

# Mower

## Soil and Water Conservation District

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1408 21st Ave NW  
Austin, MN 55912  
PHONE: (507) 434-2603  
FAX: (507) 434-2680  
[www.mowerswcd.org](http://www.mowerswcd.org)

*SWCD Board Meeting:  
2nd Wednesday of Month at 8:30 am*



### Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Agriculture Runoff
2. Improving surface water management
3. Flood reduction
4. Protecting and restoring wetlands
5. Restoring water quality in the Cedar River Watershed District

### 2008 Revenue

Local	\$85,005
County	\$220,950
State	\$214,508
Federal	\$18,103
Charges for Services	\$152,841
Misc Revenues	\$19,332
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$710,739</b>

## Recent Projects

### *Two Stage Ditch*



A demonstration two stage ditch system was constructed in Adams Township. Two Stage Ditch systems utilize the stream flow process to create a stable ditch which requires less maintenance. As seen in the photo, there is a small main channel with vegetated benches. Other benefits include improved water quality and reduced velocity by bringing back a meandering path. Partners in this project include Mower SWCD, University of Minnesota, MPCA, Dept of Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy and the landowners. A comprehensive monitoring program will start in 2010.

### *Wetland restorations for flood control*



In response to the escalating flood events and increased damages involved, the Legislature designated funds to target wetland restorations for upland flood control treatment in the Cedar River Watershed. The landowners responded and enrolled 20 sites for over 1,100 acres.

The response was great and the enrollments showed that the best way to address water quality and quantity issues is through landowner driven conservation programs. The SWCD is already ramping up its efforts to target priority projects for the next sign-up. With good support and attractive easement rates, we're hitting our goals and achieving results.



### **Dobbins Creek Project**

In 2009, the SWCD began focusing on a small agricultural watershed project, to study water quality and flood reduction opportunities. Dobbins Creek is a small stream, with a 25,000 acre watershed feeding into the Cedar River. The study is sponsored by BWSR and looks at landscape, land use and monitoring data to analyze the effects of incorporated conservation practices on the land. The goal of the project is to identify practices that will result in a measureable difference, on a small scale. As the study winds down, the SWCD is gearing up to deliver the treatment programs to landowners. The work area is quite small and has required landowner involvement to make it a success. The result of the project is truly a cooperative effort between SWCD and landowners to surgically treat the landscape and "restore" the water quality and quantity concerns in Dobbins Creek.

### **SWCD/Cedar River Watershed District Partnership**

For the last 3 years the Mower SWCD has contracted services with the Cedar River Watershed District. Administrative and technical services have been provided. This partnership has provided many opportunities for both the CRWD and the SWCD. A comprehensive monitoring program, many grant opportunities, as well as building the programs for flood reduction and improving water quality.

## **Future Projects**

### **TMDL for Turbidity in the Cedar River Basin**

2010 will be the last year for monitoring and data gathering in the Cedar River Basin. The TMDL study will then be written and the implementation plan developed. A partnership between the 3 Watershed Districts (Cedar River WD, Shell Rock River WD and Turtle Creek WD) and 4 SWCDs (Mower, Freeborn, Steele and Dodge) is a part of the success of this TMDL project.

### **City of LeRoy Wellhead Protection Program**

The City of LeRoy now has an approved wellhead protection plan. With the assistance of the Mower SWCD and the Hiawatha Valley RC&D, a demonstration of well sealing in the City of LeRoy will take place. We will also be developing a cost share program for other residents to seal their wells.

### **Evaluating Conservation Practices**

Mower SWCD staff will be working with the Department of Agriculture on monitoring surface water that is outletting from farm fields with conservation practices. Monitoring efforts will show effects on water and soil quality. This 10 year project will provide science based information that will refine management practices and technologies that are designed to help farmers operate profitably while protecting natural resources.

## **Board Members**

James Gebhardt	Chair	(507) 477-2184	31776 State Hwy 56, Waltham, MN 55982
Jon Erichson	Secretary/Treasurer	(507) 437-2437	911 18th St SW, Austin, MN 55912
Rick Gehling	Member	(507) 754-5851	73498 300th St, Grand Meadow, MN 55936
John Grass, Jr	Member	(507) 324-5805	76742 115th St, Le Roy, MN 55951
Bill Lonergan, Jr.	Vice Chair	(507) 433-4875	15443 570th Ave, Austin, MN 55912