



North St. Louis SWCD 2014 Annual Activity Report

The North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a local government agency providing conservation and resource management services. In cooperation with federal, state and local agencies, the District provides technical assistance, cost-sharing and natural resource management information and education. Urban and rural landowners, businesses, industry and agencies may request these services.

SWCD BOARD MEETINGS:

2nd Monday of each month at 10:30 am
Northland Office Building
307 First St S, Suite 118
Virginia MN 55792

NORTH ST. LOUIS SWCD

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Chair:	Margaret (Peggy) Pearson
Vice Chair:	Gary Rantala
Treasurer:	Mark Peterson
Secretary:	Chuck Bainter

NORTH ST. LOUIS SWCD STAFF

Anita Provinzino, District Administrator

COMMITTEES:

Personnel:

Gary Rantal & Mark Peterson

Water Advisory:

Chuck Bainter

Area III:

Gary Rantala

Legislative:

Mark Peterson & Chuck Bainter

USDA Environmental Quality:

Mark Peterson & Chuck Bainter

Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development:

Margaret (Peggy) Pearson

MASWCD Forestry:

Mark Peterson & Chuck Bainter

Education

Gary Rantala & Chuck Bainter

In 2014, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) did not employ permanent administrative or technical staff and, as a result, was not able to provide the same level of program service delivery as in previous years.

With the assistance of St. Louis County, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and Koochiching SWCD, the North St. Louis SWCD took steps to address this issue and in August 2014, they adopted a two-year recovery plan intended to improve fiscal management and restore/expand program service delivery.

Although specific financial and activity information has been reported separately in our 2014 Cost Share, 2015 Cost Share, and 2015 Conservation Delivery reports, below is a summary of additional 2014 accomplishments that were made possible through County financial support and with the assistance of various partner agencies:

Outreach and Education

- Promoted best management practices to landowners and coordinated contacts for federal and state programs
- Increase public awareness of SWCD programs via newsletters/mailings
- Supported regional education events including Envirothon, Climatology Volunteer Program, Poster & Essay Contest, and County Extension Committee
- Conducted annual tree sale program
- Formed new partnerships and sought new funding opportunities

Technical Assistance to Landowners and other Agencies

- Coordinated work for Orr Area Trout Stream & Conifer Enhancement projects
- Provide assistance to landowners re: tree planting and shoreland management
- Provided water sampling assistance
- Performed site visits and assisted landowner with erosion control and cost share assistance questions

General Office Administration

- Prepared financial assessment and recovery plan
- Supported SWCD Board meetings and activities
- Maintained District website for compliance
- General administrative duties including responding to telephone and email inquiries, fiscal management and compliance, County/partner coordination, and personnel needs assessment

As part of the recovery plan implementation process, the North St. Louis SWCD hired a half time administrator in February 2015 and they are currently in the process of hiring a full time resource conservationist.