

**SHERBURNE SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

2013

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

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ANNUAL PLAN
SHERBURNE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ELK RIVER FIELD OFFICE
January 1, through December 31, 2013

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 2013.

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 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 clean water funds 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. Assist landowners with plans towards compliance of County manure ordinance
16. Maintain Crescent Lake Weather Station – (SCAN Station)
17. Promote EQIP and CRP Filter Strips, Riparian Buffers, and Wetland Restoration
18. Conduct local work group meetings for EQIP
19. Install Storm Water treatment projects
20. Implement Irrigation Water Management Program through the use of weather station information, including the weekly crop water use reports
21. Conduct Pasture Management Program
22. Assist Lake Associations to develop monitoring programs, with emphasis on training volunteers, and students to conduct monitoring; SWCD will coordinate data management

23. Promote citizen stream & lake monitoring programs
24. Assist Lake Associations with management plans
25. Submit local water quality data to MPCA's EQUIS database
26. Administer and coordinate the Mississippi St. Cloud Major Watershed Project (MWP)
27. Assist with Rum River Watershed Project
28. Administer CWF-FY13 grant for City of St. Cloud Projects
29. Participate in MCD Landscape Restoration Program and sub-watershed assessments – Birch Lake Subwatershed Assessment.
30. 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 social media sites, 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/shrub plantings 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 and increase cover crop use
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 30 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 and Oak Savanna park 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 – Briggs Lake Chain Flyover
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. Urban Forestry Committee
14. Sherburne County Parks Department
15. Recruit Earthteam volunteers and interns
16. Conservation Corp Minnesota Apprentice
17. Act as fiscal agent for the ERWA
18. Seek opportunities to develop partnerships with state, federal and regional agencies
19. City of Big Lake Park Advisory Committee
20. Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
21. Work with County Weed Inspector to map noxious weed infestation sites.
22. Sentenced to Serve
23. 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
24. Mississippi River Fund & National Park Service
25. Serve on the WCA Technical Evaluation Panels for Elk River, Zimmerman, Becker, Big Lake, and Sherburne County
26. Conduct/review wetland delineations for County implementation of WCA
27. Friends of the Refuge

28. Little Farm Hands Committee
29. Blue Thumb Organization

F. Participate in educational programs and contests

1. Display a booth at the Sherburne County Fair
2. Participate in the 2013 Pollinator Week celebration
3. Conservation camp essay contest for Long Lake
4. Participate in Annual Environmental Education Days at Refuge
5. Conservation tour/annual dinner for County Commissioners, Sherburne county Water Plan Committee, and the SWCD Board of Supervisors, and local legislatures
6. Provide education programs as identified
7. Participate in MASWCD Conservation Cooperator Award contests
8. Conduct well nitrate test clinics
9. Coordinate Elk River Watershed Cleanup Day
10. Provide update to conservation organizations, the County Board, local townships and others about SWCD conservation activities
11. Submit bi-weekly news releases on local environmental topics.
12. Coordinate educational programs as identified through the MWP Civic Engagement process.
13. Host NEMO workshop
14. Host EAB workshop for local green industry

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 MACD association meetings/Secretary Treasurer Responsibilities
5. Attend MASWCD annual convention
6. Attend Legislative Briefing
7. Respond to EAW's
8. Attend training sessions
9. Maintain District Employee Handbook and Supervisor Policy Handbook
10. Expand services to urban and small acreage landowners
11. Publish District highlights brochure for 2012 activities
12. Annual E-Link reporting
13. Publish monthly e-newsletter
14. Maintain tree health web resources
15. Implement Urban Forestry Program

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.

Install 5,000 feet of windbreaks--Est. cost \$10,000
Install 5 acres of tree and shrub plantings--Est. cost \$5,000
Install 30 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 7 Stormwater Retrofit BMPs - Est. cost \$50,000
Install 9 shoreline buffer projects – Est. cost \$14,000
Install 4 raingardens – Est. cost \$6,000

C. High Priority Feedlots

"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

"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.

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

E. Special projects

1. None planned

2013 BUDGET

SHERBURNE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Revenues

Intergovernmental

County	\$256,768
Federal	\$1,500
State grants	\$94,224

Total intergovernmental \$352,492

Charges for services

\$68,670

Miscellaneous

Interest earnings	\$200
Other	\$4784

Total miscellaneous \$4984

Total Revenues \$426,146

Expenditures

District operations

Personal Services	\$342,548
Membership Dues:	
NACD	\$775
MASWCD	\$2,795
MCD	\$500
MACDE	\$100
MACD Area 4	\$475
Pheasants Forever	\$50
Other services and charges	\$58,874
Supplies	\$2,500
Capital outlay	\$3000

Total district operations \$409,117

Project expenditures

District	\$19,900
State	\$53,872
Federal	\$1425

Total project expenditures \$100,197

Total Expenditures \$479,619

Net Income -53,473

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
EAB	Emerald Ash Borer
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
NEMO	Non-Point Education for Municipal Officials
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
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