



CHIPPEWA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SWCD

Established in 1954

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2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The purpose of the Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District is to control soil erosion and improve water quality.

The primary goal of the District is to take available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus on coordinating them so that they meet the needs of the local land user.

Andresen named Chippewa County Conservationist of the Year

Mike Andresen, of Montevideo, has been named the 2016 Chippewa County Conservationist of the Year.



The Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District Mike Andresen nominated Andresen, and he received the honor at the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation District's (MASWCD) annual state convention recently held in Bloomington. He was one of 64 other conservationists who were honored from other counties in the state.

Andresen farms a corn and soy-

bean rotation with conservation tillage on 125 acres. He has previously been an Minnesota Pollution Control Agency water quality volunteer. In 2015 he worked with NRCS and the SWCD to install two water and sediment control basins and one grade stabilization structure.

He also installed a native grass wildlife habitat planting and seeded a critical area planting in 2015. From 2013 to 2015 he maintained nutrient/pest management on 205 acres.

Andresen has 4,700 feet of established field windbreaks on one of his farms, as well as a farmstead shelterbelt. He has a total of 74.86 acres enrolled in The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and has 28 acres of pasture land. Mike is also a con-



Scott Roelofs (right), district supervisor of the Chippewa SWCD, presented Mike Andresen with a gift that Andresen will display in his hunting shack. The art work, made of black walnut, deer antlers and a painting of a deer scene, was done by local artist Doug Pederson.



Minnesota Association of
Soil and Water
Conservation Districts

Mike Andresen, of Montevideo, has established conservation practices on much of his land in Chippewa County, including 28 acres of pasture land and 74.86 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program.

Andresen is also an avid sportsman. Recently, Mike and fellow members of the Tri-County Sportsman Club built and opened Mills Creek Gun Range on five acres of Mike's land just north of Montevideo.

He was recognized locally at the SWCD board meeting in early December with a gift from the Chippewa SWCD, which was a rustic, custom made sign that was made out of black walnut, deer antlers, and a painting of a white-tail deer scene by local craftsman and artist Doug Pederson.

Chairman's Report

By Calin Eisenlohr

CHAIRMAN

In 2016, SWCD began legwork on implementing the Buffer Law that was passed by Governor Dayton in 2015. This work has included producing information for the DNR's production of the buffer map, evaluating Chippewa County parcel by parcel to create compliance data, and helping landowner's interpret their need for a buffer.

This year also brought the implementation of the Local Capacity Funds that were passed by legislation in 2015. The Chippewa SWCD was granted \$120,337 and it has been and will be used for administration and coordination, agricultural practices, equipment and technology, technical assistance, and water storage and treatment practices. We have seen the benefits of this money as we have been able to upgrade some outdated equipment and technology with newer versions that will increase accurate productivity as well as increase the services the staff is able to provide to the county.

With the help of the Local Capacity Funding, the district was able to hire another employee. In September, Tom Sletta, began his work with the district. He is fulfilling the full-time Farmbill technician duties, while Zach Bothun will now be full-time District Technician. Tom's main focus has been compliance with the buffer law and promoting CRP.

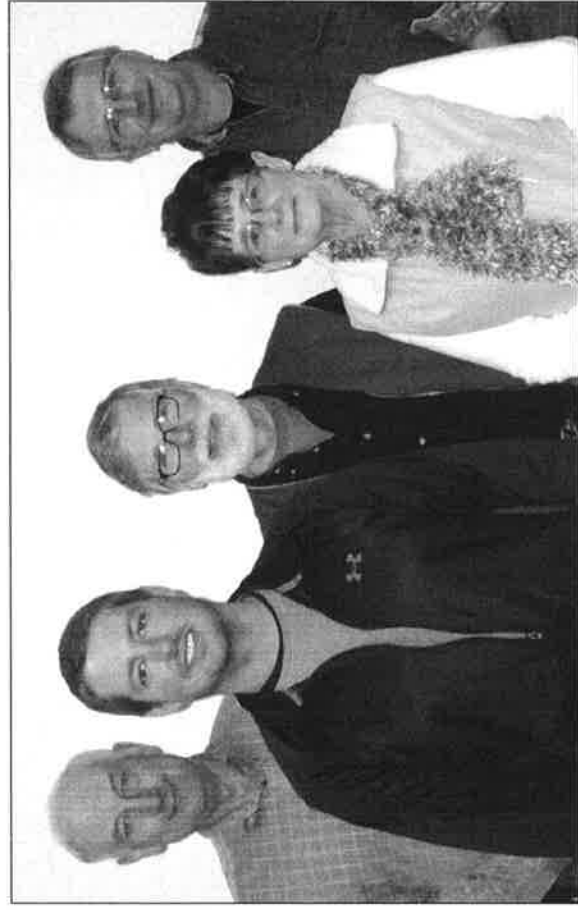
The district has continued to participate in our traditional outreach activities. This spring staff participated in "Kids in the Community" with the 6th graders from Montevideo Middle School and we held 5th grade field days at the Lac qui

Parle State Park Headquarters. This is an outdoor field day where the students learn about several different kinds of conservation. The students that participate in this are also involved in a poster contest. This year's winners were Katie Gerdes, Alan Amir Esparza, Alix Bristle, and Malinda Peterson. Congratulations to all of the winners!

During the summer we hosted our annual Women's Field Day as well as took part in the commercial booths at the fair. In the fall, staff taught preschoolers about different types of trees for the Little People's Garden Program at Little Thunderhawk Preschool. Our traditional outreach activities usually include our local conservation partners including but not limited to: Chippewa Land and Resource, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Department of Natural Resources, Hawk Creek Watershed Project, and Chippewa River Watershed Project.

The staff traveled to St. Paul in March to visit with legislators including Representative Tim Miller and Senator Lyle Koenen. In December, the legislators were invited to the board meeting where the SWCD hosted Representative Tim Miller and Senator-elect Andrew Lang. The Chippewa SWCD feels it is important to inform our legislators of our work and projects. At this meeting, we also presented our 2016 Conservationist of the Year Michael Andresen.

This year was the SWCD's first year drilling seed. Zach learned a lot this year and will be making some small changes to help things run more efficiently in the coming years. He enjoyed pursuing this



Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District 2014 Board of Supervisors (front, from left) Calin Eisenlohr, Dawn Schuler, (back) Steve Sunderland, Larry Kittelson and Scott Roelofs.



service and getting it up and going. Zach and Tom continued the tree program this year, planting approximately 7,500 trees. Staff has also been busy working on projects and project plans throughout the year.

The district has been busy this

year with new laws and programs and I would like to thank the community and landowners for their patience as we implement them. The Chippewa SWCD looks forward to working with you in the coming year to protect our natural resources in Chippewa County.

Chippewa SWCD welcomes Tom Sletta

Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District has hired Tom Sletta as the new Farmbill Technician. He will be helping with the buffer initiative, tree planting program, native grass seeding, educational field days, easement implementation, conservation planning and provide assistance for wildlife enhancement practices to public organizations and private landowners.

Tom grew up near Hanska, Minnesota in an agricultural



Tom Sletta

position. We have enjoyed having him with our district!

Having trouble with your Septic System?

Low Interest Loans and Grant Opportunities Available to Upgrade your Septic System in Chippewa County

Low Interest Loans are available to Farmers and Rural Landowners in Chippewa County for Upgrading Existing Septic Systems to IMPROVE WATER QUALITY for a better tomorrow.

Grants up to \$5,000 available for eligible low-income residents. Call for more details and income guidelines.

For criteria and eligibility guidelines, please contact the Chippewa County, Land & Resource Management Office at 320-269-6231.

Chippewa County Local Water Plan...Locally driven programs to protect your soil & water resources!





SWCD District Staff

SWCD 2016 staff (from left) Desirae Sharp – SWCD Administrative Assistant, Tom Sletta, Farmbill Technician, Zach Bothun – SWCD Technician and Tom Warner – SWCD District Manager.



NRCs Staff

Shantel Lozinski – NRCs District Conservator and Mike Timmerman – NRCs Soil Conservation Technician.

BATTERIES...WHICH ONES NEED TO BE RECYCLED?

The following batteries are Hazardous and must be recycled:

- Rechargeable Batteries
- Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cd)
- Lithium Ion (Li-Ion)
- Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH)
- Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn)
- Button
- Small Sealed Lead Acid—often labeled Pb-acid or Lead acid (less than 11 lbs.)

READ THE LABELS! Still Unsure ~ CALL for Safe and Proper Disposal.



The following batteries are Non-Hazardous and can be disposed of into the trash:

- Alkaline
- Carbon Zinc

Where to Recycle?

Batteries less than 11 lbs. can be brought year-round to the Chippewa County Land & Resource Management office [320-269-6231] or watch for collections throughout the year. A fact sheet can be found on the MPCA web site at: www.pca.state.mn.us/hhw under HHW Publications.



Large Sealed Lead Acid batteries (like auto batteries) over 11 lbs. can be recycled at any business that sells them.



Sponsored by Chippewa County Local Water Plan... Locally driven programs to protect your soil & water resources!



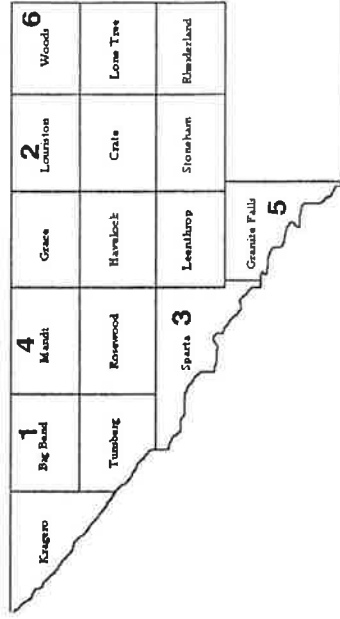
If you are burning garbage, you are making **POISON**.
How can that be?
It's always been this way.
TRASH HAS CHANGED!

The content of trash has changed dramatically over the years. Even a plain white piece of paper isn't so benign. Paper is treated with chemicals and bleaching agents and the smoke from burning it can be harmful to human health and the environment. Smoke includes heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and chromium that are in today's inks. Just as with lead paint, lead in smoke and ash are a major health risk for kids. Our ancestor's trash didn't include PVCs, plastics, vinyl's, heavy metals, chlorine and other chemicals.

Take action today to protect the health of your family and the environment. Put away that burn barrel and contact your local garbage hauler or Chippewa County Land & Resource Management at 320-269-6231 or visit www.pca.state.mn.us/burnbarrel for information about proper disposal options.

Chippewa County Local Water Plan...Locally driven program to protect your soil & water resources!

Chippewa County Rain Gauge Report



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1 Kristie Erickson				2.03		1.28	7.58	9.34	3.62	2.98			26.83
2 Dan Benson						2.65	7.18	8.38		2.2	2.03		22.44
3 Richard Huber			1.62	2.53		2.23	6.8	6.8	4.09	2.55	1.69	0.82	29.13
4 Wayne Golden				2.41		2.26	6.01	10.24		1.97	1.35		24.24
5 Jim Crowley					1.24	2.35	7.25	6.07	3.92	3.8			24.63
6 Marvin Timmons				1.5		3.7	7.65	6.96	4.62	1.75			26.18

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2016 NRCS Report

By Shantel Lozinski

USDA-NRCS

The last year has been a busy one with growing interest in Farm Bill programs, program signups, and conservation plan writing. 2016 allowed many outreach opportunities including 5th grade field days and the 2016 Women's field day was also a huge success with over 28 women landowners attending and learning about Meadow Star Dairy, an 8,500 head facility located just NE of the Chippewa County line. Both Tom Walsh and Gordy Molenaar of Molenear Farms were our guest speakers this year.

We had an amazing construction year installing two grade stabilization structures, three water and sediment control basins, two grazing systems, a lined channel, a dam rehab and a grass waterway. Over 200 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plans were written with start dates set for the new fiscal year. 2017 will include more expiring contracts in which hopefully operators will be looking to re-enroll, especially the more sensitive areas such as filter strips and hydric soil areas. With the acres being allowed to be enrolled into the CRP program controlled by the current Farm Bill, there may be some shortages we could encounter this year. If you are thinking about CRP for your land or land that you operate

maybe to meet the requirements of the new buffer law please do not put it off. During 2016, payments of over \$1,276,000.00 were made to Chippewa County land owners/operators for NRCS programs.

We are continuing to use the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to solve resource concerns in Chippewa County. If you are interested in planting a shelterbelt, planting a cover crop, improving your grazing management, installing an erosion control structure, close an old earthen manure pit, or seal an abandoned well EQIP is the program for you. Contact NRCS at 320-269-2139 Ext 3. We can do a site visit and get working on a plan in preparation for next year's funding



Dam Rehab



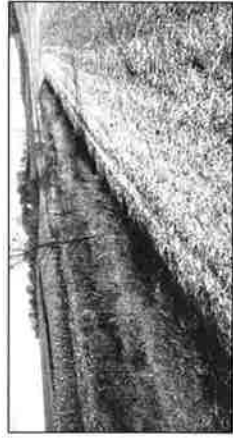
Grazing System

Grassed Waterway

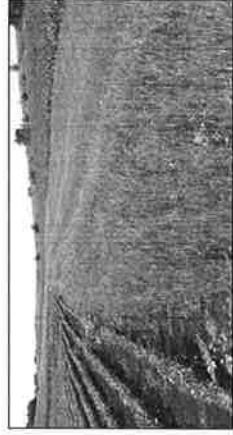
Grassed Waterway – 1,200 lineal feet which was in need of repair and updating to function properly and suit the needs of the landowner. 143 acre drainage area, reconstructed and reseeded back to grass cover. Repair and replacement of subsurface drain to allow channel to stay dry and keep from saturation.

Funding for this project was from the EQIP program through NRCS and State Cost share from the SWCD.

Soil saved = 11.4 tons per year.



Grass waterway, before.



Grass waterway, after.

Water and Sediment Control Basin

Farmable structure that catches overland flow and utilizes subsurface drain to convey the water downstream to a suitable outlet.

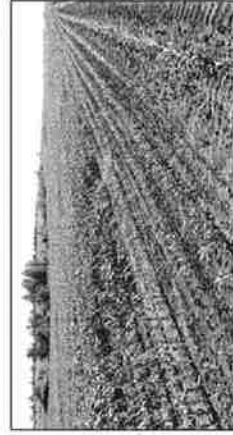
21 acre drainage area.

830 lineal feet structure which included 209 feet of underground outlet. Funding for this project was from the EQIP program through NRCS and special disaster recovery funds administered through the SWCD.

Soil saved = 32.2 tons per year.



Water and sediment control basin, before.



Water and sediment control basin, after.

Installing and/or Modifying Drainage Systems

By Shantel Lozinski

USDA-NRCS

August 2011 marked a change in how Minnesota NRCS services AD 1026 drainage requests, this change was done to follow national policy. In the past when you filled out a AD1026 form for drainage we would refer to the existing official determination we had on file and make a recommendation. Now we will complete a certified wetland determination depending on the date on your existing 026 and map on file. If you have had a certified wetland determination completed on a tract of land and now you have changed your tile layout, a new 1026 should be completed with the new layout. Take your time when filling out the AD 1026 as the form was updated in October and changes were made.

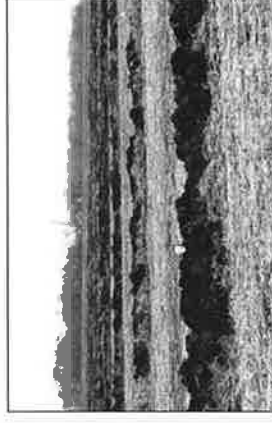
Producers who choose to make drainage improvements without a certified wetland determination need to be aware that any drainage activities done in an area without previous cropping history; or in areas that are consistently wet, pose a high risk of resulting in converting a protected wetland area. Converting protected wetland areas could result in the loss of USDA program benefits on all the land the producer operates. Landowners are also reminded that the State of Minnesota has wetland protection provisions for all land uses including ag-lands. These provisions are administered through the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). The provisions are completely separate, though on ag-lands, similar to the USDA wetland protection requirements. To minimize your risk of converting a protected wetland area, plan to contact your local USDA Service Center and update your AD 1026 prior to conducting any land clearing and drainage projects. A few tips when making a request:

- 1026's are serviced on a tract basis unless the owner/operator specifically selects the fields. If you are looking to tile one field and the field is included in a tract of 400 ac, it would speed up the process to just request the determination on the one field.

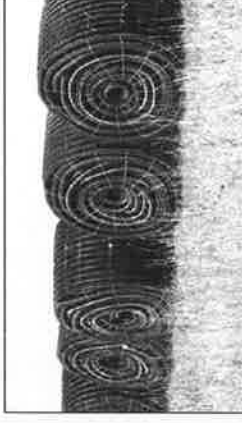
- If you are fixing an intake, cleaning a ditch or replacing a segment of tile at the same size and depth, be

sure to check just 7C and complete a drainage system worksheet describing the current extent of the ditch. This will allow you to get your 1026 back much faster than if you had requested a certified wetland determination.

- Be sure that the tract of land you are requesting the 1026 for shows up on your FSA producer data report. If you have recently purchased land and have not reported it to FSA it can slow the process. The tract of land needs to be on the producer data report before you can request a 1026 form this is done to ensure you have the authority to make the request.



- If you are looking to purchase land at auction be sure you know what you are buying. Request the wetland information from the auction company or realtor before the sale. This is considered private and sensitive information, without an information release we can't give out the information. Plan ahead.



- If you are requesting new tile in a field you know has a mapped wetland take the time to complete a drainage system worksheet at the same time as you complete the 1026 request. This form helps us to understand the existing tile on site. It will also save us the time to mail it out to you and wait for it to come back.

- If you are planning to remove any old building sites and groves please be reminded you should be completing an AD 1026 for the site. Without completing this form and allowing a determination to be done you run the risk of a violation due to tree removal and/or land leveling. When you add this previously non-cropped land to your cropland acres FSA will flag it as a possible violation.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

WCA Report

BY Tom Warner – DISTRICT MANAGER

In 1992, the Minnesota Legislature passed one of the most comprehensive laws regulating activities in wetlands in the nation – the Wetland Conservation Act. While the Act has gone through several revisions since then, its goal of no-net loss in the quantity and quality of wetlands remains the same. This Act prohibits draining, filling, or excavating in a wetland except under limited circumstances.

Wetlands provide many benefits to the natural environment. They filter pollutants from runoff, improving water quality. They provide wildlife habitat for many species. Wetlands also reduce the effects of flooding and protect shorelines from erosion. It is because wetlands do so much that actions that could impact them are so regulated.

Determining the “jurisdictional” wetland boundary can be very difficult, and most cities and the county require a permit before draining, filling, or excavating in a wetland. For this reason, landowners are strongly encouraged to contact the local administrator before starting work.

What are federal requirements (i.e. Swampbuster)?

Since 1985, the Wetland Conservation provision of the federal farm bills (Swampbuster) requires all agricultural producers to protect the wetlands on the farms they own or operate in order to be eligible for USDA farm program benefits. Producers will not be eligible if they plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland that was

Conservation Reserve Program in Chippewa Co.

By Liz Ludwig

CHIPPEWA COUNTY FSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) allows participants to enroll acreage in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat.

CRP participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

October 2016 ended with 1,001 active CRP contracts in Chippewa County, covering 10,526 acres. While the total acres of CRP is down, the number of contracts serviced in our county is up from last year. This is a result of CRP being installed in smaller acreages on more environmentally sensitive land... such as shelterbelts, windbreaks, wetland restorations, and buffers or filter strips. Also, keep in mind that nearly 2,500 acres of land which was enrolled in CREP, came out of the CRP program in 2016 but will remain as grassland due to various easements. The following is a breakdown of the CRP acres in our county.

CRP Practice Type	Acres in Chip. County
Wetland Restoration with Buffers	4375.23
Grass Filter Strips with Riparian Buffers	2768.97
Rare and Declining Habitat	2242.90
Grass Habitat	481.32
Field Windbreak/Shelterbelt	360.58
Living Snowfence/General Trees	34.44
Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat	263.46

If you have land that you feel may be best suited for conservation purposes, please contact our office to discover the eligibility requirements or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

converted by drainage, leveling, or any means after December 23, 1985, or convert a wetland for the purpose of or to make agricultural commodity possible after November 28, 1990.

What is the state law (i.e. Wetland Conservation Act)?

The Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) is a state law. Realizing the important benefits of wetlands, the Minnesota Legislature in 1991 enacted the Wetland Conservation Act which aims for a no-net-loss of wetlands. Recognizing that local officials may have a better idea of local needs, the WCA gives administration authority of the Act to local governments. Chippewa County delegated the responsibility of the Act to the Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) oversees the law at the state level. WCA regulates activities that result in the draining, filling, or excavating of wetlands in Minnesota, including those on agricultural land. The law regulates all draining and filling of wetlands and if wetland loss is unavoidable, requires replacement.

What should agricultural landowners do before starting a project, including drainage, and maintenance that may impact a wetland?

1. Complete your “AD1026” form from your local USDA office.

2. Bring a copy to the SWCD office and explain what you plan to do.

The SWCD can advise you if your project is allowed under the state law, WCA, or if you need to submit an application to the local government, DNR, or the US Army Corps of Engineers. Involving your local SWCD is the easiest and best way to avoid problems.

Request a field visit by the SWCD. This can help identify regulated wetlands on your property, and regulation that could affect your project. Many wetlands do not contain standing water or are only saturated for part of the year, and can be difficult for landowners to identify.

Tell your contractor to submit a “Contractor Liability

WETLANDS ARE PROTECTED BY THE WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT (WCA)

The Wetland Conservation Act promotes a no-net-loss of wetlands and protects the benefits wetlands provide. The Act moves toward its no-net-loss goal by requiring persons proposing to drain or fill a wetland to:

- First, try to avoid disturbing the wetland.
- Second, try to minimize any impact on the wetland.
- And finally, to replace any lost wetland functions & values.

Any questions in Chippewa County contact Tom Warner

**Chippewa Soil & Water Office
320-269-2139, Ext. 3**

form.” Contractors who conduct projects that will impact a wetland are required to notify the Chippewa SWCD.

Communication is the key! Compliance with USDA does not mean compliance with other wetland laws such as the state WCA law, DNR, or the US Army Corps of Engineers. A quick call or stop at the Chippewa SWCD office prior to beginning your project will help you comply with the laws and save a project from potential additional costs and delays.

Planning ahead is important. Come into the SWCD office as soon as possible on a project to find out if there is any possible wetland impact. If there is any potential wetland impact, the SWCD will inform you which agency or agencies will need to be contacted for a permit or authorization to do the work. Plan ahead! Don't come in Monday and expect an answer on Tuesday. If wetlands are in the vicinity of your project, depending on the project and the agency that has jurisdiction over the wetland, it could take up to a month to get authorization or a permit for your project.

Chippewa SWCD has Cost-Share Dollars Available for Conservation Practices that Reduce or Prevent Erosion

The Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District has cost share dollars available to landowners for installing or fixing conservation practices on private land in Chippewa County. The district will be able to offset 75 percent of the cost of qualifying conservation practices. Some examples of the types of projects that would qualify include, but are not limited to; water and sediment control basins, grade stabilizations, grassed waterways, terraces, critical area plantings, side inlets, cover crops, buffer/filter strip installation, field windbreaks, unused well sealing, and stream bank erosion restoration and protection.

Funding, up to 75 percent of the eligible costs associated with the practice, will be at a first come first served basis. Landowners with erosion problems on their property, big or small, are encouraged to stop in the office to discuss possible fixes and funding opportunities. The best projects are the ones

that landowners typically deal with on their own every year. These small erosion prone areas that typically fall in a crop land setting, are often fixed by the landowner with a few passes of deep tillage equipment or with a little scraping of the tractor/skid loader bucket, but doing this year in and year out is not efficient or cost effective in two ways. First, valuable top soil is being lost, whether it is used to grow crops or not, it is still valuable. Second, yearly inputs in the form of time and fuel are being spent on fixing chronic

erosion prone areas. These spots are the areas where an engineered conservation practice will take care of the yearly inputs and eye sores while also keep valuable top soil where it belongs. Landowners are encouraged to stop in our office to go over any erosion issues. We can discuss options, cost-share assistance, concerns, or how to make a conservation practice flow with your farming operation. Give us a call at 320-269-2139 ext.3 or stop by the office located in the Chippewa County Courthouse.

Chippewa SWCD sells seed and offers seed drill service

Chippewa SWCD sells native and cool season grass mixes for landowners who need to meet program requirements for programs such as CRP, CREP, and RIM, or for property owners who want to enhance their existing habitat on their own. The district also installs grass plantings with a newly acquired grass drill. The seed drill is capable of installing many different varieties of food plot mixes for wildlife as well. Chippewa SWCD was able to acquire donations from the local Chippewa County Pheasants Forever Chapter and the National Wild Turkey Federation Upper Minnesota River Valley Chapter to help purchase the seed drill. A big thank you to those chapters for helping fund a service that will provide more habitat and erosion control in Chippewa County.

The seed drill service includes 1 operator, tractor and drill. The price for seeding is charged by the amount of acres planted plus a mobilization fee:

- \$100 flat mobilization fee within Chippewa County (add \$1.00 per mile for out of County projects)
- \$25/acre planting fee (\$100 minimum planting fee for 4 acres and less)

Seeding Dates:

Warm season grasses require soil temperatures of at least 50 degrees before they will germinate. This is 8 to 10 degrees warmer than the requirement for cool season grasses. Therefore, the optimal seeding time for planting warm season grasses, either alone or in combination with cool season grasses, usually occurs between mid-spring and early

summer when moisture and temperature are most favorable. May 15th to June 30th is the typical window for planting warm season grasses in this area.

Note: Late April through June is a busy time for the district. The tree program is usually in full swing at the same time CRP and other grass plantings need to be planted. Contacting the district early on to get on the list for planting is crucial. Unfortunately there will be a limit to how many acres that can be planted each spring by the district.

Seedbed Condition:

Note: It is the landowners' responsibility to prepare a decent seedbed before planting.

A firm seedbed is very important when seeding native grasses. The districts Truax seed drill needs a firm seedbed in order to

turn the double disc openers properly, which is crucial for seed planting depth. A firm seedbed also helps conserve moisture and ensure good seed to soil contact which is critical for adequate germination and an overall successful planting. **IMPORTANT:** Recently filled ground should be packed with a coil or roller packer, or something equivalent prior to planting. The seedbed is considered firm enough when an adult's footprint penetrates no more than 1/8 to 1/4 inch deep. For example: unfilled bean stubble works great for seeding with the Truax drill.

To order seed or get on the seeding list, please contact Zach or Tom at:

Zach:
320-269-2139 ext.105
Tom:
320-269-2139 ext.115

Chippewa SWCD Services



• Mulching and Crimping



• Rototilling



• Seeding

• Tractor Mowing

Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District provides many services to landowners. The district can do more than just plant trees with a tree planter and install fabric with a fabric machine. The district can also assist landowners with many different site prep and conservation program installation needs. Chippewa SWCD has a tractor with many attachments that can be used for many different applications. Those attachments include a six-foot wide roto-tiller and seven-foot wide disc harrow for preparing planting sites for tree plantings, grass plantings, and food plots. The district owns a seven-foot wide, heavy duty rotary mower which can be used for mowing burn breaks, controlling noxious weeds, CRP mid-contract management, etc. The district also has a mulcher and crimper that can be used in conjunction with highly erodible planting sites. Seeding services are also available with a Truax native grass drill and seed slinger. The district is capable of hauling this equipment anywhere in the county and surrounding areas. Contact the Chippewa SWCD at 320-269-2139 ext.3 for more information on prices or to discuss your site prep and planting needs.



Wildlife Tree Planting Growth Progression



2011



2013

Stop in the SWCD office to discuss your habitat improvement project

or give us a call at 320-269-2139, ext. 3.

Better habitat projects don't just happen, make them happen!



2014



2015



2016 Tree Plantings

The 2016 tree planting season was a busy one for Chippewa SWCD. It was similar to many previous successful seasons for the district. There were roughly 7,500 trees planted on 16.1 acres of new field shelterbelt/wildlife plantings. 13,000 feet of field windbreaks or another 13.7 acres was added on to farmstead/wildlife plantings. There were 28 individual plantings in all.

There was also 53,000 feet of weed barrier fabric installed to control weeds, conserve moisture, and accelerate tree growth. The fabric is a 6-foot wide geotextile material that allows moisture to pass through it but does not allow weed growth to occur. Light disking or planting cool season grasses and mowing periodically between the trees is still recommended to control weeds between the tree rows.

Cost share was available to landowners for all of the qualifying practices above. Cost share was used to offset the cost of the trees and fabric.

Landowners who are thinking about planting trees this spring should stop in ASAP to develop a tree plan and order the trees while supplies are available.

Have you ordered your trees?

Our mission is to provide low cost quality trees to landowners for conservation practices. We sell northern grown stock assuring that the trees will survive and prosper in our Minnesota climate.

What steps do you take if you are planning a conservation tree planting?



- 1) Decide where and what you are doing: a farmstead shelterbelt, windbreak renovation, field windbreak or wildlife planting.
- 2) Call the SWCD office for an appointment to set up a free site visit.
- 3) A plan will be drawn up, trees recommended, soil map checked to determine what type of trees will grow there and the amount of room needed.
- 4) Site preparation should be done in the fall or early spring.
- 5) Trees are ordered in the fall for spring delivery. The earlier the order, the better chance of receiving the tree varieties you want/need.

6) Trees are planted in the spring. We have a tree planter and planting charges are included in the cost of the trees. (Landowner provides tractor and driver.) We hand plant one-gallon pots for \$1.00 per potted evergreen and \$2.00 per two gallon potted evergreen.

7) Tree maintenance includes keeping them weed free and watered as needed. Several ways of keeping them weed free is using rolls of fabric matting, tree mat squares, as well as chemical and mechanical control.

For information call Tom Warner or Zach Bothun, SWCD Technicians, at 320-269-2139 ext. 3.

Trees Available

CONIFERS (Potted)

B.H. Spruce	12"-15"	8.00
	15"-18"	9.00
	18"-24"	11.00
Colorado Spruce	15"-18"	9.00
	18"-24"	11.00
Austrian Pine	18"-24"	11.00
Ponderosa Pine	15"-18"	9.00
Scotch Pine	15"-18"	9.00
Eastern Red Cedar	15"-18"	9.00

CONIFERS (Bare Root)

Includes planting charge		
B.H. Spruce	8"-12"	2.00
Colorado Spruce	9"-12"	2.00
Austrian Pine	8"-14"	2.00
Ponderosa Pine	8"-14"	2.00
Scotch Pine	8"-14"	2.00
Eastern Red Cedar	9"-12"	2.00
N. White Cedar	12"-18"	2.00

DECIDUOUS TREES & SHRUBS

Includes planting charge			
American Plum	2.00	Norway Poplar	2.00
Amur Honeysuckle	2.00	Red Splendor Crab	2.00
Amur Maple	2.00	Redosier Dogwood	2.00
Black Walnut	2.00	Silver Maple	2.00
Buffaloberry	2.00	Cottonwood	2.00
Flame Willow	2.00	Cranberrybush	2.00
Caragana	2.00	Linden	2.00
Chokecherry	2.00	Nannyberry	2.00
Common Lilac	2.00	Bur Oak	2.00
Cotoneaster	2.00	Red Oak	2.00
Green Ash	2.00	White Oak	2.00
Hackberry	2.00		

TREE TUBES
\$4.00

4X4 WEED BARRIER
TREE MATS
\$3.00
FABRIC (installed)
.50/ft.



Minnesota CREP Update

By Tom Sletta
FARMBILL TECHNICIAN

Governor Mark Dayton recently signed a \$500 million Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture. Over two years in the making, this agreement is now in place because of strong Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Watershed District (WD), landowners, and conservation groups' support. BWSR, along with state agency partners — Department of Agriculture, Department of Health Department, Department of Natural Resources and the MN Pollution Control Agency worked to ensure that the proposal would use existing data and be targeted to the most environmentally sensitive lands.

This federal, state, and local partnership will work with farmers and other landowners across 54 counties in southern and western Minnesota who choose to voluntarily implement perpetual conservation easements on up to 60,000 acres of land to restore and protect water quality and enhance habitat. The MN CREP targets four conservation practices (CPs):

- CP2 Wellhead Protection
- CP21 Filter Strips
- CP23 100 year Floodplain Wetlands
- CP23a non-100 year Floodplain Wetlands

The \$500 million investment of the MN CREP consists of approximately \$350 million from USDA and \$150 million of state funding needed from sources including: Clean Water Fund, Outdoor Heritage Fund, Capital Investment (bonding) and Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

MN CREP continuous sign-up is anticipated to start this spring. Continuous sign-up and "batching periods" will be used throughout the duration of the MN CREP until the total 60,000 acre goal is met.

The initial roll-out of the MN CREP will prioritize the CP21-Filter Strip practice in order to provide another option to implement practices associated with the Buffer Law (MS 103F.48). The MN CREP program combines a CRP contract with a RIM perpetual easement.

About the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is an offshoot of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the country's largest private-land conservation program. Administered by the USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA), and the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), CREP targets high-priority conservation issues identified by local, state, or tribal governments or non-governmental organization. The proposed federal, state, and local partnership would voluntarily retire environmentally sensitive land using the nationally-recognized Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program. This is accomplished by establishing conservation practices via payments to farmers, ranchers, and agricultural land owners.

If you have any questions about CREP or RIM, or to discuss potential eligibility of your land, please contact Tom Sletta by stopping in the office or calling 320-269-2139 ext. 101.

Walk-In-Access Program

By Zach Bothun
DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

There is another opportunity to enroll your high quality wildlife habitat and conservation land into the Walk-In Access (WIA) program. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was successful last year in receiving a Voluntary Public Access — Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) Grant from USDA NRCS, which was funded from the 2014 Farm Bill to support the Walk-In Access program. This allowed continued funding of



the program through 2018 and will provide hunters with public access to privately owned land by compensating landowners for allowing that access and maintaining their high quality wildlife habitat. Currently there are about 21,000 acres enrolled in the WIA program and funding will provide enough compensation to maintain those acres with additional acres for the next 2 years. Individuals can hunt during any open hunting season (including spring turkey) with no landowner contacts necessary. All WIA areas are posted with WIA signs, published in an annual book, and posted on the DNR website as download maps and GPS points. Stop by the Chippewa

SWCD office to pick up a copy of the latest WIA map book.

Enrollment Criteria:

WIA enrollment is targeted towards privately owned lands that consist of high quality wildlife habitat or private lands that are already in a conservation program, such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Public access is granted for hunting during any legal season between Sept. 1 and May 31 the following year. Sites consisting of a minimum of 40 acres are what is desired for enrollment, but smaller sites could be eligible for enrollment on a case by case basis and if they are contiguous with a WMA/WPA or another WIA resulting in at least 40 contiguous acres open to public hunting.

Payment rates for signing up with the WIA program are:

- \$10/ac. base payment
- \$1/ac. incentive payment if acres enrolled is > 140ac.
- \$1/ac. incentive payment if less than 1/2 mile from public hunting land (WMA/WPA)
- \$1/ac. incentive if enrolled for multiple years

If you are interested in enrolling your property into the WIA program, or if you would like more information, please contact the Chippewa SWCD at 320-269-2139 ext. 3, or visit www.mndnr.gov/walkin

Erosion Control Structures

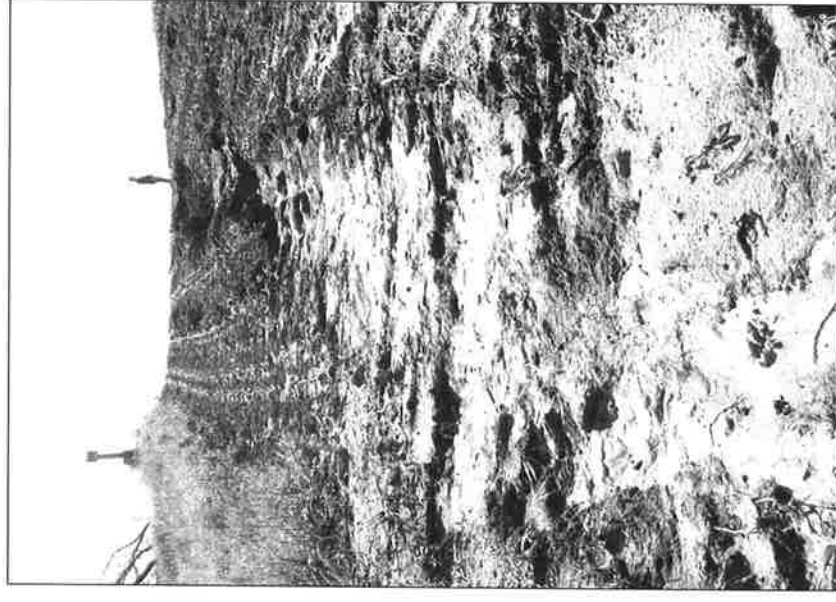
By Mike Timmerman
NRCS

Farmers and landowners, spring is an excellent time to check your land for erosion. If you are finding that your land is washing away more than it should be, we have solutions that are time tested and proven to help. We are finding that the last three years of heavy rain events have had a major impact on the area. Erosion is common place on sites that weren't a problem a few years ago, along with the wind erosion and river bank erosion that is on the rise. A common practice used for small localized drainage areas are water and sediment control basins which are a constructed embankment across a slope positioned to intercept the flow before velocity and cutting start happening.

Tile intakes and subsurface drainage convey the flow to a more stable downstream location. Some other practices that are used for large drainage areas would be grassed waterways and Grade Stabilization Structures.

Grass waterways are constructed channels seeded down to good grass cover to allow storm runoff to flow safely on grass to a stable downstream location. Grade Stabilization Structures are similar to water and sediment control basins and can be designed to handle large watersheds. Contour terraces can also be constructed along a slope on the contour to break up flow and direct it to a stable location, common on steep Highly Erodible Land (HEL) ground. These have become less popular due to changing farming practices with size of equipment and the ease of herbicide-ready seed.

There are now many old terrace systems and waterways that have lived passed the expected practice life span. Many are now failing or damaged from the rain of the last three years. If you have existing terraces



and waterways or erosion problems on your land that need repair, feel free give our office a call and we would be more than happy to give you assistance. We have cost-share and practice payment programs to help cover the cost of fixing these structures through EQIP — (Farm Bill), State Cost share — (District) along with localized funding through The Hawk Creek Watershed project, and Chippewa River Watershed Project.

Please contact NRCS at 320-269-2139, Ext.3.

2014 Disaster Recovery Assistance Program (DRAP) for the Flood of 2014

Chippewa County was included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration, DR-4182 for damages to land that occurred during the disaster period of June 11, 2014, through July 11, 2014. Chippewa County was awarded \$201,355 for Phase 2 of the Flood Recovery to fix existing conservation practices that were damaged during the storm event or to install new conservation practices. Eight sites were approved for funding through Phase 2.

Applications for Phase 3 of the Disaster Recovery Assistance Program were taken through Feb. 26, 2016. Chippewa County was awarded \$18,700 for Phase 3 of the DRAP to fix existing conservation practices that were damaged by the disaster.

All of the erosion sites for Phase 2 and Phase 3 have been surveyed. The majority of the sites have been designed. To date one site has been constructed using DRAP Phase 2 funds along with utilizing Federal EQIP funds. This project has an estimated 32.18 tons/year soil savings along with 27.35 lbs/yr of Phosphorus from coming off the field. Three other erosion sites are ready to go for construction this summer. The remaining projects are being designed and will be constructed yet this year or in 2018. Disaster funds are being used on streambank erosion sites, water and sediment control basins, and a lined waterway. These practices utilizing DRAP funds will stabilize erosive areas and will help prevent sediment from entering watercourses.



Another productive year for the Hawk Creek Watershed Project (HCWP) has come and gone. In 2016, HCWP received two new grants: one for continued water quality monitoring and one for implementing best management practices (BMPs). HCWP was also the project sponsor for a new round of low-interest Sub-surface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) loans now available to residents within the watershed, which includes portions of Chippewa, Kandiyohi, and Renville Counties, to update their septic systems. If you are interested in upgrading your septic system, please contact either HCWP or your county environmental office.

In a collaborative effort between local SWCD offices, county water planners, and HCWP, the second year of a cover crop cost-share assistance program was made available to producers. The program required at least two species be in the seed mix and then left over winter. Through this program, over 700 acres of cover crops were planted in the watershed, with 25 of those acres in Chippewa County. On June 29, 2016, HCWP was one of the hosts of a meeting to discuss the benefits of cover crops. The meeting included local farmers implementing cover crops, local seed vendors and applicators, and a panel of experts that answered audience questions on the challenges of cover crops. To

demonstrate the topics discussed at the benefits of cover crops meeting, HCWP was one of the hosts of a field day on Sept. 23, 2016, in western Renville County showing test plots of different cover crop seed mixtures planned into soybeans. The field day also included soil pit demonstrations and a rainfall simulator showing the effects of different cover and tillage practices on water runoff and soil infiltration.

The water quality monitoring season started with an early snow and ice melt, with the first open water sample taken on Feb. 29, 2016. This was the earliest sample taken since 2000. The rest of the season was uneventful, as far as high flows are concerned, until August, when portions of the northern part of the Hawk Creek Watershed received over 11 inches of rain in 36 hours. This resulted in some major flooding throughout the watershed. Within 72 hours of those 11 plus inches of rain, Hawk Creek went up over nine feet and its flow increased by 3,600 cubic feet per second, resulting in the biggest event of 2016.

Since its inception in 1999, HCWP has provided financial assistance to landowners for BMPs and SSTS loans that have improved water quality and reduced erosion. HCWP, along with its tri-county watershed partners, continues to promote soil and water stew-

ardship and offer cost-share funds for installation of BMPs aimed at improving water quality. HCWP works with area landowners, federal, state, county, and local staff, SWCD/NRCS/FSA offices, and County Drainage Authorities to install a variety of projects. HCWP cost-share funds went to several projects in 2016, including a bank/gully stabilization, a grade stabilization, a side inlet, a water and sediment control basin, and over 357 acres of cover crops. These projects eliminated an estimated 496 pounds of phosphorus per year from ending up in our waters. Due to extremely wet conditions in August, September, and October, many of the HCWP projects scheduled for completion in 2016 have been postponed until 2017. In addition to the projects listed above, HCWP also provides cost-share funds for many types of BMPs that improve water quality and reduce erosion, such as:

- wetland restorations
- shoreline restorations
- rain gardens
- alternative intakes
- grassed waterways
- terraces
- ag waste/livestock exclusions
- other qualifying projects — just ask!

HCWP was also active with many educational and outreach activities this year, including county fairs, Girl Scouts day camp activities, local elementary school pre-

sentations, the Chippewa County Conservation Day, the Citizen Monitoring Network, and the Hawk Creek Headlines newsletter. HCWP holds regular public meetings in Clara City and an annual meeting, where multiple speakers with different backgrounds present relevant topics to the watershed. At the annual meeting on Feb. 24, 2016, HCWP had presentations by Don Reicosky (University of MN) on tillage and carbon management, Holly Hatlewick (Renville County NRCS) on soil health and cover crops, and Gary Reuter (University of MN) on honey bees and pollination.

Along with BMP implementation, water quality monitoring, and educational and outreach activities, HCWP worked on finishing the Hawk Creek Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) process and continues to work on aquatic invasive species (AIS) education and prevention. For more information on the WRAPS process and AIS, please visit the HCWP website www.hawkcreekwatershed.org.

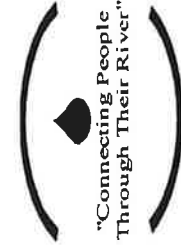
If you would like additional information about BMP projects, if you would like to install any of the above listed practices, if you would like to get involved, or if you would like to receive meeting notices and agendas of upcoming HCWP events, please contact the HCWP office at (320) 523-3666 or visit the website.

Hawk Creek Watershed Project

Heidi Rauenhorst
PROJECT COORDINATOR

Dean Dambrotcn
PLANNER/FIELD TECHNICIAN

Jordan Austin
WATER QUALITY OUTREACH TECHNICIAN



2016 Chippewa River Watershed Project Highlights

Kylene Olson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Chippewa River Watershed Project (CRWP) is a multi-county joint powers entity established as a cooperative partnership set on improving water quality and watershed health in the Chippewa River and its tributaries. The CRWP has no regulatory or permitting authority and collects no tax revenue. The intent of the CRWP is to work cooperatively with local, state, federal and non-profit agencies, landowners and citizens within the Chippewa River Watershed to increase services and utilize funding and technical resources to greater extent so that water quality goals can be achieved while still promoting healthy and robust agricultural, industrial and recreational economies. The CRWP seeks funding to be used for water quality monitoring, best management practices, and citizen engagement across the watershed.

Throughout 2016 the CRWP to accomplish the deliverables of the grant programs that provide funding to the organization. Time and focus is spent on water quality monitoring, including sites that are part of the state wide Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network and sites of specific importance to the Chippewa River Watershed. The Chippewa River major basin monitoring site is

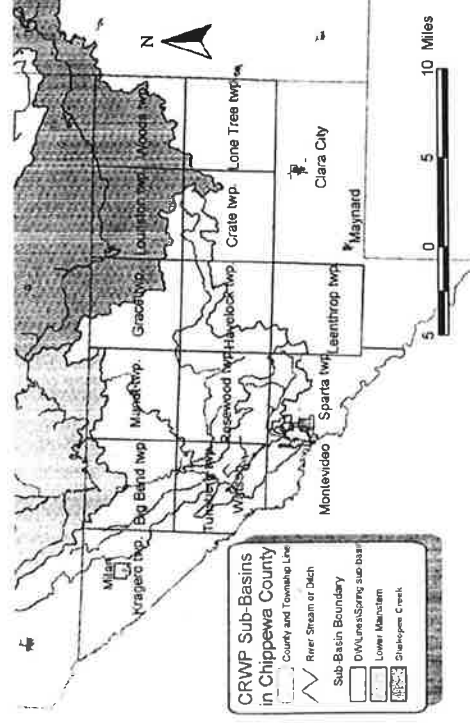
Jennifer Hoffman
WATERSHED SPECIALIST

located in Chippewa County east of Milan on Highway 40. This site was established by the US Geological Survey in 1937 to record flow values and water chemistry samples have been collected consistently by the CRWP since 1998. Additional sites in Chippewa County include Dryweather Creek, which is the outlet of County Ditch 22 drainage, two line sites that are collecting from a system that includes open intakes and a system with no intakes, plus several sites that are part of the CRWP Water Quality Transect Survey.

Transects utilize secchi tube measurements that measure transparency and correlate to Total Suspended Solids levels in the water along with field measurements documenting pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen levels.

The utilization of the extensive water quality data helps to direct grant applications and best management practices to specific and targeted focal areas throughout the watershed. Landowners of Chippewa County within the boundaries of the Chippewa River Watershed or its tributaries may

be eligible for other cost-share programs related to cover crops, alternative tile intakes, and drop intakes for gully erosion. Contact the CRWP office 320-321-1717 with questions on these programs. Be sure to check out www.chippewariver.org and facebook.com/ChippewaRiverWatershedProject stay up to date on the latest activities and happenings of the Chippewa River Watershed Project.



Chippewa Soil & Water Conservation District

OutReach

2016 Women's Field Day

by: **Shantei Lozinski**, USDA -NRCS

to be milked at the same time. A catered meal was served at the Pennock community center prior to the tour where a guest speaker Gordy Molenaar, of Molenaar Farms, talked about the local producer's perspective including his personal experience with changing his cropping rotation to include alfalfa to supply other facilities and now looks forward to supplying Meadow Star due to its closer location. He also focused on the savings to the land owner to receive manure from this type of facility over traditional commercial fertilizer. Our annual Women's Field Day is done in conjunction with many partners including the Chippewa SWCD and the Chippewa County Land Resource office.

The 2016 Chippewa County Women's Field Day was held on June 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. Twenty-eight local women land owners and operators attended. This year featured a tour of the newly constructed Meadow Star Dairy near Pennock, MN. Meadow Star is owned and operated by Riverview LLP of Morris, MN, and houses 8,500 cows of which 7,000 are milked twice a day and the remaining 1,500 animals are dry cows. The state of the art milking facility allows 106 cows



5th Grade Field Day



2016 Poster Winners "We All Need Trees"

Air • Water • Shelter • Food • Clothing • Soil



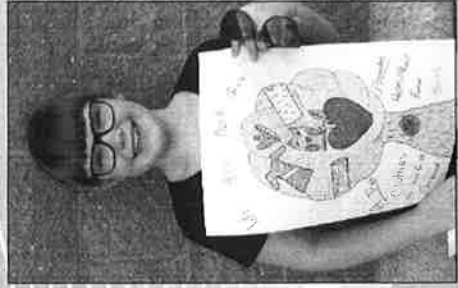
Alix Bristle



Alan Amir Esparza



Katie Gerdes



Malinda Petersen



The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Chippewa County Local Water Resources Protection and Management Program Annual Report

Chippewa County Local Water Management Plan ... locally driven to work for you!

By JoAnn Blomme
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN

In 2016 we chose our primary focus to be on water quality and education. Water quality can be affected in many different ways. We often only think of the agricultural or urban outside effects on water quality but forget to consider the other pollutants that are used by everyone, by every household, in the watershed such as pharmaceutical waste, individual septic systems or wastewater treatment plants, batteries and burn barrels.

First I would like to address **Pharmaceutical Waste**. A growing

concern in our communities is the abuse, by youth and others, of medications not prescribed to them. Safe disposal makes medicines less available. Proper disposal of medication helps protect our environment also. Research by the MPCA confirms that a wide variety of unregulated chemicals is ending up in Minnesota's lakes and rivers. The chemicals, including pharmaceuticals and personal care products, are of concern because many have properties that can interfere with the functioning of hormones in animals and people. Wastewater treatment plants and individual septic systems are only able to remove

half of the prescription drugs and other newly emerging contaminants.

So what can you do? "Take It To THE BOX!" It is a FREE safe disposal option to get rid of unneeded and/or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. This includes both human and animal medications along with illegal drugs. For more information, see ad on this page or go to www.Co.Chippewa.MN.US

Next I would like to talk about **Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) and Wastewater Sewage Treatment Systems**. SSTS are designed to treat effluent from households and businesses that are not served within a jurisdiction that is hooked up to municipal wastewater treatment. The goal of both of these systems is to treat the sewage for a specific home, business, or group of properties; there by, providing proper treatment of sewage, recycling water back into the natural environment with reduced health risk to humans and animals and preventing surface and groundwater contamination. Currently we have Low Interest Loans and Grant Opportunities available for SSTS upgrades and for existing municipal residents hooking up to municipal sewers. See ad on page 2.

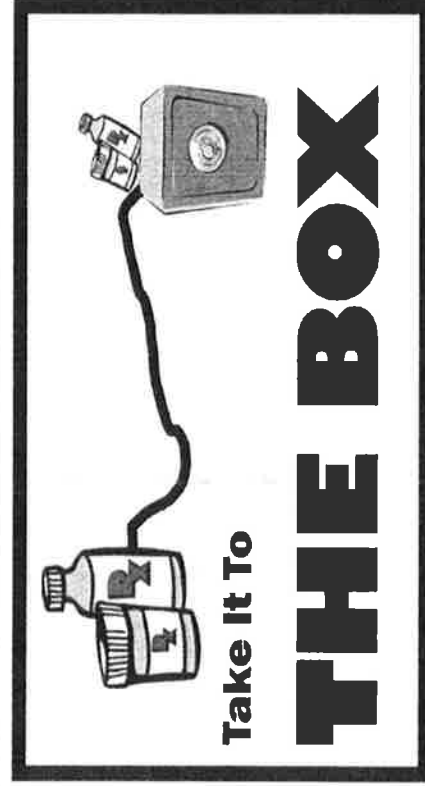
Batteries are another complicated waste that when discarded inappropriately can cause an environ-

mental threat. The key is knowing which ones are bad and must be recycled and which ones can be disposed of into the trash. See ad below for more information.

Last I would like to inform you of the hazards of **Burn Barrels**. The key thing to remember is "**Trash Has Changed!**" We aren't dealing with the same products and waste our parents and their parents did. Our waste includes PVCs, plastics, vinyls, heavy metals, chlorine and many other chemicals. Take action today to protect the health of your family and the environment. For more information see ad on page 3.

A special thank you to the 2016 Water Plan Committee for their guidance and input throughout the year: Joe Keller, Chair; Marc Stevens, Vice-Chair; Jaci Ast, Robert Nielsen, Byron Hayunga, Larry Kittelson, Matt Gilbertson and Jeffrey Lopez. I would also like to thank the other district, state and federal agencies for their input and great teamwork.

We are currently looking to fill two (2) vacancies on the committee. They are three year terms and we meet on average three times a year. For more information feel free to contact a current committee member, your County Commissioner or JoAnn Blomme, Environmental Technician with Chippewa County Land and Resource Management at 320-269-6231 for more information.



Take It To

THE BOX

A **FREE & Safe Disposal Option** for

Unneeded and/or expired Prescriptions & Over-the-Counter Medications for both humans and animals and illegal drugs.

AVAILABLE for **ALL** Chippewa County Residents.

Location: Montevideo Police Department, Lobby at City Hall, located at 103 Canton Ave., Montevideo, MN.

Times: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Rules:

YES Only deposit unneeded and/or expired prescriptions, over-the-counter medication for both humans and animals and illegal drugs.

NO radioactive chemo drugs or IV bags

NO needles or syringes

NO garbage or trash

Thank You for caring.

Proper disposal of medication helps protect our environment. Wastewater treatment cannot remove most medications. Reduce negative impacts to the environment—use the drop box.

Sponsored by:

- Montevideo Police Department
- Chippewa County Sheriff's Department
- Chippewa County Land & Resource Management
- Chippewa County Local Water Plan

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Kandiyohi County Regional HHW Program
1404 22nd Street SW
Willmar, MN 56201
(320) 231-3587



Hours
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday
Closed Saturdays

Chippewa County is a participating county so disposal is *FREE to Homeowners.

** For information about the Clean Shop Program for businesses or Ag Pesticides Disposal program, call (320) 231-3587.*

NOTE: businesses and farmers with ag chemicals must call for an appointment.

Contacts:

Chippewa County Land & Resource Management at 320-269-6231 or Kandiyohi County Regional HHW Facility at 320-231-3587.

Supported by:

Chippewa County Land & Resource Management - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Kandiyohi County Regional HHW Facility

Minnesota Buffer Law Facts:

REQUIREMENTS

- ⇒ **Public Waters:** A 50-foot average width, 30-foot minimum width, continuous buffer of perennially rooted vegetation. **
- ⇒ **Public Drainage Systems:** a 16.5-foot minimum width continuous buffer of perennially rooted vegetation on public “County” drainage ditches.

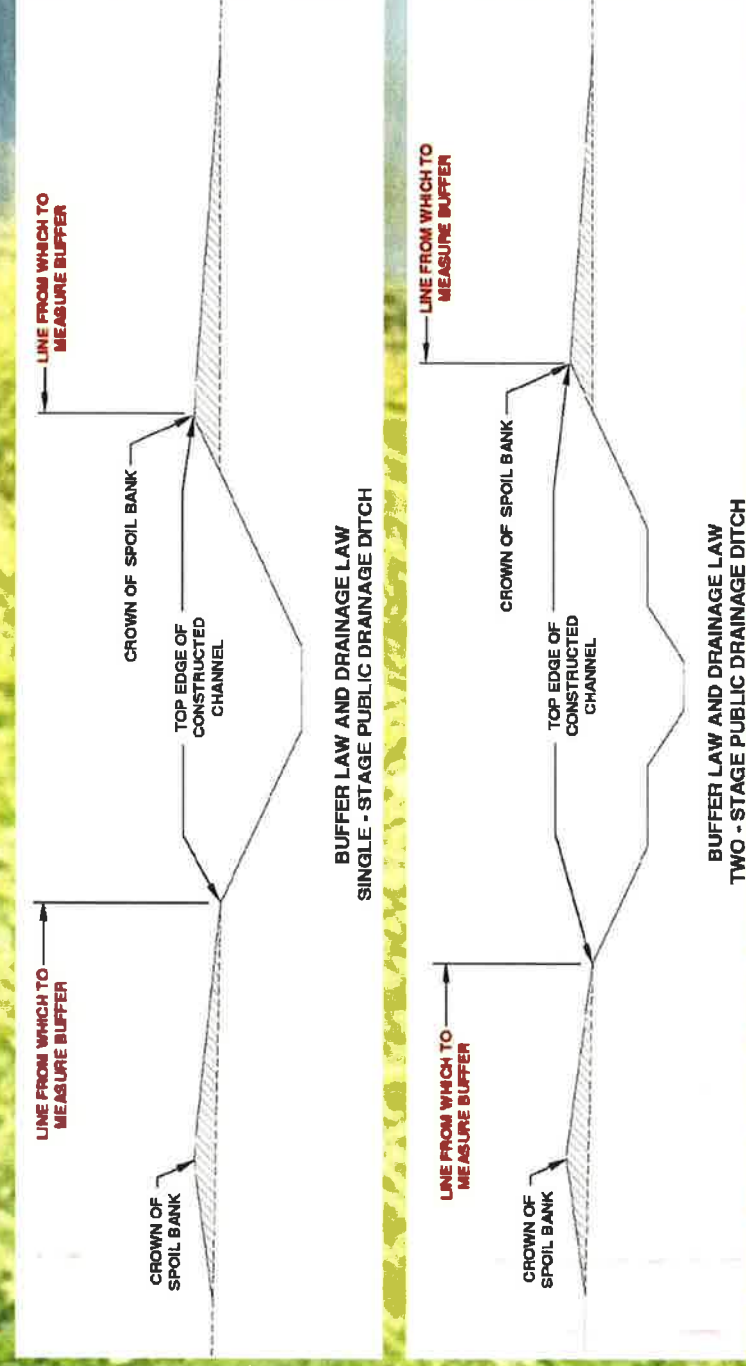
** Buffer measurements are from the top of bank on designated protected water channels and from the normal water level on protected waters lakes and wetlands.

TIMELINE

- ⇒ **November 1, 2017:** Buffers in place on all protected waters
- ⇒ **November 1, 2018:** Buffers in place on all public drainage systems

Cost Share Options

- ⇒ Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - minimum 30 feet required for the program with annual rental payments up to 15 years
- ⇒ Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - Perpetual conservation easement along with a CRP contract for maximum payment. Up front RIM payment and annual CRP rental payments for 15 years



Contact Chippewa Soil & Water Conservation District with any questions relating to buffers by calling 320-269-2139 ext.3 or stopping by the office.