

# Martin

## Soil and Water Conservation District

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*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Thursday of Month*



### Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

- To improve water quality by addressing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the county.
- Provide source water protection for safe drinking water for all residents.
- Drainage System Management
- Wetland Protection and Restoration
- Provide rural and urban conservation assistance for Best Management Practices (BMPs).

### 2008 Revenue

Total Intergovernmental Revenues	390,001
Total Charges for Services	56,597
Total Interest Earnings	4,390
Total Miscellaneous	25,842
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$476,830</b>

## Recent Projects

A Fairmont lakeshore is being restored by removing buckthorn, and using local ecotype native plants for replacement. This restoration was funded through a DNR Shoreland/Habitat Grant, and will serve as an educational project for our public.



A Martin SWCD intern is shown collecting native local-ecotype seed. A grant was received to allow native plant seeds to be collected, identified and categorized, and planted on permanent conservation easements. Funding was provided through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).



Students from Martin County West helped the Martin SWCD collect seeds for an LCCMR project. Our local 4-H clubs were also involved in collecting seeds.



**Source water protection:** Martin SWCD continues to work with agricultural producers, residents, contractors, city officials and engineers to install vegetation, buffer strips and offer educational workshops. Martin SWCD received a DNR Shoreland/Habitat grant for a lakeshore restoration/educational site. Construction on this site was started June 2009 and will be completed June 2010.

**Drainage System Management:** Martin SWCD is working in conjunction with the Martin County Drainage Authority to administer the one rod buffer on all County and Judicial ditches. To date, 122 of the 188 miles of buffers (64%) have been flagged for seeding in 2010, or already flagged and seeded.

**Wetland Restorations:** Five wetland restorations and one repair on a wetland restoration were completed in 2009. Martin SWCD has completed over 80 of these restorations.

## Future Projects

Since the 1970s, over 35 studies have been completed on Dutch Creek that identify specific problems and pollutants. The Martin SWCD has applied for grants to implement solutions:

1. Upland treatment; including alternative perennial crops, residue management, nutrient management, conservation crop rotations; and approved treatments for lakeshore owners located on Budd and Hall Lakes (designed according to the USDA Field Office Technical Guide and Urban Stormwater Standards).
2. Install filter and infiltration strips and vegetate seasonal and intermittent streams.
3. Installation of wetland restorations / water retention in key locations throughout the watershed.
4. Construct a water treatment area near the mouth of Dutch Creek.

The SWCD has been working with five lakeshore homeowners to stabilize their property with native plants and to install rain gardens. These projects will serve as educational tools and diverse demonstration sites.

Continuation of the Martin County Native Buffer Cost-Share Program will allow the SWCD to develop a seed source for local ecotype native species (Martin County Origin) emphasizing rare and declining species.

A grant was received by the Martin SWCD to administer and implement the Greater Blue Earth Cooperative Weed Management Area (GBE CWMA). The project focus has been to control and reduce the spread or introduction of invasive species that are in or near the CWMA with emphasis on natural areas and replacing invasive species, with local ecotype natives.

## Board Members

Duane Petrowiak	Chair	(507) 235-5745	14 Carol Ln, Fairmont, MN 56031
Steve Flohrs	Treasurer	(507) 639-3071	1056 230th St, Ormsby, MN 56162
Linda Meschke	Vice Chair	(507) 235-3127	3824 Cedar Creek Ct, Fairmont, MN 56031
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Wendell Rode	Secretary	(507) 728-8576	1311 105th St, Welcome, MN 56181