



2009 Report

Narrative of the year's activities

1. Introduction

The mission of the South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide technical, educational, and financial resources to land occupiers in order to implement practices and projects that preserve, protect, and enhance water quality and other natural resources.

The purpose of this report is to briefly discuss items that were completed in 2009.

2. Description of services provided by the district

All SWCD services are designed to achieve our mission. Services provided by the SWCD include the following: Technical & Financial Assistance, Conservation Education, Tree & Shrub Sale, Watershed Projects, Private Forest Stewardship, Wetland Conservation, and Conservation Engineering.

3. Listing of supervisors and their offices

Dave Davis
Chair
Term of office
2009 - 2012

Debra Taylor
Vice-Chair
Term of office
2007 - 2010

Hartley Sandstrom
Treasurer
Term of office
2009 - 2012

Al Moline
Secretary
Term of office
2007 - 2010

Marcia Stromgren
Member
Term of office
2007 - 2010

4. Office personnel and cooperating agencies

Staff

Keith Anderson, P.E.
Conservation Engineer
Keith.Anderson@southstlouisswcd.org
Engineering assistance to Carlton, Cook, Lake, North St. Louis, and South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation Districts

R.C. Boheim
District Manager
R.Boheim@southstlouisswcd.org

Tim Byrns

Conservation Specialist

Tim.Byrns@southstlouisswcd.org

Forestry and engineering assistance to Carlton, Cook, Lake, North St. Louis, and South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Kate Kubiak

Conservation Specialist

Kate.Kubiak@southstlouisswcd.org

Nathan Schroeder

Conservation Specialist

Nathan.Schroeder@southstlouisswcd.org

Assisted by:

Danny Weber

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

District Conservationist

Dan.Weber@mn.usda.gov

Cooperating Agencies

Saint Louis County

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

National Association of Conservation Districts

North Central Region of National Association of Conservation Districts

Laurentian Resource Conservation and Development Council

Regional Stormwater Protection Team

5 Accomplishments - Annual Objectives – Soil and Water Conservation Problems

Lake and Stream Protection

A. Annual Objectives

- To protect, preserve, and enhance streams, inland lakes, and Lake Superior.
- To work to implement projects or practices that correct situations that are causing, or could cause, these waters to be impaired.

B. Actions taken

- Provided technical, educational, and financial assistance to install best management practices- two cost-share contract executed for 2010 work.
- Provided assistance for Lake Superior shoreline erosion problems - one cost-share contract approved for 2010 work.
- Reviewed DNR water permits and provide input to help limit negative impacts.
- Worked to Update the St. Louis County Water Plan – draft has been completed and submitted for Planning Commission consideration.
- Worked on watershed protection and restoration projects:

Miller Creek

- Worked to accomplish Clean Water Partnership Implementation Plan (Phase II) tasks – installed two stormwater retro-fit projects.
- Increased and maintained riparian vegetation – planted 100 potted white spruce.
- Completed Low-Impact Development Storm Water demonstration – two projects completed
- Partnered with MPCA through a funding agreement to complete the TMDL project – completed last full year of monitoring, communicated with the public and other agencies regarding TMDL process.
- Worked on Jumbo Gully stabilization with Clean Water Legacy Act funding – design work completed for 2010 construction

Knife River

- Lead the Total Maximum Daily Load project utilizing MPCA funds and assist with other monitoring efforts. Work to complete TMDL Implementation Plan.
- Worked with MPCA to obtain EPA approval of the TMDL – EPA approval is pending

Amity Creek

- Completed one streambank stabilization projects working collaboratively with NRRI – Weber Initiative.

Reducing Environmental Impacts

A. Annual Objectives

- To reduce, mitigate, or eliminate environmental impacts caused by development-related activities.

B. Actions taken

- Remained a member of the Regional Stormwater Protection Team (RSPT).
- Cooperated with RSPT on education program.
- Served as facilitator and fiscal agent for RSPT
- Reviewed construction erosion control and stormwater plans as requested.
- Explored opportunities for wetland restorations and creations in our area.
- Worked with MPCA on the NPDES construction site erosion control program through a joint powers agreement. The agreement ended on June 30, 2009
- Completed Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act responsibilities:
 - Served on St. Louis County Technical Advisory Committee / Technical Evaluation Panel.
 - Completed administrative-type aspects of WCA through an agreement with St. Louis County and Proctor.

Outreach and Education

A. Annual Objectives

- To educate youth and adult audiences about high priority SWCD soil and water conservation topics.

B. Actions taken

- Set up displays or booths at public events to publicize SWCD programs - St. Louis County Fair and Duluth Harvest Festival.

- Worked with area teachers to promote the Envirothon Program.
- Supported the Area III Envirothon Program.
- Acted as Co-Coordinator for the north portion of the Area III Envirothon
- Assisted with and coordinate the RSPT Watershed Festival and other youth and family educational programs.
- Continued to support and participate in the Northeast Minnesota Regional Science Fair- served as a judge and award special SWCD recognition.
- Provided assistance for public demonstration projects – two innovative stormwater projects.

Forestry

A. SWCD Objectives

- To provide assistance to private landowners to enable healthy forests on private lands.
- To provide technical assistance to limit negative environmental impacts from forest harvesting and management activities.
- To provide a source of conservation-grade trees and shrubs.

B. Actions taken

- Held tree and shrub sale geared toward supplying trees for conservation and education uses and programs.
- Served as a Emerald Ash Borer 1st Detector.
- Continued to be a member of the Minnesota SWCD Forestry Association.
- Worked to develop an assistance program for small acreage woodland owners – White Pine watershed.
- Initiated and conduct watershed-based forest stewardship projects that concentrate on providing technical assistance to private forest owners.
 - Continued the Knife River Watershed Forest Stewardship Project.
 - Continued Lake Superior Basin planning project

Protection of Natural and Community Resources

A. Annual Objectives

- To protect and preserve critical lands and maintain existing ecological integrity.
- To enable the continued enjoyment and use of public resources and minimize negative impacts.

B. Actions

- Utilized the tree and shrub sale and related technical assistance to support community resource restoration and protection projects.

Agricultural

A. SWCD Objectives

- To provide financial and technical assistance to agricultural operations to minimize negative environmental impacts.
- To support sustainable agricultural initiatives and operations that protect the environment, preserve family farming, and conserve energy.

B. Actions taken

- Maintained agricultural best management practice revolving loan funds for animal waste practices and equipment – two loans issued.

- Lead the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program Local Work Group process to establish local priorities.

Wildlife Management

A. Annual Objectives

- To protect and enhance wildlife habitat.

B. Actions taken

- Continued to offer selections of trees and shrubs through the annual sale that will benefit wildlife. Continue to offer packets for specific wildlife habitat objectives.

III. Annual Objectives – Administration

A. Objective

- Ensure efficient administration and fiscal management of SWCD.
- Effectively utilize SWCD technical resources.
- Provide administrative support for multi-district organizations, partners, and grant projects.

B. Actions

- Maintained financial, personnel, and management policies and procedures that ensure efficient and effective SWCD operation.
- Carried out all administrative functions for CCLNS Joint Powers Board #3/Area 3 SWCD Technical Service Area.
- Acted as fiscal agent for the Regional Stormwater Protection Team
- Performed administrative, fiscal, and management functions for current watershed and other special projects.
- Completed plans and reports
- Provided training to ensure effective staff.