

# Morrison

## Soil and Water Conservation District

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*SWCD Board Meeting: 4th Thursday at 9:30  
a.m., Ag Service Center*



### Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect the quality and quantity of groundwater resources
2. Protect, preserve and improve surface water resources
3. Promote and implement sound land use practices that reduce the impacts on natural resources
4. Wetland protection and enhancement
5. Maintain agriculture production while protecting natural resources

### 2008 Revenue

Total	\$649,498
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## Recent Projects



**The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB)** program has been a successful conservation easement program of the SWCDs in Morrison, Cass and Crow Wing counties in cooperation with Camp Ripley and BWSR. The goal is to protect the viability of Camp Ripley as a military training base by allowing surrounding landowners to place conservation easements on their property that restricts residential, commercial and industrial development in the future. The SWCD works directly with the interested landowners using a manner similar to Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve, except the landowner may continue agricultural use of the land. The ACUB program works to protect undeveloped land whether it is in agricultural production or forested. The Federally funded ACUB initiative has successfully enrolled 50 perpetual conservation easement totaling 8,292 acres in Morrison, Cass and Crow Wing Counties. The initiative improves water quality and sustains wildlife habitat by restricting residential, commercial and industrial development. Furthermore, it preserves the counties current land use, particularly agriculture, forestry, recreation, and helps maintain the rural character of the counties.

**An "On the Water" assessment of** Fishtrap Lake was conducted by the Morrison SWCD to assist the County Local Water Plan effort. This is the third lake to be completed, the others being Crook Neck Lake and Lake Shamineau. The sites of each lot are GPS located, photographed and documented for the conditions of the bank and any structures. Recommendations will be made to the association on Best Management Practices and funds will be made available for shoreline restoration for riparian buffers.

**Many riparian feedlots with pollution**

ratings have been upgraded using FWQ and EQIP funding. However, the ability to clean up some very problematic sites on other riparian areas will be reduced, because new rules require those funds to be used only in TMDL watersheds. The Little Rock Lake watershed is the only TMDL in the county. Most of the feedlot problems in that watershed were dealt with using Challenge Grant money over the past 12 years. This change of direction for the FWQ funding is going to affect the SWCD's ability to address the Open Lot Agreement producers.



**Pictured: Before (top) and After photos of a shoreline bank stabilization project along the Mississippi River.**

**The SWCD staff is an integral part**

of the county's comprehensive land-use planning, the re-writing of county ordinances and have taken the lead on the Local Water Management Plan update. SWCD staff provided feedback based on their work with feedlot producers to the county that has driven several changes in the permitting process. The SWCD's recognition of environmental concerns on shoreland use permits has also been well received.

**Morrison SWCD promotes and**

implements a successful tree sales program offering State cost-share to landowners for the installation of field windbreaks, farmstead shelterbelts, riparian buffers and living snow fences. Many others are assisted with wildlife and landscaping plantings. Over 232,600 trees have been planted in the past 5 years.

**State Cost-Share contracts 2008 – 2009**

- \$62,280 State Cost-Share dollars disbursed
- Farmstead Shelterbelts – 22
- Field Windbreaks – 35
- Critical Area Plantings – 1
- Shoreland Plantings – 1
- Well decommissioning – 9
- Grassed Waterways – 2
- Sediment Basins – 2
- Shoreline Bank Stabilization - 2
- Terraces – 2
- Water Control Structures - 1
- Diversions - 1
- Ag Waste Storage Facilities – 2

**Future Projects**

- Updating and implementing the Morrison County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.
- Complete planning and construction of a wetland banking site.
- SWCD staff are working with small feedlot owners who qualify for the "Open Lot Agreement" provision of the State Feedlot Rules. Cost-share funding from several sources has been secured to help pay for these projects.
- Work to complete a geological atlas.
- Assisting Benton SWCD in completing the Little Rock TMDL.
- Continued work with the ACUB program

**Board Members**

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