

Freeborn

Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.freebornswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Thursday of
Month: 1:30 pm, Dec.-April and 7:30 pm, May-
Nov.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil erosion caused by surface water run-off
2. Surface Water Quality
3. Ground Water Quality
4. Wildlife Habitat
5. Flood Mitigation

2008 Revenue

Intergovernmental	\$195,601
Charges for Services	\$ 23,590
Interest	\$ 3,524
Miscellaneous	\$ 205
Total	\$222,920

2008 Expenses

Conservation	\$224,940
Capital Outlay	\$ 0
Total	\$224,940



Driving steel sections of a Sheet Pile Structure. Backhoe on right, Steel I beam on ground, string for

Recent Projects

Construction started this year on a large CREP II Wetland Restoration Project. Five landowners enrolled over 300 contiguous acres in a group project near Clarks Grove, MN. Numerous tile blocks and tile re-routes were completed to restore the hydrology to the hydric soils in the area. An open ditch re-route was constructed and a large "Sheet Pile" steel structure was installed to maintain a minimum water level in one of the wetland pools created. All of this was the first phase of the planned project.



Cutting and shaping top for cap installation.

The main event will be next year (Phase II) when a large concrete drop spillway structure controlling a 2000 acre watershed will be built. This project will have significant benefits for wildlife and waterfowl, water quality improvement, sediment yield reduction to a county ditch and some flood control benefits for the City of Hollandale, located downstream a short distance away.

Future Projects



Finished Product with paint applied.

A large “Side Inlet Pipe” structure is being installed in this picture below to provide a safe transition for surface water from field level down to the bottom of the open ditch. Previously the water from almost 400 acres was running over the edge of the ditch bank causing serious bank erosion. This resulted in sediment deposit in the ditch system and degradation of water quality. Since channel erosion in ditches, streams and rivers is now being recognized as a major sediment source for turbidity in our larger water bodies, installation of relatively small scale structures like this is a benefit to the overall system.



Pipe assembled and ready for backfilling.

Our SWCD is involved in two pending grant applications as part of our participation with the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA). One is a Clean Water Legacy Act, Conservation Drainage Application for the Cobb River Ditch System. This watershed and ditch system originates in Freeborn County. The application seeks funding to conduct a Resource Assessment and develop a 5 – year Implementation Plan to reduce the sediment yield from this drainage system. The Cobb and LeSueur Rivers have been identified as being extraordinarily high sediment contributors to the Minnesota River. The other pending application is for a MN Department of Ag, Emerald Ash Borer Planning and Preparedness Grant. One of our small cities with a high percentage of existing Ash Trees will participate in this program if funding is approved.

We still have five CREP Wetland Restoration Projects that will be constructed in 2010. We received engineering plans for most of these a few weeks ago from the BWSR Engineering Staff. However, because local contractors were busy finishing projects they had committed to earlier, bids for these CREP Projects were slow in coming in.

Our county has had a very popular RIM/WRP signup. We have 17 easements that are in the process of being finalized and another 11 that have restoration work to be done. These easements will add another 1500 acres of wetland and associated benefits to Freeborn County.

In addition to the above items, we'll continue working with our local partners applying conservation practices designed to control erosion, enrolling RIM/WRP Wetland Restoration Easements and helping landowners participate in various other conservation programs.

Because funding for SWCD's is becoming more of a challenge each year, we need to strengthen our relationships with local legislators, involve ourselves more with local government officials, and continue to develop and maintain good working relationships with our conservation partners.

Board Members

Donald Kropp	Chair	(507) 373-1925	2005 Tower Rd, Albert Lea, MN 56007
Cole Pestorious	Vice Chair	(507) 373-6758	20770 707th Ave, Albert Lea, MN 56007
David Ausen	Treasurer	(507) 863-2165	69128 260th St, Alden, MN 56009
Christopher Dahl	Secretary	(507) 826-3463	27296 730th Ave, Albert Lea, MN 56007
Roger M. Nelson	Member	(507) 373-6357	79184 180th St, Albert Lea, MN 56007