

Lincoln

Soil and Water Conservation District

PO Box 32
Ivanhoe, MN 56142
PHONE: (507) 694-1630
FAX: (507) 694-1666

www.lincolnswcd.net

SWCD Board Meeting: *Third Wednesday*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

Ground Water Protection for the Verdi Well Field

*Surface Water Quality Deterioration focusing on MPCAs list of TMDLs and Impaired waters.**

*Erosion and Sediment Control on agricultural land primarily gully erosion and concentrated flow with several priority areas throughout Lincoln County.**

Lake Management Improvement (water quality) and Recreational Opportunities targeting Lake Benton, Lake Shaokatan and Lake Hendricks.

Surface water runoff and drainage addressing runoff volume and water quality through drainage management.

**Includes: TMDL-South Branch Yellow Medicine River for Fecal Coliform. Impaired waters- various river reaches and lakes including: Dead Coon, Benton, Perch, Shaokatan and Hendricks. TMDLs underway: Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank-Bacteria, Turbidity and Low Dissolved Oxygen; Lake Shaotakan-Excess Nutrients; Redwood River-Fecal Coliform; and Minnesota River-Turbidity.*

2008 Revenue

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| County Revenue | \$112,352 |
| State Revenue | \$86,276 |
| DNR-Working Lands Initiative | \$317,974 |
| Local Sportsman Club C-S | \$29,036 |
| Charges for Services | \$119,311 |
| Misc. Revenues | \$26,620 |
| Total | \$691,569 |

Notes: Over 55% of the revenue is landowner and operator programs including cost-share and incentive programs.

Recent Projects



Before construction



After construction

Drammen 15 Small Dam Project

This project was completed in cooperation with the landowner, Area II-MN River Basin, Lincoln SWCD and NRCS. Total cost of project was \$115,470.13 with funding from EQIP, Area II, State of MN Bonding and the landowner. Purpose of the project is for flood control and wildlife habitat protection.

The Lincoln SWCD, the LGU for the Wetland Conservation Act in Lincoln County, had the role of assuring that all wetland impacts were replaced in accordance with state law. The SWCD worked closely with Area II, BWSR, DNR and Army Corps of Engineers on the wetland plan of impacts and replacement. It was determined that .7 acre of type 2 sedge meadow wetland would be impacted. The replacement ratio would be a 2.5 to 1. The .7 acre wetland impact was mitigated by purchasing from the Lyon County wetland bank. The remaining 1.05 acre of mitigation needed was mitigated by restoring the native prairie vegetation that surrounds the dam. 4.2 acres of native prairie was the minimum public value credit needed to buffer the dam area. The landowner chose to set aside 12.3 acres for this buffer area. This area, which includes the dam, has been fenced off for livestock exclusion. As of Dec. 15, 2009, the dam was 75% full of water. The permanent pool of the dam is approximately 1.7 acres.

Living Snow Fence Program

The Lincoln SWCD's Living Snow Fence Program, in cooperation with the MN Department of Transportation, was a huge success in 2009. 10.9 acres of living snow fences were planted along State Highway 14 for three different landowners. Approximately one mile of road will be protected by these living snow fences. Total costs for the three sites-\$13,045.57. Total length of all of the planted tree rows were 9,466 feet. These three sites are a nice addition to the many existing living snow fences planted by the Lincoln SWCD in past years along Highway 14.

Installation of Conservation Practices



This picture shows a newly constructed water and sediment control basin in Lincoln County. These type of projects reduce sediment and nutrient runoff by capturing peak flows and releasing them over a 48 hour period through a controlled orifice and underground outlet. Water and Sediment Control Basins can also be designed with a "blind intake" to further reduce pollutants from reaching "waters of the state". In 2009 the following conservation practices were installed in Lincoln County through various funding sources: 54-water and sediment control basins, 1,100 feet of waterway (one total), and one-wetland restoration.

Native Grass Drill – Roadsides for Wildlife

Along with the Haybuster Drill through DNR, the district purchased a second Haybuster Drill to help with our planting effort. 2009 Native Grass Drill-DNR Roadsides for Wildlife include:

- Total number of operations/operators 39
- Total Acres Planted 791.7 ac.
- Between new tree rows 31.3 ac.
- Landscaping (golf course interseed) 3.0 ac.
- Pasture interseeding 45.2 ac.
- Construction projects/roadsides 9.0 ac.
- Crops (beans) 6.5 ac.
- CRP, Filter Strips, Native Buffers 696.7 ac.

This was a huge year for "Natives". Total area planted is the equivalent of planting from Mankato, MN to Denver, CO with a 10 foot drill in the ground. Considering the amount of miles in delivery and return of the drill by the 39 different operations it is possible to believe that we could have reached Phoenix, AZ.

Lake Shaokatan Sportsmen Club Projects

The Sportsmen Club provided the Lincoln SWCD with \$30,000 to use on practices (cost-share and incentives) in the Lake Shaokatan Watershed. Through these efforts the following projects were installed along with the total cost associated with each practice:

- Small Dam Project 1-ea. \$7,290.25
- Blind Intakes 14-ea. \$6,822.75
- CRP Incentive 2.7ac. \$ 810.00

Farm Bill Assistant

The Farm Bill Assistant (FBA) position in Lincoln County assists landowners in finding the best options and programs available to them. Program and incentive funding such as: CRP, WRP/RIM, Working Lands Initiative (WLI), along with the various watershed incentive programs available, provide the landowners with a variety of easement options. Projects completed with the various funding sources in 2009 include:

- CRP programs, Lincoln County had just under 100 contracts enrolling over 1600 acres.
- WRP/ RIM programs, one completed easement with two more being processed.
- WLI dollars, projects completed include: two Rim easements for 110 acres and 13 incentive contracts for 418 acres with the Lincoln SWCD paying out over \$400,000.00 in 2009.
- Watershed incentives include dollars for landowners in the Yellow Medicine, Redwood River, and the Lac Qui Parle watersheds. Lincoln County landowners took advantage of the filter strip incentives for a total of approximately \$60,000.

Working with the local Buffalo Ridge Pheasants Forever Chapter, local sportsman's groups, and lake associations is the norm for the Lincoln SWCD. The FBA position is made available in Lincoln County through the cooperation of BWSR Grant and Pheasants Forever.

Future Projects

Clean Water Funds: The Lincoln SWCD along with neighboring SWCD's submitted Clean Water Fund Grant Applications for the Redwood-Cottonwood, Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed Projects.

Lake Shaokatan Sportsmen Club Projects: Dam construction, wetland restorations, grass filter strip.

Board Members

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| Daniel Christianson | Chair | (507) 275-3460 | 3479 Co Rd 101, Hendricks, MN 56136 |
| John Boulton | PR&I | (507) 296-4668 | 2589 State Hwy 68, Porter, MN 56280 |
| Conrad Schardin | Secretary | (507) 368-4876 | 1638 State Hwy 14, Lake Benton, MN 56149 |
| Glen Sorensen | Vice Chair | (507) 487-5771 | 2777 Co Rd 125, Arco, MN 56113 |
| Joe Weber | Treasurer | (507) 368-4681 | 1978 Co Hwy 13, Lake Benton, MN 56149 |