

KANABEC SWCD 2015 ANNUAL WORK PLAN



Kanabec Soil & Water Conservation District is dedicated to working cooperatively with landowners, groups, agencies and other governmental units, in order to promote the wise and sustainable use of our land and water related resources; to educate and inform the public about these uses, provide technical assistance, administer state conservation cost-share programs and serve as a county wide soil and water conservation and natural resources information referral center.

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2015 KANABEC SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL WORK PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the “Annual Work Plan” is to set up a one year plan of action for the Kanabec Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). It addresses specific objectives from the Long Range District Comprehensive Plan and lists the goals it will take to achieve the objectives.

The SWCD is a local unit of Gov't directed by a five member elected board of supervisors. The Supervisors provide the general direction for the SWCD. The SWCD has two staff that carry out the goals and objectives of the annual work plan, in cooperation with other partners and agencies.

District staff and board members communicate on a regular basis with the County Commissioners and State Legislators, to keep them informed of progress, accomplishments, budgets and services available.

As the District endeavors to implement the following proposed actions in 2015, District staff will seek to meet the following civic standards in all of their decision making processes:

- All those impacted by a problem are stakeholders who help to define the problem in light of civic principles and the realities of the situation
- All stakeholders are accountable for contributing some resources (e.g., leadership, time, knowledge, constituencies, dollars) to solve the problem.
- All stakeholders are engaged in decision-making and policy-making that contributes to the common good.
- All stakeholders implement policies grounded in civic principles in the places where they have the authority to act.

The District continues to work closely with its conservation partners and members of the public to develop the civic capacity needed to ensure protection of soil and water resources in Kanabec County by meeting the above civic standards as we work closely with members of the public including our conservation partners.

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- N.E. Area III – SWCD Technical Service Area
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Other cooperating agencies, groups and citizens include:

- Kanabec County Environmental Services
- Snake River Watershed Management Board (SRWMB) and
Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
- Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)
- MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Private Consultants
- St. Croix River Assoc.
- MN Forest Resources Council (MFRC)
- East Central Landscape Committee (ECLC)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- MN Dept. of Agriculture (MDA)
- MN Dept. of Health (MDH)
- Kanabec County Pheasants Forever Chapter

- Ann Lake Watershed Alliance
- Knife Lake Improvement District
- Other Lake and Watershed Associations
- Volunteer Rain Gauge Monitors
- Kanabec County Conservation Club

The SWCD continues to have a high demand for technical conservation services from the public. These services include a wide range of technical assistance that includes both ecological and engineering related services to landowners. Examples of these include:

- Stream bank and shoreline protection / erosion control
- water and sediment control structures
- agricultural feedlot runoff treatment and control
- vegetative filter strips
- wetlands protection
- forest stewardship plan writing
- buckthorn treatment and control
- trees, shrubs and plant book sales
- agricultural - best management practices loan program
- Kanabec County – comprehensive local water management plan support
- surface and groundwater water monitoring
- impaired waters and watershed protection studies and planning

The SWCD will continue to provide a variety of services, as the land use slowly changes from commercial agricultural to more recreational or hobby farming, residential development, urban expansion and recreational uses. This results in providing conservation services to smaller parcel landowners.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), Impaired Waters and Water Quality Restoration and Protection plans and studies and Clean Water Activities:

1) In March of 2006, Kanabec SWCD entered into a two year contract with the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and “Impaired Waters” study for the Groundhouse River Watershed in western Kanabec County. In August 2009, the SWCD was approved (through MPCA) to receive a 319 Implementation grant for the Groundhouse River. Cooperating partners for this grant include: Area III - Technical Service Area, Kanabec County Environmental Services, Mille Lacs SWCD, Snake River Watershed Management Board (SRWMB), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Work began for this project in 2010. The project (grant) funds will end in August 2014, followed by a final report.

2) In February 2008, the SWCD signed a contract with the MPCA to begin a TMDL and “impaired waters” study of the Ann River Watershed within Kanabec County. The water monitoring for the project was completed in 2009. The SWCD selected a consultant to collect data, develop models and write the TMDL reports. A stressor I. D. report was completed in 2010 by MPCA. A public meeting was held in 2011 to explain the findings. The final TMDL report will be completed in 2013. The SWCD recently was approved to receive Clean Water Funds for restoration.

3) In 2010, the SWCD worked with the MPCA, SRWMB and other partners to begin a three year TMDL study of the remaining portions of the Snake River Watershed. Stream and lake monitoring and land use data collection began in 2010 and continued in to 2012. Community meetings for stakeholders and the public were held in 2011 and 2012. This has resulted in a final Watershed Restoration and Protection plan followed by a draft Implementation Plan.

4) In 2012, the Carlton SWCD contacted the SWCD to participate in a clean water fund grant, to prioritize areas in the watershed using the Environmental Benefit Index (EBI) tool and GIS information. This information is being used and applied to current grant.

5) In relation to the Kettle River watershed area, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the SWCDs of Carlton, Pine, Aitkin and Kanabec, to cooperate towards reaching common water quality goals and phosphorus reductions.

6) In Feb. of 2013, the SWCD entered in to an agreement with the St. Croix River Association to identify and prioritize sub-watershed catchment areas in Kanabec County's portion of the St. Croix River basin. A cost/ benefit analysis will be determined for selected best management practices in each catchment area. This project is being funded through the Legislative Citizen's Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). This project will end in June 2014 with a final report.

7) The SWCD was also contacted by the Anoka Conservation District in February of 2013, to participate in the Rum River Watershed Protection Project. The Rum River watershed is located in the southern part of Kanabec County. Activities for this project have been underway.

Technical Service Area (TSA) Overview:

The Kanabec SWCD serves as a host office for the N.E. Area III - Technical Service Area staff engineering technician located in the Mora office.

The purpose of the Technical Service Area is to provide engineering assistance for best management practices through nine local SWCD's in northeast MN. This assistance provides for the planning, design and implementation of conservation practices in high priority areas. Funding for the engineering assistance comes from a state grant through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Due to long term funding limitations, the program was re-organized in July 2009 to include a total of eight engineering areas across the State. The Mora host office is cooperating with the South St. Louis SWCD office in Duluth (which serves as the fiscal agent) to administer the program.

Invasive Species Control - Program Overview:

The SWCD provides direct technical support to landowners to control buckthorn and other terrestrial invasive species, as well as educational materials for the public about invasive species. In the fall of 2009, the SWCD applied for and received a grant from BWSR for a new "Cooperative Weed Management Program" to control the spread of buckthorn and other invasive species. This program began in 2010 and continued in 2012. In the fall of 2011, the SWCD applied to the BWSR for new funding to continue the work. New funding was approved to begin in 2012 and will continue into 2014.

Snake River Watershed Management - Program Cooperation and Overview:

The SWCD will continue to provide technical support to the Snake River Watershed Management Board and Citizen Advisory Committee.

Forestry – Four Corners Project Overview:

Kanabec SWCD has cooperated with the East Central Landscape Committee and the MN Forest Resource Council on implementing the "Four Corners Project". The goal of this project is to complete forest stewardship plans for landowners located in riparian areas to implement vegetative buffers to protect soil from erosion and improve water quality. The project focus has included four townships in each of the counties of Kanabec, Pine, Chisago, and Isanti. The BWSR prepared a landowners survey in 2007, to assess the needs and interests for forest management, water quality improvements and other interests of landowners in the area. The SWCD's in the four corners project area have been cooperating and holding forestry tours for landowners, to promote sustainable forestry in the east central MN area.

Current and Future grants and funding:

In 2011, the SWCD applied for a "Clean Water Partnership" grant to the MPCA for BMP implementation, water monitoring in the unimpaired / unassessed waters in Kanabec County and Citizen Outreach/Education. The grant request was approved in 2012. This project will be completed in June 2015.

The SWCD also applied for a "Conservation Partner's Legacy" grant to the DNR to implement wetlands restorations, enhancements and prescribed burning projects. The grant was approved in 2012 to carry out prescribed burning projects on the SWCD property in Brunswick Township and on DNR Wildlife Management Areas in the county. The SWCD recently was approved for a grant renewal that will be effective until June 2017.

Note: For the following objectives 1 through 3, the listed staff are abbreviated to include the
SWCD Office manager as "OM"
SWCD District Manager as "DM"

OBJECTIVE 1

ADMINISTRATION / COORDINATION DUTIES

Carry out the duties, goals and objectives, as directed by the SWCD Board of Supervisors.

ACTION A: Assist with carrying out the goals and objectives of the Kanabec County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (CLWP), Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) related programs, Snake River Watershed Management Board (SRWMB) and East Central Landscape Committee.

Staff: Office Manager (OM), District Manager (DM)
Funding: Kanabec County, BWSR, SWCD, NRCS

ACTION B: Administer the Ag Best Management Practices (BMP's) Low Interest Loan program for the east central MN area. This includes loans for eligible ag-waste management systems, feedlot improvements, erosion control, conservation tillage equipment and failing septic systems, as well as other projects that improve water quality.

Staff: OM
Funding: MN Dept. of Ag., SWCD's

ACTION C: Coordinate office operations including financial records and reports for the SWCD, BWSR and Kanabec County.

Staff: OM, DM
Funding: SWCD and BWSR,

ACTION D: Coordinate sales and distribution of SWCD tree program, Kanabec County plat books, maps, publications and other materials.

Staff: OM
Funding: SWCD, Kanabec County, BWSR

ACTION E: Provide supervision and annual performance reviews for the SWCD Office Manager and District Manager. Train staff on the concepts of civic governance and active citizenship. Ensure that staff have a role in governing the day-to-day operations of the office. Conduct staff meetings using civic governance public meetings and public evaluation disciplines.

Staff: DM, SWCD Board
Funding: SWCD, BWSR

ACTION F: Coordinate and assist with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) restoration and protection studies, in cooperation with the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). This action also includes the Snake River Watershed study, and planning efforts in cooperation with the Snake River Watershed Management Board.

Staff: DM, OM
Funding: MPCA, SWCD

ACTION G: During 2015, work to align the board's Public Meeting Agenda's, Meeting Management Techniques, Meeting Evaluation Methods and Outcomes Documents with Civic Governance Approach.

January-May: Identify opportunities within the Board's existing governing structures to align civic governance with day-to-day activities.

June: Develop simple pre-test of existing Board meeting approaches. Administer.

July-December: Test new approaches in 6 monthly board meetings.

December: Repeat evaluation (post-test) of new meeting approaches. Determine whether to continue with new approaches in 2016.

Request that Board members assist in organizing key stakeholders when the need arises.

ACTION H: Cooperate on water quality projects with the following agencies and groups:

- St. Croix River Assoc. - LCCMR prioritization and BMP cost / benefit analysis
- Carlton SWCD - Kettle River Watershed – Phosphorus Reduction project
- Anoka Conservation District – Rum River watershed Restoration and Protection project

Staff: DM, OM
Funding: LCCMR (legislature), BWSR, MPCA

ACTION I: Administer the 319 - Groundhouse River Implementation grant (approved for funding in 2010), to address the water quality impairments including biological (due to sediment as a stressor) and bacteria in the Groundhouse River sub-watershed.

Staff: DM, OM
Funding: MPCA, SWCD, BWSR, SRWMB

ACTION J: Administer the Cooperative Weed Management Area grant to control the spread of Buckthorn in Kanabec County.

Staff: DM, OM
Funding: BWSR, SWCD, NRCS, County

ACTION K: Use this work plan to govern the conduct and activities of the SWCD. Provide monthly updates to Board members of the key actions taken to meet the goals and objectives of this plan. Conduct mid-year and end-of-year evaluations so that the Board can adaptively manage District activities. Track outcomes each month and summarize at the end of 2015. Post SWCD's annual outcomes on the website.

ACTION L: Continue to participate in monthly St. Croix Governance Organizing Agency meetings as the way to develop civic leadership skills and a base of active citizens. Advance ideas, recommendations related to this work through the Citizens League.

OBJECTIVE 2

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY

Carry out the goals, duties and objectives as directed by the SWCD Board of Supervisors.

In 2015, the District Staff will use a Civic Governance approach to organize more landowners to participate in conservation programs in priority areas of impaired watersheds. This will require more intentional efforts to identify key landowners in priority watershed, to organize them into watershed planning activities, to conduct 1-1 meetings with those that are interested in taking action, collaborate with them in the design, planning and implementation of conservation practices, while meeting existing legal requirements. At the end of the year, evaluate this approach vs traditional methods of service delivery.

ACTION A: Collaborate, consult with and provide assistance to landowners with an interest in conservation planning. Assist with BMPs, design, surveys, layout and inspection of approved best management practices (BMP's), in areas with the greatest potential of polluted runoff and groundwater infiltration. Technical assistance support is provided by the Area III TSA engineering staff.

The following are planned (tentative) BMP projects to be implemented in 2015:

- Three – rock lined channel projects, to control erosion and stabilize soils.
- One – shoreline restoration project, to stabilize and protect soils from erosion and improve water infiltration.
- One – feedlot management project, to control and treat nutrient runoff from a beef operation near a stream.
- One – fence exclusion project, to keep cattle away from a stream and allow vegetation to establish for improved filtration of runoff.
- One – heavy use protection project, to stabilize stream banks and soils from eroding, during cattle crossing.

The following pollution reduction estimates are the result of these completed BMP's in 2014:

- 3,500 tons/year of phosphorus
- 4,600 lbs./year of nitrogen
- 76 tons/year of sediment

The following are planned (tentative) BMP projects to be implemented in 2015

- Two - sediment basin structures to control upland runoff near streams
- One – roadside runoff control project
- One – gully protection project
- Two – shoreline stabilization projects

The SWCD also partnered with the Pine SWCD to provide technical assistance to landowners for the treatment and control of buckthorn (invasive species) on their properties in 2013. Educational materials were also provided to landowners and the general public.

Staff: DM, OM

Funding: MPCA, BWSR, County, SWCD, NRCS, TSA

ACTION B: Cooperate with the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in coordinating manure management and feedlot runoff control projects with landowners.

Staff: DM

Funding: BWSR, County, SWCD, NRCS

ACTION C: Assist the Snake River Watershed Management Board with planning, project coordination, Restoration and Protection Projects, education, and project implementation of best management practices (BMP's).

Staff: DM

Funding: BWSR, County, SWCD, NRCS, TSA

ACTION D: Provide mapping resources to the public for managing private and public lands, including soil survey, topographic, GIS and wetlands types.

Staff: DM, OM

Funding: BWSR, County, SWCD, NRCS

ACTION E: Provide Forest Stewardship Plans for private landowners on riparian and non-riparian forest lands to protect and maintain water quality, forest productivity, improve timber stand development and wildlife habitat.

Staff: DM

Funding: MPCA, BWSR, DNR, County, SWCD

ACTION F: Establish and maintain databases for rainfall precipitation and monitor groundwater levels in cooperation with landowners and DNR climatology office and DNR Ecological & Water Resources Division.

Staff: OM

Funding: BWSR, DNR, County, SWCD

ACTION G: Assist Kanabec County with implementing the Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan.

Staff: OM, DM

Funding: MPCA, BWSR, SRWMB, County, SWCD

ACTION H: Cooperate with Kanabec County, the BWSR and other agencies in implementing the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) as required by law. Provide technical assistance to landowners on wetland projects to avoid, minimize, or replace wetlands due to potential impacts. Provide technical assistance for wetland restorations, easements, and wetland violations.

Staff: DM
Funding: BWSR, County, SWCD, TSA

ACTION I: Seek ongoing training on Wetland Conservation Act rules and revisions.

Staff: DM
Funding: BWSR, County, SWCD

ACTION J: Provide technical and administrative assistance to landowners interested in conservation easement programs such as Reinvest in MN (RIM) and Permanent Wetland Programs (PWP). Complete annual reports and spot checks on existing conservation easements.

Staff: DM
Funding: BWSR

ACTION K: Review, comment and maintain records of DNR Protected Waters permit applications.

Staff: DM
Funding: BWSR, County, SWCD

ACTION L: Cooperate with other agencies and groups including NRCS, BWSR, MPCA, SRWMB, DNR, St. Croix River Assoc., Private Consultants, USFWS, MFRC, ECLC, RC&D, and other organizations in “promoting” conservation, water quality and habitat improvement programs.

Staff: OM, DM
Funding: BWSR, County, SWCD, NRCS

ACTION M: Administer the SWCD tree program and provide technical assistance to landowners for tree selection, planning, design, and purchase of trees to help conserve soil, water & water quality, energy, and provide habitat for wildlife.

Staff: OM, DM
Funding: SWCD, BWSR

ACTION N: Maintain and implement conservation practices on the SWCD Conservation Farm in Grass Lake Township, including Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) for windbreaks, wetland restoration project and permanent grass cover. Cooperate with the local Pheasants Forever (PF) Chapter, DNR Wildlife Division and the Kanabec Conservation Club to promote conservation practices and demonstration projects.

Staff: OM, DM
Funding: SWCD, DNR, PF, NRCS, FSA

ACTION O: Coordinate the Clean Water Fund grant with the BWSR on the Ann River sub - watershed project and cooperate with the Snake River Watershed Restoration and Protection Project for E. coli, biota, and nutrient impairments.

Staff: DM, OM
Funding: MPCA, BWSR

January - December: Work closely with Ann Lake Watershed Alliance to develop a civic governance approach to addressing waterbody impairments. This means working collaboratively with them to identify key stakeholders and to organize interested property owners around the ideas of citizenship and the common good of clean water. Assist in planning, organizing and implementing the citizen meetings. Personally invite citizens to participate in planning meetings. Build key relationships with lake leaders. Provide technical assistance to them when needed.

Once interested citizens have been identified, create an organizing agency where the work can be government according to civic principles and standards. Track outcomes.

Staff: DM, OM
Funding: MPCA, BWSR

ACTION P: Cooperate and maintain partnerships with MFRC, neighboring counties and townships on efforts to improve local reforestation and water quality.

Staff: DM, OM
Funding: BWSR, MFRC, DNR

OBJECTIVE 3

INFORMATION, EDUCATION, CIVIC GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

In 2015, rather than use traditional models of outreach and education (sharing information in fact-sheets, web sites, etc.), the Board's staff will use available time and resources to organize people to action within priority areas and watershed. By organizing early adopters, civic leaders and other interested citizens, the District will create a base of influence within priority watersheds. Once interested landowners can be organized to collaborate on improving water quality, information on best practices and other management strategies can be shared with them in a "just in time" manner.

ACTION A: Develop basic articles and informational materials about each watershed in the County. Post on the web site. List connections to local leaders connected with each waterbody so that they can be contacted by interested citizens.

Staff: OM, DM
Funding: BWSR, County, SWCD

ACTION B: Use existing fairs and public meetings to organize public interest in key watershed projects that are underway in the county as well as in the benefits of soil and water programs and the services available. Ask local lake leaders to participate with the District staff to show that a collaborative approach is underway.

Staff: OM, DM
Funding: BWSR, County, SWCD

ACTION C: Assist with coordination of the 2014 Area III Envirothon for N.E. Minnesota. The Area Envirothon is an environmental competition for high school teams to challenge their environmental knowledge and problem solving skills. Tie this effort to the idea of citizenship and the common good of clean water for all.

Staff: OM, DM
Funding: BWSR, SWCD

ACTION D: Assist with the annual Outdoor Water Fair sponsored by the Pokegama Lake Association.

Staff: DM
Funding: BWSR, County, SWCD

ACTION E: Maintain a local “Web Site” in cooperation with Kanabec County, to inform the public of programs and services available and how they can become governing members of existing watershed planning and management processes in the county.

Staff: OM, DM
Funding: SWCD, County

ACTION F: Provide information for the public and stakeholders at meetings on the progress and findings of the past TMDL studies and current implementation efforts. Share information about active citizenship and the SWCD’s new approach to watershed projects, when appropriate. This information is also provided to the County Board, during the annual report of activities.

Staff: DM
Funding: MPCA, BWSR

ACTION G: Assist with the coordination of annual forest management workshops for landowners to educate and help manage the forest lands for sustainability and water quality benefits.

Staff: DM
Funding: SWCD, DNR

ACTION H: Promote the awareness of the spread of buckthorn and invasive species, by preparing news articles and providing educational information for the public.

Staff: DM, OM
Funding: BWSR, SWCD, DNR

ACTION I: Work with the MPCA, Civic Organizing Inc., Mille Lacs SWCD and Mille Lacs NRCS staff on the Civic Governance Pilot project and report outcomes.

Staff: DM
Funding: MPC A, County, BWSR

STATE COST-SHARE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

The SWCD will continue to provide a quality service to the public and provide information on the availability of “Cost Share Funds” and “Low Interest Loans” for Best Management Practices (BMP) in high priority areas, as an incentive for landowners to manage their land and water resources wisely in a cost effective manner.

The District will continue to seek grant opportunities to support the application of conservation to the land to improve surface and groundwater water quality and quantity.

High Priority Areas to be addressed:

Cost share funds received by the District will be prioritized and targeted toward high priority areas to protect surface and groundwater. Examples of BMP’s that achieve this are: Ag-waste and feedlot runoff control systems, cropland erosion control structures, lakeshore and streambank erosion control structures, wetlands restorations, livestock exclusion fencing from lakes and streams, and well abandonment.

There continues to be a high amount of interest from the public for technical assistance and cost share

incentives for streambank stabilization and shoreline protection projects. Important sources of cost share funds for these type of projects has been the Snake River Watershed – CWP and CWF grants, Kanabec County Water Plan and Federal Farm Programs.

Identification of High Priority Problem Areas:

HIGH PRIORITY EROSION PROBLEMS:

"High priority erosion problems" means areas where erosion from wind or water is occurring equal to or in excess of 2 x T 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 District's Comprehensive Plan.

Descriptive maps prepared by the Land Management Information Center (LMIC) are available for each district. These maps, prepared on 40 acre cells, geographically describe the location and extent of high priority erosion problems in the district. The maps were prepared by applying the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) and Wind Erosion Equation (WEQ) to data in the LMIC database.

The following factors and values were used for the USLE:

(R) = Rainfall and runoff factor for the SWCD from technical guide.

(K) = Soil erodibility factor from the Minnesota Soil Atlas using the highest value occurring for any of the soil series within the soil landscape unit.

(L) = Slope length factor based on Ag Research Service (ARS) assumptions related to slope percent for various zones in the state.

(S) = Slope steepness factor from digital terrain data applied to the steepest slope occurring in a 40-acre parcel.

(C) = Cover and management factor based on information from 1969 aerial photos and applied to LMIC land use/cover categories: forested = .01; cultivated = .39, pasture = .042; marsh = .013; residential = .01; and urban = .02.

(P) = Support practice factor was assumed to be 1.0.

High priority wind erosion maps will be prepared for those districts requesting them. Areas where the combined wind and water erosion rates meet the high priority erosion definition are eligible for Cost-Share Program funds. Therefore, it may be advantageous for the district to have wind erosion maps prepared. A map showing the high priority erosion areas based upon the combined wind and water erosion rates will also be prepared, if requested.

The following factors and values are used for the WEQ:

(I) = Soil erodibility from the Minnesota Soil Atlas using the highest value occurring from any of the soil series within the soil landscape unit.

(K) = Soil ridge roughness factor. This value will be determined by the district.

(C) = Climatic factor for the district from the technical guide.

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(L) = Unsheltered distance across a field along the prevailing wind erosion direction.

These values will be determined by the district for each soil landscape unit.

(V) = Vegetative cover; it is assumed that no residue cover is present so the value will be 0.

The maps illustrate which 40-acre parcels are most likely to have water or wind soil loss rates that exceed 2 x T and which parcels within shore land are likely to have water erosion rates exceeding T. It must be recognized that these maps are for general planning purposes only. They do not indicate specific sites where these erosion rates are occurring, and because "worst-case" factors were used in the erosion equations, the maps serve as a guide to where these soil losses are most likely to occur on the landscape. As presented, these maps are adequate for meeting the state requirement of locating high priority erosion problems in the comprehensive plan; however, refinements may be necessary to make them more useful for local purposes. Areas designated as high priority do not reflect present conservation treatment measures, changes in land use since 1969, proximity to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) protected waters (N/A for wind erosion), or Class I-IV soils. These factors should be refined by checking existing conditions. It is also recognized that high priority areas may exist that are not indicated on the map. If these areas are added, documentation should be presented showing that erosion rates meet the high priority definition.

HIGH PRIORITY WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS:

"High priority water quality problems" mean areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals, or other pollutants discharge to DNR designated protected waters or to any high priority waters as identified in a comprehensive local water management plan or the district's comprehensive plan or discharge to a sinkhole or ground water. The pollutant delivery rate to the water source is in amounts that will impair the quality or usefulness of the water resource. Descriptive maps prepared by LMIC are also available for high priority sedimentation problems. These maps indicate shore land areas where water erosion rates exceed three tons per acre per year. These maps are adequate for meeting the state requirement for identifying high priority sedimentation problems in the comprehensive plan. The same limitations apply to these maps as those for high priority erosion problems. If additional areas are added, documentation must be presented showing that erosion or sediment delivery rates meet the high priority definition.

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In order to meet the state requirement for receiving Cost-Share funds to control feedlot pollution, an indication of the approximate number of high priority feedlots in the district must be presented in the comprehensive plan. Reports prepared by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) present data on the total number of feedlots within counties as well as the number within shore lands. In the metropolitan area, estimates on the number of feedlots within watersheds can be obtained from the Metropolitan Council's report entitled "Water Pollution from Nonpoint Sources, An Assessment and Recommendations." Since the high priority estimates must consider those feedlots discharging directly to DNR protected waters, sinkholes, shallow soils or cavernous bedrock, or within 100 feet of a well; these figures should be refined. These estimates should be based upon existing data and knowledge of district supervisors and staff. It is not necessary to run the agricultural waste model on feedlots to determine if they have a rating greater than one. The estimate is for long-range planning purposes only.

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS (see attached budget sheet):

State and County budgets have been very limited for the SWCD. This has made it challenging for the SWCD to continue providing staff and services to the public. The SWCD has had to look for other funding sources beyond the traditional base grants and general service allocations. In this process, the SWCD has developed new relationships and formed new partnerships with other agencies and groups. Examples of additional funding sources include Pokegama Lake Association donations and State Clean Water Funds, through the BWSR and MPCA. These funding sources have greatly helped support the SWCD in its capacity to deliver services.