



# Plan of Work - 2016

Waseca Soil and Water  
Conservation District

Adopted by Board motion on March 17, 2016



# Introduction

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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 2016 Annual Plan of Work is developed from the District’s Long Range Plan. The Waseca SWCD, through a resolution on February 18, 2016, 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

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The Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Ag Service Center, 105 22<sup>nd</sup> 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
- LeSueur River Watershed Network

## **DISTRICT STAFF**

- Waseca SWCD – Website – [www.wasecaswcd.org](http://www.wasecaswcd.org)

## **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL NRCS STAFF**

- Noel Frank, District Conservationist
- James Smith, Soil Conservation Technician

## **OTHERS ASSISTING WASECA SWCD**

- Eric Gulbransen, District Manager, Steele County SWCD
- Adam Arndt, District Technician, 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:**

- Mary Radermacher, County Executive Director
- Brady Adams, Chairman
- Brad Krause, Vice Chairman
- Scott Kasper, Committee Member
- Kevin Klemmensen, Committee Member
- Gretchen Supalla, Committee Member

# PRIORITY CONCERNS

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## **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.
- Promote the application of 50' CRP buffer strips adjacent to drainage ditches, streams, and wetlands.
- Work with the County and BWSR to promote the State Buffer and Soil Erosion Law.
- Assist with the implementation of the Waseca county Comprehensive Water Management Plan.

## **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.

- 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.
- Assist the County, MSU-Water Resources Center, and the city of New Richland with reducing flooding within the city.

### **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 50' CRP vegetative buffer strips on drainage ditches, streams, and wetlands throughout the County.
- Promote enrollment of riparian areas adjacent to streams, drainage ditches, and wetlands in 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 2015 Annual Report in March.
- Publish a 2017 conservation calendar.
- Consider participating in an area 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

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- 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 2017 Budget and County Operational Allocation.
- Meet with the Steele County SWCD Board in November to discuss continuation of the Services Agreement.
- Utilize a portion of the Capacity Grant to incorporate a GPS grade survey equipment into our conservation application efforts.
- Utilize a portion of the Capacity Grant to assist landowners with the application of cover crops to promote soil health and soil erosion reduction.

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.