



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minutes.

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**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
ONE WEST WATER STREET
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2002**

AGENDA

9:00 a.m. Call Meeting to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Adopt Agenda

Minutes of September 25, 2002

Open Mike (10-minute agenda time, two-minute limit/person)

Reports

- Chair – Lee Coe
- Executive Director – Ron Harnack
- Dispute Resolution Committee – Lee Coe
- Wetlands Committee – Darrell Bruggman
- Cost-Share/Soil Conservation Committee – Dwain Otte
- Education and Public Relations Committee – Paul Krabbenhoft
- Administrative Advisory Committee – Lee Coe

Agency Reports

- Department of Agriculture – Sharon Clark
- Department of Health – Dan Wilson
- Department of Natural Resources – Steve Morse
- Minnesota Extension Service – Jim Anderson
- Pollution Control Agency – Lisa Thorvig

Committee Recommendations

Northern Water Planning Subcommittee

1. Cass County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – *DECISION ITEM*
2. Crow Wing Comprehensive Local Water Plan – *DECISION ITEM*
3. Norman County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – *DECISION ITEM*

4. Pennington County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – *DECISION ITEM*
5. Polk County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – *DECISION ITEM*
6. Red Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – *DECISION ITEM*

Southern Water Planning Subcommittee

1. Goodhue County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – *DECISION ITEM*
2. Olmsted County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – *DECISION ITEM*

Cost-Share Committee

1. FY 03 EQIP Recommendation – *DECISION ITEM*
2. FY 03 NPEA Challenge Grant – *DECISION ITEM*

New Business

1. Alteration of Conservation Easement 51-02-91-01, Kathleen Kernstock Easement in Murray County – Tim Fredbo – *DECISION ITEM*
2. Alteration of Conservation Easement 21-03-87-01, Joe and Beverly Guyette Easement in Douglas County – Tim Fredbo – *DECISION ITEM*
3. Alteration of Conservation Easement 21-01-93-03, Bernhard and Lorraine Rachel Easement in Douglas County – Tim Fredbo – *DECISION ITEM*
4. Alteration of Conservation Easement 21-01-93-03-D, Dan and Marlene Weber Easement in Douglas County – Tim Fredbo – *DECISION ITEM*

12:00 p.m. Adjourn for lunch break

1:00 p.m.

5. Partnership to Accelerate Technical Assistance to Private Landowners with Special Emphasis on Delivering of the Conservation Programs of the 2002 Federal Farm Bill – Kevin Lines – *DECISION ITEM*
6. General Permit-2 (PG-2) – John Jaschke – *INFORMATION ITEM*
7. WCA Administration Allocation of Natural Resources Block Grant – John Jaschke – *INFORMATION ITEM*
8. “Shared Engineering and Technical Services” Ad-Hoc Committee – John Jaschke – *INFORMATION ITEM*

Advisory Comments

- Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) – Dave Weirens
- Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE) – Tim Gieseke
- Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) – LeAnn Buck
- Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) – Sandy Hooker
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) – Ray Bohn
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Tim Koehler

Upcoming Meetings

- Next BWSR Meeting, December 4, St. Paul
- MAT Annual Meeting, November 21-23, Alexandria
- MAWD Annual Meeting, December 5-7, Alexandria
- MASWCD Annual Meeting, December 8-10, St. Paul
- AMC Annual Meeting, December 9-11, Duluth



DATE: October 15, 2002

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

FROM: Ronald D. Harnack, Executive Director *RDH*

SUBJECT: October 23rd BWSR Meeting

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Wednesday, October 23, 2002, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the BWSR conference room, lower level, at One West Water Street, St. Paul. Parking is available across the street from the building. Please display the enclosed "temporary parking permit" on your vehicle's dashboard.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

Committee Recommendations

Northern Water Planning Subcommittee

1. Cass County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – The BWSR Northern Water Planning Subcommittee met on October 11, 2002 to review the Cass County Water Plan Update. The Update for Cass County has been combined with the Cass County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The new Land Use Plan has four chapters. These include, Private Land Use, Public Land Use, Infrastructure and the Updated Water Plan. Cass County is only the second county in Minnesota to totally fold their water plan into their comprehensive land use plan. One big advantage of bringing the two plans together is the enhanced public input that comes with land use plans gives local water issues a much better airing. Previous water plans in the county have also achieved significant milestones. The Cass County Environmental Services Department was an outgrowth of the water plan. Cass County continues to be recognized as a leader in innovative local conservation policies. BWSR field staff recommend the approval of the Cass County Water Plan Update, as a chapter in the Cass County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. See attached. **DECISION ITEM**
2. Crow Wing Comprehensive Local Water Plan – The BWSR Northern Water Planning Subcommittee met on October 11, 2002 to review the Crow Wing County Water Plan Update. Some of the most significant features of the

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Bemidji, MN 56601
phone (218) 755-4235
fax (218) 755-4201

Brainerd
217 S. 7th Street
Suite 202
Brainerd, MN 56401
phone (218) 828-2383
fax (218) 828-6036

Duluth
394 S. Lake Avenue
Room 403
Duluth, MN 55802
phone (218) 723-4752
fax (218) 723-4794

Fergus Falls
413 W. Stanton Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
phone (218) 736-5445
fax (218) 736-7215

Marshall
1400 E. Lyon Street
Box 267
Marshall, MN 56258
phone (507) 537-6060
fax (507) 537-6368

New Ulm
261 Highway 15 S.
New Ulm, MN 56073
phone (507) 359-6074
fax (507) 359-6018

Rochester
40 16th Street S.E.
Suite A
Rochester, MN 55904
phone (507) 285-7458
fax (507) 280-2875

Saint Paul
One West Water Street
Suite 250
Saint Paul, MN 55107
phone (651) 282-9969
fax (651) 284-0000

Update include the measurability of its actions. The implementation section includes the usual timeline, estimated cost and lead local department or agency, but also gives added details that make this update more measurable. For instance, the Update commits to creating a parcel database for the entire county, stabilizing three miles of riparian property from erosion, doubling the replacement ratios for wetland impacts, creating three new wetland banks, assisting three communities with wellhead protection plans, and setting aside 10,000 acres of marginal land into conservation easements. The County also met recently with the Thirty Lakes Watershed District (TLWD) to discuss the TLWD's draft Updated Overall Plan. The District's Plan focuses on stormwater impacts caused by development, and their intention to develop a stormwater utility to build their capability to deal with this important issue. While the last plan was in force, the county expanded their water plan advisory board from five members to sixteen members. In addition the county increased their commitment to the water plan by upgrading the coordinators job to focus almost entirely on the water plan (75%). BWSR field staff recommend approval of the Crow Wing County Water Plan Update. See attached. *DECISION ITEM*

3. Norman County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – See attached. *DECISION ITEM*
4. Pennington County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – See attached. *DECISION ITEM*
5. Polk County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – See attached. *DECISION ITEM*
6. Red Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – See attached. *DECISION ITEM*

Southern Water Planning Subcommittee

1. Goodhue County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – See attached. *DECISION ITEM*
2. Olmsted County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Request for Extension – See attached. *DECISION ITEM*

Cost-Share Committee

There are two Cost-Share Committee items that will be brought to the Board in October. However, the Committee is not meeting until October 15, which is later than the board packet mailing, therefore, these items will not be included in the packet mailing, we will do a separate mailing after the Committee meeting.

1. FY 03 EQIP Recommendation - The Cost Share Committee will be meeting on October 15 to finalize this recommendation to the BWSR. The BWSR will

be requested to approve this recommendation. After approval, it will be forwarded to NRCS. *DECISION ITEM*

2. FY 03 NPEA Challenge Grant – A FY 03 NPEA Challenge Grant is scheduled to be offered to the 11 NPEA JPBs. The Cost Share Committee will be meeting on October 15 to review current allocation policy and recommend, any revisions to the current BWSR policy, and staff authorization to announce grant. The BWSR will be requested to approve this recommendation. *DECISION ITEM*

New Business

1. Alteration of Conservation Easement 51-02-91-01, Kathleen Kernstock easement in Murray County. Ms. Kernstock wants to remove 29 acres currently in RIM and replace it with 29.8 acres adjacent to some other RIM she owns. See attached. *DECISION ITEM*
2. Alteration of Conservation Easement 21-03-87-01, Joe and Beverly Guyette easement in Douglas County. The Guyettes are requesting a release or an exchange of their 20-year easement. The easement is ten acres in size and due to expire in 2008. See attached. *DECISION ITEM*
3. Alteration of Conservation Easement 21-01-93-03, Bernhard and Lorraine Rachel easement in Douglas County. The Rachel's want to remove six acres from their PWP easement to better accommodate potential sale and subsequent development adjacent to the easement. See Attached. *DECISION ITEM*
4. Alteration of Conservation Easement 21-01-93-03-D, Dan and Marlene Weber easement in Douglas County. The Weber's want to remove four acres from their 77.5 acre easement to better accommodate building on the land adjacent to the easement. See attached. *DECISION ITEM*
5. Partnership to Accelerate Technical Assistance to Private Landowners with Special Emphasis on Delivering of the Conservation Programs of the 2002 Federal Farm Bill – see attached. *DECISION ITEM*
6. General Permit-2 (GP-2). The Army Corps of Engineers (COE) is about to issue a final public notice for a proposed General Permit which would synchronize and coordinate WCA wetland replacement plans and Federal Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting procedures for. The permit will be issued to the state meaning that BWSR staff will review and certify LGU replacement plan decisions to the COE. (See attached process flowchart and benefits list.) *INFORMATION ITEM*.
7. WCA Administration Allocation of Natural Resources Block Grant. The data and formula used have not been updated since the initial grants were made in

1993. MASWCD and some Counties have requested a reassessment of the distribution formula to assure that these measures now accurately reflect existing workloads for the administration of the WCA. BWSR Staff with participants from SWCDs and AMC have reviewed the formula to determine if there is a more accurate way to allocate implementation dollars. A new formula has been proposed using both statistical and reported data and several policy issues will be addressed (see attachment). *INFORMATION ITEM.* (DECISION needed by June 2003).

8. "Shared Engineering and Technical Services" ad-hoc committee. BWSR staff, in concert with MASWCD and MACDE, has embarked on an assessment of the potential for enhanced shared access to engineering and other technical services for all SWCDs (and their clientele, including other local governments). The effort will include an in-depth evaluation of the NPEA program structure to assess the strengths and shortcomings of the current model. An initial meeting was held October 10th (a meeting summary will be available by October 23rd) and a second will be held November 21st in St. Cloud. A summary of findings and a set of recommendations will be forwarded to the MASWCD and BWSR. (See attached list of MASWCD and MACDE participants.) *INFORMATION ITEM.*

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to give me a call at 651-296-0878. I look forward to seeing you on October 23!

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
ONE WEST WATER STREET
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2002**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

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12:00 p.m. Adjourn for lunch break

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Advisory Comments

- Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) – Dave Weirens
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- Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) – Sandy Hooker
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) – Ray Bohn
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Tim Koehler

Upcoming Meetings

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- MAWD Annual Meeting, December 5-7, Alexandria
- MASWCD Annual Meeting, December 8-10, St. Paul
- AMC Annual Meeting, December 9-11, Duluth

**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107**

In the Matter of Reviewing the Comprehensive Water Plan Update for Cass County (Minnesota Statutes 1990, Section 103B.311, Subdivision 4 and Section 103B.315, Subdivision 5 and Minnesota Rules 9300.0170).

**ORDER APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATER PLAN**

Whereas, the Cass County Board of Commissioners adopted a Comprehensive Water Plan (Plan) on July 16, 1996, under authority of M.S. 1990, Section 103B.301, which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board), May 22, 1996, pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Plan provided for updating in 2001 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, and

Whereas, the Cass County Board of Commissioners submitted a Comprehensive Water Plan Update (Plan Update) to the Board on July 25, 2002, pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Plan Update:

Now therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, requires adopted Comprehensive Water Plans to be updated on a recurring basis.
2. On June 5, 2001, Cass County passed a resolution requesting from BWSR a one-year extension on their timeframe to develop their Comprehensive Water Plan Update. On June 27, 2001, the BWSR approved the Cass County request for an extension.
3. Cass County completed a draft Plan Update on December 31, 2001, and submitted it to affected local units of government for review and comment pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 1.
4. On December 31, 2001, Cass County submitted a draft Plan Update to the Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, the Pollution Control Agency, the State Planning Agency and the Minnesota Geological Survey for preliminary review and comment.

5. On June 18, 2002, Cass County held a public hearing on the Plan Update, pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 4, for the purpose of obtaining public input into the Plan Update.
6. On July 25, 2002, Cass County submitted its Plan Update along with all written comments received on the Plan Update, and a record of the public hearing to the Board for final State review pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
7. On August 28, 2002, a written overview of the Cass County Plan Update was presented to the Board for their information and review.
8. **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review:** No written preliminary or final review comments were received from the MDA.
9. **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Review:** In its final review comments dated September 11, 2002, the MDH recommended approval of the Cass County Water Plan Update.
10. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review:** In its preliminary comments dated August 30, 2002, the DNR provided written comments on the Plan Update. The DNR noted in particular that Cass County is recognized as a statewide leader with innovative policies. The DNR also provided detailed comments on several issues related to local water management.
11. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Review:** No written preliminary or final review comments were received from the MPCA.
12. **Minnesota State Planning Agency/Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Review:** In its final review comments dated November 20, 2001, the EQB noted that they found no areas that were inconsistent with state laws. The EQB also noted the importance of the county coordinating the Update process with the County Comprehensive Land Use Plan process.
13. **Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) Preliminary Review:** No written preliminary or final comments were received from the MGS.
14. **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources:** On May 2, 2002, the BWSR provided written comments on the Plan Update. Comments provided included a summary of implementation actions over the past six years and comments related to the surface water quality assessment, lake management plans, local funding options for water plan implementation, and lake categorization.
15. **County Response to Agency Comments:** Cass County responded in writing to DNR comments on June 14, 2002. The County responded in writing to BWSR comments on July 14, 2002. In addition, the county made several changes in the final plan to address comments raised in agency preliminary review. The BWSR concluded its final review of the Plan Update and state agencies' comments on October 4, 2002.

16. **The Board Water Plan Review Committee:** On October 11, 2002, the Board committee met in Brainerd with Board staff and representatives from Cass County to review and discuss the Plan Update. Those in attendance were Leland Coe, Ginny Imholte, and Darrell Bruggman of the Board of Water and Soil Resources Board; Ron Shelito and Dan Steward of the Brainerd Regional Office; Jim Demgen of the Cass County Board, Stanley Kumpala, Supervisor with the Cass SWCD, John Sumption, Cass County Local Water Plan Coordinator, and Brian Larson, of the Water Plan Task Force. The water plan review committee met to determine whether all relevant law and rule requirements had been met and to hear comments from the county on the planning process.

17. On October 11, 2002, the BWSR water plan review committee recommended that the Board of Water and Soil Resources Board approve the Cass County Plan Update.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Water Plan Update of Cass County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.311, Subd. 4, and Minnesota Rules, 9300.0170, Subp. 4.
2. The Cass County Water Plan Update attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the county, possible solutions, general goals, objectives and actions of the county, and an implementation program. The attached Plan Update is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.301 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 9300.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Plan as the Comprehensive Water Plan Update of Cass County, dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this twenty-third day of October 2002.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Lee Coe, Chair

**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107**

In the Matter of Reviewing the Comprehensive Water Plan Update
for Crow Wing County (Minnesota Statutes 1990, Section 103B.311,
Subdivision 4 and Section 103B.315, Subdivision 5 and Minnesota
Rules 9300.0170).

**ORDER APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATER PLAN**

Whereas, the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners adopted a Comprehensive Water Plan (Plan) on August 13, 1997, under authority of M.S. 1990, Section 103B.301, which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board), July 23, 1997, pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Plan provided for updating in 2002 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, and

Whereas, the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners submitted a Comprehensive Water Plan Update (Plan Update) to the Board on August 1, 2002, pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Plan Update:

Now therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, requires adopted Comprehensive Water Plans to be updated on a recurring basis.
2. Crow Wing County completed a draft Plan Update on March 29, 2002, and submitted it to affected local units of government for review and comment pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 1.
3. On March 29, 2002, Crow Wing County submitted a draft Plan Update to the Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, the Pollution Control Agency, the State Planning Agency and the Minnesota Geological Survey for preliminary review and comment.

4. On June 25, 2002, Crow Wing County held a public hearing on the Plan Update, pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 4, for the purpose of obtaining public input into the Plan Update.
5. On August 1, 2002, Crow Wing County submitted its Plan Update along with all written comments received on the Plan Update, and a record of the public hearing to the Board for final State review pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
6. On August 28, 2002, a written overview of the Crow Wing County Plan Update was presented to the Board for their information and review.
7. **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review:** On May 31, 2002, the MDA provided written preliminary comments on the draft Plan.
8. **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Review:** On May 23, 2002, and July 24, 2002, the MDH provided preliminary and final comments on the draft Plan. In its final review comments dated September 11, 2002, the MDH recommended approval of the Crow Wing County Water Plan Update.
9. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review:** No written preliminary or final review comments were received from the DNR.
10. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Review:** On September 26, 2002, the MPCA provided written final comments on the draft Plan. The MPCA recommended approval of the Plan.
11. **Minnesota State Planning Agency/Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Review:** In its final review comments dated September 3, 2002, the EQB noted that they found no areas that were inconsistent with state laws. The EQB also noted the importance of the county coordinating the Update process with the County Comprehensive Land Use Plan process.
12. **Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) Preliminary Review:** No written preliminary or final comments were received from the MGS.
13. **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources:** On May 24, 2002, the BWSR provided written comments on the Plan Update. Comments provided included a summary of implementation actions over the past five years and comments related to the Plan's executive summary, categorizing the county's lakes, phosphorus coefficients, lake management plans, priority wetlands, and the shoreland ordinance.
14. **County Response to Agency Comments:** Crow Wing County responded in writing to MDA, MDH and BWSR comments on July 24, 2002.

15. **The Board Water Plan Review Committee:** On October 11, 2002, the Board committee met in Brainerd with Board staff and representatives from Crow Wing County to review and discuss the Plan Update. Those in attendance were Leland Coe, Ginny Imholte, and Darrell Bruggman of the Board of Water and Soil Resources Board; Ron Shelito and Dan Steward of the Brainerd Regional Office; Tom Phelps, Crow Wing County Water Planning Advisory Board Chairman, Tom Beaver, also of the committee, and Bonnie Finnerty, Crow Wing County Local Water Plan Coordinator. The water plan review committee met to determine whether all relevant law and rule requirements had been met and to hear comments from the county on the planning process.

16. On October 11, 2002, the BWSR water plan review committee recommended that the Board of Water and Soil Resources Board approve the Crow Wing County Plan Update.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Water Plan Update of Crow Wing County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.311, Subd. 4, and Minnesota Rules, 9300.0170, Subp. 4.
2. The Crow Wing County Water Plan Update attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the county, possible solutions, general goals, objectives and actions of the county, and an implementation program. The attached Plan Update is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.301 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 9300.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Plan as the Comprehensive Water Plan Update of Crow Wing County, dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this twenty-third day of October 2002.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Lee Coe, Chair

NORMAN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN EXTENSION

(FOR BOARD ACTION)

Norman County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) that was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) at the March 1998 board meeting. The CLWP update was approved with an effective end date of December 31, 2002. The Norman County Board of Commissioners adopted the CLWP update by resolution on April 23, 1998.

The 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, MS 103B.301, gave the authority to BWSR to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the effective date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and cannot be for more than two years.

In December of 1999 the BWSR approved expectations for local water planning updates. Included in this document was a provision for coordinating local water planning with other planning efforts being conducted by other water management agencies and governments.

The Norman County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on August 22, 2002, requesting a two-year extension to complete the Norman County CLWP by December 31, 2004. The county is an active participant in other major watershed and basin planning efforts, such as the Wild Rice Watershed District and the Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup, both currently underway. The extension will allow the county to be more consistent with these other area planning efforts.

BWSR guidelines will be used and staff assistance will continue to be made available to the CLWP staff as they proceed with the completion of the plan update. Board Conservationist Bill Best recommends approval of the Norman County Local Water Plan extension request to December 31, 2004.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200 St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
For Norman County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24, authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Norman County has a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) that is effective until December 31, 2002, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Norman County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution requesting an extension for the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on August 22, 2002, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now therefore, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On August 27, 2002, the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Norman County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan to December 31, 2004.
2. On October 11, 2002, Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Norman County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Norman County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil resources hereby approves the extension of the Norman County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until December 31, 2004. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 23rd day of October 2002.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Lee Coe, Chairperson
October 23, 2002

PENNINGTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN EXTENSION

(FOR BOARD ACTION)

Pennington County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) that was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) at the January 1998 board meeting. The CLWP update was approved with an effective end date of December 31, 2002. The Pennington County Board of Commissioners adopted the CLWP update by resolution on February 24, 1998.

The 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, MS 103B.301, gave the authority to BWSR to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the effective date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and cannot be for more than two years.

In December of 1999 the BWSR approved expectations for local water planning updates. Included in this document was a provision for coordinating local water planning with other planning efforts being conducted by other water management agencies and governments.

The Pennington County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on September 3, 2002, requesting a six-month extension to complete the Pennington County CLWP by June 30, 2003. The county is an active participant in other major watershed and basin planning efforts currently underway. The extension will allow the county to be more consistent with these other area planning efforts.

BWSR guidelines will be used and staff assistance will continue to be made available to the CLWP staff as they proceed with the completion of the plan update. Board Conservationist Bill Best recommends approval of the Pennington County Local Water Plan extension request to December 31, 2004.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200 St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
For Pennington County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24, authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Pennington County has a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) that is effective until December 31, 2002, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Pennington County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution requesting an extension for the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on September 3, 2002, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now therefore, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On September 9, 2002, the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Pennington County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan to June 30, 2003.
2. On October 11, 2002, Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Pennington County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Pennington County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil resources hereby approves the extension of the Pennington County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until December 31, 2004. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 23rd day of October 2002.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Lee Coe, Chairperson
October 23, 2002

POLK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN EXTENSION

(FOR BOARD ACTION)

Polk County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) that was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) at the February 1997 board meeting. The CLWP update was approved with an effective end date of December 31, 2002. The Polk County Board of Commissioners adopted the CLWP update by resolution on April 1, 1997.

The 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, MS 103B.301, gave the authority to BWSR to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the effective date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and cannot be for more than two years.

In December of 1999 the BWSR approved expectations for local water planning updates. Included in this document was a provision for coordinating local water planning with other planning efforts being conducted by other water management agencies and governments.

The Polk County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on September 3, 2002, requesting a two-year extension to complete the Polk County CLWP by December 31, 2004. The county is an active participant in other major watershed and basin planning efforts. The extension will allow the county to be more consistent with these other area planning efforts. Polk County has also experienced staff turnover and subsequent office changes since the second-generation update.

BWSR guidelines will be used and staff assistance will continue to be made available to the CLWP staff as they proceed with the completion of the plan update. Board Conservationist Bill Best recommends approval of the Polk County Local Water Plan extension request to December 31, 2004.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200 St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
For Polk County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24, authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Polk County has a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) that is effective until December 31, 2002, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Polk County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution requesting an extension for the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on September 3, 2002, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now therefore, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On September 3, 2002, the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Polk County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan to December 31, 2004.
2. On October 11, 2002, Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Polk County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Polk County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil resources hereby approves the extension of the Polk County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until December 31, 2004. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 23rd day of October 2002.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Lee Coe, Chairperson
October 23, 2002

RED LAKE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN EXTENSION

(FOR BOARD ACTION)

Red Lake County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) that was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) at the February 1997 board meeting. The Plan stated that it was effective through December 31, 2000. This date was less than five years from BWSR board approval. In a resolution dated February 22, 2000, the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners requested that the effective date be amended to December 31, 2002. This new effective date for the Red Lake County CLWP was approved by the BWSR board at the March 22, 2000, meeting.

The 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, MS 103B.301, gave the authority to BWSR to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the effective date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and cannot be for more than two years.

In December of 1999 the BWSR approved expectations for local water planning updates. Included in this document was a provision for coordinating local water planning with other planning efforts being conducted by other water management agencies and governments.

The Red Lake County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on August 14, 2001, to request a six-month extension to complete the Red Lake County CLWP by June 30, 2003. The additional time is necessary so that the county can be more consistent with other planning efforts, in particular, the Red Lake Watershed District Management Plan. Red Lake County has experienced an increase in technical workload with tree planting and site inspection due to the continuous CRP program. The county has also been subjected to numerous severe flooding events during the past few years. Additional input from other planning efforts, the further review of existing controls and plans, and the summary of data and other information related to the update the county CLWP are required.

BWSR guidelines will be used and staff assistance will continue to be made available to the CLWP staff as they proceed with the completion of the plan update. Board Conservationist Bill Best recommends approval of the Red Lake County Local Water Plan extension request to December 31, 2004.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200 St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
For Red Lake County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24, authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Red Lake County has a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) that is effective until December 31, 2002, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution requesting an extension for the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on September 3, 2002, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now therefore, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On September 3, 2002 the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Red Lake County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan to December 31, 2004.
2. On October 10, 2002, Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Red Lake County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Red Lake County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil resources hereby approves the extension of the Red Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until December 31, 2004. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 23rd day of October 2002.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Lee Coe, Chairperson
October 23, 2002

GOODHUE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN EXTENSION

(FOR BOARD ACTION)

Goodhue County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) that was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources on January 28, 1998. The end date of the Goodhue County LWP is December 31, 2002. On October 2, 2001 the county adopted a resolution to update the plan with a completion date of December 31, 2002.

The 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, MS 103B.301, gives the Board of Water/Soil Resources authority to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the ending date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and can't be for more than two years. In December 15, 1999, the BWSR approved expectations for local water planning. Included in this document was provision for coordinating local water planning with other planning efforts being conducted by the county.

The Goodhue County CLWP update process began in 2001. During this process the county hired a planner to begin the process of updating their County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). The opportunities for coordinating these planning efforts were recognized. County staff began meeting with BWSR staff to discuss the benefits and options of coordinating the planning processes for the CLWP and the CLUP.

Goodhue County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on September 17, 2002 to request a two-year extension to complete the Goodhue County CLWMP in coordination with Goodhue County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) with a completion date of December 31, 2004. The county is planning a kickoff meeting to begin the coordinated process on October 24, 2002. An expanded Water Plan Policy and Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for November to identify priority resources issues. Several meetings with townships and cities are scheduled for December to gain input into the CLUP. The goal for the county is to coordinate the planning and public participation process of the CLWMP and CLUP when applicable to gain efficiencies and more public involvement into both these planning efforts.

BWSR guidelines and staff assistance will be available to the county staff as they proceed in this coordinated effort. Board Conservationist Mary Kells recommends approval of the Goodhue County Local Water Plan extension request to December 31, 2004.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200 St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
For Goodhue County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24, authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Goodhue County has a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan that is effective until December 31, 2002 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution requesting an extension for the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of water and Soil resources on September 17, 2002, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now therefore, the Board of Water and Soil resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 7, 2002 the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Goodhue County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan to December 31, 2004.
2. On October 8, 2002, the Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Goodhue County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Goodhue County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil resources hereby approves the extension of the Goodhue County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until December 31, 2004. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 23rd day of October 2002.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Lee Coe, Chairperson
October 23, 2002

OLMSTED COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN EXTENSION

(FOR BOARD ACTION)

Olmsted County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) that was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources on January 28, 1998. The end date of the Olmsted County LWP is December 31, 2002.

The 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, MS 103B.301, gives the Board of Water/Soil Resources authority to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the ending date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and can't be for more than two years.

In December 15, 1999, the BWSR approved expectations for local water planning. Included in this document was provision for coordinating local water planning with other planning efforts being conducted by the county.

Olmsted County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on September 24, 2002 to request a two-year extension to complete the Olmsted County CLWMP with a completion date of December 31, 2004. The additional time is needed to complete several projects that were undertaken in implementing the County's current water plan and in preparing for the water plan update. These planning and data assessment activities will provide a basis for developing measurable goals and objectives in the updated water plan. These projects will be completed in 2002 or early 2003 and the county anticipates a preliminary draft of the CLWP to be ready for review in late 2003.

BWSR guidelines and staff assistance will be available to the county staff as they proceed with the CLWP update. Board Conservationist Mary Kells recommends approval of the Olmsted County Local Water Plan extension request to December 31, 2004.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200 St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
For Olmsted County (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24, authorizing BWSR to grant extensions).

Whereas, Olmsted County has a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan that is effective until December 31, 2002 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution requesting an extension for the Comprehensive Local Water Plan to the Board of water and Soil resources on September 24, 2002, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now therefore, the Board of Water and Soil resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 3, 2002 the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Olmsted County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan to December 31, 2004.
2. On October 8, 2002, the Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension request by Olmsted County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of Olmsted County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil resources hereby approves the extension of the Olmsted County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until December 31, 2004. Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 23rd day of October 2002.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Lee Coe, Chairperson
October 23, 2002

September 26, 2002

TO: Board Members

THRU: Kevin Lines, Easement Section Administrator

FR: Tim Fredbo, Conservation Easement Specialist

RE: Alteration of Conservation Easement 51-02-91-01, Kathleen Kernstock

BACKGROUND:

Kathleen Kernstock has requested the state to remove 29 acres of land currently in a perpetual RIM Reserve conservation easement. The land is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 3 in Holly Township, Murray County. She is proposing to replace it with 29.8 acres of land just to the south of this parcel in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10 of Holly Township. The original easement was recorded in August of 1992 on 49.8 acres, 29 acres in Section 3 and 20.8 acres in Section 10. Kathleen Kernstock has owned the land under easement since June 19, 2001.

The 29 acres under easement in Section 3 was eligible for RIM as a riparian hillside pasture. The 20.8 acres in Section 10 was eligible as marginal cropland. The State paid \$29,316.43 for this perpetual easement in 1992.

The 29.8 acres proposed as replacement acres are riparian pasture. The land is directly west of the 20.8 acres under easement in Sec. 10. This would place both sides of Plum Creek under easement. Ms. Kernstock is not requesting any practice establishment dollars for the replacement acres.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO SUPPORT REQUEST:

Ms. Kernstock has submitted a letter and an air photo in support of her request. She feels that her proposal will provide better protection for Plum Creek, improved wildlife habitat, and be safer for her home site.

Craig Christensen, District Technician for the Murray SWCD has considered Ms. Kernstock's request to exchange acres on this easement. He feels that this proposal would be beneficial for Plum Creek and the wildlife in the vicinity.

FINDINGS:

I have discussed this situation with Ms. Kernstock. The pasture in Sec. 10 has been grazed extensively. Livestock have access to Plum Creek. Placing the 29.8 acres in Section 10 under easement would better buffer the Creek, and keep livestock out of nearly a half mile of creek bed. Ms. Kernstock would use the released acres in Sec. 3 for

pasture. This pasture is fenced on the east side, west of the creek, so livestock will not be allowed direct access to the creek. There is a well near the old building site in Sec. 3 that will be used for stock watering.

OPTIONS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve of the exchange on the easement. **RECOMMENDED.** This proposed exchange would have a positive water quality impact on Plum Creek. Cattle would be excluded from the creek and pasture adjacent to the creek on steep land would be put under easement. Wildlife habitat would be protected and enhanced. No easement payment or practice payments will be made to Ms. Kernstock.
2. Deny the request to exchange. **NOT RECOMMENDED.** This is a reasonable request proposed by the landowner. This program needs to be flexible when the effects to the resources our easements are protecting are negligible or benefits are increased.

#1

MURRAY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Agricultural Service Center
2558 Broadway Ave. Suite #3
Slayton, Minnesota 56172
Telephone: (507) 836-6990

MINNESOTA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

AUG 19 2002

To: Tim Fredbo
From: Murray SWCD
Date: 8/16/2002
RE: Kathleen Kernstock, Kent Bever Rim exchange.

Dear Tim,

I'm sending you this letter as requested by Kathleen Kernstock about exchanging 29 ac. in section 3 Holly Twp that is part of contract #51-02-91-01, for 29.8ac. of pasture ground that they own in section 10 Holly Twp.

The area that they are proposing to trade for would be adjacent to the existing 20.8 acres of rim that is currently the other half of contract #51-02-91-01. This exchange would combine their total rim acres into one large area and encompass both sides of plum creek instead of just one side as it currently does.

Kathleen's reasons for asking for this trade were expressed in the recent letter that she had sent to you. I have looked at both sites and it is my opinion that this would be an equal trade and would benefit the landowners' needs as well as equally benefiting plum creek.

I have informed Kathleen that any and all costs involved with this trade would be at her expense including updating the abstracts, title insurance and seeding a small hay field to grass.

If you accept this offer please send me a letter describing what procedures and forms are needed to exchange these acres.

Thank you,

Craig Christensen
District Technician

Murray SWCD
2740 22nd St. Suite #3
Slayton, MN 56172
507-836-6990 Ext. 117

PREVIOUS OWNERS #2
STRAUCHEN
GIESE (ORIGINAL OWNER)

Mr. Tim Fredbo, Director
Soil & Water Resources
One West Water St., Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55105

Kocken Kerkstock
2781 236th St.
Walnut Grove, MN
56180

507-629-4251
CBU 507-530-0612

July 24, 2002

Dear Mr. Fredbo,

I am a landowner in Holly Twp, Murray County in SW Minnesota. Town part of section 10 divided by about $3/4$ mi. Plum Creek, and part of section 3 divided from the homestead by County Rd. 22. There are 49 acres of RIM, 54 acres of pasture and homestead, and about 19 acres of cropland for a total of about 121 acres. I am proposing to Soil & Water Resources to exchange RIM acres in section 3 for grazed pasture along the Creek and in section 10.

Please refer to the digital maps enclosed for convenience. My land in section 10 includes about $1/2$ of the NE quarter. Plum Creek, a tributary of Cottonwood River, divides about 54 acres of pasture and building site from about 20 acres of RIM and 8-9 acres of hillside & hayfield. The now maturing RIM in section 10 abounds with deer and game fowl. The hayfield, grazed in 2001, has some alfalfa, sunac and native grasses. Deer often bed-down in this isolated corner and can be sighted day and evening.

RIM land in section 10 follows the fenceline along the eastside of Plum Creek and does not include 7-9 acres along the $3/4$ mi. length of tree-lined creek. Last summer the large pasture west of the creek was grazed by 80-110 cattle up to this fenceline. The hay

field and hillside in the corner were also grazed by crossing the creek. I would prefer to include the 7-9 acres between the East Creek bank and RIM fence line, and the 7-9 acres of hillside and hay field as part of the exchange for RIM in section 3.

The large pasture in section 10 has steep hills, tall grasses, buck brush, a 10+ acre ravine jutting West and several small streams that drain into Plum Creek. Deer often bed down here and go back and forth to crop fields through the ravine. Flocks of pheasants populate the hill-tops also.

In the SE corner of section 3, I own about 38 acres, including 2 acres of grove, 7 acres cropland, and 29 acres of pasture in RIM. Hills are less steep than in section 10 and Plum Creek juts into the RIM only a short distance. RIM is fenced along County Rd. 22, the West side of Plum Creek, and neighboring cropland/pasture. Deer follow the creek and stay out of this RIM pasture perhaps because of the road and it is more "open". They cross the road at the creek - section 2.

There are at least 4 reasons I propose to exchange land in section 10 to regain pasture use of designated RIM in section 3.

1. Decrease contamination of Plum Creek & Lake Laura from domestic animals. There is a functional hydrant in section 3 at the prior barn site. Cattle/goats would not drink from, stand in or cross the creek;

2. Safety — I believe it would be safer for me, hunters, and my animals if hunting was only on section 10. I have had bullets from hunters in section 3 hit my house — land in section 3 is too close to the house for hunting to be the only use;
3. Section 3 RIM offers limited cover for deer. They stay along the tree-lined creek and stay away from the open hills and County Rd. 22. This is evident from intact fencing around section 3 land and broken fences in section 10, where deer are frequently seen;
4. The 29 acres of RIM is a liability. I will not allow hunting by anyone; it offers low value because of limited use, hunters shoot toward each other.

Water contamination, safety, and optimal use of the RIM & pastures are my primary reasons — there may be others I have not thought of. I believe that eventually the pasture in section 10 (up to the crop fields) should be in RIM. Land in section 3 was pasture for sheep for more than 70 years, fences are intact, and a water source is there. It makes sense to me to exchange section 10 pasture acres for section 3 RIM acres for best land management.

Respectfully,
Hester Kernstock

Existing 29 ac. Rim site
that Kathren Kernstock
would like released from
contract #51-02-91-01

Co. 09, 22

Existing 20.8 ac.
Rim site

Proposed 29.8 ac.
to be traded for 29 ac.
in sec. 3 Holley Twp.

October 4, 2002

TO: Board Members

THRU: Kevin Lines, Easement Section Administrator

FR: Tim Fredbo, Conservation Easement Specialist

RE: Alteration of Conservation Easement 21-03-87-01, Joe Guyette

BACKGROUND:

Joe and Beverly Guyette have requested the BWSR to remove 10 acres of land currently in a 20 year RIM Reserve conservation easement. The easement expires on May 25, 2008. The land is located in the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 10 of Osakis Township, Douglas County. The Guyettes would either like to remove the easement entirely, or if that is not possible, replace it with some land in Section 3 of Osakis Twp. The original easement was recorded on July 18, 1988. The original owner was Don Larson. The Guyettes purchased the land from Mr. Larson on May 15, 1998.

The 10 acres under easement in Section 10 was originally eligible for RIM as marginal cropland. The State paid \$2,720.10 for this limited duration 20-year easement in 1988.

The proposed replacement acres in Sec. 3 are a wetland area. This area is not eligible for RIM Reserve. According to the SWCD this replacement parcel is a Type 3 wetland and would be eligible for the Permanent Wetlands Preserve (PWP) program.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO SUPPORT REQUEST:

The Guyettes submitted a letter to the SWCD Board requesting a release from their easement. The letter is attached. The reason they would like the area released is for their bison herd. The Guyettes are willing to exchange for the area in Sec. 3, or are willing to buy themselves out of the easement.

The Douglas SWCD Board denied the Guyettes request at their meeting on July 9, 2001. A copy of their meeting minutes is attached.

FINDINGS:

I have discussed this situation with Jerry Hagenmiller of the Douglas SWCD staff. The Douglas SWCD Board feels strongly that this easement should remain where it is. According to Jerry the Guyettes knew of the easement terms and conditions when they purchased the property. The easement is highly erodible marginal cropland that should remain. The replacement acres that the Guyettes are offering are not comparable. This is a wetland area that has never been and will never be farmed.

By statute and rule, the BWSR Board has the authority to alter, release or terminate conservation easements. In most cases when easement holders bring their request to the local SWCD Boards and are denied, that is usually the end of their request. In this case the Guyettes were not satisfied with the SWCD Board decision.

OPTIONS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Terminate the easement. NOT RECOMMENDED. This easement was originally taken because it was considered marginal agricultural land. This land should remain under easement as supported by the Douglas SWCD Board. If the Board decides to terminate this easement the cost to the landowner would be \$511.77 per acre. \$5,117.70 for the 10 acres under easement. The \$511.77 per acre is the current payment rate for a 20 year easement.
2. Approve of the exchange. NOT RECOMMENDED. The land offered for exchange is not eligible for RIM Reserve. It is a wetland that has never been used for agriculture production. The area would be eligible for the Permanent Wetland Preserve (PWP) easement program. However it has been the policy of the Board to only enroll at risk wetlands into the PWP program. According to the SWCD this wetland is not at risk of being drained or filled.
3. Deny the request. **RECOMMENDED.** The Douglas SWCD Board has denied this request. The current landowner knew the easement was there when he purchased the property. The current landowner has not proved that this release would be beneficial to the public's interest.

To: District NRCS Board

6/28/01

We would like to request release or termination of our Conservation Easement I.D. # 21-03-87-1.

This RIM ground is located in Sect. 10, Osakis Township. We have a similar piece of ground right across the County rd. (sect. 3) that could be exchanged, or we would buy it back out of the easement.

The reason for our request is we have need for more grazing area for our growing bison herd.

Please find attached copies of aerial survey maps of Sect. 10 + 3.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bew + Joe Guyette
12700 CR 73 NE
Osakis MN 56360
320-859-3323

MINUTES OF THE DOUGLAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONDAY, JULY 9, 2001 - 8:00 P.M.

I. The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the USDA Service Center on Monday, July 9, 2001. Chairman Thoennes called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

II. **Members in Attendance** were: Thoennes, Sabolik, Matejka and Roers. Absent was: Rutten. Also in attendance were: Miller, Haggenmiller, Kleespies, Dan and Marlene Weber and Bernie Rachel. Douglas County Commissioner Vern Lorsung joined the meeting later in the evening.

III. **Minutes** of the regular June 11th, 2001, meeting were approved, subject to audit.

IV. **Treasurer's Report** was approved, subject to audit.

V. **RIM Easement Modification Requests**

A. Bernie Rachel

B. Dan Weber

C. Joe Guyette

Chairman Thoennes asked each of the RIM Contract owners to justify their requests. Bernie talked about changes in the area and about the changes since moving to mound septic systems. He feels there was not enough room allowed originally for the building sites. He noted that times have changed from 5-6 years ago. Dan feels that 1 acre is not enough for a house, horse, garage, and grazing area. Matejka asked about the State criteria. Haggenmiller stated that there is a process where contract owners can apply to take acres out of RIM. A requirement would be a letter given to the Board showing that the public interests and general welfare are better served by the alteration, release, or termination and also provide a letter from the DNR Wildlife Manager. The RIM owner would have to buy back the acres at current value. Haggenmiller said the State has never allowed contract owners to get completely out of a contract. Rutten joined the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Matejka then questioned the requirements of the sanitary sewer, such as set backs, etc. Dan said the water table is quite high due to wetland areas around them. Bernie said that County Road 73 has required more ditch easements and will be widening and black topping the road.

Motion by Rutten to table the discussion until more information is received regarding the setbacks and septic rules and whether they have changed within the past 5-6 years, seconded by Sabolik. Affirmative: Rutten, Sabolik, Roers, Matejka and Thoennes. Carried.

The Board then discussed the Joe Guyette RIM Modification request. They purchased an easement two years ago from Don Larson, which is adjacent to their property. This is a 20-year contract started in 1987 and will expire in 2008. They raise buffalo and are requesting to take out a piece of RIM and trade some other property across the road. They would have to pay \$500.00 plus the costs to reseed. Haggenmiller said that the land he is exchanging wouldn't qualify under the regular RIM Program but would qualify under the PWP portion of RIM, however, there is no evidence that the public interests and general welfare would be better served by the alteration or release or termination. Motion by Matejka to reject the Joe Guyette request, seconded by Roers. Affirmative: Matejka, Roers, Rutten, Sabolik and Thoennes. Carried. A letter will be sent to BWSR stating why the Board rejected the Guyette request.

VI. **Reports**

A. **MN River Source** - Matejka attended the June 20th meeting. Discussed was the 2002 Budget. Funds were reduced by \$25,000. There is not enough funds for a full-time technician and State criteria doesn't allow them to use the funds for clerical staff. They would like to enter into a shared

WETLAND
 FARMED WETLAND
 NON-WETLAND
 COUNTY

ICW = CONVERTED WETLAND
 INA = NON-AGRICULTURAL
 IAW = ARTIFICIAL WETLAND

INHEL = NON-HIGHLY ERODIBLE
 IFC = PRIOR CONVERTED WETLAND
 IECW = EXEMPT (CONVERTED) WETLAND

P8#3

WARNING: C

REMOVE

NOT TO BE PRODUCED 1 CROP
 SCALE 1 2000 1 YR.
 dredging, filling, or leveling any wetland
 living, modifying or maintaining and existing drainage



#4

T = TRACT NUMBER | MT = MULTIPLE TRACT NUMBER | HEL = HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND | MW = MINIMAL EFFECT WETLAND (EXEMPT)
W = WETLAND | CW = CONVERTED WETLAND | NHEL = NON-HIGHLY ERODIBLE | MWC, MWM, MWR = SPECIAL COND. (SEE SCS)
FW = FARMED WETLAND | NAW = NON-AGRICULTURAL | PC = PRIOR CONVERTED WETLAND | NC = NON-CROPLAND | PHOTO NO.
N = NON-WETLAND | AW = ARTIFICIAL WETLAND | ECW = EXEMPT (COMMENCED) CONVERTED WETLAND

COUNTY

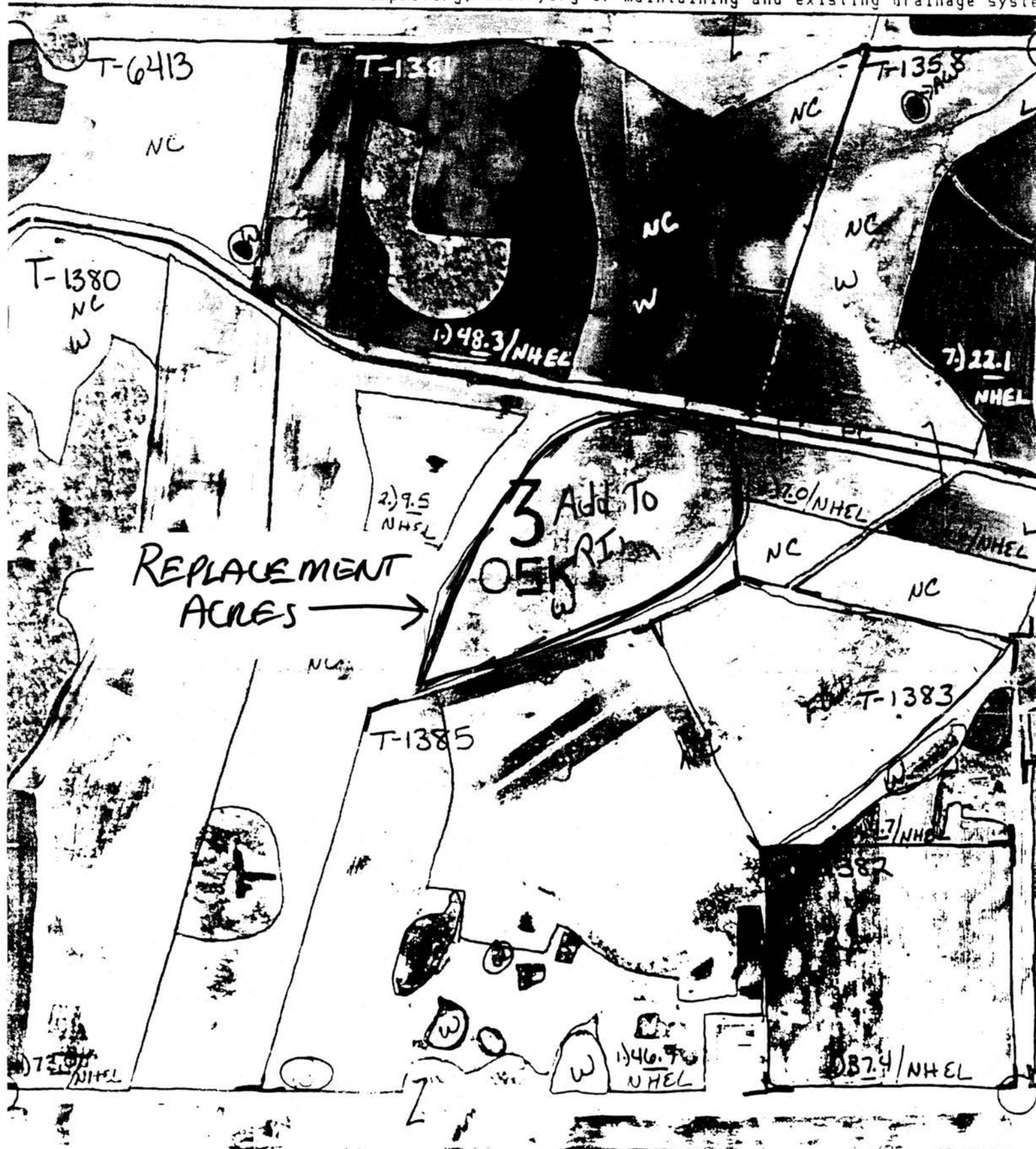
DOUGLAS

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED | CROP

SCALE | OCT. 1995 | YR.

0.7

WARNING: Contact NRCS before draining, dredging, filling, or leveling any wet areas or wetland coded fields or improving, modifying or maintaining and existing drainage systems



October 7, 2002

TO: Board Members

THRU: Kevin Lines, Easement Section Administrator

FR: Tim Fredbo, Conservation Easement Specialist

RE: Alteration of Conservation Easement 21-01-93-03, Bernard Rachel

BACKGROUND:

Bernard Rachel has requested the BWSR to remove 6 acres of land from a perpetual Permanent Wetland Preserve (PWP) conservation easement. The land is located in Section 11 of Alexandria Township, Douglas County. The Rachel's would like to remove 2 acres adjacent to each of the three one acre building sites that they originally held out of the easement when it was recorded in 1995. The Rachel's claim they need the additional acreage because 1 acre is not a large enough building site given the local zoning restrictions. The 6 acres they would like to remove from the easement are all upland (non-wetland) acres.

This easement was originally 394.9 acres. The State paid the Rachels \$184,842.99 for this easement in 1995. The easement contained 190 acres of wetland when it was enrolled, many of them restored by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service under a 10 year easement that expired in 1994. This easement is just 2.5 miles upstream from Lake Le Homme Dieu. The site drains to Le Homme Dieu via a county ditch. The Rachel's have subsequently sold 209.5 acres of this easement to various individuals, leaving them with 185.6 acres of the original easement.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO SUPPORT REQUEST:

The Rachels submitted a letter to the Douglas SWCD Board requesting a release of 6 acres from their easement. The letter is attached. They want the additional 6 acres out of their easement to accommodate their three potential building sites. The attached map shows the three proposed exclusion areas in Section 11.

The Rachels also have submitted a letter from the Alexandria Town Board, which states that the Town is not opposed to the removal of the 6 acres from the easement. This is also attached.

The Douglas SWCD Board denied the Rachels request at their meeting on August 13, 2001. A copy of their meeting minutes is attached.

FINDINGS:

I have discussed this situation with Jerry Hagenmiller of the Douglas SWCD staff. The Douglas SWCD Board feels strongly that this easement should remain the way it is. Mr. Hagenmiller worked with the Rachels when this easement was taken. Mr. Hagenmiller wanted the Rachels to keep their building sites larger but the Rachels decided that 1 acre sites were large enough. According to Mr. Hagenmiller, county zoning and building codes have not changed since the time this easement was taken. Mr. Hagenmiller has stated that 1 acre is large enough to accommodate a residence, well and on-site septic system. A copy of Mr. Hagenmillers e-mail to me is attached.

By statute and rule, the BWSR Board has the authority to alter, release or terminate conservation easements. In most cases when easement holders bring their request to the local SWCD Boards and are denied, that is usually the end of their request. In this case the Rachels were not satisfied and wanted to take it a step further.

OPTIONS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Release 6 acres from the easement. NOT RECOMMENDED. The local SWCD Board is not in favor of this proposal and have gone on record denying this request. The Rachels have been able to sell 4 parcels of their easement and 3 of the 4 had 1 acre building sites exclusions on them. If the Board were to grant this request, it has been past policy to release acres with payment from the landowner at current easement payment rates. In this case the landowner would be charged \$651.89 per acre, or \$3,911.34 for the 6 acres.
2. Deny the request. **RECOMMENDED.** The Douglas SWCD Board has denied this request. The Rachels have been able to sell 209.3 acres of their easement to date with 1 acre exclusions for building sites. Local zoning and building codes have not changed since 1995 when the easement was recorded. One acre sites are still adequate as building sites. The Rachels have not proved that this release would be beneficial to the public's interest as required by law.

#1

Douglas SWCD Board of Supervisors
900 Robert Street, Suite #102
Alexandria, Minn. 56308

Re: 8400.3610 Alteration, Release, or Termination of Conservation Easements

Dear Board of Supervisors:

As owners of 160 acres defined as RIM parcel 03-1254-000, 03-1257-500, and 03-1257-000, Section 11, Twp. 128, Range 37; we are requesting your support for reclaiming six additional acres to be used as building sites. This could be done without losing the integrity of the hunting/recreational land purposes, in fact, we believe it would enhance the concept of this RIM land.

- (1) Currently 80 acres - Parcel #03-1254-000 has a .99 acre building site and we are requesting to expand this to 3 acre building site without interrupting any wetlands. This would leave 77 acres in RIM and 3 acres for a building site on this parcel.
- (2) Currently 40 acres - Parcel #03-1257-000 has a .96 acre building site and we are requesting to expand this to 3 acre building site without interrupting any wetlands. This would leave 37 acres in RIM and 3 acre building site on this parcel.
- (3) Currently 40 acres - Parcel #03-1257-500 has a .92 acre building site and we are requesting to expand this to 3 acre building site without interrupting any wetlands. This would leave 37 acres RIM and 3 acre building site on this parcel.

We request this proposal due to existing county building codes (distance from well to mound septic systems, setbacks from roads and property lines, size of new homes and garages now days and the general expansion of this immediate area) warrants this consideration. We further feel we are not altering this RIM land for its value for wildlife, water holding capabilities, tree planting capabilities etc. We also have the support of our Alexandria Township Board and by doing so, would enhance the tax base for the county, school district and township.

Our request is supported by the following documents:

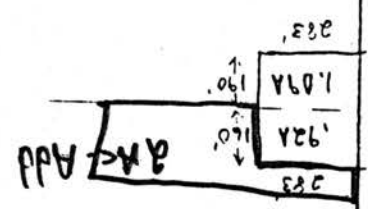
- 1) An aerial photo identifying the requested change.
- 2) A soil survey map of the area
- 3) Cropping history information - This land has all been in a waterfowl restoration program for ten years prior to being in RIM for the past 6 years.
- 4) Letter of support from Alexandria Township Board of Supervisors.

Thank you for your consideration.

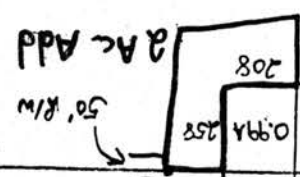
Respectfully submitted,

Bernard L. Rachel - Lorraine C. Rachel
Bernard L. Rachel & Lorraine C. Rachel

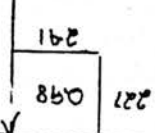
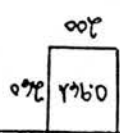
Master



33' R/W

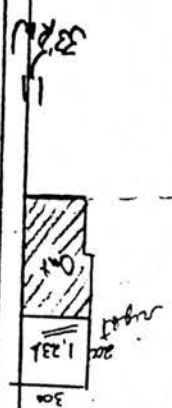
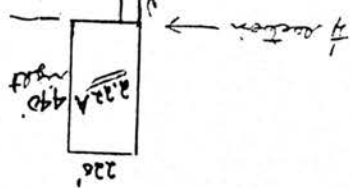


50' R/W



30'

18.9' clear = .94A



#2

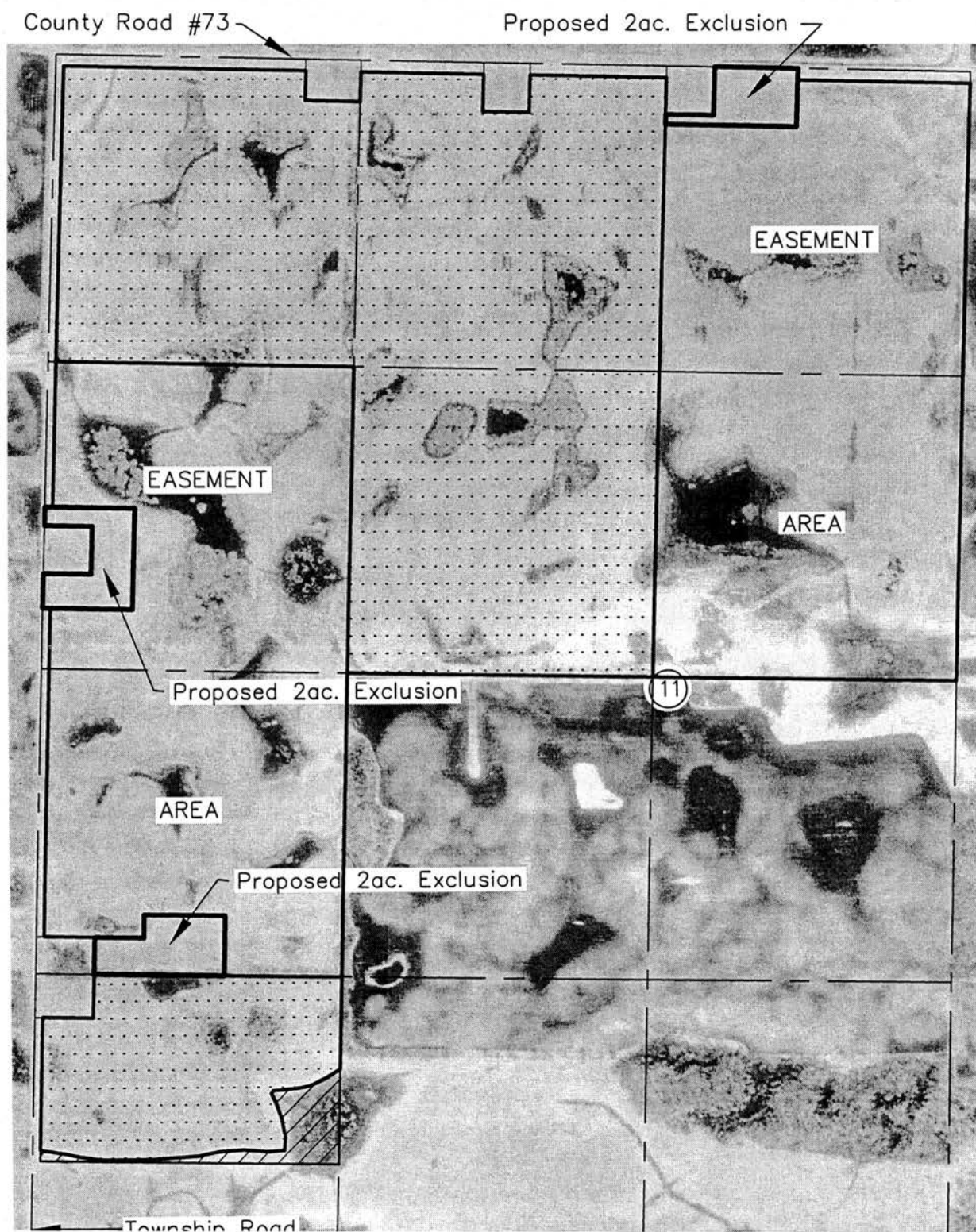
#3

Easement I.D. No: 21-01-93-03
Map 1 of 2

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
EXHIBIT 'A'

This map delineates the easement area(s) referred to in the attached easement conveyance.

Section 11 T. 128 N., R. 37 W., Douglas County



#4

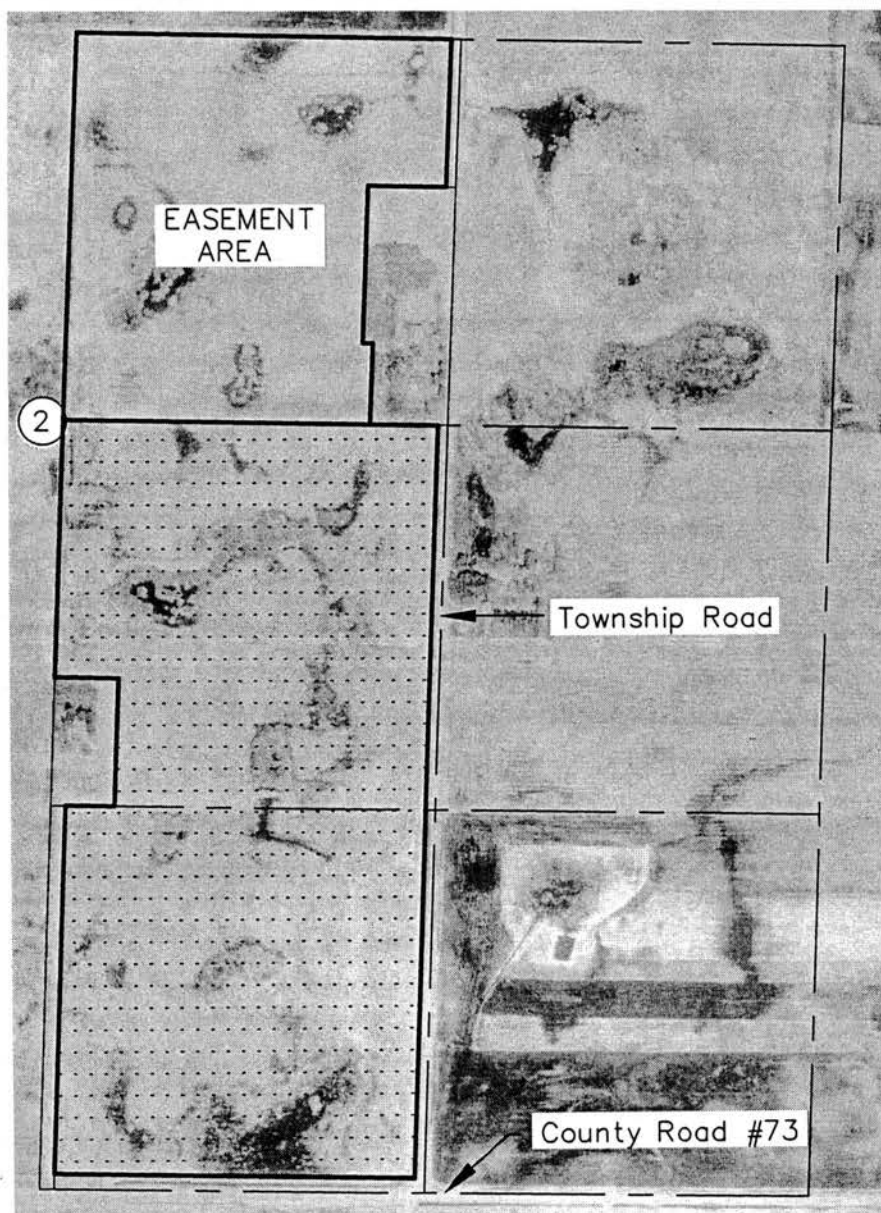
Easement I.D. No: 21-01-93-03

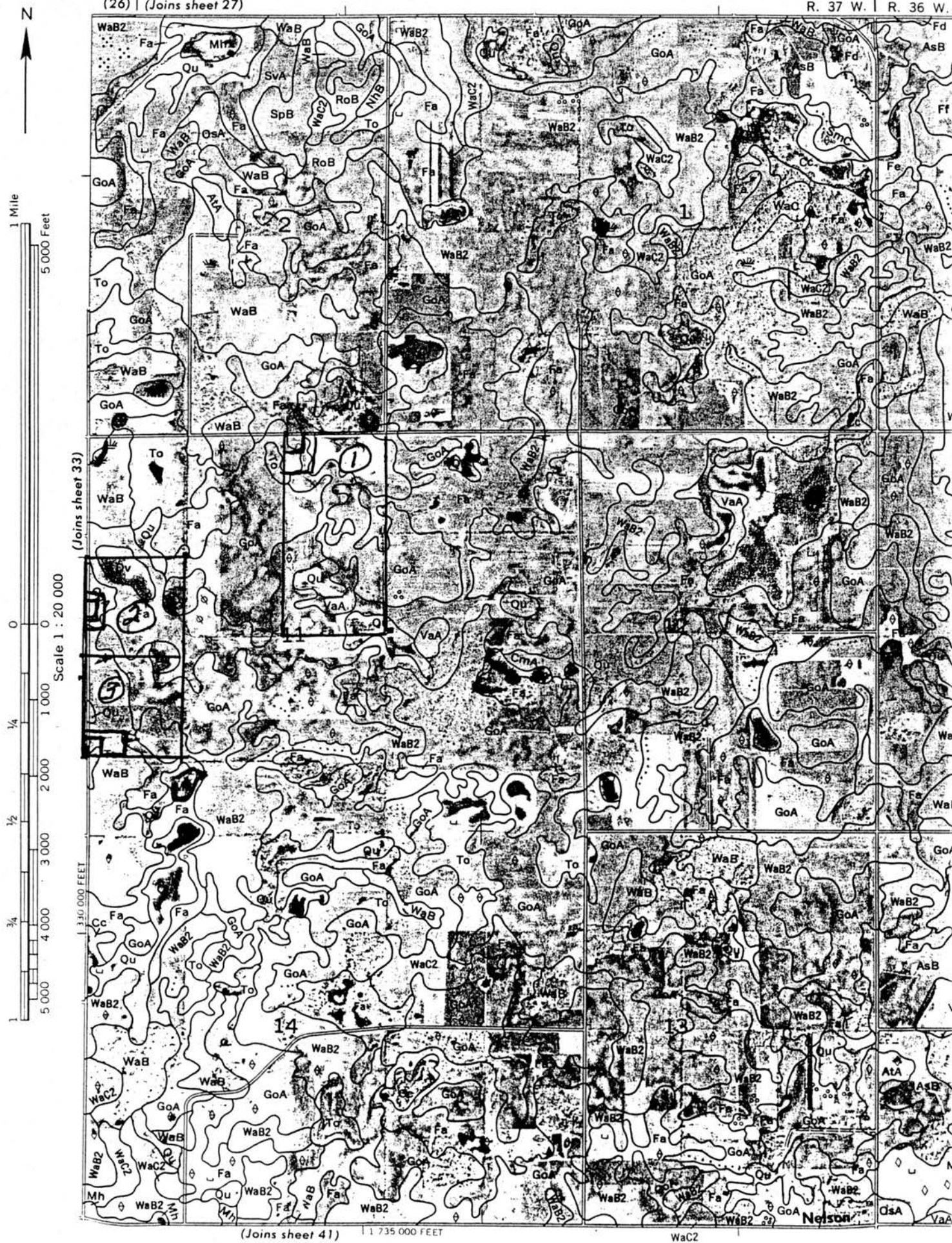
Map 2 of 2

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
EXHIBIT 'A'

This map delineates the easement area(s) referred to in the attached easement conveyance.

Section 2 T. 128 N., R. 37 W., Douglas County







Alexandria Township

P.O. Box 445 • Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-4005

June 19, 2001

To Whom it may Concern:

The Alexandria Township Board of Supervisors at their June 18, 2001 meeting passed a motion to not object to the reclaiming of two additional acres of RIM land, to parcel numbers 03-1254-000, 03-1257-500, & 03-1257-000, T128N, R37, Sec. 11 owned by Bernie Rachel. The parcels currently have a one acre building site and the owner desire to expand it to 3 acres to make the property more usable.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gregg Raisanen".

Gregg Raisanen
Clerk

#7

MINUTES OF THE DOUGLAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2001 - 8:00 P.M.

I. The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the USDA Service Center on Monday, August 13, 2001. Chairman Thoennes called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

II. **Members in attendance were:** Matejka, Sabolik, Roers and Thoennes. Absent was: Rutten. Also in attendance were: Haggenmiller, Kleespies, Gene Karnis, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ross, Douglas County Commissioners Bryan Withers, Vern Lorsung and Arlan Kakac.

III. **Minutes** of the July 9, 2001, meeting were reviewed. Motion by Matejka to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Sabolik. Affirmative: Matejka, Sabolik, Roers and Thoennes. Carried.

IV. **Treasurer's Report** was reviewed. Motion by Matejka to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Sabolik. Affirmative: Matejka, Sabolik, Roers and Thoennes. Carried.

A. **Tree Financial Report FY2001**, was reviewed by the Board.

B. **FY2000 Audit** - Kleespies reported that James Maiser conducted the FY2000 audit today at our office. He said we had a clean set of books; no discrepancies were written down. After he has finished the financial reports, we will receive a copy and a copy will be forward to the State Auditor's Office for review.

Rutten joined the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

V. **Water Issues/Ross Development** - Commissioner Kakac introduced the Ross's and Gene Karnis. Discussion took place about some water flowage concerns, brought up by the Douglas County Planning Commission, on the Ross development and Karnis development on the SE side of Lake Victoria. They are requesting some help from our office in developing some retention areas. Louis explained that they are looking for information on the watershed, how the water moves and historic information. He is a developer looking to do some subdividing and wants to know where his responsibility lies. Haggenmiller said that information is available through the office topography maps created in the 1970's. Haggenmiller and Miller will look at the site and then make a decision on what assistance can be offered through SWCD/NRCS office. Thoennes stated that Ross will still need to get a stormwater plan put together by an engineer as per the Planning Commission's request. Karnis said that they will be meeting with the Town Board next Monday to see what assistance they can provide.

VI. Reports

A. **WesMin RC&D** - Haggenmiller reported on the July 11th meeting. They are finished with the Sam Brown Cabin project. The project on Otter Tail Lake for the Lake Region Recreation Center is now complete. Glacial Ridge Trails will be adding an area in Douglas County. Also, WesMin received funding to hire an employee to develop projects for the MN Agro-Forestry Coop.

B. **Budget Meeting** - Haggenmiller, Roers, Matejka and Thoennes met with the Douglas County Commissioner on July 19th, 2001, to present the budget request. The Commissioners are waiting to see how the new legislation will affect the levy limits and are holding off on budget decisions until that time.

C. **Tour** - The tour scheduled for July 19th, was canceled due to a shortage of sign-ups. However, after the Budget Meeting, Haggenmiller, Miller, Matejka, Roers and Thoennes traveled to the Josh Zeithammer home to tour his native grass seed operation and hear a presentation on his phosphate-free fertilizer, "Thrivin".

C. **Area II Meeting** - Matejka, Haggenmiller & Kleespies attended. Items of interest were the FY2001 Resolution Voting, Poster and Mural Results, and reports from BWSR, WesMin RC&D,

#8

NRCS, MASWCD and a power point demonstration illustrating the fine points of Stevens County and SWCD activities.

D. Chippewa River Executive Committee - Matejka attended the meeting held at the Elk Lake Heritage Preserve near Hoffman. Discussion took place regarding the emphasis that Grant SWCD and the Grant County Commissioners have placed on establishing buffer strips. Regarding Pope County Ditch #29; they are waiting for a court date on the Environmental Impact Study. The next meeting will be on Sept. 17th. A 9:30 a.m. meeting is scheduled on Sept. 21st, at Benson, to discuss the Hawk Creek and Chippewa River Watershed Districts' merger. Matejka and Commissioner Lorsung will be attending and would like Haggenmiller's input as well.

VII. Old Business

A. RIM Easement Modification Requests - Haggenmiller reported that the setbacks and septic regulations have not changed since the Rachel and Weber contracts were entered into the RIM Program. One acre sites allow plenty of room for a well, septic system and a home, but would not allow room for a horse barn and pasture area. The biggest reason for the requests appears to be economic. Motion by Matejka to deny both the Rachel and Weber requests based on Statute 8400.3610 (public interests and general welfare are not better served by the alteration), seconded by Sabolik. Affirmative: Matejka, Sabolik, Rutten, Roers and Thoennes. Carried.

B. MASWCD

1. District Capacity Award - The Board signed the Award Application.

2. Outstanding Conservationist Award - Haggenmiller said that the Staff put together information on Mike Telkamp. He purchased the John Blomer farm which has many conservation practices in place. He uses no-till practices, has put in 75 acres of CRP buffer strips and has entered 104 acres into the CREP Program. Motion by Roers to select Mike Telkamp for the 2001 Outstanding Conservationist, seconded by Rutten. Affirmative: Roers, Rutten, Sabolik, Matejka and Thoennes. Carried.

3. Award Nominations - Supervisor, Media, Education, etc. The Board reviewed the information. Anyone with a nomination to submit should contact staff as soon as possible. Information is due at the State by Sept. 15, 2001.

VIII. New Business

A. Field Office Report - Haggenmiller reported that 44 CRP Buffer and CREP contracts have signed at FSA and 25 will be signed within the next six weeks. The Trousil ag waste pit should be starting this week. There has been a fair amount of interest in the Pilot Wetlands program with a couple of contracts signed that include some excellent restorations. A new Federal Form, SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office Compliance) now needs to be filled out with a 30-day waiting period prior to starting an earth-moving project. An initial Review will be done on the area for cultural resources (artifacts) and could require a field examination of the location where the practices will be installed. If a dig is required, it will be at the landowner's expense. Also, Haggenmiller talked about where things are on Co. Ditch #3. A meeting was held with the Douglas County Commissioners, Houston Engineering representatives, Scott Smith, NRCS Engineer, FWLS, and DNR. There is a 1' difference between the Houston Engineering's report on the original grade of the ditch system and the original historic culvert grade and the NRCS soil borings. The Douglas County Commissioners will have to determine which elevation to choose at a public hearing. Commissioner Withers said the attorney for the ditch system advised cleaning it out. Commissioner Lorsung feels they should compromise and lower it 6". If they approve the Houston report elevation, it would violate Swampbuster and require replacement through WCA. Houston Engineering said that every culvert upstream was higher and they are saying that they should be lowered. At this point, they are not sure if anyone will appeal.

Haggenmiller also talked about a State of Minnesota Trivia Fair display borrowed from NRCS that we will use in our Fair Booth this week.

#9

From: Jerry Haggenmiller <jerome.haggenmiller@mn.usda.gov>
To: <tim.fredbo@bwsr.state.mn.us>
Date: 9/18/02 11:20AM
Subject: RIM alteration requests

Tim:

As we discussed last month about the Rachel, Weber, and Guyette alteration requests.

The Rachel one, when Mr. Rachel signed these areas up and decided that 1 acre building were plenty big. He was encouraged to go bigger but he didn't want to because of reduced easement payments. Also Douglas County zoning has not changed since the easement was recorded and 1 acre building site is big enough for a residential home, septic and well.

The Weber request, The Webers purchased the RIM land from Mr. Rachel and knew when they bought the property that one acre was out of RIM for a building site and that was it. The same is true as far a zoning for this one as the Rachel request.

The Guyette request, the Guyette's purchased this RIM easement back a few years ago and knew it was in RIM and it expired in 2008. They land that they want to trade is not land with a crop history and wouldn't qualify for the program, so it is not comparable.

The Douglas SWCD board denied all three application because there is no evidence that the public interests and general welfare would be served by the alteration, release, or termination. As per the state statute.

If you have any questions or need anything else let me know.

Jerry

October 7, 2002

TO: Board Members

THRU: Kevin Lines, Easement Section Administrator

FR: Tim Fredbo, Conservation Easement Specialist

RE: Alteration of Conservation Easement 21-01-93-03-D, Dan Weber

BACKGROUND:

Daniel and Marlene Weber have requested the BWSR to remove 4 acres of land from a perpetual Permanent Wetland Preserve (PWP) conservation easement. The land is located in Section 11 of Alexandria Township, Douglas County. The Webers would like to remove the 4 acres adjacent to the existing 1 acre building site exclusion along the north edge of this easement. The Webers claim they need the additional acreage because 1 acre is not a large enough building site given the local zoning restrictions. The 4 acres they would like to remove from the easement are all upland (non-wetland) acres.

This 77.5 acre easement was originally part of a 394.9 acre easement that was taken with Bernard Rachel. The Webers purchased the land from the Rachels in October of 1999.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO SUPPORT REQUEST:

The Webers submitted a letter to the Douglas SWCD Board requesting a release of 4 acres from their easement. The letter is attached. They want the additional 4 acres out of their easement to accommodate the potential building site. The Webers are trying to sell the land and feel that this change would make the Property more marketable.

The Webers also have submitted a letter from the Alexandria Town Board, which states that the Town is not opposed to the removal of the 4 acres from the easement. This is also attached.

The Douglas SWCD Board denied the Webers request at their meeting on August 13, 2001. A copy of their meeting minutes is attached.

FINDINGS:

I have discussed this situation with Jerry Hagenmiller of the Douglas SWCD staff. The Douglas SWCD Board feels strongly that this easement should remain the way it is. The Webers purchased this easement knowing there was only a one acre building site. Mr. Hagenmiller has stated that 1 acre is large enough to accommodate a residence, well and on-site septic system. A copy of Mr. Hagenmillers e-mail to me is attached.

By statute and rule, the BWSR Board has the authority to alter, release or terminate conservation easements. In most cases when easement holders bring their request to the local SWCD Boards and are denied, that is usually the end of their request. In this case the Webers were not satisfied with the SWCD's decision.

OPTIONS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Release 4 acres from the easement. NOT RECOMMENDED. The local SWCD Board is not in favor of this proposal and have gone on record denying this request. The Webers have enough space to accommodate development on the existing 1 acre building site. If the Board were to grant this request, it has been past policy of the Board to release acres with payback from the landowner at current easement payment rates. In this case the payment from the landowner would be \$651.89 per acre, or \$2,607.56 for the 4 acres.
2. Deny the request. **RECOMMENDED.** The Douglas SWCD Board has denied this request. One acre is still adequate as a potential building site. Release of this area will not benefit the resources that this easement protects.

#1

Daniel J. & Marlene R. Weber
321 Fairgrounds Rd.
Alexandria, MN 56308
(320) 762-2816

May 31, 2001

Douglas SWCD Board of Supervisors
900 Robert Street, Suite #102
Alexandria, MN 56308

Re: 8400.3610 Alteration, Release, or Termination of Conservation Easements

Dear Board Members:

We are the owners of 80 acres defined as RIM parcel #03-1256-000, Section-11, Twp-128, Range -37 and located along Co. Rd. 73. Currently this parcel has a one acre building site. We put this land up for sale several months ago after deciding that we could not build a modern home, with a mound septic system and the usual 3 car garage on a one acre site and have room for additional buildings. We have received numerous inquiries about the land, but people are looking for a building site with more usable acreage.

Therefore, we respectfully request your support for reclaiming four additional acres to be used as the building site. We believe this could be done without losing the integrity of the recreational purpose for the RIM program. In fact, adding additional acreage would enable owners to build a small barn and have pasture for horses or for other buildings to store recreational vehicles. The added building acreage would be along the front edge of the property and would not encroach upon existing wetlands. This proposal would benefit the public by increasing its salability which would result in increased property tax income from a house with additional buildings on the site.

Our request is supported by the following documents:

- Exhibit A) An aerial photo identifying the requested change.
- Exhibit B) A soil survey map of the area
- Exhibit C) Cropping history information
- Exhibit D-1) Other Supporting documents: Property Tax Estimate
- Exhibit D-2) Alexandria Township letter of support
- Exhibit D-3) Conservation Plan Map showing Wetlands areas

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Weber

Marlene R. Weber

Daniel J. and Marlene R. Weber

Enclosures

T=Tract Number MT=Multiple Tract Number HHL=Highly Erodible Land MW=Minimal Effect Wetland
 W=Wetland CW=Converted Wetland NHEL=Non Highly Erodible MWC,MWM,MWR=Special Condition
 FW=Farmed Wetland NA=Non Agricultural PC=Prior Converted NC=Non Cropland
 NW=Non Wetland AW=Artificial Wetland ECW=Exempt Converted Wetland

#2

County

Produced

Photo Number

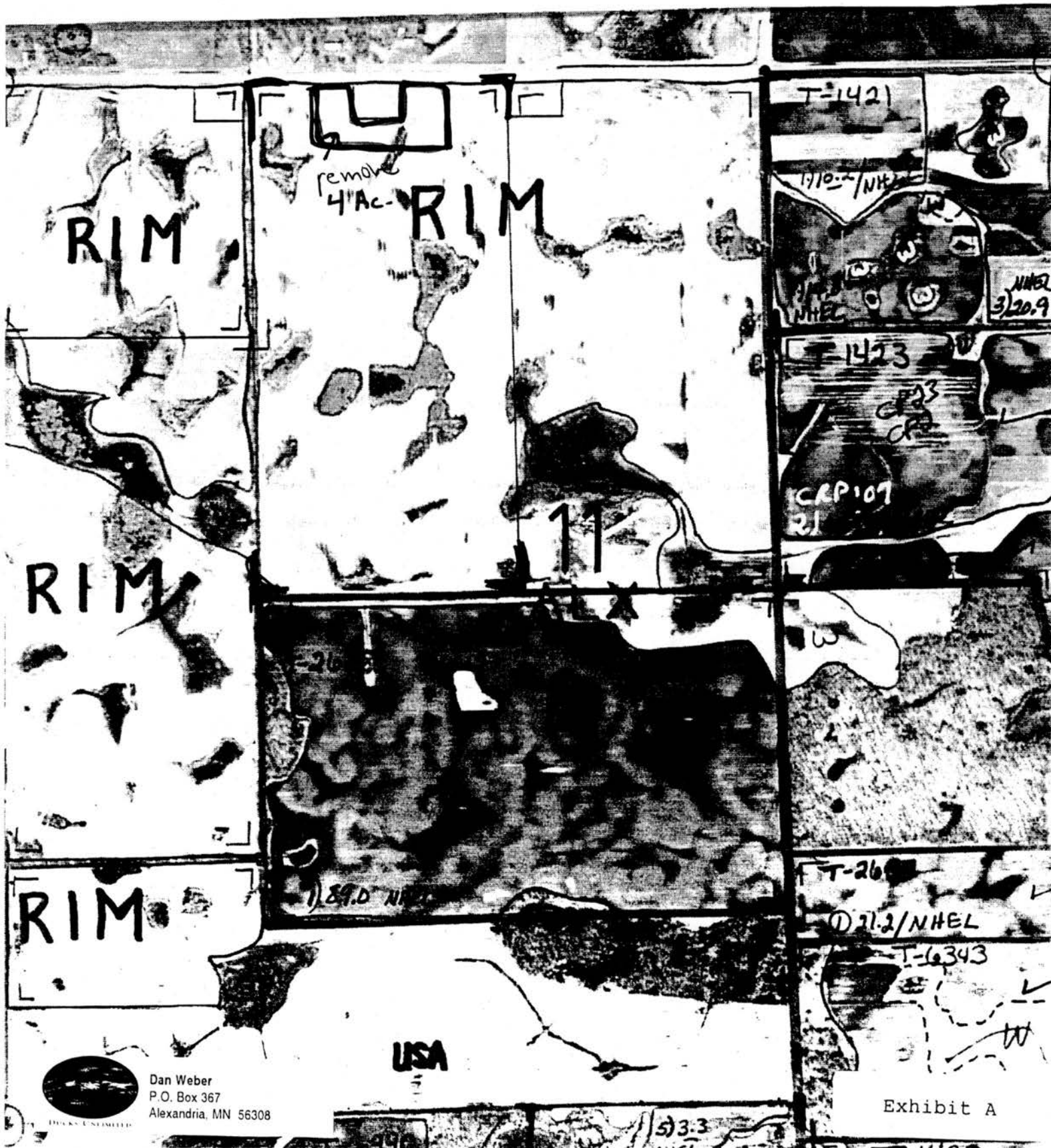
Douglas

Not
To Scale

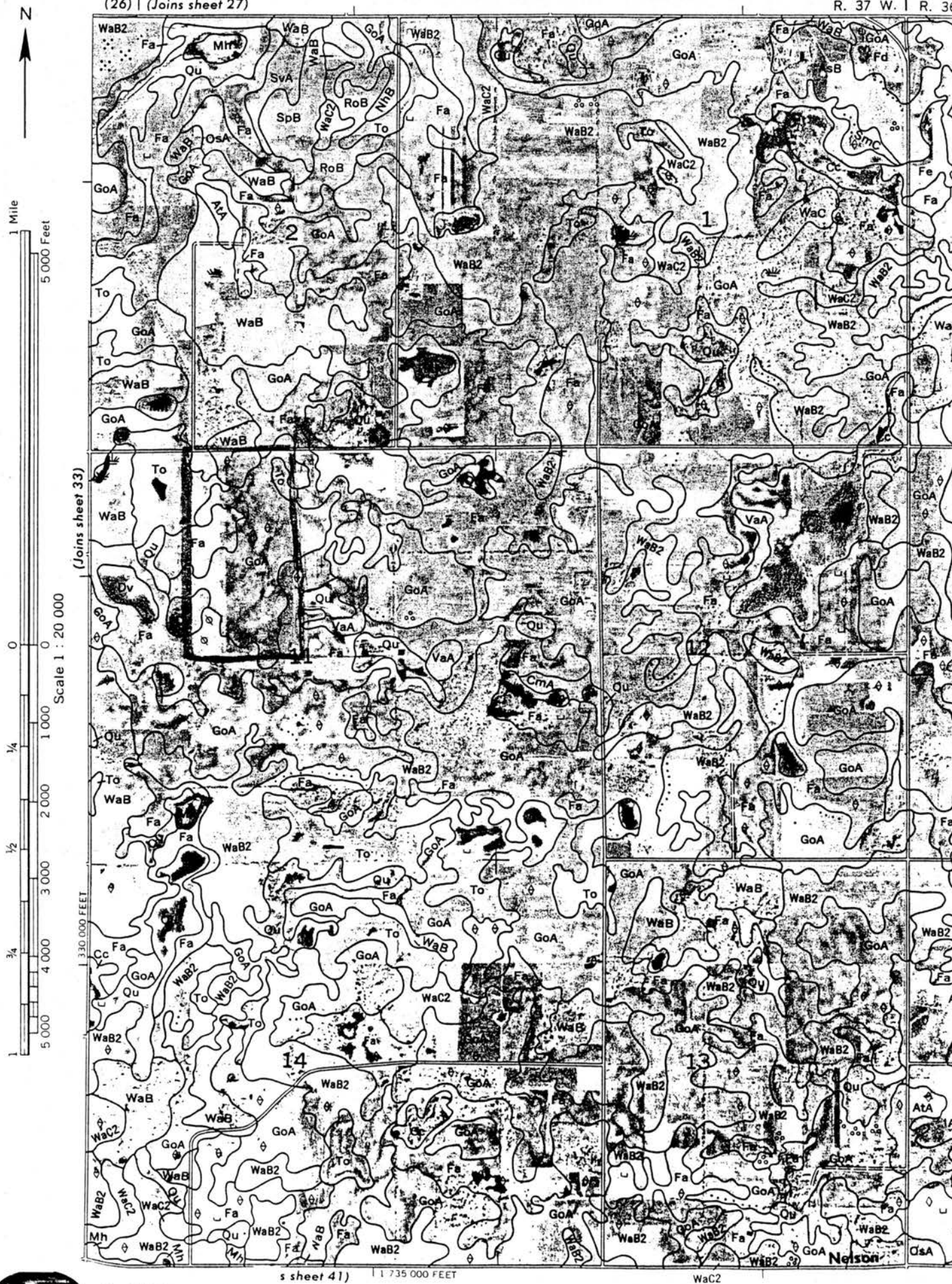
2001

M8

Warning: Contact NRCS before draining, dredging, filling, or leveling any wet areas or wetland coded fields or improving, modifying or maintaining any existing drainage.



(26) | (Joins sheet 27)



Dan Weber
P.O. Box 367
Alexandria, MN 56308

Exhibit B



Alexandria Township

P.O. Box 445 • Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-4005

#4

June 19, 2001

To Whom it may Concern:

The Alexandria Township Board of Supervisors at their June 18, 2001 meeting passed a motion to not object to the reclaiming of four additional acres of RIM land, parcel #03-1256-000, T128N, R37, Sec. 11 owned by Daniel and Marlene Weber. The 80 acre parcel currently has one acre building site and the owners desire to expand it to 5 acres to make the property more usable.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gregg Raisanen
Clerk



Dan Weber
P.O. Box 367
Alexandria, MN 56308

Exhibit D-2

DOUGLAS COUNTY ASSESSORS OFFICE

#5

A. Keith Albertsen, Douglas County Assessor
305 8th Avenue West
Alexandria MN 56308

Office - 320-762-3884
Fax - 320-762-2389
TDD - 1-800-627-3529

PROPERTY TAX ESTIMATE

May 30, 2001

Parcel #(s):	0	0	0	03-1256-000
For	0			
Owner Name	0			
Land \$	0			
Structure \$	0			
- Deduction (TOH) \$	0			
Total \$	30000 PROVIDED BY PERSON REQUESTING ESTIMATE			
Classification	Residential Homestead			
	30000	@	0.35%	= 105.00
		@		= 0.00
Total Tax Capacity \$	105.00			
Tax Capacity Rate	0.93164	x	105.00	= 97.82
Education Homestead Credit (Subtracted from Tax)	0.2263897	x	105	= 23.77
Fire Hall	0.0000000	x	30000	= 0.00
School	0.0007997	x	30000	= 23.99
Special Assessments	0.00			
Estimate of Net Prop Tax	\$98			

To The Person Requesting This Estimate

Estimates are provided by this Office as a courtesy to the taxpayer and are not a guarantee of future taxes.

This estimate is based on (county records) or (information supplied by the taxpayer) and is calculated using factors that are valid as of the date of this estimate only. This estimate does not reflect any future changes due to law, valuation, or tax capacity rate changes.

Is this a split or combination of properties? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If the answer is "Yes", please read the following:

The Treasurer cannot accept a partial payment and the recorder cannot record a deed unless the taxes are paid in full.

I have read and understand all of the above statements:

Exhibit D-1

Phone?Counter?Other?: COUNTER

By: ST



Dan Weber
P.O. Box 367
Alexandria, MN 56308

DOUGLAS COUNTY ASSESSORS OFFICE

#6

A. Keith Albertsen, Douglas County Assessor
305 8th Avenue West
Alexandria MN 56308

Office - 320-762-3884
Fax - 320-762-2389
TDD - 1-800-627-3529

PROPERTY TAX ESTIMATE

May 30, 2001

Parcel #(s):	0	0	0	03-1256-000
For	0			
Owner Name	0			
Land \$	0			
Structure \$	0			
- Deduction (TOH) \$	0			
Total \$	312000 PROVIDED BY PERSON REQUESTING ESTIMATE			
Classification	Residential Homestead			
Total Tax Capacity \$	76000	@	1.00%	= 760.00
	236000	@	1.65%	= 3894.00
	4654.00			
Tax Capacity Rate	0.93164	x	4654.00	= 4335.85
Education Homestead Credit (Subtracted from Tax)	0.2684335	x	4654	= 390.00
Fire Hall	0.0000000	x	312000	= 0.00
School	0.0007997	x	312000	= 249.51
Special Assessments	46.00			
Estimate of Net Prop Tax	\$4,241			

To The Person Requesting This Estimate

Estimates are provided by this Office as a courtesy to the taxpayer and are not a guarantee of future taxes.

This estimate is based on (county records) or (information supplied by the taxpayer) and is calculated using factors that are valid as of the date of this estimate only. This estimate does not reflect any future changes due to law, valuation, or tax capacity rate changes.

Is this a split or combination of properties? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If the answer is "Yes", please read the following:

The Treasurer cannot accept a partial payment and the recorder cannot record a deed unless the taxes are paid in full.

I have read and understand all of the above statements:

Phone?Counter?Other?: COUNTER

By: ST

Proposed Class Rate Schedule

#7

Property Type	Payable 1997	Payable 1998	Payable 1999	Payable 2000	Payable 2001
Residential Homestead:					
<\$76,000 ¹	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
>\$76,000	2.00%	1.85%	1.70%	1.65%	1.65%
Residential Non-Homestead:					
Single Unit:					
<\$76,000 ¹	2.30%	1.90%	1.25%	1.20%	1.20%
>\$76,000	2.30%	2.10%	1.70%	1.65%	1.65%
2-3 unit and undeveloped land	2.30%	2.10%	1.70%	1.65%	1.65%
Market-rate Apartment:					
Regular	3.40%	2.90%	2.50%	2.40%	2.40%
Small City	2.30%	2.30%	2.15%	2.15%	2.15%
Low-Income Apartments:					
Title II	2.30%	2.00%	-	-	-
Farmers Home Administration	2.00%	1.90%	-	-	-
New Class 4d	-	-	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Commercial/Industrial/Public Utility:					
<\$150,000 ²	3.00%	2.70%	2.45%	2.40%	2.40%
>\$150,000	4.60%	4.00%	3.50%	3.40%	3.40%
Seasonal Recreational Commercial:					
Homestead Resorts (1c)	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Seasonal Resorts (4c)	2.30%	2.10%	1.80%	1.65%	1.65%
Seasonal Recreational Residential:					
<\$76,000 ¹	1.75%	1.40%	1.25%	1.20%	1.20%
>\$76,000	2.50%	2.50%	2.20%	1.65%	1.65%
Disabled Homestead (<\$32,000):					
	0.45%	0.45%	0.45%	0.45%	0.45%
Agricultural Land and Buildings:					
Homestead:					
<\$115,000	0.45%	0.40%	0.35%	0.35%	0.35%
\$115,000 - \$600,000:					
<320 acres	1.00%	0.90%	0.80%	0.80%	0.80%
>320 acres	1.50%	1.40%	1.25%	0.80%	0.80%
>\$600,000:					
<320 acres	1.00%	0.90%	0.80%	1.20%	1.20%
>320 acres	1.50%	1.40%	1.25%	1.20%	1.20%
Nonhomestead	1.50%	1.40%	1.25%	1.20%	1.20%
Education Homestead Credit:					
Rate	-	32.00%	66.20%	83.00%	83.00%
Maximum	-	\$225	\$320	\$390	\$390
Education Agricultural Credit:					
Homestead	-	-	-	54.00%	70.00%
Nonhomestead	-	-	-	50.00%	63.00%

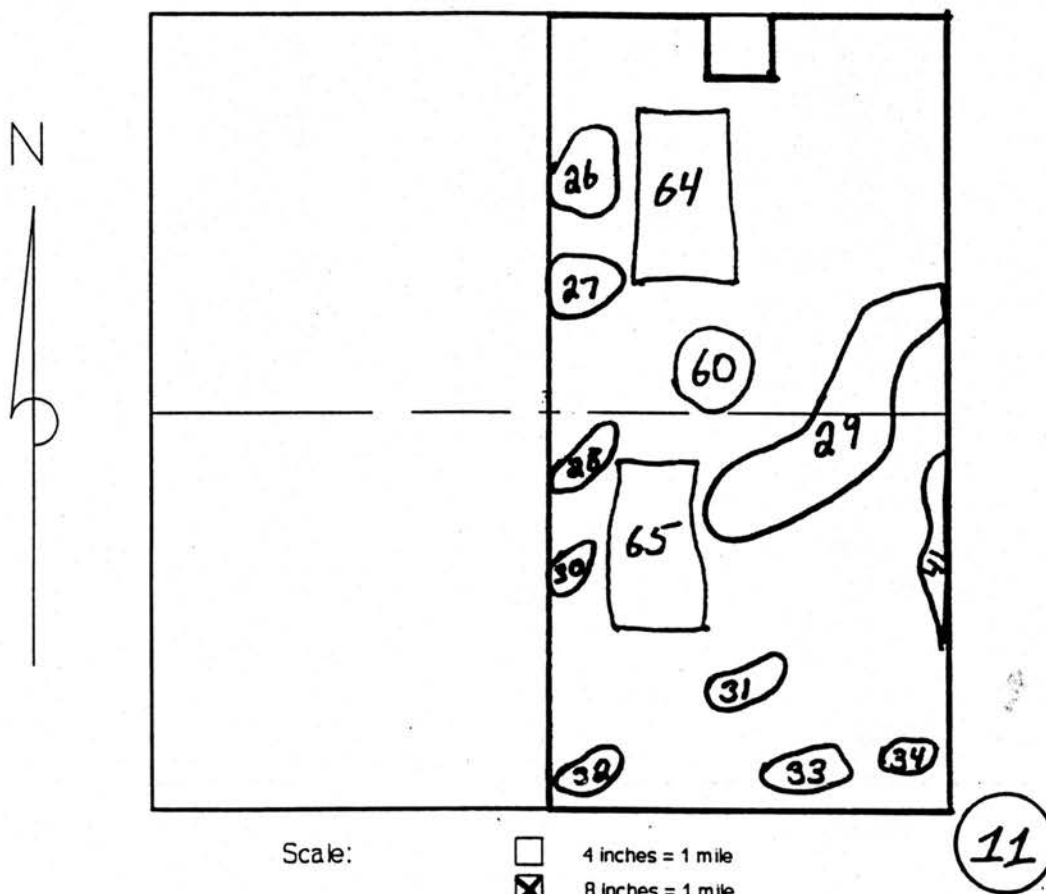
¹ First tier limit was \$72,000 for payable 1997, \$75,000 for payable 1998 and 1999.

² First tier limit was \$100,000 for payable 1997.

CONSERVATION PLAN MAP

Conservation Easement I.D.: 21-01-93-3-D	Principal Landowner Name: Daniel Weber
Prepared By: JH	Date Prepared: 2-17-2000

Section(s) 11 T. 128 N., R. 37 W.



Dan Weber
P.O. Box 367
Alexandria, MN 56308

Exhibit D-3

**MINUTES OF THE
DOUGLAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2001 - 8:00 P.M.**

I. The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at the USDA Service Center on Monday, August 13, 2001. Chairman Thoennes called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

II. **Members in attendance were:** Matejka, Sabolik, Roers and Thoennes. Absent was: Rutten. Also in attendance were: Haggenmiller, Kleespies, Gene Karnis, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ross, Douglas County Commissioners Bryan Withers, Vern Lorsung and Arlan Kakac.

III. **Minutes** of the July 9, 2001, meeting were reviewed. Motion by Matejka to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Sabolik. Affirmative: Matejka, Sabolik, Roers and Thoennes. Carried.

IV. **Treasurer's Report** was reviewed. Motion by Matejka to approve, subject to audit, seconded by Sabolik. Affirmative: Matejka, Sabolik, Roers and Thoennes. Carried.

A. **Tree Financial Report FY2001**, was reviewed by the Board.

B. **FY2000 Audit** - Kleespies reported that James Maiser conducted the FY2000 audit today at our office. He said we had a clean set of books; no discrepancies were written down. After he has finished the financial reports, we will receive a copy and a copy will be forward to the State Auditor's Office for review.

Rutten joined the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

V. **Water Issues/Ross Development** - Commissioner Kakac introduced the Ross's and Gene Karnis. Discussion took place about some water flowage concerns, brought up by the Douglas County Planning Commission, on the Ross development and Karnis development on the SE side of Lake Victoria. They are requesting some help from our office in developing some retention areas. Louis explained that they are looking for information on the watershed, how the water moves and historic information. He is a developer looking to do some subdividing and wants to know where his responsibility lies. Haggenmiller said that information is available through the office topography maps created in the 1970's. Haggenmiller and Miller will look at the site and then make a decision on what assistance can be offered through SWCD/NRCS office. Thoennes stated that Ross will still need to get a stormwater plan put together by an engineer as per the Planning Commission's request. Karnis said that they will be meeting with the Town Board next Monday to see what assistance they can provide.

VI. Reports

A. **WesMin RC& D** - Haggenmiller reported on the July 11th meeting. They are finished with the Sam Brown Cabin project. The project on Otter Tail Lake for the Lake Region Recreation Center is now complete. Glacial Ridge Trails will be adding an area in Douglas County. Also, WesMin received funding to hire an employee to develop projects for the MN Agro-Forestry Coop.

B. **Budget Meeting** - Haggenmiller, Roers, Matejka and Thoennes met with the Douglas County Commissioner on July 19th, 2001, to present the budget request. The Commissioners are waiting to see how the new legislation will affect the levy limits and are holding off on budget decisions until that time.

C. **Tour** - The tour scheduled for July 19th, was canceled due to a shortage of sign-ups. However, after the Budget Meeting, Haggenmiller, Miller, Matejka, Roers and Thoennes traveled to the Josh Zeithammer home to tour his native grass seed operation and hear a presentation on his phosphate-free fertilizer, "Thrivin".

C. **Area II Meeting** - Matejka, Haggenmiller & Kleespies attended. Items of interest were the FY2001 Resolution Voting, Poster and Mural Results, and reports from BWSR, WesMin RC&D,

NRCS, MASWCD and a power point demonstration illustrating the fine points of Stevens County and SWCD activities.

D. Chippewa River Executive Committee - Matejka attended the meeting held at the Elk Lake Heritage Preserve near Hoffman. Discussion took place regarding the emphasis that Grant SWCD and the Grant County Commissioners have placed on establishing buffer strips. Regarding Pope County Ditch #29; they are waiting for a court date on the Environmental Impact Study. The next meeting will be on Sept. 17th. A 9:30 a.m. meeting is scheduled on Sept. 21st, at Benson, to discuss the Hawk Creek and Chippewa River Watershed Districts' merger. Matejka and Commissioner Lorsung will be attending and would like Haggenmiller's input as well.

VII. Old Business

A. RIM Easement Modification Requests - Haggenmiller reported that the setbacks and septic regulations have not changed since the Rachel and Weber contracts were entered into the RIM Program. One acre sites allow plenty of room for a well, septic system and a home, but would not allow room for a horse barn and pasture area. The biggest reason for the requests appears to be economic. Motion by Matejka to deny both the Rachel and Weber requests based on Statute 8400.3610 (public interests and general welfare are not better served by the alteration), seconded by Sabolik. Affirmative: Matejka, Sabolik, Rutten, Roers and Thoennes. Carried.

B. MASWCD

1. **District Capacity Award** - The Board signed the Award Application.

2. **Outstanding Conservationist Award** - Haggenmiller said that the Staff put together information on Mike Telkamp. He purchased the John Blomer farm which has many conservation practices in place. He uses no-till practices, has put in 75 acres of CRP buffer strips and has entered 104 acres into the CREP Program. Motion by Roers to select Mike Telkamp for the 2001 Outstanding Conservationist, seconded by Rutten. Affirmative: Roers, Rutten, Sabolik, Matejka and Thoennes. Carried.

3. **Award Nominations** - Supervisor, Media, Education, etc. The Board reviewed the information. Anyone with a nomination to submit should contact staff as soon as possible. Information is due at the State by Sept. 15, 2001.

VIII. New Business

A. Field Office Report - Haggenmiller reported that 44 CRP Buffer and CREP contracts have signed at FSA and 25 will be signed within the next six weeks. The Trousil ag waste pit should be starting this week. There has been a fair amount of interest in the Pilot Wetlands program with a couple of contracts signed that include some excellent restorations. A new Federal Form, SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office Compliance) now needs to be filled out with a 30-day waiting period prior to starting an earth-moving project. An initial Review will be done on the area for cultural resources (artifacts) and could require a field examination of the location where the practices will be installed. If a dig is required, it will be at the landowner's expense. Also, Haggenmiller talked about where things are on Co. Ditch #3. A meeting was held with the Douglas County Commissioners, Houston Engineering representatives, Scott Smith, NRCS Engineer, FWLS, and DNR. There is a 1' difference between the Houston Engineering's report on the original grade of the ditch system and the original historic culvert grade and the NRCS soil borings. The Douglas County Commissioners will have to determine which elevation to choose at a public hearing. Commissioner Withers said the attorney for the ditch system advised cleaning it out. Commissioner Lorsung feels they should compromise and lower it 6". If they approve the Houston report elevation, it would violate Swampbuster and require replacement through WCA. Houston Engineering said that every culvert upstream was higher and they are saying that they should be lowered. At this point, they are not sure if anyone will appeal.

Haggenmiller also talked about a State of Minnesota Trivia Fair display borrowed from NRCS that we will use in our Fair Booth this week.

#11

From: Jerry Haggemiller <jerome.haggemiller@mn.usda.gov>
To: <tim.fredbo@bwsr.state.mn.us>
Date: 9/18/02 11:20AM
Subject: RIM alteration requests

Tim:

As we discussed last month about the Rachel, Weber, and Guyette alteration requests.

The Rachel one, when Mr. Rachel signed these areas up and decided that 1 acre building were plenty big. He was encouraged to go bigger but he didn't want to because of reduced easement payments. Also Douglas County zoning has not changed since the easement was recorded and 1 acre building site is big enough for a residential home, septic and well.

The Weber request, The Webers purchased the RIM land from Mr. Rachel and knew when they bought the property that one acre was out of RIM for a building site and that was it. The same is true as far a zoning for this one as the Rachel request.

The Guyette request, the Guyette's purchased this RIM easement back a few years ago and knew it was in RIM and it expired in 2008. They land that they want to trade is not land with a crop history and wouldn't qualify for the program, so it is not comparable.

The Douglas SWCD board denied all three application because there is no evidence that the public interests and general welfare would be served by the alteration, release, or termination. As per the state statute.

If you have any questions or need anything else let me know.

Jerry

II. PROGRAM: Partnership to Accelerate Technical Assistance to Private Landowners with special emphasis on Delivering of the Conservation Programs of the 2002 Federal Farm Bill

Relevant Background: The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Federal Farm programs influence land use decisions by private landowners on over 20 million acres of cropland in the state of Minnesota. In Minnesota's primarily agricultural area, private land ownership accounts for 98 percent of ownership (2 percent public ownership). There is absolutely nothing except Minnesota's weather that has a greater impact on Minnesota wildlife populations than how the land is used in the agricultural areas of the state.

BWSR, DNR, & Pheasants Forever are partnering with SWCDs to provide grants to hire new temporary employees to accelerate coordination and technical assistance to private landowners in collaboration with the local state and federal agencies (e.g., Soil and Water Conservation District [SWCD], Board of Water and Soil Resources [BWSR], Natural Resources Conservation Services [NRCS], Farm Services Agency [FSA], and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) area staff to maximize program participation and acres of land enrolled/retired under one of the various state and/or federal long-term conservation programs (e.g., Conservation Reserve Program [CRP], Continuous CRP, Wetlands Reserve Program [WRP]).

Principal Responsibilities:

- To collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies (e.g., SWCDs, BWSR, NRCS, FSA, and DNR area staff in developing and implementing marketing strategies to maximize program participation and acres of land retired under one of the various long term conservation programs (e.g., Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program [CREP], Reinvest in Minnesota [RIM] Reserve, CRP, WRP, WHIP, & CSP.
- To make personal, one-on-one contacts with prospective, long-term conservation program participants and to provide technical assistance to interested landowners in collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies.
- To collaborate with local, federal, state, and county officials to deliver and enroll interested private landowners in these voluntary, long-term conservation programs available in the Minnesota agricultural landscape.

Program Costs: \$500,000

BWSR	\$150,000
DNR	\$140,000
PF	\$ 50,000 (NFWF)
PF Chapters	\$50 - \$100,000

The hiring of 20 + unclassified Conservation technician positions would be accomplished by grants to selected SWCDs to accelerate the participation of private landowners in long-term conservation programs. These "outreach" conservation technicians would be responsible for providing promotion and technical assistance to the local area as it relates to the various long-term conservation programs available in Minnesota (CREP RIM Reserve, CRP, CCRP, WRP, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program [WHIP]), and Conservation Stewardship Program.

Program Outcomes: The enrollment of 200,000 acres of private land into long-term conservation programs would be accomplished through the accelerate effort in Minnesota's agricultural landscape.

INTRODUCTION TO GP-02-MN

What is it?

GP-02-MN is a general permit issued by the Corps of Engineers to the BWSR to reduce regulatory duplication on minor projects (less than 1 acre of impact) that require a WCA replacement plan approval from an LGU and involve BWSR participation with the TEP or an independent review of projects.

What does it do?

For those projects that are eligible, GP-02 would eliminate the need for a parallel Corps review of avoidance and minimization requirements or assessment of replacement suitability. This will result in a streamlining of the regulatory review process for the applicant.

What doesn't it do?

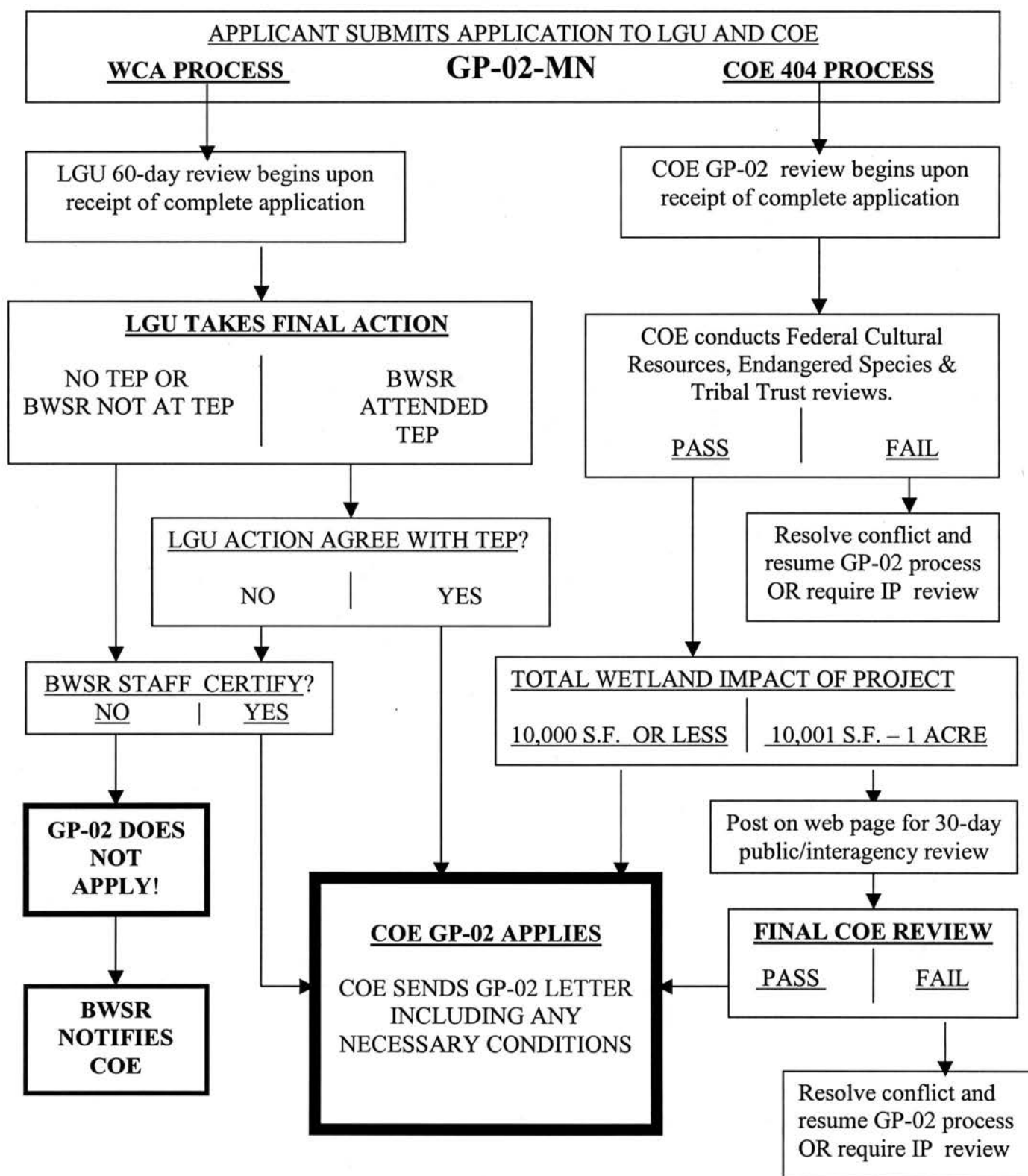
GP-02 cannot be used for projects with more than 1 acre of total impact, for activities that are not regulated by the WCA, for activities that are exempted by the WCA, activities in or adjacent to a calcareous fen, activities in federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, activities within reservation boundaries, activities that would affect known archaeological sites, activities that would affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species, Topeka Shiner waters, and others as defined in the draft public notice.

How does it work?

As stated earlier, GP-02 is a general permit that will be issued to the BWSR, not to LGUs. Because of this, in order for a project to be eligible for authorization under GP-02, a BWSR representative must certify that the replacement plan application is complete and adequately addresses the avoidance, minimization, and replacement requirements of the WCA. If the LGU approves the project application, the BWSR representative must also certify that the LGU decision was consistent with the WCA process. If the BWSR does not certify the project as eligible for GP-02, the Corps will complete a separate and independent assessment of the project under their GP/LOP or individual permit process.

What is BWSR's role?

The BWSR must review all wetland replacement plan applications where GP-02 applies and either certify the project as eligible for GP-02 or notify the Corps that it is ineligible. The BWSR representative can review applications through participation in the TEP, or the BWSR representative can conduct an independent review of those projects not evaluated through the TEP. By certifying a project as eligible for GP-02, the BWSR representative is assuring the Corps project manager that both the applicant and the LGU have followed the WCA process.



PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR COE EVALUATION UNDER GP-02-MN ARE: projects that require and receive an approved WCA Replacement Plan AND in addition impact a total of 1 acre or less of wetland/water area AND in addition are either consistent with the recommendations of a WCA Technical Evaluation Panel that included a BWSR representative or have been reviewed and certified by BWSR technical staff. Projects granted WCA Replacement Plan approval under local WCA plans not certified by COE as consistent with its Section 404 regulatory program are NOT ELIGIBLE for GP-02-MN. Refer to the GP-02-MN permit for certain other exclusions and conditions.

DRAFT 09 MAY 2002

GP-02-MN PUBLIC & PRIVATE BENEFITS

FOR THE PUBLIC:

- GP-02 will significantly streamline the Federal wetland permit program for an estimated 600 Minnesota applicants per year.
- Minnesota citizens can apply for both Federal and State authorization with one permit application package.
- Applicants receive quicker Corps authorization because the Corps' GP-02 review is concurrent with the WCA review.
- Increased WCA-COE staff coordination maximizes Federal and State permit actions that are appropriate and consistent for the same project.
- Compensatory mitigation proposals prepared for WCA will typically satisfy Federal permit requirements and eliminate a significant duplication of effort for applicants.
- GP-02 will facilitate more joint WCA-Corps training, which will promote more timely, consistent and higher-quality permit decisions.
- Taxpayers benefit from reduced costs of government due to minimizing regulatory duplication.
- Corps GP authorizations require no Federal permit fee.
- GP-02 maintains and enhances environmental protection by incorporating safeguards such as impact limits, stringent permit conditions, BWSR oversight, Federal oversight, and public/interagency participation.

FOR THE CORPS:

- GP-02 increases efficiency by minimizing internal review requirements and paperwork and increasing timeliness for the more routine projects.
- WCA replacement plan approvals usually include compensatory mitigation requirements that satisfy Federal requirements. It is a significant workload benefit for the Corps to evaluate, instead of design, such proposals.
- WCA replacement plan applications or approvals usually include wetland delineations/determinations that satisfy Federal requirements. It is a significant workload benefit for the Corps to evaluate, instead of conduct or independently require, such delineations or determinations.
- Will increase the Corps' ability to more carefully analyze proposals having potential to be more environmentally damaging.
- Will increase the Corps' ability to conduct enforcement, permit compliance, and compensatory mitigation monitoring activities.
- Will increase the Corps' ability to coordinate with state program staff and receive mutual benefits of joint training.

- Reducing paperwork, increasing efficiency, providing better public service and reducing customer complaints while maintaining program effectiveness promotes job satisfaction and morale.

FOR BWSR:

- Facilitates future state assumption of the Federal 404 program.
- Increases program coordination efficiencies between the Corps and WCA LGU's.
- Creates additional technical experts for LGUs to draw upon in the implementation of the GP and other wetland related issues.
- Removes delayed permit review and processing timelines now found in the LOP C of GP/LOP 98, between state and federal programs.
- Increases programmatic capacity and efficiencies to conduct coordinated permit compliance and mitigation implementation reviews.
- Increased opportunities to develop, coordinate, and deliver joint training with federal program staff.
- Increased environmental protection because of interagency coordination (i.e. reduces agency answer shopping by applicants).
- Increase opportunities for development of joint local/federal wetland plans/SAMPS at the local level.
- Provides additional enforcement capacity through COE/EPA for LGUs.
- Continues our joint efforts to efficiently coordinate wetland bank site approvals and use.
- Provides a track record for future regulatory streamlining efforts between the State of Minnesota and the Federal Government Agencies.

WCA Formula

The data and formula used have not been updated since the early 1990s. There is a question as to whether these measures now accurately reflect existing workloads for the administration of the WCA. Staff has been asked to look at the formula to determine if there is a better way to allocate implementation dollars. Two options will be looked at:

- 1) Use the existing formula using the same variables with new data, or
- 2) Create a new formula using new variables and data.

A new formula has been proposed using the following variables.

W C A W O R K L O A D			
Variables	Weighting	Data Type	Data Source
Number of Landowner Contacts resulting in mitigation or replacement	15%	Qualitative	WCA Report (annual)
Number of Cease and Desist Orders & Restoration Orders issued	10%	Quantitative	WCA Report (annual)
Change in population	18%	Quantitative	State Demographer
Amount of wetlands on non-public lands	36%	Quantitative	NWI
Amount of poorly drained soils on non-public lands	8%	Quantitative	LMIC State-wide
Amount of Shoreland on non-public lands	13%	Quantitative	DNR PWI / LMIC

The new formula is based on the data having the following attributes:

- **Consistent** – This means the data is available for all WCA LGUs on frequent basis.
- **Correlated to actual or potential workload** – This means the data reflects the time or money expended by the WCA LGU by some direct measure. For example, the WCA LGU knows it averages 2 hours when reviewing a replacement plan application. Therefore, the number of replacement plan applications reviewed by the WCA LGU becomes a valid measure of workload.
- **Distinct or unique** – This means the data needs to provide unique workload information. For example, if the change of population and the number of construction permits issued are highly correlated, we would want to use only one of the measures so we do not skew the results by inadvertently weighting the same aspect of workload higher.
- **Qualitative v quantitative** – We need to be clear when each type of data is appropriately used. Preference is for quantitative data

In order to analyze the data it is necessary to express each variable as a common unit. The unit chosen changes the acres, miles, or numbers of the variable to a percent of the total statewide workload per county for each variable in the formula. For example, if there are 100 acres of wetland in the state on private lands and County X has 5.3 acres, then County X would be allocated 5.3% of the total statewide workload for that variable.

The variables, themselves, were weighted to reflect how well the committee believed each correlated with actual workload. The result is a weighted average of the total statewide workload for each county.

In addition to the above measures of workload, a number of policy issues were considered.

- Allocation Range: cap/maximum and minimum
- SWCD portion for workload required by statute and rule (TEP, Enforcement): fixed amount or percent of County allocation or combination of the two ("base plus")
- Future formula adjustments: frequency and basis, "buffering" via graduated changes
- Match requirements: amount and type
- Create incentives to pool resources (staff) among Counties/LGUs
- Create a competitive pool for "extras" such as wetland plan, DNR delegation, staff certifications, etc.

F:\LanWData\Grants Program\NRBG Grant\WCA Formula change overview.doc

"Shared Engineering and Technical Services" ad-hoc committee

1st meeting: 10OCT02, 2nd meeting: 21NOV02

The following are the names submitted by the **MASWCD** Board of Representatives and alternates to serve on the NPEA/Technical Assistance ad-hoc work group (sponsored by BWSR). The focus of this group will be to develop options to maximize future NPEA program and technical services delivery through SWCDs.

Area I

- Phil Hamre, West Polk SWCD Supervisor
- Gary Johnson, Roseau SWCD Supervisor
- Alternate: Carol Berg, Hubbard SWCD Supervisor

Area II -

- Jerome Flottemesch, Becker County SWCD Supervisor
- Marv Stangl, Morrison County SWCD Supervisor
- Alternate - George Libbon, Stevens County SWCD Supervisor

Area III

- Merrill Loy, Carlton SWCD Supervisor
- Roland Cleveland, Chisago SWCD Supervisor p
- Alternate: Gene Larson, Koochiching SWCD Supervisor

Area IV -

- Russ Schlegelmilch, Carver SWCD Supervisor
- Ernie Larsen, Anoka Supervisor

Area V

- LeRoy Stensgaard, Pipestone SWCD Supervisor
- Steve Sunderland, Chippewa SWCD Supervisor
- Alternate: Clint Schuerman, Swift SWCD Supervisor

Area VI -

- Dave Trebelhorn, Sibley SWCD
- Duane Petrowiak, Martin SWCD.
- Alternate Ralph Stadick, Brown SWCD Supervisor

Area VII -

- Jim Gebhardt, Mower SWCD Supervisor
- Clarence Anderson, Rice SWCD Supervisor
- Alternate Glen Kinneberg, Root River SWCD Supervisor

MACDE

Brad Matlack	Carlton SWCD
Chris Parthun	Beltrami SWCD
Gary Hoffman	Big Stone SWCD
Kyle Krier	Pipestone SWCD/MACDE Pres.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

October 23, 2002

- BWSR "Update"
- Updated Board Member Listing
(Paul Krabbenhoft's cell phone added; and Steve Morse, DNR, replacing Wayne Edgerton)
- Jay Bell and Deborah Allen: article regarding erosion remains a serious threat to soil quality
- Articles regarding Hennepin Conservation District
- Annual Meetings Information:
 - MAWD, December 4-7, Alexandria
 - MASWCD, December 8-10, St. Paul
 - AMC, December 9-11, Duluth
- Executive Summaries for Comprehensive Local Water Plans:
 - Kandiyohi County
 - Kittson County
 - Lake of the Woods County
 - Lyon County
 - Mahnomen County
 - McLeod County
 - Meeker County
 - Renville County
 - Wilkin County



Board of Water and Soil Resources UPDATE

A publication of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

October 2002

LAND & WATER

Best- (and WORST!) dressed wetlands: MnRAM finds them all

If the wetland at the end of your cul-de-sac looks like Melanie Griffith on the cover of the *National Enquirer*, is there a way to know if it's still contributing to the diversity and integrity of Minnesota's natural resources? There is now.

Function and Value Primer

To the unpracticed eye, wetlands have no glamour. They are *Velma*, not *Daphne*. Although academics have agreed for years that wetlands can be understood by studying their plants, animals, water, and soil, researchers have yet to pinpoint exactly which plants, animals, water, and soil show us whether a wetland is healthy or not. Average citizens complicate the process by caring about wetlands regardless of how they function for the ecosystem. Some people are just happy to have the water go somewhere other than their basements; others feel that cattails bring them a sense of tranquility.

Flood storage and tranquility are *values*. The interactions of plants, animals, water, and soil are *functions*. Wetlands, even ones that have been bingeing on fertilizer, have both. Local government authorities, charged with implementing the Wetland Conservation Act, have their own ideas about what makes a wetland more or less worthy. Unlike in nature, however, the law frowns on diversity when it comes to the fair application of rules.

MnRAM takes the stage, then loses it

Enter the Minnesota Routine Assessment Method. Originally developed in 1996 by a BWSR-led inter-agency team, MnRAM was a common lens through which all wetlands could fairly be judged. Its series of questions "guided the eyes" of the assessor over the entire wetland body so that no quality was overemphasized and no flaw overlooked. It squeezed many complex wetland interactions down to a few key functions.

Over complaints that it was too tight or too loose, MnRAM was used on a limited basis.

By 1998, MnRAM was overshadowed by the Hydrogeomorphic Method (HGM), a federally backed method proclaimed scientific and superior. There was talk of throwing out MnRAM and starting again with the new fashion until HGM turned out to be the Emperor's new clothes: expensive and time-consuming to model every regional wetland type and variable condition, still subjective to human preference for functional indicators, still reliant on theoretical models, and unabashed in its refusal to consider social-value issues.

HGM's empirical approach and updated, science-based formulas made sense, however, and influenced a new MnRAM Workgroup as it reworked the old pattern.

The gist of the story

After several months of work, the upgrade team is almost ready with MnRAM Version 3.0. The 71 questions are programmed into a Microsoft Access database for a quick picture of overall wetland ecologic health, vulnerability, and social value.

The questions fall into two general categories: objective and categorical. Objective questions include distance measurements like water depth and average buffer width. Categorical ratings lump several measurements together and require professional judgment in choosing one.

The final rating for a given function is a product of field and office-collected data, scored and manipulated based on our current understanding. Changes in science can be reflected on the entire database by adjustments to the formula.

There is no conglomerate functional rating of the wetland as a whole. The database format will allow each local authority to sort wetlands based on the functions

Continued on next page

Board of Water and Soil Resources Update, Page 2

From previous page

deemed most desirable for a given project. Once a wetland inventory has been completed, reference standards can be identified and individual wetlands rated based on that local scale.

Coming soon to a wetland near you

Initial field testing is complete. After technical adjustments are made, the final version will be released next summer. MnRAM 3.0 will be available for download from the Internet, as will general training information to ensure consistent application of the method and interpretation of the results.

-Submitted by Natasha DeVoe

ENGINEERING

The Lake Superior Association of SWCDs, represented by South St. Louis SWCD and

involving BWSR, recently submitted an EPA 319 grant proposal for cost-share and engineering assistance for shoreline and streambank erosion control along the North Shore. Elimination of the Special Projects Cost-Share program due to budget cuts has increased LSA's efforts to seek other sources of grant funding for erosion control. The majority of the proposed 319 grant would be used in conjunction with an existing Clean Water Partnership Loan Project on the North Shore that has about \$860,000 remaining. Gene Clark and the SWCD Joint Powers staff are proposed providers of technical assistance. Al Kean and Mark Nelson lead the development of a "Watershed Restoration Action Strategy" (WRAS) that was required as part of this grant application.

Another EPA 319 grant application has been a catalyst for substantial coordination with MPCA and DNR regarding sharing of coastal engineering assistance in the Lake Superior Basin. This proposal would create a pilot project to share the expertise of Gene Clark with MPCA and DNR for Lake Superior nonpoint pollution control. Gene has provided limited assistance to MPCA and DNR in the past, in addition to his work with SWCDs and landowners for erosion control project implementation. This project would help address existing and emerging coastal engineering assistance needs of three key state agencies involved in Lake Superior water quality protection and improvement. Al and Gene led

the development of this proposal and associated WRAS, with assistance from Mark and lots of discussion with MPCA and DNR regional staff.

On Oct. 24, Community GIS Services, Inc., South St. Louis SWCD, Cook County Water Planning, BWSR, and DNR will demonstrate Lake Superior Shoreline GIS tools that have been developed to help identify and prioritize erosion sites. The beginning for these tools was a Great Lakes Commission grant to the BWSR a number of years ago. Since then, some EPA 319 funds and Minnesota Lake Superior Coastal Program funds have been used to expand the GIS database layers. The database now includes topography, soils, surface geology, nearshore lakebottom material data (fish habitat), shoreline erosion hazard classification, land use, and most recently added, oblique aerial photos of the entire North Shore. This is a very useful prioritization tool and good partnership effort.

A lot of wetland restorations have been under construction and topographic surveys of newer sites being conducted so far this fall. However, the recent wet weather has slowed construction, surveying, and soils investigations. The weather has also delayed crop harvest on many wetland restoration sites that were signed-up this year. This also delays our ability to get out on wetland restoration sites for surveying and soil borings. So far, it's looking like BWSR, SWCDs, and our other CREP partners shouldn't expect a nice, long fall like we had the past couple of years. We'll have to get out the cold or wet weather clothes and be more tenacious this year.

Scott Santjer will join the BWSR CREP engineering team as a technician on Oct. 21. Scott is a graduate of the Soil and Water Conservation Technician program at the Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Canby. He also has a degree in ag business management and had his own sharpening business for a number of years. Scott has worked for the Swift County Highway Department for the past 3 1/2 years. Please help welcome Scott when you get a chance.

Al and the rest of the Red River Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee plan to visit a number of existing and potential on-channel floodwater storage

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sites this month. The purpose is to test and refine a site screening process for key environmental concerns, and to help develop guidance regarding if and how to address potential mitigation strategies. This on-channel storage assessment task is a high priority for the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group and others in the Red River Basin.

The Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for Animal Agriculture was recently approved by the EQB and the final report is being distributed on CD. George Johnson, project manager, intends to distribute copies to all GEIS Citizen Advisory Committee members, SWCDs, County Feedlot Officers / Planning and Zoning Officers, as well as state environmental agencies, legislators, Feedlot and Manure Management Advisory Committee (FMMAC) members, and others. One of the key objectives of the GEIS was to enable a more common understanding of fact, fiction, and unknowns about feedlots. The broad representation on the FMMAC makes it a good place for this objective to be pursued.

- Submitted by Al Kean

BRIEFS

Steve Hennessy, BWSR easement processing assistant, has accepted a position with the

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He'll be working with the DNR Trails and Waterways office near Montevideo. This is a new position created to coordinate the acquisition and development of the Minnesota River Trail from Big Stone State Park to LeSueur, where it will connect with an existing trail that extends to Fort Snelling State Park. He started his new job Oct. 21.

Paula West, executive director of the Minnesota Lakes Association and a leader in water resource protection in Minnesota, has been named the state's 2002 Friend of Local Water Management. She received the award at the 2002 Water Planners' Conference, held Sept. 23-25, in Hinckley.

The award recognizes an individual who has supported local water management because she or he feels passionately about protecting the state's resources and believes that local citizens and local government are the best equipped to do that. The award is sponsored by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and the state's local water managers.

West is a board member of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, a coalition of 75 Minnesota environmental and conservation organizations. She also serves on a task force to update the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Plan, is active in the Mission Lakes Association, and is a member of the Brainerd Chamber of Commerce.

St. Louis County has been named the state's 2002 Water Management County of the Year. The county received the award at the 2002 Water Planners' Conference, held Sept. 23-25, in Hinckley.

The award is sponsored by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the state's local water managers. It recognizes an individual county for its achievements in and support of local water management.

Key players in the county's efforts included: St. Louis County Commissioners; Planning Director Barbara Hayden; planners Mark Johnson, Scott Smith, and Mary McKay; St. Louis SWCD North and South staff: Mark Lindhorst, R.C. Boheim, Robin Payne, Connie Olson, and Linda Martinson; Bill Gombolt of the Sheriff's Office; county GIS staff; and the County Health Department.

"Reasonable folks can disagree about how government should be structured and public services delivered, but they ought to air those differences openly and honestly. This move is sheer sneaky mischief, and it needs to be put down."

So read the last sentence in a *Star Tribune* editorial ("Sneak attack: Revenge motivates a referendum," Oct. 17, 2002). The Hennepin Conservation District referendum issue has received media coverage over the past few weeks, including the editorial and a feature story in the Metro section of the *Star Tribune* (Oct. 8, 2002), and articles in *Outdoor News* (Oct. 11, 2002), and *Minnesota Daily* (Oct. 7, 2002).

To read a news release and fact sheet about the issue, see the BWSR web site (www.bwsr.state.mn.us/news/index.html).

Deadline for next edition:

November 25

No board meeting in November

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
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ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107
Phone: 651-296-3767
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Leland Coe, Chair , 3948 Nebish Road NE Tenstrike, 56683 leecoe@paulbunyan.net	Citizen	01-06-03	218-243-2597 Home/Fax
Karen Harder , 4601 Emerson Ave. S. Minneapolis, 55409-2339 ktharder@efg.com	Citizen	01-03-05	612-824-4136 Home 612-824-4312 Fax
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Dwain Otte , 606 Zanmiller Drive West Northfield, 55057 dnotte@rconnect.com	SWCD	01-05-04	507-645-4370 Home
Jerome Deal , 1501 Second Ave., So. Wheaton, 56296	Watershed	01-02-06	320-563-8377 Home 320-563-4194 Fax
Jack Frost , 2324 Maple Lane Maplewood, 55109 jlfrost@tcinternet.net	Watershed	01-05-04	651-602-1078 Office 651-602-1130 Fax
Ginny L. Imholte , 720 So. Shore Drive Box 663, Detroit Lakes, 56501 imholte@lakesnet.net	Watershed	01-06-03	218-847-4236 Home 218-847-4433 Office 218-847-5059 Fax
Darrell Bruggman , 45898 State Hwy. 65 McGregor, 55760	Co. Commr.	01-06-03	218-426-3330 Home 218-927-7374 Fax
Clair Nelson , Lake County Courthouse, 601 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, 55616	Co. Commr.	01-02-06	218-353-7385 Home 218-834-8320 Office 218-834-8360 Fax
VACANT	Co. Commr.	01-03-05	

State Agency Members:

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Lisa Thorvig 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155 Lisa.Thorvig@pca.state.mn.us	Pollution Control Agency	651-296-8811 Office 651-296-6334 Fax

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Jay Bell and Deborah Allan: Erosion remains a serious threat to soil quality

Jay Bell and Deborah Allan

Published Sep 28, 2002

DACP28

An Aug. 2 commentary by George Pyle and Aug. 17 Counterpoint by George McGovern and Rudy Boschwitz provided readers with few truths to help understand the critical and complex issue of soil and water quality.

The soil-loss figure of 5.6 tons per acre per year is misleading. It can range from near zero on some fields to more than 50 tons per acre per year on others. The result has been a permanent loss or significant decline in the productivity of millions of acres of farmland because of water erosion in the Southeast and wind erosion in the West.

It is true that much eroded soil is deposited on the same field, but this does not make soil movement harmless. Steeper parts of the field lose richer, more productive topsoil, and the burial of soil in other parts of the field can also decrease productivity. The amount of sediment that does leave fields and reaches nearby streams can range up to 30 percent of the total eroded soil. Even where sediments do not reach streams, dissolved pollutants might.

On the other hand, about a third of U.S. planted cropland is being managed with conservation tillage practices that leave crop residue to protect the soil surface and reduce decomposition rates of valuable soil organic matter. Conservation tillage, combined with greater crop productivity, means many crop fields are better cared for than they have been in decades. However, erosion and soil degradation are not problems that are solved just once. Some fields continue to be degraded, and even well-managed fields can quickly revert.

Fertilizer can help control erosion by increasing the amount of protective plant cover, but it is only helpful if other crop requirements and conservation measures are applied, and care is taken not to pollute with excessive application. The Dust Bowl of the 1930s resulted from the introduction of the tractor, plowing that left large tracts of land bare and unprotected, and a severe multiyear drought, and could not have been prevented by fertilizer. Wind erosion is still a problem in some areas of Minnesota and will worsen if windbreaks are removed to increase the amount of land that can be farmed.

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Another concern is the presence of a large low-oxygen zone (hypoxia) in the Gulf of Mexico. Hypoxia is a natural phenomenon, but this particular zone is about the size of Connecticut. The dramatic surge in the hypoxic zone correlates with increased nutrient loading of the Mississippi River; these nutrients feed microscopic plants and animals that use up much of the water's oxygen. A few species benefit from these conditions, but overall it has led to both economic and habitat losses for the region.

Incorrect information misleads the public, ignores the science and potentially leads to policies counter to sustainable development. We have made great advances in protecting our soil and water, but some of our farmland and waterways still experience unsustainable rates of soil erosion. This threatens food production, environmental quality and sustainability of our valuable soil resources.

Public policy and perception should be based on our best scientific knowledge, not emotion or politics.

-- Jay Bell and Deborah Allan. Professors of soil, water and climate, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.



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Natural Resource Conservation Service in St. Paul.

Under terms of the WRP, landowners agree to easements — typically permanent or for 30

protected and restored with the aid of groups like Ducks Unlimited and the Minnesota Waterfowl Association, add to a previous inventory of more than 24,000 acres already protected

been a quiet, sleepy program."

Funding from various sources, accompanied by added "people power," have changed that.

About \$350,000 came from state

Alexandria (320-762-0207), Detroit Lakes (218-847-4431), Litchfield (320-593-4621), Bloomington (952-858-072), and Ada (218-784-2752).

Through partnerships with conservation organizations and state and federal agencies the NRCS is able to not only acquire land easements, but provide assistance in wetland programs throughout the state. Workers in offices across the state also evaluate wetlands for future acquisition.

"There's no way we could've spent that \$17 million without those people in the field," Sieben said.

Funding for the Wetland Reserve Program is provided under the national farm bill; the 2002 version recently was signed into law and included provisions for expanded conservation programs including WRP, the Conservation Reserve Program, and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

A large portion — 5,000 of this year's land area located on The Conservancy's Glacial Project. About 7,000 acres were included in WRP. Another 5,000 acres year brings to 12,000 total enrolled, about half project.

"It's easily the largest in America," Sieben said, "work closely with (TLC) a landowner with experienced people who really play in this program."

With heightened funding McGinty sees big things in Minnesota — and the fowl it protects.

"This is the best thing for landowners," he said. "ticket."

McGinty said Minnesotans helped pave the way ensuring state matching the federal program.

SWCD vote on Hennepin County ballot

By Tim Spielman
Associate Editor

Maple Grove, Minn. — Voters in Hennepin County will decide Nov. 5 if they retain the services of the local soil and water conservation district (SWCD), one of 91 such districts charged with facilitating conservation measures throughout Minnesota.

Included in the agency's activities is ensured compliance with the state's Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), a duty that's along the way brought about disputes with landowners. Such is the case with residents who signed a petition to dissolve the SWCD in Hennepin County, according to the state's Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). SWCDs are required by law to provide technical assistance to the DNR to resolve wetland violations.

"This is based on an issue of wetland fill," said Ron Harnack, executive director of BWSR. "It was the determination of the district that the fill was in violation of the Wetland Conservation

Act."

Eventually the case went to court, he said, with little action taken. The petition was circulated, he suspects, because of the resident's frustration with the situation. Only 25 signatures are required to get the measure on the ballot.

While admitting WCA issues arise frequently, Harnack believes the Hennepin referendum won't encourage other SWCD residents to do the same.

"I'm surprised in some respects there haven't been more of them," he said, stating "antiquated" laws make filing the petition easy to do. "The soil and water conservation districts are involved in issues that can be controversial, but I don't envision there being many more of them (petitions to dissolve SWCDs)."

BWSR is the state's administrative agency for the SWCDs and would have to handle the responsibilities of the district should it be forced to dissolve

Those would include contracts and projects that need to be completed.

The first SWCD was founded in 1938. The Hennepin district has been in existence since 1949, according to BWSR officials.

"For districts like Hennepin, they may have started with an agricultural production focus," Harnack said. "Now, because of the urbanization, their work extends way beyond that. Their work has evolved to serve an urban community."

According to BWSR, the district brought in more than \$3 million in grants for conservation in the county in the past five years. SWCD officials conduct natural resource inventories, work with restoration projects — prairie, lake and wetland — and conduct studies on water resources. In most cases, SWCD officials work directly with landowners, connecting them with financial and technical resources to put conservation practices on their land, Harnack said. The Hennepin SWCD received the 2002 Minnesota Environmental Initiative Award for the River Watch monitoring program.

Overall, the county-level taxes provide most of the funding for soil and water conservation districts. In 2001, that source supplied 37 percent of SWCD funding, with the state picking up 31 percent of the tab. Local government contributed about 3 percent while federal sources kicked in about 2 percent.

The annual SWCD budget for 2002 in Hennepin County is \$855,000 for a staff of 11 professionals.

Hennepin County is the first place where residents have sought to dissolve an SWCD. Minnesota statute allows 25 citizens in a district to file a petition requesting BWSR to hold a referendum on the termination of an SWCD. Officials at BWSR say they'll undertake a legislative initiative next year to "modernize" and make more comprehensive those rules to dissolve a district. They also say they want to get the word out about the referendum before voters get to the ballot box later this fall.

Harnack said although SWCDs are traditionally thought of in a rural sense, those in urban areas are important regarding matters of water quality and water quantity. He says voters in the area are familiar with the local SWCD.

"I think people here have an interest in conservation and the environment," he said.

For more information on the Hennepin County SWCD, visit the website, www.hcd.hennepin.mn.us.

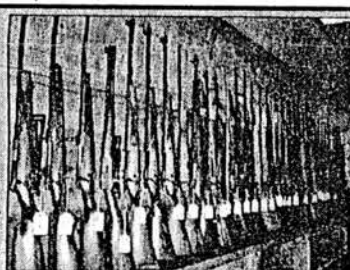
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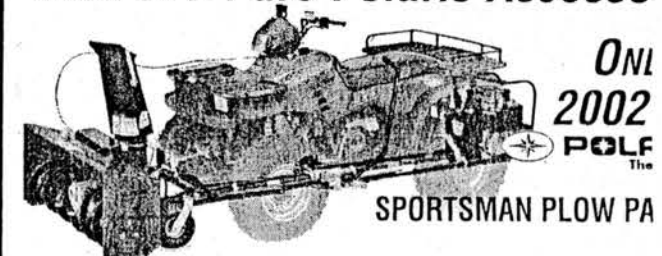
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Editorial: Sneak attack / Revenge motivates a referendum

Published Oct 17, 2002

ED17

Mischief is lurking near the bottom of the ballot that Hennepin County voters will soon consider.

After the long list of candidates for federal, state and county offices, following the contests for supervisor in a couple of soil and water conservation districts, is a referendum question on whether the Hennepin (Soil and Water) Conservation District should continue to exist.

It's likely that most voters will have given this matter little thought. It's probable that many, pressed to make a snap judgment, will figure an urban county no longer needs this rural-sounding agency. And it's possible that some inclined to give the district the benefit of their doubts will vote "yes" -- which, given the ballot wording, is a vote to *terminate* the conservation district.

Legitimate efforts at government reform do not work in this way. They rely on vigorous argument and voter mobilization -- not expectations of public ignorance, indifference or confusion -- to carry the day.

But this move to abolish the conservation district is not really about reform. It was launched by a Corcoran landowner who got into trouble with the Department of Natural Resources over his handling of a wetland, and blames the conservation district for his troubles. He found an old state law, apparently never used until now, authorizing such a referendum if just 25 citizens sign a petition to ask for one.

Of course that ridiculously low hurdle should be raised by the next Legislature. But in the meantime, Hennepin County voters should be thinking about the reasons to vote "No" on this question Nov. 5 and keep the district in operation.

For starters, the Hennepin Conservation District provides valuable services to the county and its residents. Small cities, townships and watershed boards rely on its technical assistance in evaluating development proposals, to assure that environmental harm will be minimized or mitigated. The decision-making authority remains with those governmental bodies; the conservation district's function is only to look at the facts and offer advice, not to issue permits or impose penalties.

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The district also offers a range of educational and training services. It provides teachers with locally focused instructional materials on conservation subjects. It helps volunteer groups plan their preservation and restoration efforts. It helps administer grants to landowners for wetland protection and erosion control. It assists individuals who want to improve their property management with environmental stewardship in mind -- which benefits their neighbors, too. (Residents who might want to take advantage of these services can get more details from the district's Web site: <http://www.hcd.hennepin.mn.us>.)

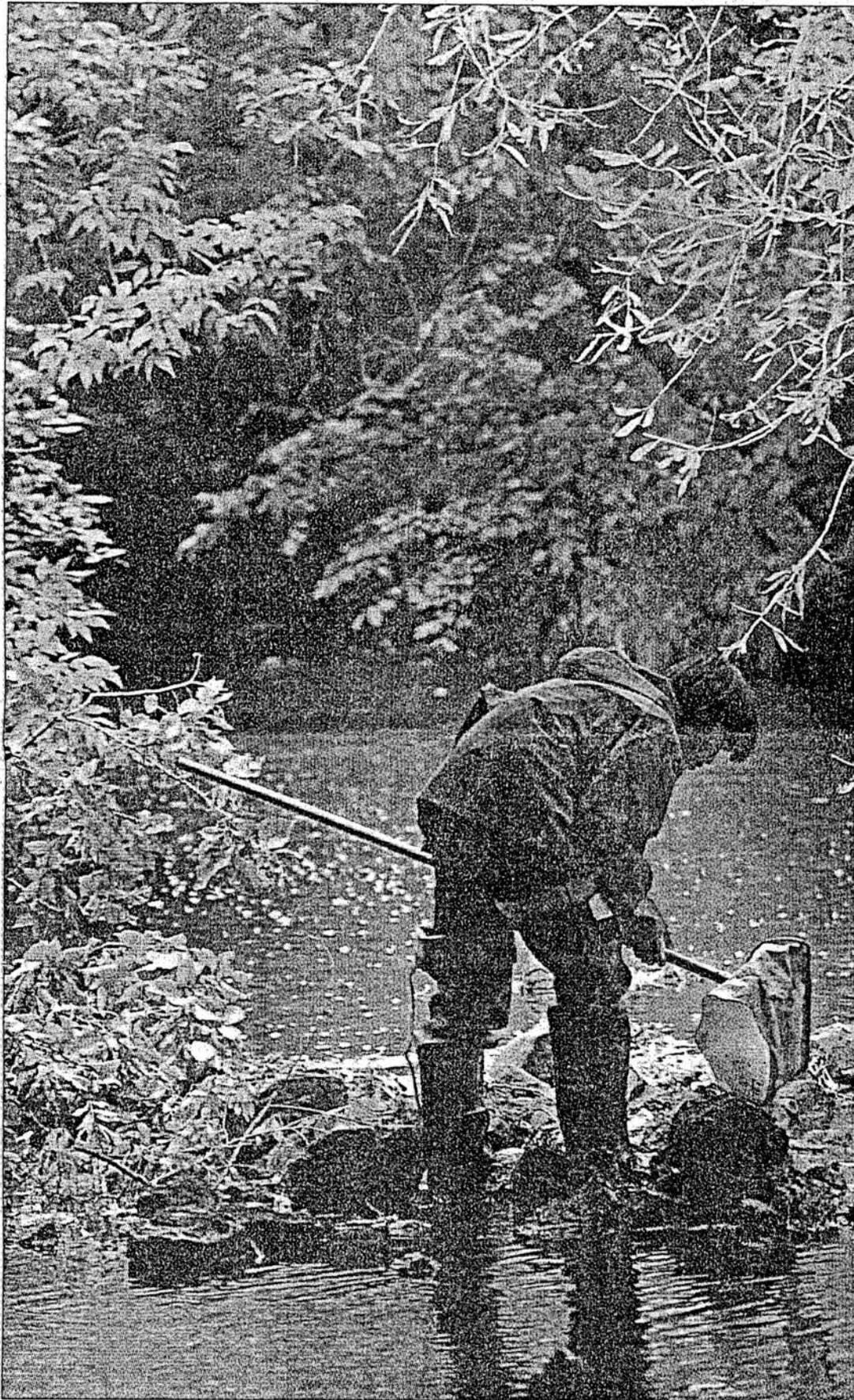
It's really anyone's guess just what would happen if, for the first time, a Minnesota conservation district was abolished. With legislative approval, some of its functions could be taken over by county agencies. Some might have to be assumed by state agencies, inevitably more remote from local concerns and context.

Naturally the people behind this referendum aren't saying much about that, or about anything else to do with the ballot measure. Rather than campaigning, they're lying low, counting on voter ignorance and apathy to give one disgruntled developer his revenge.

And that disrespect for the electorate, all by itself, is reason enough to vote "no" next month. Reasonable folks can disagree about how government should be structured and public services delivered, but they ought to air those differences openly and honestly. This move is sheer sneaky mischief, and it needs to be put down.

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Kyndell Harkness/Star Tribune

Patrick Henry High student Jim Xiong, 15, was trying to capture organisms found in Shingle Creek recently as part of an after-school project. The Hennepin Conservation District works with student volunteers who use indicators such as insects to measure the health of streams.

A landowner irked at the Hennepin Conservation District has engineered a referendum on whether to abolish it.

Hennepin board's fate up to voters

By Steve Brandt
and Mary Lynn Smith
Star Tribune Staff Writers

Corcoran landowner Keefe Schunk has devised a way to ease head-scratching among Hennepin County voters over their bottom-of-the-ballot choices.

Schunk has engineered the state's first-ever referendum on whether to abolish a soil and water conservation district. But his motive wasn't to end cluelessness among voters over who from a field of little-known candidates should manage the Hennepin Conservation District.

Instead, he acted after being accused of filling a wetland on his property. Schunk was prosecuted twice on the issue. Now he has used an obscure provision of state law to petition for the abolition of the district. It requires just 25 signatures to force a vote.

Improving voter awareness was the motive in Washington County, where a recent change in the law permitted the soil and water commissioners to be elected by voters in the districts they represent rather than by all county residents.

The change is intended to make running for the office a tad easier.

DISTRICTS continues on B5:

— A look at the Hennepin County candidates.

DISTRICTS from B1

Move could spur change in all state conservation districts

In addition, the change is intended to make it clearer to constituents who their representatives are on the conservation board. It also could be the start of other efforts to update all 91 conservation districts in the state.

"The majority of people are clueless as to who these people are," said state Sen. Charles Wiger, DFL-St. Paul, who helped pass legislation that allowed the district voting provision for Washington County.

The new election method also could be the impetus for other efforts to update the rules and operations of all the state's conservation districts, said Rick Hansen, chairman of the Association of Metro Soil and Water Conservation Districts and of the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District.

"Our role is changing but we're still dealing with some antiquated statutes," Hansen said. "The idea is to figure out how we make [soil and water conservation] relevant to the voters and receptive to the needs of the environment. I think a lot of people will be watching Washington County to see if it's a good thing."

Backers forced to act

In Hennepin County, Schunk's abolition campaign has forced district supporters to try to persuade an increasingly urban population that the district still has an important role to play in protecting soil and water from pollution and improper development.

Soil and water conservation districts were born of Dust Bowl legislation aimed at helping farmers fight erosion. The conservation boards brought in state money and technical assistance to help farmers apply conservation programs to preserve the land and water.

But Hennepin County had more than 3,100 farms when the district was born; now there are fewer than 600.

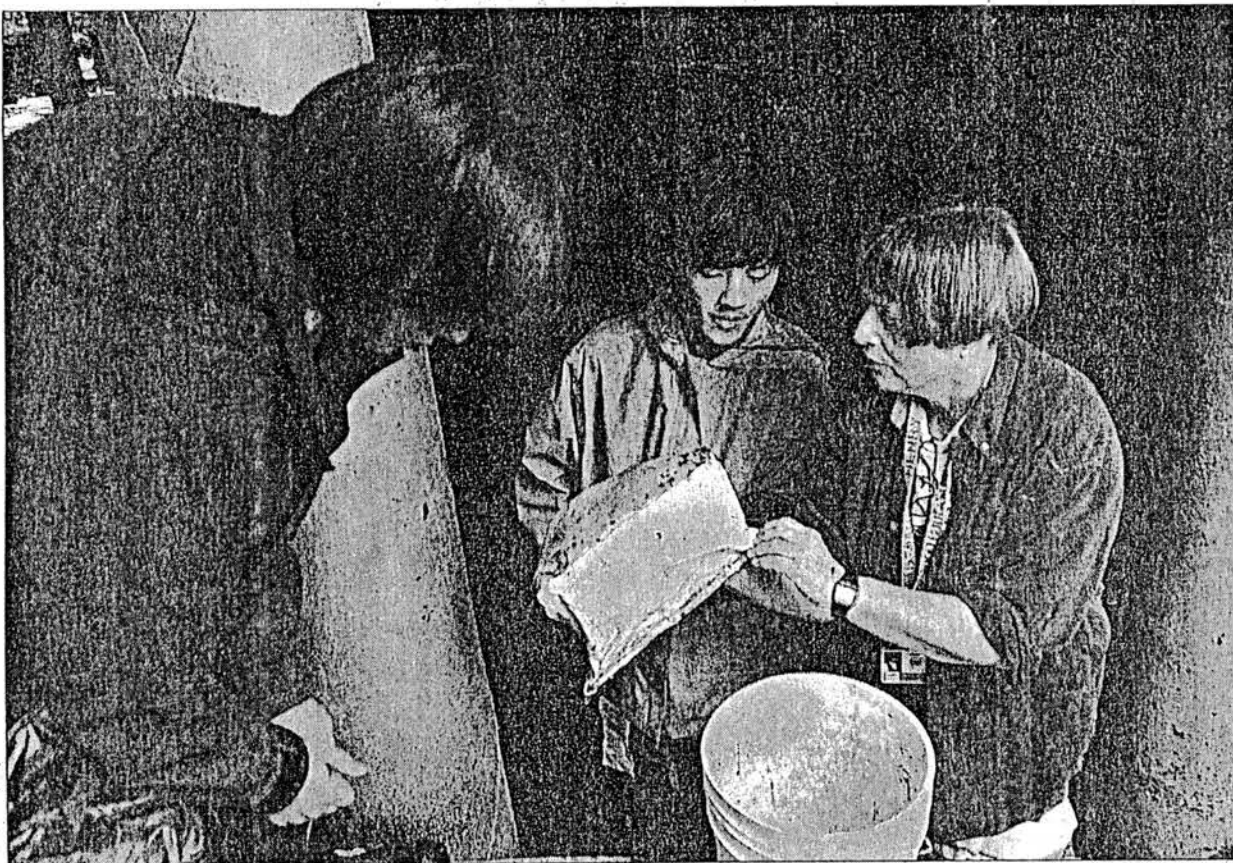
Similar changes have altered the agenda facing most conservation districts in the Twin Cities region.

"Our work was strictly with farmers when we first started," said George Rydeen, a 78-year-old dairy farmer who is retiring from the Washington Conservation District after about 40 years. "Now we work with developers and highway departments. It's a whole new ballgame."

Adding to the lack of voter knowledge about the districts is the welter of legislation and agencies regulating water. In finding Schunk guilty of not following an order to restore a wetland on his property in Hennepin County, a judge called that system with its overlapping duties "dreadfully complex."

But there are some tangible tasks the Hennepin district's supporters can point to.

It works with student volunteers who use indicators such as the larval population of mayflies and other insects to measure the health of streams like Bassett and Shingle creeks. It worked with Minneapolis



Teacher Mary Moreira, right, looked for organisms clinging to the net that Patrick Henry student Jim Slong, 15, collected from Shingle Creek. At left was Jenny Schaust, education coordinator for the Hennepin Conservation District.

Hennepin County Soil and Water candidates

Ten candidates are running for three seats on the Hennepin Conservation District board. Candidates file by district but are elected countywide. They were asked for their qualifications and for their positions on two key matters: a referendum to terminate the district and legislation to fill its seats through appointment by the County Board, instead of through election.

District 2

David Donnelly, Minneapolis

Occupation: Student.
Soil and water expertise: Uses the lakes.
Termination of district: Opposes.
Appointed board: Opposes.
Top priority: Make the board more known to people.
E-mail: david@donnellyforsoilandwater.org
Web site: <http://www.davidforsoilandwater.org>

Joe Newberg, Minneapolis

Occupation: Manager of product safety and government relations.
Soil and water expertise: 11 years on Conservation District board; represents state on Great Lakes Committee of National Association of Conservation Districts.
Termination of district: Opposes.
Appointed board: Favors allowing option of appointed board if district board and Hennepin County Board approve.
Top priority: To ensure a strategic understanding of conservation issues between district and county and to use resources cooperatively with other metro districts.
Phone: 612-824-8336

Craig Larson, Minneapolis

Occupation: Groundwater geologist.
Soil and water expertise: Licensed professional geologist with 15 years of experience with environmental geology. Project management experience for environmental projects.
Termination of district: Opposes.
Appointed board: Opposes.
Top priority: To bring trust back to the board by putting its financial house in order and by working to better serve urban populations.
Phone: 612-724-1514
E-mail: craig_lar@msn.com

Robert Schmid, Minneapolis

Occupation: Software developer.
Soil and water expertise: Experience with nonprofit boards and as an attorney.
Termination of district: Opposes.
Appointed board: Opposes.
Top priority: To sort out budget problems and return money spent on legal fees to conservation purposes.
Phone: 612-825-4430
E-mail: Rschmid-green@raptor.net
Web site: <http://www.raptor.net/~rschmid>

District 3

Dick Brown, Champlin

Occupation: Retired building contractor.

parks to stabilize the banks of a portion of Bassett.

In more rural areas, it offers technical help to landowners, so that a hobby farm owner with a few horses rotates grazing to avoid soil erosion or manages their manure to keep

nearby ponds cleaner. It also helps landowners create ponds for conservation purposes and helps developers avoid infringing on wetlands.

"You get a lot of good free advice ... from those folks," said Ron Harnack, executive,

director for the state board responsible for conserving soil and water.

Yet Schunk, who didn't respond to interview requests, portrays a different type of conservation district. In a letter to the state board, he accused

Soil and water expertise: Held state and local leadership positions in the Izaak Walton League, member of Sierra Club and Audubon Society. Lobbied for the Wetland Conservation Act.
Termination of district: Opposes.
Appointed board: No preference.
Top priority: To help prevent shoreland erosion and protect our natural heritage.
Phone: 763-421-6781
E-mail: Brown@visi.com

Karen S. Johnson, Brooklyn Park

Occupation: Geography instructor, North Hennepin Community College.
Soil and water expertise: Seven years on Conservation District board; holistic view of the earth as an instructor.
Termination of district: Opposes.
Appointed board: Opposes.
Top priority: To keep the district moving forward, working with citizens and preserving resources.
E-mail: Notjustmaps@aol.com

Jerald Ostvig, Maple Grove

Occupation: Financial analyst.
Soil and water expertise: Grew up on a farm; family owns a tree service.
Termination of district: Will vote for termination, but if elected would like to change district and abolish it if unsuccessful.
Appointed board: Opposes.
Top priority: To compare current activities and lawsuits with the district's purpose so that money is spent on conservation, not lawsuits.
Phone: 763-494-3946
Web site: <http://www.hcgg.org>

Curtis A. Stephan

Did not return calls.

District 4

Justin Blum, Edina

Occupation: Hydrogeologist.
Soil and water expertise: Eight years as an engineering consultant, 16 years in state government, specializing in groundwater pollution cleanup and prevention.
Termination of district: Supports.
Appointed board: Opposed.
Top priority: To protect the environment, manage finances responsibly and restore public trust.
Phone: 952-931-1295
E-mail: hcfgg@yahoo.com
Web site: [Hcgg.org](http://www.hcgg.org)

Sever Peterson, Eden Prairie

Occupation: Farmer.
Soil and water expertise: Almost 25 years on Conservation District board; familiarity with soil and water issues as a rural landowner.
Termination of district: Opposes.
Appointed board: Prefers elected but flexible on issue because of lack of voter familiarity with the board and candidates.
Top priority: To improve on programs involving wetlands identification, protection and reclamation.
Phone: 952-937-1315
E-mail: speter1005@aol.com

the district of applying rural solutions to urban problems, mismanaging, making technical errors, duplicating efforts of other agencies and acting more in its own self-interest than that of conservation. He provided few specifics, other than to cite his own case.

Other Hennepin issues

But the district has been in the news for more than its conservation work. Hydrogeologist Leigh Harrod, who was hired and later fired by the district, sued it, settled the suit and won election to a board seat. After further legal skirmishing emerged in the rancor between Harrod and other board members, the Hennepin County Board escrowed much of the district's 2002 budget until an agreement was worked out that required prior county approval for filing lawsuits.

If Schunk succeeds in his effort to have the district abolished, the state board would step in to wrap up its contracts.

Some Hennepin County commissioners say they think the district's conservation duties would fit well under their environmental services department, but that would require changes in state law.

Earlier this year, the Hennepin County Board voted to seek a change in state law that would allow it to appoint board members, as it does for the county library board. It acted in the aftermath of board rancor, but commissioners also said few voters have familiarity with candidates or the district's work. But the Hennepin-specific proposal faltered when rural landowners opposed it.

Meanwhile, with the referendum looming, the district's 11 employees "aren't making any major purchases," said Carolyn Dindorf, a water quality specialist serving as the district's interim manager.

"We're sort of unsure as to how it will go, in part because the majority of the population that will be voting on this don't know us."

— The writers are at sbrandt@startribune.com and mlsmith@startribune.com.

MORE INFORMATION

Several Web sites offer more info about soil and water conservation districts and candidates.

Local candidates: For more information about candidates running for soil and water commissioner in the metro area, go to <http://www.metroswcd.org>. (Note: The Association of Metro Soil and Water Conservation Districts Web site remained under construction Monday night.)

Hennepin County: More information about the Hennepin district's programs and the ballot question can be found at <http://www.hcd.hennepin.mn.us>.

General information: For an overview of state soil and water conservation efforts and links to local conservation districts, go to <http://www.maswcd.org>.

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MAWD 32nd

Annual Meeting & Trade Show

December 5 - December 7

**Arrowwood Resort and
Conference Center
Alexandria, MN**

- Annual Meeting Information
- Preliminary Program
- Registration Form
Due November 27, 2002
- Hotel Reservation Form
Due November 15, 2002
- Drainage Seminar/Registration
December 5 - 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM
- New Manager Orientation/Registration
December 5 - 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

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**MINNESOTA
ASSOCIATION OF
WATERSHED
DISTRICTS, INC**
Land and Water Shall be Preserved

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

32nd Annual Meeting & Trade Show

December 5 - December 7, 2002

Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN

Introduction

The MAWD 32nd Annual Meeting & Trade Show is offering a strong seminar program to help meet your needs as a watershed district official or key watershed district partner. Our program includes four general concurrent sessions and a technical session for a total of thirteen different seminars. We will start off the Annual Meeting with our traditional **Welcome Reception** on Thursday evening on the trade show floor. Door prize opportunities will again be part of the MAWD Trade Show format.

MAWD is also offering two special day long sessions prior to the start of the Annual Meeting (9:30 a.m. - 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 5th). They are Minnesota Drainage & Water Management and a New Managers Orientation Workshop. MAWD encourages all new managers (two years or less experience) to attend the new manager workshop.

Find registration materials for these workshops in this packet.

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center Reservation

The enclosed gold sheet is your Arrowwood reservation form. Room rates are for a party of 1 - 4 persons. Meal packages are priced per person.

Please note:

Hotel reservation deadline - November 15th.

Registration

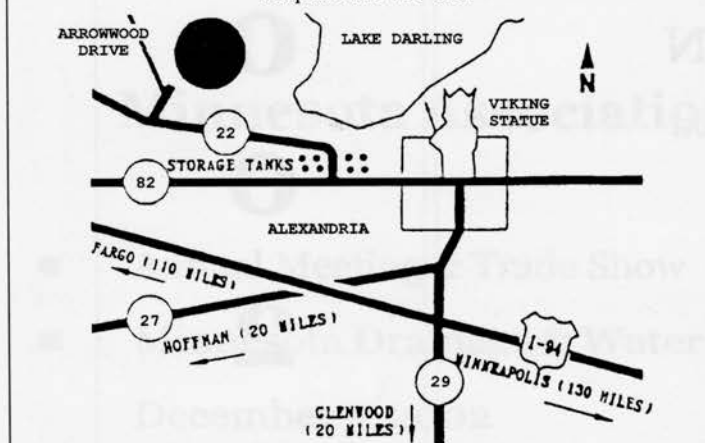
This packet of information includes the materials you will need to participate in the 2002 Annual Meeting & Trade Show, December 5-7, 2002, at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.

All persons attending the Annual Meeting should check in and pick up their name tag and agendas at the Association's registration table at the Arrowwood. The registration table will be open from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, and again at 8:00 a.m. Friday, December 6.

Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center

2100 Arrowwood Lane, PO Box 639, Alexandria, MN 56308

Telephone 612-762-1124



From I-94:

Hwy 29 North off I-94 through downtown. Left on Co Rd 82 for .7 mile. Turn between Williams Pipeline Gas Tanks on Co Rd 22. Stay on 22 for 2.3 miles. Right on Co Rd 104. Arrowwood Lane is .4 mile.

From North:

Take 29 South through Parkers Prairie into Alexandria. Right on Hwy 29. Straight to Williams Pipeline Gas Tanks. Right on Co Rd 22. Stay on 22 for 2.3 miles. Right on Co Rd 104. Arrowwood Lane is .4 miles.

MAWD Registration

The MAWD registration sheet is to be filled out and **returned by November 27th** with your registration fees to:

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
540 Diffley Road
St. Paul, MN 55123

Registration fees are \$60.00 per person, spouses/guests are exempt. Late registration (postmarked after November 27th) fees are \$75.00 per person.

If you are attending for the day only on Friday, you must still send in the MAWD registration form and registration fee to the MAWD office. You must also check in at MAWD's registration table for your name tag and other information.

The MAWD Board wishes to remind members that watershed districts are not permitted to cover expenses for spouses and guests. This is in accordance with recent State Auditor findings and the Minnesota Constitution which states "taxes shall be uniform . . . and shall be levied and collected for public purposes."

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
32nd Annual Meeting & Trade Show

December 5 - 7, 2002

Arrowwood Conference Center
2100 Arrowwood Lane, Alexandria, MN 56308

**Registration
Form**

DUE: NOVEMBER 27, 2002

Please use one form per party: copy as needed. Names of all attendees must be submitted.

Name: _____

Title (to be on nametag): _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Phone: (Day) _____ Evenings _____ Email _____

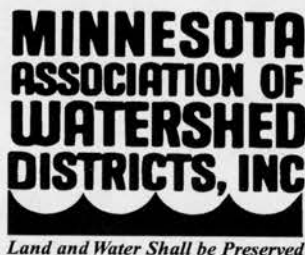
* Registration _____ @ \$60.00 per person = \$ _____
(Late registrations postmarked after Nov. 27, 2002 = \$75.00 per person)

Registration Total \$ _____

Guest (No registration fee) _____ Yes _____ No _____

Name of spouse or guest: _____

**Please make check payable to Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
and return with this form by November 27 to:**



Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
540 Diffley Road
St. Paul, MN 55123

Phone: 651-452-8506
or e-mail raybohnmg@aol.com

MAWD 32nd Annual Meeting & Trade Show

December 5 - 7, 2002

Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center
2100 Arrowwood Lane, Alexandria, MN 56308

Please note: Please register for the MAWD Annual Meeting on the Registration Form. This form does not register you for the MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show.

Hotel & Meal Reservations

Please send completed form to Arrowwood by November 15th.
(One form per party please — you may copy this form.)
Send to: 2100 Arrowwood Lane, Alexandria, MN 56308
Fax: 320-762-0133
(Phone reservations not accepted - fax or mail only.)

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Phone: (Day) _____ Email: _____

Lodging:

- ☐ Please select **one room plan** per party. The room rates are for 1-4 persons

Lodging I

Room for December 5 & 6.....\$151.23

Lodging II

Room for December 6.....\$75.62

Smoking Preference : Smoking _____ Non/Smoking _____ (Preference not guaranteed)

Rooming With (names please) _____

Total Lodging: \$ _____

Meal Package:

- ☐ Please select **one meal package** per person. (Meal packages are not refundable.)

Meal Package I

\$62.00 per person
Breakfast, Lunch,
Banquet on Dec. 6
and Breakfast Dec. 7

Meal Package II

\$50.25 per person
Lunch and Banquet on Dec. 6
and Breakfast on Dec. 7

- Individual meal tickets **will not** be sold at the resort during the conference.

Package I

Total # _____ @ \$ _____

Package II

Total # _____ @ \$ _____

Additional Banquet Tickets

_____ @ \$23.50 per person = \$ _____

Total Meals: \$ _____

Total Meals & Lodging: \$ _____

Guaranteed Payment: _____ Visa/MasterCard _____ American Express _____ Other: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

All rooms must be guaranteed. Individual reservations cancelled within 72 hours of the scheduled arrival date will be charged one night lodging on the date of cancellation. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. Checkout time is 12:00 noon.

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WATERSHED DISTRICTS, INC.

32nd Annual Meeting & Trade Show

Preliminary Schedule

Thursday, December 5, 2002

- 3:00 p.m. Director's Meeting
- 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Registration
- 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. MAWD Trade Show - REGISTER FOR DOOR PRIZES!!!
- 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Concurrent General Session I**
- Seminar A Land Lock Basin Management*
- Seminar B Basic Project Management*
- Seminar C Integrating TMDL Plans into Watershed Plans*
- 8:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception** - Trade Show Floor - REGISTER FOR DOOR PRIZES!!!

Friday, December 6, 2002

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:00 a.m. MAWD Resolutions Committee
- 8:30 a.m. MAWD Trade Show - REGISTER FOR DOOR PRIZES!!!
- 9:00 a.m. MAWD Business Meeting
- Presiding - President Dean Oleson
- * Appointment of Annual Meeting Chair and Parliamentarian
 - * President's Report
 - * Secretary's Report
 - * Treasurer's Report
 - * Presentation of 2002 Budget
- 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. **ADA Staff Technical Session**
- 9:30 a.m. Spouses Program - Accents and Antiques
- 10:00 a.m. Break - MAWD Trade Show Floor - REGISTER FOR DOOR PRIZES!!!
- 10:30 a.m. 2002 Resolutions Committee Report
- 11:30 a.m. Regional Caucuses
- Administrators Meeting
- Engineers/Attorneys Meeting

12:15 p.m. Buffet Luncheon - Special Guest Speaker

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. **Concurrent General Session II**

Seminar A Lake Attainable Use Studies

Seminar B Natural Channel Design

Seminar C NDPS- Phase II Update & Stormwater Construction Permit

3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Break - MAWD Trade Show Floor - REGISTER FOR DOOR PRIZES!!!

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. **Concurrent General Session III**

Seminar A A Green Approach - Fiscal Impact to a City

Seminar B Watershed Public Education

A Lake Friendly Project

Seminar C BWSR Local Water Management Integration

6:00 p.m. Social Hour (Cash Bar)

7:00 p.m. Association Banquet - Entertainment

Saturday, December 7, 2002

7:00 Breakfast Buffet

8:30 **Concurrent General Session IV**

Seminar A Snowmelt Runoff Control & Management

Seminar B Roseau & Wild Rice River Flooding - Lessons Learned

Seminar C 2002 Farm Bill - Conservation Title

9:30 a.m. MAWD Business Meeting (continued)

Presiding — Dean Oleson, President

* Collaboration Challenges with Shrinking State Agency Budgets

Panel Discussion

* Special Recognition

* BWSR Report

* Administrative Report

* Watershed District Administrators Report

* Final Report on Attendance

* Audit Committee Report

* 2003 Budget Adoption

* Introduction of New MAWD Board Members

11:30 a.m. Meeting Adjourned

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET FOR REORGANIZATION AT 12:00 NOON

Minnesota Drainage & Water Management

Thursday, December 5, 2002 - Arrowwood Conference Center

A seminar for Drainage Authorities and their Key partners

This one-day seminar is designed to provide drainage authorities and their key partners with a solid foundation in drainage law and water management. **Kurt Deter**, partner with the Rinke-Noonan Law Firm in St. Cloud is the principal presenter. Mr. Deter's practice concentrates on water-related issues, including drainage and wetland issues. Deter represents watershed districts, counties, cities, farmers and landowners throughout Minnesota on drainage issues.

Program and Schedule

Minnesota Drainage & Water Management

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m.	General Drainage Law in Minnesota Repairs and Improvements of County Ditch Systems
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Stormwater Construction Permits
12 Noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Impoundments and Diversions on Drainage Systems
1:45 p.m.	Redetermination of Benefits, Abandonment and Removal of Property on Drainage Systems
3:00 p.m.	Break
3:15 p.m.	Case Law and Legislative Update Involving Drainage
3:45 p.m.	Questions & Answers
4:00 p.m.	Conclusion

Registration

Advanced Registration:

Advanced registration is recommended - on-site registration subject to availability. Registration deadline is November 27, 2002

Lodging:

You are responsible for your lodging. A block of rooms has been reserved for Wednesday, December 4, 2002 at the Radisson Arrowwood. Call 320-762-1124 for reservations. Lodging for one night is \$75.62 with tax. Please reference the MAWD Drainage Seminar for this special rate.

Registration Fee:

\$50.00 per person. Includes workshop, registration packet, coffee breaks and lunch.

Cancellations:

Refund only if cancellation notice is received by November 27, 2002. Substitutes may be sent.

Registration - Please return this form before November 27, 2002.

Title/Position: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Mail check and registration to:

Minnesota Drainage
MAWD
540 Diffley Road
St. Paul, MN 55123

Registration questions please call
651-452-8506
or email: raybohnmg@aol.com.

Enclosed is a check for \$50.00 payable to MAWD. Please submit a separate registration form for each person. One check may be sent for each organization.

New Managers Orientation Workshop

Thursday, December 5, 2002 - Arrowwood Conference Center

A seminar for new watershed district managers (two years or less) and key staff

Program and Schedule

Watershed Districts - An Overview

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m.	The Watershed District & Fiscal Management -- powers and duties, watershed management plans, annual reports, rules, permits and regulations, employees, citizen advisory committees, tax levies, assessments, and bond sales
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	The Manager -- role of the manager, board responsibilities, behaviors and conduct, compensation and reimbursement Watershed Management Plans -- Long and short-term strategies, goals and policies for WD regulation and funding authority
12:00	Lunch
1:15 p.m.	Watershed District Projects -- types of projects, project initiation and establishment, construction
2:30 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m.	Legal Obligation -- legal considerations in permit decisions, general procedures for conducting a public hearing, miscellaneous legal obligations
3:30 p.m.	Questions & Answers
4:00 p.m.	Conclusion

Registration

Advanced Registration:

Advanced registration is recommended - on-site registration subject to availability. Registration deadline is November 27, 2002

Lodging:

You are responsible for your lodging. A block of rooms has been reserved for Wednesday, December 4, 2002 at Arrowwood.

Call 320-762-1124 for reservations. Lodging for one night is \$75.62 with tax. Please reference the MAWD New Managers Workshop for this special rate.

Registration Fee:

\$50.00 per person. Includes workshop, registration packet, coffee breaks and lunch.

Cancellations:

Refund only if cancellation notice is received by November 27, 2002. Substitutes may be sent.

Registration - Please return this form before November 27, 2002.

Title/Position: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Mail check and registration to:

MAWD
540 Diffley Road
St. Paul, MN 55123

Registration questions please call
651-452-8506
or email: raybohnmg@aol.com.

Enclosed is a check for \$50.00 payable to MAWD. Please submit a separate registration form for each person. One check may be sent for each organization.



Land and Water Shall be Preserved

540 Diffley Road
St. Paul, MN 55123



OCT 02 2002

Ron Harnack
BWSR
One West Water St., Suite #200
St. Paul, MN 55107

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

- Annual Meeting & Trade Show - December 5 - 7, 2002
- Minnesota Drainage & Water Management Seminar
December 5, 2002
- New Manager Orientation Workshop - December 5, 2002

Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center
Alexandria, MN



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
66th ANNUAL MEETING AND 12th ANNUAL TRADE SHOW

UNITED WE STAND -- FOCUS ON THE LAND

DECEMBER 8, 9, & 10, 2002
RADISSON RIVERFRONT HOTEL, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA



Featuring Keynote Speaker

Max Armstrong

one of America's best-known and most widely followed agricultural journalists

*Also featuring a panel discussion on how State and Federal legislative initiatives are working to assist
Minnesota SWCDs as the State experiences budget crunches:*

Billy Wilson, National Association of Conservation Districts, 2nd Vice President

Peggy Ingison, State Budget Director, Minnesota Department of Finance – scheduled to appear

Rick Hansen, MASWCD Legislative Committee

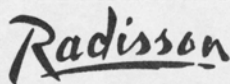
Minnesota's Newly Elected Governor - to be invited

A conference featuring grass-roots initiatives to conserve
the soil and water resources of the State of Minnesota.

The function of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts is to take technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their
source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user.

Hosted By:

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and
the Area II (West Central MN) Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), Mary Ann Scharf, Area II Director



RIVERFRONT HOTEL ST. PAUL

(651) 292-1900

ORGANIZATION Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation

FUNCTION Annual Convention DATES December 6-11, 2002

ALL REQUESTS FOR THE ABOVE GROUP MUST BE RECEIVED BY November 7, 2002

DON'T FORGET —

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

PAYABLE TO RADISSON RIVERFRONT HOTEL ST. PAUL

DO NOT SEND CURRENCY.

Please reserve accommodations for		Print or Type	
NAME	LAST	FIRST	COMPANY
ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	ZIP CODE
SHARING ROOM WITH		NO. OF PERSONS	
SIGNATURE		PHONE NUMBER	

MONTH	DATE	YEAR
-------	------	------

ARRIVAL DATE

ARRIVAL TIME

MONTH	DATE	YEAR
-------	------	------

DEPARTURE DATE

CHECK IN TIME AFTER 3:00 PM
CHECK OUT TIME 12:00 NOON

ACCOMMODATIONS WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED WITHOUT A CHECK FOR THE 1st NIGHT'S DEPOSIT OR YOUR CREDIT CARD #. YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE 1st NIGHT IF RESERVATIONS ARE NOT CANCELED PRIOR TO 4:00 PM. TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FILL OUT THIS CARD OR CALL 1-800-333-3333.

CREDIT CARD # _____ ☐ AMEX ☐ DINERS CLUB ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ DISCOVER EXP. DATE _____
(PLEASE CHECK ONE)

PLEASE CHECK PREFERRED ACCOMMODATIONS OR CALL 1-800-333-3333 FOR RESERVATIONS

Return this envelope with your
Reservation information or call:
651-292-1900 Radisson Hotel Saint Paul
651-605-6966 Radisson Hotel Fax Number

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IF RATE OR ROOM TYPE IS NOT AVAILABLE, NEAREST AVAILABLE RATE WILL BE ASSIGNED. THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR THE THIRD OR FOURTH OCCUPANT IN EACH ROOM. ROLL-A-WAY CHARGE \$15.00, AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. RATES ARE SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE TAXES. NO CHARGE FOR CHILDREN 17 AND UNDER OCCUPYING THE SAME ROOM AS PARENTS.

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts



66th Annual Convention

December 8, 9, 10, 2002

Radisson Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota

REGISTRATION FORM

Please use a separate form for each couple or person!

*Advance registrations must include full payment and must be postmarked by **November 7**.*

Cancellations received by November 22 will be refunded less a \$25 cancellation fee.

No refunds for cancellations after November 22.

(Hotel reservations must be received by the hotel by November 7. After that date the room block will be released.)

Name _____

Spouses Name (if spouse is registering on the same form) _____

Full Mailing Address _____

SWCD District _____ Area _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Outstanding Conservation Cooperator
(Conservation Cooperators do *not* pay the registration fee)

☐ Supervisor ☐ BWSR ☐ NACD
☐ District Employee ☐ NRCS ☐ DNR
☐ Other _____

Registration Fee

	Quantity	Amount
Complete Three Day Convention Registration.....	_____ @ \$145.00 =	\$ _____
Monday Only Registration.....	_____ @ \$110.00 =	\$ _____
Tuesday Only Registration.....	_____ @ \$110.00 =	\$ _____

Sunday Activities

Convention Kickoff Dinner..... @ \$29.00 = \$ _____

Monday Activities

Awards Luncheon..... @ \$24.00 = \$ _____

Tuesday Activities

Outstanding Conservationists Luncheon..... @ \$26.00 = \$ _____
 Banquet..... @ \$29.00 = \$ _____
 MN Construction Site Erosion Control Training/Exam..... @ \$40.00 = \$ _____
☐ 8:00 a.m. - noon session ☐ 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. session

Auxiliary Activities

Tuesday Breakfast..... @ \$13.00 = \$ _____
 Craft Fair - "Make it and Take it"..... @ \$10.00 = \$ _____

CPESC Training (Wednesday, December 11)..... @ \$85.00 = \$ _____

☐ YES, I am applying to CPESC, Inc. to take the certification exam on Thursday, December 12

Please enclose check for the full amount payable to MASWCD.

Mail to MASWCD, 790 Cleveland Avenue South, Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55116

Important: Please return **both** copies of this form with your check. *Your receipt will be returned to you at the convention registration desk. Please feel free to make your own copy of the completed form.*

UNITED WE STAND – FOCUS ON THE LAND
MASWCD 66th ANNUAL MEETING AND 12th ANNUAL TRADE SHOW
DECEMBER 8, 9, & 10, 2002
RADISSON RIVERFRONT HOTEL, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2002

Noon - 6:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.



*"Sam Ting" -
Tom Gibson*

Registration Open

Convention Kickoff & Dinner

- Announcement of 2002 Essay and Poster Winners
- Readings by Essay Winners and Presentation of Prizes
- Dinner
- Entertainment - "Sam Ting" presented by Tom Gibson
The delightful Norwegian humor of "Sam Ting" captures the attention of all audiences as Sam teaches natural resource conservation awareness through the story of the weasel family. Dressed in his best over-alls, white shoes and finest hat, Sam's presentation is complete with lots of "You Bets" and "Uff-da's."
- Recognition of Deceased Supervisors

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2002

6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Hospitality Rooms Open

- Open to all convention attendees.

7:30 a.m.

Registration Opens

8:25 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Opening Ceremony and Business Meeting *Monday business meeting will have reports & introduction of business only - all voting will take place during the Tuesday business meeting*

- Presiding: Richard Zupp, MASWCD President
- Presentation of the Flags
- Presidents Report, Richard Zupp, MASWCD President
- Introduction of MASWCD Committee Chairs
- Introduction of MASWCD Resolutions, Scott Hoes, MASWCD Vice President
- Finance Committee Report, Carol Berg, MASWCD Secretary/Treasurer
- Introduction of proposed bylaws changes, Scott Hoes, MASWCD Vice President
- Panel Discussion: *"How Are State and Federal Legislative Initiatives Working to Assist Minnesota SWCDs as the State Experiences Budget Crunches?"*
 - Billy Wilson, NACD 2nd Vice President
 - Peggy Ingison, State Budget Director – *scheduled to appear*
 - Rick Hansen, MASWCD Legislative Committee
 - Minnesota's Newly Elected Governor - *to be invited*

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Trade Show Open

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Press Room Open

- Open to all convention attendees. Stop by and set up interviews for your local radio stations and get assistance with local press releases.

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Refreshment Break in the Trade Show Area

10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Keynote Address: Max Armstrong



Max Armstrong is one of America's best-known and most widely followed agricultural journalists. His daily broadcasts, with colleague Orion Samuelson, have been heard by millions of Americans across the United States for nearly 25 years. A product of a farm in Southwestern Indiana, Max has spent the past two decades delivering the news about agriculture to his vast farming audience, as well as the non-farm consumers in the nation's third largest city - Chicago.

11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Awards Luncheon

- Minnesota DNR Division of Waters Appreciation Award
- MASWCD/DNR Outstanding Forest Steward Award
- MASWCD Media Award
- MASWCD Legislator of the Year Award
- MASWCD Environmental Education Award
- Outstanding District Employee Award
- MASWCD Outstanding Supervisor Award

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

MINI SESSIONS

YOU WANT IT WHEN? ENGINEERING ALTERNATIVES - WHAT'S AVAILABLE!

With the ever-increasing requests for engineering assistance, attendees of this session will learn about the Non Point Engineering Assistance Program. Hear how it began, how it is working, and see a presentation of projects designed and installed across Minnesota with assistance from this program.

Presenters: Al Broyles, Professional Engineer, JPB Area 4
Jeff Haverland, Engineering Technician, JPB Area 4
Al Kean, Chief Engineer, BWSR

Moderator: Jerome Flottesch, Becker SWCD Supervisor

TAKE THE LEAD ON NEW DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

This is a repeat and expansion of last year's concurrent session on the Non-point source pollution Education of Municipal Officials (NEMO) program. This is a program that every SWCD board should hear about! Learn how your SWCD can take the lead in your county to help officials dealing with development understand the implications of new development in sensitive areas.

Presenter: Jay Michels, Minnesota Erosion Control Association

Moderator: Helen McLennan, Morrison SWCD District Manager

TALK, TEACH, TOUCH... BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH DECISION MAKERS

How do you go about building relationships with elected officials? Is it your job or someone else's? Can you build relationships and do your job as well? This workshop will impress upon you the importance of building relationships in your organization and how to build it into the work you do for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. You will get real life ideas of ways to build relationships as well as hear anecdotal stories about what works and what doesn't, thrown in with a good dose of humor!

Presenter: Cindy Bigger, University of Minnesota Extension Service

Moderator: Jerry Haggemiller, Douglas SWCD District Manager

MINNESOTA FIREWISE: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT CAN MEAN TO YOUR SWCD

Minnesota Firewise is a project sponsored by the USDA National Fire Plan, operated by the Minnesota DNR. It seeks to work with homeowners and local community organizations to prevent losses of life and property from wildfire. This presentation will outline the program and discuss cooperation with local SWCDs.

Presenter: Tom Eiber, Minnesota DNR Forestry

Moderator: Tom Schulz, Wadena SWCD Supervisor

Refreshment Break in the Trade Show Area

MINI-SESSIONS

TO BE OR NOT TO BE?... THIRD PARTY VENDORS

This session will look at opportunities for technical assistance with the new Farm Bill including third party vendors. The certification process will be explained along with the USDA requirements to be qualified as a third party vendor.

Presenter: Paul Flynn, State Resource Conservationist, USDA NRCS

Moderator: Kim Krueger, Pope SWCD District Manager

BUILDING CAPACITY? HERE'S A WAY TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE

An opportunity is on the horizon for SWCDs to help implement Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Learn how to implement this service in your county and what type of partnership can be established with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Presenters: Reed Larson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Jay Riggs, Urban Conservationist, Dakota SWCD

Moderator: Keith Pohl, Crow Wing SWCD District Manager

TIDBITS FROM THE STATE CAPITOL

Learn of upcoming changes in SWCD laws and the 2004 -2005 budget issues that will directly affect local SWCDs. You will also get an update on the many new faces in the legislature this coming year.

Presenters: Ron Harnack, Executive Director, BWSR

Jim Birkholz, Capacity Project Manager, BWSR

Judy Erickson, MASWCD Lobbyist

Moderator: Harold Bruns, Cass SWCD Supervisor

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MINI-SESSIONS (continued)

ORGANIC OPTIONS AND EQIP

With the new Farm Bill, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) has an option supporting the transition to organic cropping. Take a look at the possibilities as the panelists give an overview of where to start as you consider organics on yours or a cooperator's farm. Getting started from the producer's point of view, getting certified, organic marketing opportunities and making the transition with EQIP cost-share are key points.

Presenters: Carmen Fernholz, MN Organic Crop Improvement Assoc.
Craig Murphy, Organic Farmer
Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist, USDA NRCS
Moderator: Mary Ann Scharf, Stevens SWCD Supervisor

5:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Drawing for Prizes In The Trade Show Area

7:30 p.m.

Auction for Conservation Education

- Hosted by the MASWCD Auxiliary
- Funds raised by the auction support conservation education activities.
- Auctioneer - Vince Bachmann, 1997 Minnesota Champion Auctioneer

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2002

6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Hospitality Room Open

- Open to all convention attendees.

7:30 a.m.

Registration Opens

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Minnesota Construction Site Erosion Control Training/Certification

This training will be comprised of three parts: overview of new Minnesota NPDES Phase II construction permit, review of proper erosion control techniques and practices; development and implementation of an erosion control plan and a certification exam.

Instructor: Jay Michels, Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA)

8:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Business Meeting

- Presiding: Richard Zupp, MASWCD President
- Approval of Standing Rules
- Action on 2003 Budget
- Action on Proposed Resolutions
- Election of Officers
- New Business
 - Introduction of 2003 Legislative Agenda: Marilyn Bernhardson, Chair, MASWCD Legislative Committee
 - Introduction of Proposed Bylaws Changes

8:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Photos of Outstanding Conservationists

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

EMPLOYEE SESSIONS

USING GIS TO GET THE MOST DIRT FROM YOUR SOIL SURVEY

Published soil surveys typically contain over 20 tables of information along with 30 -60 maps sheets. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology is the only efficient way to handle that much information in a timely fashion.

Presenters: Ken Matzdorf, Soil Scientist, USDA NRCS
Gloria Weisel, GIS Coordinator, Todd County

Moderator: Sandy Rohr, Todd SWCD District Manager

QUICK TIPS FOR QUICKBOOKS USERS

Informational topics and ideas consolidated from district input will be addressed at this session. Useful tips and shortcuts will be shared with all to incorporate into your individual Quickbooks accounting program. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and share!

Presenter: Vicki Miller, Norman SWCD Assistant Manager

Moderator: Mary Jensen, West Otter Tail SWCD Secretary

PRAIRIE GRASSES AND FORBS ON MY FARM? WHY? THE WAIT IS WORTH IT!

Learn successful methods for establishing native grasses and forbs on upland sites. Whether planting to reduce lawn mowing and beautify your yard on a field scale for water quality and wildlife benefits, hear why native plants are so popular. Presenters will explain how to do it right and what to avoid. Tried and true methods will be explained as well as innovative approaches.

Presenters: Garth Kaste, Kaste Seed Company
Kevin Kotts, DNR Wildlife Manager
Terry Tank, Minnesota River Native Seed Supply
Moderator: Dave Jungst, Stevens SWCD District Manager

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Press Room Open
Refreshment Break
EMPLOYEE SESSIONS

RECOGNIZING THE MESSENGER

Partnerships are key to the success of most conservation done on the ground today. The ability to identify those partners with mutual goals is paramount to achieving those resource goals. This session will explore different "messengers" for conservation.

Presenters: Matt Holland, Pheasants Forever Regional Wildlife Biologist
DuWayne Dittrich, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist

Moderator: Don Otto, Traverse SWCD District Manager

HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE

Attend this session to learn more about the Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP) and the Minnesota Deferred Compensation Plan (MNDPC). The PEIP's mission is to make affordable health, dental and life insurance coverage to all public employees regardless of size, location or other factors. The MNDPC is an easy, "automatic" way to save through payroll deduction and is open to all public employees in Minnesota.

Presenters: Bonnie Torgerson, Public Employees Insurance Program
Shawn Byrne, Public Employees Insurance Program
Michael Ragatz, NBI/Och's Services, Inc.

Moderators: Diane Lommel, Wilkin SWCD and Karen Carlsrud, Clay SWCD

"GET THE NEWS OUT!" ADDING ZING TO YOUR MARKETING MATERIALS

Flyers, brochures, mailings, newsletters. How does a district get noticed in today's competitive marketing environment? Get some tips on improving your marketing materials, receive resources for new ideas, discuss a process to implement a design style and be ready to share your tricks. Bring your latest publications (with extras to share at an exchange table) and share your success stories.

Presenter: Peter Raeker, Communications Director, BWSR

Moderator: Kari Tomperi, Wadena SWCD Staff

Outstanding Conservationists Luncheon

(Co-Sponsored by *The Farmer Magazine* and MASWCD)

- Moderating: Don Wick, Farm Reporter, WCCO Radio
- Slide Show of Minnesota's Outstanding Conservationists
- Presentation of the Minnesota Outstanding Conservationist Award
- Recognition of the Nominating SWCD
- Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards to SWCDs
- Presentation of the SWCD of the Year Award

Minnesota Construction Site Erosion Control Training/Certification

This training will be comprised of three parts: overview of new Minnesota NPDES Phase II construction permit, review of proper erosion control techniques and practices; development and implementation of an erosion control plan and a certification exam.

Instructor: Jay Michels, Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA)

Refreshment Break

United We Stand - Making it Happen

Organization excellence starts with individuals working together to make things better for themselves and their organization. This program is about how we can become united to make this happen. Steps to success, team building, and goal setting are just a few of the topics to be covered in this session.

Presenter: Martha Bryan, Bryan and Bryan Associates

Reception

Banquet

- Presiding: Richard Zupp, MASWCD President
- Recognition of Retiring Supervisors
- Entertainment - **Marcoux Corner**

Marcoux Corner pleases every audience with their diverse and unique brand of live entertainment. Not only does Marcoux Corner provide amazing vocal harmonies, they also have an uncanny knack for entertaining. With a great blend of humor and harmony, they cover 5 decades of music from the doo-wop style of the '50s to a more contemporary twist on many of your favorite songs.

Noon - 2:00 p.m.



Don Wick

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2002

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Certified Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control (CPESC) Training*(Certification exam will follow on Thursday, for those who pre-qualify with CPESC, Inc.)*

Sponsored by MECA and MASWCD. Having CPESC certification can help an SWCD to: enhance professional credibility; promote awareness of the erosion and sediment control profession; have greater influence on policy decisions affecting technical and professional issues; and gain access to unique sources of information and educational opportunities.

Instructors: Jay Michels, CPESC, Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA)
 Jay Riggs, CPESC, Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District
 Jennifer Hildebrand, CPESC, Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik & Assoc.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2002

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Certified Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control (CPESC) Certification Exam*(available to those who pre-qualify with CPESC, Inc.)*

Sponsored by MECA and MASWCD.

MASWCD AUXILIARY PROGRAM**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2002**

6:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Convention Kickoff and Dinner**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2002**

7:30 p.m.

Auction for Conservation Education**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2002**

8:30 a.m.

Breakfast & Business Meeting

■ Presiding: Yvonne Hoese, MASWCD Auxiliary President

10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Silent Auction

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

"Make it and Take it" Craft Workshop*'Tis the Season! Have fun putting together hand-made Christmas gifts.**You must be pre-registered for this workshop- there is a \$10 charge***FOR CONVENTION INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Sheila Vanney or LeAnn Buck

MASWCD, Suite 201, 790 Cleveland Avenue South Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55116

Phone: (651) 690-9028 FAX: (651) 690-9065 <http://www.maswcd.org>**MASWCD 2002 ANNUAL MEETING & TRADE SHOW**

Radisson Riverfront Hotel

11 East Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN

(651) 292-1900

2002 CONVENTION SPONSORED BY:

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

2002 CONVENTION CO-SPONSORS:

The Farmer Magazine · · · MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

MN Natural Resource Conservation Service · · MN Erosion Control Association

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

December 9-11, 2002
Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center

TENTATIVE AGENDA**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. MINNESOTA EXTENSION COMMITTEE Split Rock 1

00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. REGISTRATION DESK OPEN Convention Center Lobby

30 A.M. - NOON MACO BOARD OF DIRECTORS Split Rock 2

30 - 11:00 A.M. MACA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE French River Room 1

30 - 11:30 A.M. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE Gooseberry Falls 1

30 - 11:30 A.M. ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE Gooseberry Falls 2

00 A.M. - NOON MN COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS St. Louis River Room

00 - 11:30 A.M. MCIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS Gooseberry Falls 3

00 A.M. - 1 P.M. MN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY SURVEYORS (MACS) French River Room 2

00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. ASSOCIATION OF MN EMERGENCY MANAGERS (AMEM) St. Louis River Room

00 - 12:30 P.M. MN SOLID WASTE ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION (MSWAA) Split Rock 1

00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. MN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS (MACA) ANNUAL MEETING French River Room 1

00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. COUNTY CHOIR PRACTICE Ballrooms J,K

00 - 12:30 P.M. CONFERENCE BOX LUNCH Vendor Fair, Pioneer Hall South

00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. MAGIC FUND ANNUAL MEETING Board Room

00 - 2:30 P.M. MCIT ANNUAL MEETING Gooseberry Falls 3

00 - 2:30 P.M. TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE Gooseberry Falls 2

00 - 2:30 P.M. GENERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY COMMITTEE Gooseberry Falls 1

00 - 5:00 P.M. RESOURCE FAIR Vendor Fair, Pioneer Hall South
CYBERCOUNTIES COMPUTER LOUNGE Vendor Fair, Pioneer Hall South

00 - 3:00 P.M. MN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING ADMINISTRATORS (MACPZA) French River Room 2

30 - 2:30 P.M. CANDIDATE SCREENING FOR AMC OFFICERS Board Room

45 - 5:15 P.M. FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY Lake Superior Ballrooms L,M,N,O
• Music: "The Little Mob," Duluth Central High School
• Presentation of Colors/Pledge of Allegiance: Aad Pipes and Drums
• Host County Welcome: Duluth Mayor Gary Doty
St. Louis County Board Chair Mike Forsman
• Parade of Counties
• Keynote Speaker: Darin Green, "The Cultivator of Excellence"

30 - 5:30 P.M. AMC/MCIT AWARD PHOTOS French River Room 1

30 P.M. PAST PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION Vendor Fair, Pioneer Hall South

15 P.M. AMC/MCIT AWARDS BANQUET Lake Superior Ballroom J,K
• County Choir
• East High School Ensemble

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:00 A.M. REGISTRATION DESK OPEN Convention Center Lobby

7:00 - 8:00 A.M. BREAKFAST BUFFET Lake Superior Ballroom J

8:00 A.M. - 4 P.M. RESOURCE FAIR Vendor Fair, Pioneer Hall South
CYBERCOUNTIES COMPUTER LOUNGE Vendor Fair, Pioneer Hall South

8:00 - 9:30 A.M. AMC BUSINESS MEETING Lake Superior Ballrooms L,M,N,
• 2003 Presidential Election
• Policy Committee Chair Reports

9:30 - 10:00 A.M. CONFERENCE BREAK Vendor Fair, Pioneer Hall South

10:00 - NOON AMC BUSINESS MEETING Lake Superior Ballrooms L,M,N,
• The Incredible Exchange Presentation
• 2003-04 Platform Adoption

NOON - 1:30 P.M. EXTENSION REPORT:
'Making a Difference in Your County' Lake Superior Ballroom J

1:45 - 3:15 P.M. WORKSHOPS
• Follow-up: Extension Programs that Can Make a Difference in Your County Split Rock
• Customer Driven Support for People with Developmental Disabilities Split Rock
• Transportation Financing Gooseberry Falls
• County-Tribal Relations: The Next Steps Gooseberry Falls
• Polishing Your Presentation Strategies to Produce Results Gooseberry Falls

3:15 - 3:45 P.M. CONFERENCE BREAK Vendor Fair, Pioneer Hall South

3:45 - 5:15 P.M. WORKSHOPS
• Technology - ERER Split Rock
• Tax Abatement Split Rock
• Metro-Rural Perspectives:
Dialogue & Discussion Gooseberry Falls
• Lobbying 101:
Reaching Out to Your Legislators Gooseberry Falls
• Working Together as a Board Gooseberry Falls

6:00 P.M. PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL BASH & ENTERTAINMENT BY
THE ROCKIN' HOLLYWOODS Harbor Side Ballroom, 3rd Lev

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:00 A.M. - NOON REGISTRATION DESK OPEN Convention Center Lobby

7:00 - 8:00 A.M. MN COUNTIES HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (MCHRNA) BREAKFAST MEETING French River Room

7:30 - 9:00 A.M. BREAKFAST BUFFET & ELECTIONS Lake Superior Ballrooms J

9:00 - 11:30 A.M. GENERAL ASSEMBLY Lake Superior Ballrooms J
• Governor-Elect Presentation (invited)
• Speaker: Peter Feigal, "Overcoming Life's Challenges"

11:30 A.M. CONFERENCE ADJOURNS

** All events are subject to change



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Radisson Hotel Duluth - Harborview

505 West Superior Street
218-727-8981
Rate: \$64

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

200 West First Street
218-727-7492
Rate: \$70

Hawthorn Suites

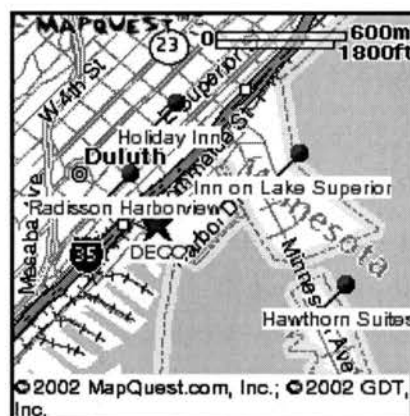
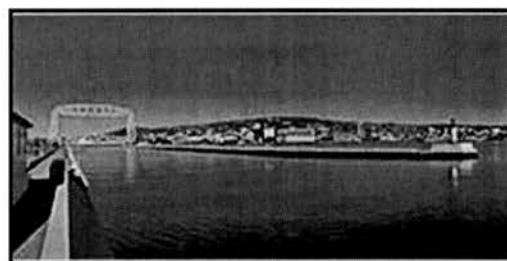
325 Lake Avenue South
218-727-4663
Rate: \$84

The Inn on Lake Superior

350 Canal Park Drive
1-888-668-4352
Rate: \$79

The room cut-off date is
November 8th.

Be sure to mention AMC when
making your reservation!



Visit the [DECC web site](#) to view the conference
or click on the map below for a larger image



Photo by KAIA LARSEN/
TIMES RECORD/AP

Annual Conference On-Line Registration

Name(s):

County:

Email:

Phone:

THE CONFERENCE FEE IS \$300 PER ATTENDEE IF RECEIVED

BEFORE OCTOBER 18, 2002, AND \$325 AFTER THAT DATE.

YOUR COUNTY WILL BE BILLED FOR ALL REGISTRANTS LISTED ABOVE.

Refunds will be granted less a \$50 cancellation fee if written notice is received before November 16, 2002.

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MINNESOTA NEWS:

- Election 2002
- PERA Receives Verbal Approval of 218 Agreement Modification

Check out today's political headlines by visiting:

- Pioneer Press
- Star Tribune
- Minnesota Public Radio (MPR)



AMC & COUNTY NEWS:

- Ten-county collaborative wins health award
- Wabasha County Commissioner's daughter crowned 2003 'Queen of the Lakes'
- View AMC's Legislative Survey Results
- HIPAA Info.

What's Happening in your County? Email us your news!



OTHER NEWS & INFO. LINKS:

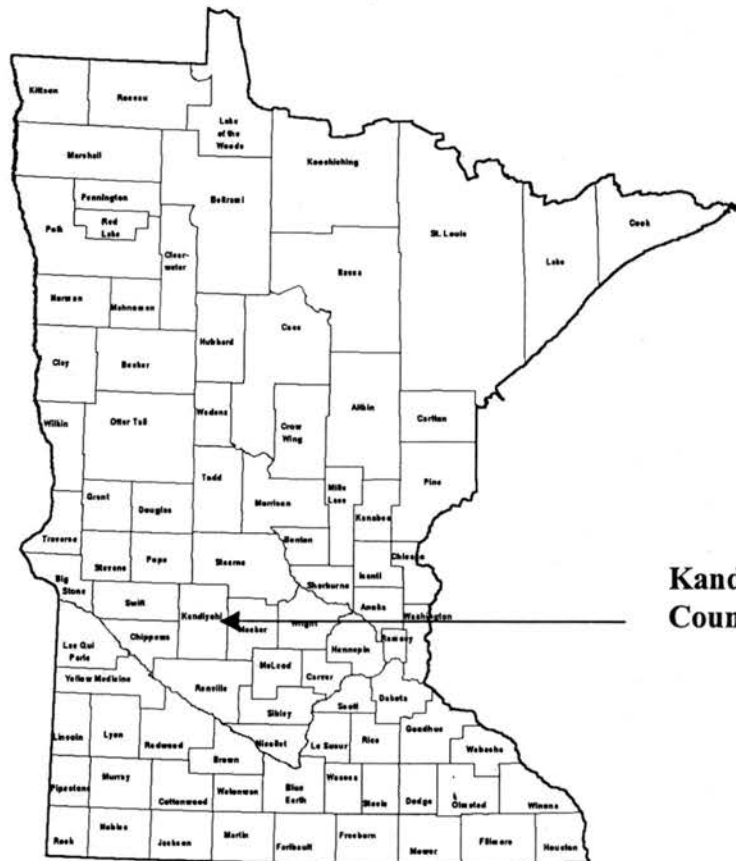
- NACo 'Acts of Caring' Award Nominations Now Being Accepted!
- Trends in Minnesota Government Spending: A Ten-Year Analysis (PDF)
- Minnesota Travel

30-Sep-02

To: Board Members

From: Marybeth Block, BWSR Water Plan Coordinator

RE: Kandiyohi County Local Water Management Plan.



**Kandiyohi County,
County Seat: Willmar**

Board Conservationist: Tom Fischer, New Ulm Office

Duration of the proposed plan: Ten years

Attached is the executive summary of the plan.

(FOR BOARD INFORMATION)

KANDIYOHI COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN
THIRD GENERATION REVISION

Introduction

This agenda item is for BWSR Board information only. It gives notice that the Kandiyohi County Comprehensive Local Water Plan ("third generation plan") is now out for final state agency review and that the BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will be providing its recommendation to the full BWSR Board at the December 2002 meeting.

Brief County Information

Founded in 1858, Kandiyohi County is located in central Minnesota approximately 60 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. It shares borders with Pope and Stearns counties to the north, Meeker County to the east, Renville County to the south and Chippewa and Swift counties to the west. The county is located within four major watersheds: the South Fork and North Fork Crow River watersheds which are part of the Upper Mississippi River Drainage Basin; the Minnesota River (Granite Falls) and Chippewa River watersheds which are part of the Minnesota River Drainage Basin. Parts of the county are found within the North Fork of the Crow River Watershed District and the Buffalo Creek Watershed District. The county contains numerous lakes, rolling hills and vast agricultural land. There are twelve organized lake associations within the county. Cities include Willmar (county seat), Atwater, Blomkest, Kandiyohi, Lake Lillian, New London, Pennock, Prinsburg, Raymond, Regal, Spicer and Sundburg. The county's 1990 population was 38,761 as compared to 41,203 in 2000. There have been eight Clean Water Partnership funded projects in the county since 1990. There are five organized watershed projects within the county, all begun between 1996 and 2001.

Third Generation Plan Revision Information

Kandiyohi County completed the revision of their water plan and submitted their third generation plan to the BWSR for final state agency review on September 6, 2002. The final ninety-day state agency review began on September 11, 2002, and will end on December 9, 2002. State agencies have until October 30, 2002, to submit their final review comments. BWSR staff will work with the county water plan coordinator to appropriately address comments received from state agencies.

On November 6, 2002, the BWSR staff and BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will meet with the water plan coordinator and representatives of Kandiyohi County to review the third generation water plan. The BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will provide a recommendation for board action to the full BWSR Board at their December 2002 meeting. An overview and draft copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusion and Order will be developed and provided to board members within the December 2002 meeting agenda packet.

15-Oct-02

To: Board Members

From: Marybeth Block, BWSR Water Plan Coordinator

RE: Kittson County's Local Water Management Plan.



Kittson County
County Seat: Hallock

Board Conservationist: Bill Best

Duration of the proposed plan: Five Years; December 2002-2007

Attached is the executive summary of the plan.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS ~ 1995-PRESENT

Kittson County Comprehensive Local Water Plan

*Well Sealing Program – 75 percent cost-share program for landowners with abandoned or unused wells in need of sealing. Funding for the program was raised from \$2,000 to \$2,500 in 2002, due to increased needs.

*Dead Animal Pickup Program – 75 percent cost-share program offered to producers for the pickup fee of dead animals. Pickups are made in the spring of each year. Funding was increased to \$750 per year in 2002 from the previous \$500 level.

*Erosion Control Cost-Share – Funds are available for special projects designed to reduce erosion. The Springbrook Erosion Control Project is one example of how the cost-share funds are used. The project includes the installation of flow control, resloping road ditches, relocating dikes away from waterway edges and seeding grass buffers. The desired outcomes are to reduce highly erosive water velocities, prevent bank sloughing, increase ditch holding capacity, and improve water quality.

*Tree Cost-Share Program – Cost-share funds are available each year for planting trees in Kittson County.

*Ag BMP Loan Program – Kittson County has offered low interest loans for best management practices - including equipment and septic systems - since 1995. In 2001, \$58,000 was loaned through the Ag BMP program at an interest rate of 3.5 percent.

*DNR Obwell Monitoring – One water table well is monitored in Kittson County. The well is located near Kennedy. Monitoring data for the well dates back to October of 1963.

*Surface water monitoring - Eleven sites are monitored on the Joe River and Two Rivers on a regular basis for dissolved oxygen, ph, nitrogen, phosphorous, etc. Test results are on file at the Kittson SWCD office.

*Rain Gauge Monitoring - Currently, 21 volunteers report rainfall amounts April through October of each year. The information is compiled through the SWCD office and forwarded to the Minnesota Climatology Office.

*Well Testing – Periodically, a water quality testing day is held for Kittson homeowners. Homeowners may bring in water samples from their wells to be tested for nitrates and bacteria. The samples are tested by the Minnesota Department of Health at no cost to the homeowner.

*Newsletter – The Northland Conservation News is mailed to 1,900 homes four times a year. The newsletter regularly contains articles from the SWCD (including zoning, feedlot and

CLWP), NRCS, FSA and the Two Rivers Watershed District.

*Envirothon – Kittson County has participated in the national Envirothon program since 1992. Through the Northwestern Area I Envirothon, high school students are tested on environmental issues. Local winners advance to the state level and may advance from there.

*Make A Splash – Fourth grade students from Kittson, Roseau, Red Lake, Marshall and Pennington Counties were offered a day of water education and fun at Old Mill State Park in Marshall County on Sept. 21, 2001. Make A Splash is a national program through Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). A similar program will be offered at the local level in 2002. The program will be called the Northwest Minnesota Water Festival.

*River Watch – River Watch is a hands-on science program for high school students designed to develop baseline water quality data for area rivers, and increase awareness of land and water stewardship practices affecting water quality. River Watch was started at Kittson Central and Lancaster Public School in 1999 and at Tri County in 2000.

*Poster Contest – Kittson County fifth and sixth grade students are invited to participate in the annual poster contest each year. Local winners advance to the state level.

*Arbor Day Presentation – A presentation is given to elementary students in the county each year in honor of Arbor Day. Free trees are also given to students in grades 3-6.

*Soil and Water Stewardship Week – Stewardship materials are offered to area clergy each spring. The materials give scripture and hymn ideas for topics related to conservation stewardship, along with church program covers and activity sheets.

*Establishment of an Outdoor Classroom – Moose Point Learning Center is an 80 acre tract of land located near the Kittson/Roseau County line. A trail system and ponds have been established, and a shelter has been built on the site. Intentions are for environmental education days to take place at the Pelan Township location. At this point, no educational activities have taken place at the learning center, due to very wet conditions.

*Crop Improvement Day Booth – Each January a booth is set up at the Kittson County Crop Improvement Day in Hallock. Information on various programs through the SWCD (including CLWP, zoning and feedlot) is available at the booth. Trees are also awarded as door prizes.

*Kittson County Fair Booth – Each July a booth is set up at the Kittson County Fair in Hallock. Information on various programs through the SWCD is available at the booth. Trees are also awarded as door prizes.

*A Level One Feedlot Inventory was completed in 2001. Twenty-four producers registered their operations as feedlots. Kittson's inventory is on file at the SWCD office.

*A gravel pit inventory was completed in 1999. Information on individual gravel pits is on file at the Kittson County SWCD.



INTRODUCTION

Kittson County Comprehensive Local Water Plan

Comprehensive local water planning began at the state level in 1985 when a statewide planning committee was formed to make recommendations to the Legislature about local water planning. The Legislature, after a yearlong effort, passed Comprehensive Local Water Planning into law as Chapter 110B in the spring of 1986. That law was repealed in 1990 and is now referred to as 103B.301.

The Northwest Minnesota CLWP Project, which included Kittson County, began operations in October of 1987, with the creation of the Joint Powers Board. This action allowed participating counties to work together to simultaneously develop the individual comprehensive local water plans for each county. The process was designed to reduce duplication of efforts and produce plans that are specific for each county yet are closely integrated with planning efforts in neighboring counties.

The Kittson County Task Force, appointed by the Kittson County Board of Commissioners to represent the county's interests, met monthly starting in January of 1988. The Kittson County Task Force's main focus was to provide the local knowledge base of county resources, problems and procedures. After the initial planning process, the number of meetings was reduced to twice per year and as otherwise needed.

Today, the task force is referred to as the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC).

The Kittson County Board of Commissioners is responsible for the implementation of the CLWP. The Kittson County SWCD has been named the lead agency for water planning. A full-time water plan coordinator was hired in May of 1991.

In 1995 Kittson County's CLWP was reviewed and updated to reflect the accomplishments that had been completed since the first generation of the plan, and to point out new initiatives that needed to be addressed in the county.

Kittson County's third generation plan was due in 2000, but due to staff changes, the Board of Water and Soil Resources granted the county a two-year extension.

This third generation plan is in effect for Jan. 1, 2003-Dec. 31, 2007. This plan is a report of new data since the 1995 water plan. This plan also references data from the first and second generation plans.



PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Kittson County Comprehensive Local Water Plan

The purpose of this Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) for Kittson County is:

1. To identify existing and potential problems or opportunities for protection, management, and development of water resources and related land resources in the county
2. To develop and implement a plan of action to promote sound hydrologic management of water and related land resources in the county, and
3. To work toward effective environmental protection and management in the county.

The essential constituent during development of this plan was the development of a continuing process whereby local government officials and the general public can understand the amount, characteristics, and distribution of their water resources.

Based on this understanding of existing conditions, county officials can then decide what water resources are necessary and desired for future growth and development; and decide on a course of action to achieve and maintain the quality of life desired in the county.

Kittson County recognizes that counties; whether growing, remaining stable or declining in population; must develop their own local plan for managing water resources. If not, they will eventually lose the opportunity to make intelligent, local choices that anticipate or prevent water resource problems before costs escalate and options narrow.

Kittson County also recognizes that a well developed comprehensive water plan can also integrate local initiatives and existing state or federal water related programs and funding sources. This integration also allows more efficient management of all these programs for protection of water resources and the general environment.



SCOPE OF THE PLAN

Kittson County Comprehensive Local Water Plan

This Comprehensive Local Water Plan focuses on water and related land resources. Kittson County has assembled and studied available information relating to the physical environment, the surface and ground water resources, and related land use.

Surface water and ground water quality and quantity and related land uses that effect water resources are analyzed, and relationships between these resources and their current or potential usage are defined.

Problems are analyzed within the context of watershed units and ground water systems where appropriate, but the plan applies to the entire area within the county.

This plan is based on principles of sound hydrologic management and recognizes interrelationships between surface and ground water as well as the potential cumulative effects of land use on both water quality and quantity.

This plan is also based on key economic and environmental principles, and is consistent with other plans that exist at the county, watershed district, soil and water conservation district, or ground water system level.

This water plan will apply through the year 2007. In the fall of 2006, Kittson County will examine the plan and update it for the next 5-year planning period.



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Kittson County Comprehensive Local Water Plan

Kittson County has developed a comprehensive, realistic, and achievable implementation program to accomplish its goals, objectives, and actions. This implementation plan also identifies existing private, state and federal programs that the county could utilize for assistance in identifying and resolving problems, as well as for funding plan implementation. A suggested timetable for implementation is included where appropriate.

The implementation program is designed to provide the county board of commissioners with a realistic framework for protecting their water resources, while maintaining the flexibility to operate within the constraints of the county's funding and tax base.

ROLE OF KITTSOON COUNTY IN IMPLEMENTATION

Kittson County is responsible for the development and implementation of the goals, objectives, and actions in this comprehensive water plan. The significance of this comprehensive plan must not be underestimated. All future state or federal funding requests to support environmental activities in the county will be reviewed in the context of Kittson County's plan. In cases where outside funding is limited, highest priority will be given to those counties who have a well formulated implementation plan, and who have demonstrated commitment and progress in reaching their goals. To accomplish the goals and objectives of this comprehensive water plan, the county will take ownership of the plan and implementation process. This means that Kittson County will:

- *take responsibility for applying for grants and other outside funding to fund implementation;
- *take the initiative to regularly review the status of water planning issues in the county and to modify existing goals or objectives, or add new goals or objectives, as required;
- *take the initiative in working with local, state, and federal groups or agencies to utilize those programs that would assist with implementation;
- *monitor progress during implementation to determine which goals have been met;
- *develop measurable criteria to determine when and how successfully goals and objectives are met; and
- *update the plan every 5 years

Many of the goals, objectives, and actions outlined in this comprehensive water plan can be implemented or initiated by the county working closely with the Kittson County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Two Rivers and Joe River Watershed Districts, and other state and federal agencies. Implementation of this plan will be funded by the annual Natural Resources Block Grant obtained from the State of Minnesota. Many existing programs at the local and state level can be initiated at very little cost.

To effectively implement its comprehensive water plan, Kittson County will maintain the following three objectives throughout plan implementation:

1. Maintain the Kittson County Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)

To monitor progress in implementation of the plan, and to discuss newly developed problems and opportunities, the county will maintain its water planning task force, in part or as a whole, to serve as an advisory committee to the board of commissioners. This group has developed an awareness of the water planning issues in the county, understands the history of local water planning, represents a wide variety of public and local government interests, and now constitutes a valuable resource for the county.

The Kittson County Board of Commissioners will appoint this committee. The committee should include one representative from each local or state agency and other interested groups operating within Kittson County. A county commissioner will chair the committee. This group will meet semi-annually to review progress in implementation, discuss developing problems and opportunities, and to maintain the lines of communication between affected institutions and agencies on local, state, and federal levels. It will present a report/work plan to the Kittson County Board of Commissioners as requested on the status of implementation and future direction.

Each year the WRAC will develop a work plan, budget and report that is reasonable and achievable.

Once the report is complete and approved, the county and the WRAC will have a better idea of the actions to be taken directly by the county and which will require cooperation between local units of government or state and federal agencies. The water plan coordinator and WRAC can then attempt to get commitments for cooperative efforts as well as funding. This report will be submitted to the BWSR on an annual basis.

2. Maintain a direct, ongoing liaison program with local, regional, state, and federal agencies and public interest groups to ensure cost-effective plan implementation.

There are a great number of agencies and groups that have the expertise and resources to assist counties in implementing their plans. There is no need for Kittson County to duplicate programs, if it can efficiently and effectively utilize those that already exist.

The Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District, county extension agent, and the Two Rivers and Joe River Watershed Districts will have a particularly important role to play in efficient implementation. Because many of the goals and objectives of these organizations have been incorporated in Kittson County's plan, and because these organizations already have much of the infrastructure and programs in place to implement the plan's goals and objectives, Kittson County will develop a direct, on-going relationship with the Soil and Water Conservation District and the watershed districts to optimize plan implementation.

A major focus of the Kittson County plan is education. Therefore, the county extension service needs to play a major role in plan implementation. Many of the action items identified in the education strategy can be initiated in the early stages of plan implementation and the county extension service should have primary involvement in these educational efforts.

State and federal agency involvement is critical for a number of action items identified in the plan. Kittson County recognizes that the costs and expertise required to correct many of the problems identified in this plan are beyond the financial resources of the county. Kittson County will develop and maintain on-going working relationships with all state and federal agencies involved in water planning issues in the county.

3. Continue the office of county coordinator for comprehensive local water planning

In May of 1991, Kittson County hired a water plan coordinator. The coordinator's office is currently located in the Kittson SWCD office. The position is funded through the State of Minnesota's Natural Resources Block Grant.

Duties of the coordinator are primarily to carry out all administrative and technical aspects of the CLWP. The current coordinator also works as the county zoning administrator, SWCD technician and county feedlot officer.



REVISION PROCESS

Kittson County Comprehensive Local Water Plan

Due to staff changes, Kittson County was granted an extension for its scheduled 2000 plan. With the extension, the deadline for completing the third generation plan was moved to Dec. 31, 2002.

The update process began in October of 2001. On Oct. 2, 2001, the Kittson County Commissioners passed a resolution to revise the Kittson County Comprehensive Local Water Plan. The resolution also named the Kittson County Soil and Water Conservation District the coordinating agency for the revision process. A copy of the resolution was forwarded to the BWSR.

A request for plans and official controls was sent to all cities, townships and watershed districts in Kittson County on Oct. 11, 2001. A deadline for submitting plans or identifying any conflicts, problems, or opportunities those LGUs wanted examined in the revised plan was set for Jan. 15, 2002.

Kittson County filed a Notice of Decision on Oct. 30, 2001, stating that the revised plan would be for a five-year period. The Notice of Decision was sent to the contiguous counties, watershed districts in the county, LGUs in the county and BWSR.

A Kittson County WRAC meeting was held Dec. 13, 2001, to establish the basics for the revised plan.

A WRAC meeting was also held Feb. 8, 2002, to prioritize the 18 assessments necessary in the revision process.

A public informational meeting was held Feb. 20, 2002, in the Kittson County Courthouse. Notice of the meeting was published in the Kittson County Enterprise and the North Star News. Notice of the meeting was also sent to the contiguous counties, watershed districts and LGUs in the county and BWSR.

By May 15, 2002, a draft copy of the water plan was sent to all LGUs in the county, all contiguous counties, watershed districts in Kittson County, Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Departments of Ag, Health and Natural Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Environmental Quality Board, and the Minnesota Geological Survey for preliminary state agency review.

ROLE OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES IN PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

There are many agencies in Minnesota at the local, regional, state, and federal levels that are involved with water and land use issues either in a regulatory capacity, or through an education and information development role.

Programs administered by local agencies such as soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, county extension services and local school districts; state agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Environmental Education Board, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Geological Survey; and federal agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are the most useful and helpful during implementation of Kittson County's Comprehensive Local Water Plan.

SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVES

All goals, objectives, and actions outlined by the county in this comprehensive water plan, can be accomplished through several major initiatives. It is very important for Kittson County to work closely with those agencies or groups discussed previously, to assure efficient, cost effective, timely implementation of these strategies. These initiatives address issues identified throughout the plan.

The top priority goals for Kittson County include:

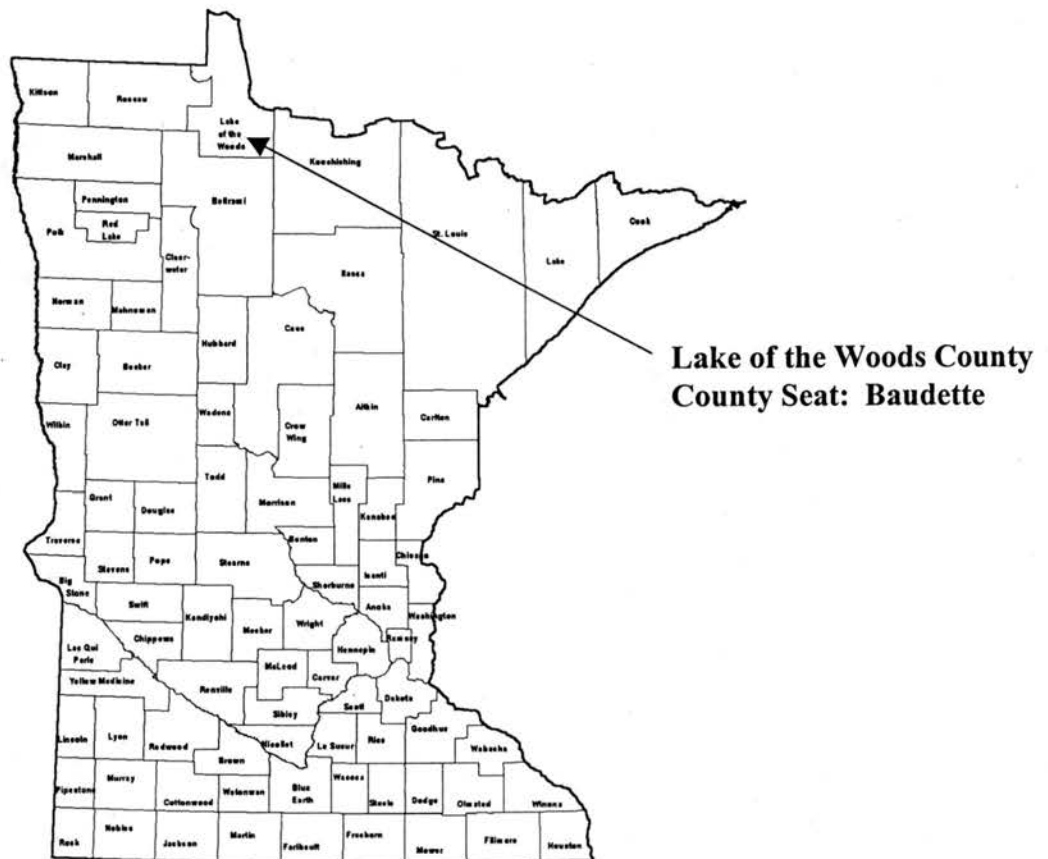
1. Protecting and improving the county groundwater resources by locating sources of contamination and establishing an extensive and complete county groundwater database
2. Continue education and information programs on stewardship that will lead to better land use
3. Continue to address solid waste issues through cost share programs
4. Use cost share funds to correct wind and water erosion problems

30-Sep-02

To: Board Members

From: Marybeth Block, BWSR Water Plan Coordinator

RE: Lake of the Woods County Local Water Management Plan.



Board Conservationist: Jeff Hrubes, Bemidji Office

Duration of the proposed plan: ⁵/~~Ten~~ years

Attached is the executive summary of the plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

The third generation Lake of the Woods County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (CLWMP) is an inventory, assessment and action plan for the management of the County's water and related land resources. The County Board of Commissioners adopted the first County-wide plan in 1992. The main purpose of the local water plan is to identify existing and potential problems and opportunities for the protection, management, and development of water and related land resources, develop objectives, and carry out a plan of action to promote sound management of our water resources. The plan will enhance environmental protection and promote sound land use practices.

The updated plan eliminates irrelevant or repetitive data, and is more focused and reader friendly. The plan revision process focused mainly on the issues and objectives currently important to Lake of the Woods County, including identifying specific strategies and activities necessary to accomplish these objectives. The updated plan also places a greater emphasis on utilizing modern resource management tools, such as Geographic Information Systems, to allow for improved planning and more efficient management of the County's natural resources. Internet web-sites will be utilized to obtain additional data and make information available to other local government units in order to improve coordination of resource management activities. Higher quality and more informative maps, tables and figures are also used in the 3rd generation water plan.

The plan was created with the understanding that all issues and objectives will not be addressed. Staffing and funding constraints limit the ability to accomplish the goals of the plan. Additional funding and/or employment opportunities will vastly improve implementation of the CLWP.

Accomplishments

Many of the issues addressed in the CLWP require long-term solutions and/or involve projects that are still ongoing. This noted, over the past five years many of the goals and related activities contained in the CLWP were achieved. Many others are in-progress. The following are just some of the highlights of past accomplishments:

- Overall resource protection and management was improved by acquiring GIS capabilities at County and SWCD offices. Remonumentation of Public Land Survey corners, particularly in shoreland areas, and county-wide parcel mapping based on remonumentation efforts are nearing completion.
- Ground water protection was enhanced by completing a county-wide abandoned well survey and developing a cost-share program for sealing abandoned wells, sealing approximately 30 wells. An inventory of underground storage tanks was also completed.
- Ground and surface water protection was increased by completion of an initial inventory of substandard individual sewage treatment systems (ISTS) and requiring the necessary upgrades of sub-standard ISTS in shoreland at the time an owner applies for a land use permit. Additionally, the cities of Williams and Baudette both completed much needed public wastewater facility upgrades.
- Surface water quality in the Zippel Bay watershed was improved, reducing erosion and sedimentation into Zippel Bay. A comprehensive inventory of erosion problems along both branches of Zippel Creek was completed, identifying those areas in greatest need of corrective actions. Water quality sampling was initiated in Zippel watershed, with automatic flow monitors installed on both branches. A successful application was submitted, naming Zippel watershed as an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Conservation Priority Area. Soil boring and analysis was completed to determine correct design of bank slopes. Surveys and design plans have been completed for several reaches of the south branch of Zippel Creek. Several projects are completed or in progress involving streambank reconstruction, livestock use exclusion, and installation of buffer strips in the watershed. Baseline water quality sampling was also initiated in the Bostic watershed.

- Initial steps were taken in an attempt to reduce erosion and protect fisheries habitat and water quality on Lake of the Woods. A 2001 inventory of lakeshore erosion was completed, documenting the severity of erosion problems from recent high water events. Information concerning the effects of sustained high water on Lake of the Woods was disseminated to other state agencies, LGUs, and elected officials as a first step in finding a solution to the issue. Several lakeshore protection projects were completed utilizing cost-share programs and engineering assistance provided through the SWCD, protecting over 1,800 feet of Lake of the Woods shoreline. Technical assistance for lakeshore protection was provided to additional landowners from the SWCD.
 - Management of the Rainy and Rapid Rivers was benefitted by completion of a Rainy/Rapid River management plan, followed by adoption of the Rainy/Rapid River Shoreland Management Ordinance by Lake of the Woods and Koochiching Counties.
 - Water quality awareness was increased by surface water education efforts. SWCD, County, and DNR employees provide assistance to the Lake of the Woods school, giving presentations, answering questions, providing input for school projects, and assisting with hands on demonstrations. Renewed interest was generated for the Envirothon, with even greater participation expected in coming years. The local DNR office renewed the MinnAqua program, and a local Take-A-Kid-Fishing program was started, which includes lake related educational efforts.
 - Substantial efforts have been made to improve administration of the Wetland Conservation Act. The County developed a wetland banking site improving local mitigation options. In addition, a Challenge Grant was recently received to develop a Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plan and Ordinance for Lake of the Woods County.
 - An inventory and assessment of public ditch systems in Lake of the Woods County was completed with Challenge Grant funds. Information contained in the report will improve management and maintenance of the County's public ditches and reduce erosion by identifying problems and improving maintenance.
 - A substantial erosion control project was completed, stopping a significant source of sediment from reaching the Rainy River. The Baudette bay seawall project also improved aesthetics and use of public facilities.
 - Surface water quality protection will benefit from a completed Level I Feedlot Inventory, with a Level II inventory planned. Several projects to reduce the pollution potential of feedlots are in progress, utilizing EQIP and Water Planning funds.
 - Lake of the Woods County identified, developed, and marked several existing public accesses along Rainy River and Lake of the Woods. The city of Baudette recently purchased land adjacent to the Rainy River for future development as a public access as part of the new City Park. The DNR is currently exploring the potential purchase and development of public access sites along the Rapid River and Lake of the Woods.
- The County has made substantial progress in achieving its goals. A lack of funding and availability of County and SWCD staff prevented additional accomplishments. This third generation water plan reassesses County goals and water resource needs and concerns.

Plan Organization

The plan includes an inventory of the County's physical environment, land use, and development, including expected changes. The inventory outlines the quantity, quality, and present conditions affecting our water and related land resources, and provides a basis for subsequent information contained in the plan and aids in the planning process. The plan also contains information about surface water, ground water, and related land resources for each of the County's three major watersheds. Current available data was somewhat limited due to

funding and geographic constraints. Potential changes and subsequent impacts that could effect the availability, quality, and use of the County's water resources were identified on a watershed basis.

Key issues affecting the County's water related resources were identified and prioritized by the water plan committee. The issues include both problems and opportunities for resource enhancement in each watershed. For each issue, the objective is stated with strategies and specific activities identified to achieve that objective, including potential funding sources and lead agencies. The following issues were identified and prioritized by the water plan committee, and are addressed in the updated plan:

Sustained High Water Levels on Lake of the Woods

Sustained high water levels on Lake of the Woods over the last several years have caused severe shoreland erosion, negatively impacting water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational resources, and private property. Lake of the Woods, its islands, and its shoreland are of tremendous public value, both to the local community and the state as a whole. Lakeshore property is being lost to erosion at an alarming rate. Lakeshore erosion is affecting private as well as public land, with some property owners losing up to 50 feet in a single year. Landowners are being forced to install expensive riprap projects, and many riprap projects already in place are failing. The loss of valuable lakeshore property affects all county residents.

One Island of considerable public value is Pine Island. It serves as a barrier protecting the Wheeler's Point area from strong northwesterly winds, it (along with Sable Island in Ontario) creates Four-Mile Bay providing a protected fishing area for smaller boats, and it provides wildlife habitat, being home to endangered species including piping plovers and bald eagles. Nesting pairs of piping plovers have declined dramatically due to loss of habitat from sustained high water levels. Four-Mile Bay also provides extremely valuable fisheries habitat that, if lost, could be very detrimental to the Lake of the Woods fishery.

Aerial photo comparisons show that approximately 1.2 miles of Pine Island have been lost since 1996. During the summer of 2001, much more of the island was lost to erosion, with 100 year old white pine being lost on the west end and new holes forming in the island on the east end. Sable Island is suffering similar losses, and severe erosion problems are also being experienced on Garden Island (especially the east end which is used extensively for shore lunches,) the Northwest Angle, and Islands.

Drainage Systems Maintenance, Erosion, and Sedimentation

Much of Lake of the Woods County benefits from extensive drainage. Agricultural lands are dependent on effective drainage to be productive. In many areas drainage is necessary for maintenance of county and state roads. Lake of the Woods County also possesses many important aquatic resources of high public value, which are impacted by sedimentation. These impacts include reduced water quality, loss of valuable fisheries habitat, reduced navigability, etc. Considerable public and private resources are spent cleaning out ditches. Agricultural land is slowly losing its productivity to erosion, leaving the negative impacts to be borne by future generations.

Promoting proper ditch maintenance by utilizing best management practices is essential to maintain agricultural vitality while protecting downstream aquatic resources. Other efforts must also be made to reduce erosion and sedimentation such as increased buffer strip utilization.

Community Sewer Systems

Intensive development and population growth (including seasonal residents) have necessitated the development of a community sewer system in the Wheeler's Point area and the planning for possible future systems in other areas. Many septic systems in the Wheeler's Point area are aging and in need of upgrading, but space is often available for a properly designed upgraded sewer system. Densities and sewer requirements limit increased development of prime locations and often result in pushing development to less desirable locations. High densities of septic systems also have the potential to threaten groundwater resources.

Enhancement of Surface Waters (Surface Water Quality)

Minor Watersheds where surface water quality is of highest concern include Zippel, Bostic, and Baudette River.

Feedlots/Livestock Concentrations

Lake of the Woods County has a relatively small number of feedlots, most of which are small family owned cow-calf operations. However, Lake of the Woods County also contains a large number of streams, ditches, minor tributaries, and wetlands of which many operations are located near.

Enhancement of the Lake of the Woods Fishery

Lake of the Woods and Rainy River are international waters shared by Minnesota, Ontario, and Manitoba. Lake of the Woods is one of the State's most unique and valuable natural resources, on which much of the area depends on. The Lake of the Woods supports a world class fishery for several different species of fish, and is world renown for walleye fishing. It also maintains abundant wildlife and multiple recreational uses. The Lake of the Woods fishery is extremely important to local, state, and provincial economies. Increasing fishing pressure has the potential to impact the quality of the fishery, especially walleye average size and abundance of trophy sized walleye. Inadvertent introductions of exotic species could also have tremendous negative impacts on the fishery, thereby affecting the local economy and the quality of life of county residents.

High Priority Wetland Resources

Lake of the Woods County possesses abundant wetland resources, largely types 6, 7, and 8 isolated wetlands. Relatively the same level of protection is currently granted these wetlands. Opportunities exist to improve the state wetland regulatory framework to better fit local conditions.

The Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act is administered by the County with assistance from BWSR and the SWCD, federal wetland laws are administered by the Corps of Engineers, and the wetland protection provisions of the farm program are implemented by the NRCS. The DNR, EPA, and MPCA can also be involved in wetland regulation directly or indirectly. Modifications to these laws and/or the regulatory process are not uncommon. It can be very difficult for landowners to be aware of and understand wetland regulations. For the benefit of local landowners, a proactive effort must be made to educate and provide information regarding wetland regulations rather than being reactive towards landowners and projects impacting wetlands.

Lake of the Woods Recreation Management Plan

Lake of the Woods County is blessed with some of the state's most valuable natural resources. The area's economy depends on tourism and recreation. Recreational opportunities also contribute greatly to the quality of life of county residents. Currently there is no plan or strategy to deal with increasing and changing recreational demands.

Increased utilization of a Geographic Information System

Geographic Information Systems are recognized today as useful and necessary tools in modern resource management. The ongoing monitoring and management of Lake of the Woods County's water resources requires a computerized GIS that includes cultural development indicators as well as natural land resource characteristics. A Geographic Information System has been developed in Lake of the Woods County consisting of many different data layers. To date, data development has focused primarily on establishing more accurate public land survey and property ownership cadastre, primarily in shoreland areas.

Public Lands and Recreational Resources

Public lands in the county are an important resource for local residents and tourists. Public lands provide wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries habitat, provide hunting and other recreational activities, and protect valuable resources. Because of the benefits they provide, public lands contribute significantly to the county's economic base and increase the quality of life of county residents.

Stormwater Management

While both Baudette and Williams are small communities, little efforts have been made in the area of municipal stormwater management.

Protection of Groundwater Resources

Aquifers provide our primary source of water for domestic use. It is also well known that abandoned wells can create a significant risk to groundwater quality by providing a direct conduit for surface contamination to enter aquifers. Once contaminated it is difficult and expensive to clean up an aquifer.

Wellhead protection is a means of safeguarding public water supply wells by preventing contaminants from entering the area that contributes water to the well or well field. The long-term goal of WHP is to implement protection measures for all public water wells.

Enforcement Needs of Local Ordinances and Regulations

Existing ordinances and regulations provide the laws necessary for protecting water resources but are ineffective if not enforced appropriately. To address these issues the county will work with all existing agencies that have a regulatory function, in particular the MPCA, the MDH, and the DNR, to ensure that all is being done at the county level to help with enforcement.

Land Use Easements

Permanent conservation easements can be an effective tool to protect unique features and private resources of high public value. Land use easements can help protect these resources for the benefit of both present and future generations. Unwise land use practices can cause unintended negative effects on both private and public resources. Easements can aid in the planning process by preventing unwise use of marginal lands while maintaining the County tax base. Land use easements in sensitive areas will also benefit water quality and fish & wildlife habitat.

Administration

The Lake of the Woods County Water Planning Task Force, a standing committee of local and state agency representatives and private citizens concerned about water resources, will be responsible for providing oversight and direction for implementation of the CLWP, including any amendments or revisions. They will meet on an annual basis to review issues and progress of staff activities. The Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District will be responsible for coordination and implementation of the plan. Implementation projects are often coordinated between the SWCD, the County Environmental Services Office, DNR, Extension, and other state and local government units.

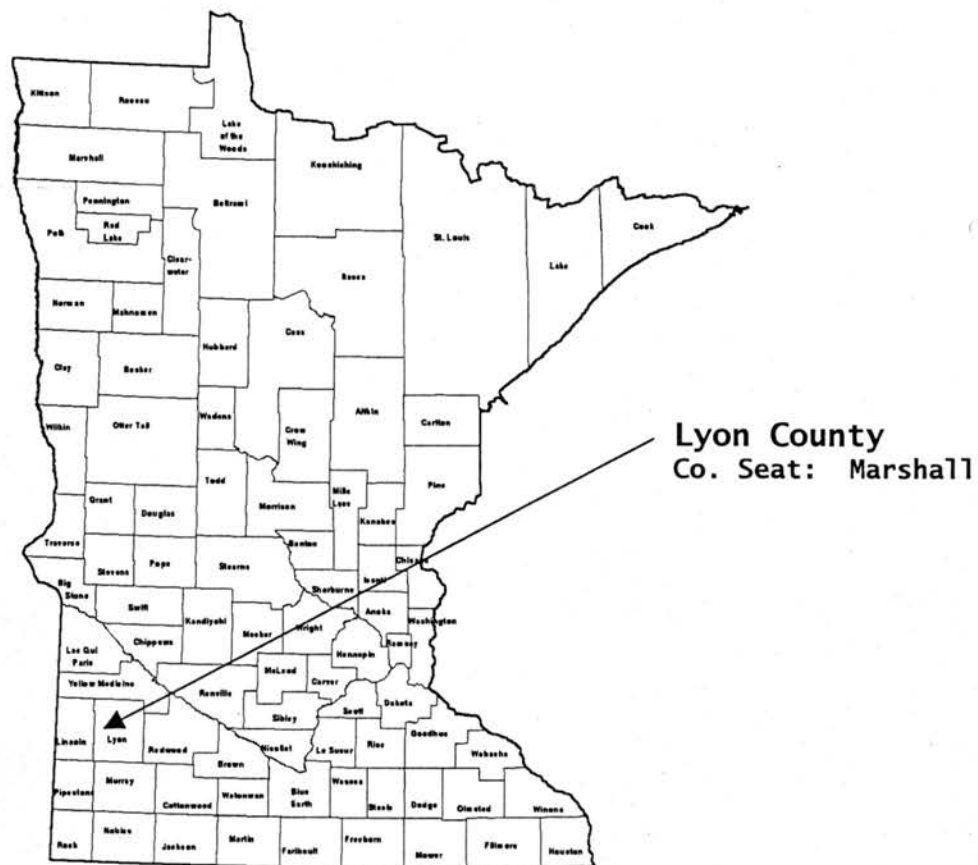
The Environmental Services Office regulates and provides planning assistance for shoreland development, administers the Wetland Conservation Act, and implements many of the initiatives found in the water plan. The SWCD provides technical assistance and assists in administration of the WCA, administers the Feedlot program, and implements the CLWP. The SWCD also administers certain state conservation programs. The County MIS-GIS coordinator assists with inventory and mapping needs. The Extension Office assists in education programs and providing public information relating to the CLWP.

15-Oct-02

To: Board Members

From: Marybeth Block, BWSR Water Plan Coordinator

RE: Lyon County's Local Water Management Plan



Board Conservationist: Tom Kresko

Duration of the proposed plan: Five Years; January 2003-2007

Attached is the executive summary of the plan.

PREFACE

HOW TO USE THE LYON COUNTY LOCAL WATER PLANNING DOCUMENT

This document is intended to direct Lyon County water management actions through the year 2007. The Preface will provide the reader with background information pertaining to the history of the water planning process, an overview of Lyon County, and the Local Water Task Force. A Table of Contents is included for ease of use, and Appendixes, a brief Glossary, and Bibliography are included for additional reference. The Executive Summary and Action Priority sections (Sections I and II) are intended to provide the reader with the bulk of information needed to understand the direction this water plan is headed. They are intended to serve as "stand-alone" documents. Supporting information is contained in Section III through Section VIII. Detailed statistics and discussions to support the current Action Priorities, summaries of our current level of understanding of Lyon County water related resources, and rationale behind anticipated conditions that will require future attention are described in detail in these sections. Finally, Section IX outlines the accomplishments of the previous water plan efforts in detail, following the format used to identify past goals and objectives.

HISTORY OF THE WATER PLANNING PROCESS

In 1987, according to Minnesota Statutes 110B, the Lyon County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution to develop a Comprehensive Local Water Plan to outline objectives necessary to carry out actions that promote sound management of water and related land resources for effective environmental protection. In the process of establishing this document, both existing and potential water resource related problems were identified, and opportunities for the protection, management, and development of water and related land resources were highlighted. In July 1988 a committee was organized to guide creation of the County's first Comprehensive Local Water Plan, to advise the County Board on the plan's content, and to serve as a link between the public and the County Board. This committee, the Water Task Force, has remained active all aspects related to the Lyon County Local Comprehensive Water Plan (LCWP). This update of the LCWP is the "Third Generation" plan, and again directs the County's management of its local water resources.

LYON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Lyon County comprises 453,072 acres of land in southwestern Minnesota; 86% of which is farmland. Agriculture represents the most extensive enterprise in the County through the production of corn, soybeans, small grains and livestock, and industrial processes that add value to the base product. Census data indicates that the number of farms in Lyon County has been decreasing, while the average farm size in acres has been increasing. It is widely known that agricultural land use practices have been a major factor in water resource management. According to the most recent census, the 2000 population of Lyon County was 24,789. Between 1980 and 1990, Lyon County experienced an overall 2% decline in population, however, slight increases are projected within the next twenty years. Eleven incorporated cities are located in Lyon County, with the County seat and largest of the cities being Marshall, which has a population of 12,735. Marshall experienced a 5.9% population increase between 1990 and 2000. This was in addition to an increase of 7.7% from 1980 to 1990. Municipalities present their own set of specific water management considerations.

LYON COUNTY WATER PLAN TASK FORCE

Lyon County depends on numerous entities to offer technical advice in their particular areas of expertise. Many of the objectives outlined in the action plan will build on existing programs or projects. Cooperation among these groups, and seamless data sharing is essential to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts. The Lyon County Water Task Force has guided efforts toward accomplishing the objectives described in the water plan documents. Twenty-three members sit on the committee, nineteen

of which have voting rights on funding requests and task force procedures. Members of the task force represent the interests of farming, city residents, special interest groups, municipalities, and local and state government agencies including the Pollution Control Agency, Board of Soil and Water Resources, Soil and Water District, and Minnesota departments of Natural Resources, Health, and Agriculture. Federal agencies included are the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Several local non-governmental entities including the Minnesota River Area II Engineers, Southwest State University biology department, University of Minnesota Extension, Public Health Services, and the local watershed districts of the Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area, Yellow Medicine Watershed District, and the Des Moines Headwaters. The Lyon County Environmental Administrator serves as coordinator for the water plan.

AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

The Lyon County Comprehensive Water Plan is intended to guide water management decisions through the year 2007. The County may prepare proposed amendments to the Plan prior to 2007. The Plan will be updated including any proposed Plan Amendments before the end of 2007. The following procedure will be used by Lyon County to deal with proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Water Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

This plan will provide an organized implementation tool for management and protection of water resources. It will also help to facilitate regular communication between Lyon County offices and state agencies. Lyon County recognizes the importance of playing a lead role in water planning decisions and programs. To accomplish the objectives and action priorities in this Plan, Lyon County will designate the Lyon County Environmental Office as a local resource and information center. The Environmental Office will work with the Water Task Force Chair to schedule regular meetings involving water plan partners and interested citizens that will address progress made toward the accomplishment of water plan objectives, prepare annual budget and work plans, and provide updates to the plan as necessary.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Informal conflict resolution is preferred in all circumstances. The County intends to maintain a high level of communication with water plan partners and citizens through efforts of the Water Task Force. In this way, it is intended that future conflicts can be resolved informally at the local level. The County is aware that a formal conflict resolution process is established by Minnesota Statute (M.S.) 103B.345, which allows a county or other local units of government to petition BWSR for a contested case hearing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dozens of individuals are responsible for this document. In particular I would like to express thanks to those who attended public meetings to discuss issues related to Lyon County's water resources. Also thanks to Chris Winter, Lyon County GIS Coordinator, for providing data analysis, and excellent maps, and to area Watershed Coordinators; Jim Doehring at RCRC, Terry Renkin at YMRWD, and Chris Hansen with the Des Moines Watershed for providing additional input specific to their respective watersheds. Rose Anderson of Lyon SWCD, Mike Muzzy of the NRCS, Bill Schuna and Melissa Wester of DNR, Kerry Netzke of Area II, Julie Isenberg, and Denise Schumacher of PHS, and Muriel Runholt of MPCA provided detailed information that was essential to establish action priorities. Special thanks go to Lyon County Commissioners Clarence Buysse, and Bob Fenske, and especially Chauncy Muedeking for his direction of the Water Planning Task Force. Special thanks also to Task Force members Harlen Magnusen, Otto Nyquist, and Loren Pihl for their extended years of service. Finally, I would like to my most sincere thanks Tom Kresko of BWSR for his patience and insight, and especially to Paul Henriksen for direction, guidance, and support through this update process.

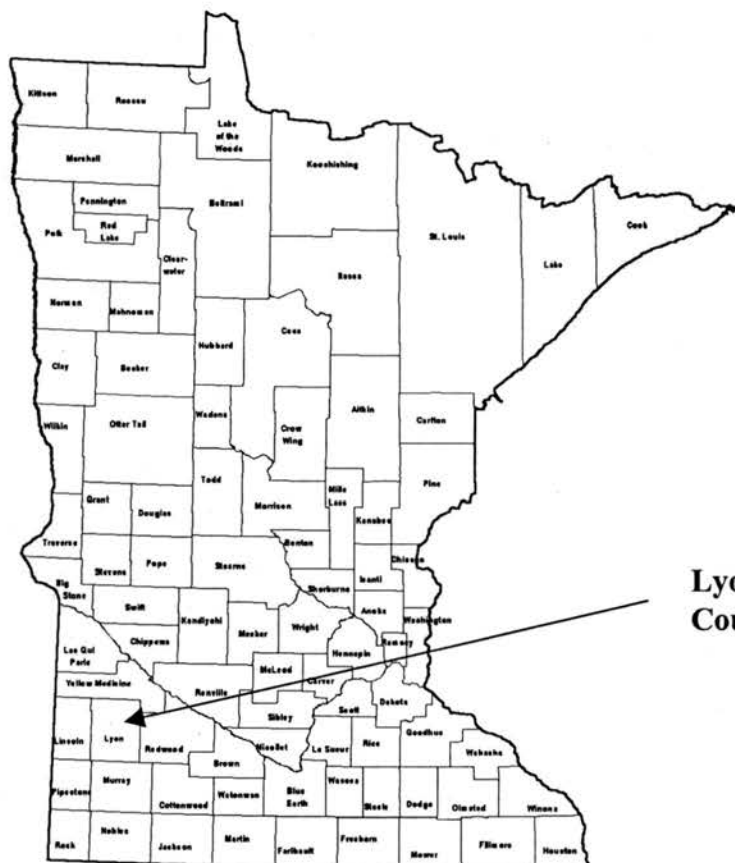
Roger Schroeder (Lyon County Environmental Office)

30-Sep-02

To: Board Members

From: Marybeth Block, BWSR Water Plan Coordinator

RE: Lyon County Local Water Management Plan.



Lyon County
County Seat: Marshall

Board Conservationist: Tom Kresko, Marshall Office

Duration of the proposed plan: Five Years

Attached is the executive summary of the plan.

Water.

Human beings have a strong connection to water. Not surprising when you consider that the human brain is about 75 percent water. We are drawn to it for play, relaxation, and to sustain our lives. To enjoy peaceful moments along a languid river or a cold refreshing glass on a hot day. Children splash in puddles after a warm rain, while adults attempt to reveal hidden secrets beneath the surface with a rod and reel. Floating in aimless relaxation in the summer heat. The ultimate elixir. Water.

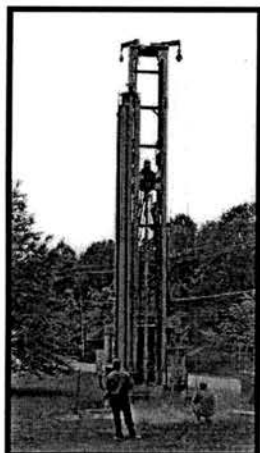


Water maintains natural ecosystems, which sustain biodiversity, help to regulate the hydrological cycle and bring value to people in the form of goods and service derived from activities in these ecosystems. Use of groundwater for industrial processes has skyrocketed in this area, improving our diversifying local economy. It supplies our booming agricultural area with timely rains for crops, and supplies animals with a necessary component for growth. Water comes into our homes for cleaning and consuming, and passes through a wastewater plant or septic system to return to river or ground. If too much water comes too fast, it is tiled and ditched away, or pooled in basins for a gradual release. Water takes care of us, and provides for us, and sometimes temporarily defeats us. Cooling. Drinking. Exploring. Mixing. Growing. Processing. Irrigating. Treating. Supplying. Carrying. Water.

This resource once thought to be so vast that it could accommodate an unlimited amount of untreated waste, or consumed without recycling, or drained away to provide for a better way of life is becoming the source of conflict all over the world. To be sure, most areas of the world are in greater conflict than Lyon County, Minnesota, yet Lyon County has its share of water resource issues. Some, such as municipalities that require a large supply of quality water, are increasing in intensity and importance.

Groundwater Protection

Groundwater is becoming an increasingly important management issue because of the relative ease and flexibility with which it can be tapped; making it far more attractive to many groups of users to the point where water quality deterioration is beginning to be experienced. In addition, industrial facilities and animal feedlots that need large quantities of high quality water to meet their needs are searching for new resources, while some cities expect residents to limit water use during summer months to avoid experiencing water shortage problems. Section VIII details concerns related to observed groundwater use trends.



Wellhead protection is evolving into a priority concern for area residents, and an important management tool for communities to ensure future safe drinking water supplies. Limiting land surface storage of potential pollutants, and land use practices that lead to excessive nutrient inputs in wellhead protection zones will play an important role in limiting groundwater contamination potential of municipal wells. As of April 2001, two communities have initiated wellhead protection processes for their community wells; Marshall, and Balaton. Support via Water Task Force participation in wellhead protection (WHP) processes, and funding of WHP efforts will assist Lyon County communities to accomplish necessary WHP tasks.

Unused wells that have not been properly sealed can also be a source of groundwater contamination, potentially affecting nearby drinking water supplies. They may threaten the quality of the water in both municipal and private wells. Providing cost share dollars for the sealing of abandon or unused wells has been a successful program of the water plan. Success has come taking a first come, first serve approach to promotion of this concept, with minimal outside promotion except for occasional news articles in newsletters or newspapers. That in mind, the Lyon County Environmental Office will target critical areas (such as WHP zones) for well sealing cost share promotion, and will explore the idea of a sliding scale for sealing depending on the necessity of sealing a well based on environmental factors.

Regarding groundwater quality, the Lyon County Groundwater Monitoring Program has been an exceptional project, providing a wealth of information that have been useful to understanding the groundwater resources in this area. Additional, more focussed efforts will undoubtedly be necessary, especially in the areas of pesticide screening and monitoring, and work conducted in groundwater recharge zones, and efforts to better understand connections between ground and surface water systems. Based on previous water well analysis results, LLMP Public Health will conduct pesticide screening on existing County groundwater monitoring wells, and will pursue funding sources for both Arsenic and Radon water testing on susceptible wells. PHS will to provide groundwater education on important issues, focussing on water conservation practices for city residents.

Erosion and Receiving Waters

Water is the carrier of potential pollutants, while land use and our human actions are the source. These pollutants can attach themselves to sediments that are transported by erosion, or dissolve into water that may ultimately reach groundwater aquifers. Tillage, residue management, timely fertilization, and crop or lawn management techniques that prevent erosion are examples of techniques that keep sediments and surface borne pollutants from entering precious water resources. This has been a primary focus of the local Watershed Districts, and major successes have been made in the area of sedimentation reduction. Even so, this is still an area of concern, as the acceleration of erosion by human activity continues. In the past decade of watershed management of the Redwood River watershed, a decline in the annual load of total suspended solids has been observed despite equal or average amount of precipitation. Since a connection between Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids is well established, phosphorus levels have also declined over the same time period, giving hope that further reductions are possible. Water Plan Partners such as Lyon SWCD, RCRCA, and YMRWD will continue to aggressively promote erosion control BMPs, buffer strips, grass waterways, and the installation of blind field tile inlets.



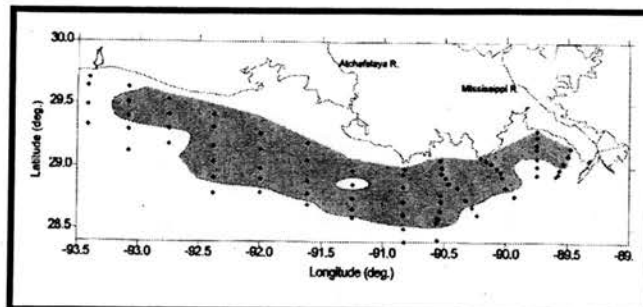
Surface Water Quality

During spring and summer especially, water quality in area rivers can be severely impacted by pathogens, sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen that can create water borne health hazards, and can negatively affect recreational use, wildlife and fisheries, and even drinking water quality during flood conditions. Concerted efforts are needed by city residents, farmers, municipalities, and industries to reduce nutrient inputs to surface waters. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for land use (especially

near areas with poor surface water quality) are essential to preventing any further degradation of these waters. Feedlot, agricultural land use, and shoreland BMPs can significantly reduce the effects of non-point source pollution; an area of great concern with respect to surface water pollution. Focussed efforts in local watersheds have significantly helped BMP implementation - especially regarding fertilizer use in cities, and various farming practices.

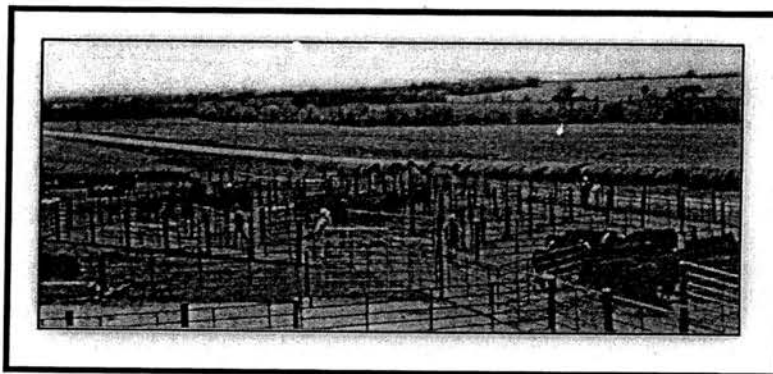
Feedlot Best Management Practices and Nutrient Management

Degraded water quality in area rivers has a significant impact locally, as well as regionally and nationally. Hypoxia is an emerging concern in the Gulf of Mexico that refers to dissolved oxygen concentrations less than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L). Hypoxia can cause stress or death in bottom-dwelling organisms that can not leave the zone, such as crabs and clams. Nitrogen from the Mississippi River Basin has been implicated as one of the principal causes for the expanding hypoxic zone that develops each spring and summer on the Louisiana-Texas shelf of the Gulf of Mexico. The midsummer extent of the hypoxic zone has more than doubled since it was first systematically mapped in 1985. The largest hypoxic zone measured to date occurred in the summer of 1999, when its size was reported to be 20,000 km² (square kilometers), or about the size of the State of New Jersey.¹ Unfortunately, Minnesota contributes its share of nutrients to Gulf of Mexico, an estimated 7 % of the oxygen depleting nutrients arrive via the Mississippi River from Minnesota.



Management of animal manure and wastewater is an integral part of a total farm management plan. Nutrient or manure management is a primary concern; especially with respect to operators in sensitive surface water areas, and wellhead protection zones. Land application of animal manure is an efficient use, however, over-application can easily occur in situations where no effort is taken to determine the amount of manure needed, or when chemical fertilizers are used in addition to manure. Over-application is a major concern, especially if the excess nutrients have the potential of reaching surface water, or groundwater sources. The Water Task Force will develop a cost share program for developing nutrient management plans, and will seek additional funding sources as they become available. In addition, partners will fully utilize and implement the Conservation Security Program of the 2002 Farm Bill if that provision is successfully passed by the United States Congress.

Feedlots have been high profile news during the past five years since the last update of this water plan, during which time a lot of negative press has been seen locally with manure spills, and the increased focus on the link between feedlot management and non-point source pollution. Since groups such as RCRCA have acquired data to suggest that improperly managed feedlots can pose an



¹ Rabalais, et. al., Characterization of Hypoxia, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA). 1999
Lyon County Local Comprehensive Water Plan

environmental risk to both surface water and groundwater, and since feedlots are still the recipient of much attention, the current time period seems ideal to push for feedlot best management practices. Little action has been taken toward completing a feedlot inventory in Lyon County. The Yellow Medicine River Watershed has stepped forward to conduct a Level II inventory in the Yellow Medicine watershed, but that only includes five townships. Lyon County Public Works fully supports the completion of a feedlot inventory, and feels that the most appropriate entity to conduct the inventory is the regional Pollution Control Agency since that agency is the local feedlot authority. Data derived from a Level III inventory would benefit watershed management efforts, and priority should be given to its completion. Water Plan Partners will rely on Watershed Districts to provide critical areas of concern and opportunity for feedlot BMP implementation, and will coordinate a Stormwater Management Workshop for feedlot owners/operators in addition to providing educational materials.

Individual Sewage Treatment Systems

Another potential source of hypoxia contributing nutrients comes from non-conforming individual sewage treatment systems (ISTS). The MPCA estimates that between 50% - 60% of all septic systems in the county do not conform to current technical standards. Coliform Bacteria, Phosphorus and Nitrate-Nitrogen are the primary components that can have a potential adverse affect on public health and the environment by exposing people and animals to unsanitary conditions, polluting receiving surface water with excessive nutrients, or contaminating groundwater sources close to the failing system. Currently, Lyon County ordinance requires that septic systems be in compliance with current standards when a parcel of land changes ownership. However, more must be done to assure voluntary compliance. Planning and Zoning will utilize all septic loan program funding before the expiration date, and will achieve 90% compliance of county septic systems by 2007. This aggressive goal is dependent on cooperation between watershed districts, and funding for this initiative.

Stormwater Management

The recognition of non-point source pollution as today's primary spoiler of surface waters is propelling another water management strategy - stormwater pollution prevention - to the forefront of environmental planning. Surface waters are a key indicator of ecological health, and stormwater management is a key factor in attempting to limit the amount of sediment and accompanying pollutants from reaching surface waters. In urban areas such as the City of Marshall, impervious surfaces such as rooftops, roads, parking lots, and driveways no longer allow rainfall to soak into the ground. Consequently, most rainfall is converted directly to runoff. The increase in stormwater can occasionally be too much for the existing natural drainage system to handle. As a result, many natural drainage systems are often altered to rapidly collect runoff and quickly move it away. The stormwater runoff is subsequently discharged immediately to downstream waters such as streams, rivers, lakes or ditches. Water quality can then be impacted by the accumulation of motor oil, fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns, sediment from bare or poorly vegetated ground. Lyon County has taken small steps toward minimizing deleterious stormwater impacts by requiring sedimentation basins in new developments, but more can be done to restructure existing stormwater pathways that empty directly into surface waters.

For rural areas on the other hand, heavy rain events and fast, or large quantity snowmelts are the main concern for significant stormwater impacts. The runoff from snowmelt can often be increased because of saturated or frozen soils present during the spring melt.² Understanding this hydrologic cycle is critical

² Westerstrom, G. *Stormwater for Cold Climates*. 1999.

when sizing stormwater management basins both for flooding and water quality because the most significant runoff event may be snowmelt rather than rainstorm events. Flows caused by rain-on-snow events can create extraordinary flooding. These rain events fall on relatively impervious soils because of frozen ground conditions, and warm rains can cause rapid melting of the snow pack. Another compounding problem can occur when many impediments, such as frozen ground for infiltration basins or frozen permanent pools and clogged outlets for pond systems, may be at their worst. Thus, the effectiveness of these tools is often compromised during this critical runoff event. These considerations are essential to producing an effective stormwater management system. Lyon County Public Works Department will hire a consultant to produce a stormwater management plan, which will outline opportunities for improved management. Water Plan Partners will then produce educational materials based on the recommendations in the stormwater management plan.

Flood Control

The Lyon County Board of Commissioners has allocated \$100,000 annually to the Environmental, Natural Resource and Flood Control fund, which has been accessed as matching funds by the Area II Engineers on flood control projects. The past practice of evaluating the potential for incorporating flood control benefits into road or bridge improvements is expected to continue. With cooperation between Area II, and the local watershed districts within Lyon County these projects can more readily be constructed. Lyon County looks to the watershed districts to provide priority sites, cooperates with Area II on design and engineering, and with adjoining counties on projects providing mutual benefits. In addition to the aforementioned stormwater management plan, Public Works will solicit the opinion of DNR or US FWS for recommendations to enhance wildlife opportunities on future impoundments. Lyon County will continue to actively pursue dialogue with adjoining counties to understand where mutually beneficial projects may be located.



A key expectation of this "Third Generation" water plan is to use prioritization tools. One area where this will prove helpful is in determining additional needs for flood control structures. To date, Lyon County has not conducted an evaluation of the combined beneficial effect of the existing flood control structures, and has not established a prioritized list of future sites, though the county can rely on watershed districts to assist in that area. Significant flood control structures have been implemented since the 1993 flooding. However, the questions 1) Are they enough? and 2) Where are more needed? cannot be precisely answered at this time due to the lack of knowledge. The past practice of waiting to be approached by those interested in flood control on their land rather than approaching specific land owners with the idea of using their land for flood control must be changed.

Flood Prone Lands

Also of concern with respect to flooding is the issue of frequently flooded land still in agricultural production. As outlined in the Lyon County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Floodplain Districts are proposed with the intent of controlling development or use of areas prone to flooding in order to

minimize the losses associated with such disasters. The damage or loss of personal property or crops in many flood zones of the county could easily be avoided by eliminating the use of those areas for personal residence, future development, or agricultural uses. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan also identifies rivers and streams as primary areas for future Conservation Districts, especially when such land is typified by steep topography, or contains forested area. Flood prone lands that are not agriculturally productive more than once every 2 - 3 years may prove to be more useful as reclaimed wetland habitat, or public park areas. Lyon County Public Works will identify flood prone land deemed most useful for enrollment in conservation program, and will work toward establishing a Floodplain District conservation program.

Impaired Surface Waters

Because of the natural ecology of the region, local rivers have certainly had a long history of appearing to be not much more than flowing mud. Human settlement and poor land uses have created a situation where nutrient inputs now easily reach surface watercourses with accompany sediment from eroding lands during storm events. Nutrients such as Phosphorus and Nitrogen over-saturate the river system, and provide an environment by which algae, and aquatic plant life thrive. This can lead to deteriorating water quality caused by the rapid use of available oxygen when aquatic plant die off and decompose. Within Lyon County, several areas of severe concern exist.



Studies by various entities have listed several river and stream reaches on the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Section 303d list of the Clean Waters Act. Aquatic life, and swimming impairments exist on the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River; caused by excessive turbidity, and fecal coliform bacteria. Aquatic life is impaired on the main stem of the Redwood River by several factors including ammonia, fecal coliform bacteria, and turbidity. The majority of Lyon County lakes are also impaired as a result of excessive nutrient inputs. The lack of sufficient water quality makes it difficult for area lakes to maintain a successful fishery without relying on the assistance continual fish stocking. Management reports for many lakes include continued stocking of game fish species, plus encouraging shoreland owners and lake watershed residents to incorporate best management practices (BMPs) such as filter/buffer strips, using no/low phosphorus lawn fertilizers, updating non-conforming septic systems, and incorporating conservation tillage. Water Plan Partners will prioritize impaired surface waters for aggressive BMP education and action, and will develop a publishing campaign for BMP promotion.

Game and Fish Habitat

Most Water Task Force partners would agree that the primary action needed to improve game and fish habitat in Lyon County lakes and rivers would be to improve water quality. The question, of course, is how do we best accomplish cleaning up our surface waters for the purpose of improving game and fish habitat. Although structural bottom cover solutions aimed at providing additional fry and spawning success may be helpful, water clarity, and removal of unwanted rough fish species are of primary concern. Many of the other objectives in this water plan are designed to address surface water quality improvement, which will certainly benefit game and fish habitat in lakes and rivers. Since most respondents to our informal Water Resources Survey indicated that they felt hunting opportunities were very good, while fishing resources were not good, Water Plan Partners will identify the fisheries with

the greatest potential for sustainability, and will promote the development of Lake Associations and voluntary lake monitoring programs. In addition, Planning and Zoning will review County ordinances to ensure protection or suitable, remaining shoreland vegetation in conservation districts. Efforts to reclaim wetland areas have resulted in the conversion of many marginal agricultural lands into useful wildlife habitats, however, without a suitable amount of nesting habitat in upland grassy areas, usefulness of these reclaimed wetland areas is limited. A long range planning goal of the Minnesota DNR is to be able to connect existing public wildlife lands via native wetland or grassland complexes so that contiguous habitat can be achieved. Restoring native upland acres benefits mammals, butterflies, and grassland nesting birds that rely on this type of habitat. Lyon County GIS will work with DNR and US FWS to identify wetland acres lacking adjacent, suitable upland acres, while Lyon SWCD, and NRCS will achieve a 10% increase in CRP enrollments each year, targeting identified wetland complex areas.

Wetland and Lakebed Reclamation

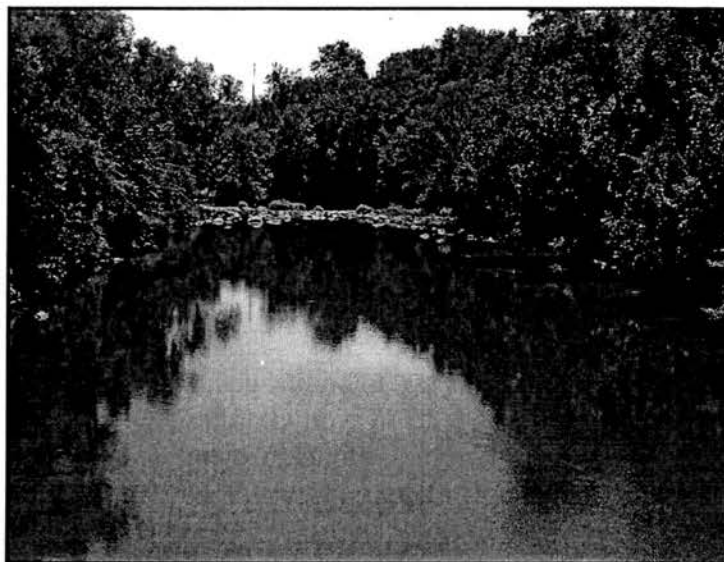
The most dramatic impact related to land use in the last 50 years is the draining of wetlands. It is estimated that 80% of the original wetlands in Lyon County have been drained; primarily for agricultural development. Historically, the choice was clear; drain the wetland to access highly productive soils in order to support the family. Currently, however, agricultural productivity is much higher than even a generation ago. Unfortunately, high operating costs and low crop prices leave many farmers with a feeling that every inch of land must be farmed in order to make ends meet. This mentality makes it difficult to promote BMPs that will benefit the environmental unless strong economic benefits are delivered to the landowner. Even so, groups such as the RCRCA have shown great success in encouraging land owners to incorporate BMPs. Reviewing a map of former Lyon County lakebeds and wetlands it is clear to see that numerous reclamation opportunities exist. These habitats - if restored - could provide additional flood control, sediment reduction, and wildlife habitat. Lyon GIS will identify and prioritize sizeable reclamation opportunities so that Water Plan Partners can work toward securing commitments from landowners to reclaim three lakebed/wetland areas each year; hopefully utilizing the Lyon County Environmental, Natural Resource and Flood Control.

A point to consider in this effort is that much of the focus on wetland replacement is centered on waterfowl nesting production. This management strategy has unfortunately excluded a significant population of migratory birds generally referred to as shorebirds. These birds need shallow open wetlands, often with large areas of exposed mudflats to forage for food sources on their migration routes. The wetland types these species use were some of the most easily converted to agricultural uses. Very few suitable acres remain across southwestern Minnesota resulting in few concentrations of these species. Water Plan Partners will identify likely locations for a migratory bird refuge, and will seek additional funding sources once an area is sited.

We have made our choice to utilize water for prosperity in our lives. We have learned (and are still learning) of its value and importance toward sustaining our communities. Like most areas of the world, we realize that the problems caused from our human connection to water are ours alone to reconcile.

YELLOW MEDICINE RIVER WATERSHED

The Yellow Medicine River watershed (Illustration 23) drains approximately 100,000 acres in the upper northwestern portion of Lyon County. Lake Shaokatan (Lincoln County) is considered the start of the river with North and South branches joining several miles downstream, along with Mud Creek from the west, flowing generally north east after running down the eastern slope of the Coteau des Prairies. The North Branch and South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River join together in Westersheim Township, Lyon County, and the river eventually empties into the Minnesota River below Hanley Falls in Yellow Medicine County. With a majority of the watershed consisting of agricultural land (82.3 % cropland, 8.9% pastureland/rangeland), specific problems associated with erosion and sediment control, runoff management, and wetland protection must be addressed.



Flooding, drainage, erosion, sedimentation and poor water quality are considered to be the foremost problems in this watershed. Existing river uses such as fishing and swimming are limited due to the poor water quality conditions, and recreational canoeing is also limited due to the obstructions along the river such as fallen trees, debris, and sediment accumulation. As in similar watersheds, water quality in streams and lakes is reduced from the sediment, plant nutrients, fertilizer, and other chemicals contained in runoff waters. Watershed goals include increasing the implementation of best management practices, enhancing water quality and overall benefits in the entire watershed by reducing soil erosion, improvement of water quality and reduction of flooding.

A major study of the Yellow Medicine watershed was conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the United States Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) under the authority of Public Law 87-639.³ The studies indicate that the river has recently been subject to extreme water quality deterioration related to severe flooding problems associated with local catchment loss and subsequent increasing stream velocities. Nutrients, suspended solids, and dissolved oxygen data suggest the river is receiving excessive loading from its watershed.

A primary source of the loading comes from, sheet, till, and wind erosion; which currently exceed tolerable levels ("T" values⁴) on nearly 50% of all acres in the Yellow Medicine River Watershed. Almost 10% of acres exceed twice the tolerable level. The average annual reduction in net income due to sheet, till, and wind erosion on inadequately protected cropland amounts to \$3,450,000 on 221,300 acres. Future projections set the total average annual reduction at \$599,410.⁵

In Phase I of the Greater Yellow Medicine Clean Water Partnership project, aggressive sampling design was created involving the strategic location of fifteen automated sampling sites that effectively divided

³ U.S. Department of Army, Corps of Engineers, *Upper Minnesota River Subbasins Study* (Public Law 87-639), 1989

⁴ T-values here refer to the maximum erosion loss in tons per acre that can occur without negatively impacting productivity

⁵ YMRWD, Greater Yellow Medicine River Phase I Final Report. 2000.

the 685 square mile watershed into sub watersheds. The Phase II CWP will continue with the monitoring of 8 primary sites, to assess changes and improvements during the implementation phase. Water quality samples will continue to be collected during both dynamic and quiescent flow regimes along with continuous flow records. Dry mass loading and flow discharges are estimated for each of the sub watersheds and priority rankings have been determined for phosphorus, nitrogen, and suspended solids.

Two of the current eight sampling sites are affected by Lyon County land uses; Site 4 includes parts of Vallers and Lucas Township, and Site 5 encompasses only Lyon County Territory. Site 5; the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River subwatershed, is primarily cropland, and receives one of the largest phosphorus concentrations in the entire watershed. Not surprisingly, this site also receives one of the highest Total Suspended Solid (TSS) concentrations. In 1997, during excessive flooding in the watershed, the South Branch subwatershed had the third highest flow weighted mean concentration for both total phosphorus and total nitrogen, and the second highest flow weighted mean concentration of total suspended solids. However, the following year, 1998, flow weighted mean concentrations slipped to 6th (total phosphorus) 8th (total nitrogen) and 4th (total suspended solids). Despite the slip, this site still represents an area of major concern for surface water contamination within the watershed.

Several models were conducted to predict the benefit received from various land use best management practices. Several measures showed greater applicability including Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) grassland cover, buffer strips, residue cover, and manure management. A wetland component did not appear to be a cost-effective control given the amount of wetlands that would be required to produce significant beneficial effects. However, this alternative is essential, and will be used when landowners are receptive to this idea.

Cottonwood Lake is also an area of concern, since the MPCA lists swimming activity as "not supported". This lake has a very active beach in the summer months, and seems an important feature to the local community. Unfortunately, this lake received point source discharges of wastewater sewage effluent from the treatment plant between 1940 and 1970. County Ditch 69 has also contributed significantly to total suspended solid and phosphorus loading of the lake. As development increases along the northern portion of the lake, demand for suitable water quality will no doubt increase; placing more pressure for actions that produce improving results.

The desired uses of the water within the Yellow Medicine Watershed include developing local fisheries, and improving water quality conditions for swimming and other recreational uses. The Yellow Medicine River also contains some of the best white water conditions for canoeists and kayakers. This activity is a focus of district managers. In addition, the development of a robust recreational industry would be advantageous to the area due to the declining trend in agricultural-based incomes over the previous decades. It would be desirable to develop bird watching, fishing, hunting, and hiking activities and associated recreational industry (hotels, restaurants, outfitters, etc.) for this area.

REDWOOD RIVER WATERSHED

There isn't anything distinctive or spectacular about the Redwood River or its watershed. It isn't a world class trout stream, it's not suitable for whitewater rafting, it doesn't accommodate barge traffic, and like most rivers in southwest Minnesota, it isn't a tourist attraction. Mostly it supports a little fishing and canoeing and serves as a nice place to hike and observe wildlife, especially in Camden State Park. It is not much of an exaggeration to say the River's primary function in the past several generations is that of an outlet for drainage ditches and tile lines, but looking at the photo can we *truly* say there is nothing spectacular about the Redwood River?



The general topography of the Redwood River watershed (Illustration 24) is that of a rolling upland area. Altitudes descend from west to east with the Coteau des Prairies serving as a watershed divide. The Redwood River drops from an elevation of about 1,850 feet above sea level in northeastern Pipestone County to 1,140 feet at Marshall, an average of about eighteen feet per mile. The river slope then flattens to an average of about 4 feet per mile between Marshall and Redwood Falls. Natural drainage patterns in the area were established by river and valleys formed from glacial meltwater during the Pleistocene Epoch. End moraines, which were formed during the recession of the last glacier, are the most prominent features. They form a series of belts that mark some of the river basin boundaries generally running from northwest to southeast. Within Lyon County, the Redwood watershed drains approximately 195,000 acres with about 80 percent of these acres consisting of agricultural land. The watershed has an extensive artificial drainage system made up of subsurface tile lines and open ditches.

The upland plain is characterized by parallel glacial moraines and glacial till superimposed on bedrock. Natural drainage of the plain is relatively poor, and there are many small marshes, ponds and shallow lakes. Installation of widespread artificial drainage systems, however, has reduced today's numbers to only a fraction of what once existed. The lowland plain's geologic composition is glacial till derived from ground moraines overlying bedrock. The land is gently rolling to flat. Row crop agriculture is the predominant land use that has been greatly aided by use of extensive artificial drainage systems.

Past years had shown a decrease in cropland acreage, largely attributable to highly erodable land being enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This is particularly true in the upper portions of the watershed where slopes tend to be steeper. In addition, utilization of rangeland for livestock production in the watershed has significantly decreased from the peak years of the 1950s and 1960s. This concept has been changing in recent years though. With the ever-evolving farm program guidelines, fewer acres are now being enrolled in natural resources land retirement programs, such as CRP, or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). More farmers are using Pesticide and Herbicide Best Management Practices (BMPs), because of stricter specifications for what type of land can be enrolled into a program. However, the acres that are being accepted into programs are located mostly in highly sensitive areas. Instead of placing whole fields into a program, only the parcels of land that specifically meet guidelines are accepted. The theory behind this is using the most economical

environmental benefit in the smallest geographic area for the greatest community good. It appears then that future trends show land use in the Redwood River watershed changing to more filter and buffer strips as natural resource programs guidelines become stricter.

The Redwood River has several segments that do not meet water quality standards according to Section 303(d) Clean Water Act. The *1996 305(b) Report to Congress* and the *1998 Notice of Total Maximum Daily Load List of Stream Segments and Lakes Which Have Impaired Uses* both list two reaches of the Redwood River; Three Mile Creek, and the main stem of the Redwood from Russell to Marshall. As with discharge, seasonal patterns of turbidity and fecal coliform are evident in the Redwood River. Levels of these parameters are generally greater during July and August than during April through June.

Research findings consistently point to off-site effects of soil erosion as the main problem. The Redwood River watershed is predominantly agricultural, and it is on these lands where efforts must be concentrated. The intent of the research during the diagnostic study was to narrow the focus within the watershed to those areas likely to contribute a disproportionate share of the sediment load. Water quality monitoring data, soil erosion potential, and land uses in selected portions of the watershed were reviewed to select priority areas for implementation activities.

In 1995 RCRCA, as part of the Redwood River Clean Water Project, sponsored a Redwood River watershed survey, conducted by the University of Minnesota. The survey was initiated to assess awareness of the Redwood River Clean Water Project, provide an indication of how the Project was influencing resident's attitude and behavior in regards to water quality, and provide the opportunity for residents in the Redwood River watershed to voice their concerns. The results of the attitude and opinion survey revealed that 97 percent of Redwood River watershed residents think the Redwood River is worth protecting. Over 60 percent of in-town and rural respondents felt that the Redwood River is somewhat polluted and 90 percent felt something should be done to clean up the River.

Between 1990-1992 a diagnostic study was sponsored by RCRCA on the Redwood River to evaluate water quality in the River, its tributaries and Lake Redwood. The study concluded that annual sediment delivery to Lake Redwood is over 140,000 tons per year. Most of the sediment load during the study period originated in the lower one-half of the watershed, from the city of Marshall to Lake Redwood. Recreational opportunities in the River and Lake are limited due to high sediment and nutrient loads.

In response to water quality problems identified during the diagnostic study the Redwood River Clean Water Project, a six-year program to restore the Redwood River and Lake Redwood, was officially launched in 1995. Goals of the Project include: reducing sediment loading by 15-30%, expanding game fishery habitat and fishing opportunities, reducing peak flows, and improving flow stability.

Today we see a marked decrease in the amount of loading reaching Lake Redwood in Redwood Falls. The average annual loading in the years 1990-1992 showed that 142,000 tons per year of sediment was reaching Lake Redwood. In the years 1998-2000 average loading had decreased to 29,137 tons per year. Taking into account that and estimated one third of any years loading is from stream bank or bed scour erosion, the decrease in annual loading results to 75,280 tons per year. This reduction trend has also been realized in phosphorus and nitrogen loading in the Redwood River. In all, since 1995 conservation minded landowners have voluntarily implemented best management practices that have treated approximately 48,523 acres of the Redwood River Watershed. This has been accomplished voluntarily with the assistance of local, state and federal agencies and the available conservation programs.

COTTONWOOD RIVER WATERSHED

The Cottonwood River Watershed (Illustration 25) encompasses 1,310 square miles, and is one of thirteen major watersheds in the Minnesota River Basin. The River originates on the Coteau des Prairies, flowing eastward approximately 150 miles to 750 feet, resulting in periodic spring and summer flooding. A related implication is rapid transport of sediment and attached nutrients from inadequately maintained cropland during spring snowmelt and spring and summer rainfall events. The watershed includes an area of approximately 146,500 acres in the lower southeastern portion of Lyon County, about 80 percent of these acres consist of agricultural land. Wetland acreage in the watershed has been in continual decline since settlement, with less than 4,000 acres of wetland types 1-4 currently existing.



According to survey notes of the early 1860s, many lakes and sloughs populated the watershed, and the landscape was dominated by tall grasses in the east and shorter grasses in the west. Trees, mostly cottonwood and willow, were seen along the Cottonwood River and its tributaries. The Dakota people called the Cottonwood River the "Waraju," because the cottonwood tree was so common along the banks. Many of the settlers traveled to the river, and transplanted cottonwood trees to their farms, settlements and towns. As the settling of the prairie continued, more land was put into production and tools became more efficient. Mechanization enabled most of the wetlands and sloughs to be drained, although the first drainage projects were completed by hand with a shovel in the early 1900s. Nearly all wetlands have been drained by a highly efficient and interconnected artificial drainage system. This drainage system has allowed agriculture, the primary land use, to flourish. Corn and soybeans are the main crops grown in the watershed. By 1948, silting and flooding were listed as major deterrents to fish populations in the Cottonwood River. Throughout the 1970s and 80s, fishery surveys and inventories repeatedly confirmed that polluted runoff was entering the river and adversely affecting fish populations.

Settlement, drainage, and agricultural development also brought about increased flooding and flood damages. Floods in 1957, 1969 and 1993 were the most severe, but annual spring flooding is very common and often results in road damages and spring planting delays. A related flooding concern of many watershed residents since the early 1970s is the redesign of the Marshall Flood Control Project that will divert excess floodwater from the Redwood River to a tributary of the Cottonwood River. After the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer levee project was completed in 2000 this issue is still relevant.

Water quality in the Cottonwood River and its tributaries is affected by suspended sediment, nutrients (phosphorus, nitrate-nitrogen), and bacteria. Recent studies, such as the Minnesota River Assessment Program (MRAP), show a strong positive correlation between stream flow and suspended solids. This indicates a large percentage of sediment carried by the Minnesota River and its tributaries originates from cropland, the primary land use in the Cottonwood watershed.

Recreational opportunities on the Cottonwood River are limited by degraded water quality, channel obstructions, limited access, and a general lack of awareness by watershed residents. Potentially, the river is a major recreational resource. Ten-year goals and objectives were established in the areas of

water quality, public participation, and recreation. Main stem and tributary water quality goals will require pollutant reductions of twenty-five to thirty percent. These will be accomplished by concentrating best management practices (BMPs) within priority management areas. The public participation goal will emphasize citizen involvement in watershed monitoring and observation activities. Developing means for people to personally experience the river will help achieve the recreational goal.

Project evaluation will be accomplished through continued water quality monitoring at five stations, citizen surveys, fishery and watershed inventories and assessments, and BMP tracking. Partnership low interest loans will be used to upgrade septic systems, increase residue management, and reduce livestock impacts on water quality. State and federal cost-share funds will be used to cover costs related to other best management practices listed in the plan. Additional staff positions will be created to assess needs within priority management areas and work with landowners to select and implement appropriate practices. For example, Lyon County has about 187 miles of drainage including 55 County Ditches and 34 Judicial Ditches. Several ditches do not have filter strips, though many state and local entities strongly recommend the existence of a 1 rod (17 foot) buffer strip.

The Cottonwood River carries high sediment and phosphorus loads during the growing season. This is predominantly the result of rainfall-driven polluted runoff that occurs throughout most of the watershed. The lower reach is affected by bacteria, exceeding the fecal coliform standard, and is subject to a total maximum daily load study (TMDL). The usefulness and aesthetic qualities of the river are impaired, and conditions are unlikely to improve unless changes are made in land use and water management practices within the watershed. These changes can be accomplished through an implementation plan that reflects real problems occurring on the landscape, and clearly identifies solutions to those problems while developing and organizing sufficient resources to attain meaningful and effective solutions.

The best course of action for the Cottonwood River is to encourage land use changes within the watershed that will reduce sediment and nutrient discharges to the river. In 1995, the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) in cooperation with several local, state and federal agencies, submitted an MPCA Clean Water Partnership application. RCRCA is an eight county joint-powers organization that works to enhance and protect the Redwood and Cottonwood Rivers.

The Clean Water Partnership Grant, approved in the spring of 1996 provided funding for a diagnostic study of the watershed. Based on the findings, an implementation plan was developed to address the pollutant problems in the Cottonwood River Watershed. The diagnostic study revealed that there were three portions of the watershed that were contributing a disproportionate share of the non-point source pollutant loading in the watershed. These areas became priority areas where current conservation programs and best management practice cost-share dollars would be spent in order to achieve the highest reduction per dollar spent. In the spring of 2000 RCRCA received a Phase II Implementation Grant from MPCA. This launched the Cottonwood River Restoration Project. A six-year work plan was developed for securing cost share funding and providing technical support. The RCRCA Joint Powers Organization and the partner local, state and federal agencies have secured cost-share funding for BMPs and low interest loan dollars to repair non-compliant septic systems. This watershed wide effort will reduce non-point source pollutants in the Cottonwood River Watershed by 40% to coincide with the goals of the Minnesota River Basin.

DES MOINES RIVER WATERSHED

The West Fork of the Des Moines River (Illustration 26) originates in Lyon County, southeast of Lake Yankton. Though the total acreage of the Des Moines watershed is 802,000 acres, Lyon County's portion is very small; only 1,323 acres. Assessments of this portion of the Des Moines watershed have been conducted with no portion of the Des Moines in Lyon County listed as impaired source, a fact that would make sense considering this is the headwaters of the West Fork of the Des Moines River.



This is not to say there are no problems in our portion of the watershed. Visible effects on this watershed before leaving the county are not as readily observed. Like other areas of southwestern Minnesota the Lyon County portion of the Des Moines River watershed has been modified by ditches and draining of wetlands for conversion into agriculturally productive land. If we look a bit further south to Lake Shetek in Murray County, we see that numerous problems exist.

The Lake Shetek subwatershed includes the area of the Des Moines River that exists in Lyon County. MPCA monitoring in 2001 characterized Lake Shetek as hypereutrophic, based on trophic indicators (TSI = 70.0). Sources of nutrient loading from sub-watersheds into Lake Shetek were divided into eleven locations. The highest Total Suspended Solids (TSS) of 2,102 pounds per acre and Total Phosphorus (TP) of 3.03 pounds per acre were reported at the Beaver Creek (Murray County) test site. However, the sub-watersheds that enter Lake Shetek from the northwest and west via Lake Sarah (Murray County), collectively make up over 91 percent of the inflow water volume. Thus, these two sub-watersheds account for over 79 percent of the TSS and 72 percent of the TP loading in the Lake.

Research suggests the majority of deleterious inputs come from Murray County sources, however we cannot ignore that Lyon County is part of that watershed, and we need to work cooperatively with Murray County on protecting the Lake Shetek watershed. Several local and state agencies have organized the Lake Shetek Watershed Improvement Project to improve the recreational quality of the lake by decreasing sediment load, determining an optimum water quality management policy, and by identifying Best Management Practices (BMPs) necessary for an effective implementation plan.

Assessments of the Lyon County portion of the Des Moines watershed have been conducted with no portion of the Des Moines being listed as having impaired conditions. However, the stretch of the Des Moines from Windom to the southern portion of the watershed is an impaired reach due to excessive ammonia, and turbidity, and low dissolved oxygen. Since the drainage flows from Lyon County, we must certainly take some responsibility for the problem, and assist in correcting it when possible.

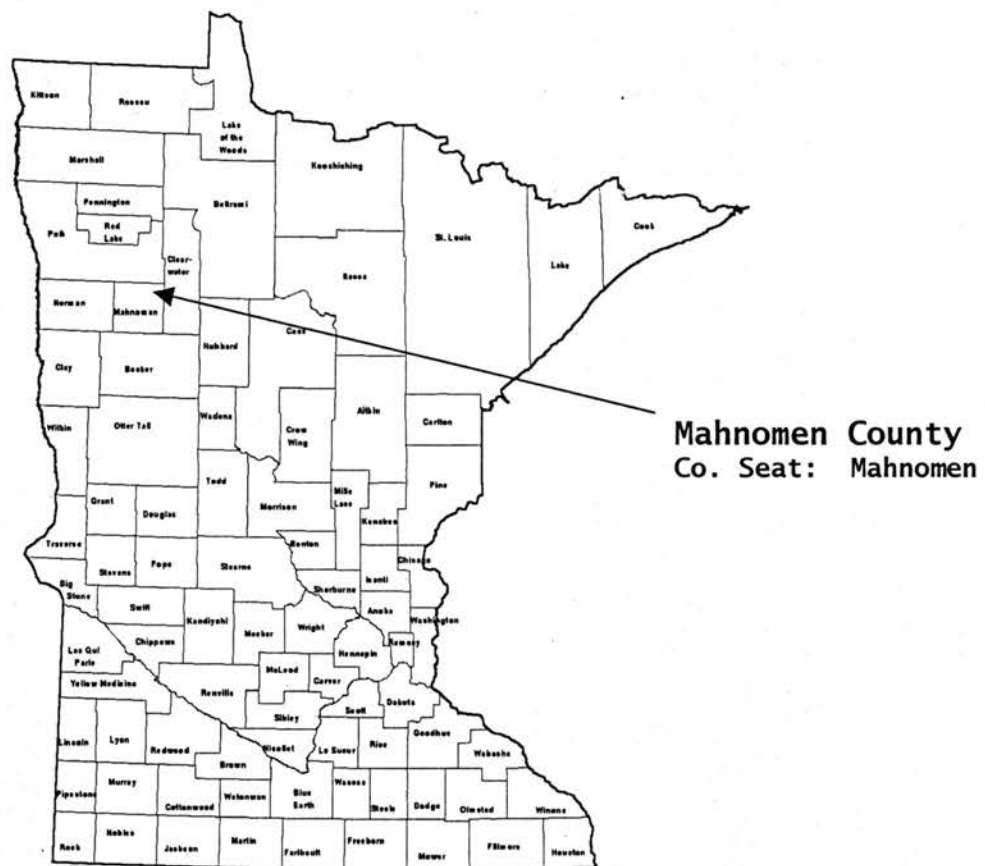
Closer to home, Lake Yankton near Balaton has been listed as a hypertrophic lake that does not support swimming. Several unintentional sewage overflows have entered the lake from the City of Balaton over the past decade. Hopefully, however, Balaton has successfully corrected the source of this problem, though more redesigning of the storm and sanitary sewer systems may be necessary.

15-Oct-02

To: Board Members

From: Marybeth Block, BWSR Water Plan Coordinator

RE: Mahnomen County's Local Water Management Plan



Board Conservationist: Jeff Hrubes

Duration of the proposed plan: Five Years; January 2003-2007

Attached is the executive summary of the plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Mahnomen County, located in Northwestern Minnesota, has developed an update to their 1997 Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP). This update contains water quality data and water quality strategies that will guide in the accomplishment of water quality programs within the county. This plan's effective date starts on January 1, 2003.

This update was developed and completed by the Mahnomen Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in conjunction with the Mahnomen County CLWP Advisory Committee and Mahnomen County Board of Commissioners.

Overview

This CLWP update will apply through the year 2007. This plan is not meant to replace previous plans. The county's original CLWP included the 55 data items as required by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 110B. Specific information from previous plans can be requested from the SWCD office.

Issues faced by the county regarding the implementation of water quality programs, are addressed in this plan. This update proposes the continuation and improvement of certain endeavors. The CLWP contains four sections that directly relate to activity and program outcomes and strategies:

- Accomplishments and New Data
- Geomorphic and Ecological Regions
- County Resource Assessments
- Implementation Activities

The county proposes the continuation and improvement in the following activities and programs: (New Initiatives are *italicized*)

EDUCATION/INFORMATION

Environmental Notes Newsletter
K-2nd Grade Presentations
Soil Stewardship Week
Envirothon
Conservation Award
Fair Booth/Parades
High School Presentations
MASWCD Poster, Video and Essay contest
Northwest Minnesota Soil Contest
River Watch Program

MONITORING/INVENTORY

River Watch Program
Nitrate Water Testing Clinic
Citizen Lake/Stream Monitoring Program
Well Sealing Cost-Share Program
Rainfall Monitoring Program
Wellhead Protection
County Well Index

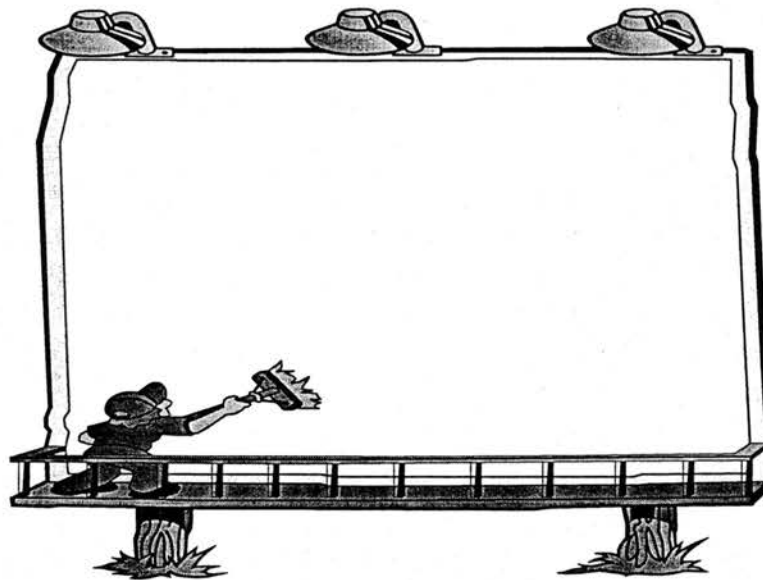
LAND & WATER TREATMENT

Well Sealing Cost-Share Program
AgBMP Loan Program
State Cost-Share Program
Wetland Conservation Act
No-Till Drill Rental Program
Tree Planting Program
Weed Badger Program
Chemical & Container Collection Program

The success of the CLWP will depend on the achievement of goals and objectives associated with the activities and programs listed above. Limitations in achieving goals and objectives would include lack of appropriate funding and staff time. There has not been an increase in the funding allocations to the counties, since the state started the CLWP statues in 1989. Efforts to increase CLWP funding in the Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) have been introduced to the legislature in recent years, but no funding increases have occurred. The state's current deficit is going to hinder CLWP funding increase opportunities.

1

Introduction, Purpose & Scope of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP)



Introduction

A plan is a blueprint on how to get from here to there. In the case of a local water plan, the here is a description of a county's current water situation, including an inventory of water and related land resources, and an understanding of the issues facing the county (problems, needs and opportunities). The there is where the county wants to be at a given time in the future (the goals). The goal may be a vision of the future that the county seeks to attain. It can be visionary in a way that captures the imagination of the county's citizenry or it can simply be an attempt to resolve current problems and capitalize on existing opportunities.

The preparation of a plan follows a logical sequence:

1. Gathering information on existing resources and resource management programs (data collection) - find out what you have and who's doing what.
2. Resource assessment - determine the condition and adequacy of existing resources and management programs.
3. Issue identification - Identify problems and opportunities which the county wishes to address.
4. Issue prioritization - Determine which issues are in the most critical need of attention.
5. Development of goals and objectives - Determine the end result the county wants to achieve.
6. Formulation of action - Develop specific steps for solving problems and taking advantage of opportunities, while meeting goals and objectives.

Many of the natural resource efforts the Mahanomen County CLWP addresses are in different stages of planning. Some issues need additional data in order to generate an accurate resource assessment, while others demand some specific steps for solving problems. **It is the intention of Mahanomen County's CLWP Advisory Committee to move forward on all natural resource issues in order to improve and protect the quality of the counties natural resources, while providing for economic growth and organized development.**

This update of the 1990 & 1997 plans includes additional resource assessments and a revised of goals and objectives for the years 2003-2007. It also includes some additional data that was collected or gathered in the years 1997-2002. The 1990 & 1997 plans contain a large amount of data and it is too extensive to be included with this plan. We consider the 1990 & 1997 plans part of this plan and specific information from the 1990 & 1997 plans can be requested from the Mahanomen SWCD office.

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) for Mahanomen County is:

1. **To identify existing and potential problems or opportunities for protection, management and development of water resources and related land resources in the county;**
2. **To develop and implement a plan of action to promote sound hydrologic management of water and related land resources in the county; and**
3. **To work toward effective environmental protection and management in the county.**

The essential constituent during development of this plan was the development of a continuing process, whereby local government officials and the general public can understand the amount, characteristics and distribution of their water resources.

Based on this understanding of existing conditions, county officials can then decide what water resources are necessary and desired for future growth and development and decide on a course of action to achieve and maintain the quality of life desired in the county.

Mahanomen County recognizes that counties, whether growing, remaining stable or declining in population, must develop their own local plan for managing water resources. If not, they will

eventually lose the opportunity to make intelligent, local choices that anticipate or prevent water resource problems before costs escalate and options narrow. Mahanomen County also recognizes that a well developed comprehensive water plan can also integrate local initiatives and existing state or federal water related programs and funding sources. This integration also allows more efficient management of all these programs for protection of water resources and the general environment.

Scope of the Plan

This Comprehensive Local Water Plan Update will apply through the year 2007. This plan is not meant to replace previous plans. The 1990 & 1997 plans have a large number of data elements in the County Resource Assessment Section; many of these elements have not changed. This plan will contain any new data that has resulted from local efforts. The assessments have been revisited and those that are considered to be relevant are included in the Assessment Section.

2

Management Programs and the Update Process



The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has developed guidelines and a timeline for county's to follow during the CLWP revision process. Mahanomen County used BWSR's guides in the revision process.

2001-2002 Water Plan Update Process

DATE	ACTION
9-18-01	County Board adopts resolution to revise the CLWP
10-25-01	County files notice of decision to revise the CLWP Notices sent to: The county boards of contiguous counties, governing bodies of watershed districts with territory in the county, the governing bodies of all LGU's wholly or partly within the county, Regional Development Commission and Board of Water and Soil Resources.
10-25-01	County requests local plans, official controls, conflicts, problems and opportunities from cities, townships and watershed districts.
1-10-02	CLWP Advisory Committee meeting held at Mahnomen County Courthouse
1-10-02	Public Informational meeting held at Mahnomen County Courthouse ATTENDEES: George Spaeth, Public; David Green, Lake Grove Township
1-15-02	Local plans, official controls, conflicts, problems and opportunities due
2-22-02	CLWP Advisory Committee meeting held at SWCD office
4-19-02	CLWP Advisory Committee meeting held at SWCD office
4-20-02 - 5-15-02	Revise plan
5-15-02	60 day local and state review
7-15-02	Local and state comments due
7-19-02	CLWP Advisory Committee meeting held at SWCD office
8-8-02	CLWP Advisory Committee meeting held at Mahnomen County Courthouse
8-8-02	Public hearing held at Mahnomen County Courthouse ATTENDEES: Jack Hausner, Public; Joe Czapiewski, HRDC
8-9-02- 8-22-02	Respond to comments and revise plan
8-23-02	90 day final review
	BWSR Board approval of plan update
	Local adoption by County Board

Management Programs

The Northwest Minnesota Water Planning Joint Powers Board

On behalf of seventeen northwest Minnesota counties, the Red Lake Watershed District submitted a grant proposal to LCMR in 1986. Funding for the grant proposal was approved by the Minnesota Legislature in the spring of 1987, with authorization to begin the project July 1, 1987. The counties in the Northwest Minnesota Project finalized the Joint Powers Agreement on September 21, 1987 with the intent of implementing Chapter 110B. The first official meeting with the Joint Powers agreement in effect was October 26, 1988. The purpose of the JPB is to allow participating counties to work together simultaneously to develop individual Comprehensive Local Water Plans (CLWP), while at the same time, reducing duplication of efforts while producing plans that are specific to each counties needs.

Fifteen counties have participated in the Northwest Minnesota Joint Powers Board since 1990. These counties include: Becker, Clay, Grant, Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin.

The Joint Powers Board consists of a representative and an alternate from each of the 15 counties. The Board provides the legal structure for the project, and provides the 15 counties with a mechanism for cooperation, dialogue and coordination. The Joint Powers Board is responsible for policy guidance, oversight and completion of the project.

Presently, the Joint Powers Board meets on a quarterly basis and its main function is that of information and dialogue.

Joint Powers Board Representative	Organization
Jerry Dahl	County Commissioner

The CLWP Advisory Committee

The County CLWP Advisory Committee is the key component in the development of the Mahnomen County Comprehensive Local Water Plan. This Committee, formerly the County Task Force, was established to provide the local knowledge base of County resources, problems and procedures.

The committee, appointed by the Mahnomen County Board of Commissioners to represent the County's interest, met four times specifically to address the update process. It established the issues, goals, objectives, action plans, implementation strategies and was the principal architect of the Mahnomen County plan for 2003-2007.

Mahnomen County CLWP Advisory Committee Members	
Karen Ahmann	County Commissioner
Wally Eid	County Commissioner
Jerry Dahl	County Commissioner
David Schiedschlag	County Commissioner
Charles Pazdernik	County Commissioner
Joe Spaeth	Wild Rice Watershed District
Raymond Bisek	MN Extension Service
Pete Revier	Soil and Water Conservation District/City of Mahnomen
Ev Kjelbertson	Soil and Water Conservation District
Joyce Cieluch	MPCA
Jeff Wark	White Earth Reservation - Biology Department
Non-voting Members	
Dennis Johnson*	NRCS - District Conservationist
Curt Kozitka*	FSA County Executive Director

* Federal Employees, nonvoting members. Because this is a local water plan these members are non-voting, but their programs are very involved in the protection and management of Mahnomen County's water resources and their input is vital to making informed decisions regarding any water planning efforts.

Mahnomen County Soil and Water Conservation District

The SWCD has been responsible for the implementation of the CLWP since the beginning of the program in 1990. In 1991, the SWCD hired a Water Resource Coordinator to manage the day-to-day administration and implementation of the plan.

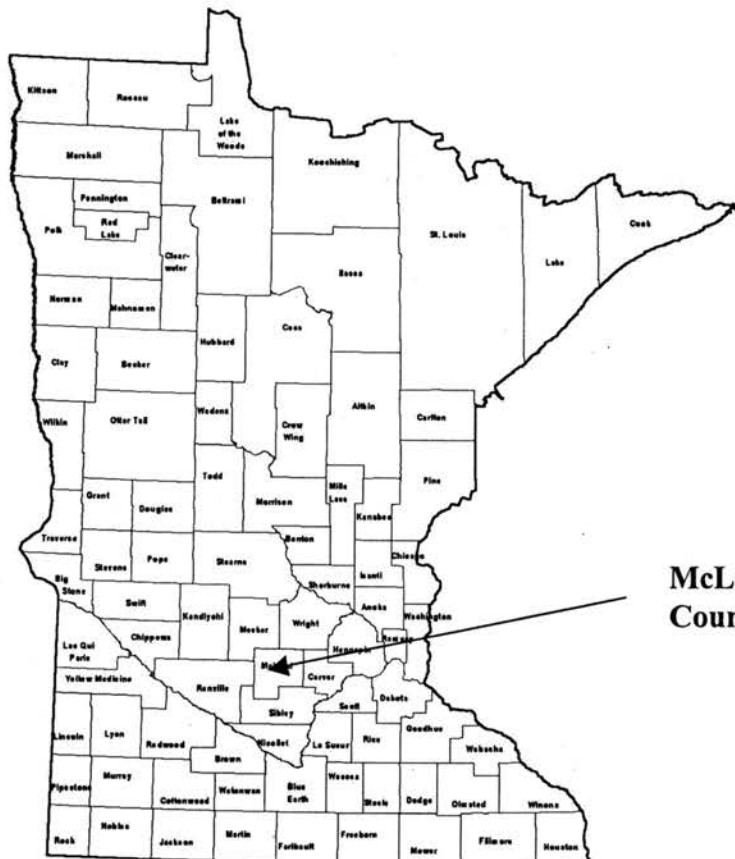
Mahnomen County Soil and Water Conservation District	
John Radtke	Supervisor- Chairman
Ev Kjelbertson	Supervisor - Vice Chairman
Terry McCollum	Supervisor- Treasurer
R. Mark Fogelson	Supervisor- Secretary
Pete Revier	Supervisor- Public Relations and Information
Aaron Neubert	District Manager/Water Resource Coordinator
Cheryl Green	Office Manager/Education Coordinator

30-Sep-02

To: Board Members

From: Marybeth Block, BWSR Water Plan Coordinator

RE: McLeod County Local Water Management Plan.



McLeod County
County Seat: Glencoe

Board Conservationist: Tom Fischer, New Ulm Office

Duration of the proposed plan: Ten years

Attached is the executive summary of the plan.

(FOR BOARD INFORMATION)

MCLEOD COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN
THIRD GENERATION REVISION

Introduction

This agenda item is for BWSR Board information only. It gives notice that the McLeod County Comprehensive Local Water Plan ("third generation plan") is now out for final state agency review and that the BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will be providing its recommendation to the full BWSR Board at the December 2002 meeting.

Brief County Information

Founded in 1856, McLeod County is located in central Minnesota approximately 40 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. It shares borders with Meeker and Wright counties to the north, Carver County to the east, Sibley County to the south and Renville County to the west. The county is located within three major watersheds: the North Fork and South Fork Crow River watersheds which are part of the Upper Mississippi River Drainage Basin; the Minnesota River (Mankato) Watershed which is part of the Minnesota River Drainage Basin. Parts of the county are found within the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Creek Watershed District. The county contains numerous lakes, rolling hills and vast agricultural land. There are three organized lake associations within the county. Cities include Glencoe (county seat), Brownton, Biscay, Lester Prairie, Hutchinson, Plato, Silver Lake, Stewart and Winsted. The county's 1990 population was 32,030 as compared to 34,898 in 2000. There have been four Clean Water Partnership funded projects in the county since 1999. There are two organized watershed projects within the county; both began between 2000 and 2001.

Third Generation Plan Revision Information

McLeod County completed the revision of their water plan and submitted their third generation plan to the BWSR for final state agency review on September 6, 2002. The final ninety-day state agency review began on September 11, 2002, and will end on December 9, 2002. State agencies have until October 30, 2002, to submit their final review comments. BWSR staff will work with the county water plan coordinator to appropriately address comments received from state agencies.

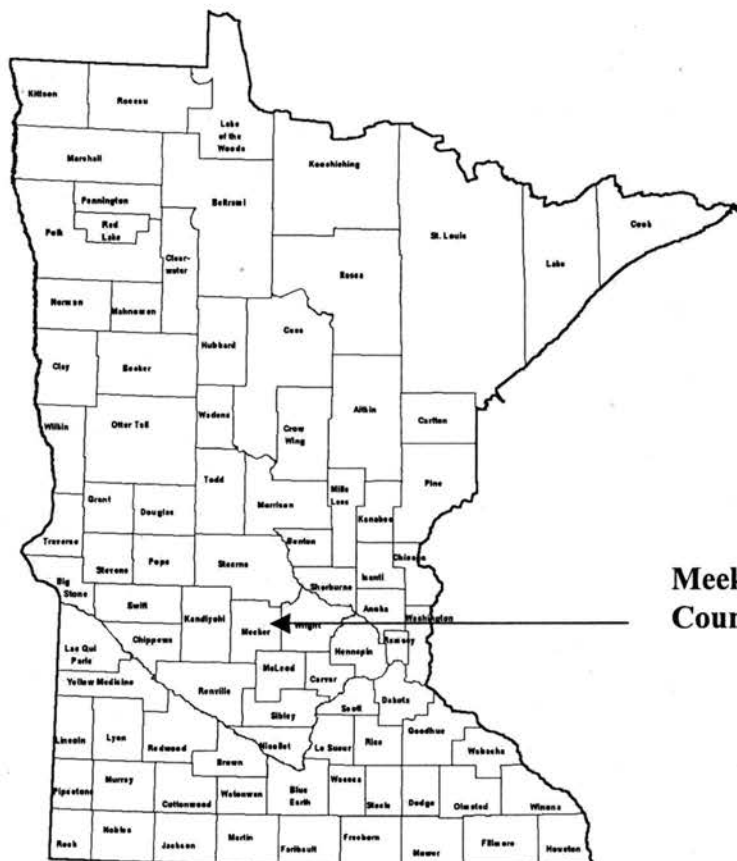
On November 7, 2002, the BWSR staff and BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will meet with the water plan coordinator and representatives of McLeod County to review the third generation water plan. The BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will provide a recommendation for board action to the full BWSR Board at their December 2002 meeting. An overview and draft copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusion and Order will be developed and provided to board members within the December 2002 meeting agenda packet.

30-Sep-02

To: Board Members

From: Marybeth Block, BWSR Water Plan Coordinator

RE: Meeker County Local Water Management Plan.



Meeker County
County Seat: Litchfield

Board Conservationist: Tom Fischer, New Ulm Office

Duration of the proposed plan: Ten years

Attached is the executive summary of the plan.

(FOR BOARD INFORMATION)

MEEKER COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN
THIRD GENERATION REVISION

Introduction

This agenda item is for BWSR Board information only. It gives notice that the Meeker County Comprehensive Local Water Plan ("third generation plan") is now out for final state agency review and that the BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will be providing its recommendation to the full BWSR Board at the December 2002 meeting.

Brief County Information

Founded in 1856, Meeker County is located in central Minnesota approximately 50 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. It shares borders with Stearns County to the north, Wright County to the east, McLeod County to the southeast, Renville County to the southwest and Kandiyohi County to the west. The county is located within four major watersheds: the Sauk River, Mississippi River (St. Cloud), North Fork and South Fork Crow River watersheds which are all part of the Upper Mississippi River Drainage Basin. Parts of the county are found within the North Fork of the Crow River Watershed District, Sauk River Watershed District and the Clearwater River Watershed District. The county contains numerous lakes, rolling hills and vast agricultural land. There are fifteen organized lake associations within the county. Cities include Litchfield (county seat), Cedar Mills, Cosmos, Darwin, Dassel, Eden Valley, Grove City, Kingston and Watkins. The county's 1990 population was 20,846 as compared to 22,644 in 2000. There have been seven Clean Water Partnership funded projects in the county since 1987. There is one organized watershed project within the county, which began in 2001.

Third Generation Plan Revision Information

Meeker County completed the revision of their water plan and submitted their third generation plan to the BWSR for final state agency review on September 6, 2002. The final ninety-day state agency review began on September 11, 2002, and will end on December 9, 2002. State agencies have until October 30, 2002, to submit their final review comments. BWSR staff will work with the county water plan coordinator to appropriately address comments received from state agencies.

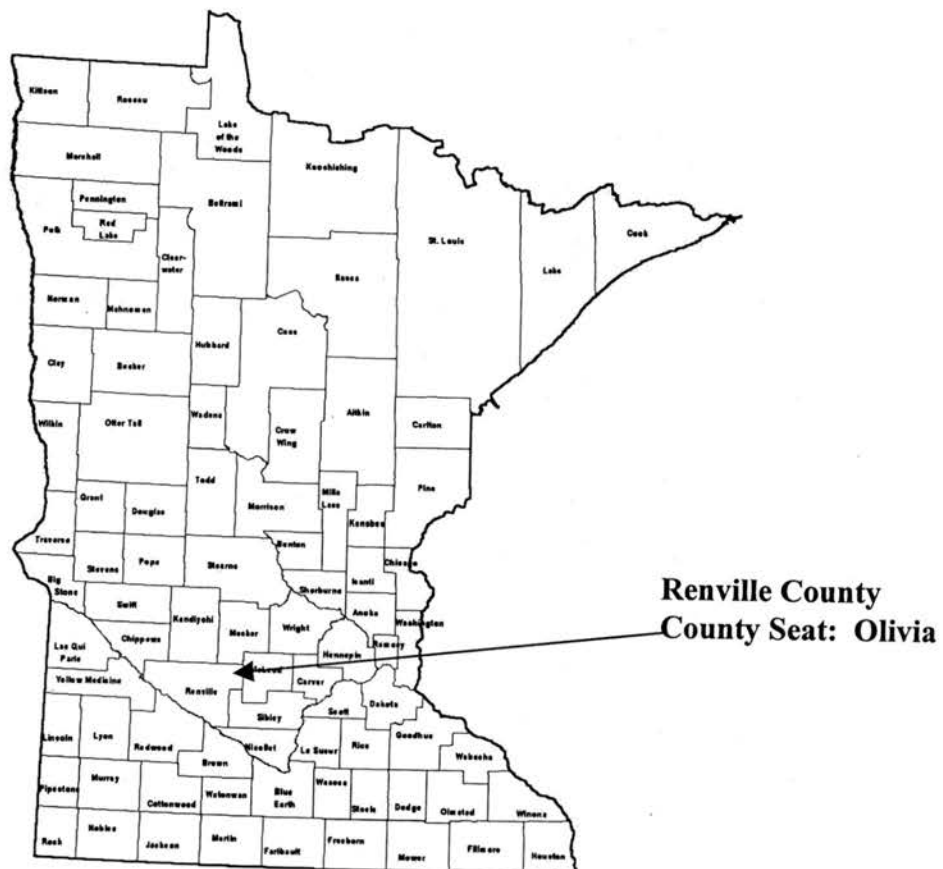
On November 7, 2002, the BWSR staff and BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will meet with the water plan coordinator and representatives of Meeker County to review the third generation water plan. The BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will provide a recommendation for board action to the full BWSR Board at their December 2002 meeting. An overview and draft copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusion and Order will be developed and provided to board members within the December 2002 meeting agenda packet.

30-Sep-02

To: Board Members

From: Marybeth Block, BWSR Water Plan Coordinator

RE: Renville County Local Water Management Plan.



Board Conservationist: Tom Fischer, New Ulm Office

Duration of the proposed plan: Ten years

Attached is the executive summary of the plan.

(FOR BOARD INFORMATION)

RENVILLE COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN
THIRD GENERATION REVISION

Introduction

This agenda item is for BWSR Board information only. It gives notice that the Renville County Comprehensive Local Water Plan ("third generation plan") is now out for final state agency review and that the BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will be providing its recommendation to the full BWSR Board at the December 2002 meeting.

Brief County Information

Founded in 1855, Renville County is located in central Minnesota approximately 60 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. It shares borders with Chippewa, Kandiyohi and Meeker counties to the north, McLeod and Sibley counties to the east, Nicollet, Brown, Redwood and Yellow Medicine counties to the south, and Chippewa County to the west. The southern border of the county abuts the Minnesota River. The county is located within three major watersheds: the Minnesota River (Granite Falls) and Minnesota River (Mankato), which are part of the Minnesota River Drainage Basin; the South Fork Crow River Watershed, which is part of the Upper Mississippi River Drainage Basin. Parts of the county are found within the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and High Island Creek Watershed District. The county is characterized by vast agricultural land. There is one organized lake associations within the county. Cities include Olivia (county seat), Bird Island, Buffalo Lake, Danube, Fairfax, Franklin, Hector, Morton, Renville and Sacred Heart. The county's 1990 population was 17,673 as compared to 17,154 in 2000. There have been three Clean Water Partnership funded projects in the county since 2000. There are three organized watershed projects within the county, all since 2000.

Third Generation Plan Revision Information

Renville County completed the revision of their water plan and submitted their third generation plan to the BWSR for final state agency review on September 6, 2002. The final ninety-day state agency review began on September 11, 2002, and will end on December 9, 2002. State agencies have until October 30, 2002, to submit their final review comments. BWSR staff will work with the county water plan coordinator to appropriately address comments received from state agencies.

On November 6, 2002, the BWSR staff and BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will meet with the water plan coordinator and representatives of Renville County to review the third generation water plan. The BWSR Southern Ad Hoc Committee will provide a recommendation for board action to the full BWSR Board at their December 2002 meeting. An overview and draft copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusion and Order will be developed and provided to board members within the December 2002 meeting agenda packet.

15-Oct-02

To: Board Members

From: Marybeth Block, BWSR Water Plan Coordinator

RE: Wilkin County's Local Water Management Plan.



Wilkin County
Co. Seat: Breckenridge

Board Conservationist: Pete Waller

Duration of the proposed plan: Five Years; December 2002-2007

Attached is the executive summary of the plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) update is the second update to the original plan approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in 1990. The first update to the original plan was approved by the BWSR in 1995. This plan update will be effective through the year 2007.

Wilkin County is located in west-central Minnesota, bordering North Dakota. Wilkin County has a total land area of 481,000 acres. Breckenridge, located in the west-central part of the county is the county seat.

The climate in Wilkin County is continental with warm summers and cold winters with the summer average temperature of 68 degrees and a winter average temperature of 9 degrees. Average annual precipitation is between 20 – 23 inches. About 75 percent of the annual precipitation occurs between May and September.

Most of the land area in Wilkin County is cropland (92%). The majority of the county is in the lacustrine plain of Glacial Lake Agassiz (94%). This region is nearly level, with slopes of 0-2 percent. The northeastern part of the county are mostly hilly having slopes ranging from 3-6 percent, exceeding 40 percent in a few places.

75% of the soils in Wilkin County are poorly drained and have very slow to medium infiltration rates. Water does not rapidly penetrate these soils and moves slowly through them once absorbed. These soils do, however, retain moisture well during periods of desiccation. In the eastern part of the county, soils developed along the beach ridge areas of glacial lake agassiz are generally coarser and are moderate to well drained.

Due to Wilkin County's flat topography and soils structure, wind erosion is of major concern. Unprotected soils during below average precipitation periods of winter and spring can cause severe wind erosion. Field windbreaks, conservation tillage, and grass buffer/filter strips can reduce wind erosion significantly when implemented properly.

The Wilkin County Environmental Advisory Committee has reviewed and studied all available information in the development of this updated plan. The Environmental Advisory Committee is a combination of the Citizen Committee, which consists of individuals representing different sectors of Wilkin County and the Technical Committee consisting of individuals representing Federal, State and local agencies. The Environmental Advisory Committee met a total of 13 times during the plan development process.

The following individuals were involved in the updating of this plan.

Citizen Committee Members

Gerald Nordick (citizen)
Neil Weiser (citizen)
Bob Westfall (citizen)
Dennis Torkelson (SWCD)

John Blaufuss (County Commissioner)
Stephanie Miranowski (County Commissioner)
Robert Roach (Watershed District)
Roger Ellefson (Watershed District)

Technical Committee Members

Don Bajumpaa (SWCD)
Jon Roechlein (Watershed District)
Pete Waller (BWSR)
Terry Lejcher (DNR Waters)
Mike Howe (MN Dept. of Health)

Steve Cole (NRCS)
Jack Frederick (MPCA)
Bruce Albright (Watershed District)
Doug Hedtke (DNR Wildlife)
Bruce Poppel (County Environmental Officer)

The purposes of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan for Wilkin County are;

1. To identify existing and potential problems or opportunities for protection, management and development of water resources and land resources in the county.
2. To develop and implement a plan of action to promote sound hydrologic management of water and related land resources in the county, and
3. To work toward effective environmental protection and management in the county.

Based on their understanding of existing conditions and issues, county officials will decide what water resources within the county need to be protected and/or enhanced and by what means.

Wilkin County is aware that all counties must develop their own means for managing local water resources. Failure to do so will result in the lose of local opportunities to make intelligent, choices about improving the local water resources within the county.

Wilkin County recognizes that a well-developed comprehensive water plan should integrate local initiatives with state and federal programs whenever possible. This is evident in the fact that Wilkin County has incorporated the Wilkin SWCD Comprehensive Plan, the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan and will incorporate the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan into this document. The Otter Tail River Watershed Management Plan currently being developed by the Otter Tail River Watershed Improvement Project Team will also be incorporated into this plan. This integration allows more efficient management of all programs for protection of water resources and the general environment.

Since the inception of the Comprehensive Local Water Planning process in 1990, Wilkin County has accomplished the following tasks.

- Sealed 162 abandoned wells and held one public demonstration.
- Sampled and tested 113 private water wells for nitrates and coliforms.
- Protected 5,000 feet of riverbank from erosion.
- Collected and recycled 27,450 empty plastic pesticide containers.
- Provided financial incentives for establishing 543 acres of bufferstrips.
- Cleaned up 5 dumpsites along the Otter Tail River.
- Provided financial incentive to one high priority feedlot.
- Publish a quarterly newsletter "Enviro-Minder" and distributed to every household in the county.
- Adopted Wilkin County Shoreland Ordinance.
- Conducted 5 waste pesticide collections.
- Retrofitted 3 dams to allow for fish passage and safer recreation use.
- Developed the Otter Tail River Comprehensive Plan.

- Conducted 5 Household Hazardous Waste Collections.
- Conducted 3 septic system maintenance workshops for homeowners.
- Painted storm drains with "Drains to River" warning to deter dumping of hazardous waste into storm drains.
- Planted 4 miles of county road right-of-way to native grasses.
- Cooperating with Becker and Otter Tail Counties and SWCD's on the Otter Tail River Watershed Improvement Project.
- Cooperated with Clay SWCD on a Flood Mitigation Grant for the South Branch of Buffalo River.
- Assisted the Minnesota DNR and ND Water Commission with the collection of data for 2 groundwater studies.

Although numerous accomplishments have been made since the inception of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan, Wilkin County has yet to take full advantage of the opportunity to facilitate proactive comprehensive water planning. Proactive water resource management will be aided and accelerated by an increase in the Base Grant of the Natural Resource Block Grant and by applying for other grants available for water planning activities.

Priorities during this current planning period (2003 – 2008) include: an accelerated effort to establish buffer/filter strips to reduce non-point pollution; reducing flood events; requiring septic systems to be upgraded at property transfer; and the establishment of a citizen stream monitoring program. The protection of our drinking water is another important issue that Wilkin County has identified. To do so Wilkin County will assist the City of Moorhead in the development and implementation of a Source Water Protection Plan in the northern portion of the county and will assist the communities of Breckenridge, Kent, Wolverton, Campbell, and Rothsay in the development and implementation of their own Wellhead Protection Plans.

Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) process has received a lot of attention since the Flood of '97. Wilkin County endorses the 14 Flood Damage Reduction goals established by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Specifically Wilkin County endorses the top three goals; 1) Prevent Human Loss of Life 2) Prevent damages to structures, homes and communities, and 3) Reduce damages to farmland, transportation, and water quality. Wilkin County will work together with the Bois de Sioux and Buffalo-Red River Watershed Districts and the City of Breckenridge in reducing the impact of floodwaters and reduce flood damages within the County. These are new strategies that Wilkin County will begin to implement during the current planning period.

Goals and Objectives are identified in general terms for all areas of the county as well as being analyzed in the context of watershed units and groundwater systems in the initiative section of this plan update. Agencies responsible for the implementation of the goals and objectives identified in the plan are listed in the initiative sections of the plan update and are identified in parenthesis. The Wilkin County Environmental Advisory Committee has identified the following four issues and classified them as high priority.

- Buffer/filter strips
- Individual Sewage Treatment Systems
- Geographic Information System
- Soil Loss Limits Ordinance

These four issues are discussed and identified several times throughout the initiative section of this update. The Wilkin County Environmental Advisory Committee has developed detail implementation strategies for these four issues and are outline in the Implementation Section of this plan.