

East Otter Tail

Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.eotswcd.org

*Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of Month at 8:30 am,
Nov-March; 7:30 am, April -Oct*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Development Pressure - Protecting agricultural land, lakes, streams, wetlands and forested areas that are being developed for housing and recreational purposes.
2. Ground Water Quality – Maintaining the quality and quantity of ground water for residential, industrial and agricultural uses.
3. Surface Water Quality – Protect, preserve, and improve surface water quality through the use of various conservation practices like filter strips, conservation tillage, feedlot and manure management.
4. Wind Erosion
5. Forest Land Improvement and reestablishment

2008 Revenue

Total	\$543,69
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Recent Projects

The Native Shoreland Buffer Incentives Program

- In 2008 Otter Tail County was fortunate to receive one of two \$75,000 grants available from the MN DNR to assist local governments using social indicator research to develop innovative shoreland programs. A survey of local shoreland owners was performed to guide initial program development. The survey gauges current knowledge, attitudes, and practices to identify any barriers to native shoreland restoration. Methods, materials, and incentives are being developed by the project partners to overcome the local barriers. A follow-up survey in 2010 will measure changes in knowledge, attitudes, and practices. These indicators will be used to gauge program effectiveness before water quality changes or other physical results become apparent on the ground. Partners in the grant include the UMN Water Resource Center, Extension, MN DNR, the Coalition of Otter Tail County Lake Associations, OTC Land & Resource Management, OTC GIS, and USFWS. Funding for this grant comes from the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Irrigation Scheduler Program - Nearly 70,000 acres are irrigated in Otter Tail County, making it the highest number of acres in Minnesota. With this in mind the EOT SWCD adopted the Irrigation Scheduler Program to provide a service to help area producers manage their irrigated acres using the irrigation checkbook computer program developed by the University of Minnesota that tracks crop water use for the specific crops, and crop stage.

Lakescaping and Shoreline Stabilization Program – Through a partnership with WOT SWCD and Otter Tail County the EOT SWCD has been able to hire a shoreland specialist to assist landowners with shoreland stabilization and lakescaping projects. Since 2008 the shoreland specialist has visited over 100 sites and has assisted in installing 36 stabilization or lakescaping projects. We currently have another 12 projects scheduled for installation in

2010. Funding for these projects comes from



various sources including the Native Buffer Cost Share Program, County Water Plan Cost Share, EQIP, and the DNR Shoreland Habitat Grants program.



Conservation Tour - The East Otter Tail and West Otter Tail SWCDs held a joint conservation tour in 2009 (pictured). Stops included an ag waste facility, a wetland restoration, a shoreline stabilization project, a lakescaping site, several tree and native grass plantings, and other conservation practices.

Future Projects

Invasive species removal in high quality oak savannas and adjacent to or on public property. The EOT SWCD is working in conjunction with the Minnesota Forest Resource Councils West Central Committee to obtain grant funding to target buckthorn control in priority areas of East Otter Tail County.

Board Members

Lyle Dittmann	Chair	(218) 385-2392	54589 County Hwy 58, New York Mills, MN 56567
Marion Gill	Secretary	(218) 346-7295	40122 Aerovilla Rd, Perham, MN 56573
Steve Inwards	Vice Chair	(218) 338-5866	14159 Co Hwy 42, Parkers Prairie, MN 56361
Dennis Reynolds	Treasurer	(218) 758-2162	38596 Egret Road, Richville, MN 56576-9634
Open due to resignation			