 55319 |
| Larry Goenner | Vice Chair | (320) 743-3224 | 6526 75th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304 |
| Douglas Hipsag | Treasurer | (763) 441-1866 | 12269 223rd Avenue NW, Elk River, MN 55330 |
| Douglas Manthei | Secretary | (763) 441-6352 | 23130 112th St NW, Elk River, MN 55330 |
| Leander Schlosser | Chair | (763) 263-3980 | 15945 227th Ave NW, Elk River, MN 55330 |

Sibley

Soil and Water Conservation District

111 6th St PO Box 161
Gaylord, MN 55334
PHONE: (507) 237-5435
FAX: (507) 237-5249

www.sibleyswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Second Tuesday of Month
at 4 p.m.*



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

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| Total | \$265,411 |
|-------|-----------|

Recent Projects



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.

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.



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.

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.

Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| David Trebelhorn | Chair | (507) 647-5518 | 501 N Carver, Winthrop, MN 55396 |
| Robert Nielsen | Secretary | (507) 326-5695 | 19366 331st Ave, Green Isle, MN 55338 |
| Tom Pfarr | Treasurer | (507) 964-2537 | 23906 387th Ave, Arlington, MN 55307 |
| Gary Schafer | Member | (507) 834-6474 | 780 Birch Ave, Gibbon, MN 55335 |
| Paul Wiemann | Vice Chair | (507) 964-2989 | 44359 246th St, Arlington, MN 55307 |

Stearns

Soil and Water Conservation District

110 Second St S Ste 128
Waite Park, MN 56387
PHONE: (320) 251-7800
FAX: (320) 251-9171

www.stearnscountyswcd.net

SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of Month



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.

2008 Revenue

Intergovernmental Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| City | \$ 28,500 |
| County | \$882,294 |
| State | \$602,936* |
| Federal | \$118,904 |
| Misc. | \$ 6,595 |
| Charges for Services | \$ 35,562 |
| Misc. Revenue | <u>\$ 36,675</u> |
| Total Revenue | \$1,711,466 |

**A major portion of the State Revenue is paid to landowners for conservation practices.*

Note: Revenue does not include USDA programs which provided approximately \$5 million in conservation financial assistance to Stearns County private landowners in 2008.

Recent Projects

One-On-One Planning Assistance for AgBMPs

AgBMPs (Agricultural Best Management Practices) are promoted by the Stearns County SWCD through several State (BWSR Feedlot, BWSR State cost-share, and MPCA 319) and Federal programs. The federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) program offers incentives to help landowners make a change in their management practices to positively impact soil and water quality. Popular EQIP practices include nutrient and pest management, conservation tillage and no-till, irrigation water management and prescribed grazing.

SWCD staff work one-on-one with landowners on both State and Federal programs to plan and implement practices that benefit soil and water quality while positively affecting landowner profitability.



Grant Pearson, Stearns County SWCD Nutrient Management Specialist, is completing a manure spreader calibration for a landowner participating in USDA's EQIP Nutrient Management program.

Sauk River Watershed Ecosystem Services Market

The Stearns County SWCD, along with several project partners, is developing the infrastructure for the Sauk River Watershed Ecosystem Services Market, an affiliate of the Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM). This new, innovative market is positioning farmers to improve the environmental management of their farms by making it possible

for them to accrue “environmental” credits for market based incentives, called ecosystem services. Ecosystem services connect private and public sector buyers and sellers of environmental based benefits, creating a cost efficient and effective method for sustaining desired land uses that provide multiple ecosystem benefits.

Mississippi River Renaissance Project

The Stearns County SWCD launched the Mississippi River Renaissance project in January 2009 with funding from the McKnight Foundation. The Mississippi River Renaissance project is focused on the 31-mile stretch of the river from St. Cloud to the Blanchard Dam, near Royalton. The project aims to unite and empower the eleven Mississippi River communities in Benton and Stearns Counties to actively protect, celebrate, and improve this stretch of the river, with a shared pride in the local heritage and a common commitment to conserving the River’s vitality and value for future generations of Central Minnesotans. By combining local efforts and interests with sound information and technical assistance, the Mississippi River Renaissance project hopes to renew and revitalize Central Minnesota’s connection to America’s greatest river, the Mississippi.



Kimberly Thielen Cremers, Stearns County SWCD Mississippi River Renaissance Coordinator, along with the MN DNR and U of M Extension’s NEMO (Nonpoint Source Education for Municipal Officials) led a group of local elected officials and community leaders on a river awareness float.

Future Projects

Discovery Farms Minnesota

The Stearns County SWCD, along with Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition (MAWRC), is currently working to identify a “Discovery Farm” dairy cooperator to conduct water quality research. Discovery Farms Minnesota was launched in 2009, with support and assistance from MAWRC (comprised of 15 farm organizations), the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota Extension. The mission of the program is to gather water quality information under real-world conditions, providing practical, credible, site-specific information to allow better water quality management decisions.

RIM/CRP for Wellhead Protection

The Stearns County SWCD will be assisting the communities of Cold Spring and Melrose to deliver new funding for voluntary permanent conservation easements through the RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota) program. An additional contract through the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be leveraged with the RIM easement to generate additional revenue for participating landowners.

The Stearns County SWCD will be working with landowners in sensitive groundwater recharge areas to achieve reduction and removal of nitrate/nitrogen in vulnerable groundwater supplies. The State of Minnesota has allotted \$2 million over the next two years to assist in these efforts.

Board members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Chuck Uphoff | Chair | (320) 837-5204 | 35319 315th Ave, Melrose, MN 56352 |
| Jerome Bechtold | Treasurer | (320) 685-3213 | 24353 125th Ave, St Cloud, MN 56301 |
| David Brinkman | Vice Chair | (320) 243-4296 | 14317 Cty Rd 180, Paynesville, MN 56362 |
| Larry Salzer | Member | (320) 654-9002 | 5549 398th Street, Rice, MN 56367 |
| David Weller | Secretary | (320) 346-2372 | 29875 County RD 18, Broton, MN 56316 |

Steele County

Soil and Water Conservation District

235 Cedardale Dr SE
Owatonna, MN 55060-4417
PHONE: (507) 451-6730 x3
FAX: (507) 444-2421

www.steeleswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of
Month at 7 p.m.*



(Pictured left to right: Noel Frank, NRCS DC; Supervisors – Kyle Wolfe, Mark Ihlenfeld, Dan Hansen, Dave Melby, Jim Klecker; Steele County Commissioner Bruce Kubicek; and Dan Arndt, Steele SWCD Manager.)

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil Erosion (wind and water).
2. Sediment entering surface waters.
3. Surface and groundwater degradation.
4. Pollution from feedlots and non-conforming septic systems.
5. Loss of prime farmland.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Charges for Services | \$49,857 |
| Easement Maintenance Prog. | \$9,573 |
| County Allocations | \$119,715 |
| Feedlot Funding | \$5,821 |
| WCA Technical Services (2 yrs.) | \$17,677 |
| State Funds | \$45,526 |
| Federal TSP Funding | \$6,675 |
| Misc. Revenue | \$36,076 |
| Interest | \$5,429 |
| Total | \$296,349 |

On-Going Project

The Straight River Marsh wetland restoration project began in 1996 through the combined efforts of the District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the Fish and Wildlife Foundation. To date, 1600 acres have been restored to wetland and associated upland native prairie. Project benefits include: improved fish and wildlife habitat, reduced flooding, water retention, erosion control, and water quality improvement.

EASEMENT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Non-native species invading non-cropland areas are becoming a serious problem in Steele County. Invasive species such as European Buckthorn, Wild Parsnip, Wild Carrot are encroaching conservation lands, native prairie, and woodland. In 2008, the District initiated a Conservation Easement Maintenance program to help address the problem. District staff has already assisted landowners by spot spraying invasive species on several hundred acres.



Steele County SWCD and NRCS staff has recently assisted a landowner with signing up an 800 acre RIM/WRP easement.

Although still in the planning stages, we are looking forward to implementing this project and achieving significant resource benefits.



CONSERVATION DOESN'T COST - IT PAYS

STEELE COUNTY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDING

Oct. 1, 2008 to Sept. 30, 2009 (fiscal year)

| Program | # of Participants | \$ Paid out |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| CRP | 930 | \$1,262,175 |
| EQIP (paid out) | 28 | \$189,555 |
| WRP | 21 | \$ 296,710 |
| State Cost-Share | 4 | \$7,598 |
| Totals | 983 | \$1,756,038 |

The Steele County SWCD and the Steele County NRCS continues to operate as Partners to implement the financial assistance programs as well as technical assistance. When most producers and landowners ask the office for assistance, they look at our office as one unit and do not make distinction between the two entities. This system was set up to bring federal assistance (both financial and technical) to farmers with the local input through the SWCD. This unique system is one that works and works well now for 64 years in Steele County. We hope that this relationship continues to flourish. In this office, we feel it is important to remember that people looking for help and ideas get that service whether we are SWCD or NRCS. In these fast and complex times we try, as a team, to keep our service as simple as possible for the clientele. The goals of both SWCD and NRCS are the same and we will continue to strive for those goals as simply as we can.

OUR VISION: "We did not inherit this land from our ancestors – we borrow it from our children!"

Future Projects

Steele County SWCD and NRCS staff has recently assisted a landowner with signing up an 800 acre RIM/WRP easement. Although still in the planning stages, we are looking forward to implementing this project and achieving significant resource benefits.

2009 Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Mark Ihlenfeld | Chair | (507) 451-5864 | 6148 NW 50th St, Owatonna, MN 55060-9307 |
| Dan Hansen | Secretary | (507) 451-1191 | 711 SW 75th St, Ellendale, MN 56026 |
| James Klecker | Vice Chair | (507) 451-0129 | 3071 SE 108th St, Owatonna, MN 55060 |
| Dave Melby | Reporter | (507) 451-4904 | 4825 SE 38th St, Owatonna, MN 55060 |
| Kyle Wolfe | Treasurer | (507) 451-6139 | 2980 Northridge Lane NE, Owatonna, MN 55060 |

Stevens

Soil and Water Conservation District

12 Hwy 28 E Ste 2
Morris, MN 56267-9505
PHONE: (320) 589-4886 ext. 3
FAX: (320) 589-8836

www.stevensswcd.org

*SWCD board meetings: 3rd Tuesday of month
at 9:30 am*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Improve and protect water quality
2. Reduce wind and water erosion
3. Increase education and awareness of natural resources conservation
4. Promote wildlife habitat enhancement
5. Promote energy conservation

2008 Revenue

The Stevens SWCD had total revenue of \$385,374 for 2008. Revenue generated through state and local grant funding and district sales is spent on things such as watershed project coordination, monitoring and research; education and outreach; Wetland Conservation Act administration; cost share to landowners for construction, implementation and maintenance of conservation practices; conservation easement funding; and general administration. Our most current audited financial statements are available from our web site.

Recent Project Highlights

- Assisted with the enrollment of 43 contracts totaling almost 800 acres of new CRP, additional CRP re-enrollments, and over 230 new WRP/RIM acres
- Planted 19 shelterbelts and one living snow fence for a total of about 40 acres, and installed about 53,000 feet of fabric mulch
- Planted approximately 530 acres of native grasses
- Co-coordinated the Area II Envirothon and Jr Envirothon for high school and junior high students in a 12-county area
- Co-coordinated the Pope & Stevens Conservation Day at SWELL for 5th graders
- Co-coordinated the Pope & Stevens Water Fest for 6th graders
- Distributed Soil Stewardship materials to area churches and organizations to promote responsible use of our water and soil resources
- Administered State Cost Share program in Stevens County, disbursing over \$13,000 to landowners who installed conservation projects such as farmstead windbreaks and sediment dams
- Acted as fiscal agent for the Pomme de Terre Association Joint Powers Board and assisted with the activities of the Watershed Project Coordinator housed in this office, including the completion of a turbidity TMDL implementation plan and other ongoing watershed projects
- Monitored wells, lakes and rivers for ground water quantity and quality
- Completed construction of a rain garden demonstration plot to educate community members about the importance of filtering urban runoff



Future Projects

Watershed Projects

In recent years, a Watershed Project Coordinator, housed out of the Stevens SWCD Office, has been overseeing work on TMDL studies and the protection of water quality in the Pomme de Terre Watershed. Funding has been secured to cost share practices put in along priority areas within a stretch of the watershed that is impaired with excess fecal coliform bacteria. The completion of a turbidity (water clarity) TMDL is also pending. Work will begin in 2010 on a third, multi-faceted TMDL assessment that will address many different biological and other impairments within the watershed.

Continued Efforts

Work will continue on several projects. The SWCD is working with the City of Morris on several sites, including a rain garden and a riparian buffer along a retention pond.

Plant identification cards will be placed in the demonstration rain garden site at the SWCD office so that interested landowners can see what the different varieties look like and how they grow.

Educational efforts continue, including maintenance of a shoreline restoration in the Pomme de Terre City Park. The SWCD works together with other area SWCDs to offer several events per year that give area youth the opportunity to learn in an outdoor environmental setting.

2010 Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Don Huntley | Secretary | (320) 765-2491 | 40402 230th St, Cyrus, MN 56323 |
| Jim Krosch | Vice Chair | (320) 324-2520 | 56407 320th St, Alberta, MN 56207 |
| George Libbon | Reporter | (320) 677-2777 | 62574 130th St, Chokio, MN 56221 |
| Dave Lonergan | Treasurer | (320) 589-4559 | 14802 470th Ave, Donnelly, MN 56235 |
| Mary Ann Scharf | Chair | (320) 589-4688 | 17733 US Hwy 59, Morris, MN 56267 |

Swift

Soil and Water Conservation District

1430 Utah Ave N Ste 4
Benson, MN 56215
PHONE: (320) 842-7201
FAX: (320) 843-4168

www.swiftswcd.org

SWCD Board Meetings: 2nd Thursday of month



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, RIM, 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.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| Total | \$223,365 |
|-------|-----------|

Recent Projects

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.



Stream barbs (top) and grassed waterways are some of the conservation practices that have been installed by Swift SWCD.

RIM WRP Easement Program

There have been six new RIM WRP easement contracts totaling about 825 acres approved in 2008 and 2009. These are scheduled to restore 28 wetlands amounting to approximately 385 acres over the next couple of years.

The Fifth Annual Water Festival

On September 18 the 5th annual Swift County Water Festival was held at Ambush Park Outdoor Learning Center in Benson. Approximately 245 students from Benson and Kerkhoven - Murdock - Sunburg Schools attended. The theme for the day was concentrating on water. The students spent the day learning about the environment and water quality issues through hands-on activities and interactive presentations. This year there were 18 learning stations. The highlight of the day was the presentation by the Science Museum of Minnesota.

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.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Dale Schlieman | Chair | (320) 394-2445 | 1470 30th St NW, Holloway, MN 56249 |
| Mark Weimerskirch | Vice Chair | (320) 264-5167 | 1155 - 150th Ave SE, Kerkhoven, MN 56252 |
| Sheldon Ahrndt | Treasurer | (320) 843-3516 | 600 10th St. S, Benson, MN 56215 |
| Clinton Schuerman | Secretary | (320) 567-2136 | 945 60th Street SW, Danvers, MN 56231 |
| Orvin Gronseth | PR & I | (320) 366-3754 | 425 140th Ave NE, Murdock, MN 56271 |

Todd

Soil and Water Conservation District

607 9th St NE
Long Prairie, MN 56347
PHONE: (320) 732-2644
FAX: (320) 732-2565



www.toddswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: Third Thursday of Month, NOTE: no meetings in February, May, and November

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. TMDL Studies and Implementation in the Long Prairie, Sauk & Swan River Watersheds.
2. Bringing Livestock Operations into compliance through Feedlot Systems & Grazing Plans.
3. Development & Installation of Ag & Shoreland BMP's throughout Todd County.
4. Orderly, low impact growth & development in Rural, Urban & Shoreland Areas.
5. Groundwater quality & quantity concerns relating to increasing irrigation, rural residential development, and private well abandonment.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental Income | \$457,623 |
| Charges for Services | \$53,073 |
| Investment Earnings | \$8,256 |
| Misc Revenue | \$2,849 |
| Total | \$521,801 |

Recent Projects

Battle Point Park Restoration



Todd SWCD worked with the Sauk River Watershed District staff, Todd County, US Fish & Wildlife, Minnesota Conservation Corp, DNR, MN Extension and Todd County Parks & Trails to complete a shoreland restoration project at Battle Point Park on east Lake Osakis. The majority of the shoreline around the 10 + acre county park was restored utilizing a number of new types of materials and restoration methods. Fiber Coir logs, Willow Wattles, Geogrids and an Envirolok System were installed along the north side of the park, and riprap was installed around the point where there is significant wave action. 11,000 wildflower and native grass plugs were planted, and the non-native buckthorn throughout the park has been cut out.



Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

- Technical Assistance to 242 Landowners
- Approved 18 Exemption Applications
- 21 No-Loss Determinations
- 35 Boundary or Type Determinations
- 3.68 Acres Wetland Creation
- 1 Replacement Plan
- 15 Violation Sites Investigated with 10 Enforcement Actions

Tree Planting



Windbreaks planted with fabric mulch that protects trees from weed competition and conserves moisture.

Stream Bank Protection



Stream Bank Erosion



Stream Barbs Installed

Ag Waste & Feedlot Compliance Projects



Closing Unused Ag Waste Pits



Feedlot Filter Strips



Completed Ag Waste System

Future Projects

Water Management Plan will be updated in 2010 to complete priority concerns. Todd SWCD has accepted the Feedlot Permitting and Compliance program.

Board Members

Kenny Pesta
Lee Buchholz
Dale Katterhagen
Norm Krause
Tom Williamson

Treasurer
Secretary
Member
Chair
Vice Chair

(218) 756-3724
(320) 285-5401
(320) 594-2402
(218) 894-3761
(320) 859-2727

P O Box 11, Clarissa, MN 56440
27817 170th St, Grey Eagle, MN 56336
27504 350th Street, Browerville, MN 56438
43035 County 21, Staples, MN 56479
20805 133rd Ave, Osakis, MN 56360

Traverse

Soil and Water Conservation District



1700 Third Ave S Room 205
Wheaton, MN 56296
PHONE: (320) 563-8218
FAX: (320) 563-8219

Website: www.traverseswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: First Thursday of
Month at 7:30 a.m.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reduce Soil Erosion Resulting From Wind and Water
2. Reduce Regional/Local Flood Damage
3. Reduce Contaminated Runoff into Waters of the State
4. Prevent Groundwater Contamination
5. Improve Water Quality, Quality and Quantity of Wildlife Habitat

2008 Revenue

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Services | \$135,226 |
| Intergovernmental Revenue | \$195,621 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | \$15,461 |
| Total | \$346,308 |

Notes: Revenue from "Services" include sales of tree and grass program products as well as services such as planting, rototilling, mowing, and rental of equipment. "Intergovernmental Revenue" includes service grants, our county allocation, grant funds for projects, and other funds for programs. "Miscellaneous Revenue" includes income from interest earned and finance charges on accounts.



Recent Projects

SEPTIC SYSTEM OWNERS EDUCATION

Two workshops were conducted for septic system owners in Traverse County; one in July 2008 and one in January 2009. The workshops featured information for homeowners in regards to how individual subsurface sewage treatment systems work and how to properly maintain a system. A University of Minnesota Extension Educator, Valerie Prax, presented the workshop hosted in July 2008 which educated approximately 20 homeowners. In January, 2009 SWCD Manager, Sara Gronfeld, presented a similar workshop to approximately 30 homeowners.



A WORKING AGREEMENT WITH TRAVERSE COUNTY was established to transfer administration of the land use management programs and funding to the Traverse SWCD. The program decision making authority for the Local Unit of Government remains with the county board but SWCD staff divided the workload from each program and the arrangement has been working well for the past two years. Property owners within the county are now conveniently served at one central location. SWCD staff members administer the following programs: Planning and Zoning, DNR's Shoreland program, MPCA's Subsurface Septic Treatment Program and Feedlot Program, BWSR's Wetland Conservation Act, and Local Water Management program. Funding to administer the programs is made available from the Natural Resources Block Grant and Traverse County.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Nestled on the southern edge of the Red River Valley, Traverse County may not be known as a prime location for viewing moose, but several of the animals have been a common sight around the northern end of the county for the past several years.



Photo of Moose Family in Traverse County Along Highway 75 (Taken by SWCD Staff in October 2008).

The Traverse SWCD along with thoughtful landowners and dedicated conservation partners helped to work towards the fulfillment of the goal of resource concern #5: improvement of the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat. In 2008 the SWCD worked to establish nearly 17,000 trees at 22 sites along with 150 acres of native grasses at 25 sites. In 2009, Traverse SWCD staff planted over 24,000 trees at 29 sites along with over 1,000 acres of grass! The SWCD was also able to purchase a new, 15 foot wide, no-till grass drill (planter) this year. Purchase was made with income from services along with funding in part from Local Water Plan grant funds along with a donation from the Traverse County Chapter of Pheasants Forever. The SWCD also maintains a 10 foot no-till grass drill and a 20 foot no-till grain drill which are available for rental use by local landowners.

Future Projects

WATER TESTING

The Traverse County Local Water Plan is working on an extensive, county-wide groundwater testing project. Households will be selected in each township for sampling and analyzation of individual groundwater drinking water supplies. The samples will be sent to a lab to analyze levels of toxic elements or substances including lead, copper, nitrate, nitrite, fluoride, and arsenic. Results of the analyzation will be provided to each property owner as well as reviewed by staff to determine if further investigations of contamination sources are required.

A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROMOTE SIDE INLET CONTROLS along ditches in the northern part of Traverse County is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2010. Promotion of the structures, which reduce soil erosion from field edges, will be based from a successful program offered in Wilkin County which is situated directly north of Traverse. Staff from the Wilkin SWCD generously shared information and photographs of established projects that will be used to produce a brochure to be distributed to landowners. Traverse SWCD staff are likely to apply for Clean Water Legacy grant funds to help landowners cover the cost of project installation.



A bumble bee flies towards a native wildflower in Traverse County (Courtesy of SWCD Staff taken August, 2009).

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Alan Bruce | Secretary | (320) 563-4032 | 6413 - 760th St., Wheaton, MN 56296 |
| Gregory Hoppe | Chair | (320) 748-7934 | 5084 County Rd 9, Graceville, MN 56240 |
| Carol Johnson | Vice Chair | (320) 563-8063 | 6257 720th Ave, Wheaton, MN 56296 |
| David Rinke | Treasurer | (320) 563-4864 | 6738 - 610th St., Wheaton, MN 56296 |
| Dennis Zimbrick | PR&I | (320) 265-6252 | 5519 Cty Rd 3, Beardsley, MN 56211 |

Wabasha

Soil and Water Conservation District

611 Broadway Ave Ste 10
Wabasha, MN 55981-1600
PHONE: (651) 565-4673
FAX: (651) 565-2630

www.wabashaswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 4th Tuesday of Month
at 8:00 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil Erosion
2. Nutrient and Manure Management
3. ISTS/Ground Water Protection
4. Forest and Pasture Land
5. Impaired Waters

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental – County | \$192,028 |
| Intergovernmental – State | 157,489 |
| Charges For Services | 15,908 |
| Interest Earnings | 16,647 |
| Other | 3,243 |
| Total | \$385,315 |

Recent Projects

Through the State Cost Share Program Five Grassed Waterway projects were approved for the high priority funding. Two of these projects have been completed. Seven Well Sealing Projects were approved for the high priority funding. Four of these projects have been completed.

Through the Ag Best Management Practices Low Interest Loan Program Seventeen applications have been approved with eleven projects completed. Eligible practices included conservation tillage equipment, animal waste management systems and equipment, and individual rural landowner sewage treatment systems.

The District also received a grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to implement the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) in southeastern Wabasha County.

Contour Strip Crops:
Program Acres: 572.50 acres
Acres not funded, but are offered as a district service: 355.3 acres

Zumbro Watershed stream monitoring

Future Projects

12 projects pending funding:

- 3 waterways
- 2 waterway repairs
- 1 water and sediment
- 4 grade stabilization
- 1 sinkhole
- 1 diversion



Aerial view of conservation practices in Wabasha County

Board Members

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Nate Arendt | Chair | (507) 843-5322 | 66272 430th Ave, Mazeppa, MN 55956 |
| Ralph Breuer | Vice Chair | (651) 345-3651 | 69022 310th Ave, Lake City, MN 55041 |
| Chuck Fick | Secretary | (507) 534-2219 | 57569 275th Ave, Plainview, MN 55964 |
| Tom Gosse | Member | (651) 565-4597 | 511 E 2nd St, Wabasha, MN 55981 |
| Roland Wood | Treasurer | (507) 534-2384 | 22060 Cty Rd 27, Plainview, MN 55964 |

Wadena

Soil and Water Conservation District

4 Alfred St. NE
Wadena, MN 56482-2303
PHONE: (218) 631-3195
FAX: (218) 631-1625

www.wadenaswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: Third Monday of Month at
7:30 p.m. April-Oct, 1:00 pm Nov-March*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Erosion Control
2. Nutrient Management
3. Water Resource Protection
4. Forest Management
5. Grazing

2008 Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| BWSR Project Grants | \$129,765 |
| BWSR Service Grants | \$23,566 |
| Wadena County Allocation | \$72,366 |
| NRBG | \$61,926 |
| Federal Contributions | \$7,241 |
| Other Grants & Projects | \$49,468 |
| Charges for Services | \$85,092 |
| Interest Earnings | \$701 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | \$5,780 |
| Total | \$435,905 |

Recent Projects

Buckthorn Battle Going Strong

We held a working buckthorn field day with 28 attendees from Wadena and Ottertail Counties, including private landowners, local natural resource agency staff and a Sentence-to-Service crew. This included a brief educational session on what buckthorn is and what local landowners are doing to control this invasive. Then we went to work! The STS crew had chainsaws and brush saws to cut, landowners brought their own lopping shears. Stumps were then treated with brush killer. Our goal is to develop a control program that focuses first on small buckthorn "neighborhoods" with a domino effect throughout the county.

18th Annual "Conservation Days"

This event was held at Old Wadena Park with 373 students from 9 schools attending. Learning stations were set up throughout the park on forestry, history of the area, nature, soils, water and wildlife.

CWL Menahga Citywide Storm Water Disconnect

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| CWL Tech Assist | \$50,000 |
| DNR Fisheries | \$53,257 |
| Spirit Lake Assoc. | \$5,000 |
| MN Waters | \$5,000 |
| Landowners | \$24,575 |
| BWSR Challenge Grant | \$21,500 |
| | \$158,657 |

Four rain gardens are located in the parking lot of the Westside Laestadian Church which has been promoted as a show case for the city as an alternative to solid asphalt. Three rain gardens have been built on the Menahga Public School lawn. Many students and teachers have expressed an interest in learning more about the rain gardens in their front yard. One rain garden has been built in front of a commercial building along Highway 71 to collect sand and run off from the street. A new pervious surface gazebo and gray water tanks for water storage have been installed at the recently remodeled West Central Telephone building. 60 rain barrels are located throughout the town to disconnect roof run off from the streets. Six private shorelines plus the city property have been restored for fish habitat and to maximize infiltration versus run-off entering the lake. Several other rain gardens plans are in place and waiting for future funding to implement.

GRAZING TOUR

In August of 2008 the SWCD office in cooperation with NRCS, GLCI, and MARC&D held a grazing tour throughout Wadena County. There were 51 attendees and we stopped at 4 sites in the county that are utilizing NRCS funds for rotational grazing. These four sites were diverse and showcased a range of animal numbers, backgrounds, watering and fencing options. We took a school bus and even ran out of room on it!



Cooperative Weed Management Area

The Wadena SWCD received a \$20,000 grant to develop a Cooperative Weed Management Area plan for Wadena County. A CWMA committee was formed and developed the CWMA Plan for Wadena County. Staff worked with landowners and used \$15,000 of the funds as a 50% cost share for landowners and townships to control Spotted Knapweed (as pictured above), Leafy Spurge and Buckthorn. Thirty seven landowners took part in the program and controlled noxious weeds on over 1,000 acres of private and public land. Funding for 2010 has been applied for as many more landowners would like to control weeds on their property. This is a very successful program.

New Projects

MPCA Red Eye River Watershed Source Water Assessment Grant (SWAG)

\$50,819

Red Eye SWAG 16 sites,
Crow Wing 10X 6 Volunteers 6 sites/staff

Fifth Annual Citizen Based Shell River Mussel Survey



This is the fifth year the Menahga Conservation Club has worked with the SWCD and the DNR to survey mussel beds in the Shell River. The group verified the presence of the *strophus undulates* "creeper", not thought to be present, and a new

"lake" floater but still have not found a live specimen of the historically present *lasmigona compressa* "white heelsplitter".

CWL Shell River Watershed Cooperative Source Water Assessment Grant

19 sites in Wadena, Becker and Hubbard Counties were monitored by 9 citizen volunteers. Hubbard COLA assisted with sample delivery to the certified lab. This Clean Water Legacy Source Water Assessment Grant was for \$51,000.

AgBMP Low Interest Loan Program

The AgBMP Low Interest Loan Program has been used this year for 7 landowners who received \$42,530 for new septic systems and 1 landowner received \$6,500 for a manure auger system. Sixty Six Wadena County landowners have received \$287,648 for new septic systems since the beginning of the program. This is also a very successful program.

2010

MPCA Crow Wing River Watershed Integrated Watershed Management Assessment

2011

Red Eye River Watershed and Long Prairie River Watershed Integrated Watershed Crow Wing River Watershed Management Assessment

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| Marvin Runyan | Chairman | (218) 445-5810 | 10293 County Rd 23, Verndale, MN 56481 |
| Thomas Schulz | Vice Chairman | (218) 837-5728 | 27027 Co Rd 23, Sebeka, MN 56477 |
| Ken Berg | Secretary | (218) 894-3384 | 10869 - 255th St, Staples, MN 56479 |
| Nancy Benson | Treasurer | (218) 472-3232 | 23064 Co Rd 26, Verndale, MN 56481 |
| Melvin Kinnunen | Public Relations | (218) 564-4334 | 34730 Co Rd 23, Menahga, MN 56464 |

Staff

Malinda Dexter, District Manager
Molly Costin, District Technician

Anne Oldakowski, District Education/Forestry Technician
Kari Tomperi, District Water Resource Technician

Waseca

Soil and Water Conservation District

105 22nd Ave NE
Waseca, MN 56093
PHONE: (507) 835-4800
FAX: (507) 835-7895

www.wasecaswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Thursday of Month
at 6:30 pm*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Accelerated run-off resulting in erosion and sediment transport
2. Loss of remaining small woodlots due to encroachment of other land uses
3. Loss of natural resources
4. Economic development within the riparian areas of our impaired water bodies and tributaries
5. Soil sustainability due to current farming practices

2008 Revenue

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| Total | \$293,248 |
|-------|-----------|

Recent Projects



In-stream habitat structures, such as the cross vane shown above on Iosco Creek, benefit both water quality and fish habitat. Water-quality benefits include reduction of bank erosion, elimination of down cutting and maintenance of water level for upstream wetland features. Habitat benefits include providing substrates for aquatic invertebrates and creation of a riffle-pool bed profile which is beneficial for fish and other aquatic life. Two structures were installed in Iosco Creek in partnership with the Fish & Wildlife Service, the MN Darkhouse Assoc. (local chapter), the landowner, the SWCD and designed by the South Central Technical Service staff.

The District was fortunate to receive a BWSR 2009 Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant to assist one of the few remaining dairy producers in Waseca County. The basin is designed for 12 months of manure storage, resulting in better nutrient management. The site is located in the Lake Elysian watershed, which is one of the impaired waters in Waseca County





A 24 ac. wetland restoration completed in 1995 through the Re-Invest in MN (RIM) program was drawn down the summer of 2009. The wetland is within a flood plain of the LeSueur River and a large population of carp and other opportunistic fish have muddy the waters. The dry conditions will allow the aquatic vegetation to respond and once again flourish as the wetland returns to its natural state in 2010.



3 rock check dams were installed in the ravine pictured above to eliminated the downstream silt fan in Reeds lake.

For the past 15 years, the SWCD has hosted an Outdoor Education day for 1st grade students from 7 of the local schools. The students attend 7 stations to learn the value of our natural resources. Presentations are given on wetlands, soils, forestry, fish, wildlife, water quality and ground water. Cooperating agencies include: DNR- Fisheries, MN Pollution Control, NRCS, DNR-Forestry, BWSR and Waseca Co. Approximately 4500 students have had the opportunity to attend.



Future Projects

A streambank stabilization project will be completed on a tributary to the LeSueur River. The unstable channel and high sediment load is a result of the accelerated upstream drainage practices. A series of practices will be installed to not only improve the water quality, but also to improve the substrates for aquatic invertebrates and other aquatic life. Partnering agencies are DNR- Fisheries, MN PCA, BWSR and the MN Darkhouse Assoc. (local chapter).

A joint effort to restore a drained 115 acre lake basin will have a positive impact in both water quality and quantity to the receiving impaired watercourse. Partners involved in the project are the landowners, DNR-Fisheries, BWSR, NRCS and the SWCD.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Larry Hagen | Chair | (507) 835-1564 | 42390 120th St, Waseca, MN 56093 |
| Jurgen Peters | Vice Chair | (507) 835-4117 | 30529 128th St, Waseca, MN 56093 |
| Ron Purcell | Treasurer | (507) 835-4757 | 809 7th Ave NW, Waseca, MN 56093 |
| Robert Drager | Secretary | (507) 462-3627 | 20870 10th St, Minnesota Lake, MN 56068 |
| Wayne Cords | Member | (507) 234-6165 | 37341 35th St, Janesville, MN 56048 |

Washington

Conservation District

1380 W Frontage Rd Hwy 36
Stillwater, MN 55082
PHONE: (651) 275-1136
FAX: (651) 275-1254

www.mnwcd.org

WCD Board Meeting: 2nd Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Monitoring, protecting, and enhancing the surface water and groundwater quality of Washington County
2. Outreach and education
3. Urban and rural runoff, erosion, and sedimentation issues
4. Preservation and reconstruction of natural ecosystems (prairies, forests, savannas, water bodies)
5. Wetland issues

2008 Revenue

State (20%), County (20%), and Local (60%)

| | |
|-------|-------------|
| Total | \$1,429,626 |
|-------|-------------|

Recent Projects

Monitoring – The WCD water monitoring program is one of the largest local government monitoring programs in Minnesota. Current activities include monitoring over 40 stream, stormwater discharge, and/or water quality sampling sites, over 50 lake water quality monitoring sites, and over 100 lake gauges for monitoring lake elevation. Yearly summary reports allow partner organizations to make sound water resource decisions. Data from monitoring program are used to direct and prioritize education and BMP efforts to maximize water quality benefits.

EMWREP – The East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) is a partnership formed to implement a comprehensive water resource education and outreach program within Washington County. Based at WCD, other members include three watershed organizations, six cities, and Washington County. The goal of EMWREP is to reduce non-point source water pollution from storm water runoff and illicit discharges by educating citizens, municipal staff and officials, developers and businesses.

BMP installations – WCD works with multiple partners to facilitate the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) 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 BWSR grants, WCD, watershed management organizations, federal agricultural programs, and other sources.

Washington County Conservation Plan – WCD is working with Washington County to develop and implement a county-wide natural resource assessment and prioritization plan. The plan uses detailed land cover mapping (MLCCS - Minnesota Land Cover Classification System) to identify those areas that provide the highest water quality, habitat, and groundwater benefits. Priority areas are then targeting for outreach and protection efforts.



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 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. Stressors to the stream include temperature, turbidity, and copper. Multiple approaches to reduce the impact of these pollutants will be integrated into the watershed and WCD implementation programs.

WCA – WCD staff provides technical assistance relating to many wetland issues. Of the nearly 30 local units of government in Washington County who have accepted 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.

Valley Ridge Mall Stormwater Retrofit – The WCD partnered with the owners of the Valley Ridge Mall to retrofit multiple stormwater management practices. As shown in the photos, the project was designed to provide aesthetically pleasing landscaping along with water quality treatment.



Valley Ridge Mall stormwater management practices.

Future Projects

St. Croix Nutrient Reduction Initiative – The WCD is working collaboratively with the Chisago SWCD to reduce pollutant loads from rural sources to the St. Croix River.

MIDS Community Assistance – The WCD will be working to assist multiple communities in the St. Croix Basin to implement the recommendations of the Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) project.

Conservation Plan – The WCD is developing the natural resource prioritization assessment to help guide land protection efforts in Washington County.

Trees for Stormwater – The WCD is partnering with local communities to promote programs to establish trees for stormwater runoff reduction.

Board Members

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|---|
| Louise Smallidge | Chair | (651) 459-5600 | 10992 Point Douglas Rd, Hastings, MN 55033 |
| Gary Baumann | Secretary | (651) 653-6922 | 10600 Joliet Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55082 |
| Sarah Hietpas | PR & Information | (651) 779-7211 | 3704 Kindred Ct, Lake Elmo, MN 55042 |
| Tom Meyer | Vice Chair | (651) 470-3301 | 7079 Sherwood Ct, Woodbury, MN 55125 |
| Rosemary Wallace | Treasurer | (651) 342-0077 | 580 Eagle Ridge Trail, Stillwater, MN 55082 |

Watonwan

Soil and Water Conservation District

823 1st Ave S Ste 2
St James, MN 56081
PHONE: (507) 375-3104
FAX: (507) 375-3193

www.watonwanswcd.org or
www.co.watonwan.mn.us

*SWCD Board Meeting: 3rd Monday of Month
at 9:00 am; if holiday 3rd Tuesday*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Wind and water erosion on crop land – reduce erosion by using more conservation tillage
2. Surface water protection – increase water quality by implementing BMP's and buffers along streams and ditches
3. Implement more water storage projects
4. Tree planting – living snow fence and field windbreaks
5. Youth and adult education

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental Revenues | \$139,495 |
| Charges for Services | \$24,600 |
| Other Income | \$8,636 |
| Total | \$172,731 |

Included under other income is 2 pieces of equipment sold that no longer was used. \$1,625 of these funds needs to be used for a specific project.

Recent Projects



A series of 4 Sediment Basins

were installed along the Perch Creek in Antrim Township to help reduce sediment and phosphorus from entering the Perch Creek. The 4 sediment basins are a total of 1,850 feet in length and range from 400-500 feet long. These are farmable basins that have made this farmland more valuable and the landowner is very happy with how the project turned out.

The Minnesota Board of Water

and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Watonwan SWCD recently completed a wetland restoration in Madelia Township under the BWSR Road Replacement Wetland Restoration Program. The project is a 51-acre site with 20 acres of wetland and 31 acres of upland. There were many tile blocks and hundreds of feet of tile reroutes. There are three tile outlets that drain into the wetland basin. The outlet for the wetland basin consists of an earthen dike with an inline water control structure.

The SWCD worked with NRCS

on a WHIP tree planting in Odin Township that included 1,400 evergreen and hardwood trees and shrubs. All trees and shrubs were matted with weed control fabric. This planting will make a great wildlife habitat area as well as protect a township road.

A Streambank Stabilization

project was recently installed on the Butterfield Creek in Nelson Township. The project will protect 135 feet of streambank from continuing to erode and also protect three tile outlets that enter the creek. The project will also prevent any future problems of erosion to the township road.



NRCS Staff presenting information on soils at Environmental Awareness Day

The staff continues to bring

educational opportunities to the adults and youth of the community. The habitat workshop had an attendance of approximately 100 landowners where information on NRCS and FSA programs, pollinators, and managing predation of upland birds was presented. A program on rain gardens was presented by Metro Blooms.

Plans are in the process for our Green Saturday program which will be held in April, 2010. We again held an Environmental Awareness Program for 6th graders and an Arbor Day program for 1st graders.



A Watonwan County Windbreak

Future Projects

Sediment and Erosion Control: Sediment and erosion control continue to be a high priority with the SWCD. There are several waterways, sediment basins and streambank stabilization projects in the works. Also working on the Riparian Buffer program.

Work is in progress on a large cattle feedlot improvement project that will be completed in 2010 that includes a new feeding floor with concrete side walls to divert runoff to a concrete reception pit. This project also led to the sealing of an unused well and a septic upgrade.

Continue with the rain gauge monitoring, obwell monitoring, well sealing and tree programs

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Noren Durheim | Chair | (507) 642-8455 | 31041 790th Ave, Madelia, MN 56062 |
| Mark Anderson | PR&I | (507) 642-8645 | 302 Drew Ave SE, Madelia, MN 56062 |
| Ronald Bay | Secretary | (507) 435-4611 | 79605 405th St, Truman, MN 56088 |
| Dean Karau | Vice Chair | (507) 375-7670 | 36524 720th Ave, Saint James, MN 56081 |
| Jason Penner | Treasurer | (507) 956-2148 | 35069 630th Ave, Butterfield, MN 56120 |

Wilkin

Soil and Water Conservation District

1150 Hwy 75 N
Breckenridge, MN 56520
PHONE: (218) 643-2933
FAX: (218) 643-8823

www.wilkincountymn.govoffice2.com
(see "County Departments" and "Wilkin Soil
and Water Conservation District")

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of Month
at 8:00 a.m.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reduce Erosion and Sedimentation in Wilkin County
2. Improve the Quality of Surface Water in Wilkin County
3. Control Runoff and Reduce Flood Damages in Wilkin County
4. Improve Fish and Wildlife Habitat
5. Protect Ground Water Resources in Wilkin County

2009 Revenue

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| Total | <u>\$616,434</u> |
|-------|------------------|

Recent Projects

Red River Valley Restoration (S. Branch Buffalo River) In 2009, the district received \$1,106,435 in RIM Reserve funding through the RRValley Restoration Initiative. A total of 13 easements were secured on approximately 800 acres along 7 miles of river. After easements are in place the Buffalo Red River Watershed District will install flood control levees adjacent to the project area.

Living Snowfences In 2009, the district planted 1.75 miles of living snow fences along State Highway 210, bringing the total miles of LSFs along the roadway to 7.25 miles.

Lower Otter Tail Clean Water Legacy Project

In 2009, the district completed phase I of a CWL grant received for the purpose of reducing sediment loading in the Otter Tail River. At the completion of this phase, at total of: 40 acres of no-till; 2060 acres of minimum tillage; 7217 acres of cover crops; 12.4 miles of windbreaks; 76 acres of buffer strips; 20 miles of sediment control structures; 100 side inlet structures; and 775 ft of streambank stabilization were installed. Annual estimated sediment reductions for this phase totals 1,668 tons per year. This is equal to 25% of the TMDL goal.



Uncontrolled Gully Erosion (Before)

Side Inlet/Water Control Structure (After)



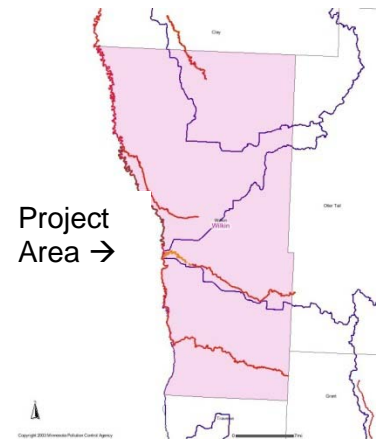
Stream Barbs (Streambank Stabilization)



Future Projects 2010

Phase II of the Lower Otter Tail Project.

Work scheduled for 2010 includes the construction of approximately 14 miles of water control structures and 60 side inlet controls. Staff will also promote conservation Best Management Practices in this project area.



Red River Restoration Project (South Branch Buffalo River). Staff will complete easements on 800 acres and develop conservation plans.

Whiskey Creek Restoration Project. In 2009, \$256,000 in Clean Water Legacy Funds were requested. If funding is received construction of 28 miles of sediment control structures and 112 side inlet structures will begin. Staff will also promote conservation Best Management Practices in this project area.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Dan Swedlund | Chair | (218) 640-8743 | 2049 355th St., Breckenridge, MN 56520 |
| Ross Aigner | Vice Chair | (218) 995-2173 | 1689 160th Ave, Wolverton, MN 56594 |
| Karlo Etten | Chair | (218) 630-5737 | 3138 370th St, Foxhome, MN 56543 |
| Pam Hendrickson | PR & I | (218) 643-3621 | 2062 State Hwy 9, Rothsay, MN 56579 |
| Rich Kruse, Jr | Secretary | (218) 643-3621 | 2788 320th St, Foxhome, MN 56543 |

Winona

Soil and Water Conservation District

PO Box 39
Lewiston, MN 55952
PHONE: (507) 523-2171
FAX: (507) 523-3717

www.winonaswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of
Month at 9 a.m.*



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. Rehabilitation and repair of conservation practices damaged by 2007 flood.
5. Coordinating public and private efforts by serving as a forum on natural resource issues.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental | \$859,881 |
| Charges for Services | \$26,494 |
| Investment earnings | \$25,349 |
| Miscellaneous | \$50 |
| Total Revenue | \$911,775 |

Recent Projects

Civic Engagement



Pictured are Chairman Rudie Spitzer and District Manager Tim Terrill accepting an award from the National Association of Conservation Districts on behalf of the Winona SWCD's efforts in grassroots initiatives.

The Winona SWCD received a national award from the National Association of Conservation Districts for District Excellence in Policy and Grassroots Initiatives. After the flood of 2007 the SWCD met regularly with members in the Garvin Brook watershed to help determine the watershed's needs for recovery, and provided information to the group to help them understand the flood recovery project. Since then, the SWCD has met with the community of Rushford City and Pickwick Mill board to determine methods and strategies to help them accomplish their community goals relating to soil erosion and water quality.

Animal Ag Waste Clean up



Here is a feedlot where manure is allowed to enter streams and contaminate water. There is no filtering of manure when leaving the feedlot.



A structure was designed by the Winona SWCD to control and filter the pollutant (manure) from entering the streams in our county.

This particular structure is a runoff **control structure**. There is a curved wall constructed with a pipe installed at the bottom to slow down the polluted runoff which helps settle out the solid manure behind the wall so it can remain on the lot.

This manure is then applied by the farmer at agronomic rates to grow crops. After the liquids leave the lot from the pipe, they enter a concrete pad which spreads the liquids out evenly to be sent to a grassed buffer area to remove any remaining pollutants. This whole process is designed by the SWCD and partners to treat 100% of the runoff that leaves the feedlot, and is a method used to keep our water clean.

Future Projects

Flood Recovery

The Winona SWCD is continuing to work on repairing and rehabilitating structures that were destroyed by the 2007 flood, and building new conservation measures to protect and preserve the soil and water quality in Winona County. To date, the SWCD has received over \$1.5 million for flood recovery, and has a balance of over half a million dollars left to encumber over the next year.

By using a conservation program named flood Reinvest in Minnesota (Flood RIM), the Winona SWCD was able to place 376 acres into a permanent conservation easement which will protect and restore the fragile soils in our county. This remarkable achievement and workload could not have been accomplished without working in cooperation with our partners which include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Board of Water & Soil Resources, and the SE Joint Powers Board.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Rudie Spitzer | Chair | (507) 932-3658 | 23847 County Rd 37, St Charles, MN 55972 |
| John Bronk | Vice Chair | (507) 454-3568 | 26636 Hwy 14, Winona, MN 55987 |
| Tom Choinski | Member | (507) 643-6420 | 26726 Miller Valley Road, Winona, MN 55987 |
| Arlene Nelson | Secretary/Treasurer | (507) 779-6233 | 19675 County Rd 33, Altura, MN 55910 |
| Jim Riddle | Member | (507) 429-7959 | 31762 Wiscoy Ridge Road, Winona, MN 55987 |

Wright

Soil and Water Conservation District

311 Brighton Ave S Ste C
Buffalo, MN 55313
PHONE: (763) 682-1970
FAX: (763) 682-0262

www.wrightswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: Second Monday of the Month



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water Quality and Quantity
2. Soil Erosion and Resulting Damage to Soil Resource
3. Wetlands – Protection and Enhancement Activities
4. Urban Development Problems (Erosion and Sediment Control)
5. Loss of Cropland to Development and Other Uses

2008 Revenue

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental | \$655,662 |
| Charge for Services | \$39,209 |
| Investment Earnings | \$9,778 |
| Miscellaneous | \$3,728 |
| Total | \$708,377 |

Recent Projects

Camp Lake Project- The District using various partners and the Joint Powers technical team planned and installed a demonstration project using a crushed limestone bed to filter water to remove phosphorus before discharge to Camp Lake. The project included flooding a 4-acre basin near camp lake and then slowly releasing the water through 6-inch pipes into a limestone bed. The Initiative Foundation of Little Falls helped fund this project.



Buffalo Lake Rainwater Garden- A large rainwater garden was installed with the City of Buffalo and with the help of the Mid Minnesota Mississippi RC&D. The project is in a critical location for runoff from an urban street and will provide direct infiltration of water, reducing sediment and phosphorus load to Buffalo Lake.



Recent projects (continued)

Granite Lake Project- A diversion and small structure was designed and installed adjacent to Granite Lake to totally remove the watershed from a large gully eroding directly into the lake. Granite Lake Association, the Township, the Landowner and area farmers were instrumental in getting this project installed. This one project will stop the huge gully from yielding tons of sediment and phosphorus to the lake. The water is diverted via a 500 foot diversion along the township road to the structure which collects the water and slowly releases it to a low area where water can be further filtered by grass before it ultimately finds its way back to the lake. This project epitomizes what can be done when cooperation between parties is forthcoming. The old gully will stabilize as it will no longer have significant amount of water running through it. The project was funded with Federal EQIP and State Cost Share dollars along with the Granite Lake Association. All parties are extremely happy with how the project turned out.



Future Projects

The District has a number of interesting projects planned for installation in 2010. A large gully will be controlled on the Cokato School site and a large wetland restoration will be installed for a BWSR wetland bank site in the western part of the county. In 2009 a desire to increase infiltration practices initiated a project to install ten to twelve demonstration rainwater gardens in highly visible sites. Three projects were installed in 2009 and the remaining are planned to be completed in 2010.

Board Members

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Chris Uecker | Chair | (320) 963-6732 | 2824 Co Rd 6 NW, Annandale, MN 55302 |
| Duane Dahlman | Secretary/Treasurer | (320) 286-5913 | 3624 Cty Rd 3 SW, Cokato, MN 55321 |
| Mark McNamara | Vice Chair | (763) 295-8272 | 315 Prairie Rd, Monticello, MN 55362 |
| Mary Wetter | Supervisor | (763) 477-5723 | 180 Ibarra Ave SE, Buffalo, MN 55313 |
| Michael Zieska | Supervisor | (320) 963-6082 | 11803 Gulden Ave NW, Maple Lake, MN 55358 |

Yellow Medicine

Soil and Water Conservation District

1000 - 10th Ave PO Box 545
Clarkfield, MN 56223
PHONE: (320) 669-4442
FAX: (320) 669-6011

www.yellowmedicineswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: 4th Thursday



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 wellhead protection planning, and expanding groundwater monitoring.

2008 Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Intergovernmental County | \$106,493 |
| Intergovernmental Local | \$17,261 |
| Intergovernmental State | \$93,816 |
| Charges for Services | \$49,705 |
| Miscellaneous - Interest | \$8,002 |
| Miscellaneous - Other | <u>\$3,523</u> |
| Total | <u>\$278,800</u> |

Recent Projects



GRANITE ROCK OUTCROP PROGRAM: Yellow Medicine SWCD, along with Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Renville and Redwood SWCDs, applied for and received a grant from the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for a Rock Outcrop Permanent Easement Program. Landowners interested in protecting rock outcrops in the Upper Minnesota River Valley had a unique opportunity to sign up for this program to protect their rock outcrops from being mined and enrolling them in a permanent RIM-like easement. This program has won attention for protecting a unique resource. The goal of this program is to provide landowners with compensation for doing the right thing and assisting them with removing invasive species such as red cedar and sumac to restore the outcrops. Of the 35 applications received, 10 were from Yellow Medicine County. 14 applications totaling \$1,290,848 were funded enrolling 540.8 acres. Four of those applications are in Yellow Medicine County and will bring approximately \$290,856 into the County enrolling 128 acres into the Rock Outcrop Program.

REINVEST IN MINNESOTA (RIM) PROGRAM acres in Yellow Medicine County will be increasing because of the efforts of the SWCD staff in 2009. 128 acres were enrolled into the Rock Outcrop Program and another 52.5 acres were enrolled into the WRP-RIM Program making a total of 7,529.7 acres enrolled into easements in Yellow Medicine County. The WRP-RIM Program offers competitive payment rates for landowners to restore wetlands that have been drained and have a history of being used for agricultural production. The program is a local-state-federal partnership that combines the state's RIM conservation easement program with USDA's WRP.



A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR RIPARIAN BUFFER CONSERVATION EASEMENTS is available for landowners in Yellow Medicine County. The 2009 Legislature appropriated dollars from the Minnesota Clean Water Fund to purchase and restore permanent easements on riparian buffers in eligible cropland areas. A continuous statewide sign up is now open. Eligible land includes land with existing or new Conservation Reserve Program contracts that had a crop history prior to CRP enrollment and that are adjacent to public waters as shown on the DNR Protected Waters Inventory. Landowners will be paid 100 percent of their Assessors Average Township Value (AATV) for cropland and 60 percent of the AATV for non cropland. This program offers another incentive for landowners to enroll their land into a permanent filter strip.

Yellow Medicine County appointed the SWCD as the local government unit to administer the Wetland Conservation Act and the rules of the Board of Water and Soil Resources adopted under the act. For all excavation, filling or drainage projects in Yellow Medicine County landowners must check with the SWCD, in addition to the Federal Farm Service Agency/NRCS offices, and Watershed Districts before they proceed with their projects. The SWCD reviewed tiling requests, building permits, and WCA applications and decisions were made.

Future Projects

The SWCD will continue to assist with implementing the Yellow Medicine Watershed and the Lac qui Parle Watershed Clean Water Partnership Grants, providing technical and financial support. 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.

CLEAN WATER FUND AMENDMENT DOLLARS:

The SWCD sought funds through the Clean Water Fund Amendment dollars to accelerate the SWCD's efforts to promote and implement best management practices (BMPs) in various watersheds throughout Yellow Medicine County through the following applications in 2009:

- Applied with Lac qui Parle and Lincoln SWCDs for grants to install BMPs in the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed.
- Applied with Lyon and Lincoln SWCDs for grants to implement BMPs in the Yellow Medicine Watershed, including small dam repairs, rain gardens and alternative intakes; and filter strips/riparian buffers.
- Applied with surrounding SWCDs for grants to be used in the Redwood Watershed for alternative intakes, repair of small dams, and rain gardens; and incentive dollars for grid sampling, and other BMPs.
- Applied for Ag BMP loan dollars to be utilized for fixing nonconforming ISTS.

If funded, these dollars will be used to work with MPCA to get these waters off the Clean Water Act's Total Maximum Daily Load 303d list of impaired waters. The SWCD will continue to partner with other organizations in this effort.

Board Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Norris Peterson | Chair | (507) 223-5457 | 2412 260th Ave, Canby, MN 56220 |
| Menno Fokken | Treasurer | (507) 223-7707 | 201 2nd Street W, Canby, MN 56220 |
| Steve Hubbard | Secretary | (320) 669-4916 | 710 9th Ave, Clarkfield, MN 56223 |
| Burton Kuehn | Vice Chair | (507) 925-4389 | 1521 630th St, Belview, MN 56214 |
| Jerry Nelson | Reporter | (320) 564-3699 | 4763 290 th Ave, Granite Falls MN 56241 |

