



Plan of Work - 2019

Waseca Soil and Water
Conservation District

Adopted by Board September 6, 2018



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 2019 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

The Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Conservation Office, 105 22nd Ave NE, Waseca MN. (date & time subject to change)

DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD AREA OF REPRESENTATION

- Chairman - Wayne Cords, Janesville and Alton
- Vice Chairman - Scott Hildebrandt, St. Mary and Woodville
- Treasurer - Todd Stencel, Freedom, Wilton and Vivian
- Secretary - Jessie Shaffer, Otisco, Byron, and New Richland
- Member - Keith Morgan, Iosco and Blooming Grove

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

DISTRICT STAFF

- Mark Schaetzke, District Manager
- Tyler Polster, District Technician
- Cheri Brummund, Office Assistant

WEBSITE

- Waseca SWCD – Website – www.wasecaswcd.org

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL NRCS STAFF

- District Conservationist-Vacant
- James Smith, Soil Conservation Technician

OTHERS ASSISTING WASECA SWCD

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

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Douglas Christopherson
- Brian Harguth
- Blair Nelson
- Richard Androli
- Dan Kuhns

WASECA COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING

- Mark Leiferman

WASECA COUNTY DITCH INSPECTOR

- Russell Guse

WASECA COUNTY FARM SERVICES AGENCY BOARD PERSONNEL:

- Kara Durward, County Executive Director
- Brad Krause, Chairman
- Brady Adams, Vice Chairman
- Scott Kasper, Committee Member
- Kevin Klemmensen, 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, continue water quality monitoring networks on Isoco and Bull Run creeks using 2017 Local Capacity Services Grant.
- Promote the application of 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 of 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.

- Providing yard signs to current outstanding conservation farmers.
- Publish a newsletter including the 2019 Annual Report in March.
- Publish a 2020 conservation calendar.
- Consider participating in an area Soil Health Group.
- Participate in the City/County Ag Forum in March.
- Sponsoring a tree day open house.
- Observe Soil Stewardship Week by providing information to County churches and schools.
- Sharing a booth with Waseca County P & Z 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 landowner’s contacts.
- Participate in the MASWCD State Convention.

Other Waseca SWCD Operational Actions

- Assist Waseca County with development and implementation of a comprehensive County Forest Management Plan.
- Assist Waseca County with facilitating the Goose Lake Park 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 2020 Budget and County Operational Allocation.
- 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.