



Plan of Work - 2015

Waseca Soil and Water
Conservation District

Adopted by Board motion on February 12, 2015



Introduction

The SWCD is the local unit of government that provides assistance to citizens who are interested in preserving, restoring and protecting soil and water resources in Waseca County.

The mission of the Waseca SWCD – “The District cooperates with all governmental units to determine, to educate, to assist the implementation of District, State and Federal conservation practices, and to promote soil, water and environmental stewardship of the Waseca County natural resources.”

Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District’s 2015 Annual Plan of Work is developed from the District’s Long Range Plan. The Waseca SWCD, through a resolution on June 11, 2014, has adopted the Waseca County’s Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (CLWMP) as our Long Range Plan. Specific action items that relate to goals of the SWCD are taken from the CLWMP. There are other action items that address the goals of the SWCD but are not specifically outlined in the CLWMP.

The purpose of the plan is to guide us in effectively providing maximum conservation to all the land in the District, placing priorities on high priority areas as identified. This plan includes guidelines for employees and supervisors for the achievement of the District objectives.

District Board of Supervisors

The Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Ag Service Center, 105 22nd Ave NE, Waseca MN.

DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD AREA OF REPRESENTATION

- Larry Hagen, Iosco and Blooming Grove
- Wayne Cords, Janesville and Alton
- Scott Hildebrandt, St. Mary and Woodville
- Jessie Shaffer, Otisco, Byron, and New Richland
- Todd Stencil, Freedom, Wilton and Vivian

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Personnel
- Budget and Planning
- County Water Plan
- GEBRBA
- South Central Technical Service Area
- Waseca Lakes Association
- Lake Elysian Association
- Cannon River Watershed Partnership
- LeSuer River Watershed Network

DISTRICT STAFF

- Waseca SWCD – Website – www.wasecaswcd.org

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL NRCS STAFF

- Noel Frank, District Conservationist
- Todd Piepho, Soil Conservation Technician

OTHERS ASSISTING WASECA SWCD

- Dan Arndt, District Manager, Steele County SWCD
- Eric Gulbransen, District Resource Conservationist, Steele County SWCD
- Adrienne Justman, Administrative Assistant, Steele County SWCD

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- James Peterson
- Mike Hintz
- Blair Nelson
- Richard Androli
- Dan Kuhns

WASECA COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING

- Mark Leiferman

WASECA COUNTY DITCH INSPECTOR

- Russell Guse

WASECA COUNTY FARM SERVICES AGENCY PERSONNEL:

- Laura Kessler County Executive Director
- Brad Krause, Chairman
- Lonny Klemmenson, Vice Chairman
- Ken Prestegard, Committee Member
- Brady Adams, Committee Member
- Gretchen Supalla, Committee Member

PRIORITY CONCERNS

Goal 1:

Protect and Improve the Quality of Water Resources Throughout the County.

Objective

Reduce erosion and sediment loading of surface water resources.

Actions

- Promote NRCS programs and practices that control soil erosion and reduce sedimentation to downstream waters.
- Implement the SWCD conservation practice State Cost-Share program targeting practices on high priority erosion areas.
- Implement the following conservation practices: five grassed waterways; five water and sediment basins; one terrace system; two erosion control structures; two thousand acres of reduced tillage; and five acres of farmstead windbreaks.
- Pursue GBERBA funding for conservation practice implementation.
- In cooperation with Waseca County establish a water quality monitoring network on Isoco and Silver creeks.

Goal 2:

Maintain and Enhance the County’s Drainage System and Wetland Resources.

Objective

Properly manage the County’s drainage system. Preserve and restore wetlands.

Actions

- Serve on the MN Wetland Conservation Act Technical Evaluation Panel, and act as the clearing house for all wetland related activities.
- Submit a Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant application for tree removal and controlled burns on 25 old RIM Reserve easements.
- Promote enrollment of drained wetland basins in the RIM and new CREP programs.
- Promote implementation of controlled drainage systems and bioreactors to reduce nitrogen discharge into surface waters.

- Promote implementation of Comprehensive Drainage Management Plans on all public and private drainage systems.

Goal 3:

Protect and Enhance the County's Shoreland and Natural Corridors

Objective

Develop and implement reasonable strategies to protect and enhance natural corridors.

Actions

- Promote the implementation of 25 acres of CRP vegetative filter strips on drainage ditches, streams, and wetlands throughout the County.
- Implement the approved LCCMR shoreland projects.
- Promote enrollment of riparian areas adjacent to streams, drainage ditches, and wetlands in the RIM and new CREP programs.

Goal 4:

Increase Awareness on Key Water Planning Issues.

Objective

Expand the public's knowledge and understanding of important soil and water resource issues and concerns.

Actions

- Work closely with the County Commissioners and County departments to solve soil and water resource problems.
- Participate in the MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol.
- Sponsor soil and water resource awareness programs for students.
- Consider sponsoring a tree planting day for students.
- Recognize an Outstanding Conservation Farmer in July.
- Consider providing yard signs to past and current outstanding conservation farmers.
- Publish a newsletter including the 2014 Annual Report in March.
- Consider publishing a 2016 conservation calendar.
- Consider participating in the Steele/Waseca Soil Health Group.

- Participate in the City/County Ag Forum in March??
- Consider sponsoring a tree day open house.
- Observe Soil Stewardship Week by providing materials to County churches and schools.
- Consider sponsoring a booth at the County Fair.
- Update and promote the SWCD website.
- Participate in the County Feedlot Site Inspection Team – Site Inspections.
- Distribute an NRCS soil health brochure to all landowners contacts.
- Participate in the MASWCD State Convention.

Other Waseca SWCD Operational Actions

- Hire an SWCD Technician in March.
- Assist Waseca County with development and implementation of a comprehensive County Forest Management Plan.
- Assist Waseca County with facilitating the Goose Lake Park timber sale and buckthorn control plan.
- Sponsor a tree program and promote tree planting for windbreaks, wildlife habitat, and erosion control purposes.
- Meet with the County Commissioners in June to discuss the Districts 2016 Budget and County Operational Allocation.
- Meet with the Steele County SWCD Board in November to discuss continuation of the Services Agreement.

All programs and services of the District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age marital status or handicap.