

# Blue Earth

Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.blueearthswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: 1st Thursday after the  
1st Monday of Month



## Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Classic or ephemeral gully control
2. Water resource protection
3. Wastewater & feedlot runoff control
4. Sheet & rill erosion
5. Wind erosion

## 2008 Revenue

County	\$56,917
Local	\$5,000
State Grant	\$104,064
Special Grants	\$153,824
Charges for Services	\$32,189
Interest	\$1,405
Other Misc	\$12,601
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$366,000</b>

## Recent Projects



### **Maple River Clean Water Partnership**

**Pictured:** Maple River School students participating in a field day and learning about the ecological values of wetlands and prairies, and the steps included when restoring these areas.

The Maple River CWP came to an end in 2009. The CWP grant was extremely influential in the project watershed for the past 7 years. The Maple River CWP awarded 30 education grants and offered a number of educational programs to students in the watershed. Continuous and storm event stream monitoring from both staff and volunteers produced a wealth of data for partners. Through the partnering counties and agencies in the watershed, the Maple River CWP was able to promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) to landowners. The following is a list of BMPs that were successfully implemented.

### **Neighbors Working Together for Conservation**

Over the past few years we have had the privilege of working with three neighboring landowners to implement multiple conservation best management practices in one section. The cooperation of the landowners has led to the installation of conservation projects that are protecting the most vulnerable locations for erosion. In total 6-Water and Sediment Control Basins,



**Pictured: Water and Sediment Control Basin between neighboring landowners.**

1-Grade Stabilization, and 1-Waterway were constructed. Approximately 300 acres of local watershed runoff are being managed with the help of these very willing neighbors.



***The Crystal, Loon, Mills Watershed***

**Pictured: Rock tile inlet installed by a local landowner. Inlet was later planted with a 10 foot grass buffer.**

The Crystal Loon Mills project targeted phosphorus reductions through wetland restorations, ditch buffers, alternative tile intakes, nutrient management, and community cleanups. Effective monitoring was

conducted by collecting lake and county ditch samples throughout the 13,800 acre watershed. Using grant funds and local match the SWCD helped implement \$72,000 worth of cost share projects in the watershed. 1,300 ft of ditch buffers, 10.6 acres of wetland, 15 alternative tile inlets, and 4,077 acres of nutrient management were implemented during the two year period. Many community educational activities and events were held to help educate people on ways to become more environmentally friendly.

## Future Projects

### ***Many Grants Pending***

The SWCD has applied for many different grants in the hopes of being able to continue to serve the conservation needs of Blue Earth County. Some of the grants applied for are for emerald ash borer preparedness, green steambank stabilization, drainage ditch buffering along with water retention and wetland restorations. We have also applied for funds in order to be able to better serve the urban community with rain gardens, bioretention basins, and other storm water management. As of December 2009, we have scheduled already for 2010 construction four grade stabilization structures, two feedlot projects, two wetland restorations, one bioretention basin and one shoreland restoration.

## **Board Members**

William Gardner	Chair	(507) 726-2696	20675 515th Ave, Lake Crystal, MN 56055
Harold Loeffler	Secretary/Treasurer	(507) 245-3424	19266 610th Ave, Mankato, MN 56001
Allen Marble	Vice Chair	(507) 278-3139	16602 578th Ave, Good Thunder, MN 56037
John Rollings	PR+I	(507) 549-3652	409 1st St E, Vernon Center, MN 56090
John Shanahan	Member	(507) 340-0420	204 6th Ave NE PO Box 728, Mapleton, MN 56065