

Sunday, October 04, 2009

Elk River clean-up getting bigger



VOLUNTEERS. This group of volunteers met at Becker City Park Saturday morning before heading out to clean up area bridge crossings over the Elk River as part of the 2nd Annual Elk River Clean-Up project. From left are: Francine Larson, SWCD, Mark Basiletti, Susan Basiletti, Sherburne Co. Commissioner John Riebel, G.G. Phillips and Bob Hurd. (Photo by David Hannula.)

By David Hannula

The Second Annual Elk River Clean-up featured a team of 22 volunteers who collected an estimated 830 pounds of litter at multiple locations along the Elk River Saturday morning, reports organizer Tiffany Determan, Watershed Coordinator for the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Teams met at three staging areas early Saturday, and moved out from there to five selected areas where they began to collect trash and litter. The Becker crew, which included Mark Basiletti, Susan Basiletti, John Riebel, G.G. Phillips and Bob Hurd, met at Becker City Park and moved out to remove trash from Elk River bridge crossings on Co. Rd. 11, Co. Rd. 23, Co. Rd. 24 and Hwy. 25.

Other crews worked on the Elk River from Lion's Park in Big Lake, Wapiti Park and Lake Orono, and were assisted by the "Odds and Ends Crew" which travelled between locations to assist other groups as needed, including bridge crossings at the Snake River and the St. Francis River.

Determan said the crews worked from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m., collecting the estimated 830 pounds of trash over a six-mile area along the river. Items removed included metal signs, chairs, a couch, tires, bicycles, signs, clothing, fast food wrappers, car parts, aluminum cans and various plastic pieces.

Volunteers were issued rubber gloves and plastic waste collection bags, and were instructed in ways to identify and avoid any materials that might have been used in a "meth lab" or other hazardous objects they might encounter on the project.

The Big Lake crew included Rich Belanger, Tom Hallaway and Lavern Knobbe, with Shane and Tiffany Determan on the "Odds and Ends Crew." The Wapiti Park crew included Angel Hardy, Karry Schwanki, Pam Robinson, Cheryl St. Aoro, Kimberly Satovich, Sophia Satovich, Anna Christ, Sharie Odden, Matt Evall, Alicia Kish and Ralph Robinson.

Doran new head of county SWCD

By Ken Francis
Contributing Writer



Gina Hugo, Tiffany Determan, Mark Basiletti, DeAnna Doran, Francine Larson and Bill Bronder pictured above. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

Sherburne County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) has a new Regional Director.

DeAnna Doran of Big Lake Twp. took over the position in early October.

Wendy Beliveau, the former director, retired almost a year ago. Mark Basiletti was interim director since Beliveau's retirement.

Doran has a background in finance and human resources in the private sector and as a consultant. She said she was excited when the opening was announced.

She says working for the SWCD will be a new experience, but she is already establishing a good relationship with staff members.

"I have the luxury of having a great staff," she says. "They're very supportive and willing to work with me. It's a big learning curve."

Sherburne County SWCD provides technical assistance to landowners on natural resource conservation practices such as:

- Tree, windbreak, shelterbelt, and living snowfence planting plans;
- Machine tree planting;
- Prairie and pasture planting;
- Stream and lake buffer strip planting;
- Upland and wetland habitat restoration /enhancement.
- Soil evaluations;
- Manure management;
- Nutrient management;
- Streambank and lakeshore protection;
- Pasture/grazing management;
- Erosion control



SWCD gets new Regional Director

By Ken Francis
Staff Writer

Sherburne County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) has a new regional director.

DeAnna Doran of Big Lake Twp. took over the position in early October.

Wendy Beliveau, the former director, retired almost a year ago. Mark Basiletti was interim director since Beliveau's retirement.

Doran has a background in finance and human resources in the private sector and as a consultant. She said she was excited when the opening was announced.

She says working for the SWCD will be a new experience, but she is already establishing a good relationship with staff members.

"I have the luxury of having a great staff," she says. "They're very supportive and willing to work with me. It's a big learning curve."

Sherburne County SWCD provides technical assistance to landowners on natural resource conservation practices such as:

- * Tree, windbreak, shelterbelt, and living snowfence planting plans;
- * Machine tree planting;
- * Prairie and pasture planting;
- * Stream and lake buffer strip planting;
- * Upland and wetland habitat restoration /enhancement.
- * Soil evaluations;
- * Manure management;
- * Nutrient management;
- * Streambank and lakeshore protection;
- * Pasture/grazing management;
- * Erosion control;

DeAnna Doran of Big Lake Twp. took over the position in early October.

Wendy Beliveau, the former director, retired almost a year ago. Mark Basiletti was interim director since Beliveau's retirement.

Doran has a background in finance and human resources in the private sector and as a consultant. She said she was excited when the opening was announced.

She says working for the SWCD will be a new experience, but she is already establishing a good relationship with staff members.

"I have the luxury of having a great staff," she says. "They're very supportive and willing to work with me. It's a big learning curve."

Sherburne County SWCD provides technical assistance to landowners on natural resource conservation practices such as:

- * Tree, windbreak, shelterbelt, and living snowfence planting plans;
- * Machine tree planting;

- * Prairie and pasture planting;
- * Stream and lake buffer strip planting;
- * Upland and wetland habitat restoration /enhancement.
- * Soil evaluations;
- * Manure management;
- * Nutrient management;
- * Streambank and lakeshore protection;
- * Pasture/grazing management;
- * Erosion control;

Staff time was donated by the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Elk River and Sherburne County. Funds donated came from the Elk River Watershed Association, Sherburne County Rural Living Task Force and the Knights of Columbus. Waste disposal assistance came from Allied Waste, Jerry's Auto Parts and Salvage and Central Appliance Recyclers, and food and drink was supplied by Coborn's, Caribou Coffee, Java-Me-Kraze and Diamond City Bakery.

Collection materials came from the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources "Adopt-a-River" program, with facilities support from the Town of Big Lake, City of Becker and Wapiti Park. The Knights of Columbus provided breakfast for the workers, Determan said, and also provided a number of volunteers to work on the project.

The third annual clean-up will be even bigger, organizers think, as a number of groups are already saying that they would be interested in taking part in the 2010 effort. For more information contact SWCD Watershed Coordinator Tiffany Determan at (763) 241-1170, ext. 3.