

Pennington

Soil and Water Conservation District



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www.nwmnswcd.org/pennington

*SWCD Board Meeting: Third Monday of Month
at 9:00 a.m.*

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect and improve surface water quality and groundwater resources
2. Reduce water and wind erosion
3. Promote and educate the public about the SWCD and our conservation programs
4. Conservation of wetlands and wildlife areas
5. Flood damage reduction

2008 Revenue

Charges for Services	\$72,898
Federal	\$5,168
State	\$54,925
County	\$137,828
Interest and other	\$9,589
Total	\$280,408

Recent Projects



We were successful in securing funds for the Jerome St. Group Project that was listed in the 2008 guidebook. This 700' streambank stabilization project is located just downstream of the power dam in Thief River Falls where ice flows and high water undercut the bank to the point of cracking the top slope. The Pennington SWCD worked with the group of five landowners for the last five years to acquire funding. Meanwhile the price tag increased from \$85,000 to \$100,000. The project is located across the Red Lake River from a highly used city park where aesthetics are a major factor. The landowners' privacy from the park was also something to consider. The large number of people that use the park along with water quality benefits convinced the Red Lake Watershed District and the City of Thief River Falls to participate. Finally, in 2009 the project became a reality. Construction started in October with stabilizing the toe by creating a 15' wide bench, restoring the floodplain without removing existing vegetation. The City donated 2,000 cubic yards of fill along with trucks and drivers. Their in-kind work reduced the project cost by \$28,000. Pennington SWCD used state cost-share to cover 25% of the cost and the Red Lake Watershed District provided the remainder. The project will be completed in the spring of 2010 with grass seeding and installing live stakes. The Red River Valley Conservation Service Area provided the engineering services.



In cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Pennington SWCD, nine grade stabilization structures were installed in 2009. The Pennington County Comprehensive Local Water Plan and the EQIP Local Work Group have identified sedimentation and turbidity as a high priority resource concern. These structures transfer water from fields to drainage ditches without erosion. There are 16 more planned for 2010.



Outdoor Education Day provides hands on learning for 200 sixth graders in Pennington County. Stations include the Incredible Edible Landfill, Tree Bingo, the Deer Population Game, Archery, Trapping, the Adventures of a Raindrop, Glaciers, Water Hauling and the Water Arcade.



This problem will be corrected with a streambank stabilization project to be constructed in 2010 in cooperation with the Red Lake Watershed District. Ice jams not only contribute to flooding upstream of the dam but cause erosion like this from flood water flowing around them. Partnering with the Watershed District has filled the gap of lost cost-share funding from the State.

Future Projects

Clean Water Fund grants have been requested to stabilize 1.25 miles of Judicial Ditch 30. This reach is the last portion of a 30 mile main stem ditch system that outlets into the Thief River. The Pennington SWCD will partner with Pennington County to flatten the side slopes and create a two stage ditch design. During high flows, water will spread out into a wider channel, creating a floodplain effect.

We also applied for funds to stabilize 1700 feet of the Thief River. The Thief River is impaired for turbidity and low dissolved oxygen. Two landowners and the golf course are losing ground and trees to the river. Stream barbs are planned to resolve this situation.

Board Members

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