

WINONA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2012 ANNUAL PLAN



Feedlot Runoff Control



Grade Stabilization Structure (pond)



2010 Flood Repair (Pond Repair)



RIM Reserve prairie planting

Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District
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I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this annual plan is to help guide the actions of the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District (District) and to measure performance for the upcoming year. The annual plan also considers future funding needs to address resource concerns identified.

Development of this annual plan uses key objectives from the Winona County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (2011-2015), which also serves as the District's Comprehensive plan as adopted by resolution on 1-18-2012.

The primary natural resource management and operational actions for 2012 include:

- Water Quality
- Soil Erosion, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management
- Nutrient, Manure and Human Waste Management
- Watershed Management
- District Operations and Program Delivery

MISSION STATEMENT

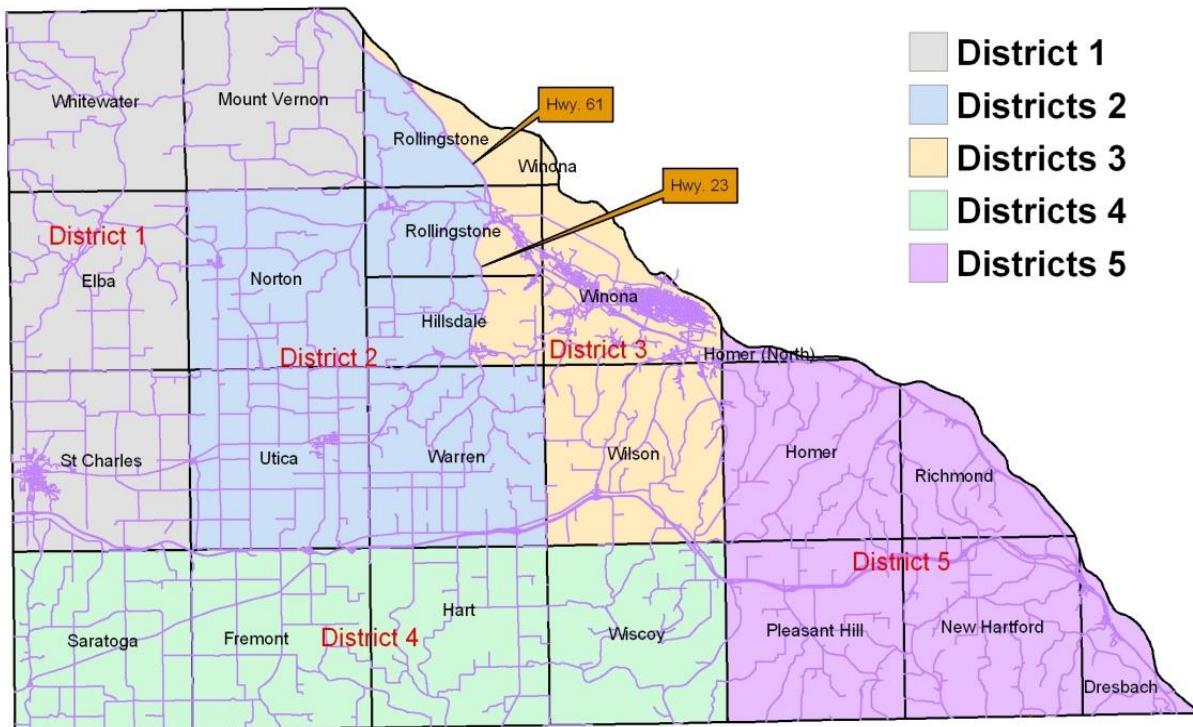
The District is a locally elected unit of government promoting soil and water conservation and environmental protection through landowner assistance, education and planning activities, coordination of public and private efforts and by serving as a forum on natural resource issues.

VISION STATEMENT

To encourage preservation and conservation of the natural resources of Winona County through advocating sustainable use and respect of the uniqueness and aesthetic value of our landscape for present and future generations.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 1	Lonny Dietz
District 2	Arlene Nelson
District 3	Eric Nelson
District 4	Jim Riddle
District 5	vacant



DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Brein Maki	Office Administrator
Amanda Gentry	Feedlot Engineer Technician
Mark Root	Resource Specialist
Daryl Buck	District Manager

NRCS EMPLOYEES

Sue Glende	District Conservationist
David Dockter	Soil Conservation Technician
Justin Lindner	Soil Conservationist

II. PRIORITIES, OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING NEEDS

For each primary natural resource management issue identified, the priority concern and objectives are listed as well as funding needs to address the concern. Some defined objectives and measurable results are driven by voluntary efforts of private landowners which can impact goal accomplishments.

WATER QUALITY

Priority Concerns: Water quality concerns involve protecting groundwater; addressing federal Clean Water Act requirements; protecting surface waters; and effectively managing those land areas at the water/land interface such as riparian lands, floodplains, and sensitive groundwater recharge areas in karst settings.

Objectives:

1. Assist Public Water Suppliers (PWS) in developing Wellhead Protection Plans and/or managing their 200-foot inner wellhead management zone by:
 - Providing representation on the Wellhead Protection Planning Committee for public water suppliers.
 - Target pollution prevention programs in wellhead protection areas.
2. Assist private well users in protecting and/or improving their drinking water supplies by:
 - Hosting nitrate clinic.
 - Providing private owners of abandoned wells cost share funds to properly seal their wells.
3. Provide educational opportunities to the public and schools on drinking water issues, land use planning, groundwater quality, and the significance of karst geology.
4. Provide technical assistance to the County in implementation of their land use ordinance with regards to potential water quality concerns and impacts of alternative land uses: I.e., intensive sand mining.
5. Provide the public with groundwater educational materials in print and mixed media.
6. Reduce fecal coliform impairments as defined by the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process through implementation of rotational grazing plans
7. Work to develop TMDL Implementation Plans for turbidity within Garvin Brook, Whitewater River, and Root River Watersheds by:
 - Participate with the Whitewater River Watershed Project by hosting meetings with the MPCA and the public to explain ongoing TMDL activities.
 - Participate in the Root River Technical Advisory Committee and Stakeholder meetings.
8. Establish vegetated buffers adjacent to streams or around sinkholes by:
 - Pursuing compliance with the State of Minnesota's 50-foot buffer standard under existing Shoreland Ordinance within agricultural areas.
 - Distributing educational materials regarding benefits of vegetated buffers.

- Providing technical assistance on establishing and maintaining vegetated buffers
- Provide cost share funding to establish and maintain vegetated buffers consistent with State policy.

Funding Needs:

The District will use County levy funds and State Conservation Delivery Grant funds (formally General Services) to carry out the listed objectives for water quality. State grant programs will also be used to implement water quality improvement projects which include but are not limited to Native Buffer Cost-Share Grant (\$25,000), Reinvest in Minnesota Reserves (RIM) and RIM-Wetland Reserves Program (WRP) (\$150,000), State Cost-Share Grant (\$9,000), The Nature Conservancy (\$10,000) and federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs (\$100,000).

EROSION, SEDIMENT CONTROL AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Priority Concerns: Resource concerns center around steep topography and extreme soil erosion potentials. Control of erosion and sediment is a concern on agricultural lands and for residential and urban development. Storm water management concerns include water retention and infiltration that reduces soil erosion, improves hydrologic processes and reduces flooding.

Objectives:

1. Promote programs and activities that encourage soil conservation by:
 - Encouraging cropping practices that minimize soil erosion.
 - Encouraging use of cover crops.
 - Encouraging contour farming and crop rotation.
 - Encouraging conservation tillage systems such as no-till, strip-till and ridge-till.
2. Install grassed waterways and grade stabilization structures by:
 - Identifying hot spots for gullies and other sources of erosion and contacting landowners with options for cost-share and technical assistance.
 - Install 5 grade stabilization structures in high priority areas.
 - Install 5 waterways and diversions in high priority areas.
 - Conduct inspection checks on 10% of conservation practices installed in the past 10 years and in accordance with Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) guidelines.
3. Promote and protect forest resources by assisting with 2 Forest Stewardship Plans
4. Promote grass-based agriculture by writing 2 rotational grazing plans.
5. Provide technical assistance to the County in implementation of their land use ordinance with regards to protecting biologically sensitive communities: I.e., St. Peter Sandstone outcrop prairies.
6. Promote flood mitigation programs by:
 - Utilizing special cost-share programs to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners after the 2007 and 2010 floods.
 - Promoting special land retirement programs to landowners after the 2007 and 2010 floods.

7. Assist Winona County Planning Department with implementation of their land use ordinance relating to storm water management at building sites by:
 - Assist municipal areas in meeting the principles of the EPA Phase II Stormwater Requirements.
 - Assist small cities on storm water retention and infiltration projects.

Funding Needs:

The District will use County levy funds and State Conservation Delivery Funds to promote programs and carry out listed objectives for soil erosion, sediment control and storm water management. State grant programs will also be used to implement water quality improvement projects to include but not limited to: Flood Cost-Share Grant (\$120,000), Mississippi River Basin Initiative Grant (\$37,500), Native Buffer Cost-Share Grant (\$25,000), RIM Reserve & RIM-WRP (\$150,000), State Cost-Share Grant (\$9,000), The Nature Conservancy (\$10,000) and federal NRCS Programs (\$250,000).

NUTRIENT, MANURE AND HUMAN WASTE MANAGEMENT

Priority Concerns: Nutrient, manure, and human waste management is that generated from feedlots and septic systems and contribute to excess levels of fecal coliform in several County streams. Wastes from feedlots and septic systems, as well as from commercial fertilizers, can contribute to high nitrate concentrations.

Objectives:

1. Correct open lot runoff from noncompliant feedlots by:
 - Providing technical assistance for design, installation and implementation of 9 feedlot water quality improvement projects.
 - Conduct inspection checks on 10% of feedlot projects installed in the past 10 years and in accordance with Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) guidelines.
 - Provide administrative and technical assistance for correcting manure runoff problems.
2. Increase implementation of manure management plans among livestock producers by:
 - Promote and educate landowners on the benefits of manure and nutrient management plans.
 - Make AgBMP loans available for landowners to purchase manure and nutrient management equipment to meet their manure management needs.
 - Assist 9 feedlot operators with development and implementation of Manure Management Plans.
3. Design, implement and provide technical assistance for 2 pasture management plans.
4. Provide AgBMP loans to individuals needing replacement septic systems.

Funding Needs:

The District will use County levy funds and State Conservation Delivery Funds to promote programs and carry out listed objectives for nutrient, manure and human waste management objectives. State

grant programs will also be used to implement water quality improvement projects to include but not limited to: AgBMP Loans (\$100,000), Clean Water Legacy Grant ó Feedlot (\$550,000), The Nature Conservancy (\$10,000) and federal NRCS programs (\$250,000).

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Priority Concerns: The Winona County Water Management Plan defines watershed boundaries and identifies water resources. The District will work to align Priority Concerns described in this County Plan to accelerate the goals identified for each watershed. A watershed approach provides a context for integrating programs and emphasizing and addressing the most significant resource concerns in a given watershed. For example, impacts of residential development are of greater significance in the watersheds that are in and around the City of Winona. In addition, this approach provides a context for collaboration with watershed organizations.

Objectives:

1. Promote and utilize a watershed planning approach in dealing with nonpoint source pollution, soil erosion and hydrologic concerns.
2. Support and assist established watershed organizations such as the Whitewater River Watershed Joint Powers Board and the Stockton-Rollingstone-Minnesota City Watershed District by conducting outreach activities and offering District or County programs.
3. Supply additional technical support for work in the Rush-Pine Creek Watershed.

Funding Needs:

The District will use County levy funds and State Conservation Delivery Funds to promote programs and carry out listed objectives for Watershed Management objectives. State grant programs will also be used to implement water quality improvement projects to include but not limited to: The Nature Conservancy (\$10,000) and federal NRCS (\$10,000) programs. The District will also actively pursue grant funding for supporting conservation implementation within the Rush-Pine Creek Watershed.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS AND PROGRAM DELIVERY

Priority Concerns: The District will be evaluating opportunities for the purpose of improving operations and program delivery to create an efficient work environment that focuses on implementation of conservation practices and promoting of land stewardship.

Objectives:

1. Evaluate potential collaboration opportunities with County Departments that may include:
 - Human resource assistance such as employee recruitment, employee training and employee performance.
 - Financial services including payroll, accounting, record keeping, and purchasing.
 - Risk management services.

- Information technology services such as access to computer networks, providing software updates and data network.
2. Address staff needs to meet workload.
 - Work with private engineer to fulfill Mississippi River Basin Initiative grant project.
 - Consider part-time/temporary summer help if needed.
 3. Conduct education and outreach activities that promotes the District's presence by:
 - Maintaining web site.
 - Selecting an Outstanding Conservationist to recognize achievements.
 - Participate in Southeast Minnesota Area Envirothon.
 - Develop newsletters, newspaper articles, media interviews and demonstration tours.
 - Attend Legislative Day at the Capitol and other regional and state events.
 4. Delivering special services to help carry out the mission of the District by:
 - Assisting with implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act including participation on the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP).
 - Providing tree and shrub sales for conservation purposes.
 - Providing Truax drill and broadcast seeder rental for conservation purposes.
 - Providing a rain gauge monitoring program.
 - Assisting landowners with manure spreader calibration.
 - Assisting the NRCS and Farm Service Agency with Federal program implementation.
 - Assisting the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Waters and Division of Wildlife and Division of Forestry with implementation of their programs.
 5. Partner with agencies and organizations to assist in the delivery of conservation programs.
 - Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).
 - USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
 - Southeast Minnesota Technical Service Area Joint Powers Board.
 - Winona County.
 - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Division of Waters, Wildlife and Forestry).
 - The Nature Conservancy.
 - BALMM
 - RC&D
 - Trout Unlimited.
 - Winona State University
 - Minnesota Land Trust

Funding Needs:

The District will use County levy funds, State Conservation Delivery funds, and Grant designated Technical and Administrative funds to carry out listed objectives for District operations and program delivery. The District will need continued support from County levy sources to meet objectives.

IV. BUDGET

2012 Budget				
REVENUES:	Budget		EXPENSES:	Budget
State Revenues			Personnel Expenses	
BWSR Conservation Delivery	\$20,963.00		Employee Salaries	\$189,336.37
BWSR Easement Services	\$4,052.00		Social Security	\$11,738.85
BWSR RIM Services	\$350.00		Medicare	\$2,745.38
BWSR Cost-Share (FY 2012)	\$1,511.80		PERA	\$14,200.23
BWSR Flood Relief	\$15,000.00		Medicharge	\$28,800.00
BWSR Native Buffer	\$6,100.00		Payroll Processing	\$500.00
CWL Feedlot 2010	\$5,433.96			\$247,320.83
CWL Feedlot 2011	\$78,196.06		Employee Mileage/Empenses	\$1,000.00
CWL Feedlot 2012	\$15,000.00		Employee Training/Conferences	\$2,500.00
5% Outside Agency	\$0.00			\$3,500.00
	\$141,172.86			
County Revenues			Supervisor Expenses	
Operating Reserve	\$92,001.46		Supervisors Compensation	\$15,000.00
2012 Allocation Request	\$62,625.00		Social Security	\$930.00
WCA	\$10,000.00		Medicare	\$217.50
	\$164,626.46		PERA	\$750.00
			Supervisor Expenses	\$1,000.00
			Supervisors Mileage/Other	\$3,500.00
				\$21,397.50
Local Revenues			Charges for Services	
NRCS - MRBI	\$0.00		Conferences/Trainings/Meetings	\$2,500.00
Nature Conservancy	\$40,000.00		Computers/Technologies	\$4,000.00
	\$40,000.00		Dues/Memberships	\$4,500.00
			Insurance (MCIT)	\$4,611.00
			Misc. Operating	\$400.00
			Postage	\$1,200.00
			Professional Services	\$2,500.00
			Public Education/Promotion/Tour	\$3,000.00
			Rent/Office Space	\$11,615.32
			Subscriptions/Publications	\$50.00
			Utilities	\$4,000.00
			Vehicle Maint/Fuel	\$3,500.00
				\$39,376.32
			Supplies/Equipment	
			Field Supplies	\$2,500.00
			Office Supplies/Printer Supplies	\$3,000.00
			Computer Equipment	\$8,500.00
				\$14,000.00
			District Programs	
			Tree Project Expenses	\$6,000.00
			District Cover Crop Program	\$10,000.00
			2012 Conservation Banquet	\$5,000.00
			Equipment Expenses	\$1,500.00
			New Projects/Initiatives	\$30,304.67
			Capital Outlay	\$5,000.00
				\$57,804.67
			Total Expenses:	\$383,399.32
Total Revenues:	\$383,399.32			
Revenue Less Expenses:	\$0.00			
Compensated Absences	\$25,000.00			
6 month operating reserves	\$191,699.00			
Total Needed in Reserve:	\$216,699.00			
ADOPTED: 1/18/2012				