

# Chisago

Soil and Water Conservation District

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[www.chisagoswcd.org](http://www.chisagoswcd.org)

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of Month  
at 8 a.m.*



## Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protecting/Restoring Water Quality in the St. Croix River
2. Promote Environmentally Sound Land Practices
3. Lakeshore/Streambank Restoration/Preservation
4. Protection of Ag. Base/Open Space Land
5. General Public Awareness of SWCD Programs

## 2008 Revenue

Charges for Services	\$75,736
Federal Grants	\$20,741
State Grants	\$92,416
County Grants	\$60,000
Other General Revenue	\$86,376
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$335,269</b>

## Recent Projects

**The Children's Water Festival** is one of many educational programs in Chisago County. Approximately 750 fifth grade students take part in the Water Festival for a hands on environmental education day. Other activities include a local poster contest for grades K-6<sup>th</sup>. The Chisago SWCD also partners with various agencies throughout the year to present on many different environmental topics to all ages.



Students have fun while learning about water quality from some friendly amphibians!

**Water Quality Monitoring** has expanded over the years to include many watersheds throughout the County. Monitoring has been completed to help assess currently unassessed waters for impairments, including 24 lakes and over 40 stream segments. Monitoring has been completed by staff and volunteers. Partners include: Goose Chain of Lakes Association, Rush Lake Improvement Association, Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District and the MPCA.

## Recent projects

**Rain Gardens and Infiltration Practices** have been planned and completed throughout the County. In 2009, several projects were completed; including rain gardens and infiltration basins that were installed at the Wyoming Library, the Lakeside Elementary School and the new Chisago County Business Park. Many more infiltration practices will be installed in 2010. Partners included, Wyoming Area Library Society, Great River Greening, Chisago Lakes School District, Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District, Chisago County, Center City and the Minnesota Conservation Corps.



**Students and about 50 other volunteers spent the morning planting five Rain Gardens at Lakeside Elementary School in Chisago City, MN**

**Several Best Management Practices (BMP's) installed** - each year the Chisago SWCD facilitates the installation of numerous BMP's on private and public land to improve surface water quality, reduce erosion and stormwater runoff and to improve wildlife habitat. Technical and financial incentives to install BMPs are provided to landowners through a combination of local, state and federal programs.

**The SWCD has a staff forester** to assist landowners with the management of their forest resources. Programs include The Four Corners Forestry Pilot Project, forest stewardship plan writing, oak wilt management, Emerald Ash Borer detection and the SWCD tree & shrub sales. Partners include the MN DNR, MN Forest Resource Council, East Central Landscape Committee, and MN SWCD Forestry Assoc.

## Future Projects

**Lake St. Croix TMDL** - The Lake St. Croix Basin Nutrient TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study is proceeding with implementation of phosphorus load reducing practices scheduled to begin in 2010. The project has identified a goal of 100 tons of phosphorus reduction from throughout the St. Croix Basin with a majority of the load reduction coming from nonpoint source conservation practices. As a result of this TMDL the Chisago SWCD, along with seven other SWCDs on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix Basin formed a unified and cooperative effort called Conservation St. Croix. This group will work together to develop goals and strategies to meet the TMDL reduction goal of 100 tons of phosphorus within the watershed.

**Stormwater Retrofit Assessment Program** – Through a cooperative effort of the eleven Metro SWCDs the Chisago SWCD will be completing sub-watershed assessments in high priority urban regions of Chisago County to identify pollutant hot-spots within each sub-watershed. This information will allow local communities and the SWCD the ability to prioritize neighborhoods and project sites where the installation of stormwater retrofit best management practices will provide the greatest benefit to the environment per dollar spent.

## Board Members

Jim Birkholz	Chair	(651) 257-9159	17325 Pleasant Valley Rd, Shafer, MN 55074
Roland Cleveland	Vice Chair	(651) 674-8580	PO Box 307, North Branch, MN 55056
Craig Mold	Treasurer	(320) 358-3423	8336 490th St, Rush City, MN 55069
Justin Wilson	Secretary	(651) 257-8707	12895 Chisago Blvd, Chisago City, MN 55013
David Tollberg	Member	(651) 583-3103	36312 Locke Ave, North Branch, MN 55056