




*Plan of Work -
2024*

*Waseca Soil and Water
Conservation District*

Adopted by Board February 8, 2024



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 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 2024 Annual Plan of Work is developed from the Cannon River Watershed Comprehensive Water Management Plan (CRWCWMP) and Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Water Management Plan (LSRWCWMP). The Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board (CRWJPB) adopted the CRWCWMP on behalf of its members on October 7, 2020. Waseca SWCD will use the CRWCWMP for areas of the county within the Cannon River Watershed. Waseca SWCD adopted the LSRWCWMP on September 14, 2023. Specific action items that relate to goals of the SWCD are taken from the CRWCWMP and LSRWCWMP. There are other action items that address the goals of the SWCD that are not specifically outlined in the CRWCWMP or LSRWCWMP but do fall under more general goals such as "education".

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 SWCD Office, 300 North State Street, Door 4, Waseca MN 56093 (date & time subject to change check website for current information)

DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD AREA OF REPRESENTATION

- Chairman - Larry Muff - Otisco, Byron, and New Richland Townships
- Vice Chairman - Gregg Rosenthal - St. Mary and Woodville Townships
- Treasurer - Wayne Cords - Janesville and Alton Townships
- Secretary - Matt Sommers - Freedom, Wilton and Vivian Townships
- Member - Keith Morgan - Iosco and Blooming Grove Townships

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Personnel
- Budget and Planning
- GBERBA
- South Central Technical Service Area
- Waseca Lakes Association
- Clean River Partners
- Le Sueur River Watershed Network
- Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board
- Le Sueur Watershed Joint Powers Collaboration
- Lake Elysian Association

DISTRICT STAFF

- Mark Schaetzke, District Manager
- Joe Edel, District Technician
- Cheri Brummund, Administrative Assistant

WEBSITE

- Waseca SWCD – Website – www.wasecaswcd.org

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL NRCS STAFF

- Jessica Beske, NRCS Team Lead
- Mallory Malecek, NRCS District Conservationist
- Lee Nachreiner, NRCS Soil Conservationist

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Brian Harguth, Chair
- Douglas Christopherson, Vice Chair
- DeAnne Malterer
- Brad Krause
- Vacant

WASECA COUNTY LAND AND WATER RESOURCES

- Chris Howard, Drainage Management Coordinator
- Eric Miller, Water Specialist
- Brian Zabel, Technician/Feedlot Officer/Ag Inspector

WASECA COUNTY FARM SERVICES AGENCY BOARD:

- Emily Johnson, County Executive Director
- Scott Kasper, Chairman
- Kevin Klemmenson, Vice Chairman
- Natalie Roecker, Member
- Nathan Groh, Member
- Scott Hildebrandt, 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 and Conservation Contracts programs targeting practices on high priority erosion areas.
- Implement the following conservation practices: two grassed waterways; two water and sediment basins; one terrace system; two erosion control structures; one thousand acres of reduced tillage; and one farmstead windbreak.
- Promote the principles of soil health and implement the Soil Health Cost Share program targeting high priority areas.
- Promote Fishers and Farmers cover crop seed grant in greater Iosco and Cobb River watersheds.
- Pursue GBERBA funding for conservation practice implementation.
- In cooperation with Waseca County, collect water quality monitoring information on priority surface waters.
- Promote the application of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) buffer strips adjacent to drainage ditches, streams, and wetlands.
- Work with the County, BWSR, and landowners to implement the State Buffer and Soil Erosion Law.
- Assist with the implementation of the Le Sueur River Comprehensive Water Management Plan and Cannon River Comprehensive Water Management Plan.
- Serve as the fiscal agent for the Le Sueur Watershed Based Implementation Funds grant.
- Promote and assist producers in achieving certification through MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program through MN Dept of Agriculture.

Goal 2:

Maintain and Enhance the County's Wetland Resources.

Objective

Preserve and restore wetlands.

Actions

- Serve on the MN Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Technical Evaluation Panel for the city of Waseca and administer WCA for Waseca County.
- Promote enrollment of drained wetland basins in the RIM, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), CRP, and Wetland Banking 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 programs.
- Promote and provide technical assistance for Waseca County Riparian Funds program targeting public waters and public ditches.

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 2023 Annual Report in March.
- Publish a 2024 Plan of Work in March.
- Publish a 2024 Conservation Newsletter.
- Participate in soil health teams and sponsor area Soil Health Group Events.
- Support and coordinate soil health demonstration site and data collection.
- Participate in the City/County Ag Forum in March.
- Sponsor a tree day open house in February.
- Observe Soil Stewardship Week by providing information to County churches and schools.
- Sharing a booth with Waseca County at the County Fair.
- Promote Soil & Water Practices and Programs at Farmamerica.
- Update and promote the SWCD website.
- Promote meetings, activities, field days and events on Facebook.
- Participate in the County Feedlot Site Inspection Team – Site Inspections.
- Work with NRCS on Conservation Plans.
- Participate in the MASWCD State Convention.
- Serve as Fiscal Agent for Le Sueur 1W1P Grant.

Other Waseca SWCD Operational Actions

- Assist Waseca County with development and implementation of a comprehensive County Forest Management 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 2025 Budget and County Operational Allocation.
- Assist University of MN Extension Waseca in office and Waseca County Departments as needed.
- Assist MN DNR with Walk in Access Program enrollment.

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.