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2009 Annual Plan



Freeborn County
SWCD is
organized under
provisions of MN
Statute Chapter
103C and is
governed by a
board of five
elected
supervisors.

**Ed Moffett, NRCS DC presenting plaque to Don Kropp,
SWCD Chairman in recognition of 60 years of service by the
SWCD to county residents**



We've accomplished many types of projects over the past 60 years

Charter Members of the Board of Supervisors . . .

Two of the original board members were appointed by the state and three (3) were elected. Appointed members included Lewis Larson and Emil Travland. Members elected on June 22, 1948, were George Hunte, Koren Johnson and Henry Bjerke.

Mr. Larson served until his death in April of 1960. Mr. Travland resigned his position Aug. 7, 1952. George Hunte served as an active board member until December of 1968. He then suffered an incapacitating illness. Koren Johnson served until March of 1964. Henry Bjerke served through December of 1974. Of the original board members, Henry Bjerke had the longest tenure serving over 25 years.



Emil Travland, Henry Bjerke, Koren Johnson, George Hunte, Lewis Larson

Original Board of Supervisors

Lewis Larson, Chairman	Albert Lea, MN
George Hunte, Vice-Chairman	Freeborn, MN
Koren Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer	Hayward, MN
Emil Travland	Alden, MN
Henry Bjerke	Route 1, Albert Lea, MN



Board of Supervisors 2008

Standing L to R:

Don Kropp, Chairman.....Albert Lea, MN
 Obert Halderson, Board Secretary.....Austin, MN
 Chris Dahl, Supervisor.....Albert Lea, MN

Seated L to R:

Cole Pectorious, Vice Chairman..... Albert Lea, MN
 Dave Ausen, Treasurer.....Alden, MN

FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2009 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 2009. 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 2008 will demonstrate which practices are in demand and give us an indication of potential workload for 2009. We'll close this section with a few comments on cost share policies and priorities.

In conclusion we'll present our proposed budget for 2009. This will include estimated revenues and expenditures.

II. Objectives and Action Items:

Objective #1

Reduce Soil Erosion and resulting Sediment Delivery to Surface Waters or Soil Movement Off-Site by developing and implementing various program contracts benefiting 8,000 acres.

Action Items:

1. Plan, design and implement 50 structural practices on 50 tracts. These will be supported by vegetative component practices where needed.
2. Assist landowners or operators in developing compliance plans or revisions on 25 tracts. These are requested as farming operations change and needed to keep landowners or operators eligible for USDA benefits and programs.
3. Continue promotion of and disseminate information regarding various cost share programs available to landowner/operators. These include State Cost Share; Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP).
4. Create an awareness of and seek applicants for special cost share opportunities. These include Clean Water Legacy Act grants that have been received to encourage accelerated practice implementation in specific watersheds, i.e.: the Minnesota River Watershed in Northwest Freeborn County.
5. Spot check and monitor existing cost shared practices during their expected life time to insure continued functionality and effectiveness in erosion control.
6. Communicate with state and federal legislators, county commissioners and local agency officials to keep them aware of our programs, services and funding needs.
 - a. Attend and Participate in Legislative Day at the Capitol.
 - b. Invite County Commissioners and legislators to SWCD Board Meetings and special events when deemed appropriate.

Objective #2

Improve surface water runoff quality, reduce sediment delivery, increase surface water storage capacity and enhance wildlife habitat by enrolling 350 acres in new long-term set aside contracts or easements.

Action Items:

1. Work with our partners, Ducks Unlimited, and NRCS Staff to promote the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP).
2. Cooperate with Turtle Creek, Shell Rock River and Cedar River Watershed Districts to identify areas that would provide significant storage for flood mitigation benefits in our county.
3. Include the above mentioned benefits and program opportunities in our information and education programs.

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.
- Also gully erosion in any location is high priority.

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.

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 have 516 active feedlots, 89 signed open lot agreements, 15 are considered "High Priority".

VI. State Cost-Share Allocation and Implementation Policies:

- Our 2009 state cost-share allocation for project use is \$23,077.00. 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.

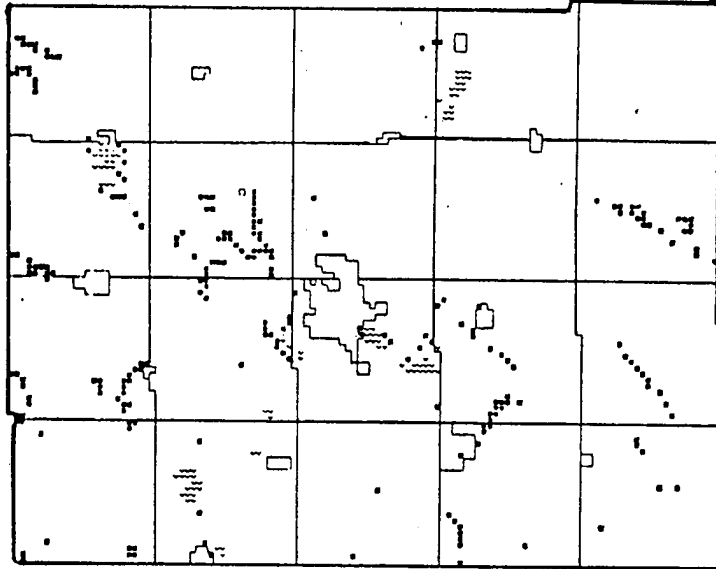
State Cost Share Program (2008 calendar year) Summary (contracts finalized – payments made)

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Water & Sediment Basins	4	\$4,618
Grassed Waterway	1.2 acres	\$1,313
Side Inlet Pipes	10	\$13,894

Federal EQIP Approved for Fiscal year 2008

Total Dollar Amount **\$220,000.00**

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.

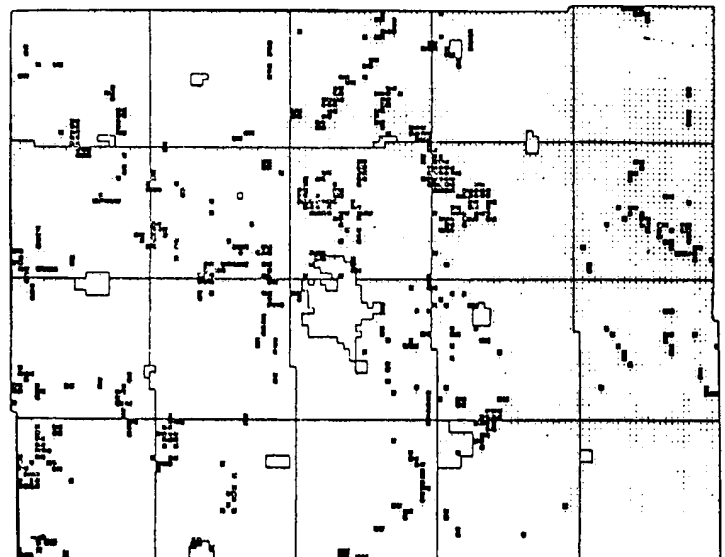
Shoreland is defined as any 40 acre parcel adjacent to a permanent or intermittent stream as shown on USGS Topographic Maps. Soil Tolerance values have been established by SCS, and range between 2 and 5 tons per acre per year.

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

**VIII. Staffing Needs:
Staffing Days Needed, 2009**

Workload Analysis, January 1 - December 31,2009

Staffing Days Currently Available, 2009

Activity	Admin.	Tech.	Clerical	Source	Admin.	Tech.	Clerical
Annual Work Plan Development	5		2	** District Board Members	10		
Annual Report Preparation	5		4	District Manager	80	180	
Annual Budget Preparation	3		1	District Admin. Assist.	30		230
Audit Preparation	2		2	District Technician		260	
Bookkeeping System	1		48	Ducks Unlimited Partnership Tech.	24	236	
Cost-Share Program Admin.	24		14	NRCS District Conservationist	100	160	
SWCD Board Meetings & Prep.	24		14	NRCS Area Engineer		12	
Trees Sales Program	2	60	15	NRCS Area Engineering Tech.		12	
Service EQIP C/S Applications 20 @ 3 days each	10	12	10	NRCS Conservation Tech.		260	
Service State Cost Share Appl. 10 @ 3 days each	5	22	3	NRCS Soil Conservationist	0	0	
Develop Conservation Plans		5	5	TOTAL	244	1120	230
Service Sod/Swampbuster		5	2				
Design Conservation Practices 50 @ 2.0 days		100					
Construction Staking & Survey 50 @ 2.0 days X 2 persons		200					
Construction Checking 50 @ 1 day X 2 persons		100					
Recording & Reporting	12						
Information Program	6	6	20				
Wetland Conservation Act	6	24	6				
RIM & State Cost Share Spot Checks	1	20					
Photography	1	3					
Comprehensive Water Planning	2	6	2				
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP & CCRP)	36	90	24				
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CCRP) Wetland Restoration	24	96	2				
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP and RIM/WRP)	40	225	10				
RC&D Meetings, etc.	2						
Training and Workshops	8	36	5				
DNR OBWELL Readings & Reporting		6	1				
Rain Gauge Reporting			2				
Web Page Development & Maintenance			15				
Newsletter Preparation	3	5	12				
Envirothon			2				
Outstanding Conservation Farmer	2	1					
Annual Leave	20	47	15				
Sick Leave	8	30	5				
Holidays	12	38	10				
TOTAL	264	1137	251				
				SUMMARY			
					Admin.	Tech.	Clerical
STAFFING DAYS NEEDED:					264	1137	251
STAFFING DAYS AVAILABLE:					244	1120	230
DIFFERENCE (+ or -)					-20	-17	-21

*260 staff days = 1 work year

** Does NOT include SWCD Board Meetings

<u>Fund General</u>		Proposed Budget	<u>Fund General</u>		Proposed Budget
EXPENDITURES:			REVENUES:		
District Operations			Intergovernmental Revenue		
Personal Services					
	Supervisor Compensation	\$ 7,500.00		BWSR Project Grant	\$ 28,846.00
	Employee Compensation	\$ 124,488.00		BWSR Service Grant	\$ 23,386.00
	Employee Benefits:			BWSR RIM Service Grant	\$ 5,771.00
	PERA	\$ 8,403.00		BWSR Native Buffer	\$ 25,000.00
	FICA	\$ 7,718.00		BWSR RIM/WRP Service Grant	\$ 16,000.00
	Medicare	\$ 1,805.00		County Grant	\$ 141,000.00
	Medical Ins.	\$ 22,500.00		WCA Grant	\$ 5,000.00
	Health Sav. Acct.	\$ 4,350.00		SE SWCD Tech Support (CWL)	\$ 11,818.00
	Dental Ins.	\$ 1,200.00		Total Intergovernmental	\$ 256,821.00
	Payroll Exp.	\$ 122.00			
Total Personal Services		\$ 178,086.00		Charges for Services	
Other Services & Charges					
	Supervisor Expense	\$ 2,700.00		Tree Sales	\$ 17,500.00
	Employee Expense	\$ 100.00		Tree Planter Rental	\$ 350.00
	Employee Education & Train	\$ 2,500.00		Tree Mats, Fert. Pkts., Flags	\$ 600.00
	Office Maintenance	\$ 100.00		Well Readings	\$ 390.00
	Fees & Dues	\$ 8,310.00		Newsletter Ads	\$ 800.00
	Office Rent	\$ 7,000.00		Contribution Agreement w/NRCS	\$ 7,500.00
	Shed Rent	\$ 540.00		T & A for Other Projects	\$ -
	Office Supplies	\$ 400.00		Total Charges for Services	\$ 27,140.00
	Computer Supplies	\$ 100.00			
	Postage	\$ 300.00		Misc. Revenue Other	\$ 100.00
	Field Supplies	\$ 300.00		Interest Earnings	\$ 2,500.00
	Vehicle Expense	\$ 3,200.00		Total Misc. Revenues	\$ 2,600.00
	Insurance (MCIT)	\$ 3,330.00			
	Equipment Purchases	\$ 1,000.00			
	RIM Reimb. (recordings)	\$ 100.00			
	Promotion & Education	\$ 1,500.00			
	Audit Expense (pro-rated)	\$ 800.00			
	Misc. Services & Charges	\$ 200.00			
Total Other Services & Charges		\$ 32,480.00		TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 286,561.00
Project Expense, District			BUDGET SUMMARY		
	Trees	\$ 14,000.00		District Operations	\$ 210,566.00
	Newsletter	\$ 2,000.00		Project Expense - District	\$ 16,100.00
	Misc. Project Expense	\$ 100.00		Project Expense - State	\$ 59,895.00
Total Project Expense, District		\$ 16,100.00		Total Expenditures	\$ 286,561.00
Total Project Expense, State		\$ 59,895.00		Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 256,821.00
				Charges for Services	\$ 27,140.00
				Micellaneous Revenues	\$ 2,600.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 286,561.00		TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 286,561.00