



FREEBORN

1400 West Main Street

Albert Lea, MN 56007-1816

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2010 Annual Plan



Tree Planting



CREP Wetland Restoration



Ditch Bank Stabilization



County Fairbooth Education

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

Freeborn County SWCD
Working (with partners) for local Soil & Water Resources

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Objectives & Action Items</i>	<i>1-3</i>
<i>High Priority Resource Concerns and Conservation Practices Needed</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Feedlots.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>State Cost Share Allocation & Implementation</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Workload Analysis.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>2010 Projected Budget.....</i>	<i>7</i>

Our 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

2010 ANNUAL PLAN

I. Introduction:

The purpose of this Annual Plan is to identify a course of action for 2010 that will help guide supervisor policy decisions and resulting staff initiatives. Because Freeborn County SWCD has adopted the Freeborn County "Local Water Management Plan" as our Long Range Comprehensive Plan, we will address those areas of concern in the water plan that apply to our roles & responsibilities as directed by state statues 103c.

We will briefly describe several objectives and supporting action items that we plan to concentrate on. The action items will identify specific work efforts aimed at accomplishing the objective described.

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 Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be discussed.

A summary of specific practices applied in 2009 will illustrate which practices are in demand and give us an indication of potential workload for 2010. This will include estimated revenues and expenditures.

II. Objectives and Action Items:

Objective #1

Protect and Preserve Topsoil (Goal #3 of 13 in County Water Plan) by reducing sediment transport to surface waters or offsite by planning and implementing a variety of conservation practices on 12,000 acres. This will include primarily management and vegetative practices.

Action Items:

- 1. Seek out landowner/operators with high priority erosion problems, identify their needs, design and build 40 structural practices on 35 tracts.*
- 2. Assist landowners or operators in developing compliance plans or revisions on 25 tracts. These are necessary as farming operations and operators change in order to maintain USDA benefits.*
- 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), Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP), Reinvest in Minnesota/Wetland Reserve Program (RIM/WRP) and the RIM Native Buffer Program. Clean Water Legacy Act C/S available in MN River Watershed through GBERBA.*

4. *Spot check and monitor existing cost shared practices during their contract lifetimes to insure continued function and effectiveness in erosion control and water quality protection.*
5. *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 as deemed appropriate.*

Objective #2

Improve storm water runoff quality (Goal #9 of 13 in County Water Plan) and reduce sediment delivery to surface waters in the Cobb River – Sub Watershed.

Action Items:

1. *Partner with Freeborn County Environmental Services and the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) to develop sediment reduction strategies and a 5 year management plan.*
2. *Supply news articles to the local news media informing the landowners in that watershed what the project involves and what help may be available for implementation.*
3. *Make landowner contacts and present project information as needed.*

Objective #3

Improve Storm water Runoff Quality (Goal #9 of 13 in County Water Plan); Reduce Sediment Delivery to water bodies; Increase Surface Water Storage Capacity and Enhance Wildlife Habitat by enrolling 300 acres in Long-Term Contracts or Easements.

Action Items:

1. *Work with NRCS, Ducks Unlimited, and other local partners to promote and Implement Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)/ Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)Easements; Work with NRCS to promote and Implement Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) contracts, i.e.: Filter Strips, Waterways, Wetland Restorations etc.*
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 and resulting environmental benefits in our ongoing information and education programs.*

Objective #4

Protect and Maintain Existing Wetlands (Goal #4 of 13 in County Water Plan).

Action Items:

- 1. Assist local landowners by keeping them informed of Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and USDA – Swampbuster rules and regulations that apply when working in or around wetlands.*
- 2. Continue to partner with Freeborn County Environmental Services, The City of Albert Lea and other agencies to implement WCA Rules, State Statues, Chapter 8420.*
- 3. Continue SWCD representation on the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) for WCA.*
- 4. Include wetland concerns in our education & information programs.*

Objective #5

Maintain existing programs to enhance 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 tree planting techniques.*
- 3. Use newsletters and local media to inform residents of various programs available.*

Objective #6

Maintain an effective information and educational program.

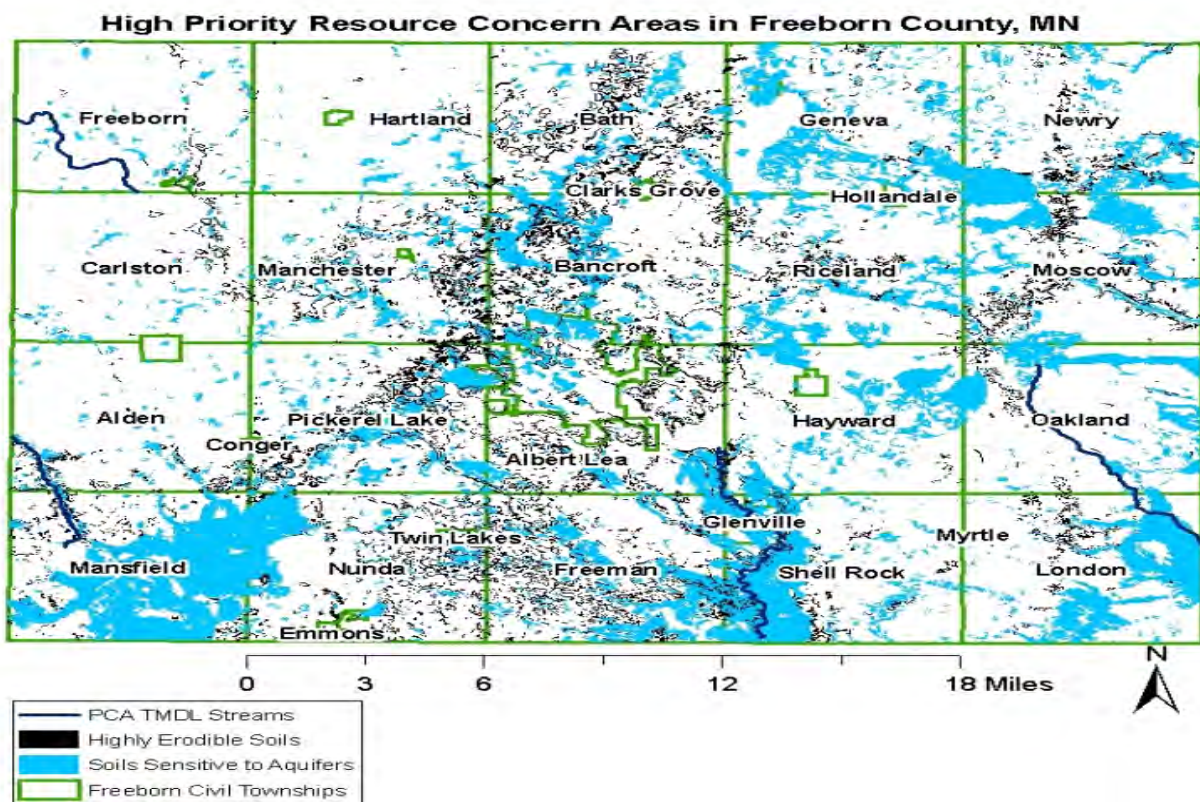
Action Items:

- 1. Publish a semi-annual newsletter highlighting programs, services and current events.*
- 2. Use our SWCD Web Site to keep the public informed and provide access to our services.*
- 3. Continue to present timely educational initiatives for presentation in our county fair booth.*
- 4. Write quarterly newspaper articles on events, new programs, services etc.*
- 5. Promote tree sales with paid advertising in our local "Shopper or Tribune".*

III. High Priority Resource Concerns:

Areas needing conservation practices installed: As shown in map below

Practices needed to control high priority erosion problems: Waterways, terraces, water and sediment control basins, conservation tillage systems, grade stabilizing structures, and windbreaks.



The MN Pollution Control Agency has determined through Total Mass Daily Load (TMDL) studies that the streams shown above are impaired for aquatic life and aquatic recreation.

A soil map unit is considered highly erodible (HEL) if the potential erodibility exceeds 8 times the Soil Loss Tolerance (T). T is the maximum amount of soil erosion that can occur on a soil type without decreasing long-term productivity. Most HEL soils have steep slopes.

Soils sensitive to aquifers are generally sandy or silty soils where water infiltration rates can be high and the potential exists for groundwater pollution. These soils are generally more vulnerable to wind and water erosion as well.

Data sources: MN Pollution Control Agency
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

IV. High Priority Erosion Problems:

“High priority erosion problems” means areas where erosion from wind or water is occurring equal to, or in excess of $2 \times T$ tons per acre per year or is occurring on any area that exhibits active gully erosion or is identified as high priority in the comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district’s comprehensive plan.

V. High Priority Water Quality Problems:

“High priority water quality problems” means areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals, or other pollutants discharge to Department of Natural Resources designated protected waters or to any high priority water as identified in a comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district’s comprehensive plan, or discharge to a sinkhole or groundwater. The pollutants delivery rate to the water source is in amounts that will impair the quality or usefulness of the water resource.

VI. High Priority Feedlots:

Number Existing:

- We have 485 active feedlots, 81 signed open lot agreements, 25 are considered "High Priority".

VII. State Cost-Share Allocation and Implementation Policies:

- Freeborn County SWCD's policy is to reserve all of its available contract money for high priority erosion and/or water quality problems. Primarily gully control in Highly Erodible Land (HEL) or near sensitive surface water bodies (see map on Page 4). However, because soil inclusions can make it possible to find small highly erodible areas in Non-HEL soil types, the evidence of gullies is used to determine eligibility.
- The maximum cost share rate is 75% of project cost. However, the district may limit cost share to a smaller percentage when deemed appropriate by the board of supervisors. Occasionally, state and federal cost share is "piggy-backed" on large scale projects. This may provide the incentive needed to encourage a landowner to install a high priority project. When cost share requests exceed funds available, the district board prioritizes according to location to sensitive resources and cost effectiveness etc.
- Our FY2009 state cost share allocation for projects was \$23,076.00. Because of state budget cuts, this amount was reduced about 45% to \$12,638.00 for FY2010. Applicants are paid based on invoices or receipts from the contractor after the project is complete. The maximum time frame from SWCD Board approval to project completion is 24 months.

State Cost Share Program (2009 calendar year) Summary

(contracts finalized – payments made)

(FY07 – FY10 Funds)

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Water & Sediment Basins	10	\$15,152.95
Grassed Waterway	2.7 acres	\$8,847.40
Side Inlet Pipes	1	\$8,124.74
Shelterbelt	2	\$1,489.40

Federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) \$'s Approved for Fiscal year 2009

Total Dollar Amount \$121,812.00

VIII. Staffing Needs:

Workload Analysis, January 1 - December 31,2010

Staffing Days Needed, 2010

Staffing Days Currently Available, 2010

Activity	Admin.	Tech.	Clerical
Annual Work Plan Development	5		2
Annual Report Preparation	5		4
Annual Budget Preparation	3		1
Audit Preparation	2		2
Bookkeeping System	1		48
Cost-Share Program Admin.	24		14
SWCD Board Meetings & Prep.	24		14
Trees Sales Program	2	60	15
Service EQIP C/S Applications 20 @ 3 days each	10	12	10
Service State Cost Share Appl. 10 @ 3 days each	5	22	3
Develop Conservation Plans		5	5
Service Sod/Swampbuster		5	2
Design Conservation Practices 40 @ 2.0 days		80	
Construction Staking & Survey 40 @ 2.0 days X 2 persons		160	
Construction Checking 40 @ 1 day X 2 persons		80	
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	4	2
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP & CCRP)	36	160	24
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CCRP) Wetland Restoration	24	96	2
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP and RIM/WRP)	40	235	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	1135	251

*260 staff days = 1 work year

Source	Admin.	Tech.	Clerical
** District Board Members	10		
District Manager	80	180	
District Admin. Assist.	30		230
District Technician		260	
Ducks Unlimited Partnership Tech.	24	236	
NRCS District Conservationist	100	160	
NRCS Area Engineer		12	
NRCS Area Engineering Tech.		12	
NRCS Conservation Tech.		260	
NRCS Soil Conservationist	0	0	
TOTAL	244	1120	230
SUMMARY			
	Admin.	Tech.	Clerical
STAFFING DAYS NEEDED:	264	1135	251
STAFFING DAYS AVAILABLE:	244	1120	230
DIFFERENCE (+ or -)	-20	-15	-21

** Does NOT include SWCD Board Meetings

EXPENDITURES:		REVENUES:	
District Operations		Intergovernmental Revenue	
Personal Services		BWSR Project Grant	\$ 15,798.00
Supervisor Compensation	\$ 7,500.00	BWSR Service Grant	\$ 22,661.00
Employee Compensation	\$ 123,200.00	BWSR RIM Service Grant	\$ 6,269.00
Employee Benefits:		BWSR Diferred Revenue-Project	\$ 52,030.77
PERA	\$ 8,624.00	County Grant	\$ 141,000.00
FICA	\$ 7,638.00	WCA Grant	\$ 5,000.00
Medicare	\$ 1,786.00	Total Intergovernmental	\$ 242,758.77
Medical Ins.	\$ 22,500.00		
Health Sav. Acct.	\$ 4,350.00		
Dental Ins.	\$ 1,200.00		
Payroll Exp.	\$ 225.00		
Total Personal Services	\$ 177,023.00		
Other Services &		Charges for Services	
Supervisor Expense	\$ 2,700.00	Tree Sales	\$ 17,500.00
Employee Expense	\$ 100.00	Tree Planter Rental	\$ 350.00
Employee Education & Training	\$ 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	\$ 5,000.00
Shed Rent	\$ 540.00	Total Charges for Services	\$ 24,640.00
Office Supplies	\$ 400.00		
Computer Supplies	\$ 100.00	Misc. Revenue Other	\$ 101.23
Postage	\$ 300.00	Interest Earnings	\$ 2,500.00
Field Supplies	\$ 300.00	Total Misc. Revenues	\$ 2,601.23
Vehicle Expense	\$ 2,500.00		
Insurance (MCIT)	\$ 3,330.00		
Equipment Purchases	\$ 500.00		
RIM Reimb. (recordings)	\$ 100.00		
Promotion & Education	\$ 1,000.00		
Audit Expense (pro-rated)	\$ 800.00		
Misc. Services & Charges	\$ 100.00		
Total Other Services & Charges	\$ 28,680.00		
Project Expense,			
Trees	\$ 14,000.00		
Newsletter	\$ 1,500.00		
Misc. Project Expense	\$ 100.00		
Total Project Expense, District	\$ 15,600.00		
Total Project Expense, State	\$ 48,697.00		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 270,000.00	TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 270,000.00
BUDGET SUMMARY			
District Operations	\$ 205,703.00		
Project Expense - District	\$ 15,600.00		
Project Expense - State	\$ 48,697.00		
Total Expenditures	\$ 270,000.00		
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 242,758.77		
Charges for Services	\$ 24,640.00		
Micellaneous Revenues	\$ 2,601.23		