

Clay

Soil and Water Conservation District

1615 30th Ave S
Moorhead, MN 56560
PHONE: (218) 287-2255
FAX: (218) 287-1787

www.co.clay.mn.us/Depts/SoilWatr/SoilWatr.htm

SWCD Board Meeting: Second Thursday of Month at 7 p.m. Nov-April; 8 p.m. May - October.



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

Total	<u>\$532,341</u>
-------	------------------

Recent Projects



Pictured: Before (top) and after photos of a streambank restoration project along the Buffalo River.



Severe streambank erosion was repaired along a stretch of the Buffalo River that runs through the city of Hawley's public golf course. Numerous flood events were undercutting the river bank along this sharp bend in the Buffalo River. A 12-foot vertical bank was formed. A series of six stream barbs, using up to 12-inch diameter rocks, were strategically placed to steer the river's current away from the outer bend of the river and direct its energy towards the center of the stream. This project also involved the use of shaping, seeding, and mulching the river bank. Once established, the grass seeding will provide the reinforcement needed to sustain long-term soil protection.

A \$1.5 million project to restore a wetland and reconstruct the Dalen Coulee received the 2003 Project of the Year Award from the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts. The SWCD was one of many organizations that contributed funding and staff time to complete this project. The Dalen Coulee is a natural waterway located in Clay and Norman counties on the floor of the Red River Valley. Frequent flooding caused some landowners to seek help to reduce damage to crops, while other people felt that farming too close to the coulee was the cause of the flooding. The project goal was to find a solution that would reduce agricultural flood damages while maintaining the ecological integrity of the waterway. Project implementation took advantage of numerous funding resources (Reinvest In Minnesota Reserve/CRP, Ducks Unlimited, Wild Rice Watershed District, MPCA, Red River Basin Flood Damage Work Group, Red River Watershed Management Board, DNR, local landowners, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Major features of the completed project include:

- 1) 1 1/2 miles of sinuous (meandered) channel construction/ reconstruction
- 2) Flow diversion structure, reducing runoff into Dalen Coulee
- 3) Selective channel clearing, cleaning, and grubbing
- 4) Wetland retention structure, creating 82 acres of permanent pool and wildlife enhancements and food storage totaling 370 acre feet for a 100-year, 2-hour storm event
- 5) Structure removal, replacement and low water crossings
- 6) Over 470 acres of land set-aside, wildlife habitat, and flood easements

Over 70 acres of wetlands were restored in an 87.4-acre perpetual conservation easement for public road mitigation projects. The Brantner Wetland Bank was established by the Clay SWCD, Board of Water and Soil Resources, and a Clay County landowner, who worked cooperatively to restore this wetland and upland buffer with diverse native vegetation

Future Projects

Whisky Creek Tributaries Water Resource Management Project (2006 MAWD Project of the Year): The Buffalo Red River Watershed District Mediation Project Team spearheaded this project, which features a multifaceted approach to achieve food damage reduction and natural resource enhancement, including flood water retention through an impoundment, stream channel restoration, set-back levees, ring dikes for key homes, buffer strips and two large wetland restorations. The SWCD is working with landowners in the impoundment area to enroll over 120 acres of conservation easements.

Wolverton Creek Watershed Sedimentation Reduction Clean Water Legacy Project: The Clay SWCD recently partnered with the Wilkin SWCD to secure \$289,000 to address the water resource needs of the Wolverton Creek Watershed. These funds will be used in conjunction with existing programs to address erosion, sedimentation and food damage reduction by establishing buffer and field windbreaks, side inlet pipes, grade stabilization, and outlet protection.

Board Members

Paul Krabbenhoff	Chair	(218) 233-0313	1119 - 25th Ave S, Moorhead, MN 56560
Steve Dalen	Member	(218) 784-5501	18059 40th St N, Georgetown, MN 56546
Duane Janssen	Secretary	(218) 937-5486	21533 - 120th Ave S, Barnesville, MN 56514
Kenneth Schellack	Treasurer	(218) 498-2103	13077 - 70th Avenue So., Glyndon, MN 56547
Carol Schoff	Vice Chair	(218) 483-4248	8142 - 200th Street No., Hawley, MN 56549