



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minutes.

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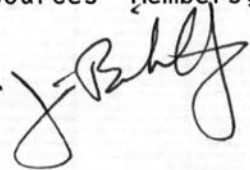
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April 17, 1989

TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources Members,
Staff, and Advisors

FROM: Jim Birkholz, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: April 26th BWSR Meeting

Attached you will find a list of preliminary agenda items and informational material for the April 26th Board meeting. As usual, the meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room A of the Department of Agriculture Building, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, Minnesota. Once again we will attempt to cover the agenda items and adjourn by 3:00 p.m. Also enclosed is an agenda item suggestion sheet to use for structuring the next BWSR meeting.

Following is a summary of preliminary agenda items:

- Sustainable Agriculture. As a continuation of a topic begun in February, there will be several reports on recent developments in the sustainable agriculture area. The end result of listening to these reports and overviews should be a determination by the Board of how to utilize sustainable agriculture concepts to achieve our stated mission.
- Feedlot/Animal Waste Management Issues. This will be a discussion between Board members and Pollution Control Agency staff and others on how to improve the effectiveness of cooperative efforts to deal with animal waste management. This agenda item is at the request of Dr. Bill Cofell who described at the March meeting several ongoing animal waste management issues in central Minnesota which need to get resolved.
- Comprehensive Local Water Planning Status Report. Doug Thomas will give an update on the plan preparation schedule for the 52 counties scheduled for plan preparation deadlines later this year. A picture of the workload facing the staff and the Board in reviewing these plans is beginning to emerge.

April 17, 1989

- Metropolitan Water Management Planning Program. Please refer to the attachments from Bruce Sandstrom which give an updated status report on the progress of review of Metropolitan Water Management Plans and an overview of the Gun Club Lake WMO Plan. If discussion at the April meeting indicates that the staff review of the Gun Club Lake WMO Plan is on track staff will be bringing that plan to the Board for approval in May.
- Study Area II. Greg Larson will update the Board on the status of the resolution which the Board adopted at its March meeting (please see attached resolution). Also, the plans have come together for the Lazurus Creek Flood Control Structure. A copy of the project agreement is included for your review prior to the Board meeting.

Please call myself or Chairman Ogaard if you have questions or comments about the agenda or have any additional agenda items. See you on the 26th!

JB:mja
Enc.
019/10

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUILDING
CONFERENCE ROOM A
90 WEST PLATO BOULEVARD
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
APRIL 26, 1989

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order
	Reports
	- Chairman, Don Ogaard
	- Executive Director, Jim Birkholz
	• Legislative Update
	- EQB/Water Resources Committee, Loni Kemp, Howard Peterson
	Sustainable Agriculture
	- Omaha Conference - Dick Ness
	- National Conference on Organic/Sustainable Agriculture - Loni Kemp
	- Land Stewardship Project Activities - Ron Kroese, Director
	- USDA, Agricultural Research Service - George Benoit
	- Discussion
	Feedlot/Animal Waste Management Issues - Bill Cofell
Noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Comprehensive Local Water Planning Status Report - Doug Thomas
	Metropolitan Water Management - Bruce Sandstrom
	- Plan status report
	- Overview of Gun Club Lake WMO plan
	Study Area II Update - Mel Sinn
	Study Area II Project, Lazurus Creek - Greg Larson
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn

COUNTY: LQP-YB Watershed Dist.

PROJECT: Lazurus Creek

CONTRACT NO: B.W.S.R. 104-18

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

PROJECT AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, made this 8th day of April, 1989 by and between the Lac qui Parle- Yellow Bank Watershed District called the Sponsor; and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, called the Board. For the purposes of this agreement the body known as the Area II Action Committee shall be considered to be a part of the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, The provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 40 and Minnesota Statutes Chapter 104.42 to 104.50 provide for a program of grants and aid to local government units for the construction of floodwater retention and retarding structures including land rights and;

WHEREAS, The same instrument charges the Board of Water and Soil Resources with the supervision of the grant-in-aid program and;

WHEREAS, The USDA, Soil Conservation Service is designing and will construct the flood control project known as the Lazurus Creek Reservoir under the PL-566 Small Watershed Protection Program and;

WHEREAS, Land rights for these projects are a local cost and;

WHEREAS, The body known as the Area II Action Committee has determined that this project sponsored by the Lac qui Parle- Yellow Bank Watershed District known as the Lazurus Creek Reservoir is listed in the Minnesota River Basin Report's upstream reservoir site inventory and qualifies in all other particulars for a state grant-in-aid under this program;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises set forth above, the Sponsor and the Board hereby agree as follows:

- A. It is agreed that the following project will be undertaken at an estimated \$60,000.00.

The Survey, appraisal, and purchase of approximately 200 acres of land in Section 9, T 114N, R 46W, in Yellow Medicine County. The lands to be purchased are described in Exhibit "A".

B. The Sponsor will:

1. Provide 25% of the cost of the land rights costs described in Section A. This cost to the Sponsor is estimated to be \$15,000.00.
2. Take adequate steps to obtain a good and, marketable title to the lands purchased under this agreement. This is to include, but not be limited to the purchase of title insurance.
3. Be responsible for the payment of all taxes and assessments levied against the property purchased under this agreement both now and in the future.
4. Hold any land acquired under this agreement fee simple and place or cause to be placed no encumbrance against the title thereto.
5. Arrange for the necessary land rights and flowage easements to permit the flooding of that portion of the normal pool located on land not purchased under this agreement when the boundaries of these lands are made available to the Sponsor.
6. Appoint a project manager, who shall have authority to act for the the Watershed Board and furnish the name to the Board's Project Representative.
7. Provide necessary facilities, clerical personnel and legal counsel for carrying out the purchase of the lands described in Section A.
8. Arrange for a legal survey to be made to:
 - (a) Determine the actual acreages of land involved in this purchase and,
 - (b) Permanently mark the corners of the property purchased with appropriate markers and,
 - (c) Record the ownership of such land with the County Recorder in the County where purchased.

The survey shall be done by a Land Surveyor Registered in the State of Minnesota.

9. Arrange for an appraisal of the land to be purchased by a Certified Appraiser to determine the fair value of the land before the purchase of the land and transmit a copy of the appraisal to the Board's Project Representative.

10. Take necessary action to defend any lawsuit in which the Board has an interest, brought by the landowners against the Sponsor resulting from this agreement. In connection with any such lawsuit:
 - (a) advise and consult with the Board in the preparation for and trial thereof,
 - (b) furnish the Board with copies of all pleadings, orders, and judgments filed therein,
 - (c) obtain the written concurrence of the Board's Director with respect to any stipulation or agreement to be entered into with the contractor,
 - (d) exercise the right of appeal if requested to do so by the Board. Further, permit the Board, at its option and expense, to provide such legal representation in any such lawsuit as the Board considers necessary for protection of its interests.
11. Make all records dealing with the purchase of the land available for review by the Board's Director. Retain such records for three (3) years from date of purchase of the land under this agreement and make them available for examination by authorized representatives of the state government on appropriate notice.
12. Not sell or otherwise dispose of any land purchased under this agreement without first obtaining the written consent of the Board's Executive Director.

C. The Board will:

1. Provide 75% of the cost of the project described in Section A. This cost to the Board is estimated to be \$45,000.00 (\$8,905.18 ,FY 89; \$36,094.82, FY 90;)
2. Provide the services of a Project Representative who shall prepare payment vouchers for the purchase of the land and submit them to the Sponsors and the Board. Make payment to the Sponsors, the Board's share of the cost of Board approved payment vouchers.
3. The furnishing of the grants by the Board as set out in C-1 is contingent upon the continuing availability of appropriations by the legislature from which payment may be made and shall not obligate the Board upon failure of the legislature to so appropriate.

D. It is mutually agreed that:

1. This agreement shall become null and void four years after the date the Board has executed this agreement in the event the required land purchase has not been made.

2. The Board's Director may make adjustments in the estimated cost to the Board set forth in section C for the land purchase costs. Such adjustments may increase or decrease the amount of funds which are related to differences between such estimated cost and the actual cost of the land due to changes in the amount of land to be purchased which is found necessary after the date of this agreement. No adjustment shall change the cost sharing assistance to be provided by the Board as set forth in C nor reduce funds below the amount required to carry out the Board's share of the contract.
3. Additional funds required as a result of a decision of the Project Representative, or a court judgment in favor of the land owner, will be provided in the same ratio as funds are contributed under the terms of the agreement.
4. No member of the Minnesota Legislature or commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.
5. It is agreed by and between the parties that in the event the Board is unable to furnish the grants as set out in C-1 of this Agreement because of the unavailability of continuing appropriations by the Minnesota Legislature then, and in that event, either party may terminate this Agreement upon the giving of thirty days written notice to the other party. In the event of such termination of contract, payment under the contract shall be made to justly compensate for services previously satisfactorily performed, same to be determined on a pro-rata basis.
6. The books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the Sponsor relevant to this contract shall be subject to examination by the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the legislative auditor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have espoused this agreement to be duly
executed intending to be bound thereby.

LAC QUI PARLE WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS

Authorized Signature
Arvin Verburg Contract Officer
Date
4-8-89

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL
RESOURCES

Authorized Signature

Date

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Authorized Signature

Date

COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

Authorized Signature

Date

COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE

Authorized Signature

Date

Greg



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April 6, 1989

To: Water Management Organizations
and
WMO Technical Advisors

From: Bruce Sandstrom, "509" Plan Review Coordinator
Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources

Bruce Sandstrom

Subject: Introduction, Status Report & Miscellaneous Items

On March 15, 1989 I was appointed as the coordinator of the "509" plan review process for the Board of Water & Soil Resources. I have about 20 years of natural resource management experience as an employee of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the last 15 years of which were with the DNR, Division of Waters. While with the DNR, DOW I gained first-hand experience with most of that agency's water management programs. I am certified as a Professional Hydrologist with the American Institute of Hydrology.

While I feel qualified to do the job, quite frankly I am overwhelmed with the backlog of "509" plans which are ready for BWSR final action. I hope that each of you recognize this problem and bear with me.

Currently there are 12 plans which are awaiting BWSR review. They are as follows:

Bassett Creek	Black Dog Lake	Central Ramsey
East Mississippi	Forest Lake	Gun Club Lake
Lower Mississippi	Prior L./ Spring L.	Rice Creek
Southwest Ramsey	Sunrise River	Vermillion River

As much as possible, we intend to review these plans based on a first come - first serve basis. There will be exceptions, however. For example, where there is a demonstrated ongoing public health, safety or welfare issue which hinges on the implementation of a WMO plan, priority will be given to that plan over a plan which came in first. If your WMO is in that situation I'd like to know about it. I can be reached at (612) 296-3767 or 297-4958.

For those WMO's which have had their plans reviewed and approved by BWSR, I would like to keep apprised of the progress of preparation of your final document or revisions thereof if BWSR approval was contingent upon implementing negotiated changes.

For those WMO's which are still in the plan development stage or have a plan under agency review, I'm sure you're concerned about how BWSR will review your plan. I've enclosed a one page overview of some of the major issues and procedures BWSR will be looking for in each plan. This will hopefully give you some guidance and expedite the review process as much as possible.

Encl

cc Agency Technical Representatives

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**Common Over-sights Of "509" Plans
and
Recommendations for Expediting BWSR "509" Plan Review**

As of March 15, 1989, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has completed the review and approval of eight (8) watershed plans pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 473. The experience gained to date has revealed a number common plan deficiencies that should be avoided. The purpose of this document is to point some of these out to those WMO's which have yet to receive BWSR's approval. Hopefully, this will **a)** help prevent any last minute surprises and **b)** speed up the usual negotiation process needed to enable the Board to approve the plan. Please note that these are not the only issues that have come up, just the most common.

1. Each plan must clearly show how the plan will be implemented.

M.S. 473 clearly states the intent of the law **"to protect, preserve and use natural surface and ground water storage and retention systems..."** The Board of Water & Soil Resources feels that a WMO plan doesn't fulfill this mandate unless it clearly requires member communities to adopt ordinances in order to regulate activities which affect surface water storage and quality. The law is meant to protect the water from man's activities, as well as to protect people from the impacts of flooding and polluted water. A WMO plan must provide specific directives and standards that each member community must comply with in order carry out the intent of the plan.

2. The plan must specify where the plan conflicts with existing local plans.

A number of metropolitan communities are already enforcing regulations which regulate erosion, sedimentation, shoreland and floodplain development, storm water treatment, water quality, etc. Several WMO's have successfully demonstrated what local controls are in place vs. what controls need to be adopted by creation of a spreadsheet or grid similar to the attached one taken from the Browns Creek WMO Plan. This approach gives a quick status report of current situation. Some communities have existing storm water studies, complete with 100 year flood elevation estimates as well as standards for the elevation of structures around storm water ponds. Where these situations exist, the plan should so note them.

3. The plan must include a complete inventory of both natural and manmade wetlands and which exist based upon best available data ... not just the DNR Protected waters inventory!

At the request of the WMO, BWSR will provide a mylar copy of the national wetlands inventory for your watershed.

4. BWSR will expect each WMO to provide us with written response to issues raised by state and local agencies.

The Minnesota Health Department, Department of Natural Resources, the Pollution Control Agency and the Metropolitan Council all review the "509" plans. Where significant issues have been raised in the past by these agencies, BWSR has been required to mediate the issues to resolve. Due to the current backlog of plans, in the future BWSR will be asking the WMO to provide us with the WMO's written responses to agency comments. We believe that this will expedite our review process immensely. The agencies have been requested to itemize their comments as much as possible so that issues can be more clearly addressed.

Attachment

By: Bruce Sandstrom,
"509" Water Plan Coordinator
4/6/89

LAND USE REGULATIONS REQUIRED TO PROTECT WATERS OF THE BROWNS CREEK WMO

APRIL 1987

	REQUIRED REGULATION COMMUNITY	BLUFFLAND AND/OR SHORELAND MANAGEMENT REGULATION	FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATION	RESTRICTIVE SOILS REGULATION	WETLAND PRESERVATION REGULATION	FOREST PROTECTION REGULATION	AGRICULTURAL AND/OR URBAN EROSION REGULATION	STORMWATER MANAGEMENT POLICY	ON-SITE SEPTIC SYSTEM REGULATION
1 COMMUNITY HAS EXISTING REGULATION WHICH IS ADEQUATE	BAYTOWN TOWNSHIP	NR	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
	GRANT TOWNSHIP	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
2 COMMUNITY DOES NOT HAVE REGULATION AND WILL BE REQUIRED TO ADOPT ONE	CITY OF HUGO	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
	CITY OF LAKE ELMO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
3 COMMUNITY DOES NOT REQUIRE SPECIFIC REGULATION	MAY TOWNSHIP	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
	CITY OF STILLWATER	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
	STILLWATER TOWNSHIP	NR	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
	WASHINGTON COUNTY	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y

FIGURE 12 LAND USE REGULATIONS

Overview of the Gun Club Lake Watershed Management Organization For the April 26, 1989 Board Meeting

Introduction

The Gun Club Lake WMO was created by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) on June 1, 1985. The Cities of Eagan, Inver Grove Heights and Mendota Heights are the member parties to the JPA. The land area of the WMO is 33.2 square miles, of which 29.6 square miles (89 percent) is in the City of Eagan. Inver Grove Heights and Mendota Heights comprise 1.47 and 2.17 square miles respectively.

Watershed Description

The GCLWMO is entirely within a deposit of the St. Croix Moraine directly abutting and overlooking the Minnesota River Valley. Topography ranges from steep to rolling hills intermixed with deep depressions containing peat or small lakes and wetlands. About one-half of the surficial topography is considered to be outwash with the remainder to be glacial till.

There are 96 protected waters or wetlands in the watershed. The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District has identified a total of 374 natural wetlands which are 0.5 acre or larger the City of Eagan, alone. This inventory was done as part of a water quality study the District is currently doing for the City of Eagan. There are no streams classified as protected waters in the watershed.

The watershed is one of the most rapidly growing areas in the state. The water management problems are primarily poor or deteriorating water quality as well as some minor flooding due to the land-locked nature of the basins which do not yet have a storm sewer outlet.

Staff Review

Currently the staff have met on two occasions with the WMO Engineer and on April 17, 1989 toured the WMO with the WMO Chairman. While the policies, objectives and content of the plan are very good, the plan lacks clear guidance for the member communities and a schedule for achieving compliance. Due to the unique nature of the physical watershed and the JPA, no capital improvements are proposed. Eagan, however, is aggressively working on a water quality management plan which is beyond the efforts of most metropolitan communities. Further planned negotiations will hopefully be able to resolve most of the plan's deficiencies before the Board's initial review on April 26, 1989. Agency staff are planning to attend the 4/26/89 Board meeting and provide comment.

By: BDS, 4/14/89

FEEDLOTS IN CENTRAL MINNESOTA

by William Cofell

This paper is an attempt to assemble and examine information of the ten counties of concern in this study. I would suggest that other areas where livestock are confined may have similar problems and needs. I hope we can be concerned about the whole state in terms of improving feedlots and reducing this pollution hazard.

In 1987 the inventory of all cattle, cattle on feed, January 1, 1987 for the Central Minnesota counties of Benton, Douglas, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd and Wright was 645,000 animals. In 1988, it was 519,900 a drop of 125,500. These figures give an idea of the size of the livestock industry in the area. In 1987 this represents 20% of beef and dairy industry in the state. There may be several reasons for the drop in number. It was the period of the dairy buyout program and it was a period of drought and restriction in feed production. During these years the counties accounted for 30% of the dairy animals in the State of Minnesota.

In 1986 the ten county area sales were \$798,021,000 or 22% of the livestock and livestock products marketed in Minnesota. The crop products marketed from the same area accounted for about 6% of the state crop market or a total market value of \$179,512,000. The ten county area accounts for 14% of the total agricultural income for the state from crops, cattle, hogs and poultry and that figure is \$1,048,210,000. It seems to me this is an economic industry that is worth protecting in an environment that deserves protection.

The sizeable livestock industry and modern practices using feedlots are making serious impacts on the environment. If tests are accurate one of those impacts is upon surface and ground water.

HISTORY: The area began settlement in the 1850's. During the period of settlement farmsites on lakes and along streams were considered most desirable. Farmers much like those who platted the cities gave importance to the availability of water. Many of the existing farmsites are still in the same location.

From the 1850's until 1900 the area raised both grain and livestock in 1900 for instance Stearns was still a large wheat raising county. In general after 1890 with a few

variations the area developed into a livestock, dairy and hog region.

In the rural areas there was probably some pollution because of the locations of homes and farms. The livestock industry of the historical past was on a smaller scale and with different practice. Farms had four or five horses. There might be 10 to 30 milk cows, depending upon the number of hands present to do the milking. There might be twenty or thirty hogs, a few sheep, a hundred chickens and some turkeys ducks and geese. Most of these animals were ranged on open pasture or grassed pens. In this central Minnesota area farmers valued and used their manure and diligently spread it on to the land. These were pretty well the farm practices until the 2nd World War and somewhat after. I did a family life study of St. Martin's Community in 1950 and the area was highly diversified in farming operations but livestock and milk, cream, butter production was the mainstay of the community, and of communities surrounding.

With the advent of machinery, particularly electricity and milking machines and other equipment farmers were able and in most cases found it desirable to expand their livestock operations. This was one segment of rational decisions to farming operations. In other areas such as North Dakota some farmers sold out to neighbors and greatly expanded their acreage and changed their mode of operation in crop farming. In Central Minnesota the acreage enlargement did not happen to such a degree. I know the acreage of farms in the area has not greatly increased. The increase occurred in livestock, more intensive use of land and development of confined and open feedlot type of operations. Along with the intensive livestock there was also an increase in manures and as a result the consequent increased likelihood and dangers of pollution.

Since 1950 most of the dairy farms have moved to Grade A production. Almost all livestock farmers confine their animals in barns or relatively small lots. The recent farm depression has caused economic distress in the area and farmers do not have the extra capital required to put in structures, pits and equipment to initiate practices that would assist in the abatement of pollution.

Today, the same land space contains from 40 to 120 milk cows and another 50-150 head of replacement and market animals. Altogether there may be 200 to 300 animals in an area that once supported 30 or 40 cattle and some other livestock and poultry in a diversified farming operation.

This brief history enables us to come up to date. In 1979 the Water Quality Management Planning Survey found in eight of the ten counties in the area*, 1908 feedlots potentially a hazard to shoreland standards. (* Meeker and Sherburne

were not included in the survey.) From: (Feedlots, Package I, Water Quality Management Planning, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Division of Water Quality, Planning Section, May 1979.)

This April 1989, I sent a questionnaire to the Conservationist of the ten county area as of April 12 the seven returns contain some very interesting information.

The figures I received indicate that there are between 1070 to 1220 feedlots that have the potential of polluting surface water. Still a sizeable number to be concerned about. The question relating to number of feedlots on sensitive soils that could endanger groundwater indicated there were between 1421 to 1446 such lots. As of this date there were 43 under citation or threat of it. One hundred seventy nine farm operators have requested cost share or technical assistance.

There may have been a change in criteria or a greater awareness of feedlot pollution but the preceding figures suggest a serious problem in the area. Recently I heard a description of overflowing feedlots which suggests to me that some are not of the proper size or were not properly engineered or lined. In this case if feedlot manure handling facility is to function there appears to be a need of redesign and reconstruction. There also appears to be need of education in storage pit management and disposal practices.

It also appears from remarks in the questionnaire and from other sources, the need for education regarding purpose of manure handling facilities. In addition there is apparently a need for follow-up inspection and supervision of use.

I also asked for opinions of Best Management Practice regarding disposal of feedlot animal wastes. All the answers were similar. "Land applications of waste during time of year when soil is not frozen and material can either be injected or incorporated within 6 hours of application. Application rates to be based on soil tests and the potential of soil and/or of specific crops to utilize the nutrients in the manure to produce a crop." Also emphasized were soil testing, filter strips, clean water diversion and importance of a waste management plan.

The value of the questionnaires is that the persons answering provided further ideas about the local problems and provide additional information for consideration of solutions.

1. High cost of manure handling equipment, should be part of cost share.
2. Feedlot located next to streams, lakes, ditches wetlands

3. Feedlots on highly permeable soils
4. High corrective costs for two previous items.
5. Improper application of manure in high water tables.
6. Need for research on soil response to installations.
7. Abandoned storage facilities creating problems.
8. Well designed, proper installation, proper maintenance of facilities, proper incorporation.
9. Large Poultry lots with nitrate pollution of aquifers and wells.
10. Research on all aspects of feedlot usage from design to incorporation of manure.
11. Failure of storage pit owners to remove contents on schedule.
12. Buyout of feedlot operators in some shoreland situations.

In the Sauk Lake Watershed "There are approximately 80 feedlots and barnyards which contribute runoff to streams in the watershed." (From Engineer Report for Lake Treatment, Excerpt for Corp of Engineers, Sauk Lake Project Report, March 22, 1989.) These contribute to Sauk Lake via creek, river or drainage ditch and some nutrients also continue through the lake and down the Sauk River.

It is estimated that the funds needed to take care of 40 feedlots would be about \$605,000 in cost share. The cost information in this report includes only what needs to be done above Sauk Lake and only in regard to feedlots.

The North Fork Crow River Watershed district has requested a technical assistance training program to inventory all feed lots in the district. One of the managers mentioned a feedlot problem in the river and lake region of the North Fork.

I think there are several reasons that work has not progressed as rapidly as it might in the area. The future of agriculture and particularly small farm agriculture has been clouded by the economic crisis over the last few years. Farmers themselves if they are near the end of their careers in agriculture are reluctant to make improvements in livestock enterprise. Some land owners anticipate the sale of their land and some of these improvements do not add to sale value unless the buyer intends to continue a livestock operation and has the capability to manage this complex disposal system. The tendency is to leave things as they are and hope they do not get cited. Other farmers do not have investment capital for installation of manure pits and very little else.

Going out of livestock will also leave some problems and create others. One cited above the problem of abandoned feedlot manure pits which when filled with water become a stagnating mess.

During the 1986-87 seasons the alfalfa acreage in the area declined by 48,000 acres. Very likely meaning that land was plowed up and seeded to grain crops or row crops. In my own township, I saw a farm abandoned and 100 acres of beautiful soil retaining alfalfa plowed up and seeded to up-down hill corn that after a heavy rain left gullies in the field and sediment plumes in roadside ditches.

The impact of a large livestock reduction in the area would be socially, economically and environmentally undesirable. The livestock farming operations are costly as far as the environment and if it is desirable to reduce pollution the change to other kinds of agriculture would mean greater use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides in crop industry. If the change means less acreage in small grain crop and alfalfa and more acreage of row crops it could also mean greater soil loss and, sedimentation, with more nutrients and chemicals entering surface water.

Feedlots are a source of contention between neighbors and others in the area. Sometimes these are due to strife between neighbors and feedlots provide the spark that releases the emotions. We have at least one or two of these in the area.

Another problem frequently mentioned is when a farmer attempts to use agency personnel to achieve his own ends. I think that standards of some sort that all agencies agree on would be very desirable in dealing with polluting feedlots. I think every agency member with a local unit or state agency will do what they can to avoid hostility and no one wants to put farmers out of business in dealing with pollution. I think it would be easier if there is a general agreement on practices and recommendations and agreement in regard to procedures of communicating information to land owners.

It seems to me the situation justifies an extensive educational campaign. Education is needed on the danger of feedlots to surface and underground waters, and livestock operations depend upon safe water. The people need to know the types of practices and structures that reduce polluting runoff. The methods of incorporating feedlot wastes into the soil is necessary. Resolution of many problems by the kinds of financial assistance available and incentives for using financial cost share.

Finally there is need for sources of funds to cost share to reduce the present pollution hazards existing in the area. We should examine the need for cost share funds, low interest loans or a combination of these. What about funds for buyout of feedlots in areas where corrections will be very expensive. The need for continued research and monitoring seem to be necessary with the educational process ready to put findings to use

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUILDING
CONFERENCE ROOM A
90 WEST PLATO BOULEVARD
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
APRIL 26, 1989

AGENDA

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | 1. Call to Order |
| | 2. Adopt Agenda |
| | 3. Approve Minutes of March 22, 1989 |
| | 4. Reports |
| | - Chairman, Donald Ogaard |
| | - Executive Director, Jim Birkholz |
| | - Legislative Update |
| | - EQB/Water Resources Committee - Loni Kemp, Howard Peterson |
| | - KTCA Award Presentation - Dr. Bill Cofell |
| 10:00 a.m. | 5. Sustainable Agriculture |
| | - Omaha Conference - Dick Ness |
| | - National Conference on Organic/Sustainable Agriculture - Loni Kemp |
| | - Land Stewardship Project Activities - Ron Kroese, Director |
| | - USDA, Agricultural Research Service - George Benoit |
| | - Discussion |
| 11:00 a.m. | 6. Feedlot/Animal Waste Management Issues - Dr. Bill Cofell |
| | 7. Advisor Comments |
| Noon | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | 8. RIM Reserve Program - Request for Land Exchange - Wayne Edgerton |
| | 9. Comprehensive Local Water Planning Status Report - Doug Thomas |
| | 10. Metropolitan Water Management - Bruce Sandstrom |
| | - Plan Status Report |
| | - Overview of Gun Club Lake WMO Plan |
| | 11. Study Area II Update - Donald Ogaard, Mel Sinn |
| | 12. Study Area II Project, Lazurus Creek - Greg Larson |
| 3:00 p.m. | Adjourn |

MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 1989
OF THE
BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Appointed Members in Attendance

Donald Ogaard
John Williamson
John Boulton
Don Warner
Loni Kemp
Eugene Kalmes
John Brooks, Jr.
Howard Peterson
William Cofell
Jack Graba
Doug Bade
Lowell Moen
Natalie Haas-Steffen

Appointed Members Absent

Ken Schellack
James Hoese
Loren Harste

Others in Attendance

Al Dornfeld, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Dwain Otte and Bob Pigeon, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water
Conservation Districts
Keith Grow, Minnesota Association of Conservation District
Employees
Franklin Denn, Minnesota Association of Townships
Jon DeGroot, Soil Conservation Service
Sarah Tufford, Department of Natural Resources
Dr. Valentine O'Malley, Department of Health
Nels Nelson, Baar Engineering
George Foster, University of Minnesota/Extension Service
Joe Fitzgerald, Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District
Russ Felt and Kim Brynildson, Pollution Control Agency
Ron Kroese, Land Stewardship Project
Brian Christenson and Tom Colbert, Gun Club Lake WMO

Staff in Attendance

Jim Birkholz
Pat Bloomgren
Greg Larson
Wayne Edgerton
Bruce Sandstrom
Dick Ness
Denice DeFrates
Doug Thomas
Mary Jo Anderson

Meeting Called to Order - Chairman Ogaard called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in Conference Room A of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Building, 90 W. Plato Boulevard, St. Paul, Minnesota.

**
89-24 Adopt Agenda - Moved by Graba, seconded by Warner, to adopt the agenda as presented. Affirmative: Ogaard, Williamson, Boulton, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Moen, Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Graba, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

**
89-25 Approval of Minutes of March 22, 1989 - Doug Bade stated that on page 5, item 89-18, his name should be in the affirmative rather than in opposition of the motion. Howard Peterson stated that also on page 5, item 89-18, his name should be in the opposition rather than in the affirmative. Moved by Bade, seconded by Peterson, to approve the minutes of March 22, 1989, as corrected. Affirmative: Ogaard, Williamson, Boulton, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Moen, Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Graba, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Ogaard reported that approximately 175 people were in attendance at the Water Day at the Capitol on March 29th. He heard many good comments from various people that participated. He commended Jim Birkholz and Pat Bloomgren for the excellent job they did in putting together the Water Day at the Capitol. Chairman Ogaard updated the Board on the Coon Creek Watershed District legislation. Chairman Ogaard met with the drainage engineers in Study Area II. He has been invited back for a meeting on July 10 to discuss some of the concerns of water retention in the area. He reported that the Study Area II representatives did adopt the resolution that the BWSR adopted at the March 22 meeting. Chairman Ogaard testified at a congressional hearing in St. Cloud regarding wetlands and drainage.

Chairman Ogaard reported on the flood in the Red River Valley. Erosion from the flood has caused ~~\$780,000~~ in damages in the Wild Rice Watershed District. They are seeking a disaster declaration for the area. He explained how the flooding occurred, with runoff from the beach ridges to the east entering the flatter terrain of the valley. Ditch channels were plugged with ice and snow and ice jams occurred in the river. There was much erosion in the channels. The Ada area received 96 inches of snowfall this season. ~~It is a~~ tremendous loss in the Wahpeton and Breckenridge area. An estimated ~~\$1,263,000~~ of damage. *was incurred also.*

Chairman Ogaard reported that he and Jim Birkholz met with Commissioner Nichols yesterday regarding administrative services. Commissioner Nichols told them that effective July 1, the Department of Agriculture will be charging the Board for the use of all services, which will cost \$60,000 - \$80,000 annually. This is a very serious issue as the Board has not received an

allocation to cover these costs. Discussions with the Department of Agriculture will continue.

Natalie Haas-Steffen reported that she and a group of over 200 volunteers did clean up 26 miles of the Rum River. They picked up 3 1/2 tons of debris from the river banks. 300 pounds of seed was donated, and also trees. The Governor awarded Natalie with a plaque for organizing the clean-up project. She stated that certificates were sent out to all of those who made donations and volunteered, recognizing their worthwhile efforts. Natalie stated that she plans to continue the clean-up project in other areas.

Executive Director's Report - Jim Birkholz reported that the west central office in Staples has consolidated with the new office in Brainerd. Hal Anderson and Dan Steward will be sharing an office and secretarial services. The office is located at 503 Washington Street, Brainerd, 56401, the phone number is 218-828-2604. He noted that several state agencies also have offices in Brainerd.

Jim reported on reclassification of the board representative position. Also, an inequity proposal has been sent to the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) bargaining unit by persons in the board representative classification. Staff has been working with the Department of Employee Relations to reclassify the position. Pat Bloomgren reported that the board representative responsibilities have increased drastically since the position of Soil Conservation Representative was created in 1959. The compensation level has not been adjusted since 1976. A resolution regarding the reclassification and supporting the inequity proposal was distributed to the Board for review and action. Discussion followed. Bill Cofell stated that he is very impressed with the board representatives knowledge and contributions to the Board. He's very proud to have them representing the Board and is in support of this resolution. Natalie Haas-Steffen felt that the MAPE bargaining unit should be working on this rather than the Board. She doesn't feel that the Board should be involved with the inequity adjustment. She would like to see the Soil Conservation Representative position description and have the resolution rewritten. Moved by Haas-Steffen, seconded by Graba, to table this matter until just before or after the lunch recess when the Board has a chance to review the position description and the resolution. Affirmative: Ogaard, Williamson, Boulton, Warner, Kalms, Bade, Moen, Haas-Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Graba, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

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89-26

Jim Birkholz asked Board members to submit their expense claims after each meeting to assist in meeting spending targets for closing out the Board's budget for the fiscal year. Jim reported that the cut-off date for submitting expense claims for FY89 is June 30.

Jim gave an overview of the Board's FY90-91 biennial budget request status, including House and Senate reductions to the Governor's recommendations for the Board's information.

Jim updated the Board on the following legislative issues: comprehensive water planning; urban drought; tree replanting; metro water management task force; wetlands protection; recodification of water law; and the optional levy to fund SWCDs. He stated that both the House and Senate are cautious this year about raising taxes.

EOB/Water Resources Committee Report - Howard Peterson sat in on the meeting for Loni Kemp. He reported that it was a short meeting, due to legislative issues at the Capitol lasting only an hour.

Howard Peterson reported that he spent a week in New York and they are now in a drought cycle. He also reported that he visited the Department of Natural Resources Fish Hatchery in Lanesboro, in southeastern Minnesota, and was pleased with the wonderful treatment by DNR staff. He commended the Department of Natural Resources for this. Sarah Tufford responded that Commissioner Joe Alexander has made it a point to train staff in public relations and she was pleased that it has made a difference.

Loni Kemp reported on the Groundwater Bill. The senate and house bills are somewhat different. Senator Charlie Berg feels that this bill is too hard on farmers, and it has been modified in the Senate. Prevention as a focus of the bill has been softened. In the Senate, the education component has been eliminated and the fees for water wells have been cut. She stated that liability for ag chemicals is a concern.

Bill Cofell reported that he, Jim Birkholz and Denice DeFrates presented Cindy Browne, Program Director at KTCA Channel 2, with an award yesterday, commending them for the natural resources and environmental education efforts being shown on their station. He stated that this was a very successful effort and felt that the Board should recognize others as well.

Bill Cofell attended the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development committee hearing on the comprehensive groundwater hearing and noted that Jim Birkholz and Pat Bloomgren also attended this hearing which lasted until 2:00 a.m.

Sustainable Agriculture

- Omaha Conference - Dick Ness reported on the sustainable agriculture conference he attended in Omaha, Nebraska on March 8-10, 1989. He distributed a written report for the Board's information. He stated that it was a very interesting and informative conference. He summarized main points of the

conference: they stressed getting farmers involved in a soil conservation program; there is a need for the Extension Service to assist in promoting sustainable agriculture; leadership is needed; the thrust is to use less chemicals. Dick reported that he was pleasantly surprised to learn so much about the Minnesota Department of Agriculture accomplishments in sustainable agriculture at the conference.

- National Conference on Organic/Sustainable Agriculture - Loni Kemp reported that she attended the national conference in Washington in mid-March. She reported that the Department of Agriculture in Minnesota, Texas, Vermont, and North Dakota were sponsors of the conference. Minnesota has a higher profile on organic/sustainable agriculture out of state than it does here in Minnesota. She stated that Minnesota has a program that will certify organic growers. The focus of the conference was on reducing chemical use and bringing both chemical and organic groups together. Senator Patrick Lahey was the keynote speaker at the conference. Barry Commoner made a presentation on pollution. His point was that rather than pollution levels decreasing, they have been staying steadily the same. Jim Hightower, Commissioner from Texas, focused on the need for state, local and private initiatives. Loni expressed that the conference was very upbeat and exciting. Prior to this conference, Loni attended a meeting in Washington of the Sustainable Agriculture Working Group to promote sustainable agriculture. The work group was very well received by House and Senate staff. She stated that conservation, groundwater, and sustainable agriculture may be part of the 1990 Farm Bill. They are supporting conservation compliance the way the 1985 Farm Bill was supported. Loni is working on the groundwater/well testing proposal which will soon be introduced by Senator Fowler. Bob Pigeon stated that flexibility in the farm program is needed, regarding crop rotation.

- Land Stewardship Project Activities - Ron Kroese, Director, reported that the Land Stewardship Project is a non-profit organization. They now have regional offices in Lewiston and Montevideo. They sponsor many workshops in the winter and farm days in the summertime to demonstrate sustainable farming techniques. Resources such as videos, pamphlets, articles, etc., are available from the Land Stewardship Project. They are presently demonstrating crop rotation systems in Washington County at the Wilder Forest Farm showing sustainable agriculture and why people should be involved in it. Mr. Kroese distributed a brochure on "A Song For the Earth", which is an environmental puppet show for children, written by the author of "Planting in the Dust", a one-act play. Mr. Kroese stated that attitude is what needs to be addressed. Chairman Ogaard stated that land ownership makes a difference in the transition to sustainable agriculture.

- USDA, Agricultural Research Service - George Benoit gave a slide presentation on "Minnesota's Contributions to Erosion Prevention and Prediction Research" for the Board's information.

George Foster, University of Minnesota/Extension Service, was introduced. Mr. Foster is replacing Dr. Bill Larson.

Chairman Ogaard stated that he will be at a Senate confirmation hearing at the Capitol this afternoon regarding his position as Chairman.

Chairman Ogaard adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12:10 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

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89-27

Moved by Natalie Haas-Steffen, seconded by Warner, that rather than a resolution regarding the Soil Conservation Representative position, Chairman Ogaard write a letter of concern that Soil Conservation Representative position be revised because this position has been expanded and now encompasses new duties. It should further state that there is no provision for a career ladder and the Board supports the review for reclassification of the position and anticipates an outcome that would keep the Board Representative position compatible with other comparable state positions. Affirmative: Williamson, Boulton, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Moen, Haas-Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Graba, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Feedlot/Animal Waste Management Issues - Jim Birkholz introduced Russ Felt and Kim Brynildson from the Pollution Control Agency who work with the Animal Feedlot Program. Bill Cofell stated that more education is needed; if possible a task force to accelerate efforts. Eugene Kalmes commended Bill Cofell on the article he wrote on feedlots; he stated that this would be good with the sustainable agriculture systems. Cofell stated that manure is a resource that needs to be properly managed. More emphasis on education is needed to accomplish this. Russ Felt stated that MPCA defines a feedlot as a confined feeding area for ten or more animal units. PCA is encouraging counties to assume responsibilities for the state feedlot program. 23 counties now are involved, no funding is available to counties on this. There are only two staff, at PCA working with 80,000 feedlots in Minnesota. PCA has recently published a handbook on feedlots. Joe Fitzgerald, Stearns SWCD, stated that an inconsistency exists between the PCA rules, and SCS Technical Guide standards. A good example is that PCA rules allow the winter spreading of manure and SCS standards adopted by the SWCD do not. He stated that PCA has developed a healthy working relationship with the people in his county. Kim Brynildson stated that a Feedlot Advisory Committee is now being formed to assist in evaluating the feedlot program. Bill Cofell will be an advisory committee member and Brian Dwight, Marshall Board Representative, will provide staff assistance.

Natalie Haas-Steffen left the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Don Ogaard returned to the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Advisor Comments

- Dwain Otte, MASWCD, reported that he went to Washington, D.C. and had very successful meetings with Bruce Vento, Dave Durenberger, and Tim Penny. The MASWCD Annual Convention will be held December 3-5, 1989 in Rochester. The NACD National Leadership Conference will be held August 23-25, 1989 at the Radisson Hotel in St. Paul.

- Keith Grove, MACDE, reported on activities of the Association of Conservation District Employees as well as 110B water planning activities in Wadena SWCD.

- Franklin Denn, MAT, reported that the Township Officer short courses which included topics on water planning and solid waste have been completed.

- Jon DeGroot, SCS, reported that John Edwards has taken the Deputy State Conservationist position in Michigan.

- Al Dornfeld, MAWD, distributed the annual report for the Valley Branch Watershed District for the Board's information. He invited the Board to attend MAWD's annual summer meeting and tour on June 23-24. Al commended Jim Birkholz on the excellent job he has been doing at the Capitol. Jim stated that he appreciates the good working relationship with the MAWD and the support they are giving the BWSR.

Metropolitan Water Management - Bruce Sandstrom gave an overview of the status of the Gun Club Lake Watershed Management Organization (GCLWMO) plan for the Board's information. Bruce introduced Tom Colbert, of the City of Eagan, Chairman of the GCLWMO. Mr. Colbert stated that he is looking for favorable future action from the Board on this plan. Brian Christenson, from E.A. Hickok, was introduced, he has been assisting the WMO in their plan. Loni Kemp complimented the plan's contents on water quality. Board action on this plan will take place at a future meeting.

John Brooks, Jr., invited the Board to attend the Area I meeting and tour in Bemidji on June 27. The agenda will be released shortly.

John Brooks, Jr., commented on the USDA brochure on "Wetlands which of these four areas is a wetland?" He referred to the picture shown in the lower right of a Type I wetland. He stated that Type I wetlands have been farmed this way for years, clarification is needed. Moved by Brooks, Jr., seconded by Moen, that staff is directed to bring suggested language for a policy statement on wetlands in the next two months. Affirmative: Ogaard, Williamson, Boulton, Warner, Kames, Bade, Moen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Graba,

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89-28

Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

RIM Reserve Program - Wayne Edgerton distributed a proposed policy statement to the Board for considering requests to modify RIM reserve easements. Policy is needed because the Board has received a request to modify an easement. Legally, easements can be modified and such modification can be done at no net cost to the RIM program. Discussion followed. Moved by Cofell, seconded by Warner, to adopt the following policy for considering requests to modify RIM reserve easements:

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89-29

All requests to modify RIM Reserve Easements must come before the Board of Water and Soil Resources for action. It is the policy of the Board of Water and Soil Resources to consider RIM Reserve easement modifications to include: 1) demonstrated hardship cases; or 2) health and safety situations; 3) greater advantage/benefit to the purpose and goals of the RIM program. The landowner request for easement modification must be accompanied by: 1) recommendation from the local SWCD Board of Supervisors; 2) letter of recommendation from DNR Area Wildlife Manager and other appropriate members of the local Screening Committee; 3) supporting documents including: a) aerial photo identifying requested modification; b) soils map (for land exchange); c) cropping history (for land exchange); and 4) other pertinent information concerning the request. The BWSR reserves the right to require special provisions as a condition of the modification. The special provision may include additional acres, additional conservation practices applied on the acres, or other provisions as determined necessary by the Board. This procedure will be formalized as a part of the RIM Reserve Program Rules during the next revision process.

Affirmative: Ogaard, Williamson, Boulton, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Moen, Peterson, Graba, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Wayne Edgerton explained to the Board a request for RIM field changes. Anna Wicklund and her daughter enrolled 20.6 acres of cropland into the RIM program in 1986. The easement on the land expires in February, 1997. Last year Anna's daughter requested to exchange 5.6 acres of the RIM field for other cropland on their farm so they could accommodate a new strawberry field and parking area on the RIM land. This request was denied. Subsequent legal review has determined that the easement can be modified. In this case the proposed new easement area has higher wildlife values than the existing easement. Moved by Warner, seconded by Graba, to approve the request of Anna Wicklund to exchange the 5.6 acre fields on the stipulations that all legislative and administrative requirements be met by the Wicklund's and the land exchange and the length of easement on the new RIM field be 10 years from today's date. Affirmative: Ogaard, Williamson, Boulton, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Moen, ~~Brooks, Jr.~~, Peterson, Graba, Kemp, and Cofell.

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89-30

Opposed: None. Carried.

Jim Birkholz introduced Doug Thomas, Hydrologist III, who was recently hired to work on the 110B program.

Comprehensive Local Water Planning Status Report - Doug Thomas reported that he is working with people statewide on the local water planning efforts. 56 counties are involved in water management planning, most of those 56 counties have plans that are at or approaching the preliminary review stages. There have been two meetings held to coordinate the state agency review process. Another technical meeting will be held in July. The Board's Dispute Resolution Committee will likely be involved in resolving conflicts between counties. Doug stated that staff is looking for direction from the Board on their level of involvement in plan review. Discussion followed. Plans will be reviewed by the staff and action taken by the Board. If a problem exists it will be brought before the Board.

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89-31

Study Area II Project, Lazurus Creek - Greg Larson reviewed the proposed project agreement with the Board. Discussion followed. Moved by Boulton, seconded by Graba, to table action on the proposed Lazurus Creek project agreement until the May meeting, at which time more information on the project will be available. Affirmative: Ogaard, Williamson, Boulton, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Moen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Graba, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

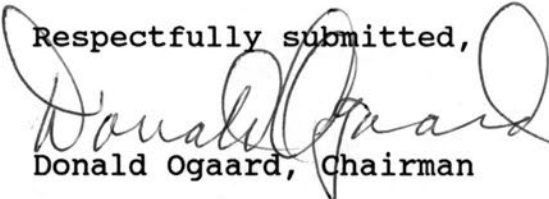
Jim Birkholz distributed a side-by-side comparison of the House and Senate versions of the "Big Water Bill" for the Board's information.

Study Area II Update - Mel Sinn reported that he attended a Study Area II meeting in Slayton on April 13. The Study Area II representatives endorsed the Board's wetlands and water management resolution after some discussion. They made a change on the last paragraph of the resolution - "are used" should be changed to "are considered". Staff was directed to continue working with Study Area II on this issue and to utilize the July meeting of the Study Area II Board for more communication including Chairman Ogaard

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89-32

Moved by Warner, seconded by Kalmes, to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 p.m. Affirmative: Ogaard, Williamson, Boulton, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Moen, ~~Brooks, Jr.~~, Peterson, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Donald Ogaard, Chairman

1990-91 BIENNIAL BUDGET
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

AGENCY : WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD
PROGRAM : WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD
BUDGET ACTIVITY : WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD

F.Y. 1990							F.Y. 1991			
		AGENCY REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S RECOMM.	AGENCY REQUEST			GOVERNOR'S RECOMM.	
EXPENDITURES:	FY 1988	FY 1989	BASE	CHANGE		TOTAL	BASE	CHANGE		TOTAL
DETAIL BY CATEGORY:										
STATE OPERATIONS:										
PERSONAL SERVICES	519	904	922	233	1,155	1,124	922	301	1,223	1,111
EXPENSES/CONTRACTUAL SRVCS	100	139	119	120	239	252	119	147	266	260
MISC OPERATING EXPENSES	134	132	124	47	171	158	124	61	185	159
SUPPLIES/MATERIALS/PARTS	22	18	18	10	28	42	18	13	31	42
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	16	29	14	24	38	25	14	30	44	29
STATE OPERATIONS	791	1,222	1,197	434	1,631	1,601	1,197	552	1,749	1,601
AIDS TO INDIVIDUALS	0	0	0	0	0	125	0	0	0	0
LOCAL ASSISTANCE	787	3,268	2,837	2,363	5,200	4,991	2,837	4,378	7,215	6,187
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,578	4,490	4,034	2,797	6,831	6,717	4,034	4,930	8,964	7,788
CHANGE REQUESTS: FUND										
B BOARD ADMINISTRATION	GEN			117		12		121		12
B FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT	GEN			51		0		51		0
B COST SHARE-ERSN & WATER WORKS	GEN			499		0		499		0
B GENERAL PURPOSE GRANTS TO DISTRICTS	GEN			455		164		455		164
B CONSERVATION TILLAGE	GEN			100		<152>		100		<152>
B SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL	GEN			341		0		341		0
B WATER PERMITS REVIEW GRANTS	GEN			88		<12>		88		<12>
B COMP LOCAL WATER PLANNING IMP.	GEN			100		50		100		50
B LOCAL WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT	GEN			535		1,354		2,160		2,075
B WATER QUALITY DEMONSTRATION FARMS	GEN			250		0		252		0
B LOCAL AG CHEMICALS USER INFO SVC	GEN			105		0		107		0
B WATER QUALITY MONITORING	GEN			91		0		91		0
B SEALING ABANDONED WELLS	GEN			65		65		565		565
B WELL REPLACEMENT	GEN			0		150		0		0
B RIM PROGRAM	GEN			0		902		0		902
B RIM AND THE MN ENR TRUST FUND ACCEL EXP	GEN			0		150		0		150

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
FY90-91 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST STATUS
HOUSE AND SENATE REDUCTIONS TO GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS
APRIL 26, 1989

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>HOUSE</u> (000'S)	<u>SENATE</u> (000'S)
Base (\$8,068)	-80	0
Local Wtr Res Prot/Mgnt (\$3,429)	0	-744
Well Sealing Cost Share (\$630)	-200	0
Well Replacement (\$150)	-150	-150
RIM Reserve Acceleration (+\$300)	-300	-100
Total reduction to request	-730	-994

RIM Bonding

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1.5 m

Report from Low Input Sustainable Agriculture (LISA) Conference in Omaha, NE, March 8-10, 1989.

The conference was very impressive -- with excellent speakers and much discussion.

Every speaker had a little different definition of Low Input Sustainable Agriculture -- referred to as "LISA." However, the simple basic definition of LISA, coming through the conference, was the use of less chemicals and fertilizers in the production of crops.

The first speaker was Robert Rodale, chairman of the Rodale Press, Inc., and chairman of the Rodale Institute, Emmaus, PA. He explained about using the internal and external resource systems in farming. The internal resources systems consist of the following:

- Using rotation farming which releases more minerals from the soil, such as the soil producing its own nitrogen.
- Using biological and mechanical weed and pest control.
- Having more management decisions made by the farmers.

The external resource system consists of the following:

- Depending on chemical farming almost completely and using the least amount of mechanical agriculture.
- Having the management decisions made by the chemical company suppliers.

Neil Schaller, Program Director, Low Input Sustainable Agriculture Research Program, Washington, D.C., talked about concerns for ground water, soil erosion, and wild life. He defined LISA as a possible "reaction" to present day agriculture. He also described LISA as "farming-in-partnership-with-nature" which may be a controversial issue. Other important points he spoke about included:

- Information and research on LISA is just beginning.
- LISA is profitable.
- Present farm programs are a hindrance to LISA because they subsidize 100% chemical farming.
- LISA should be subsidized.
- Universities and experiment stations need to do more research and education on LISA.
- We need a kinder and gentler agriculture.

Then Fee E. Busby, Director of U.S. Programs, Winrock Institute for Agricultural Development, Morrilton, Arkansas, challenged agencies for leadership. He said that opportunities for leadership are great--to work our way out of the present day agriculture into LISA. He emphasized:

- The hope that farmers are never told to plow from fence row to fence row again like they were in the 1970's.
- Agriculture needs to live in harmony with land, water, animals, birds and nature.

-- The challenge for leadership is vision -- in search of excellence.

The next part of our program was a panel discussion by four farmers who had changed from chemical farming to organic farming. The first farmer to talk said that LISA may mean different things to different people, but everyone understands it requires a higher input of management and labor. They stated that when they were farming with present day chemical farming, they found these problems:

- Their soil was becoming more and more compact.
- Their soil needed more fertilizer every year.
- They were constantly worried about using dangerous chemicals.

All four farmers stated that the first thing they did when they converted from conventional chemical farming to organic farming was -- to get their farms under a conservation plan. They believed that the need to stop erosion was the very first priority! They were all very pleased to find that during the drought of 1988 their crop yields were "better" than the conventional chemical farmers. (One of the farmers said that one of his neighbors had accused him of spreading fertilizer at night!)

One of the farmers was excited about how much more life his soil had -- with more aerobic bacteria in the first six inches of soil. He depends on earth worms for soil tilth -- with worms both loosening and fertilizing the soil. He also stated that organic matter is essential for the soil. A new alfalfa that puts as much as 90 pounds per acre of nitrogen in the soil was of great interest to him, also.

All four farmers strongly believed that the extension department should get more involved and should be used for educating people about LISA. One of the farmers stated that LISA "is forever" but probably will be decided politically.

Ralph E. Grossi, President, American Farmland Trust, Washington, D.C., explained the impediments to LISA. He believes that we need a big "push" on education and research because our universities are not responding to the demand for LISA. He made these important points:

- There is too much emphasis on yield - not necessarily net profit.
- There is not enough farmer participation in research.
- There are not enough farm demonstrations.
- Farmers do not understand LISA.
- Farmers do not realize the change in agriculture that is coming.
- Farmers believe we are talking about "only" organic farming (no chemicals at all), not understanding LISA (less chemicals and safer chemicals).
- Farm programs are geared to high production regardless of cost.
- The set aside acres are too inflexible.
- There is a need for an education program geared for farm managers and absentee landowners.
- There may be a social stigma on LISA.

- Many farmers have a fear of change or risk.

SUMMARY

The conference was geared to a whole new approach to agriculture. This new approach is called Low Input Sustainable Agriculture (LISA). It is here to stay -- and is considered to be "forever!" The public's concerns about food and water safety "pushed" this new approach to agriculture. LISA may mean pure organic farming to some people; or it may mean a combination of many things to others. Facts on organic farming include the following:

- Strictly speaking -- organic farming means that "no" chemicals -- "at all" -- are used on soil or crops.
- Rotation farming is used to release minerals, such as nitrogen, from the soil.
- Biological and mechanical methods are used for weed and pest control.
- Consumer concern about food safety "boosted" this new age of organic farming.
- This "unprecedented" interest of consumers has made organic farming a three-billion-dollar a year business -- and growing rapidly.
- Although most farmers are unlikely to go as far -- a few large food conglomerates and thousands of smaller farm operations are moving towards it.
- About one-third of the states (including Minnesota) have set up organic programs of their own:
 - Certifying organic growers.
 - Having on farm inspections.
 - Having spot checks by state inspectors of organic foods on store shelves.
 - Having special seals put on food stating that it was organically grown.
- Organic foods usually get 15 to 20% above the regular market price of present day chemically grown foods -- for the reason that they are -- poison free and contain more nutrients that were released in the soil.

However, LISA is "broader" than organic farming -- using lower levels of less threatening chemicals than what is used in present day chemical farming. Therefore, for most farmers, LISA will mean (to begin with, at least) the following:

- Stopping the use of many of the chemicals now being used, especially the most dangerous ones.
- Using fewer chemicals and using as safe chemicals as possible.
- Using lower amounts of chemicals (for example, spreading

fertilizers and other chemicals in narrow bands along crop rows instead of dousing entire fields with the chemicals).

- Using much more mechanical weed control than present day chemical farming.
- Incorporating biological weed and pest control where possible.
- The possibility of more and more organic farming in the future.

LISA will definitely take different management than present day chemical farming. The generation that is farming today knows "only" chemical farming. Therefore, it will take a lot of education in our schools, colleges, and adult classes to reach people. We need a great amount of research at our universities, and we need to get our extension departments more involved. Most speakers believed that our extension departments are not doing their job in education. It is important that we support our extension departments and have them educate the public -- as people have confidence in them and believe in them.

I understand that the agency which is the leader for LISA in Minnesota is the Department of Agriculture. However, it is the BWSR, the SWCD's and the Watershed Boards that have contact with the farmers "every day". This puts us in the "position" to get the LISA message to the farmers. We also need to get the message to the urban people to influence them to quit using chemicals on their lawns and gardens -- to help protect our water, soil, and natural resources.

The news media is discussing LISA in a very positive way -- which should help educate both the public and its leaders.

Washington, D.C., in the past, had been supporting federal agriculture research and price supports -- steering farmers to chemical, high yield farming. However, changes are in progress:

- Congress set up the LISA program.
- Bush's 1989 budget proposal acknowledges that chemical intensive farming has affected the nations water supply. His budget proposal contains \$47 million to "develop farming practices that avoid water quality degradation".
- The 1990 Farm Bill will be effected by extremely strong demands for change. The Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman, Patrick Leah, D-VT, called for "an end to the policy barriers that keep farmers from rotating crops and undertaking practices that are beneficial to themselves and to the environment".
- Rep. Tim Penny, D-MN, member of the House Agriculture Committee acknowledges that the current system is weighed against the practice of organic farming and plans to introduce legislature to allow more flexibility in the farm program.

I believe that the decision on whether or not we are going to start using less chemical farming is going to be made politically. Therefore, I believe that we need to become politically involved to get the farm program changed to benefit sustainable agriculture (LISA) -- rather than being geared for chemically produced high yields, not necessarily high profits.

It is interesting to note that farmers are saying that the definition of sustainable agriculture is "profitable agriculture". However, they are not using that definition for chemical farming!

The national shift from chemical farming to chemical free or reduced chemical agriculture can be explained by these forces "converging":

- The recent great fear of chemical residues in our foods and chemical runoff -- contaminating lakes, streams and ground water.
- An absolute demand by the consumer for safe food and water! Supermarkets across the country are being "besieged" by consumers asking about the safety of food.
- A tremendous renewed environmental concern.
- The new realization that farmers make the same profits -- and usually better profits -- with reduced chemical farming.

LISA is moving fast. If we are going to be leaders, we may have to run to catch up to the people we are leading.



Joan Lisi

Joan is a professional actress from St. Paul, Minnesota. She has toured throughout the United States in a variety of roles and is currently on tour with the **Land Stewardship Project's** powerful conservation drama, **Planting in the Dust**.

In addition to her skills as an actress and puppeteer, Ms. Lisi is also an accomplished singer and dancer.

Joan's great grandparents were homesteaders in northern Minnesota on farmland that is still in Joan's family today. It is this love for the land that Joan shares with us in **A Song for the Earth**.

About the Playwright...

Nancy Paddock is a Minnesota poet, playwright and author whose concern for the land is evidenced in her writings. She is the author of the **Land Stewardship Project's** play, **Planting in the Dust**, and together with her husband Joe co-authored **Soil and Survival**, published in 1986 by Sierra Books.

The Land Stewardship Project...

The **Land Stewardship Project** is a non-profit organization working to foster a national ethic of stewardship toward our farmlands. Our hope is that each farmer and landowner will strive to leave the land in a better condition than when they received it.

Resources

To assist your group or organization, the Land Stewardship Project offers the following resources:

- Books
- Plays
- Videos
- T-shirts
- Speakers Bureau
- Bumper Stickers
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Monthly Newspaper Column



14758 Ostlund Trail North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
(612) 433-2770



*An Environmental Puppet Show
For Children & Adults*

written by:
Nancy Paddock, author of
"Planting in the Dust"

produced by:
The Land Stewardship Project

Mother Earth is Sick...

...sick from Malldozers, Poisonous Waste and Agrisaurus Monsters that have polluted her air, water and soil. She is too sick to send spring.

Longing for their fields and flowers, the animals search for ways to heal Gaia, Mother Earth. They turn to the children in the audience to help them.



It is people who have paved over earth's fields and poisoned her water and it is only *people* who can save her!

Hope for the Future

Through the use of puppetry and drama, **A Song for the Earth** delivers a message of hope for our planet. Mother Earth will continue to take care of us...*if* we take care of her.

The one woman/one act play speaks to children about the future of their home, Mother Earth, and the importance of taking care of her and all her creatures.

The colorful puppets and props used in **A Song for the Earth** were designed by Jim Ouray and the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre.



Gaia, Woodchuck and Crow

From the Play

"Don't people know that whatever they do to the earth, they do to themselves?"

"I am Gaia. I am the earth...I am your only home...We need each other."

"Every animal sings lovesongs to Gaia with every sound it makes, every day of its life! It's only the people who forget her..."

From Teachers and Parents

"Extremely enlightening. Good program for all ages. It has made an impact on the students—they remembered a lot."

*Enrichment Coordinator/St. Therese School
Maureen Belanger*

"Absorbing. Great for children to see—it's what's happening to their world. Helps them to understand that we need to keep Mother Nature in working order."

*Farmer and mother of eleven
Lorraine Redig*

For all Ages

Now, more than ever, the play's timely message needs to be heard by both adults and children.

The play and post-play discussion can be effectively staged for a variety of audiences:

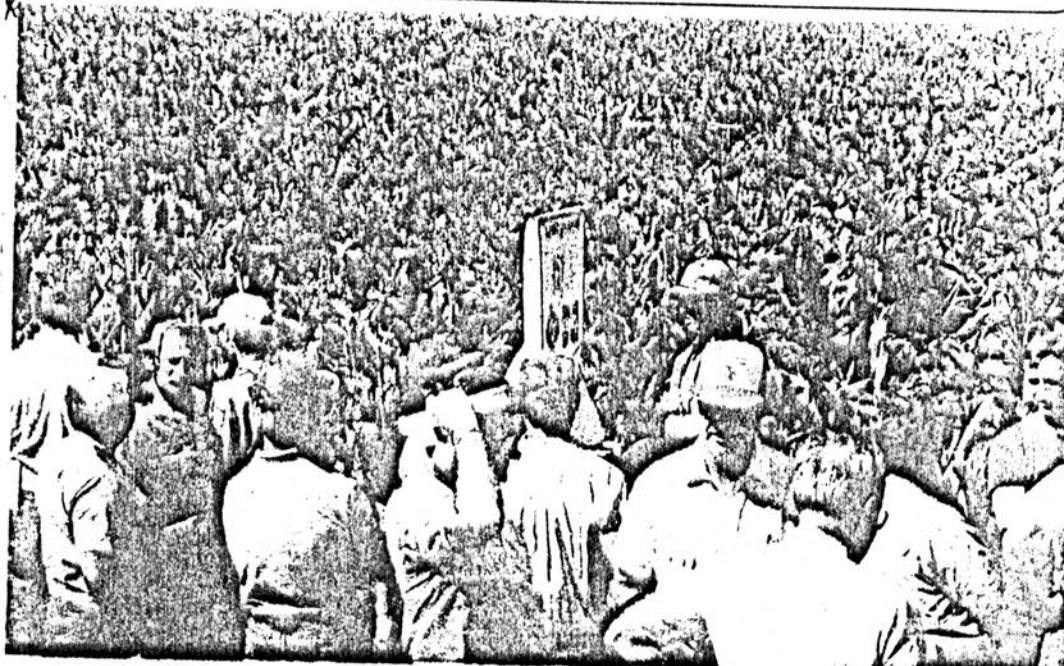
- Schools
- Churches
- Bible Camps
- Nature Camps
- Summer Camps
- Environmental Organizations
- Wildlife Preservation Groups
- Soil & Water Conservation Boards

Plant a Seed...

Insure that there will be a healthy earth for your children and grandchildren to enjoy. Use a performance of **A Song for the Earth** to instill in them a respect and reverence for our living home.

The **Land Stewardship Project** presents **A Song for the Earth** for a nominal fee. We will also provide your group or organization with a press kit, posters and a discussion guide to complete the program.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO
RESERVE A DATE, CALL
(612) 433-2770**



Agri News Photo by Mychal Wilmes

FARMERS LOOK AT a corn field on the Joe and Nancy Petit farm during a sustainable agriculture field day near Rochester, Minn. More than 100 participants toured three farms to see sustainable agricultural practices first-hand.

Sustainable ag tour is popular

Farmers switch, end up cutting chemical costs

By MYCHAL WILMES
Agri News Staff Writer

ROCHESTER, Minn. — Sustainable agriculture practices received a shot in the arm during a field day in southeastern Minnesota last week.

More than 100 people participated in the tour sponsored by the Land Stewardship Project and the Sustainable Farming Association of Southeast Minnesota.

The tour included a stop at Everett and Rosemary Koenig's farm.

The Koenigs' operation features contour-strip cropping, chisel plowing, and a four-year crop rotation. Corn is followed by one year of oats and two years of alfalfa.

The couple tries to control weeds through delayed planting and cultivation that includes dragging and rotary hoeing. Herbicides are only used as a rescue operation.

The Koenigs' 1988 weed control cost is approximately \$10.29 an acre, including equipment cost. In a conventional system, they might have spent approximately \$16.71 an acre.

Health concerns caused the family to move away from a conventional approach.

The Koenigs were forced to dig a new well five years ago because the old water supply had become contaminated with chemicals.

Everett also attended a meeting where an organic farm advocate spoke. He didn't think much about what the speaker had said at first. As time went on, Everett started agreeing with speaker's philosophy.

The health of the family's dairy cattle was a major concern. Veterinary bills were high and Everett thought his reliance on chemicals may have been partially to blame.

Since the move away from chemicals, Everett said herd health problems have been reduced significantly.

The health of the family's dairy cattle was a major concern. Veterinary bills were high and Everett thought his reliance on chemicals may have been partially to blame.

The Koenigs aren't afraid to experiment and take some chances.

This year, they are growing some Sindelar corn. The variety is bred under low-input conditions and is supposed to have a higher livestock feed value than other varieties.

Tests conducted in Iowa indicated protein was 2 percent higher in Sindelar than in standard corn. Sindelar also scored higher in trace elements.

Everett will test the grain to see if there is any difference between Sindelar and standard corn varieties this fall.

His skepticism is justified by experience. Some of the methods they've tried on the farm have worked out; others haven't. Some so-called "miracle products," he said, were miracles for their manufacturer because they were able to make money with them.

Everett offered some advice to farmers considering making a change in their farming practices.

"Get a chisel plow instead of a moldboard plow and stop using anhydrous ammonia," he said. "If you need nitrogen, there are a lot better sources than anhydrous. Get a good rotation and start cutting down on herbicides and eliminate their use after a couple of years."

Joe and Nancy Petit farm 300 acres and milk 35 to 40 cows year-round. The couple also uses a crop rotation and minimum tillage to conserve soil.

Terraces, ponds and grass waterways are also part of the

operation.

The Petits take nitrogen credits for alfalfa and manure; use split-nitrogen applications; control insects through crop rotation instead of insecticides; raise their own oat and soybean seed; and reduce weed control costs in corn through herbicide banding and cultivation.

The operation relies primarily on manure from its dairy herd and plow-down alfalfa to provide fertilizer for the corn.

The Petits' weed control cost in corn was \$16.36 an acre in 1987 and ranged from \$12.76 to \$16.17 an acre this year.

Joe's initial interest in sustainable options followed a 1975 visit to an organic farm. The organic operation looked so good the Petits followed suit.

Organic yields were good and the test weight of the grain increased, but the Petits also had weed problems.

During the same time, the Petits switched from a beef herd to a dairy operation.

Labor was in short supply, Joe said, and there were few markets for organically grown grains.

Those factors caused the Petits to drop the organic methods and move toward what Joe describes as "their middle-of-the-road approach."

The tour stopped at one of his soybean fields. The field wasn't weed free, and Joe admitted that it is sometimes difficult to have the weeds in a field located next to a well-traveled blacktop road.

But, he said, he can live with the weeds providing they don't cut into yields. The weeds were at the same height as the soybeans, a condition that Joe said reduced their ability to reduce yields. They were also whittened somewhat by an application of Command earlier in the growing season.

David Miller urged farmers to get out of their tractor cabs and look at their soils more closely than they have been.

He reached into a bucket and grabbed a handful of dirt to make a point.

"Look at this," Miller said. "This is life itself. That is where we come from and that is where we'll return."

David and his wife, Helen, farm with their son, Ed, and daughter in law, Susan.

The Millers have practiced soil and water conservation since the early 1950s. Contour strips, grass waterways and a legume-based crop rotation are pillars in their operation.

Following a picnic lunch at James Carley State Park, tour participants listed what they view as roadblocks that discourage farmers from moving toward sustainable agriculture.

Peer pressure was one of the main roadblocks mentioned. Others included weed problems, government programs that require farmers to keep large feed grain bases, and the pressure applied by chemical companies.

This year's drought conditions may also make more farmers skeptical of alternative practices.

Extension personnel and farmers have reported poorer crop performance on ridge-tilled and no-tilled fields throughout southern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa.

No one is sure why non-conventional tillage has hurt crop performance this year. Researchers maintain that more study is needed on the issue.

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THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

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IDEAS

Sustainable agriculture – where soil conservation and organic farming meet

By Dianne Mohvig

Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Paul Drenckhahn points beyond the buildings on his Minnesota dairy farm toward the valley below. He's seen lots of changes in that valley since he came to this farm nearly a half-century ago.

"There used to be a bridge down there," he says. "You could ride a horse underneath it, wearing any style hat you wanted, and not worry about it getting knocked off. But if that bridge were there today, it would be completely buried."

It would have been buried, Mr. Drenckhahn says, by soil that eroded from nearby slopes and hilltops and settled in the valley. He's seen firsthand what happens when people don't take care of the soil.

'We've got to leave something there for the next generation and the ones after that.' — Bob Goss

Today, Drenckhahn is a strong advocate for what is known as sustainable farming, a relatively new concept that blends soil conservation practices – which aren't so new, but have frequently been abandoned owing to economic pressures of recent years – and elements of organic farming.

As a result, Drenckhahn says, he has built up his soil quality over the years.

"This year was a real test," he says. "The longer you've been building up the humus in your soil, the more able you are to go through a drought with less stress. The soil has more tilth and can hold water better." He says he got corn yields last summer of 130 bushels

an acre, compared with neighbors' yields of 60 to 80 bushels an acre.

Sustainable farming differs from organic farming, notes Ron Kroese, director of the Land Stewardship Project in Stillwater, Minn., which assists farmers in making the transition to sustainable farming.

"Organic farming has an expectation of stringency that we're trying to get away from, because it turns off a lot of farmers," Mr. Kroese explains. "Sustainable farming implies more tolerance. For example, someone who's still using chemicals, but trying to cut back on them, qualifies as practicing sustainable farming."

Sustainable farming is based on working with nature, rather than combating it. It includes such practices as rotating crops and planting cover crops to replenish the soil, control weeds, and prevent erosion; applying animal manures on fields as fertilizer; and reducing – or even eliminating – the use of pesticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers.

Those methods are put into practice on the Land Stewardship Project's demonstration farm, an hour's drive from Minneapolis/St. Paul.

The farm, donated by the Wilder Foundation, "gives us some land underneath our rhetoric," says Kroese, as he waves an arm out toward 100 acres of field and pasture land.

"Our primary audience here is the urban person," Kroese explains. "With a diminishing farm population, it's clear that if we're going to get agricultural policies that make sense and are sensitive to the land and small farmers, we have to have an informed urban constituency to back us up."

While the project strives to educate Twin Cities urbanites through the demonstration farm, it also works directly with farmers 100 miles away in the small, rural community of Lev is-



Third-generation farmer Bob Goss is trying to reduce use of chemicals on his land

ton. The Stewardship Farming Program grew out of an earlier program that worked with farmers on soil conservation. "But what farmers started talking about besides soil erosion was their concern about ground water and their use of chemicals," says Doug Nopar of the Lewiston staff.

Mr. Nopar and other staff work closely with 25 area farm families who are practicing sustainable farming. Beyond that, about 60 area farm families formed an independent organization, the Sustainable Farming Association, to share information.

Drenckhahn is one of the farmers in the program. He hasn't used herbicides and pesticides for about 20 years. The only chemical he still uses is a starter fertilizer he applies at spring planting.

Drenckhahn clearly has no fondness for the chemicals so widely and heavily used by area farmers. "I wish people could understand the damage they're doing to the soil," he says. "I remember something my dad said years ago. He was one of the first around here to plant in contours [to cut soil erosion]. Once he saw what contours did, he said, 'We should have been doing this 20 years ago.'"

One day, says Drenckhahn, people

may say the same thing about cutting chemical use. "We're seeing things get worse in the ground water; that stuff won't break down. It just keeps going down and down into the ground."

While Drenckhahn has used few chemicals for two decades, Bob Goss has just started looking at reducing chemicals. Mr. Goss came back to the family farm 11 years ago, after a stint in the service. He's the third generation of his family to work his land.

"I grew up in the conventional system," he says. "I thought that was the way to go. I was told that was the way to go by the chemical dealers and the university – the system that tells you how to farm. Sure, you get higher yields, but at the end of the year you don't have any more money left. The yield is really irrelevant – it's how much you make on an acre that matters." When he was farming conventionally, Goss says, "It was nothing to spend \$10,000 a year on chemicals."

Besides economic reasons, Goss cites environmental concerns and the need to recognize a land ethic. "We've got to leave something here for the next generation and the ones after that," he says. "We can't just farm this

Please see SOIL next page

SOIL from preceding page

like it's a mine, and run it till it's gone."

So while Goss was, in his own words, "strictly conventional" two years ago, last year he reduced his chemical use, cutting herbicides 75 percent by applying at a lower rate and by banding – that is, applying only in crop furrows, rather than spraying an entire field.

While Goss is still among only a minority of proponents of sustainable farming, he says things are changing. "People are seeing that what they're doing isn't working," he says. "All of the guys who are farming are having financial problems. Maybe they're afraid to change – everyone is. But I knew if I didn't change, things were going to get a lot worse."

It will, however, take more than willingness to change on the part of the farmers themselves. Current agricultural policies often hinder, rather than help, farmers who want to shift to sustainable farming, according to Kroese. And government financial support has been minuscule, with only \$4 million allocated this year for sustainable-farming programs nationwide. "In Washington, that's just pocket dust," says Kroese.

"People have to start to realize that our whole life is based on six inches of topsoil," says Goss. "Everything we do stems from that."

***Error.** The Wilder Foundation continues to own the demonstration farm. The Land Stewardship Project cooperates with Wilder in management of the farm.

Sustainable ag dialogue is aid

LSP promotes community support for sustainable agriculture

By AMY JO BRANDEL
Agri News Staff Writer

MONTEVIDEO, Minn. — Banding fertilizers and herbicides, using mechanical weed control methods, ridge planting and rotational cropping were among farmer's cost-reducing, soil-saving ideas at a Land Stewardship Project sponsored workshop on sustainable farming.

The Land Stewardship Project is a national non-profit advocacy group working to save the family farm. The sustainable farming practices and public policies promoted by its membership are geared towards protecting the environment from soil erosion and ground water contamination, while insuring crop yields and profitable farming.

While last week's workshop ended a four-meeting series, the LSP's work in southwestern and south central Minnesota is in its early stages.

The LSP opened an office in Montevideo in 1988. The non-profit organization has a 12-member advisory board and staff and is working at establishing a regional network of farmers interested in sustainable agriculture.

Good farmer attendance and enthusiastic participation highlighted each meeting, said Audrey Arner, LSP western programs' director.

"In small communities social pressure is extremely important pressure. If you can have a sense of community behind you, you feel stronger to take the risk and make the transition."

— Larry Olson

The workshops, Arner said, provided individuals with the educational information and the moral support for making the transition to sustainable farming practices.

"It's creating a framework for farmer-to-farmer dialogue," she said. "It encourages people to take an appropriate amount of risk, to start small and to be willing to experiment with some new practices."

The emotional networking created by the LSP, said Larry Olson, a Granite Falls crop farmer and LSP advisory board member, is necessary and significant. Adopting farming methods outside the neighborhood-norms remains a barrier for many crop and livestock producers interested in sustainable agriculture.

"In small communities," Olson said, "social pressure is extremely important pressure. If you can have a sense of community behind you, you feel stronger to take the risk and make the transition."

Olson began adopting low-input farming practices on his own land in 1980. He uses a corn, soybean, small grain and legume rotation. Through his own experiences, Olson said the transition from conventional farming using expensive pesticides and fertilizers to low-input farming takes preparation, planning and information.

A soil fertility study that Olson has developed is one of 17 sustainable agriculture research projects selected by the Minnesota Agriculture Department for state funding.

Olson will be comparing conventional fertilization, livestock manure and compost, and their affects on soil development and maintenance. The research data will address both economic and environmental questions. His work will also look at applications rates of these soil-enriching methods. Another project Olson is undertaking seeks long-term data on legumes' contribution to soil fertility.

Agriculture research typically addresses a single problem rather than developing an entire farming system to resolve the conflict, Olson said.

His work, in addition to other sustainable agriculture projects now underway, will help farmers develop specific farming systems. Rather than zeroing in on a single issue, Olson said, a farming system takes a long-term approach to problem solving through crop rotation, tillage and planting methods and cover cropping.

The on-farm sustainable research that is taking place, said Benson farmer and LSP advisory board member William Rois, provides farming system examples that are close to home. That's important, Rois said, in assisting other crop producers interested by moving away from the chemical-input crutch.

"These are systems that can be identified by the neighbor," Rois said. "It's a personal one-to-one relationship."

At each LSP workshop, individuals involved in agriculture research at university levels were present. Farmer comments, questions and feedback at the meetings, Arner said, offered the university representatives ideas on what the research needs are for farmers wanting to successfully implement low-input farming methods.

Agri-News
March 23, 1997

Strange pushes sustainability

By JULIE GAY
Agri News Staff Writer



Marty Strange, co-founder of the Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Neb., said because of the sustainable agriculture debate, government policymakers are split on what to do.

"But, they do agree agriculture has to change," Strange said at last week's annual meeting of the Sustainable Agriculture Association of Southeast Minnesota.

Now, the prevailing view in Washington is that agriculture must get bigger with the help of technological advances, he said, while, at the same time, becoming more aggressive in world markets.

Despite that viewpoint, Strange said more policymakers are starting to think agriculture must become smaller, more frugal, and put more emphasis on maintaining the environment.

When the debate heats up over the next farm bill, he expects sustainable agriculture will be right in the middle of discussions.

ST. CHARLES, Minn. — Sustainable agriculture should be a key part of the new government farm policy that American farmers need in order to compete in the world economy, says one nationally known family farm advocate.



Agri News Photo by Jim Welch

AN INTENSE AUDIENCE of 120 farmers listened to several speakers during last week's

annual meeting of the Sustainable Agriculture Association of Southeast Minnesota.

The reason why sustainable agriculture will get attention is that policymakers are looking for program alternatives.

"The public goodwill is running out," he said. "The public is tired of supporting farm programs that are costly."

The growing concern about the environment is also forcing changes in agriculture.

Another reason he believes the current farm program isn't workable is that American agriculture is no longer in the drivers' seat in

the world economy.

Anybody who says exports are the future of agriculture "is asking you to jump down a dark hole," he said. No longer will the world "buy the idea that they should be dependent on American agriculture."

Strange thinks the next farm bill should include a plan to allow up to 40 percent of the base acres to be planted in forages, an approach that would promote crop rotations.

Also he favors a multi-year, set-

aside program, rather than the one-year approach that is used now.

The family farm advocate called for a much stricter approach to enforcement of existing anti-trust laws because what is happening in agriculture now is "a dangerous trend."

"The trend in livestock is frightening," he said. "The emerging sustainable agriculture sees production of livestock spreading on the land. Instead, it's becoming more concentrated."

DRAFT - April 24, 1989

Working Title: Board Representative

POSITION PURPOSE

This position exists to provide leadership in the implementation of the programs and policies of the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Implementation of these programs and policies requires planning and coordination of ___ Soil and Water Conservation Districts, ___ Watershed Districts, ___ Counties and with the resource management programs of other agencies.

REPORTABILITY

Reports to: the Assistant Director

Supervises: varies

DIMENSIONS

Budget: This position is responsible for administering the funding allocated for maintaining the field office including the arrangements for support services. He/she also makes recommendations about allocation of grant money to local units of government.

Clientele: The principal clientele of this position are the boards and employees of the local units of government that we provide grants to or that we have statutory responsibilities to represent. Secondary clientele include the associations that represent local units of government, regional development commissions, regional staff of the Pollution Control Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. Additional clientele include public and private interest groups and members of the general public.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES, TASKS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

1. To oversee the administration of Board programs at the local level so that programs are implemented according to the requirements of law, rules and operating guidelines.

Tasks

- a.) Recommend allocation of state funds.
- b.) Review program documents, project proposals and make recommendation as to Board response.
- c.) Perform field inspections to assure program compliance.
- d.) Make recommendations to local units of government to improve program implementation.
- e.) Make recommendations to Board to improve program effectiveness.

Performance Indicators

- 1.) Monies allocated are spent in accordance with all applicable program guidelines.
 - 2.) Recommendations to local units of government result in better program delivery.
 - 3.) Board policies are backed by fact.
-
2. Participate in the planning, development and implementation of Board programs so that the resources of the State are properly managed.

Tasks

- a.) To participate on "teams" established to deal with specific statewide issues of program administration.
- b.) To develop regional program proposals that address regional program problems.
- c.) To monitor the implementation of Board programs and recommend changes as needed.
- d.) To prepare and revise program handbooks and manuals.

Performance Indicators

- 1.) Team assignments are completed on time.

- 2.) Opportunities for special projects having both regional and statewide importance are realized.
 - 3.) Program and financial auditing needs are identified and taken care of to avert bigger problems.
 - 4.) Program materials are current.
3. Coordinate BWSR programs and activities within designated geographic area with clientele so that integrated natural resource management is implemented.

Tasks

- a.) Facilitate interaction among local units of government seeking assistance from other agencies to assure that proper expertise is applied to solving natural resource problems.
- b.) Collect and disseminate information concerning BWSR programs.
- c.) Coordinate multi-disciplinary approaches to accomplishing the programs, goals, and objectives of the BWSR.
- d.) Disseminate information relating to the status and content of legislation that may affect natural resources concerns of local units of government.
- e.) Facilitate transfer of technical and administrative information among agencies.
- f.) Identify opportunities and resolve conflicts between regulatory intent and local administrative actions.
- g.) Prepare (or request to have prepared) promotional materials explaining BWSR programs, policies and procedures that are appropriate for use in area.

Performance Indicators

- 1.) Communications are maintained with other groups.
- 2.) Opportunities to cooperate with other agencies are utilized.
- 3.) Conflicts are identified before they become crises.

4. Cooperate with staff specialists in water resources to assure that coordination of affected parties occurs and that the potential utility of on-going Board programs and implementing agencies is considered in the preparation and review of comprehensive local water plans.

Tasks

- a.) To actively encourage Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts to participate in the local water planning process.
- b.) To facilitate public meetings, seminars, workshops to promote information exchange.
- c.) To coordinate with Board Hydrologists to assure that they are aware of resources issues and concerns addressed by on-going Board programs.
- d.) To assist in resolving conflicts among programs and/or units of government that occur in planning process.
- e.) To review implementation section of local water plans and make recommendations, through field hydrologists, for Board action.

Performance Indicators

- 1.) Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts needs and roles are identified in local water plans.
- 2.) Implementation statements make practical use of on-going Board programs.

5. Coordinate staff activities in the implementation of priority activities of comprehensive local water plans so that staff and financial resources are utilized to maximum extent possible.

Tasks

- a.) To meet regularly with the field hydrologists, and staff of cooperating agencies to facilitate implementation.
- b.) To research potential funding sources for proposed implementation actions.
- c.) To review and recommend approval/denial of grant proposals from local units of government for funding to support implementation actions.
- d.) To prepare promotional or educational materials, reports

or other documents to expedite the implementation of priority activities.

- e.) To monitor implementation activities of local units of government and take appropriate action concerning findings of monitoring.
- f.) To assist soil and water conservation districts and watershed districts in revising their plans to be in conformance with the comprehensive local water plans.

Performance Indicators

- 1.) Local units of government are made aware of Board and other potential funding sources for implementation activities.
 - 2.) Staff resources of Board are expended in support of the implementation of priorities of local water plans.
 - 3.) Implementation monies are appropriately spent by local units of government.
 - 4.) District plans are revised to reflect the priorities and action items of comprehensive local water plans within one year of local water plan approval.
6. To perform program audits of state programs, including cost-share, SLR and RIM, to ensure compliance with program requirements, and to assist local units of government in achieving more effective operations.

Tasks

- a.) Conduct or facilitate training for local units of government administering Board programs.
- b.) Review annual plans, long-range plans, capital improvement plans, and annual reports for Soil and Water Conservation Districts to ensure requirements are met.
- c.) Conduct compliance audits in a timely manner.
- d.) Develop remedial action plans where infractions have occurred.
- e.) Review consultants plans, proposals and reports and other plans for Watershed Districts to assure they are consistent with state law.
- 6.) Assist Watershed Districts in preparing petitions.

Performance Indicators

- 1.) Timetables are met on audit reports.
- 2.) Recommendations made to training committee result in training needed.
- 3.) Remedial action plans are implemented.
- 4.) Watershed District petitions are administered according to Board policy and law.
- 5.) Local hearings are arranged as required by law.
7. To represent the Board and its programs at public forums and other meetings and address public inquiries concerning Board programs so that the Board has an effective promotional program for its stewardship activities.

Tasks

- 1.) Prepare brochures, reports, handouts and other visual aids for use in public presentations.
- 2.) Request assistance of central office support staff in preparing materials needed for promotional efforts.
- 3.) Make presentations.
- 4.) Identify appropriate opportunities for promoting Board programs and assure that such opportunities are realized.
- 5.) Respond to requests from public for information.

Performance Indicators

- a.) Prompt response (within 10 working days at most) is given to requests for information.
- b.) Promotional materials are developed in FY90 that meet needs.
- c.) Professional presentations are given.

8. To manage the regional office of the board so that an efficient/coordinated operation is maintained for the Board Representative and, if appropriate, the Field Hydrologist.

Tasks

- 1.) Ensure that administrative responsibilities are conducted efficiently.
- 2.) Prepare and manage regional budget.
- 3.) Represent the Board in negotiations for office space and

equipment.

- 4.) Make arrangements for support personnel to meet office needs.
- 5.) Service as lead staff person for Board's programs.

Performance Indicators

- a.) Office space needs are met.
- b.) Support services are secured.
- c.) Equipment inventory is maintained.
- d.) Staff are coordinated in their response to requests for board information and/or participation.

RELATIONSHIPS

This position reports to the Assistant Director. The Assistant Director provides general guidance and approves work plans and adjustments. Employee is expected to communicate regularly with Program Managers on concerns and issues regarding the administration of Board programs. Communication with supervisor is written and oral and is expected to occur frequently. Communication with employees supervised by this position is to be on a regular basis, both formally (written assignments, work plans, etc.) and informally by telephone and frequent staff meetings. The employee is also expected to establish and maintain a strong liaison function with the local units of government, district directors of appropriate associations and board members in the region as well as the state and federal agencies who have interests and/or authorities in land and water conservation and stewardship.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

This position requires broad training and experience in soil and water conservation, watershed management, water quality practices, and related technical fields. This position also requires a working knowledge of organizational procedures for all levels of government and their boards, commissions, agencies and affiliated associations. The employee must have good communication and human relations skills and be able to work with people, individually and in groups, to achieve goals. Employee must also have negotiation and interpersonal management skills to resolve personnel and interagency conflicts.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Key problem solving areas for this position are related to coordinating and integrating the many agencies of local, state and federal government that are involved in natural resources management. Strong communication links with all groups are critical but there are many opportunities for innovation and creativity in creating these links. Employee must use knowledge of array of existing programs to "tailor" solutions to existing resource problems and work with all affected units of government to achieve a solution. Interpersonal relations, interagency conflicts and program compliance are specific areas where employee is expected to analyze problems, formulate solutions and resolve or create opportunities for constructive solutions.

FREEDOM TO ACT

Employee has considerable freedom to act within the framework of existing Board policies and procedures and appropriate Personnel Management policies and procedures. Written reports giving status of regional activities, including activities of staff he/she supervises, are provided on a regular basis. Specific projects or problems will require oral reporting to Supervisor. Employee has freedom to adjust priorities within the framework of the annual

work plan. Employee has discretion to interpret Board policies and to request clarification from central office as needed.

The employee is expected to make adjustments in work schedules in order to respond to changing program needs. Since the employee operates from a location remote from his/her direct supervisor, these actions must frequently be made without the benefit of the supervisor's consultation.

DRAFT

WHEREAS, the Board Representative position is the focal point for the delivery of programs for the Board of Water and Soil Resources;

WHEREAS, the Board Representative responsibilities have expanded greatly due to new programs and the Board merger; and

WHEREAS, the employees have proposed an inequity adjustment to their classification in state service;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the members of the Board of Water and Soil Resources support ~~the and~~ efforts of the employees in seeking an inequity adjustment to their classification *of the Bd. Rep. position to reflect current responsibilities.*

Adopted by the Board of Water & Soil Resources
at their regular meeting on April 26, 1989.

Don Ogaard, Chairman

FEEDLOTS IN CENTRAL MINNESOTA

by William Cofell

This paper is an attempt to assemble and examine information of the ten counties of concern in this study. I would suggest that other areas where livestock are confined may have similar problems and needs. I hope we can be concerned about the whole state in terms of improving feedlots and reducing this pollution hazard.

In 1987 the inventory of all cattle, cattle on feed, January 1, 1987 for the Central Minnesota counties of Benton, Douglas, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Morrison, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd and Wright was 645,000 animals. In 1988, it was 519,900 a drop of 125,500. These figures give an idea of the size of the livestock industry in the area. In 1987 this represents 20% of beef and dairy industry in the state. There may be several reasons for the drop in number. It was the period of the dairy buyout program and it was a period of drought and restriction in feed production. During these years the counties accounted for 30% of the dairy animals in the State of Minnesota.

In 1986 the ten county area sales were \$798,021,000 or 22% of the livestock and livestock products marketed in Minnesota. The crop products marketed from the same area accounted for about 6% of the state crop market or a total market value of \$179,512,000. The ten county area accounts for 14% of the total agricultural income for the state from crops, cattle, hogs and poultry and that figure is \$1,048,210,000. It seems to me this is an economic industry that is worth protecting in an environment that deserves protection.

The sizeable livestock industry and modern practices using feedlots are making serious impacts on the environment. If tests are accurate one of those impacts is upon surface and ground water.

HISTORY: The area began settlement in the 1850's. During the period of settlement farmsites on lakes and along streams were considered most desirable. Farmers much like those who platted the cities gave importance to the availability of water. Many of the existing farmsites are still in the same location.

From the 1850's until 1900 the area raised both grain and livestock in 1900 for instance Stearns was still a large wheat raising county. In general after 1890 with a few

variations the area developed into a livestock, dairy and hog region.

In the rural areas there was probably some pollution because of the locations of homes and farms. The livestock industry of the historical past was on a smaller scale and with different practice. Farms had four or five horses. There might be 10 to 30 milk cows, depending upon the number of hands present to do the milking. There might be twenty or thirty hogs, a few sheep, a hundred chickens and some turkeys ducks and geese. Most of these animals were ranged on open pasture or grassed pens. In this central Minnesota area farmers valued and used their manure and diligently spread it on to the land. These were pretty well the farm practices until the 2nd World War and somewhat after. I did a family life study of St. Martin's Community in 1950 and the area was highly diversified in farming operations but livestock and milk, cream, butter production was the mainstay of the community, and of communities surrounding.

With the advent of machinery, particularly electricity and milking machines and other equipment farmers were able and in most cases found it desirable to expand their livestock operations. This was one segment of rational decisions to farming operations. In other areas such as North Dakota some farmers sold out to neighbors and greatly expanded their acreage and changed their mode of operation in crop farming. In Central Minnesota the acreage enlargement did not happen to such a degree. I know the acreage of farms in the area has not greatly increased. The increase occurred in livestock, more intensive use of land and development of confined and open feedlot type of operations. Along with the intensive livestock there was also an increase in manures and as a result the consequent increased likelihood and dangers of pollution.

Since 1950 most of the dairy farms have moved to Grade A production. Almost all livestock farmers confine their animals in barns or relatively small lots. The recent farm depression has caused economic distress in the area and farmers do not have the extra capital required to put in structures, pits and equipment to initiate practices that would assist in the abatement of pollution.

Today, the same land space contains from 40 to 120 milk cows and another 50-150 head of replacement and market animals. Altogether there may be 200 to 300 animals in an area that once supported 30 or 40 cattle and some other livestock and poultry in a diversified farming operation.

This brief history enables us to come up to date. In 1979 the Water Quality Management Planning Survey found in eight of the ten counties in the area*, 1908 feedlots potentially a hazard to shoreland standards. (* Meeker and Sherburne

were not included in the survey.) From: (Feedlots, Package I, Water Quality Management Planning, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Division of Water Quality, Planning Section, May 1979.)

This April 1989, I sent a questionnaire to the Conservationist of the ten county area. As of April 12 the seven returns contain some very interesting information.

The figures I received indicate that there are between 1070 to 1220 feedlots that have the potential of polluting surface water. Still a sizeable number to be concerned about. The question relating to number of feedlots on sensitive soils that could endanger groundwater indicated there were between 1541 to 1646 such lots. As of this date there were 43 under citation or threat of it. One hundred seventy nine farm operators have requested cost share or technical assistance.

There may have been a change in criteria or a greater awareness of feedlot pollution but the preceding figures suggest a serious problem in the area. Recently I heard a description of overflowing feedlots which suggests to me that some are not of the proper size or were not properly engineered or lined. In this case if feedlot manure handling facility is to function there appears to be a need of redesign and reconstruction. There also appears to be need of education in storage pit management and disposal practices.

It also appears from remarks in the questionnaire and from other sources, the need for education regarding purpose of manure handling facilities. In addition there is apparently a need for follow-up inspection and supervision of use.

I also asked for opinions of Best Management Practice regarding disposal of feedlot animal wastes. All the answers were similar. "Land applications of waste during time of year when soil is not frozen and material can either be injected or incorporated within 6 hours of application. Application rates to be based on soil tests and the potential of soil and/or of specific crops to utilize the nutrients in the manure to produce a crop." Also emphasized were soil testing, filter strips, clean water diversion and importance of a waste management plan.

The value of the questionnaires is that the persons answering provided further ideas about the local problems and provide additional information for consideration of solutions.

1. High cost of manure handling equipment, should be part of cost share.
2. Feedlot located next to streams, lakes, ditches wetlands

3. Feedlots on highly permeable soils
4. High corrective costs for two previous items.
5. Improper application of manure in high water tables.
6. Need for research on soil response to installations.
7. Abandoned storage facilities creating problems.
8. Well designed, proper installation, proper maintenance of facilities, proper incorporation.
9. Large Poultry lots with nitrate pollution of aquifers and wells.
10. Research on all aspects of feedlot usage from design to incorporation of manure.
11. Failure of storage pit owners to remove contents on schedule.
12. Buyout of feedlot operators in some shoreland situations.

In the Sauk Lake Watershed "There are approximately 80 feedlots and barnyards which contribute runoff to streams in the watershed." (From Engineer Report for Lake Treatement, Excerpt for Corp of Engineers, Sauk Lake Project Report, March 22, 1989.) These contribute to Sauk Lake via creek, river or drainage ditch and some nutrients also continue through the lake and down the Sauk River.

It is estimated that the funds needed to take care of 40 feedlots would be about \$605,000 in cost share. The cost information in this report includes only what needs to be done above Sauk Lake and only in regard to feedlots.

The North Fork Crow River Watershed district has requested a technical assistance training program to inventory all feed lots in the district. One of the managers mentioned a feedlot problem in the river and lake region of the North Fork.

I think there are several reasons that work has not progressed as rapidly as it might in the area. The future of agriculture and particularly small farm agriculture has been clouded by the economic crisis over the last few years. Farmers themselves if they are near the end of their careers in agriculture are reluctant to make improvements in livestock enterprise. Some land owners anticipate the sale of their land and some of these improvements do not add to sale value unless the buyer intends to continue a livestock operation and has the capability to manage this complex disposal system. The tendency is to leave things as they are and hope they do not get cited. Other farmers do not have investment capital for installation of manure pits and very little else.

Going out of livestock will also leave some problems and create others. One cited above the problem of abandoned feedlot manure pits which when filled with water become a stagnating mess.

During the 1986-87 seasons the alfalfa acreage in the area declined by 48,000 acres. Very likely meaning that land was plowed up and seeded to grain crops or row crops. In my own township, I saw a farm abandoned and 100 acres of beautiful soil retaining alfalfa plowed up and seeded to up-down hill corn that after a heavy rain left gullies in the field and sediment plumes in roadside ditches.

The impact of a large livestock reduction in the area would be socially, economically and environmentally undesirable. The livestock farming operations are costly as far as the environment and if it is desirable to reduce pollution the change to other kinds of agriculture would mean greater use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides in crop industry. If the change means less acreage in small grain crop and alfalfa and more acreage of row crops it could also mean greater soil loss and, sedimentation, with more nutrients and chemicals entering surface water.

Feedlots are a source of contention between neighbors and others in the area. Sometimes these are due to strife between neighbors and feedlots provide the spark that releases the emotions. We have at least one or two of these in the area.

Another problem frequently mentioned is when a farmer attempts to use agency personnel to achieve his own ends. I think that standards of some sort that all agencies agree on would be very desirable in dealing with polluting feedlots. I think every agency member with a local unit or state agency will do what they can to avoid hostility and no one wants to put farmers out of business in dealing with pollution. I think it would be easier if there is a general agreement on practices and recommendations and agreement in regard to procedures of communicating information to land owners.

It seems to me the situation justifies an extensive educational campaign. Education is needed on the danger of feedlots to surface and underground waters, and livestock operations depend upon safe water. The people need to know the types of practices and structures that reduce polluting runoff. The methods of incorporating feedlot wastes into the soil is necessary. Resolution of many problems by the kinds of financial assistance available and incentives for using financial cost share.

Finally there is need for sources of funds to cost share to reduce the present pollution hazards existing in the area. We should examine the need for cost share funds, low interest loans or a combination of these. What about funds for buyout of feedlots in areas where corrections will be very expensive. The need for continued research and monitoring seem to be necessary with the educational process ready to put findings to use

Q: Which of these 4 areas is a wetland?



A: All four.

An area doesn't need to have standing water to be considered a wetland. History of drainage, soil type and other factors are considered. To stay eligible for USDA programs, know the status of wetlands on your land.

The bottom line: Check with SCS before you drain.

More details →

Wetlands on your farm?



These definitions apply to wetlands as defined by the 1985 Food Security Act. Follow the use, maintenance and improvement guidelines to avoid swampbusting and stay eligible for USDA benefits.

Wetland Definition	Use Allowed	Drainage Maintenance Allowed?*	Additional Drainage Allowed? **
Natural Wetland (W) An area of predominantly hydric soil which can support a prevalence of water-loving plants. Cattails, willow trees, sedges, rushes, some smartweeds, or other water-loving plants are often present.	May be used to produce ag commodities when weather permits, if no altering of the wetland takes place.	None	No
Abandoned Wetland Wetlands that were once altered and farmed, but have been abandoned as cropland. No attempt was made to maintain the area as cropland for at least five successive years, and it now supports water-loving plants.	Same as natural wetland.	None	No
Converted Wetland (CW) A wetland (area of hydric soil) drained or altered after 12/23/85 to enable production of an agricultural commodity.	Planting an ag commodity will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits.	None. Same as natural wetland.	No
Farmed Wetland (FW) A wetland that was partially drained or altered to produce crops prior to 12/23/85. The land was not completely drained, and may have potholes or seasonally flooded areas that still meet wetland criteria.	May be farmed as it was prior to 12/23/85.	May maintain the degree of drainage that existed prior to 12/23/85.	No
Prior Conversion (PC) Wetlands that were converted to cropland use before 12/23/85. This cropland was completely drained or otherwise altered to make it possible to produce crops, and it no longer meets wetland criteria of saturated soil or water-loving plants.	Produce ag commodities.	Yes	Yes

*Maintenance refers to maintaining any previous drainage to the same level.

**Additional drainage refers to improving drainage from a previous condition.

USDA Soil Conservation Service
 St. Paul, Minnesota
 (Feb. 1989)



All programs and services of SCS are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

DRAFT

BWSR
POLICY FOR
CONSIDERING REQUESTS TO MODIFY RIM RESERVE EASEMENTS

All requests to modify RIM Reserve Easements must come before the Board of Water and Soil Resources for action.

It is the policy of the Board of Water and Soil Resources to consider RIM Reserve easement modifications ~~only for:~~ *to include:*

- 1) demonstrated hardship cases; or
- 2) health and safety situations.
- 3) *advantage/benefit to the goals of the RIM program -*
Cropping convenience is not a legitimate reason for easement modification.

The landowner request for easement modification must be accompanied by:

- 1) recommendation from the local SWCD Board of Supervisors;
- 2) letter of recommendation from DNR Area Wildlife Manager and other appropriate members of the local Screening Committee;
- 3) supporting documents including:
 - a) aerial photo identifying requested modification;
 - b) soils map (for land exchange);
 - c) cropping history (for land exchange); and
- 4) other pertinent information concerning the request.

The BWSR reserves the right to require special provisions as a condition of the modification. The special provision may include additional acres, additional conservation practices applied on the acres, or other provisions as determined necessary by the Board. This procedure will be formalized as a part of the RIM Reserve Program Rules during the next revision process.

Board action: Carried

Date: 4/26/89

April 10, 1989

TO: Dakota County SWCD Board of Supervisors
FROM: Jim Kujawa, RIM Coordinator *JK*
RE: Anna Wicklund RIM field changes.

Background

Anna Wicklund and her daughter, Shirely Bosshart enrolled 20.6 acres of cropland into the RIM Program in 1986. The Easement on this land expires in Feb. 1997. Last year Shirley Bosshart asked if they could exchange 5.6 acres of the RIM field for other cropland on their farm so they could accommodate a new strawberry field and parking area on the RIM land. This request was denied due to the easement and Legislative restriction on enrolled RIM land.

Legislation for 1989 will now enable this land to be exchanged for land of comparable wildlife benefits and eligibility criteria.

Issues:

Anna Wicklund, through her daughter Shirley Bosshart officially request 5.6 acres of their current RIM field be exchanged for 5.6 acres of cropland in another area of their farm. The areas to be exchanged are shown on the attached aerial photo. The SWCD Board needs to act on the request before the State Board can.

Because three years are used up on the original 5.6 acre field, the SWCD Board may request that the easement for the new field run a full 10 years for the benefit of wildlife.

Recommendations:

★ We recommend the Dakota SWCD Board approve the request of exchanging the 5.6 acre fields on the stipulations that:

- 1) all legislative and administrative requirements be met by the Wicklund's and the land exchange
- 2) the length of easement on the new RIM field be 10 years from the date of approval by the Board.

★ Dakota SWCD Board
Approved Y-5
4-11-89 N-0



STATE OF
MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PHONE NO. (612) 445-9393

April 17, 1989

FILE NO. _____

Area Wildlife Office
223 Holmes Street, Room 101
Shakopee, MN 55379

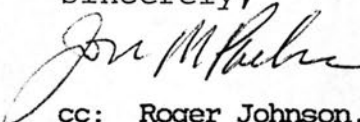
Dakota County Soil Conservation Board of Supervisors
821 3rd Street
Farmington, MN 55024

RE: Anna Wicklund RIM easement land exchange.

Dear Supervisors:

I inspected the Anna Wicklund RIM easement and the proposed land to be exchanged. I found the land which was proposed for exchange to be of equal or greater value for wildlife management purposes to that of the original RIM easement. I recommended at the time that the contract be extended from the date of exchange so that the establishment year would not be lost again to wildlife production. I understand that the Board will require that the new easement be extended to ten years from the date of exchange. I approve of this land exchange

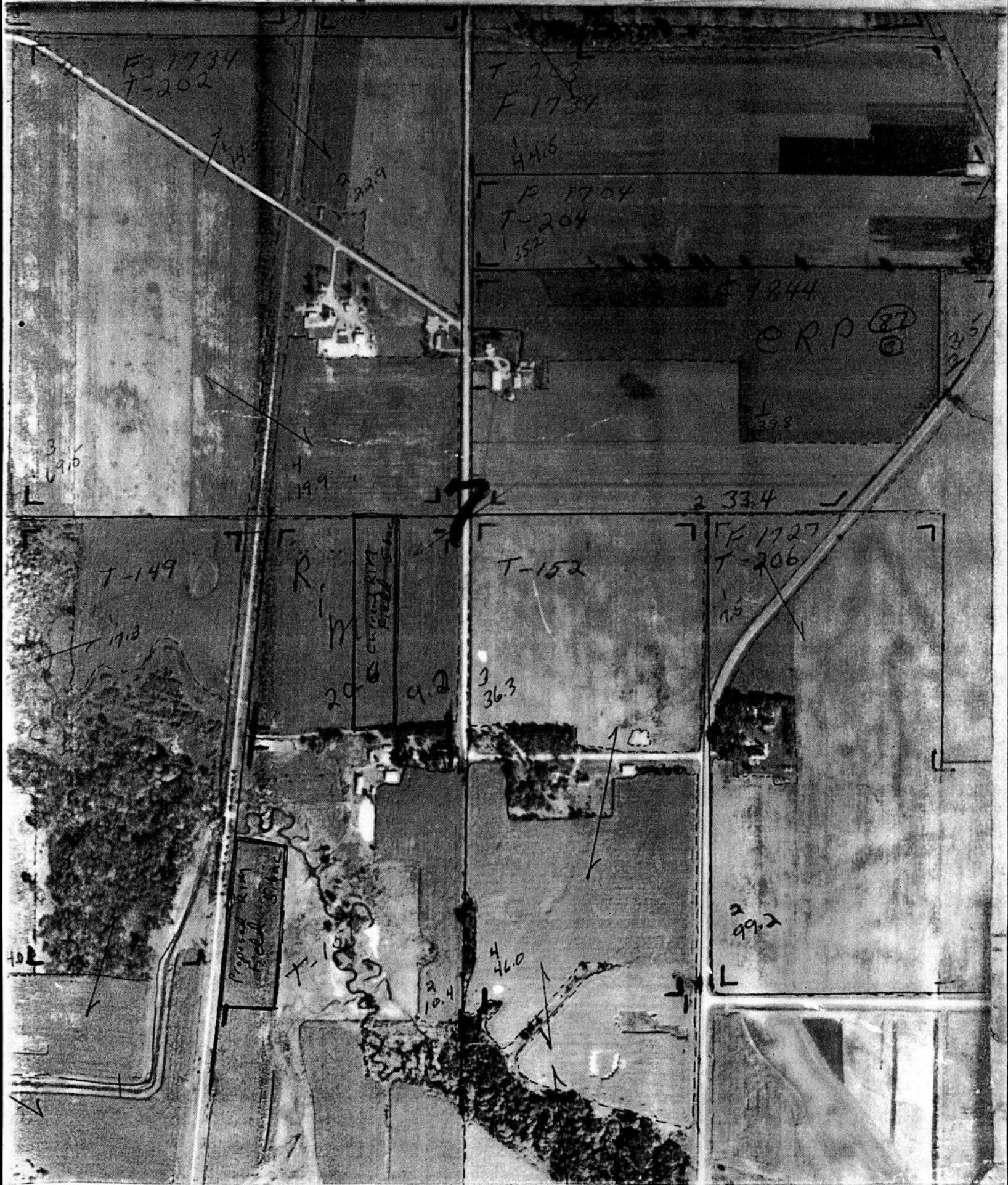
Sincerely,

 Jon M. Parker, Area Wildlife Manager

cc: Roger Johnson, Reg. Wildlife Mgr.
Tom Keefe, Sec. of Wildlife Private Lands Coordinator

Dakota co. Not to scale

C-5



COUNTY: LQP-YB Watershed Dist.

PROJECT: Lazurus Creek

CONTRACT NO: B.W.S.R. 104-18

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

PROJECT AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, made this 8th day of April, 1989 by and between the Lac qui Parle- Yellow Bank Watershed District called the Sponsor; and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, called the Board. For the purposes of this agreement the body known as the Area II Action Committee shall be considered to be a part of the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, The provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 40 and Minnesota Statutes Chapter 104.42 to 104.50 provide for a program of grants and aid to local government units for the construction of floodwater retention and retarding structures including land rights and;

WHEREAS, The same instrument charges the Board of Water and Soil Resources with the supervision of the grant-in-aid program and;

WHEREAS, The USDA, Soil Conservation Service is designing and will construct the flood control project known as the Lazurus Creek Reservoir under the PL-566 Small Watershed Protection Program and;

WHEREAS, Land rights for these projects are a local cost and;

WHEREAS, The body known as the Area II Action Committee has determined that this project sponsored by the Lac qui Parle- Yellow Bank Watershed District known as the Lazurus Creek Reservoir is listed in the Minnesota River Basin Report's upstream reservoir site inventory and qualifies in all other particulars for a state grant-in-aid under this program;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises set forth above, the Sponsor and the Board hereby agree as follows:

- A. It is agreed that the following project will be undertaken at an estimated \$60,000.00.

The Survey, appraisal, and purchase of approximately 200 acres of land in Section 9, T 114N, R 46W, in Yellow Medicine County. The lands to be purchased are described in Exhibit "A".

B. The Sponsor will:

1. Provide 25% of the cost of the land rights costs described in Section A. This cost to the Sponsor is estimated to be \$15,000.00.
2. Take adequate steps to obtain a good and, marketable title to the lands purchased under this agreement. This is to include, but not be limited to the purchase of title insurance.
3. Be responsible for the payment of all taxes and assessments levied against the property purchased under this agreement both now and in the future.
4. Hold any land acquired under this agreement fee simple and place or cause to be placed no encumbrance against the title thereto.
5. Arrange for the necessary land rights and flowage easements to permit the flooding of that portion of the normal pool located on land not purchased under this agreement when the boundaries of these lands are made available to the Sponsor.
6. Appoint a project manager, who shall have authority to act for the the Watershed Board and furnish the name to the Board's Project Representative.
7. Provide necessary facilities, clerical personnel and legal counsel for carrying out the purchase of the lands described in Section A.
8. Arrange for a legal survey to be made to:
 - (a) Determine the actual acreages of land involved in this purchase and,
 - (b) Permanently mark the corners of the property purchased with appropriate markers and,
 - (c) Record the ownership of such land with the County Recorder in the County where purchased.

The survey shall be done by a Land Surveyor Registered in the State of Minnesota.

9. Arrange for an appraisal of the land to be purchased by a Certified Appraiser to determine the fair value of the land before the purchase of the land and transmit a copy of the appraisal to the Board's Project Representative.

10. Take necessary action to defend any lawsuit in which the Board has an interest, brought by the landowners against the Sponsor resulting from this agreement. In connection with any such lawsuit:
 - (a) advise and consult with the Board in the preparation for and trial thereof,
 - (b) furnish the Board with copies of all pleadings, orders, and judgments filed therein,
 - (c) obtain the written concurrence of the Board's Director with respect to any stipulation or agreement to be entered into with the contractor,
 - (d) exercise the right of appeal if requested to do so by the Board. Further, permit the Board, at its option and expense, to provide such legal representation in any such lawsuit as the Board considers necessary for protection of its interests.
11. Make all records dealing with the purchase of the land available for review by the Board's Director. Retain such records for three (3) years from date of purchase of the land under this agreement and make them available for examination by authorized representatives of the state government on appropriate notice.
12. Not sell or otherwise dispose of any land purchased under this agreement without first obtaining the written consent of the Board's Executive Director.

C. The Board will:

1. Provide 75% of the cost of the project described in Section A. This cost to the Board is estimated to be \$45,000.00 (\$8,905.18 ,FY 89; \$36,094.82, FY 90;)
2. Provide the services of a Project Representative who shall prepare payment vouchers for the purchase of the land and submit them to the Sponsors and the Board. Make payment to the Sponsors, the Board's share of the cost of Board approved payment vouchers.
3. The furnishing of the grants by the Board as set out in C-1 is contingent upon the continuing availability of appropriations by the legislature from which payment may be made and shall not obligate the Board upon failure of the legislature to so appropriate.

D. It is mutually agreed that:

1. This agreement shall become null and void four years after the date the Board has executed this agreement in the event the required land purchase has not been made.

2. The Board's Director may make adjustments in the estimated cost to the Board set forth in section C for the land purchase costs. Such adjustments may increase or decrease the amount of funds which are related to differences between such estimated cost and the actual cost of the land due to changes in the amount of land to be purchased which is found necessary after the date of this agreement. No adjustment shall change the cost sharing assistance to be provided by the Board as set forth in C nor reduce funds below the amount required to carry out the Board's share of the contract.
3. Additional funds required as a result of a decision of the Project Representative, or a court judgment in favor of the land owner, will be provided in the same ratio as funds are contributed under the terms of the agreement.
4. No member of the Minnesota Legislature or commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.
5. It is agreed by and between the parties that in the event the Board is unable to furnish the grants as set out in C-1 of this Agreement because of the unavailability of continuing appropriations by the Minnesota Legislature then, and in that event, either party may terminate this Agreement upon the giving of thirty days written notice to the other party. In the event of such termination of contract, payment under the contract shall be made to justly compensate for services previously satisfactorily performed, same to be determined on a pro-rata basis.
6. The books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the Sponsor relevant to this contract shall be subject to examination by the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the legislative auditor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have espoused this agreement to be duly
executed intending to be bound thereby.

LAC QUI PARLE WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS

Authorized Signature

Arwin Verburg Contract Officer

Date

4-8-89

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL
RESOURCES

Authorized Signature

Date

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Authorized Signature

Date

COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

Authorized Signature

Date

COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE

Authorized Signature

Date

AREA II

MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS, INC.

1400 East Lyon Street • P.O. Box 267 • Marshall, MN 56258 • 507-537-1324

LAZURUS CREEK RESERVOIR (LQP-25)

BLUE EARTH
Courthouse
Mankato, MN

LOCATION

BROWN
Courthouse
New Ulm, MN

Location:--2 1/2 Mi. EAST OF MINNESOTA/SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE LINE, 1 3/4 MI. SOUTH OF T.H. 68, AND 6 MI.
S. W. OF CITY OF CANBY IN THE S.E. PART OF SECTION 9
IN FORTIER TOWNSHIP OF YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY

COTTONWOOD
Courthouse
Windom, MN

DRAINAGE AREA

21 Square Miles.

LAC QUI PARLE
Courthouse
Madison, MN

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST--

Construction Cost	\$1,000,000.
Land Cost	\$900,000.00
	100,000.00

LINCOLN
Courthouse
Ivanhoe, MN

WATERSHED--

Lac qui Parle River

LYON
Courthouse
Marshall, MN

COUNTY:--

Yellow Medicine

MURRAY
Courthouse
Slayton, MN

HEIGHT of DAM:--

70+ Feet

PIPESTONE
Courthouse
Pipestone, MN

SIZE of POOL:--

20 Acres

REDWOOD
Courthouse
Redwood Falls, MN

USES of STRUCTURE:--

Flood Control

YELLOW MEDICINE
Courthouse
Granite Falls, MN

This flood control reservoir is one of the two
Retarding Sites found feasible in the PL 87-639
Study, recently completed by SCS and the Corps Of
Engineers. Area II proposes to pay for the land
rights which are all Local Costs

Information in this sheet is taken from the
Minnesota River Basin Report and the Alternatives
Report from the PL 87-639 Study

BILL COMPARISON HOUSE AND SENATE VERSIONS OF "BIG WATER BILL"

Board of Water and Soil Resources

Major items of difference:

H. F. 534

S. F. 262

Third Engrossment H.F. 534

III. WELL SEALING

ITEM A

pg. 128. Article 7, sec. 10, subd. 3 "The grant program shall not continue beyond June 30, 1995. Grants provided between July 1, 1989 and June 30, 1995, are contingent upon biennial appropriation of funds"

ITEM B

No Similar Provision

ITEM C

pg. 128. Article 7, sec. 10, subd. 4 Language requires all wells proposed for sealing to be identified as priorities in an approved comprehensive water plan and meet criteria established by BWSR

ITEM D

pg. 128. Article 7, sec. 10, subd. 5 Requires counties to apply for well sealing grants on forms prescribed by BWSR and demonstrate that it has consulted with various local units of government in preparing the application

ITEM E

pg. 129. Article 7, sec. 10, subd. 7(b) "a county...shall contract with landowners to share the cost of sealing priority wells..."

ITEM F

pg. 130. Article 7, sec. 10, subd. 7(3) "...county files a record of well sealing and well log with MDH"

ITEM G

pg. 130. Article 7, sec. 10, subd. 7(e) "To encourage landowner participation, the county...may conduct appropriate well sealing workshops and demonstrations..."

ITEM H

No Similar Provision

Fourth Engrossment S.F. 262

III. WELL SEALING

ITEM A

No Similar Provision

ITEM B

pg. 41. Article 3, sec. 21, subd. 2(b) "After July 1, 1991, only well sealings that are part of, or responsive to, the priority actions identified in an approved comprehensive local water plan are eligible for assistance"

ITEM C

pg. 41. Article 3, sec. 21, subd. 3 Requires BWSR and MDA to consult with local water planning authorities for establishing priorities for sealing wells that are not an imminent threat to public health or public safety...

ITEM D

No Similar Provision

ITEM E

p. 42. Article 3, sec. 21, subd. 4 "A county...may contract with landowners to share the cost of sealing priority wells..."

ITEM F

p. 42. Article 3, sec. 21, subd. 4c(3)(4) A county will issue a sealed well certificate to the landowner after sealing of the well is completed and the landowner must file a copy of the sealed well certificate and well log with MDH

ITEM G

No Similar Provision

ITEM H

pgs. 43-44. Article 3, sec's 22-23. Provides that landowners who desire to seal a well but cannot afford the costs may apply to BWSR for funds

. BWSR adopts rules for accepting applications

. Establishes that these costs become a government services lien against the landowners' property

. Establishes procedures for enforcement, collection and satisfaction of liens

. Establishes a dedicated revolving fund for BWSR for sealing wells

House and Senate File comparisons continued (well sealing)

(House)

ITEM I

pg. 130. Article 7, sec. 10, subd. 8 "The owner shall file the record of well sealing with the county recorder or register of deeds where the scaled well is located."

(Senate)

ITEM I

No Similar Provision

BILL COMPARISON HOUSE AND SENATE VERSIONS OF "BIG WATER BILL"

Board of Water and Soil Resources

Major items of difference:

H. F. 534

Third Engrossment H.F. 5234

S. F. 262

Fourth Engrossment S.F. 262

II. LOCAL WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ITEM A

p. 123-24. Article 7, sec. 1-3

Commissioner of Natural Resources may make grants to local governments for various shoreland management activities. Specific information regarding grant criteria and limitations is included. The January 1, 1989 stipulation is not included.



ITEM B

p. 124-5. Article 7, sec. 4 amends 110B.35 to add the University of Minnesota as a nonvoting member of BWSR.

ITEM C.

p. 125, Article 7, sec. 8

"State agencies must give priority to local requests that are part of, or responsive to, a comprehensive local water plan when administering programs for water-related financial and technical assistance."

ITEM D.

No Similar Provision

ITEM E

p. 127 Article 7, sec. 9, subd. 5 [RULES] "... (e) specify a process for the board to establish a base level grant amount that all participating counties may be eligible to receive."

II. LOCAL WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ITEM A

p. 21, Article 2, sec. 10, Subd. 8 Grants (made by BWSR) specified for shoreland management shall be allocated according to priorities established by the commissioner of natural resources. Specific information regarding grant criteria and limitations is included.

Further, shoreland management rules adopted by the commissioner after January 1, 1989, are not effective until all affected counties receive state appropriations necessary for the adoption, administration, and enforcement of shoreland ordinances.

ITEM B

No Similar Provision

ITEM C

No Similar Provision

ITEM D

p. 22 Article 2, sec. 11, Subd. 6 (3) amends 110B.04, to add and sensitive areas, wellhead protection areas...

ITEM E.

No Similar Provision

Third Engrossment H.F. 534 (The version that was passed out of policy committees)

I. General Items

- pg. 5 Article 1, sec. 5, subd. 1 (b)(1)(2)
MDH disseminates health risk limit information through SWCDs
- pg. 7 Article 1, sec. 6, subd. 4
MPCA and MDA consult with BWSR in preparing a report on nitrate and nitrogen compounds in groundwater
- pg. 23 Article 2, sec. 15 (3)
BWSR participates on an MDA-chaired task force regarding nitrogen fertilizer use
- pg. 52 Article 3, sec. 1, subd. 9
MDA to cooperate with BWSR in establishing a pilot pesticide and nutrient user information system
- pg. 82 Article 3, sec. 51, subd. 7
MDA to involve BWSR in development of a pesticide management plan
- pg. 84 Article 4, sec. 1, subd. 2
SWCDs and WDs are defined as a local unit of government
- pg. 86 Article 4, sec. 2, subd. 7
Authorizes MPCA to enter into cooperative agreements with state agencies and local units of government for administration of the waste pesticide collection program
- pg. 121 Article 6, sec. 3, subd. 3
BWSR to be included on a Water Resources Information and Education committee
- pg. 123 Article 6, sec. 8, subd. 1
BWSR to be included on a Water Research Coordinating Committee

Fourth Engrossment S.F. 262 (The version that was passed out of committees)

I. General Items

- pg. 4 Article 1, sec. 3, subd's. 1-2
DNR consults SWCDs and local water planning authorities when developing criteria for identifying sensitive groundwater areas
- pg. 5 Article 1, sec. 4
Establishes that sensitive groundwater areas and hillside areas are eligible for enrollment in the RIM Reserve program

- pgs. 5-6 **Article 1, sec. 5, subd. 2**
Establishes a landowner defense for liability if an SWCD adopts a plan to protect groundwater and the landowner implements and maintains the prescribed best management practices

- pg. 6 **Article 1, sec. 6, subd. 1**
MPCA in consultation with local water planning authorities develop best management practices for preventing groundwater degradation

- pg. 6 **Article 1, sec. 6, subd. 2**
MDA in consultation with local water planning authorities develop best management practices for agricultural chemicals

- pg. 6 **Article 1, sec. 6, subd. 3**
BWSR and SWCDs participate in the promotion and education of best management practices

- pg. 11 **Article 1, sec. 11**
MPCA and MDA consult with BWSR in preparing a report on nitrate and related nitrogen compounds in groundwater

- pgs. 15-18 **Article 2, sec's. 4-6**
Revises RIM Reserve law to accommodate Article 1 references to sensitive groundwater areas and hillside areas

- pg. 75 **Article 6, sec. 6, subd. 14a**
SWCDs and WDs are defined as a local unit of government

- pg. 77 **Article 6, sec. 17, subd. 7**
Authorizes MDA to enter into cooperative agreements with state agencies and local units of government for administration of the waste pesticide collection program

- pg. 119 **Article 7, sec. 28, subd. 1**
SWCDs are to be involved in an MDA demonstration project regarding soil buffering materials

- pg. 121 **Article 7, sec. 33, subd. 2**
BWSR participates on an MDA-chaired task force regarding nitrogen fertilizer use



Red River of the North Resource Management Area

AN EXCITING PILOT PROJECT IS TAKING PLACE IN
THE RED RIVER VALLEY OF NORTHWEST MINNESOTA!

A copy of the program brochure and the
latest newsletter is enclosed.

READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!



**Red River of the North
Resource Management Area**

Ginny Kruger

**Communications
Director**

216 Pennington Ave South
Thief River Falls, Minnesota 56701

business
218-681-6600

home
218-745-5646

HAPPENINGS
SPRING 1989



HAPPENINGS
SPRING 1989

Red River of the North Resource Management Area

TORVALD IS ON THE MOVE

For a piece of cardboard, Torvald really gets around!

Torvald, popular radio conservation ad person?, hugging a tree, is the official logo of the "Plant A MoneyTree" campaign. If you have not seen the semi-life sized display, take a look, you might be able to use him in a display or fair booth.

The first outing for Torvald, was to Clay County SWCD for a college conservation day. From there he spent time at the Red River Valley Winter Shows.

Pennington County SWCD decided to feature a "MoneyTrees" theme at their open house. Torvald was set up for an eye-catcher and tree bucks were handed out...along with coffee and doughnuts! Pennington County sold over a thousand trees that day..is that right Mountain Ash Al, Maple Molsness, and Shady Lane????

Red Lake Falls SWCD used the display at a community conservation day, and though Traverse County SWCD is not in the RRN Area, asked to use Torvald for a children's conservation fair.

For the children a "Hug A Tree" theme was developed, and emphasis was placed on all the things a tree does for people. The booth was turned into a mini "hands on" learning center. The trivia board was used, a coloring contest, water display, and much more! For prizes headbands designed by RRN were handed out. The Traverse SWCD report their booth was a great success

The headbands that were developed are available for district use, so if you are interested, let RRN know. It may be possible to get a batch printed for fair use at a reasonable price.

Anyone desiring the use of the "MoneyTrees" booth or parts of the booth should sign up as soon as possible.

CONSERVATION OLYMPICS CANCELLED

Due to the heavy workload in the field offices, conservation olympics is cancelled.

TREE SALES UP IN MOST DISTRICTS

Most districts in the Red River of the North area are reporting an increase in tree sales.

Don't forget the MILLION TREES BY 1991 field office challenge. Keep a record of tree sales, what you have done to promote tree sales, and any special projects. The office judged to have done the best job will receive a nice incentive award. Judging will be done by a peer group at the end of the tree sales period, Spring 1991.

CONSERVATION TRIVIA POPULAR NATIONWIDE!!!

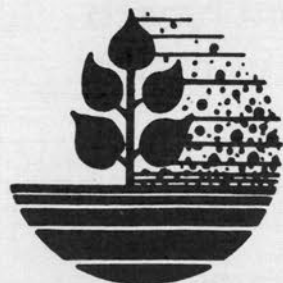
An article written by RRN in the state "Conservation Mentor" newsletter about the trivia board developed by Kevin Deschene, was reprinted in part in the NACD "Tuesday Newsletter". This article has brought requests from Maine to California, Washington to Maryland about conservation trivia. It is rumored that Kevin is working on making a board for a Nevada SWCD!

An information packet has been prepared for use by requesting districts.

RED RIVER OF THE NORTH PREPARES
INFORMATION BROCHURE

Red River of the North will be visiting each district board meeting this spring as usual. A brochure has been prepared to help explain the program and what is being done. Its purpose is to help clear-up any questions and to be used as an evaluation tool.

At the time RRN visits, an evaluation will be left with the board, and also an evaluation form will be left with the staff. This evaluation will be helpful to determine the future of RRN and if any new directions should be taken.



Red River of the North Resource Management Area

What Is It?

What Is It Doing?

What Service Does It Provide?

Profile Of The Red River Of The North Resource Management Area:

Goal:

To reduce wind erosion of the soil in the Red River Valley.

Mission:

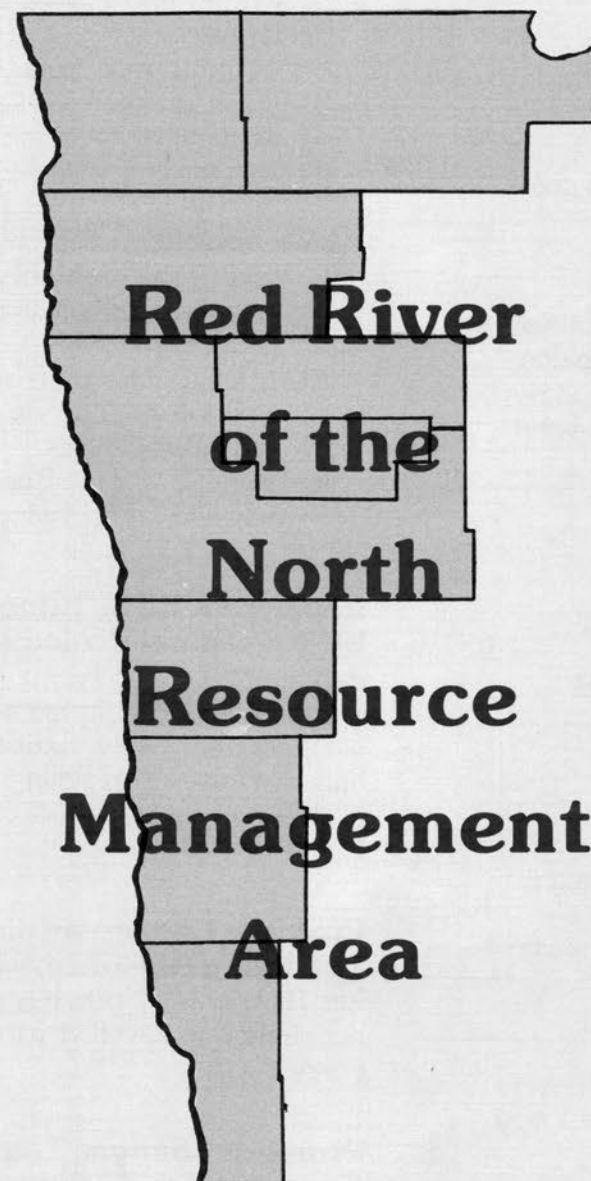
To develop a media/informational/educational/promotional campaign that will directly influence conservation measures to be placed on the land.

Members: Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Districts
Soil Conservation Service
Minnesota Extension Service

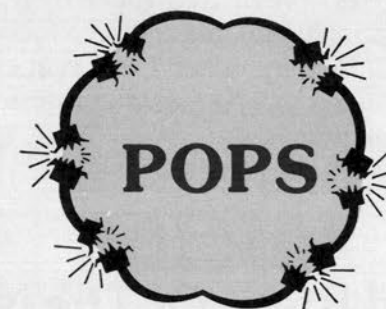
Area Covered: Nine counties of Northwestern Minnesota. Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Polk, Pennington, Norman, Red Lake, Clay and Wilkin. This area contains 12,800 farmers who control 4,652,430 acres of cropland. There are 2,569,300 cropland acres that are eroding at a loss greater than tolerable for the soil to maintain productivity.

Where Located: The office Red River of the North is located in the Area One office of the Soil Conservation Service, 216 Pennington Avenue South, Thief River Falls, Minnesota 56701. Telephone: (218) 681-6600.

Staff: Virginia Kruger is the Communications Director of the Red River of the North and is in charge of the program. Glen Kajewski, Area One Conservationist, and Robert Conklin, Area Two Area Conservationist, are technical advisors.



Torvald Norwegian Bachelor Farmer



the Question!



Red River Of The North Resource Management Area Is . . .

Unique

The only program of its kind in the United States. It has been designed for maximum benefits and minimum costs to help the fight against soil erosion.

A Regional Promotional Agency

The mission of Red River of the North is to develop informational/educational/promotional media campaigns that will help influence conservation practices. Emphasis to be placed on crop residue management and field windbreak plantings.

Red River Of The North Resource Management Area Is Working To . . .

Develop Effective Layered Campaigns

- Radio — Used for blanket coverage
- Display, Booth, Speakers — Used to make campaign, district specific
- Educational Materials — Used to individualize campaign handouts, posters, placemats, table tents

"Conservation Trivia" Campaign

- ★ Radio — Trivia questions on residue and trees were used on KFGO Radio with farm broadcaster Larry Ristvedt
- ★ Display — Electronic trivia question board developed by Kevin Deschene, RRN promoted its use.
- ★ Materials — Conservation trivia questions and answers were used on table tents, placemats, handouts poster — specific "how to" information.

"Plant A Moneytree" Campaign

- ★ Radio — One-minute radio soap operas (alias ads) written and placed at strategic listening times for farmers.
 - Humorous, popular, educational
 - Conservation man attempts to help Torvald, Norwegian bachelor farmer, whose land and love-life are eroding away at a rate faster than can be tolerated.
 - Torvald, in search of money for his farming, is urged to plant Money Trees — field windbreaks — because windbreaks in the field increase crop yields and that means \$.
- ★ Display — Lifesize Torvald and Money Tree. Localized information on how field windbreaks will increase crop yields.
- ★ Materials — "Tree Bucks" handout with information. Speaker on field windbreaks.

Implement Basic Educational/ Informational Projects

Red River of the North has organized seminars and tours: Loren Soth, noted agricultural columnist; Dr. Harold Scholten, State Extension Forester; Luther Bjerke, humorist (plays Torvald in the radio dramas); Dr. Joe Giles, NDSU soil science professor; State Tree Nursery Tour, Badoura.

Promote Conservation By Speaking And Testifying At Conservation Events

Red River of the North has spoken at conservation events, banquets and testified to the Governor's Drought Task Force.

Promote Changes That Enhance Conservation Activities For Farmers

Red River of the North has prepared, by district request, grants and resolutions that would provide cost-share on new field windbreak maintenance and property tax relief on land planted to single-row field windbreaks.

Red River Of The North Resource Management Area Provides . . .

- regionalized educational materials and promotional activities
- educational activities "with a difference"
The use of humor and understanding of the human condition make farmer clients want to listen!
- image building for conservation
The media commercials allow for dialogue that vents frustrations of both the conservation agency and the farmer, while coming to a peaceful solution.
- accessibility to media people
- accessibility of expertise
Conservation offices have at their disposal expertise in the field of speaking, booth construction, materials, signs, news releases.