

North St. Louis SWCD

2011 Annual Plan

I. Introduction

The purpose of this annual plan is to detail work items that will be completed in 2011. The annual plan is a tool for SWCD staff and supervisors to evaluate program effectiveness.

II. Annual Objectives – Soil and Water Conservation Issues

Lake and Stream Protection

A. Annual Objectives

- To protect, preserve, and enhance lakes and streams.
- To work to implement projects or practices that correct situations that could cause these waters to be impaired.

B. Actions

- Provide technical, educational and financial assistance to install best management practices.
- Review DNR water permits and provide input to help limit negative impacts.
- Provide technical assistance to landowners to establish shoreline buffers.
- Perform duties related to the Minnesota Lake Superior Coastal Program, Coastal Nonpoint Program Implementation Grant.
- Provide lake monitoring assistance to lake associations and/or interested parties.
- Assist interested parties with developing lake associations.
- Administer the rain gauge program.
- Work on watershed protection and restoration projects:

East Swan River Project Clean Water Partnership

Project Manager

Operate Work Advisory Committee

Maintain Grant Documentation.

Compose Bi-Annual Grant reports

Complete final update to the monitoring plan

Complete final report

Coastal Non-Point Grant

Assist Landowners with Wetland Avoidance

Assist Landowners and LGU's with storm water prevention plans

Public education on storm water prevention

Evaluate Shoreland on three Embarrass River Chain Lakes classifying for open, impervious and forested landcover.

Classify shoreline coarse woody debris and emergent vegetation to 25 feet from shoreline

Groundtruth landcover classifications by boat

New Project Application

Application for BWSR Lake Protection Challenge Grant

Joint Application with St. Louis County Planning and Development

Two Lakes Assessed within Rainy River Basin

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Staffing Needs

- Approximately 60 Resource Conservationist days.

- Approximately 14 Office Administrator days.

Combined Impacts of Development

A. Annual Objectives

- To reduce, mitigate, or eliminate environmental impacts caused by development-related activities.

B. Actions

- Apply technical, educational and financial assistance that leads to the installation of best management practices that minimize the impacts of development.
- Provide technical assistance to other units of government.
- Complete gravel pit reclamation plans that emphasize restoring ecological integrity.
- Provide wetland determinations to private landowners.
- Review construction erosion control and storm water plans as requested.
- Attend St. Louis County Sewage Sub and Technical Committee meetings.
- Review St. Louis County Public Works projects and provide input to help limit negative impacts.
- Explore opportunities to assist communities with erosion and sedimentation issues, including ordinance support.
- Explore opportunities for wetland restorations and creations in our area.
- Conduct WCA workshops for contractors and developers.
- Complete Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act responsibilities:
 - Serve on St. Louis County Technical Advisory Committee.
 - Complete administrative aspects of WCA through the agreement with St. Louis County.
 - Serve on all Technical Evaluation Panels within the District.
 - Provide technical and educational assistance to further wetland conservation.
 - Serve as an information center for WCA, including pond creation.
 - Complete wetland restoration and replacement plans.
 - Create Fee Schedule and WCA processing contracts with Non-county LGU's.

C. Staffing Needs

- Approximately 120 Resource Conservationist days.
- Approximately 13 Office Administrator days.

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Outreach and Education

A. Annual Objectives

- To educate youth and adult audiences about high priority SWCD soil and water conservation topics.

B. Actions

- Work with the media to publicize SWCD programs and policies
- Give presentations to schools and community groups about topics that are SWCD priorities.
- Support the Poster and Essay contests as well as the Area III Envirothon.
- Set up displays or booths to publicize SWCD programs at events such as the northern St. Louis County Fair, Iron Range Earth Fest, etc.
- Meet with governmental units to discuss district programs and services available.
- Work with area teachers to promote the Envirothon Program.
- Utilize District website as educational tool.
- Coordinating Northern Envirothon and State Envirothon
- Planning and attending spring Administrative Session (March)
- Compose Fall SWCD Newsletter

C. Staffing Needs

- Approximately 10 Resource Conservationist days.
- Approximately 42 Office Administrator days.

Forestry

A. Annual Objectives

- To provide assistance to private landowners to enable healthy forests on private lands.
- To provide technical assistance to limit negative environmental impacts from forest harvesting and management activities.
- To provide a source of conservation-grade trees and shrubs.

B. Actions

- Apply technical, educational, and financial assistance through the Forest Stewardship Program to install forestry best management practices that limit or correct non-point source pollution or improve forested landscapes
- Hold tree and shrub sale geared toward supplying trees for conservation and educational uses.
- Develop a district forestry plan.
- Participate in MASWCD Forestry Association (Education Committee)
- Participate on Minnesota Forest Resource Council NE Landscape Committee.
- Apply for Technical Assistance Funding
- Attend Forestry Workshops and Meetings

C. Staffing Needs

- Approximately 20 Resource Conservationist days.
- Approximately 54 Office Administrator days.

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Ground water

A. Annual Objectives

- To protect and improve ground water quality.
- To protect ground water quality in areas where land occupiers rely on private wells for water supply, particularly in developing rural areas.
- To protect ground water that contributes critical base flows for streams, especially streams that support cold-water fish species.

B. Actions

- Provide technical, educational, and financial assistance to install best management practices that protect ground water quality.
- Measure 5 DNR observation wells March-December.

C. Staffing Needs

- Approximately 5 Resource Conservationist days.
- Approximately 11 Office Administrator days.

Agricultural

A. Annual Objectives

- To provide financial and technical assistance to agricultural operations to minimize negative environmental impacts.
- To support sustainable agricultural initiatives and operations that protect the environment, preserve family farming, and conserve energy.

B. Actions

- Apply technical, educational, and financial assistance to install best management practices that minimize non-point source pollution from agricultural operations. This includes utilizing CCLNS JPB#3 and NRCS engineering assistance. State cost-share and USDA cost-share programs will be utilized. The SWCD will depend primarily on NRCS abilities and resources for technical assistance.
- Provide agricultural best management practice revolving loan funds for animal waste practices and equipment.
- Participate in the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program Local Work Group process to establish local priorities.

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Invasive Species and Weed Management:

Cooperative Weed Management Area

- 2011 Work Plan: North St. Louis SWCD will draft an initial annual work plan with input from steering committee members and others. The initial work plan will focus on the following goals:
- North St. Louis SWCD will draft an initial annual work plan with input from steering committee members and others. The initial work plan will focus on the following goals:
- Memorandum of Understanding: Completion and Signatures by 2011 field season
- South St. Louis SWCD will draft and distribute to participating agency personnel. MOU will require review and legal approval by some agencies: Hopeful completion timeline for signatures is before the field season begins.
- North St. Louis SWCD will define a data dictionary for a GIS project layer. Other agencies will provide input so the data will be cross platform and usable by all. The main concern is the amount of data already available and in what form. After the project scope is defined, we will be better able to decide how to proceed.
- Finding and completing attainable projects were recommended, both as a means for creating cooperation and response and for demonstration. The projects should be achievable within the grant's timeframe

Public Outreach and Educational Activities

C. Staffing Needs

- Approximately 32 Resource Conservationist days.
11 Office Administrator Days

Wildlife Management

A. Annual Objectives

- To protect and enhance wildlife habitat.

B. Actions

- Continue to offer selections of trees and shrubs through the annual sale that will benefit wildlife. Continue to offer packages for specific wildlife habitat objectives.
- Apply technical, educational, and financial assistance for wildlife habitat creation. The SWCD will depend primarily on NRCS technical assistance and cost-share programs.

C. Staffing Needs

- Approximately 5 Resource Conservationist days.

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III. Annual Objectives – Administration

A. Annual Objectives

- Ensure efficient administration and fiscal management of SWCD.
- Conduct District Board meetings on a monthly basis or as needed.
- E-Link progress reporting through the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

B. Actions

- Record and prepare payroll and office accounts.
- Prepare yearly budget for District operations.
- Prepare and attend District Board meetings.
- Prepare SWCD Board minutes.
- Complete monthly progress reporting of District activities.
- Prepare 2011 Annual Plan.
 - Complete Sepecial Disitric Report for State Auditor's Office

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 10 Resource Conservation days

Approximately 70 Office Administrator days.

IV. Cost-Share Program Requirements

High Priority Erosion Problems

High priority erosion problems include lakeshore, streambank, and erosion in the watersheds of lakes and streams. Cost-share funds will be used to address problems in these areas. Outreach efforts will be utilized to identify high priority areas, and to find landowners interested in correcting these problems if possible. The SWCD may utilize \$7929.00 in FY2011 Cost-Share funds to correct these problems. An unlimited funding amount is needed to address all of these high-priority erosion problems.

High Priority Water Quality Problems

High priority water quality problems include erosion leading to the degradation of DNR protected waters, St. Louis River and other lakes and streams. Practices will be installed in these areas based on identification by SWCD and other staff, and landowner interest. The SWCD may utilize in \$7929.00 in 2011 Cost-Share funds to correct these problems. An unlimited funding amount is needed to address all of these high-priority water quality problems.

V. Budget Requirements