



Present Board Members: Leander Schlosser, Doug Manthei, Debra Seeley, Larry Goenner, Doug Hipsag

The Board of Supervisors meet the first Monday of the month at 8 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Elk River.

Board or Supervisors

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2009 Activity Highlights

SHERBURNE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Our Mission

The Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District is dedicated to working directly with landowners and agencies in order to promote the wise and sustainable use of our land and water related resources; to educate and inform the public about these uses; to help solve the resource problems within the District and to serve as a county wide natural resource information referral center.

Update: Elk River Watershed

TMDL Recap: In August of 2008 the Elk River Watershed Association began working on four Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) utilizing a grant obtained from the Minne-



Stream flow gauging on Lilly Creek.

sota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). A TMDL is a study that is conducted on an impaired surface water to determine the maximum amount of a pollutant that can go into the water body and still have it meet water quality standards. TMDL reports are coupled with Implementation Plans (a required counterpart); the two together are basically water quality improvement plans. The TMDLs currently in progress include Big Elk Lake and Mayhew Lake, both impaired for excessive nutrients and the Elk River (from

Big Elk Lake to the St. Francis River) which is impaired for fecal coliform bacteria and turbidity. The studies will be completed over three phases, phase I was completed in March 2009.

Phase II of the TMDL process began as the streams began to flow in the spring of 2009.

Phase II consists of the collection of a robust set of data, calculation of the as-



Bank Erosion survey on the Elk River.

simulative capacities of the impaired waters, and the construction of water quality models that will be used in the final load allocation (to complete

the TMDL document and Implementation Plan).

Thus far in Phase II: 20 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. Monitoring was also conducted on Big Elk and Mayhew Lakes. The water sample collection portion of Phase II came to a close on October 31st, 2009.

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.

What's Next?

Once data analysis is complete you will have another opportunity to hear about and comment on the results of data analysis as well as to discuss the development of the TMDL Implementation Plan. At this point we can project that the 2nd TMDL Stakeholder meeting will be held sometime in the spring of 2010. Your attendance at Stakeholder Meetings matters. We

Getting Conservation On the Land...

TREES Through our tree program this year 19,000 trees were planted!



UPLAND HABITAT Over 57.9 acres of native prairie were planted on 8 different sites!

Native Prairie filter strip on agricultural land



Native prairie planting in home landscape

STORMWATER One rain garden installation in the city of Big Lake.



SHORELINE RESTORATION 700ft. of Shoreline Restoration, with 350ft. installed with the help of a local Cub Scouts.



Volunteers at Elk River Cleanup

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Buzzing for Fun Pollinator Day Camp for youth
- Environmental Education Days
- Bring your child to work day
- Shoreland Maintenance Workshop
- 2009 Conservation Tour for Elected Officials
- Annual Elk River Cleanup Event
- Tribute to Agriculture Day at Sherburne History Center
- Buckthorn Control at Bridgeview Park



- Earth Day at Twin Lakes School
- Math Mentor Program Hosts
- Nitrate Clinic in Palmer

IN ADDITION

- Responded to requests for assistance including: Wetland Conservation Act site visits
- Clear Lake and County Park natural resource maintenance
- Bioretention Trench installation in the City of Becker
- Becker City Park Native Planting project
- 2009 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator



Warren & Mary Jo Johnson

SERVICES

There are fees associated with some of our programs. Please contact our office for more information.

- Tree Planting
- Prairie Restoration/Planting
- Weed Badgering
- Annual Tree & Native Plant Sale
- Rural Preserve Property Tax Program
- Forrest Stewardship Plans
- Wetland Delineations
- Rotational Grazing Plans