

**Chippewa SWCD  
Annual Plan  
FY 2012**

The purpose of the Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide technical assistance to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality in Chippewa County. The primary objective of the District is to use available technical, planning, financial, and educational resources available to meet the needs of the client. Through the use of Federal programs such as EQIP, CRP, CSP, CCRP, the State's Cost-share Program, Ag BMP Loan Program, the County's Local Water Management Program, State's RIM Reserve, CREP, and Clean Water Amendment Program, BMP and conservation practices are funded to reduce wind and water erosion and improve water quality. During 2012, the SWCD will educate, seek input, and assess the needs for the future funding of the State's Clean Water and Land Legacy Amendment.

Within the Minnesota River Basin, our workload has been targeted in the Chippewa River and Hawk Creek Watersheds. We will provide our local partners technical assistance to address the county's resource management goals. Some of our local partners include: BWSR, NRCS, DNR, FSA, USF&W, USF&W Foundation, County's Land and Resource Management, Chippewa River Watershed Project, Hawk Creek Watershed Project, TSA Area Engineering Staff, LQP Lake Association, CURE, Land Stewardship Project, and Pheasants Forever. The following objectives outline assistance needed to obtain these goals. All planned items are to be completed by December 31, 2012.

**The 2012 Chippewa Board of Supervisors:**

Chairman- Steve Nokleby  
Vice-Chairman-  
Secretary-Larry Kittelson  
Treasurer- Dawn Schuler  
PR&I/Training-Steve Sunderland

**Chippewa SWCD Personnel:**

District Manager-Jean Diggins  
District Technician-Tom Warner  
District Technician-Zach Bothun

**Chippewa SWCD Support Staff:**

NRCS: District Conservationist-Shantel Lozinski  
NRCS Technician-Rhiannon Buth

**It is the policy of the Chippewa SWCD/NRCS to provide equal employment opportunity for all, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, or age.**



**ACTION:** *Improve and protect our county's water resources from point and non-point source pollution and reduce sedimentation entering Chippewa County's rivers, streams, lakes caused by flooding on the Chippewa and Minnesota Rivers and their various tributaries. Damage includes eroded riverbanks, overflow damage and new channel flow. Provide technical assistance to the Chippewa River Watershed and Hawk Creek Watershed Project's local work groups in establishing priorities for the implementation of BMP's that will address the TMDL's in Chippewa County. Target landowners in the Dry Weather Creek Watershed and the part of Hawk Creek Watershed in Chippewa County and promote BMP to address their resource concerns.*

- **GOAL:** Install 125 acres of CCRP Filter Strips
- **GOAL:** Enroll 30 acres of RIM/WRP
- **GOAL:** Install 4 grade stabilization structures
- **GOAL:** Stabilize 500 feet of streambank stabilization
- **GOAL:** Construct 1 Ag Waste Management Systems
- **GOAL:** Establish 3,000 acres of Nutrient Management
- **GOAL:** Establish 5 acres of Critical Area Treatment
- **GOAL:** Provide staff to attend 20 local partners meetings
- **GOAL:** Promote this action item with timely news articles and educational activities (\* see calendar of educational activities)

**STAFFING NEEDS:**

Staff hours needed: Administrative .50  
Technical: 1.50

**ACTION:** *Protect and restore wetlands that have the potential for flood damage reduction, wildlife habitat, the ability to reduce sedimentation entering the rivers, lakes, and streams, provide recreational value and groundwater recharge benefits. Also, establish wildlife habitat woody plantings.*

- **GOAL:** Establish 15 acres of Wildlife Tree Planting
- **GOAL:** Enroll 20 acres into RIM/WRP
- **GOAL:** Restore 50 acres wetlands
- **GOAL:** Enroll 100 acres into CRP
- **GOAL:** As the WCA LGU, assist and insure the landowner's are in compliance of the WCA(400 requests)
- **GOAL:** Complete 50 wetland determinations for NRCS through Contribution Agreement
- **GOAL:** Promote this action item with timely news articles and educational activities (\*see calendar of educational activities)

**STAFFING NEEDS:**

Staff hours needed: Administrative .10  
Technical: .50



**OBJECTIVE: To Carry out the Duties of the SWCD as established in Statue 103.C**

**ACTION:** Provide for efficient Chippewa SWCD Operations

**GOAL:** Hold regular board meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month.

**GOAL:** Develop an annual budget, annual plan of work and annual report

**GOAL:** Maintain required Record Keeping for SWCD's year-end-bookkeeping, and BWSR's audit requirements

**GOAL:** Maintain a District staff of at least a District Manager and a District Technician

**GOAL:** Provide or seek training for all personnel in order to carry out the SWCD's programs.

**GOAL:** Supervisors will review policies and develop priorities

**GOAL:** Review various memorandums of understanding

**GOAL:** Provide representation to various organizations. Such as but not limited to: Chippewa River Watershed Project, Hawk Creek Watershed Project, Local Water Management Committee, WC Area II TSA

**GOAL:** Maintain SWCD's webpage

**GOAL:** Utilize e-link web-based reporting system to report progress.

**STAFFING NEEDS:**

Staff hours needed: Administrative: .50

Technical: .10

III.

**Wind and Water Erosion**

If the soils in Chippewa County are used for crops, the main concerns in management are controlling water and wind erosion. Wind erosion is a hazard on most of the soils in the county. This hazard is most severe on the Egeland, Maddock, Sverdrup, and Arvilla soils. Minimum tillage, stubble mulching, and windbreaks help to reduce wind erosion. Water erosion is a hazard on the steeper soils such as Swanlake, Ves, Storden, Doland, and Rothsay soils. Contouring, terraces, grassed waterways, and minimum tillage help control water erosion.

In Chippewa County 234,756 acres are prone to wind erosion, 1,189 acres are susceptible to water erosion and 13,976 are susceptible to both wind and water erosion. This leaves 126,183 acres with no wind or water limitation.

High priority erosion problems have been defined as:

*“Erosion from wind and/or water is occurring on class I-IV soils in excess of 2T tons per acre per year or is occurring on any area that exhibits active gully erosion or is identified as high priority in the comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district’s comprehensive plan.”*

NOTE: The Chippewa SWCD identifies field windbreaks and farmstead shelterbelts as high priority practices throughout Chippewa County.

## Water Quality

High priority water quality has been defined:

*“Any areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals or other pollutants discharge to Department of Natural Resources designated protected waters or to any high priority waters as identified in a comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district’s comprehensive plan, or discharge to a sinkhole or groundwater. The pollutant delivery rate to the water source is in amounts that will impair the quality or usefulness of the water resource.*

Chippewa County has few surface water resources. These lakes, rivers, and wetlands that do exist in the county are important for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. In addition to the recreational value of surface water, these resources provide a significant recharge area for groundwater, the source of most drinking water in the county.

Non-point sources of water pollution are the major reason that a number of Chippewa County’s surface and ground waters are not clean enough to support desired uses. Chippewa County surface water run-off and soil erosion have been recognized as a source of problems in this county. Many of the problems with flooding, ag waste, sedimentation, erosion, and degradation of surface water in the county can be traced back to improperly controlled run-off or land use decisions that affects the drainage system in both rural and urban areas. Degradation of these surface water resources can have a significant impact on part of the county’s economy.

The need for effective programs to control non-point sources of pollution is clear if Chippewa County is to achieve and maintain its water quality goals. Both the Chippewa River Watershed and the Hawk Creek Watersheds have been identified on the MPCA’s Impaired Waters List. As a result, the TMDL’s will be addressed within specific reaches of the watersheds. In the Hawk Creek Watershed, there are 12 reaches of rivers and lakes that are listed on the 2008 Impaired Waters listing. The Lakes of Eagle, Long and Henderson are listed for Mercury/FCA, and excess nutrients. The rivers reaches are East/West Fork Beaver Creek for fecal coliform and turbidity and reaches of the Hawk Creek for Mercury and areas in the Chetomba Creek are listed for Fish IBI. In the Chippewa River Watershed, there are reaches in the Cottonwood Creek to Dry Creek and Dry Weather to Watson Sag Diversion and Watson Sag Diversion to the Minnesota River listed with Mercury/FCA. In addition, reaches of the Cottonwood Creek to Dry Weather Creek and the Watson Sag Diversion to the Minnesota River are listed for Turbidity/TSS. Two reaches have been identified for fecal coliform; Watson Sag Diversion to Minnesota River and the Headwaters to the Chippewa River.

Over 5,700 acres throughout the County have been determined to be a critical sedimentation problem. Note that Hawk Creek and the Chippewa River are the main areas of sedimentation. The Hawk Creek area is generally a flat area and would lead one to believe that there is more wind blown sedimentation than accounted for.

There are approximately 100 livestock producers in Chippewa County. Ten could be considered as high priority feedlots according to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Both the District and the Chippewa County Local Water Resources Protection and Management Program recognized that there was a need for an in-depth feedlot inventory to determine current and future needs of the county. To-date, Level I feedlot inventory has been completed in Chippewa County. Chippewa County is not a delegated county.

Technical assistance and low interest loan money is available through the Department of Ag.’s Revolving Loan Program. Other funding includes EQIP, the Feedlot Water Quality Cost-share, and the State Cost-share Program.

## *Applied Practices Used in Conservation Planning*

**WIND AND WATER** conservation practices used to treat erosion problems can include: conservation cropping system, contour farming, contour strips, terraces, waterways, conservation tillage, diversions, field windbreaks, and erosion control structures. Many times, a combination of two or three of the eligible conservation practices are used to properly treat an erosive area. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP), Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), are effective programs that will continue to protect and retire some of our more environmentally sensitive erodible land from crop production. In addition, the Food Security Act required that conservation practices be applied to HEL fields.

**WATER QUALITY** can be insured by making wise, general, land use decisions and applying best management practices. animal waste, sedimentation, and chemical and fertilizer use are non-point source concerns that can be addressed thru conservation practices such as ag waste systems, filter strips, riparian buffer strips, grassed waterways, field windbreaks, streambank protection, terraces, conservation tillage systems.

**SEDIMENTATION** problems can be solved by applying practices such erosion control structures, critical area planting, channel vegetation, sediment basins, field windbreaks, grassed waterways, spoil bank seeding, streambank protection, stream channel stabilization, terraces, conservation tillage systems and stripcropping systems and riparian filter strips. CRP, CCRP, and RIM, could be used to treat sedimentation problems.

**FEEDLOT POLLUTION** can be addressed with animal waste systems, clean water diversions, waste storage structures, and waste storage ponds. Nutrient management application is a key follow-up practice to eliminate feedlot pollution.

TABLE I

It is the responsibility of the Chippewa SWCD to administer the state cost-share program to establish sound conservation practices that eliminate, or greatly reduce, an erosion or water quality problem during their effective life. According to his job approval authority, Tom Warner, SWCD, and NRCS representative Shantel Lozinski have been appointed as the technical representative for the State Cost-share Program.

In 2011, the estimated funds needed to install the practices to control the High Priority Erosion Problems, High priority sedimentation problems, High priority Water Quality and the High Priority Feedlots are listed below:

**SWCD State Cost-share Allocation: \$14,577**

- BMP's

**Chippewa County Local Water Resources and Management Program:**

- BMP's
- Ag BMP Loan
- Local Water Management Plan

**NRCS EQIP Funding:**

- NRCS continues to fund the EQIP applications. In most cases, producers may receive up to 50% of the costs of certain conservation practices. Priority will be given to erosion and water quality applications. ....\$100,000

**Chippewa River Watershed**

- Watershed implementation funding is available throughout the entire Chippewa River Watershed for Best Management Practices. The SWCD, NRCS, and WC Area II JPB will assist landowners by providing technical assistance as well as serving on various local work groups. The Chippewa River Watershed has been placed on the MPCA's Impaired Waters List. As a result, the Chippewa SWCD will lend technical assistance as the work group addresses Best Management Practices for the watershed's impaired waters. In addition, the Watershed received Clean Water Legacy funding for buffers and alternative drainage options. The Chippewa SWCD will provide technical assistance to the Project as a member of the Local Work Group.

**Hawk Creek Watershed**

- Watershed implementation funding is available in targeted areas within the Hawk Creek Watershed for specific Best Management Practices. The SWCD, NRCS, and WC Area II JPB will assist landowners by providing technical assistance as well as serving on various local work groups.

**Pheasants Forever:**

- BMP's....\$2,500

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE

The 2008 Farm Bill provided an opportunity for the SWCD's to financially partner with NRCS. Through Contribution Agreements, the Chippewa SWCD staff could assist by providing administrative assistance in conservation planning and field review for the EQIP program. Locally, the Ag BMP's low interest loan dollars continue to be available to farmers and rural landowners in Chippewa County. Technical assistance will continue to be provided to the SWCD through the WC Area II NPEA staff. In 2012, through potential BWSR funding, the Chippewa SWCD will promote, provide technical assistance, develop plans, and implement the CCRP program, the RIM Reserve Program, the Clean Water Amendment funding to county landowners.

**SWCD Staff years needed to accomplish each objective:**

<u>OBJECTIVE:</u>	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	<u>TECHNICAL</u>
<i>Wind/Water Erosion</i>	.50	1.50
<i>Water Quality &amp; Sedimentation</i>	.50	1.50
<i>Education/SWCD Operations</i>	.25	.50
<i>Protect &amp; Restore Wetlands</i>	.10	.50
<i>Duties of the SWCD</i>	<u>.50</u>	<u>.10</u>
	2.35	3.60

*In addition to the Chippewa SWCD staff, which includes one full time District Manager, two full time District Technicians and one Education Specialist (contracted 160 hours/annual)., two full time NRCS staff assist with the SWCD's technical needs. In addition, the Chippewa SWCD has the WC Area II JPB and the NRCS Civil Engineer that can be utilized.*