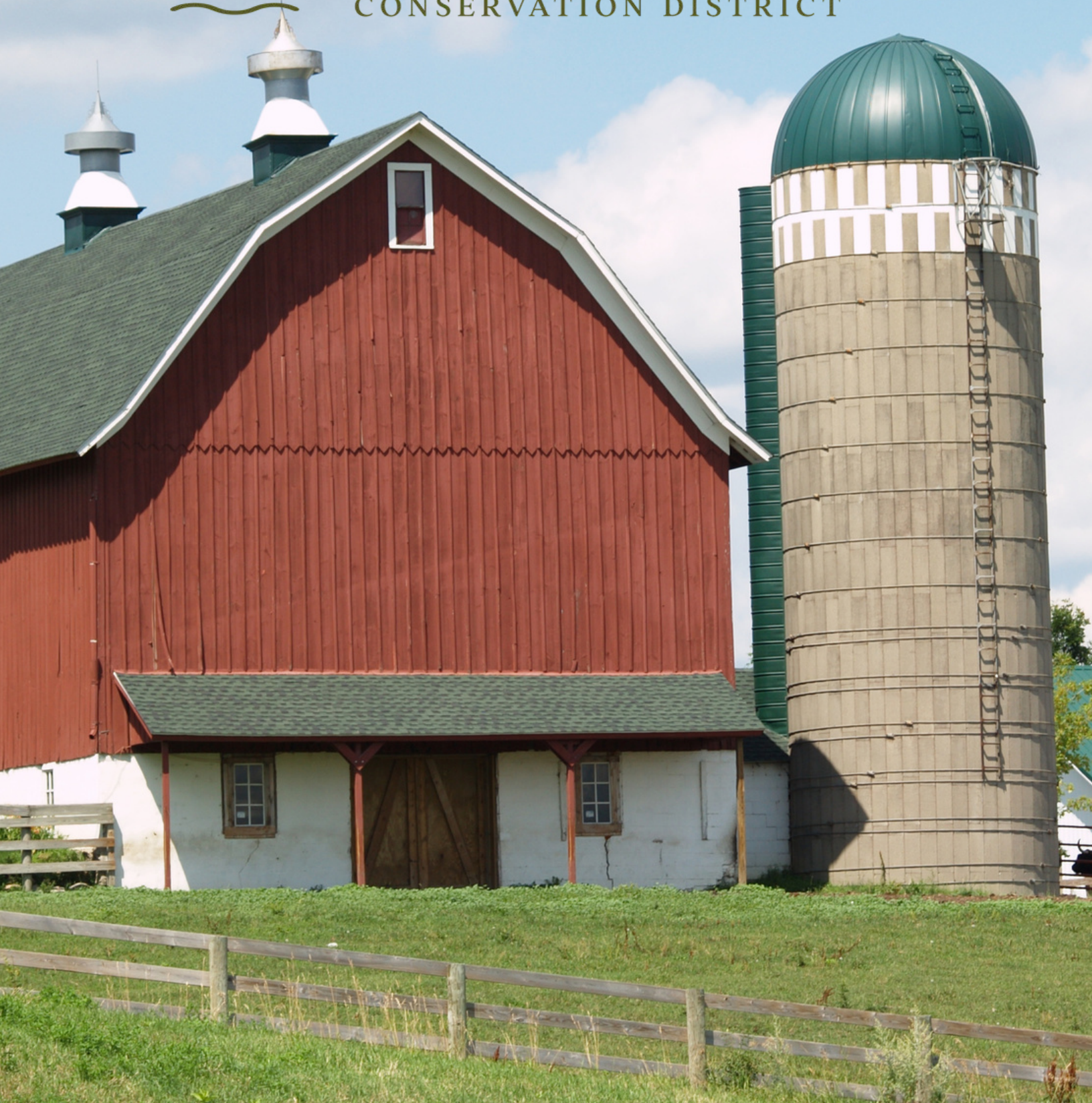




REDWOOD

SOIL & WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2022 ANNUAL PLAN

Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District

The Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) 2022 Annual Plan of Work is developed from the district's long-range plan. The SWCD, through this plan, 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 outlined in the CLWMP.

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

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

The purpose of the plan is to guide the district in effectively providing conservation on the land within the county, placing priorities on high priority areas as identified. This plan includes guidelines for employees and supervisors for the achievement of the district objectives.

NRCS Assistance: The District cooperates with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under a Memorandum of Understanding whereby assistance from the NRCS consists of technical assistance on soil survey, engineering, agronomy, biology and woodland conservation, and administration furnished to the District by the NRCS local, area and State Office.

This Annual Plan was adopted by the Redwood SWCD Supervisors on _____

Mission Statement

The mission of the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District is to educate and assist the citizens of Redwood County to manage the soil and water resources of the county efficiently and economically, for present and future generations.



Board of Supervisors



Jeff Potter
Chair
District I



Brian Timm
Public Relations
District II



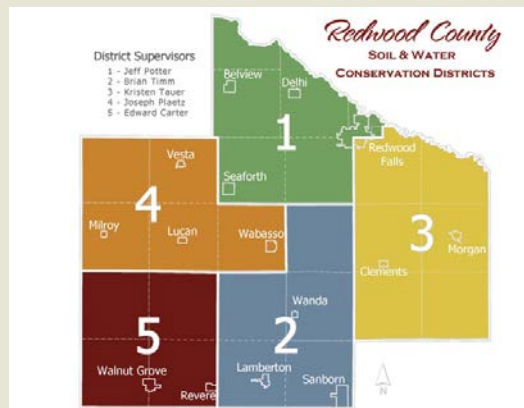
Rick Maurer
Treasurer
District III



Joe Plaetz
Secretary
District IV



Ed Carter
Vice-Chair
District V



Staff



Scott Wold
District Administrator



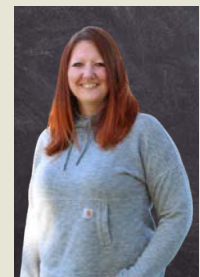
Jeanne Prescott
Office Manager



Kurt Mathiowetz
Water Quality
Technician



Brian Pfarr
Resource
Specialist



Jennifer Hahn
Conservation
Specialist



Priority Concerns

PRIORITY CONCERN 1: GROUNDWATER PROTECTION THAT WILL FOCUS ON WELLHEAD PROTECTION FOR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY (OR PRIVATE). All citizens of Redwood County depend on groundwater resources for their water needs. This makes it essential to take additional measures to ensure that our groundwater is protected to assure its quality and quantity for future generations.

PRIORITY CONCERN 2: DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT FOCUSING ON WETLAND RESTORATIONS AND FLOODWATER RETENTION OPPORTUNITIES (ALTERED HYDROLOGY). Redwood County has lost more than 99 percent of its natural wetlands. Loss of wetlands has resulted in increased agricultural and rural flooding, loss of groundwater recharge areas, loss of wildlife habitat and reduced and impaired water quality. Sediment loading on surface waters as documented in the “Sediment Reduction Strategy for MN River Report” indicated that we need to place more emphasis on wetland restorations and other floodwater retention opportunities.

PRIORITY CONCERN 3: SURFACE WATER QUALITY ADDRESSING IMPAIRED WATERS BY MAJOR WATERSHED FOR THESE PRIORITY POLLUTANTS: PHOSPHORUS, NITROGEN AND FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA. Approximately 87% of the land in Redwood County is dedicated to row crop production. Approximately 20% of the row crop land requires proper manure management due to livestock in the county. Based on the “Nutrient Reduction Strategy Report” there is increased amount of nutrients being found in our surface waters. This is especially apparent following heavy rains, which are occurring more frequently.

PRIORITY CONCERN 4: EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL FOCUSING ON RESIDUE MANAGEMENT COUNTY-WIDE, AND GULLY AND CONCENTRATED FLOW AREAS IN THE SOUTHWEST PORTION OF REDWOOD COUNTY. Increased erosion results in excess sediment and nutrients reaching surface water bodies in the county. This, in turn, results in poor water quality and also negatively impacts aquatic plants and animals. The topography in a portion of the county shows slopes and soils that are susceptible to gully and concentrated flow. With the percentage of land in row crop production it exposes the soil to both wind and water erosion for much of the year. The sediment-laden water from the southwestern part of the county flows to the eastern part of the county.

For more detail and a list of specific goals and objectives please see the Redwood County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.



Sources of funding 2022

The Redwood SWCD is funded through a combination of non-competitive state aid, county allocations, and competitive grants.

Staff Support Funds

- Local Capacity Services (BWSR)
- Wetland Conservation Act (BWSR)
- Buffer Law (BWSR)
- Conservation Delivery (BWSR)
- CREP Outreach (BWSR)
- County Allocation (County)

Project Support Funds

- State Cost Share (BWSR)
- Local Water Management (BWSR)
- Clean Water Act 319 (MPCA/Federal)
- Plum Creek Turbidity Reduction (Clean Water Grant)
- Pell Creek Turbidity Reduction (Clean Water Grant)
- Economic and Ecological Benefits of Soil Health (LCCMR)
- Rim Easement Evaluation and Outreach (LCCMR)



Committee Assignments

Personnel: Joe Plaetz, Jeff Potter

Budget: Rick Maurer, Brian Timm

Water Plan Task Force: Joe Plaetz, Jeff Potter

Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area: Rick Maurer, Edward Carter

RCRCA: Edward Carter, Jeff Potter

Staffing needs

Total staffing years include four full time district staff, and part time County staff cooperation. While district employees are employees of Redwood County, district operations and priorities are set by the Redwood SWCD Board of Supervisors.

Activity	Administrative (FTE)	Technical (FTE)
Groundwater protection that will focus on protection of public water supplies	.1	.2
Drainage management focusing on wetland restorations and floodwater retention opportunities	.1	.5
Surface water quality addressing impaired waters by major watershed for the priority pollutants	.1	1
Erosion and sediment control focusing on residue management county-wide and gully and concentrated flow areas in the southwest portion of Redwood County.	.1	1
Provide for an efficient district operation and aid producers	.7	
Increase public awareness of the soil and water conservation activities	.2	.3
Total:	1.3	3



2022 Time Allocation

Funding Source	Resource Specialist	Water Quality Tech	Office Manager	Conservation Specialist
Local Capacity	64 %	20 %	0%	0 %
County Allocation	14 %	40 %	37 %	15 %
CREP Outreach	22 %	25 %	14 %	40 %
Buffer Law	0 %	0 %	24 %	20 %
Conservation Delivery	0%	0%	25 %	0%
WCA	0%	0%	0%	10 %
WQC	0%	15 %	0%	0%
LCCMR	0%	0%	0%	15 %



Schedule of Events

January

Regular Board Meeting
Pay Area, State and National Dues
Annual Planning meeting
Review the Annual Plan
Review Accomplishments Report
Election of Officers & Committee Assignments
E-Link End of Year Reporting
Blog Posting

February

Regular Board Meeting
Complete all Year End Reporting Requirements
Distribute Annual Plan
Distribute Accomplishments Report
Walk-in-Access Contract Renewals
Blog Posting

March

Regular Board Meeting
Attend Legislative Days at the Capital
Coordinate Local Work Group Meeting
Send Annual Rain Gauge Reports to Readers
Blog Posting Quarterly
eLINK reporting

April

Regular Board Meeting
Prepare Resolutions for Area Meeting
Observe Soil Stewardship Week
Construction Season
Blog Posting

May

Regular Board Meeting
Construction Season
CREP & RIM Spot Checks (Prep and Complete)
5th Grade Ag Day
Blog Posting

June

Regular Board Meeting
Preparation of County Budget Request
Complete CREP & RIM Spot Checks
Construction Season
5th Grade Ag Day
Blog Posting
Begin Annual Buffer Compliance Spot Check
Quarterly eLINK reporting

July

Regular Board Meeting
Select Outstanding Conservationist of the Year
Redwood County Fair
Construction
Blog Posting

August

Regular Board Meeting
Present County Budget Request to Commissioners
Farmfest Booth
Begin Preparations for Annual Cost Share Spot Checks
Blog Posting

September

Regular Board Meeting
Area V Environmental Fair (bi-annually)
State Cost Share Spot Checks
Construction
LINC Presentation
Blog Posting Quarterly
eLINK reporting

October

Regular Board Meeting
State Cost Share Spot Checks
BWSR Academy
Vote on MASWCD Resolutions
Review Preliminary 2023 District Budget
Construction Season
Blog Posting

November

Regular Board Meeting
Contact Outstanding Conservationist on Convention
RCRCA/Area II Legislative Meeting
Construction Season
Blog Posting

December

Regular Board Meeting
Adopt 2023 District Budget
Attend MASWCD Annual State Convention
Review Memorandum of Understanding with NRCS
Quarterly eLINK reporting

*This list is not intended to be all-inclusive of the district work tasks.



Cost Share Priorities

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 drainage ways, there is approximately 14,000 acres of land that exceeds 3 tons per acre per year. This is the reason why the sub-watersheds in these areas will be targeted for conservation application.



Cost Share Program Summary

Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District considers high priority projects first. These projects are cost shared at a maximum of 75% of the total cost. The district will receive \$13,576 in state cost share funds of which 20% may be used for technical and administrative functions in the district.

The District has also budgeted \$50,000 of money received from the County to a local Cost Share program.

The cost share dollars will be encumbered for: contours, bio-retention basins, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways and water sediment control basins.

Our 2021 Clean Water Fund grant received in partnership with RCRCA has money available for the Plum Creek Watershed. Our 2022 Clean Water Fund grant received in partnership with RCRCA has money available for the Pell Creek Watershed. Our 2021 CWA 319 grant has money available for the Plum Creek Watershed. Our LCCMR grant has cost share available for landowners in the Ramsey Creek Watershed.

In 2021 the Local Water Task Force began setting aside some Local Water Management money for structural practices.

The funds needed to install and implement the practices include State Cost Share, Federal EQIP, Ag. BMP loan program, Comprehensive Local Water Management and other grants that may become available.

These funds shall be expended in accordance with the cost share policy adopted by the SWCD Board.



2022 Budget

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>
Revenue		
County	\$100,000.00	
BWSR Grants	\$400,715.00	
University of Minnesota	\$5,000.00	
DNR - well money	\$1,440.00	
NRBG	\$24,857.00	
Water Quality Cert	\$15,000.00	
LCCMR	\$30,000.00	
Technical and Admin	\$3,600.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$580,612.00	
Expenditures		
District Operations - Personnel		
Employee Wages		\$243,600.00
Part time wages		\$5,000.00
Withholdings		\$36,860.00
Insurance		<u>\$53,373.00</u>
	Total Personnel	\$338,833.00
District Operations - Other		
Supervisor Expenses		\$9,000.00
Lodging and Expense		\$3,000.00
Dues and Registration		\$16,000.00
Vehicle Expense		\$3,000.00
Education and Promotion		\$4,000.00
Office Supplies / Equipment Maint		\$13,000.00
Field Supplies		\$1,500.00
Building Rent		\$12,200.00
Audit Services		\$3,200.00
Telephone		\$2,000.00
District Cost Share		\$50,000.00
BWSR Cost Share		\$13,576.00
Water Plan		<u>\$14,470.00</u>
	Total Other	<u>\$144,946.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$483,779.00





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Check us out on YouTube!



**For more information reach out to us or stop by anytime Monday through
Friday 8:00 - 4:30**

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redwoodswcd@co.redwood.mn.us***
