



2007 Annual Plan Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Before



Serious gully erosion occurring in a concentrated flow area. New tile lines have been installed along both sides of a planned new Grass Waterway.

After



Gully closed. Waterway shaped and seeding is just starting to grow.

Mission Statement:

To serve the residents of Freeborn County by creating an awareness of soil and water resource concerns, by offering practical alternatives to manage these concerns, and by providing technical assistance (as local resources allow) to apply and maintain best management practices (BMPs) that impact water quality while sustaining soil productivity and land-user profits.

FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2007 ANNUAL PLAN

I. Introduction:

The purpose of this Annual Plan is to chart a course of action for the Freeborn County SWCD during calendar year 2007. The primary focus of these actions will be soil & water resource protection and improvement.

We will briefly describe several objectives and relevant action items we plan to concentrate on. The action items will identify specific work efforts aimed at accomplishing our objectives.

A workload analysis will compare projected staff days needed with those available from present staff.

High priority erosion areas will be identified and needed conservation practices will be discussed.

A summary of specific practices applied in 2006 will demonstrate which practices are in demand and give us an indication of potential workload for 2007. We'll close this section with a few comments on cost share policies and priorities.

In conclusion we'll present our proposed budget for 2007. This will include estimated revenues and expenditures.

II. Objectives and Action Items:

Objective #1

Reduce Soil Erosion and Sediment Delivery to surface waters by working with local landowners and/or operators to develop program contracts on 8,500 acres.

Action Items:

1. Apply 50 structural practices on 50 tracts. These will be complemented by 50 vegetative practices.
2. Assist landowners or operators in developing compliance plans or revisions on 25 tracts as needed to keep them eligible for USDA benefits.
3. Continue promotion of available conservation practice cost share programs including the State Cost Share Program, Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) and possibly local watershed district cost share program assistance.
4. Seek applicants for conservation practices within the Blue Earth River Watershed area of our county to receive Clean Water Legacy Act Cost Share for projects.
5. Communicate with national and state legislators as well as County Commissioners to keep them aware of our programs, services and funding needs.
 - a. Participate in Legislative Day at the Capitol.
 - b. Organize and conduct a tour of local conservation practice sites for County Commissioners and State Legislators.

Objective #2

Improve surface water quality by reducing storm-water runoff and sediment delivery to local waters. This will be accomplished by enrolling 500 acres in new long term set-aside contracts or easements.

Action Items:

1. Promote, sell and implement the various set-aside programs: CRP, CREP II and WRP or RIM/WRP.
2. Partner with the Turtle Creek Watershed District and Shell Rock River Watershed District to identify areas that would provide potential flood mitigation benefits in addition to water quality benefits. Seek enrollment of these areas.
3. Continue an active information and education campaign addressing these needs.

Objective #3

Protect and/or enhance water quality, our ecosystem and wildlife habitat by partnering with local government agencies and organizations to maintain ongoing and/or existing regulatory programs and statutes aimed at natural resource protection.

Action Items:

1. Assist landowners seeking information about proposed projects that may be impacted by Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) or other wetland rules.
2. Continue to partner with local LGUs (City and County) to implement provisions of the Wetland Conservation Act.
3. Continue SWCD representation on the Technical Evaluation Panels for WCA.
4. Include wetland concerns in our education & information programs.

Objective #4

Maintain existing programs to enhance local wildlife habitat.

Action Items:

1. Continue to provide a quality source of trees & shrubs for tree planting projects.
2. Continue to provide planning assistance and equipment rental to ensure proper tree planting design, variety selection and planting procedures.
3. Partner with other agencies, i.e.: U.S. Fish & Wildlife, MN DNR, Ducks Unlimited and others to prioritize habitat areas and seek enrollment of these areas in some type of management program.
4. Use newsletters and local media to inform residents of various programs available.

III. High Priority Erosion Problems:

Areas needing conservation practices installed:

- The computer map on page 4 shows high priority areas of combined wind and water erosion by 40's.
(See page 4)

Practices needed to control high priority erosion problems:

- Waterways, terraces, water and sediment control basins, conservation tillage systems, grade stabilizing structures, and windbreaks.

IV. High Priority Sediment Problems:

Areas needing conservation practice application:

- The computer map shown on page 4 shows areas within 1000 feet of a lake or 300 feet from a stream where erosion exceeds 3 tons per acre per year and where sediment delivery for a watershed outletting to these waters exceeds 2 tons per acre per year. (See page 4)

Practices needed to control high priority sedimentation areas:

- Terraces, water and sediment control basins, waterways, grade stabilizing structures, conservation tillage systems and grass buffer strips.

V. High Priority Feedlots:

Number Existing:

- We feel that approximately 55 high priority feedlots exist at this time. Locations have not been identified specifically.

VI. State Cost-Share Allocation and Implementation Policies:

- Our 2007 state cost-share allocation for project use is \$21,477.00. Freeborn County S.W.C.D.'s policy is to reserve all of its available contract money for high priority erosion problems. The cost-share rate remains at 75% of project cost. Each project is considered individually on its own merits and no maximum dollar limit per landowner exists. If applications exceed funds available, the supervisors prioritize the projects according to cost effectiveness and location, etc.
- Landowners can be paid based on invoices or paid receipts received from contractors. The landowner or operator selects his or her own contractor, and bids are not required. The maximum time frame between SWCD Board of Supervisors approval of the project and the start of construction is 18 months. The entire project must be completed within 24 months.

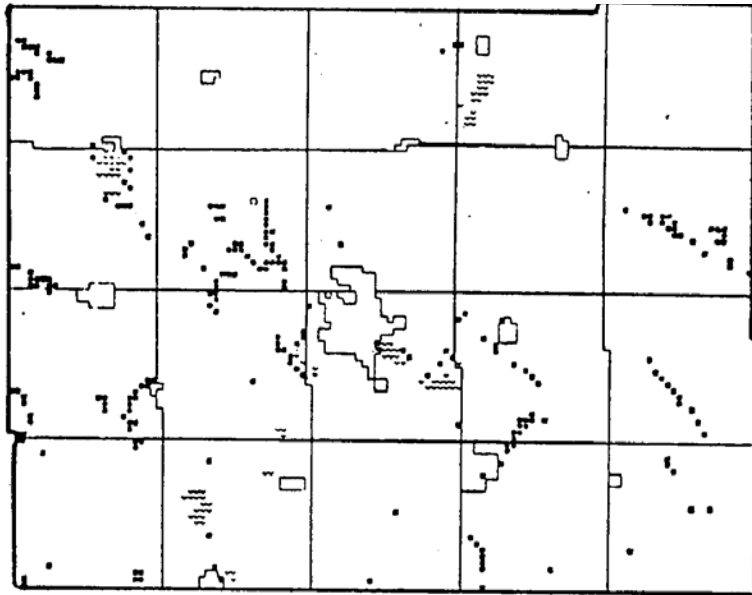
State Cost Share Program (2006 calendar year) Summary (contracts finalized – payments made)

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Water & Sediment Basins & Side Inlet Pipe	6	\$6,000.00

Federal EQIP Approved for Fiscal year 2006

Total Dollar Amount **\$415,000.00**

VII. HIGH PRIORITY TOTAL EROSION AREAS IN FREEBORN COUNTY (COMBINED WATER AND WIND EROSION)



High priority areas for combined water and wind erosion are defined as shoreland with a potential soil loss due to water erosion between soil loss tolerance (T) and double the T value. Cultivated land with a potential soil loss due to water and wind erosion greater than double the T value, or non-cultivated land with a potential soil loss due to water erosion greater than double the T value.

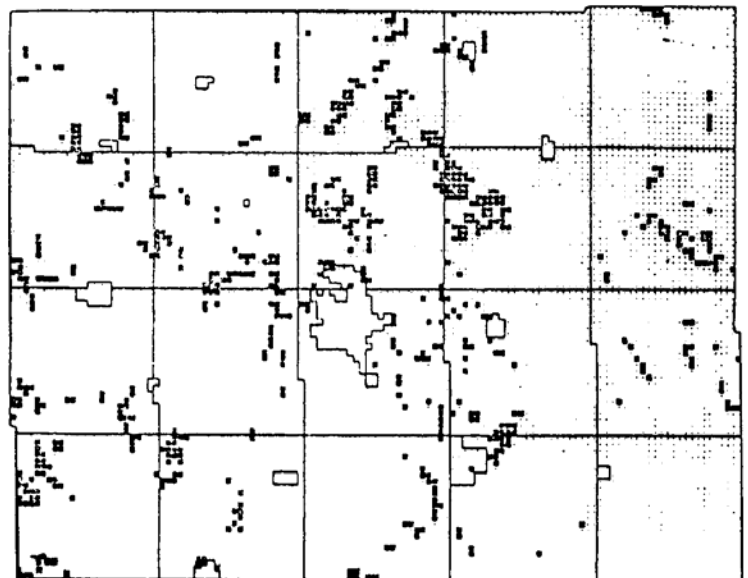
Shoreland is defined as any 40 acre parcel adjacent to a permanent or intermittent stream as shown on USGS Topographic Maps. Soil Tolerance values have been established by SCS, and range between 2 and 5 tons per acre per year.

This computer generated map displays high priority erosion areas in Freeborn County with each 40 acre parcel represented by an individual map symbol. Lines on the map represent boundaries of townships and cities. Potential soil loss estimated by USLE and WEE.

SYMBOL COUNT % ACRES LEGEND

1	10,730	93.8	429,200	Low priority areas - Non shoreland with potential soil loss less than double T value or shoreland with potential soil loss less than T value.
2	6	0.1	240	High priority areas - Shoreland with potential soil loss greater than or equal to T but less than double T value.
3	705	6.2	28,200	High priority areas - Any land with potential soil loss greater than or equal to double T value.

**CRITICAL SEDIMENTATION
FREEBORN COUNTY
(WINDOWED FROM STATE FILE)**



SYMBOL COUNT % ACRES LEGEND

1	232	2.0	9,280	Shoreland with estimated soil loss equal to 3 tons per acre per year.
2	93	0.8	3,720	Water
3	111,116	97.2	444,640	Other

