



2012 Annual Plan
Approved January 18, 2012

I. Introduction

The purpose of this annual plan is to detail work items that will be completed in 2012. 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 and encourage practices that correct situations that are causing, or could cause, these waters to be impaired.

B. Actions

- Provide technical, educational, and financial assistance for land occupiers to install and use best management practices.
- Provide assistance for Lake Superior shoreline erosion problems.
- Review DNR water permits and provide input to help limit negative impacts.
- Implement the St. Louis County Water Management 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. This includes Total Maximum Daily Load projects when appropriate.
- Partner with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to complete Major Watershed Restoration and Protection Project activities for the St. Louis River and Lake Superior South Watersheds.
- Provide assistance to Community Action Duluth's Duluth Stream Corps by continuing to serve on the Habitat Action Team (HAT).
- Support the newly-formed St. Louis River National Estuarine Research Reserve in implementing activities that protect and restore the St. Louis River Estuary on the Minnesota side.
- Work on watershed protection and restoration projects in the four identified priority watersheds for 2012:

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 demonstrations
- Partner with MPCA to complete the TMDL Implementation Plan.

- 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.
- Plan and complete our Miller Creek Clean Water Fund project (channel restoration, riparian restoration and Stormwater BMP implementation).

Knife River

- Initiate best management practice installation efforts with project 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 Knife River.
- Work with partners to fulfill the *Knife River Implementation Plan for Turbidity Total Maximum Daily Load*

Amity Creek/Lester River

- Continue working on our GLRI-funded grant to improve water quality in Amity in cooperation with our grant 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.

Knowlton Creek

- 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 Knowlton Creek along with various project partners including Minnesota DNR Fisheries and Spirit Mountain Recreation Area Authority.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 250 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 other agencies with stormwater and erosion and sediment control policy development and training when appropriate.
- Remain a member of the Regional Stormwater Protection Team (RSPT) and provide technical assistance for implementing their educational programs. Continue to serve as their fiscal agent.
- 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:

- Complete administrative-type aspects of WCA through an agreement with St. Louis County, Proctor and Duluth.
- 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.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 200 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.
- Develop and maintain website and social networking to increase public awareness of SWCD Programs.
- Give presentations to schools and community groups about topics that are SWCD priorities as requested.
- Attend and provide information to the public about SWCD programs at annual regional events including the South St. Louis County Fair, Lake Superior Zoo's Earth Tracks and the Duluth Harvest Festival.
- Continue to communicate with other agencies to discuss district programs and services available.
- Promote, support and help coordinate Area 3's Envirothon Program.
- 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.
- Continue participating in annual regional education events including DNR's Forestry Field Days and Stowe Elementary Environmental Professionals Day

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 75 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 native trees for conservation and education uses and programs.
- Look for opportunities to initiate increased implementation of completed forest stewardship plans.
- Continue to be available as First Detectors for the Dept. of Ag's Emerald Ash Borer monitoring program and assist our partners with managing and preventing the spread of EAB in St. Louis County as requested.
- Continue to be a member of the Minnesota SWCD Forestry Association.

- Continue to seek funding and opportunities for expanding our White Pine Watershed Small Acreage Landowner Assistance Program to other parts of our service area.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 20 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 1 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 implement projects to support the St. Louis County Cooperative Weed Management Area.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 5 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 NRCS Local Work Group process to establish local priorities.
- Enter into Contribution Agreements with NRCS to complete technical work for the EQIP program when appropriate.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 2 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. 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 appropriate resources and time for staff and Supervisors to attend applicable training.

C. Staffing Needs

Approximately 100 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 \$9,255 in FY2012 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 \$9,255 in FY2012 in Cost-Share funds to correct these problems. An unlimited funding amount is needed to address all of these high-priority water quality problems.

V. 2012 Budget

SOUTH ST. LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

BUDGETARY STATEMENT
BUDGET
GENERAL FUND

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012

	<u>Original Budget</u>
Revenues	
Intergovernmental	
County	\$68,503
Local	\$20,000
Federal	\$500
State grant	<u>\$299,961</u>
Total intergovernmental	<u>\$388,964</u>
Charges for services	
Miscellaneous	
Interest earnings	\$1,000
Other	<u>\$4,400</u>
Total miscellaneous	<u>\$5,400</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$439,000</u>
 Expenditures	
District operations	
Personnel services	\$140,494
Other services and charges	\$36,187
Supplies	\$2,800
Capital outlay	<u>\$1,500</u>
Total district operations	<u>\$180,981</u>
Project expenditures	
District	\$29,211
State	<u>\$228,808</u>
Total project expenditures	<u>\$258,019</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$439,000</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under)	
Expenditures	\$0
Fund Balance - January 1	<u>\$0</u>
Fund Balance - December 31	<u><u>\$0</u></u>