

**SHERBURNE SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

2012

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

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Acronyms and Phrases

- BMP..... Best Management Practice
- BWSR..... Board of Soil and Water Resources
- County Sherburne County
- CRP Conservation Reserve Program
- CSP.....Conservation Stewardship Program
- CWF.....Clean Water Funds
- CWP Clean Water Partnership
- DNR..... Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- EAW Environmental Assessment Worksheet
- ERWS..... Elk River Watershed
- ERWA..... Elk River Watershed Association Joint Powers Board
- EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- EQIP NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentive Program
- FEMA..... Federal Emergency Management Agency
- FSA..... Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- IBI Index of Biotic Integrity
- LAP Lake Assessment Program
- LCMR..... Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources
- LID Low Impact Development. LID is a site design strategy with a goal of maintaining or replicating the predevelopment hydrologic regime through the use of design techniques to create a functionally equivalent hydrologic landscape.
- LGU Local Government Unit
- LRP.....Landscape Restoration Program
- MACD.....Metro Area Conservation Districts
- MASWCD Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- MCD.....Metro Conservation Districts
- MDA..... Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- MDH Minnesota Department of Health
- MGS Minnesota Geological Survey
- mg/L..... Milligrams per liter (equals parts per million)
- MNDOT..... Minnesota Department of Transportation

MPCA Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
MS4 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MWP.....Major Watershed Project
NALMS North American Lake management Society
NPEAP..... Non-Point Engineering Assistance Program
NPDES National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Ag.
NPS.....National Park Service
NWR..... National Wildlife Refuge
OBWELL..... Observation Well
OHWM..... Ordinary High Water Mark
PPB Parts per billion (equals ug/L)
PPM..... Parts per million (equals mg/L)
PUD Planned Unit Development
RAL's Recommended Allowable Limits
RC&D Resource Conservation & Development Council
RIM..... Reinvest in Minnesota
RPPTP.....Rural Preserves Property Tax Program
SNA Scientific and Natural Area
SRF State Revolving Fund
STORET The EPA's water quality data base (maintained in Minnesota by the MPCA)
SWCD..... Soil and Water Conservation District
SWPPP..... Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TEP..... Technical Evaluation Panel
TMDL..... Total Maximum Daily Load
ug/L..... micrograms per liter (equals parts per billion)
USDA..... U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS..... U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS U.S. Geological Survey
VOC..... Volatile Organic Compounds
WCA Wetland Conservation Act
WHIP NRCS' Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program
WMA..... Wildlife Management Area
WRP Wetland Reserve Program

ANNUAL PLAN

SHERBURNE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ELK RIVER FIELD OFFICE
January 1, through December 31, 2012

I. Introduction

The purpose of this Annual Plan is to set realistic goals that can be accomplished by the District, and to specify those objectives that the District will work toward during 2012.

II. Annual Objectives

A. Protect and/or Improve Water Quality and Quantity

1. Continue well monitoring for the DNR
2. Promote Wetland Reserve Program and RIM
3. Cooperate with, and take part in the Plant Materials Learning Center Board
4. Participate in the Metro Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board – Non-point Engineering Assistance Program (NPEAP) etc.
5. Review Irrigation permit applications and prepare Conservation Plans
6. Administer MDA's AgBMP low interest loan program.
7. Review work in DNR protected waters permit applications
8. Coordinate and Update implementation of the Local Water Management Plan
9. Participate on, and act as fiscal agent for the Elk River Watershed Joint Powers Board
10. Administer Elk River Watershed cost-share program CWF-FY11
11. Apply for ERWA TMDL implementation funds and other cost share funding as identified.
12. Monitor identified stream & lake resources as funding is available
13. Assist public water suppliers with their Well Head & Source Water Protection plans
14. Maintain rain gauge reader network to at least one per township
15. Serve on the WCA Technical Evaluation Panels for Elk River, Zimmerman, Becker, Big Lake, and Sherburne County
16. Conduct/review wetland delineations for County implementation of WCA
17. Assist landowners with plans towards compliance of County manure ordinance
18. Maintain Crescent Lake Weather Station – (SCAN Station)
19. Promote EQIP and CRP Filter Strips, Riparian Buffers, and Wetland Restoration
20. Conduct local work group meetings for EQIP
21. Install Storm Water treatment projects
22. Implement Irrigation Water Management Program through the use of weather station information, including the weekly crop water use reports
23. Conduct Pasture Management Program
24. Assist Lake Associations to develop monitoring programs, with emphasis on training volunteers, and students to conduct monitoring; SWCD will coordinate data management
25. Promote citizen stream & lake monitoring programs

26. Assist Lake Associations with management plans
27. Submit local water quality data to MPCA's STORET database
28. Administer and coordinate the Mississippi St. Cloud Major Watershed Project (MWP)
29. Complete CWF-FY10 projects.
30. Administer CWF-FY12 grant for City of St. Cloud Projects
31. Participate in MCD Landscape Restoration Program and sub-watershed assessments.
32. Work with Elk River Utilities to expand turf irrigation efficiency on urban/residential lots.

B. Reduce soil loss from wind erosion by:

1. Planning/Planting 5,000 feet of field windbreaks
2. Expand District tree sales
3. Promote the tree program by way of a newsletter, news releases, educational handouts, landowner contacts, and through the web site, city newsletters & websites, lake association newsletters & websites and the county website
4. Continue to cost share windbreaks through State and Federal cost share programs
5. Implement tree planting and maintenance program through conservation planning
6. Promote windbreaks under center pivot irrigation through landowner contacts.
7. Promote/publicize and maintain Plant Material Evaluation site
8. Use continuous CRP, CSP and EQIP sign up to promote windbreak planting and renovation
9. Work with agricultural producers to implement residue management on cropland
10. Promote living snowfence and windbreaks on small acreage
11. Promote native vegetation plantings for upland habitat and erosion control.
12. Promote management of existing wind breaks along county and township roads
13. Promote MNDOT living snowfence programs

C. Reduce soil loss from water erosion and sedimentation by:

1. Utilize local, state, and federal programs to reduce soil loss from water erosion and sedimentation
2. Assist with activities of the 2008 and 2012 farm bills, EQIP, CRP, CSP and WHIP
3. Review erosion and storm water pollution control plans and compliance as requested
4. Assist landowners with shoreland and stream bank erosion problems
5. Cooperate with Township and County road authorities to design/install roadway bio-retention basins and filter strips

D. Native Vegetation Restoration

1. Promote Federal, State and Local Restoration Programs
2. Promote and Implement Native Pollinator Programs
3. Participate in North American Pollinator Protection Campaign
4. Promoting Native Habitat plantings
5. Assist landowners with shoreland buffer re-vegetation
6. Promote Wetland Restorations
7. Restore 40 acres of native habitat
8. Complete Native Buffer Grant program for prescribed burns & native prairie enhancement
9. Work with local road authorities to establish several Roadside for Wildlife trial planting sites
10. Apply for funding to cost share new native plantings
11. Continue Bridgeview oak savanna restoration efforts

E. Cooperation and coordination with other agencies and organizations

1. Sherburne County Water Plan Committee
2. Sherburne County Zoning Office
3. EQIP local work groups
4. Lake Associations
5. Sherburne County Pheasants Forever
6. Sherburne County History Center
7. Mid-Minnesota Mississippi RC&D Council
8. Work with Sherburne County Public Works
9. Lake Orono Water Quality Committee
10. Assist Clear Lake and Baldwin Park Committees
11. East Central Minnesota Irrigators Association
12. Work with Cities within the County on conservation projects
13. Sherburne County Parks Department
14. Recruit Earthteam volunteers and interns
15. Act as fiscal agent for the ERWA
16. Seek opportunities to develop partnerships with state, federal and regional
17. agencies
18. City of Big Lake Park Advisory Committee
19. Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
20. Work with County Weed Inspector to map noxious weed infestation sites.
21. Sentenced to Serve
22. MWP partners –
 Elk River Watershed Association, Stearns SWCD, Benton SWCD, Wright SWCD, Clearwater River Watershed District, Stearns County Environmental Services, and Sherburne County Planning and Zoning Administration, USFWS, MNDNR, NPS
23. Mississippi River Fund & National Park Service

F. Participate in educational programs and contests

1. Display a booth at the Sherburne County Fair
2. Participate in the 2012 Pollinator Week celebration
3. Offer materials for soil stewardship week
4. Conservation camp essay contest for Long Lake

5. Conduct low water use landscaping education with Project Conserve, City of Elk River.
6. Participate in Annual Environmental Education Days at Refuge
7. Conservation tour for County Commissioners, Sherburne county Water Plan Committee, and the SWCD Board of Supervisors, and local legislatures
8. Provide education programs as identified
9. Participate in MASWCD Conservation Cooperator Award contests
10. Coordinate Rural Living Task Force environmental programs
11. Conduct well nitrate test clinics
12. Coordinate Elk River Watershed Cleanup Day
13. Provide update to conservation organizations, the County Board, local townships and others about SWCD conservation activities
14. Submit bi-weekly news releases on local environmental topics.
15. Coordinate educational programs as identified through the MWP Civic Engagement process.
16. Host Annual Meeting

G. Other Objectives

1. Attend township meetings to speak on conservation issues
2. Maintain website per BWSR requirements
3. Utilize social media to promote district activities
4. Attend MASWCD MCD association meetings
5. Attend MASWCD annual convention
6. Respond to EAW's
7. Attend training sessions
8. Maintain District Employee Handbook and Supervisor Policy Handbook
9. Expand services to urban and small acreage landowners
10. Publish District highlights brochure for 2012 activities
11. Annual E-Link reporting
12. Publish quarterly e-newsletter
13. Maintain tree health web resources
14. Update and publish 2nd edition of Weed ID Guide

III. State Cost Share Program Requirements

- A. High priority erosion problems: "High priority erosion problems" means areas where erosion from wind or water is occurring on Class I-IV soils equal to or in excess of 2 X T tons per acre per year/or any area within 300 feet of a water course or within 1,000 feet of a water basin or wetland eroding by water in excess of T tons per acre per year. The water basin, wetland, or watercourse must be classified by the Department of Natural Resources as protected water. Erosion problems occurring on non-shoreland areas in excess of T but less than 2 X T tons per acre per year are classified as secondary priority.

1. Install 5,000 feet of windbreaks--Est. cost \$7,000
2. Install 5 acres of tree and shrub plantings--Est. cost \$5,000
3. Install 10 acres Critical Area Plantings—Est. cost \$8,000

- B. High priority water quality problems. "High priority water quality problems" means areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals, or other pollutants discharge to protected waters or to a sinkhole or ground water so as to impair their quality or usefulness. These include high priority feedlots and sedimentation problems.

Other high priority water quality concerns include establishing, and mapping resource information for the Elk River watershed and Sherburne County.

Install 13 Stormwater Retrofit BMPs - Est. cost \$60,000

Install 9 shoreline buffer projects – Est. cost \$14,000

- C. "High priority feedlots" means feedlots where the pollution potential rating from the feedlot model is greater than or equal to one and which are discharging pollutants to DNR protected waters or to a sinkhole or shallow soils overlying fractured or cavernous bedrock or within 100 feet of a water well.
- D. "High priority sedimentation problems" means areas within 300 feet of a water course or 1000 feet of a water basin or wetland where the water erosion rate exceeds 3 tons per acre per year or areas where the District can show that sediment delivery occurs from a watershed or direct conveyance structure such as a storm sewer or paved outlet channel discharging to these waters.

- 1. Install 1250 feet of stream bank and lakeshore protection - Est. cost \$75,000

- E. Special projects

None planned

Projected Budget for 2012--following page

**SHERBURNE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2012 BUDGET**

Revenues

Intergovernmental

County	\$224,847
Local	\$13,094
Federal	\$5,000
State grants	\$499,240

Total intergovernmental align="right">\$742,181

Charges for services align="right">\$42,201

Miscellaneous

Interest earnings	\$4,000
Other	\$3,000

Total miscellaneous align="right">\$7,000

Total Revenues align="right">\$791,382

Expenditures

District operations

Personal Services	\$318,495
Membership Dues:	
NACD	\$775
MASWCD	\$2,795
MASWCD Area4	\$225
Pheasants Forever	\$50
Other services and charges	\$52,466
Supplies	\$2,000
Capital outlay	\$2,000

Total district operations align="right">\$378,806

Project expenditures

District	\$21,480
State	\$391,096
Federal	\$0

Total project expenditures align="right">\$412,576

Total Expenditures align="right">\$791,382