

Clearwater

Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.clearwaterswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: Third Thursday at 9 a.m.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Surface Water Quality Protection and Enhancement
2. Drinking Water Source Protection
3. Exotic & Invasive Species Management
4. Land Use Impacts on Water Quality Issues
5. Sustainable Forest Management

2008 Revenue

Intergovernmental	\$130,300
Clean Water Legacy	\$25,000
State Grants	\$65,074
Charges for Services	\$25,794
Miscellaneous	\$8,016
Total	\$254,184

Recent Projects

A Clean Water Legacy Grant was received by the District to help fund three different streambank restoration/protection projects along Silver Creek. With these funds the SWCD, with the help of the Red Lake Watershed District and Minnesota Conservation Corps was able to repair almost 400 feet of badly eroding streambank. One project required the repair of a streambank failure that was 25' high and nearly 180' long. Through these projects we were able to reduce sediment loading to Silver Creek as well as keeping landowners from losing more property.



The receipt of an Agricultural Watershed Restoration Grant helped the Clearwater SWCD determine sources of pollution and ways to reduce nutrient loading in Silver Creek, a fecal coliform/E.coli Impaired Water. The grant allowed district staff to assess land uses, buffers, and possible sources of pollution in the stream as well model the watershed to see how we could reduce loading in the most economically & environmentally efficient way with help from the UND EERC. With the money set aside for implementing projects in the upcoming year the SWCD will begin to take on some of those problem areas along the stream.

Clearbrook Challenge Grant – for this project the SWCD extended its hand to all its partners including the Red Lake Watershed District, City of Clearbrook, and even the Good Samaritan Center in Clearbrook. To start the project off on the right foot the SWCD worked with the Good Samaritan Center to install a rain garden to catch runoff from their nearby parking lot. To plant the rain garden the SWCD along with the U of M Extension held a workshop for all members of the public on the design and installation of a rain garden. We also did a P8 model of the area to find the best place in or around the city of Clearbrook to install stormwater catch basins, to reduce pollutants heading to Clear Brook. The basins are scheduled to be installed in 2010 in partnership with the Red Lake Watershed District.

With the help of Citizen Volunteers, nineteen lakes were monitored in 2008 and 2009 through a Surface Water Assessment Grant from the MPCA. After receiving training on how to collect water samples, the 19 volunteers were responsible for taking water samples and transparency readings on their respective lakes and dropping the samples at 2 drop-off points established in the county and coordinated by the Clearwater SWCD. Samples were sent to a RMB Labs and tested for chlorophyll-a and total phosphorus. Chlorophyll-a and phosphorus are both good indicators of water quality and provide a key to assessing lake conditions.

Three more lakes will be monitored in 2010-11 with the help of citizen volunteers, through another SWAG.

A **Lakeshore Protection Project** was installed on Roy Lake in western Clearwater County. The landowner installed a native plant filter strip on the upland along with planting wetland vegetation in the shallow water near the shore to re-establish the native wetland vegetation, critical in protecting shorelines from erosion. Financial assistance through the State Cost Share program helped offset costs for the landowner.

Along with this project, the Clearwater SWCD and Clearwater County Environmental Services sponsored a hands-on workshop to any interested participants. The workshop included classroom instruction as well as hands-on experience for participants to learn how to install a lakeshore project. Mary Blickenderfer, U of M Extension Shoreland Specialist, was the workshop instructor. Participants attended from a 3 county area.



Future Projects

The upcoming construction season has many promising projects to work with. Our district will be working hard to implement projects in the Silver Creek Watershed to reduce fecal coliform/E.coli numbers and to complete the Agricultural Watershed Restoration Grant. We now have a Forest Stewardship Plan Writer working for the district and are looking forward to continue to work with private landowners on Sustainable Forestry Management on their lands. To continue our work with the public we are going to continue to work with volunteers around the county on monitoring water quality and clarity on area lakes; this program has proven to be a great success and a positive way to engage the public in our work. The SWCD also looks forward to doing more successful projects with landowners through the State Cost-Share Program, this program is essential to doing valuable projects and creating life long partners in conservation in Clearwater County.

Board Members

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