



2010 Annual Plan
Approved January 20, 2010

I. Introduction

The purpose of this annual plan is to detail work items that will be completed in 2010. The annual plan will provide a tool for SWCD staff and supervisors to evaluate program effectiveness.

II. 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

- Provide technical, educational, and financial assistance to install best management practices.
- Provide assistance for Lake Superior shoreline erosion problems.
- Review DNR water permits and provide input to help limit negative impacts.
- Remain a member of the Lake Superior Basin Programmatic Work Group to ensure the Basin Plan is implemented.
- Implement portions of the St. Louis County Water Plan.
- Work to Update the St. Louis County Water Plan.
- Complete Lake Superior Basin protection projects.
- Complete Lake Superior Basin nonpoint source pollution control projects.
- Work to meet the State's framework for water quality assessment and improvement by monitoring, assessing, setting goals, and implementing projects within target watersheds.
- Work on watershed protection and restoration projects:

Miller Creek

- Increase and maintain riparian vegetation.
- Lead best management practice installation efforts along with project partners.
- Assist with trout habitat improvement work.
- Complete Low-Impact Development Storm Water demonstration
- Partner with MPCA through a funding agreement to complete the TMDL project.
- Work on Jumbo Gully stabilization with Clean Water Legacy Act funding.
- Utilize funding sources such as the Clean Water Fund, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and other sources to complete projects to improve, protect, and evaluate water quality and habitat in Miller Creek.

Knife River

- Lead the Total Maximum Daily Load project utilizing MPCA funds and assist with other monitoring efforts. Complete TMDL Implementation Plan.
- Work with MPCA to obtain EPA approval of the TMDL
- Initiate best management practice installation efforts through project partners.
- Continue Forest Stewardship planning project, and work to implement completed plans.
- Utilize funding sources such as the Clean Water Fund, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and other sources to complete projects to improve, protect, and evaluate water quality and habitat in Knife River.

Amity Creek

- Complete streambank stabilization projects working collaboratively with NRRI – Weber Initiative and other partners.
- Utilize funding sources such as the Clean Water Fund, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and other sources to complete projects to improve, protect, and evaluate water quality and habitat in Amity Creek.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 300 staff days

Reducing Environmental Impacts

A. Annual Objectives

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

B. Actions

- Apply technical, educational, and financial assistance that leads to the installation of best management practices that minimize the impacts of development.
- Provide technical assistance to other units of government.
- Assist with stormwater and erosion and sediment control policy development and training.
- Remain a member of the Regional Stormwater Protection Team (RSPT).
- Cooperate with RSPT on education program, such as erosion and sediment control trainings/certification and urban stormwater pollution prevention projects.
- Serve as facilitator and fiscal agent for RSPT
- Review construction erosion control and stormwater plans as requested.
- Explore opportunities to assist communities with erosion and sedimentation issues, including local ordinance support.
- Explore opportunities for wetland restorations and creations in our area.
- Monitor and consider Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group actions and recommendations as they pertain to SWCD programs.
- Complete Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act responsibilities:
 - Serve on St. Louis County Technical Advisory Committee / Technical Evaluation Panel.
 - Complete administrative-type aspects of WCA through an agreement with St. Louis County and Proctor.
 - Offer to provide administrative and other services for WCA for LGUs.
 - Serve on all required Technical Evaluation Panels.
 - Provide technical and educational assistance to further wetland conservation.

- Serve as an information center for WCA.
- Hold educational workshops for contractors, developers, and the public about wetlands and the WCA.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 250 staff days

Outreach and Education

A. Annual Objectives

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

B. Actions

- Work with the media to publicize SWCD programs and policies.
- Give presentations to schools and community groups about topics that are SWCD priorities.
- Set up displays or booths at public events to publicize SWCD programs at events such as the South St. Louis County Fair, the Duluth Farmers Market, and the Duluth Harvest Festival.
- Meet with governmental units to discuss district programs and services available.
- Remain a member of the Arrowhead Water Quality Team.
- Work with area teachers to promote the Envirothon Program.
- Support the Area III Envirothon Program.
- Act as Co-Coordinator for the north portion of the Area III Envirothon
- Assist with and coordinate the RSPT Watershed Festival and other youth and family educational programs.
- Continue to support and participate in the Northeast Minnesota Regional Science Fair.
- Provide assistance for public demonstration projects, such as rain gardens, that prevent erosion and protect water quality.
- Work to develop youth discovery naturalist program.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 150 staff days

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

- Apply technical, education, and financial assistance to install forestry best management practices that limit or correct nonpoint source pollution or improve forested land.
- Hold tree and shrub sale geared toward supplying trees for conservation and education uses and programs.
- Look for opportunities to initiate increased implementation of completed forest stewardship plans.
- Assist with Emerald Ash Borer 1st Detector Program and work with partners on other projects to prevent or manage the spread of EAB.

- Continue to be a member of the Minnesota SWCD Forestry Association.
- Work to develop an assistance program for small acreage woodland owners.
- Initiate and conduct watershed-based forest stewardship projects that concentrate on providing technical assistance to private forest owners.
 - Continue the Knife River Watershed Forest Stewardship Project.
 - Continue Lake Superior Basin planning project

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 10 staff days

TSA #3 staff time will also be utilized

Ground Water

A. Annual Objectives

- To protect and improve ground water quality.
- To protect ground water quality in areas where land occupiers rely on private wells for water supply, particularly in developing suburban and rural areas.
- To protect ground water that contributes critical base flows for streams, especially streams that support cold-water fish species.

B. Actions

- Provide technical, educational, and financial assistance to install best management practices that protect ground water quality.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 2 staff days

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

- Apply technical, educational, and financial assistance to install best management practices that protect natural and community resources.
- Utilize the tree and shrub sale and related technical assistance to support community resource restoration and protection projects.
- Work with North St. Louis SWCD to develop a Cooperative Weed Management Area, should requested funding become available.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 2 staff days

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

- Apply technical, educational, and financial assistance to install best management practices that minimize nonpoint source pollution from agricultural operations. This includes utilizing TSA #3 and NRCS engineering assistance. State cost-share and USDA cost-share programs will be utilized.
- Maintain agricultural best management practice revolving loan funds for animal waste practices and equipment.
- Lead the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program Local Work Group process to establish local priorities.
- Enter into Contribution Agreements with NRCS to complete technical work for the EQIP program.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 5 staff days

TSA #3 staff time will also be utilized

Wildlife Management

A. Annual Objectives

- To protect and enhance wildlife habitat.

B. Actions

- Continue to offer selections of trees and shrubs through the annual sale that will benefit wildlife. Continue to offer packets for specific wildlife habitat objectives.
- Apply technical, educational, and financial assistance for wildlife habitat creation. The SWCD will depend primarily on NRCS technical assistance and cost-share programs.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 2 staff days

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

- Maintain financial, personnel, and management policies and procedures that ensure efficient and effective SWCD operation.
- Carry out all administrative functions for TSA #3.
- Act as fiscal agent for the Regional Stormwater Protection Team
- Perform administrative, fiscal, and management functions for current watershed and other special projects.
- Complete plans and reports
- Provide training to ensure effective staff.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 150 staff days

IV. Cost-Share Program Requirements

A. High Priority Erosion Problems

High priority erosion problems include lakeshore, stream bank, and erosion in the watersheds of inland lakes, streams, and Lake Superior. Cost-share funds will be used to address problems in these areas. Outreach efforts will be utilized to identify high priority areas, and to find landowners interested in correcting these problems. The SWCD may utilize \$6,000 in FY2010 and \$11,000 in FY2009 Cost-Share funds to correct these problems. An unlimited funding amount is needed to address all of these high-priority erosion problems.

B. High Priority Water Quality Problems

High priority water quality problems include erosion leading to the degradation of DNR protected waters, St. Louis River, Lake Superior, and inland lakes. Practices will be installed in these areas based on identification by SWCD and other staff, and landowner interest. The SWCD may utilize \$6,000 in FY2010 and \$11,000 in FY2009 Cost-Share funds to correct these problems. An unlimited funding amount is needed to address all of these high-priority water quality problems.

V. Budget Requirements

2010 Budget

Revenues

Intergovernmental Revenues

County Allocation	\$60,000
NRBG WCA	\$10,237
State General Services	\$22,240
County WCA Service Contract	\$9,763
NRBG Water Plan	\$5,000
Miscellaneous	\$1,964
Subtotal	\$109,204

Intergovernmental Revenues - Pass through funds

State Cost-Share - carryover plus FY2010	\$35,352
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Charges for Services

Tree program sales	\$50,000
Other	\$19,150

Miscellaneous Revenue

Grant Revenue – Pass through

Grant Revenue – Administration

Total Revenues

\$380,368

Expenditures

SWCD Operations

Personnel Services	\$171,381
Other Operations Charges	\$39,323
Supplies	\$2,800
Equipment	\$2,000
Subtotal	\$215,504

Project Expenses

Tree Program Expenses	\$30,000
Cost-Share	\$35,352
Grant Project Expenses – Pass through	\$99,512
Subtotal	\$164,864

Total Expenditures **\$380,368**