

Lake of the Woods

Soil and Water Conservation District

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SWCD Board Meeting: Second Thursday of Month at 6:00 pm



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Erosion and Sedimentation
2. Land Use Management
3. Sewage Treatments Systems
4. Water Quality
5. Education

2008 Revenue

Local Government Grants	\$1,089
County Allocation	\$25,000
Delegated Feedlot Program	\$16,850
Water Plan Program	\$20,814
Wetland Conservation Act	\$25,961
State Cost Share Program	\$17,000
General Service Grant	\$22,075
BWSR Challenge Grant	\$7,366
TMDL Contracts with MPCA	\$30,846
Charges for Services	\$12,881
Misc. Rev (Interest & Other)	\$12,506
Total	\$192,388

*Over \$42,000 of these funds, including \$17,000 of State Cost Share funds and \$5,000 of Water Plan funds and \$20,000 of District funds were budgeted for on-the-ground projects.

Recent Projects

Bostic and Zippel Watershed Protection Projects



Erosion and sedimentation issues within the Bostic and Zippel Watersheds have been a focus of the SWCD. The LOW SWCD, working with the County, received a State Challenge Grant to investigate a severely eroded stretch of ditch within the Bostic Watershed. Through this funding, a two-stage ditch design was engineered. Using this design, the Public Works Department completed construction on a mile long stretch of ditch in 2009.

To further investigate the issues within these two minor watersheds, the SWCD has requested the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Water Resources Staff (WRS). The WRS are currently conducting a two-year study with the help of the local SWCD staff.



Natural resource education is another focus of the SWCD. In addition to holding various workshops and trainings, the SWCD publishes the only local natural resource newsletter. Through this venue, the SWCD gets the word out about agriculture BMPs, financial incentives for forest landowners, and state/federal conservation funding programs. The SWCD also uses this newsletter to promote its annual tree sales program and to present the most current information on noxious weeds, insect threats, ISTS and wetland rule changes.

Providing cost share incentives and low interest loans for conservation projects is a high priority. Each year, the SWCD has set aside local funds and used state grants to seal abandoned wells, protect shorelines from erosion, control erosion through sidewater inlets and grassed waterways, and upgrade feedlots and ISTS to protect water quality. In 2009, over \$150,000 in cost share and AgBMP loans were utilized for projects.



Due to severe erosion damages from a 2002 flood, this house was just feet from the riverbank's edge. In 2009, a combination of subsurface draitile, major reshaping, and riprap was used to restore the bank and protect the house.

Water quality monitoring has been a focus of the District over the last six years. Lake of the Woods SWCD has contracted with MPCA to investigate the Williams Creek and Baudette River for low dissolved oxygen, and Lake of the Woods for nutrients. The SWCD has also investigated other minor watersheds utilizing funds from BWSR challenge grants and local matches, and through in-kind contributions via an international cooperative monitoring effort and the establishment of a River Water Program at Lake of the Woods High School. Recently, LOW SWCD has partnered with Koochiching SWCD to begin a water quality assessment of the Big Fork Watershed. Data collected through these efforts is used on a state and local level to address concerns within the watersheds.

Future Projects

Pine and Currys Island Investigation and Restoration: The SWCD is currently working with the DNR and the County to address erosion concerns on these barrier islands. Several years of high waters within an extremely complex lake/basin system has taken its toll on the islands.

Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area – The SWCD has been a strong proponent of establishing an outdoor learning area immediately adjacent to the Lake of the Woods K-12 School on 120 acres of School Forest lands. The SWCD has assisted in building partnerships, writing grants and creating a plan of action. A wetland restoration, nature trail, and amphitheatre are all slated for 2010 construction. The outdoor learning area will be open to students and the general public.

Board Members

Marshall Nelson	Chair	(218) 634-1209	1942 - 23rd St SW, Baudette, MN 56623
John Sonstegard	Secretary	(218) 634-2474	693 20th Ave NW, Baudette, MN 56623
Russell Hansen	Treasurer	(218) 634-2164	1501 - 59th St SW, Baudette, MN 56623
Roger Krause	Vice Chair	(218) 634-1691	2980 Main St W, Baudette, MN 56623
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