

KANABEC SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2008 Mahogany St., Ste. 3
Mora, MN 55051
(320)679-3982
FAX (320)679-4692

Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District 2014 Report of Accomplishments and Activities.

Programs:

1) **County Water Plan Related Projects** (County Administered)

The SWCD provided project planning, coordination and technical assistance / support toward 19 Conservation Projects, with cooperation from landowners and support from Kanabec County, the County Water Plan, Natural Resources Conservation Service, MN - Board of Water and Soil Resources, MN Pollution Control Agency and Pokegama Lake Association.

These projects included the following :

- 4 – Shoreline protection and stabilizations on lake shore properties
- 4 – Gully repair / stabilizations, to control erosion and reduce sediment from entering surface waters
- 3 – Road surface stabilization projects, to control runoff and erosion near surface waters
- 1 – Feedlot runoff treatment / control near surface waters
- 1 – Ag. Waste Storage Structure, to store and contain animal waste
- 2 – Abandoned well sealing / closure, to protect groundwater
- 2 – Cover Crop plantings to improve soil health and control runoff and erosion
- 2 – Conservation Tillage practices on croplands, to control runoff and erosion near surface waters

The following pollution reduction estimates are a result of the above projects:

Total estimated soil / sediment reductions to surface waters for these projects = 76 tons/year

Total estimated phosphorus reductions = 3,500 lbs/year

Total estimated nitrogen reductions = 4,600 lbs./year

Note: Project activity / photos to be provided during report.

2) **Wetland Conservation Act (County Administered)**

SWCD - Technical assistance support

- Provided technical assistance on 2 project application reviews relating to wetland filling, draining, excavation and wetland banking / mitigation activities.
- Assisted with 2 wetland restoration plans.
- Provided wetland information for 7 landowners, regarding potential wetland projects.

3) **Snake River Watershed Management Board / Citizen Advisory Committee (County Administered)**

- Provided technical assistance and support for the Snake River Watershed – Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) plan, to address impairments for nutrients, fish and macroinvertebrates.
- Assisted the watershed in preparing two state grant application proposals for Clean Water Funds. These grant applications were approved for a total of \$447,000.

4) **State Impaired Waters and Protection Programs – SWCD contracts with the State**

Ann River - Watershed Restoration Project - This was the 2nd year of this State - Clean Water Grant used to implement non – point source conservation practices, to reduce nutrients, bacteria, and sediment to the surface waters.

The SWCD completed the 319 – Groundhouse River Implementation Grant. This was a federally funded grant to implement non – point source conservation practices, to reduce nutrients, bacteria, and sediment to the surface waters.

The SWCD completed its 3rd year working on watershed protection activities through the Clean Water Partnership Grant, in cooperation with the MN Pollution Control Agency. These grant activities include surface water monitoring of six stream sites, five storm water runoff sites within the City of Mora, three lake sites and the implementation of best management / conservation practices to address non – point source pollution to surface waters.

The SWCD continues to work with partners on the Civic Governance - Pilot Grant, for clean water improvements, through partnerships with Local Citizens, Key Stakeholders, Ann Lake Watershed Alliance, Mille Lacs SWCD, Mn. Corn Growers Assoc., MN / WI - St. Croix River Basin Team, Mn. Pollution Control Agency and Civic Organizing (project consultant).

5) **State Cost Share / Projects Program – Kanabec SWCD Administered**

The SWCD applied \$4,029 toward conservation project coordination, planning and technical assistance from state funds. Federal funds leveraged a total of \$171,000, toward conservation project work, in cooperation with landowners and agricultural producers.

6) **State – Conservation Partners Legacy Program Grant - Kanabec SWCD Administered**

The SWCD in cooperation with the Dept. of Natural Resources, administers a prescribed burning and tree planting grant, to implement projects on the SWCD Land near Brunswick in Grass Lake Twp., and on Wildlife Management areas in Kanabec County.

To date, 368 acres of native grasses and forbs have had prescribed burning completed for wildlife habitat improvements, to manage for native plants.

7) **Technical Service Area (TSA) – Engineering Services are provided through the SWCD’s in nine northeast MN counties.**

TSA staff include: Licensed Engineer and Engineering Technicians

The Kanabec SWCD office in Mora is a host office for the location of an Engineering Technician.

The TSA provides technical support to the SWCD’s for project engineering services for project planning, design, survey and construction inspections.

The TSA provided technical support to the SWCD for nine project sites in 2014.

8) **Agricultural Loan Program for BMP’s through MN Dept. of Agriculture**

Low interest loans were made available to landowners in the amount of \$124,560, to install best management practices including: Ag. Waste Storage Facility and Manure Spreader.

9) **Conservation Easements - Kanabec SWCD administered**

The SWCD administers 9 private land easements in Kanabec County, equaling 856 acres. Annual spot checks are required for compliance with the easement terms and conservation plans.

10) **Private Forestland Management – Kanabec SWCD administered**

The SWCD provided technical assistance for the development of 3 forest management plans totalling 150 acres, in cooperation with landowners and DNR Forestry staff.

11) **Tree and Platbook – Sales and distribution**

9,781 Trees purchased/distributed, and other related supplies sold.
157 - Kanabec County plat books, and other conservation books sold

12) **Precipitation and Groundwater Monitoring Program - through Mn. Climatology office and DNR**

9 - Precipitation / Rainfall recording sites in Kanabec County. (coordinated by the SWCD).
4 - Groundwater Monitoring sites in the County. (coordinated by the SWCD).

13) Federal Partners – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service

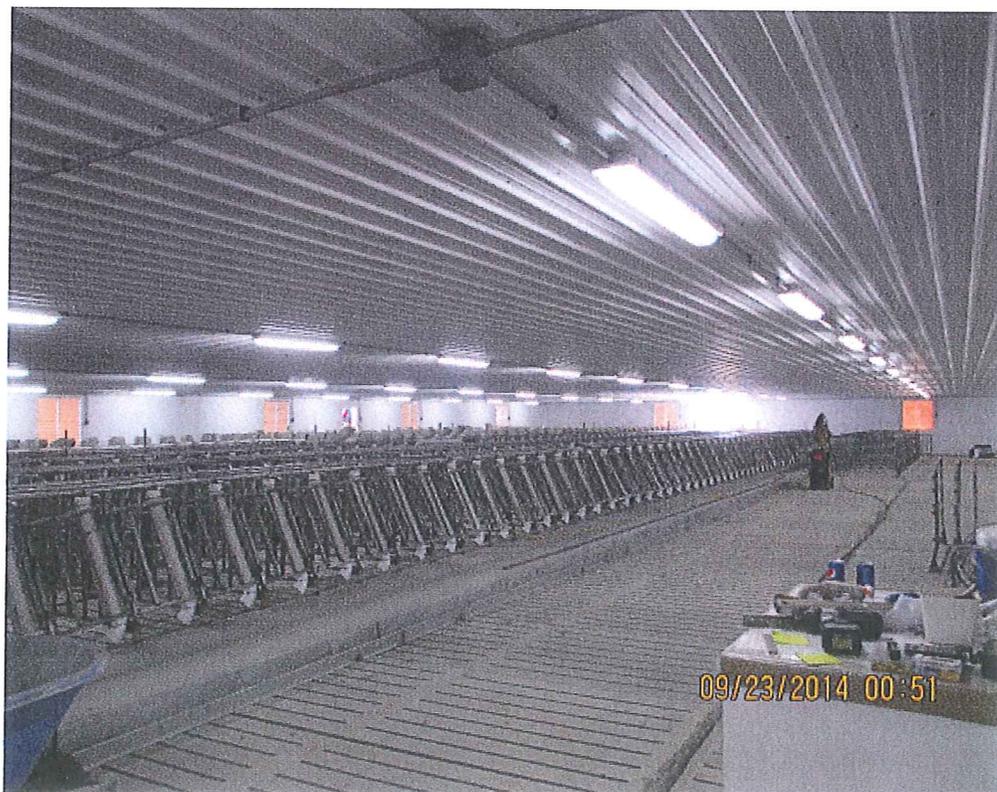
The SWCD cooperates with the NRCS (a federal partner) on conservation projects and best management practice implementation. The SWCD office is co-located with the NRCS.

The NRCS provides office supplies, vehicle and equipment use.

14) Local Groups and Cooperation – The SWCD cooperates with a number of local groups including Lake Associations and Sportmen Clubs, to provide technical information relating to water quality, wildlife habitat improvements, and conservation of natural resources.

15) GIS Mapping and aerial photo information – The SWCD provides GIS and mapping information to the general public and landowners upon request. This type of information includes – aerial photos, soils maps, wetland maps, topographic maps and other information.

Hog Waste Storage Facility: District Assisted Landowners with 319 TMDL Groundhouse River Cost-Share Funds, and also in Obtaining a Low-Interest Ag Best Management Practices Loan through the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture



Cropland Erosion Control /Runoff Project Near Ann River
Example of Project Currently Working on Project Design With Landowner



**Falcon Street - Roadside Erosion / Runoff and Gully Control Near Ann Lake
Example of Project Currently Working on With Township on Design Plan**



Shoreline Erosion Control and Stabilization Site at Fish Lake – Example of project currently working on with landowner on a design plan

