

Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District



2010
Annual Plan of Work

Introduction

Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District's 2010 Annual Plan of Work is developed from the district's long-range plan. Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) through a resolution, has adopted, Redwood 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 outline in the CLWMP.

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

The Mission of Redwood SWCD is to educate and assist the citizens of Redwood County to efficiently and economically manage the soil and water resources of the county, for present and future generations.

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.

Our 2010 Annual Plan of Work is developed from annual needs, and Redwood County's Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan, which the district adopted July 14, 2005, as our five year comprehensive plan. The district will implement conservation programs necessary to achieve our goals.

Priority Concerns, Goals and Objectives

The Priority Concerns are as follows:

- ◆ Groundwater protection that will focus on wellhead protection for public water supply.
- ◆ Drainage management focusing on wetland restorations and floodwater retention opportunities.
- ◆ Surface water quality addressing impaired waters by major watershed for the priority pollutants; phosphorus, nitrogen and fecal coliform bacteria.
- ◆ Erosion and sediment control focusing on residue management county-wide, and gully and concentrated flow areas in the southwest portion of Redwood County

PRIORITY CONCERN: GROUNDWATER PROTECTION THAT WILL FOCUS ON WELLHEAD PROTECTION FOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

GOAL: Work with cities and groups to ensure groundwater supply for public water suppliers are protected from contamination.

Prevent public drinking supplies from becoming polluted by working with suppliers to manage possible sources of contamination.

Protect public water supplies from possible sources of contamination due to land use activities.

OBJECTIVE: The cities of Belview, Vesta, Morgan and Redwood Falls have completed Phase I of the Wellhead Protection Plan. Make contact with officials in the remaining 11 cities to encourage the delineation of wellhead protection areas and drinking water supply management areas and to conduct the vulnerability assessments of the public water supply wells and drinking water supply management areas.

ACTIONS:

Work with the City of Sanborn to complete the development of their wellhead protection plan.

Continue to encourage other cities to complete wellhead protection plans or delineate wellhead areas.

OBJECTIVE: Identify landowners who own and operate land in the delineated wellhead protection areas and encourage them to use practices that will aid in the protection of groundwater.

ACTIONS:

Wellhead areas have been identified in Redwood Falls, Sanborn, Vesta and Belview. Will work with the Individuals who have land in the wellhead zones of these communities to encourage safe land use practices.

OBJECTIVE: Provide well sealing funds to individuals who have abandoned wells in the wellhead protection areas of each city and residents in the city of Seaforth who seal wells as part of new public water system.

ACTIONS:

Make contact with landowners within wellhead protection zones for the cities, who have identified these areas, and offer funds to seal abandon wells.

Provide 10 individuals with well sealing funds within the city of Seaforth who have connected to public water system.

OBJECTIVE: Educate county residents of all ages on the importance of groundwater protection.

ACTIONS:

Make 5 water quality presentations to schools and other groups.

PRIORITY CONCERN: DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT FOCUSING ON WETLAND RESTORATIONS AND FLOODWATER RETENTION OPPORTUNITIES.

GOAL: Provide protection to the drainage management system in the county.

OBJECTIVE: Apply watershed based principles to properly manage drainage systems and wetland restorations.

ACTIONS:

Enroll 5 acres in the Farmable Wetland Program, or CP23/24, practice to reduce flood potential by restoring wetlands.

Implement the State Wetland Conservation Act according the MN Rules Chapter 8420.

OBJECTIVE: Improve the drainage ditch system in the county through proper management and the implementation of filterstrips.

ACTIONS:

Utilizing CRP and the RIM Reserve Clean Water Riparian Buffers Program promote filterstrips for the installation of 75 acres along Redwood County Ditches and protected waters.

Maintain the 72.5 acres of filterstrips enrolled along Redwood County Ditches through the water management plan.

Publish two news articles to educate the public on the importance of not farming right up to a water course and the importance of leaving a filterstrip to protect the drainage system.

If clean water application is funded, identify priority areas to offer incentives to install buffer/filterstrips.

PRIORITY CONCERN: SURFACE WATER QUALITY ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING PRIORITY POLLUTANTS: PHOSPHORUS, NITROGEN AND FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA.

GOAL: To improve, restore and protect the surface water quality of the lakes, rivers and streams in Redwood County.

OBJECTIVE: Promote and encourage a reduction in nutrient application.

ACTIONS:

Work with producers to utilize grid sampling and grid application on 300 acres.

OBJECTIVE: Provide technical assistance to feedlot operators who have a positive MinnFarm rating.

ACTIONS:

Provide low interest loan to one producer to upgrade an animal waste facility who has less than 500 a.u. Make sure producer has a nutrient management plan.

OBJECTIVE: Target all identified Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) water bodies for implementation of practices that reduce pollutants.

ACTIONS:

Provide technical assistance to install conservation practices that address impairments in the Redwood and Cottonwood Watersheds.

OBJECTIVE: Identify failing septic systems in the Redwood and Cottonwood River Watersheds.

ACTIONS:

Provide loan interest loans to 3 individuals to upgrade failing septic systems.

OBJECTIVE: Educate county citizens on the importance of runoff control and surface water protection.

ACTIONS:

Work with 3 cities or individuals to install bio-retention basins to control storm water runoff.

Publish a newsletter with articles that addresses programs and opportunities to address water quality concerns.

PRIORITY CONCERN: EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL FOCUSING ON RESIDUE MANAGEMENT COUNTY WIDE AND GULLY AND CONCENTRATED FLOW AREAS IN THE SOUTHWEST PORTION OF REDWOOD COUNTY.

GOAL: To protect and preserve the resource value of soil on agricultural producing land in Redwood County.

OBJECTIVE: Educate and encourage land operators on the importance of installing structural conservation practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation.

ACTIONS:

Submit 5 different articles to local news papers on the benefits of installing conservation practices for erosion and sediment control.

OBJECTIVE: Reduce the volume of nutrients and sediments that are reaching county lakes, rivers and streams.

ACTIONS:

Promote the installation of the following Best Management Practices, targeting the Redwood and Cottonwood River Watersheds.

- 9 Grassed Waterways
- 15 Water and Sediment Control Basins
- 1 Terrace
- 3 Multi-Purpose dams - new or repair

OBJECTIVE: Continue to promote residue management.

ACTIONS:

Promote the increased use of no-till on 1,000 new acres.

OBJECTIVE: Protect and increase wildlife habitat.

ACTIONS:

Improve cover on 300 acres of RIM contracts.

If there is a general CRP sign up, work with landowners to encourage enrollment in the program.

PRIORITY CONCERN: PROTECT THE WETLAND AND UNIQUE HABITAT FOUND IN THE ANCIENT BEDROCK OUTCROP IN THE MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY.

ACTION:

Enroll 395 acres of bedrock that contain unique wetlands and habitat.

Continue follow up on the 377 acres previously enrolled through the LCCMR Grant.

PRIORITY CONCERN: PROVIDE FOR AN EFFICIENT DISTRICT OPERATION AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCES TO PRODUCERS:

ACTION:

- Regular board meeting will be held the second Thursday of each month.
- Develop Annual Plan of Work
- Approve Redwood County Water Management Plan as SWCD's Comprehensive Plan.

- Staff will include: Administrator, District Technician, who will spend 50% of their time as the Farm Bill Technician, Office Assistant (1/2 time on loan to RCRCA), and a part-time Education/Computer Coordinator.
- Necessary training will be provided for all personnel in order to carry out the district programs.
- Review Memorandums of Understanding that we have with other agencies.
- Membership and support will continue in the Area V Association, MASWCD and NACD.
- Continue implementation of Redwood County's Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.
- Develop Annual Budget and present to Redwood County Commissioners.
- Provide representation to various organizations such as but not limited to: RCRCA, Coteau Des Praire RC&D, Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area, EQIP Local Work Group.
- Utilize eLINK web based reporting system to report progress.
- Utilize district web site to publish annual and other reports.
- Convene stake holders meeting and local work group for establishing priorities for EQIP and other conservation programs.
- Participate in brainstorming meetings that will establish priorities and needs in the watersheds in Redwood County
- Apply for funds through Clean Water and other sources as they become available.
- Install all cost share practices according to standards and specifications required by the program.
- State Cost practices will be spot checked by district staff in accordance with state cost share guidelines.
- Participate in the Tillage Transect Survey when applicable.
- Staff will meet with County FAC Committee at least twice a year to discuss issues related to the building.
- Review and comment on all DNR water permits in identifying environmental concerns.
- Monitor wells as designated by DNR.
- Maintain an efficient rain gauge monitoring network within the county.
- All programs and services of the conservation office are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

PRIORITY CONCERN: INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Actions:

- Continue to update district web site (redwoodswcd.org)
- Give 10 presentations to schools, 4-H clubs, boy and girl scouts, civic groups and any other groups that request.
- Have a booth at the Redwood County Fair. In conjunction with SWCD's in Area V and VI have exhibit at Farmfest.
- Select Conservation Farmer and publish a news article on their accomplishments.
- Sponsor an affiliate programs as a means of educating businesses about the importance of conservation programs.
- Displays in lobby of Ag. Service Center
- Work with other Area V districts to promote environmental learning opportunities through activities such as; environmental fair and area and state Envirothon.
- Provide informational meetings, mail out letters and materials on conservation programs as they become available.
- Co-sponsor a multi-county Woman's Conservation Day

STAFFING NEEDS

Concerns	Staff Years	
	Administrative	Technical
Groundwater protection that will focus on wellhead protection for public water supply.	.1	.1
Drainage management focusing on wetland restorations and floodwater retention opportunities.	.1	.4
Surface water quality addressing impaired waters by major watershed for the priority pollutants; phosphorus, nitrogen and fecal coliform bacteria.	.3	.5
Erosion and sediment control focusing on residue management county-wide, and gully and concentrated flow areas in the southwest portion of Redwood County.	.3	.1
Provide for an efficient district operation And provide assistance to producers.	1	
Increase Public Awareness of the Soil and Water conservation activities.	.5	
Total Staffing years	2.3	2

Total staffing years include 2 full time district employees and 2 part time district as well as one full time NRCS employee.

COST SHARE REQUIREMENTS

HIGH PRIORITY EROSION PROBLEMS

High priority erosion problems have been defined as:

“High priority erosion problems” means areas where erosion from wind or water is occurring equal to, or in excess of, 2 x T tons per acre per year or is occurring on any area that exhibits active gully erosion or is identified as high priority in the comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district’s comprehensive plan. Water erosion is occurring at a rate of 2T on 25,000 acres of land in the county.

Wind erosion is occurring on approximately 135,000 acres throughout the county at a rate that exceeds 2T per acres per year. However, our high priority areas where we will be concentrating our efforts are in: Paxton, Sherman, Vesta, Underwood, Delhi, Charlestown and Springdale townships.

The funds needed to install practices such as terraces, waterways, field windbreaks and diversions to control high priority wind and water problems in these areas come from State Cost Share, EQIP Cost Share program, Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan funds and Clean Water Legacy funds.

HIGH PRIORITY WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS.

High priority water quality leading to sedimentation problems have been defined as:

“High priority water quality problems” means areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals, or other pollutants discharge into Department of Natural Resources-designated protected waters, or to any high priority waters, as identified in a comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district’s comprehensive plan, or discharge to sinkholes or groundwater.

The pollutant delivery rate to the water source is in amounts that will impair the quality or usefulness of the water resource.

The sedimentation in our county occurs along the Minnesota, Redwood and Cottonwood Rivers, specifically in the townships of Springdale, Lambertson, Charlestown and Johnsonville. Along these drainageways, there is approximately 14,000 acres of land that exceeds 3 tons per acre per year.

HIGH PRIORITY WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS (continued).

High priority feedlots are defined as:

“Those feedlots where the pollution potential rating (from the ag waste model) is greater than or equal to one, and is discharging pollutants to DNR-designated protected waters or wetlands, to a sinkhole, to shallow soils overlying fractured or cavernous bedrock, or within 150 feet of a water well.”

Cost share on high priority feedlots will be considered on an individual basis. We will consider establishing a new pollution abatement system or bringing an established system into compliance.

Items which may be cost shared: clean water diversions, buffer strips, holding ponds or complete systems, if necessary.

COST SHARE PROGRAM SUMMARY.

Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District considers high priority projects first. The SWCD cost shares 75% of the total cost, not to exceed \$3,500, unless it is a special project where the district will waive the \$3,500, provided the landowner does not receive more than 75% of the total cost. The district estimates that it will receive \$13,000 in state cost share funds of which 20% is used for Technical and administrative functions in the district. The cost share dollars will be encumbered for: contours, bio-retention basins, field windbreaks, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways and water sediment control basins.

If the Clean Water Funds are received, there will be project installed in the Redwood and Cottonwood River Watershed that will utilize these funds. Some of the projects that will be funded include; multi-purpose dams, water and sediment control basins, terraces, waterways, diversions, alternative intakes, bio-retention basins, and grid sampling and grid applying.

The funds needed to install and implement the practices include: state cost share, Federal EQIP, Ag. BMP loan program, Clean Water Funding, WHIP, Comprehensive Local Water Management and other grants that may become available.

BUDGET

Our total budget needs for staff, cost share and operation expenses are as follows:

REVENUES:	
SWCD Service Grant	44,086
State Cost Share	10,413
State Grant – (DNR Wells) 12,550 + 840	19,540
NRCS Contribution	753
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) & Water Plan Adm	17,834
Tree Sales and Planting	14,000
Water Plan	18,375
Interest Earnings & Principal Return	7,200
Affiliate Program	1,000
County	116,000
Miscellaneous	9,990
Local (RCRCA Reimbursement)	22,131

Total Revenues	\$281,322
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EXPENDITURES:	
District Operations	
Personnel Services	195,034
Rent	14,000
Office Maintenance	3,000
Employee Training	1,000
Vehicle Maintenance	2,000
Insurance	5,000
Education, Promotion & Advertising	2,000
Supplies	1,000
Supervisors Comp & Expenses	11,000
Professional Services Exp & Dues	8,000
Capital Outlay	-0-
Tree Program Expense	10,000
Miscellaneous	500
Total District Operations	

Special Projects	
State Cost Share	10,413
Water Plan	18,375
Total Special Project Expenses	281,322

Total Expenditures	\$ 284,429
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