

Crow Wing

Soil and Water Conservation District

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SWCD Board Meeting: 3rd Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protecting and restoring surface water quality.
2. Protecting groundwater quality and quantity.
3. Proper management of stormwater runoff from commercial and riparian developments.
4. Protection and enhancement of wetlands.
5. Protect marginal lands from development by promoting the use of conservation easements.

2008 Revenue

State Revenues	\$154,044
County Revenues	\$185,047
Charges for Services	\$42,969
Other Program Revenues	\$8,967
General Revenues	\$4,755
Total	\$395,782

State revenues include grants for projects such as cost-share, BWSR service grant, WCA, and Water Plan. County revenues include the annual allocation, WCA, and Water Plan. Charges for services includes a contract with MPCA for NPDES inspections and WCA services. General Revenues includes interest earned.

Recent Projects

Continue to Promote and Assist Citizen Water Quality Monitoring through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Surface Water Assessment Grants. The district assessed 50 lakes and two rivers based on the MPCA requirements for lakes and rivers. Furthermore, the district trained 150 citizens on how to monitor. Beginning in Spring 2010 the district will assist the MPCA in the Crow Wing River Watershed Intensive water Monitoring project.

Whitefish Chain: Big Island Bank Stabilization Project: The Crow Wing SWCD partnered with the Rollie Johnson Recreational Area, WAPOA, and MNDNR to address severe shoreline erosion and widespread bank failure on Big Island, which is located in the Whitefish Chain. The SWCD designed a plan to minimize disturbance and maximize long term stability. Slope breaks, constructed from local willow and alder shrubs, were installed in various intervals across the slope and willow wattles were installed at the toe. Emergent vegetation was planted between a wave break and the toe. The steep slopes were planted with a wide range of native tree, shrub, and plant species for long term above and below ground stability. Volunteers installed these practices on 150 feet of shoreline and 5,500 square feet of sandy bank. Adjacent banks will be stabilized in subsequent years using the methodology applied on this project. Information about the plants and practices will be available to the public in 2010.



Volunteers placed these erosion control devices for the shoreline buffer on Big Island.

The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program has been a successful cooperation of the Crow Wing SWCD, Camp Ripley, Morrison SWCD, Cass SWCD, and BWSR. The goal is to protect the viability of Camp Ripley as a military training base by allowing surrounding landowners to place an easement on their

property that restricts residential, commercial, and industrial development in the future. The SWCD works directly with the interested landowners using a manner similar to Reinvest

In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve, with similar payment rates and forms. The ACUB program works to protect undeveloped land whether it is in agricultural production or forested.



Spring 2009, volunteers planted native plants for the bioretention basins. In Crosby

Stormwater Retrofit Serpent Lake: The SWCD partnered with Serpent Lake Association, City of Crosby, CWC Master Gardeners, and Minnesota DNR to install 300 feet of native shoreline buffer and two bioretention basins. The project is located at Crosby City Hall and serves as a demonstration site to the community. The basins were sized to capture stormwater that had been running off the city's streets into Serpent Lake. Now, this polluted runoff is

funneled from the streets into the basins through concrete valley gutters built into the street. The basins were planted with native plants to remove nutrients and pollutants in the runoff, infiltrate water, and help restore natural hydrological processes. Overall it will reduce annual sediment loads into Serpent Lake by about ½ ton and nutrient loads by 6 lbs! That reduction means about a 1 ton reduction in algal blooms.

Prioritizing protection strategies for lake rich northern counties through the Clean Water Legacy Grant, the District collaborated with Aitkin SWCD, Cass County, and RMB Laboratories to develop water quality assessment and watershed analysis reports for lakes larger than 1000 acres in size. These reports are being used to identify high priority protection areas for future forest, shoreline, and wetland easements and high priority projects for future state cost-share or grant funds.

Future Projects

Recharge! Restoring Natural Hydrology in Urban Communities: The SWCD will partner with local government units to cost-share on non-riparian rain gardens, shoreline buffers, and provide alternatives to riprap, and turf grass lawns. This project will target riparian and non-riparian parcels located within lakesheds containing a high ratio of impervious to pervious surfaces which includes the Cities of Breezy Point, Crosslake, Crosby, and Fifty Lakes.

Soil Survey: Continue to support and promote the soil survey update that began in 2005. It is anticipated that first data from soil survey update will be available online in 2010

Partnerships: Work on creating and enhancing partnerships with the Thirty Lakes Watershed District, municipalities, and lake associations.

Board Members

Robert Becker	Chair	(218) 543-6655	11341 Swanburg Ln, Pine River, MN 56474
Robert Albrecht	Vice Chair	(218) 546-6633	22 - 3rd St NW, Crosby, MN 56441
Dianne Jacobson	Secretary	(218) 764-3365	10287 Cty Rd 8, Brainerd, MN 56401
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