

Kandiyohi

Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.co.kandiyohi.mn.us/swcd

*SWCD Board Meeting: 3rd Tuesday of Month;
May-Sept at 9:00 am, Oct-April at 10:00 am*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Improve and protect water quality in lakes, wetlands, rivers, streams and ditches and promote buffer strips.
2. Reduce wind and water erosion on cropland to tolerable levels.
3. Decrease stormwater runoff from urban and agricultural land, including feedlots and cropland.
4. Protect and improve wildlife habitat and control invasive species.
5. Promote responsible urban and rural development.

2008 Revenue

County	\$137,600
Federal	\$ 6,420
State	\$190,735
Charges for Services	\$118,237
Interest	\$ 9,160
Other	\$ 3,046
Total	\$465,198

Recent Projects

RIM/WRP Easements

The Reinvest in Minnesota and Wetlands Reserve Program (RIM/WRP) partnership to establish conservation easements, restore wetlands, and restore prairie habitats has been very successful for Kandiyohi County. In 2008 and 2009, 27 perpetual conservation easements were purchased on 2,031 acres of private lands in Kandiyohi County. These conservation easement lands contain previously drained or altered wetlands that once restored will provide many important benefits such as water quality improvements, ground water recharge, flood reduction, as well as quality and rare wildlife habitat. Easement compensation payments to RIM/WRP participants in Kandiyohi County 2008-2009 totaled \$6,338,976.

Wetland Restorations

This last year we restored 19 wetlands on 12 tracts of land. Wetland restorations in Kandiyohi County have been a big part of our workload.

We work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to restore wetlands where feasible to improve water quality and improve wildlife habitat. This has been an on going practice that will only improve in years to come, with the continuing interest in CRP and the excellent RIM/WRP sign-up and contracts that are in the process. We have also worked on several wetland restoration projects with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

AG Waste Pit



Construction of a Concrete Ag waste pit for hog manure was completed this fall in cooperation with the NRCS office and cost sharing under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). This pit will hold the manure from two existing hog barns along with a third barn to be constructed some time in the future. A nutrient management plan is also a vital part of this practice. The plan makes sure that the fertilizer value of the manure is not applied to cropland above agronomic rates. It is very important to the future of livestock production in our county and state to make sure we protect and improve both ground water and surface water quality and Ag Waste Pits like this one help protect both.

Streambank, Shoreland & Roadside Protection

The goal of this project was to stabilize this high priority sites by reducing bank erosion and sediment transportation. The project required some stream re-alignment along with placing rock rip rap and bio-engineering stream stabilization techniques, along with reshaping the slope and reseeding it with natives and woody material. Within the stream channel itself we constructed several stream ripple areas offering habitat and flow reduction. This project will have a direct impact on water quality due to the decreases in total suspended solids (TSS), turbidity and dissolved oxygen (DO) during heavy rain events on the upstream. This project ties directly to the Kandiyohi County's local water plan and the Soil and Water Conservation District work plan in controlling sediment and nutrient transportation.



Before



After

Future Projects

Grass Lake Prairie Wetland Restoration The 1,200 acre drained shallow lakebed is located in the headwaters of the South Fork Crow Watershed, southeast and adjacent to the City of Willmar. Efforts are currently underway to restore the drained lakebed for the purposes of improving water quality, providing upstream and downstream flood reduction, as well as restoring wildlife habitat benefits. The Kandiyohi SWCD, Kandiyohi County, City of Willmar and other project partners have agreed to cooperate to restore the drained lakebed. Just over 1,600 acres of land have been secured under permanent Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve easement to facilitate the Grass Lake Restoration. Restoration work could begin as soon as 2010.

Board Members

Douglas Hanson	Chair	(320) 235-0938	1601 8th St SW, Willmar, MN 56201
Kevin Clough	Treasurer	(320) 974-3085	11299 195th St SE, Lake Lillian, MN 56253
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