



BWSR Board Tour: Lincoln and Lyon Counties

August 22, 2012

Hosted by Area II MN River Basin,
Lincoln SWCD and Lyon SWCD



Marshall, Minn.— On Wed., Aug. 22, the BWSR Board joined Area II, Lincoln and Lyon County commissioners, SWCD supervisors and staff for a tour of conservation practices in southwestern Minnesota.

Nearly 60 people attended the tour, learning about the installation of conservation practices through dynamic partnerships between private landowners and federal, state and local governments.

BWSR Board members and tour-goers gather at the Marshall Ramada Inn prior to boarding the bus.





Kerry Netzke (Area II) points out how grade stabilization at Lynd 32 Dam provides 10 acre-feet of floodwater storage.

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Tour-goers board hayracks to visit the Coot Wildlife Management Area (WMA).



The project includes multiple landowners working together to restore five basins through various funding programs.





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Tabor Hoek (BWSR) discusses the Working Lands Initiative, bringing private and public partners together for conservation benefits.

At the Coot WMA, landowner John Schueller talked about the wetland restorations and his passion for hunting. Other speakers included Tabor Hoek, Scott Santjer and Tom Wenzel (BWSR), Randy Kraus (Lincoln SWCD) and Bob Meyer (DNR).



Tour-goers view an outlet structure designed to control and manage water levels in one of several restored wetlands.





The lunchtime presentation was about the Verdi Well Project, which supplies water to 7,500 people. Don Drietz and Jason Overby (Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water), Randy Kraus and Pauline VanOverbeke (Lincoln SWCD) spoke how partnerships have played a critical role to reduce nitrate levels.





Mike DeVries (AES) speaks about the benefits of renewable energy at the Lake Benton AES Wind Generation farm.



Concluding the tour, Tabor Hoek (BWSR) leads a discussion at the Southwest Sportsman's Club about what it takes for landowners to adopt conservation practices in today's agricultural economics.





“The 2012 BWSR Board Tour was well-received. Clearly, LGUs are delivering conservation in Lincoln and Lyon Counties. It was a great event and we thank our local partners for organizing the tour.”

-Brian Napstad, BWSR Board Chair