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# **Soil and Water Conservation District**

## **2009 Annual Report**

### **The Conservation Equation**

Local Leadership

+

Local Action

=

Lasting Value

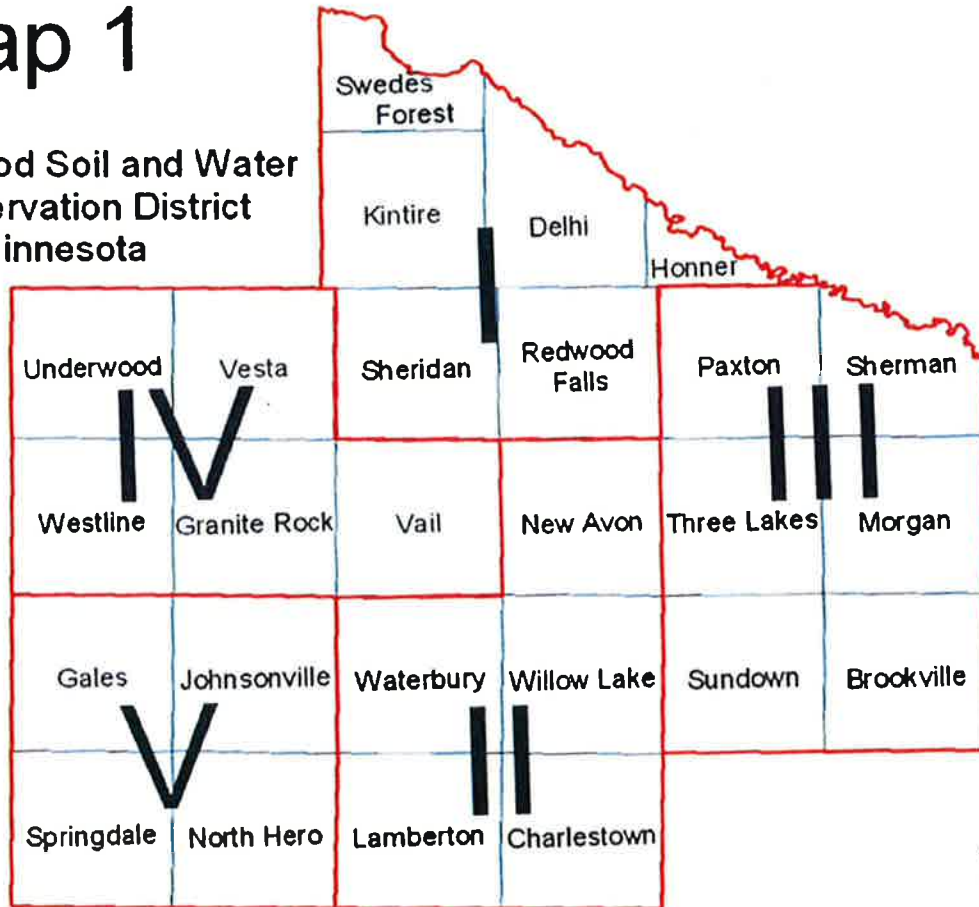


Pictured—From Left to Right  
 Ralph Heiling—3rd District  
 Mike Hewitt—5th District  
 Gary Dahms—County Commissioner  
 Tom Morley—1st District  
 Joe Plaetz—4th District  
 Don Steffen—2nd District

**Redwood SWCD  
 Board of Supervisors  
 & County Commissioner**

# Map 1

Redwood Soil and Water  
 Conservation District  
 Minnesota



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## Serving the Conservation Needs of Redwood County

Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District was established in January, 1953. The citizens of Redwood County were concerned about soil erosion by wind and water and its affect on water quality.

The district was authorized to be established due to the state legislature passing the Minnesota Soil Conservation District Law in 1937. The law enabled farmers within set boundaries to organize for conservation purposes and gave them the power to enter into legal agreements and provide financial aid to landowners. Other powers and duties granted to districts include:

- Legal subdivisions of the state which can exercise public powers.
- May carry out soil and water conservation measures on any land in the district with the consent of landowners.
- May cooperate or enter into agreements with any governmental agency or individual landowner for the purpose of carrying on a program of erosion prevention and control.

This district is governed by five locally elected supervisors. Each is elected from one of five nomination districts in the county. The district board is charged with three basic roles: To establish policy that guides district staff in the day-to-day operation of the district; To provide guidance in the development of long and short range plans, and develop a yearly budget; and hire staff that will carry out the policy and plan for the district.

Redwood SWCD received funding from Redwood County, the State of Minnesota, self-generated funds and sometimes through an agreement from the Federal Government.

*County Funds*—SWCD's in Minnesota receive county funding in several different ways. Redwood SWCD is funded with straight allocation covering expenses.

*State Funds*—Each district receives less than \$20,000 administrative funds and pass-through grants for various programs.

*Self-Generated*—Most districts have at least the tree program for earning limited funds.

# SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

“Helping bring YOU clean water”



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## Redwood SWCD & NRCS Staff

### Redwood SWCD Staff

Marilyn Bernhardson—District Administrator  
Kari Clouse—Office Assistant  
Judy Schulte—District Technician  
Karen Wilhelmi—Education Coordinator

### NRCS Staff

Brian Pfarr—NRCS Technician

Pictured from Left to Right

Kari, Judy, Brian, Karen and Marilyn

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District 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.

# Affiliate Membership Program

Redwood SWCD's Affiliate Membership Program came into existence when district supervisors felt a need to increase communications and provide a better understanding of the local soil and water conservation districts activities with non-farmers.

The first affiliate membership drive was organized in 1968 as supervisors sought businesses and other district supporters to join. The first efforts were successful and Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District Affiliate Membership Program, the first in Minnesota, has been in existence since.

The members each pay \$30.00 membership fee. This year, for our program, we invited all affiliate members on the tour we hosted in June. We hoped that a getting a firsthand look at our conservation accomplishments would help them understand how important our work is to the citizens of Redwood County. See article below.

Present members represent the communities of Clements, Franklin, Lamberton, Lucan, Marshall, Milroy, Morgan, Redwood Falls, Sanborn, Springfield, Tracy, Vesta, Wabasso, Walnut Grove, and Wanda. Thank you to each and every member for your continued support!

## Conservation Tour



This year the district sponsored a conservation tour of Redwood County. County Commissioners, legislators, all affiliate members, as well as others were invited to attend. The tour showcased many conservation projects that have been completed the past several years. Some of the projects included; wetland restorations completed through Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), water and sediment control basins, streambank stabilization, waterways, terraces, CREP and RIM sites, tree plantings, and many others.

This tour helped individuals connect projects with programs the district implements. We were also able to show them approximately how much soil and phosphorus have been stopped from entering surface waters in the county. The tour was well attended and helped everyone understand some of the important work that is completed through our office.

# 2009 Affiliate Members

## **Redwood Falls**

Dahms Insurance Agency  
Farm Credit Services  
Fuhr Insurance Agency  
Home Town Bank  
Kaardal Insurance  
Larson's Home Furnishings  
Magic Water  
Makarrall Insurance Agency  
Minnwest Bank  
Redwood Tire Service  
Redwood Veterinarians  
Thomas Stotesbery, CPA

## **Clements**

Sawvell's Seeds  
Redwood Electric Coop

## **Franklin**

John & Alice Goelz

## **Lamberton**

Meadow Land Farmers Coop  
Willard Pfarr

## **Lucan**

State Bank of Lucan  
Orlin Jaeger

## **Marshall**

Northwestern Farm Management

## **Milroy**

Farmers Coop Association  
Glen & Anne Soupir

## **Morgan**

F&M State Bank  
Harvestland Coop  
Triple L Construction

## **Sanborn**

ADM  
Gramstad Lumber  
Mills Resolute Bank

## **Springfield**

David Hicks  
United Prairie Bank

## **Tracy**

Dave Zwach

## **Wabasso**

Integrity Bank Plus  
Kinner & Company, Ltd  
Redwood County Farm Bureau  
Wabasso Grain & Feed  
White Law Office

## **Walnut Grove**

Dennis & Jean Zwach  
Robert Zwach, Jr.  
Steffen Electric

## **Wanda**

Altermatt Construction  
Wanda State Bank

## **Vesta**

United SW Bank

## State Cost Share

The State Cost Share Program was Redwood SWCD's first state program. It was created to help land-owners implement conservation practices that protect and improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and reducing sedimentation.

Since 1978, the Redwood SWCD has helped landowners put conservation on the land through grassed waterways, terraces, wastewater, and feedlot runoff control, erosion control structures, farmstead shelterbelts and field windbreaks as part of this program. Landowners can receive financial and technical assistance to implement the practices.



Waterway at Southwest Research and Outreach Center near Lamberton, MN.

State Cost Share provides the landowner up to 75% of the eligible costs to establish the practice. From 1978 to 2009, Redwood County landowners have received \$399,741 of cost share on 320 contracts to install best management practices such as tree plantings and water and sediment basins.

Due to the districts continual success in getting conservation practices on the land we have seen a substantial increase in our cost share dollars. Several years ago we were only receiving \$10, 118. In fiscal year 2009 we received \$23,418.