



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minutes.

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BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
HOLIDAY INN-NORTH
2540 NORTH CLEVELAND AVENUE
ROSEVILLE, MINNESOTA
MARCH 28, 1990

AGENDA

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | 1. Call to Order |
| | 2. Adopt Agenda |
| | 3. Approval of Minutes of February 28, 1990 |
| | 4. Reports |
| | - Chairman's Report - Donald Ogaard |
| | - Executive Director's Report - Jim Birkholz |
| | - Legislative Update - Jim Birkholz |
| | - EQB/Water Resources Committee Report -
Loni Kemp and Howard Peterson |
| | 5. Report of BWSR Ad Hoc Education Committee -
Bill Cofell |
| | 6. Abandoned Well Sealing Cost-Share Program,
implementation strategy - for discussion and
direction - Greg Larson |
| | 7. Acceptance of Draft Rules for the Local Water
Resources Protection and Management Grants
Program - for discussion and action - Greg
Larson |
| 10:30 a.m. | Break |
| 10:40 a.m. | 8. Bois de Sioux Watershed District Overall Plan -
for discussion and approval - Mel Sinn |
| | 9. Private forest management issues and activities
- for information and discussion - Jim
Lemmerman |
| | 10. Advisor Comments |
| Noon | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | 11. Update on USDA Pest and Nutrient management
activities - Gary Nordstrom, USDA-SCS |

- 1:30 p.m. 12. Action on 110B Local Water Plans - Doug Thomas
Recommended for approval:
Cass - Dan Steward, John Sumption
Fillmore - Chris Hughes
Dodge - Chris Hughes
Houston - Chris Hughes
Olmsted - Chris Hughes
Winona - Chris Hughes
Wabasha - Chris Hughes
Martin - Chris Hughes

3:30 p.m. Adjourn



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DATE: March 20, 1990

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

FROM: Jim Birkholz, Executive Director

SUBJECT: March 28, 1990 Board Meeting

Enclosed is the agenda and important information for the March 28th BWSR meeting. The meeting will again be at the Holiday Inn-Roseville, 2540 North Cleveland Avenue, I-35W exit 24. Board members may make room reservations directly with the Holiday Inn-Roseville at 612-636-4567. Following is information regarding agenda items:

- Abandoned well sealing cost-share program implementation strategy. Enclosed is an information sheet regarding how things are shaping up for the guidelines on the well sealing program. This is the chance for Board member discussion and direction prior to finalizing program guidelines.
- Action on draft rule for the local water resources protection and management grants program. Enclosed is the most recent draft of the rules for the grants program. The advisory group will have an opportunity to review these prior to the Board meeting. Staff will be bringing any revisions and discussion items to the Board for resolution so that we may continue the formal rules process.
- Private forest management issues and activities. Jim Lemmerman, our forestry specialist in Duluth, will brief the Board on his activities. This is an opportunity for Board members to assess and discuss how the Board's efforts to assist soil and water conservation districts to develop private forest management activities are progressing.

Board Members, Staff, and Advisors
March 20, 1990
Page Two

- Bois de Sioux Watershed District overall plan. Mel Sinn has reviewed the plan and recommends approval by the Board. Enclosed are his comments on review and a draft order for consideration by the Board. Also enclosed is a copy of a local news article which indicates one legislator's concern with some of the activities regarding the watershed district. Please study this issue and we will have an opportunity at the meeting for further discussion.
- Update on USDA pest and nutrient management activities. Gary Nordstrom and staff from the Soil Conservation Service will be at the meeting to discuss with the Board the current and future directions for some special projects regarding pesticide and nutrient management.
- Action on 110B local water plans. This is the final "crunch" month for local water plan review. We have eight plans scheduled for discussion and approval at the meeting. Staff will prepare overview information for Board member consideration. Local representatives from some of the counties will be at the Board meeting. It has been very stressful attempting to fit all the plans into the Board meeting agendas over the last couple of months. From here on out this workload should decline and more of our agendas can be spent on other issues including assistance to local governments in seeing that the plans are implemented.
- Regarding the strategic plan status. I have received comments from all of the Board members who volunteered to review the draft strategic plan. The comments have been substantial and require redrafting of the plan. This was not accomplished in time for this mailing. I anticipate having a redrafted plan before the Board at the April meeting. Hopefully, the agenda will allow for substantial discussion on the plan with the full Board. Perhaps the plan can be adopted as early as our May meeting provided that Board members are comfortable with the contents of the plan. Staff would like to utilize an approved Board strategic plan as the basic direction document for preparing our much more detailed staff work plan for the coming year. Staff work planning culminates in June at our annual staff work planning meeting.

Please call Chairman Ogaard or myself if you have any agenda additions or require additional information. I'll see you at the Holiday Inn in Roseville on March 28th.

JB:mja
Enc.

Board Members
FYI

12595 OLD COLLEGEVILLE RD.,
ST. JOSEPH, MINN., 56374
MARCH 1, 1990

ROBERT MOSTAD,
SAUK RIVER VALLEY WATERSHED DISTRICT
SAUK CENTRE, MINN.,

DEAR BOB:

Thank you for sending copies the watershed district items published in the January and February issues of the Osakis Review.

First, the monitoring articles are well written informative material by a skilled local reporter that are far better than most press releases. In addition, the articles reflect an excellent relationship of the watershed district with the local press. This kind of cooperation provides an avenue that leads to an informed citizenry that is necessary for effective local resource management.

The item regarding the watershed district supporting the local school systems in providing water quality education is another plus in cooperation. This is local action that is needed in preparing youth for both present and future resource management.

The best resource management will be achieved at the local level. The management and wise use of resources must be supported by informed citizens who understand both the need and appreciate the safeguards.

I believe from reading these articles that your community effort is demonstrating how the watershed district cooperating with the press, schools and other organizations can prepare a firm foundation for efficient and effective future action to protect vital resources. I think your district is to be congratulated for creating a positive climate for future action.

At the March meeting of the Board of Water and Soil Resources, I intend^{to} share these items with other members of the Board.

Sincerely,

Bill Cofell

Bill Cofell,
Citizen Member, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

— see attachments —

THE

Osakis

Review

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Tues., Feb. 20, 1990

Osakis, Douglas County, MN

40c per copy

Part 1 of a series

'They' work on water quality

By Roberta Olson

"They" should do something about the quality of Lake Osakis. Or Sauk Lake. Or the Horseshoe Chain of Lakes. Or other area lakes.

If "they" don't do something soon, the lakes will be dead lakes.

"They" is a broad term, however, used to involve the other guy in important concerns, without involving those present.

How good it is to discover "they" are actually doing something, right here in Osakis, in fact in the whole area, about water quality.

"They" in this case are the Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD) and its Board of Directors.

Formed in 1986, after concern in the Cold Spring-Richmond area about the deterioration of that area's lakes initiated its formation, the Sauk River Watershed District was created to enhance, preserve and protect the water quality and the natural environment of the district.

The SRWD covers more than 1,000 square miles of land in Central Minnesota, 644,480 acres, starting two miles east of Alexandria, and covering an area approximately 40 miles wide north to south, and ending at the Mississippi River at St. Cloud.

The district includes Smith Lake, and the man-made ditch, Lake Osakis, and the Horseshoe Chain of Lakes. In fact, there are 65 lakes in Todd County, 26 in Douglas, 13 in Pope, and 139 in Stearns, a total of

243 lakes, in the district. The lake surfaces total 35,707 acres.

Funding for the administration of the watershed district comes from a

\$125,000 per year levy. However, funding for projects may come from federal or state grants, or from a levy against property owners benefitted by a project.

The district is governed by a Board of Managers, including Gary Astleford of Osakis, and Bob Mostad, the ditch inspector and administrator.

Managers are selected by appointment.

Current members of the board include Meinrad Torborg, Cold Spring, president, representing Stearns County; Clarence Kremer, St. Cloud, vice president, Stearns County; Noble Schuneman, Nelson, secretary, Douglas County; Conrad Middendorf, Melrose, treasurer, Stearns County;

And managers George Friederichs, Eden Valley, Meeker County; Allen Kuseske, Villard, Pope County; Victor Traut, Sauk Centre, Stearns County; Thomas Leko, Sauk Centre, Todd County.

While concern about lake quality has peaked this past year because of drought conditions causing the blue-green algae bloom on Lake Osakis and other area lakes last summer, the Sauk River Watershed District Board had already begun to work on the problems.

"There is a tremendous amount of increased concern," Bob Mostad commented recently. It is the same concern that prompted the district to begin a series of Water Quality Monitoring Studies prior to recommending measures to help control and improve the lake pollution problem.

The Watershed District has just recently received its third annual water quality report for the entire district. Part of that \$36,000 report was funded by two federal grants amounting to \$86,000 and \$90,000.

Local funding has come from the Lake Osakis Resort Assn., the Osakis Economic Development Corp., and the Osakis Lake Assn.

Several smaller projects, including the restoration of Krantz Lake in Pope County, and completion of intensive studies of pollution to area lakes have been completed.

A pilot project is in the process of being written to involve the Osakis

and Villard schools in a water quality course. It is hoped this program will be funded through a grant, and that in future years the school program will be carried to every school in the district.

Other 1990 projects include continued monitoring in the district, weather permitting, Mostad says, and continued study of the watershed runoff. This summer the Osakis storm sewer will be monitored at the point it enters Lake Osakis for phosphorus loading.

"Phosphorus is the big concern," says Mostad, because phosphorus "is the medium that's necessary for weed growth."

In coming segments of this water quality series, the Osakis Review will expand on the 1989 Water Quality Monitoring Report, how and when the monitoring was completed; monitoring emphasis; monitoring results; and the AgNPS watershed runoff computer program.

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Part 2 of a series

Water monitoring shows trend

By Roberta Olson

The 1989 Water Quality Monitoring Report being conducted annually by the Sauk River Watershed District is showing a trend that the lakes are "getting a little bit worse," says Bob Mostad, Osakis, district administrator.

"This is the third year of the study and the trend is steady. It's getting a little bit worse."

Part of that could be attributed to the fact that Minnesota is in the grips of a drought. In fact, portions of the monitoring program may be halted this summer until the water levels become normal.

The monitoring report is designed to determine and help remediate the water quality problems in the Sauk River Watershed District.

The first phase is to conduct the Horseshoe Chain of Lakes Diagnostic-Feasibility Study under the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Lakes Program.

The second phase is to conduct a second study targeting the Sauk River's headwaters, Lake Osakis, and including Sauk Lake.

The intensive monitoring of the Sauk River Watershed District began in 1987. Specific areas were targeted to provide insight as to the origin of nonpoint source pollution loading, as well as contribute to the general knowledge of the district's water quality.

The Lake Osakis monitoring includes two in-lake sites, and five major tributaries to the lake, as well

as storm runoff around the lake.

Sauk Lake has two in-lake sites; Horseshoe Lake two in-lake sites; Cedar Island Lake one in-lake site; storm runoff into the Horseshoe Chain of Lakes; and five stations along the Sauk River. Emphasis was on total phosphorus (TP) and total suspended solids (TSS).

In addition there were 11 precipitation monitoring stations manned by volunteers.

Lake Osakis was monitored monthly from February through September, and a second time each month during May through September.

Monitoring at Lake Osakis included the East (North) station at Head of the Lakes; and West (South) Station just off the Osakis City Park.

Lake Osakis tributaries monitored were Boss Creek outlet at the walleye stripping station; Little Lake Osakis outlet at the Head of the Lakes; Fille Lake outlet at the Osakis Golf Course; Curtis Creek outlet, which is known as J. D. No. 2; and the Long Prairie River outlet, which is the old diversion ditch.

In addition, the Lake Osakis outlet, which is the beginning of the Sauk River, was monitored, along with four other monitoring stations on the river, north of Melrose, and below the Melrose wastewater treatment plant, the Sauk River inlet to the Horseshoe Chain of Lakes at the Highway 23 bridge, and the outlet from Knaus Lake at the Co. Rd. 49 bridge.

Sauk Lake was also monitored at Sauk Lake, north and south; Horseshoe Lake east and west, and Cedar Island Lake.

While the monitoring stations can show total phosphorus loading, "We can never know how much the septic systems of cabins around the lake contribute. We can only guess that they are a contributing factor," Mostad said.

In addition, a new monitoring station will be added in the summer of 1990 at the Osakis city storm sewer outlet into Lake Osakis.

Next: Results of the monitoring, monitoring emphasis, including total phosphorus and PH Loading.

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Mostad, Robert
Rt. 2 Box 49
Osakis, MN 56360

Water quality course to pilot at Osakis, Villard

The Sauk River Watershed District has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Villard and Osakis Public School systems to fund any additional costs to them of implementing an intensive one to two week course in water quality education.

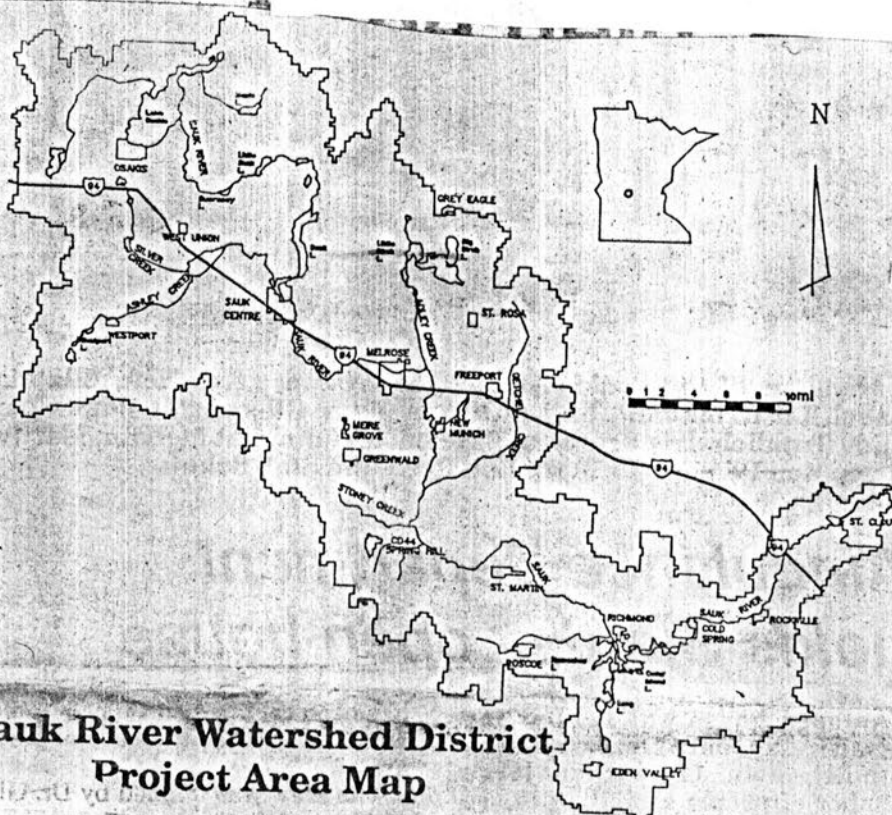
This will be a pilot project, which it is hoped, when funds are

available, will be moved downstream through all the school systems in the Sauk River Watershed drainage area.

The classes involved will be earth science, biology, geology, and senior social studies classes.

A one day training workshop will be held for the teachers, prior to the school classes which will be held in April or May.

Sauk River Watershed District
Project Area Map





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RECEIVED

MAR 08 1990

March 7, 1990

BOARD OF
& SOIL RESOURCES

Dear Pat:

Enclosed is the material I showed you last evening. I would appreciate if copies could be placed in the folders for the March meeting. I think the letter I wrote Mr. Mestrich explains why I think the material has educational value.

I note that someone on the staff has been forwarding material from North American Lake Management Society. I don't know how they got that address - but please place any material in the folder and I am quite sure it will get it at the monthly meeting.

The meeting last evening was enjoyable and interesting.

Sincerely
Bill Cjell

Bd members FYI

WATER PLANNING SPECIAL LEVY

- 1985 - 110B LOCAL WATER PLANNING WAS ADOPTED AND INCLUDED PROVISIONS FOR A .75 MILL LEVY EXEMPTION TO COUNTIES FOR IMPLEMENTING APPROVED LOCAL WATER PLANS
- 1987 - TAX LAW REPEALED COUNTY AUTHORITY TO USE SPECIAL LEVIES INCLUDING 110B
- 1990 - LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO REINSTATE LEVY EXEMPTION

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL WATER LEVY PROPOSAL

TIER 1 - EQUALIZED BASE AMOUNT

Each County would levy, outside the limits, a specified uniform tax capacity rate, and would be guaranteed a base amount of \$_____. This would be similar to the existing school aid system.

This level takes into account local ability to pay and establishes the concept of minimum local effort.

TIER 2 - BWSR CHALLENGE GRANTS

Counties would only be able to apply for BWSR challenge grants if they have levied the minimum uniform rate as specified in Tier 1.

TIER 3 - SPECIAL LEVY FOR FUNDING NEEDS NOT MET BY TIER 1 + 2, WITH CAP

Each county would be allowed to levy, outside the limits, the additional dollar amount necessary to fund their BWSR approved comprehensive water plan.

However the dollar amount of the levy cannot exceed the lesser of 1) amount of budget in BWSR approved plan or 2) a tax capacity rate of _____%

Conservation Tax Break Works Wonders on Erosion

This innovative program slashed erosion rates for \$3/acre.



Bernard Milliren no longer feels penalized for improving his land.

A successful experiment with land tax rebates has shown that incentives don't have to be huge to convince farmers to meet stringent soil conservation targets.

Not if farmers perceive them as fair and just.

Farmers in a test area of Pepin County, WI, just across the Mississippi River from Lake City, MN, have brought 87% of a total of 33,000 crop acres down to a replacement-rate of erosion. That's commonly referred to as a rate of "T," usually about 5 tons/acre.

Now the county is taking over the project, which began in 1984 as an experiment funded by state and federal governments.

The project — the first of its kind in the nation — is drawing attention from soil conservationists who are looking for new ways to reduce soil erosion.

It all started when local dairy farmer Bernard Milliren, chairman of the county land conservation committee, jumped at the chance to run the trial project.

He had reasons.

As a young farmer starting out 40 years ago, Milliren cleaned up a 40-acre parcel just added to the farm.

"It was steep and hilly and terribly eroded," he says, "with big gulleys with cars in them."

The year after he pulled the cars out, seeded the gulleys and solved the erosion problem, the assessor raised the land's valuation.

"That's what happens," says Milliren. "Instead of getting credit for doing a good job, you get a sort of slap in the face."

The beauty of the tax-break plan, called the Conservation Credit Program, is that it's fair, he says.

Farmers who take care of their land pay lower taxes. Those with excessive erosion get the incentive to reduce it.

The county land conservation department — equivalent to a Soil and Water Conservation District — spot checks each farm in the plan every year.

The most commonly used conservation practices are conservation tillage, crop rotation and contour strips, he says.

"It's really a maintenance program — an encouragement to the farmer to maintain his conservation practices," says Milliren. "Too many times, with a cost-sharing set-up, (practices are) put in and abandoned. If you have a change of ownership, there's no incentive to maintain them."

With the program's success, the county has agreed to gradually take over funding and offer the tax break to farmers countywide. Each year, an additional \$60,000 will be made available for expanding the program. It will be paid for with higher property tax rates.

The plan has met little resistance, because the county is mainly rural and faces serious erosion problems, says Milliren.

On his own farm, Milliren receives a \$540 annual property tax credit on 180 crop acres, almost 8% of his total tax bill (including buildings).

The Pepin County program had to cross a major hurdle — the "uniformity clause" contained in most state tax codes. The clause requires property used in a similar manner to be taxed at a uniform rate.

To get around that, funders of the program wrote checks to participating townships, which credited the money toward farmer tax bills.

Farmers who leave the program voluntarily have to stay out for three-five years. This prevents dodging in and out of the program with changing crop prices.

The program's simplicity is one of its key advantages, says Milliren. A farmer either enrolls all or none of his land in the program. Incentives and erosion targets are the same for all.

Peter Nowak, of the Environmental Resources Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, sums up the project's achievements. It shows that "if there's enough incentive, farmers are able to get their land down to T fairly easily without much technical assistance." □

BY NORMAN SENJEM

Berg Threatens To Disband Watershed If Permit System Is Established By Board

by Angela Etter
Staff Writer

A new wrinkle was added last week to the ongoing debate over a permit system for drainage for the Bois de Sioux Watershed, when Sen. Charlie Berg sent a message to the board of managers threatening to disband the watershed.

Berg's message on the permit proposal was delivered to the board by manager Ken Baldry, and was reaffirmed in a telephone conversation with Berg this week. Berg said what he strongly opposes is a permit system for established field systems, and said if one is established he will try to have the watershed dissolved.

The senator from Chokio, who has strongly opposed the watershed from its beginning, said a permit system for established field systems is unenforceable and that the watershed will never be able to convince landowners to come in for a permit simply to do a cleanout.

The watershed board of managers has been working on a set of rules and regulations for the watershed that would include a permit system for drainage projects. Under the proposed permit system all landowners would be asked to obtain a permit for the construction or maintenance of a private drainage facility.

Berg said as he interprets the proposal, "a permit for the construction or maintenance of a private drainage facility" means that every time a farmer wants to take his scraper out to do a little ditch cleaning he will have to have a permit.

However, watershed engineer Charlie Anderson, who has been drafting the proposed rules and regulations with watershed attorney Tom Athens and administrator Jon Roeschlein, has said repeatedly in meetings on the proposed rules that it is not their intention to require a permit for a routine cleanout.

Anderson said initially the permit system will serve the purpose of

giving them an inventory of what kinds of drainage systems the watershed contains. But more important than the inventory, Anderson said, is the control they will attain over drainage problems by having a readily accessible inventory of what the watershed contains when a problem comes up.

For most farmers Anderson said permits will be issued without question and be renewable each time they come up. However, for those whose drainage systems appear to be causing problems, Anderson said they will want to look at those systems and help the farmer arrive at a mutually agreeable solution to the problem.

While Berg said Monday that he will support efforts to establish a permit system for new drainage, Anderson said at last week's watershed board meeting that is not where he thinks they should concentrate their efforts. Anderson said there are drainage problems right now with the systems currently in place, and that is where they must direct their efforts to solve the problems.

Anderson told the board of managers that he feels they should not attempt to keep someone from putting in a new drainage system, but rather monitor the results of that system, and if there is a problem, then take action.

Not all of the watershed managers are convinced that the permit system is workable. Manager Steve Wetherbee, who represents Wilkin County on the watershed board, said he's not sure the time is right for establishing a permit system.

Manager Jim Nelson, who represents Grant County, feels that most of those who oppose the permit system idea are afraid that the watershed is going to try to shut down their ditches. And manager George Ahlsten from Traverse County said he feels much of the opposition is because of misunderstanding over what the watershed is attempting to do.

In an attempt to answer some of

the questions raised about the proposed regulations for the watershed, the board invited members of the watershed's advisory committee to last week's meeting to hammer out their differences. The dozen or so in attendance included county commissioners Steve Raguse from Traverse, Gilbert Voss of Wilkin, and Dick Lane of Big Stone.

While the discussion on the regulations during the morning session was split as to whether or not the permit system is workable, Anderson said after further discussion that afternoon a straw vote was taken and the majority voted to proceed

with plans for a permit system.

Anderson said the watershed board of managers will take the input received from the advisory members and attempt to fine tune what has already been written for regulations concerning permits for drainage. The managers also agreed that they should move on to other areas and lay out a first draft of proposed rules for the rest of the watershed operation.

When the writing of the rules and regulations is completed a public hearing will be held before they are formally adopted by the watershed.

"THE NEW FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM--WHAT'S IN IT FOR DISTRICTS"

Tony Dorrell, Director, Cooperative Forestry--U.S. Forest Service, Washington, DC
James Hubbard, President, National Association of State Foresters, CO

DESCRIPTION

Forest Stewardship will apply environmental and economic resource management principles to forest lands that will benefit current and future landowners and society at large. A large percentage of the Nation's private forest landowners are not currently receiving professional technical assistance. This initiative will accelerate forest stewardship.

To provide landowners the fundamentals of good stewardship all professionals interested in forest resource management will be brought together. Comprehensive forest management will help to provide clean water and air, healthy fish and wildlife, quality outdoor recreation and a continuous supply of forest products from private forest lands.

WHY IS FOREST STEWARDSHIP NEEDED?

The demand for outputs from forested lands is increasing. Approximately 57 percent of the Nation's commercial forest land is privately owned by nearly 8 million nonindustrial owners. It is estimated that demand for natural resources from private lands will increase significantly in the future. These lands must be managed in an environmentally sound manner as the Nation strives to increase outputs. How timber is harvested from these private lands, and the extent to which they are properly managed following harvest, will impact our soil and wildlife, our quality of life, the vitality of forest resource related industries, and the economic base of local rural communities.

WHAT WILL IT ACCOMPLISH?

Traditional efforts to provide professional technical assistance to these landowners has not been particularly successful, reaching only an estimated 10 percent. A stewardship land ethic approach that will provide private forest landowners with resource management options designed to meet their objectives could place up to 25 million acres of private forest land under stewardship management. The ability of the forest to meet the nation's demands hinges largely upon how well the private landowner meets the stewardship challenge.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR S&W CONSERVATION DISTRICTS?

For years NACD has had strong stewardship commitments and has maintained a Soil and Water Stewardship Committee. Now, an opportunity exists to strengthen partnership ties between the NACD, the Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters as our organizations work on common goals to develop an effective delivery system to improve forest stewardship. Many State Foresters are already receiving a helping hand from State NACD Committees as State Forest Stewardship Plans are being developed. If your State NACD Committee is not involved, they would be a welcomed addition. Many local S&W Conservation Districts will be helping to implement the Forest Stewardship Program at the landowner level. State Foresters can use the assistance and have access to Federal funds that can be shared to support CD personnel.

Forest landowners view their land as a source of family enjoyment, a chance to leave something special for future generations as well as a potential source of income. But they may need technical advice and incentives to make their vision for the land a reality. Together, our organizations can help achieve that reality.

RECOMMENDATION

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION ROLE OF THE BWSR

Goal Statement:

The education and communication efforts of the Board of Water and Soil Resources are intended to result in a knowledgeable citizenry and capable local officials by fostering the flow of the best available information on how citizens and local governments can best protect Minnesota's water and soil resources.

I. Rationale and Philosophy

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) was charged by the legislature with a clear mandate to provide an information and education program addressing water and soil resources management; that mandate also clearly included local officials as well as the general public. The statutory responsibilities may best be summarized as follows:

- (1) Develop information and education programs designed to increase awareness of water and soil resources problems; and
- (2) Develop information and education programs designed to increase awareness of opportunities for local government involvement in preventing or solving local water and soil resources problems.

The BWSR, being largely an enabling agency for local units of government involved with water and soil resources management, should provide direction and assistance to local governments to accomplish its education and communication goal.

The Ad Hoc Education Committee suggests that the underlying premises of such a program are to:

- (1) provide assistance to local governments to develop their own education and communication program capabilities, and
- (2) create, when necessary, or otherwise assist the development and dissemination of needed education and communication materials and programs.

II. Assistance to be Provided

For the BWSR to truly become capable of "enabling" local units of government to develop education and communication programs, it must first "enable" itself to assist others. Adding education and additional communication expertise is the vital first step.

RECOMMENDATION ON EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION ROLE OF THE BWSR
PAGE TWO

The Ad Hoc Education Committee suggests that the greatest needs of the BWSR to "enable" itself to provide this assistance to local units of government are the following:

- (1) Adding staff, perhaps three, to complement the expertise of the existing Communications Specialist;
- (2) Directing these staff to ensure that resource education efforts by local governments are optimized by --
 - (a) developing a process to listen to ideas and needs of local governments about what they require to achieve their individual education and communication goals;
 - (b) providing, through training and other means, the capability to local entities to carry out their own communications programs (i.e., "how-to" self-help);
 - (c) seeking, creating, fostering, and augmenting the opportunities for local entities to share educational materials and programs (i.e., exchange of ideas and advocacy of local successes); and
 - (d) assisting the coordination of local education and communication efforts with other state agencies and environmental education efforts.

III. Budget Considerations

The Ad Hoc Education Committee suggests that the BWSR's information and education program -- its communication role -- must be supported by an obvious, ongoing commitment. This commitment must be in terms of identifiable line items of the agency's budget and its staffing complement, providing the necessary focus to carry out the agency's statutory responsibilities for information and education. The additional staffing recommended would likely require an additional \$203,000 (estimate) per year.

The Ad Hoc Education Committee recommends that the Board direct staff to prepare a DRAFT agency budget, addressing these considerations as a matter of priority for the upcoming biennium.