

Pine

Soil and Water Conservation District

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*SWCD Board Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of
Month at 4:30 in the Pine County HHS Board
Room, Sandstone, MN*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protection of ground water quality/quantity
2. Protection/improvement of surface water quality
3. Participate in TMDLs with MPCA and other partners
4. Streambank and lakeshore protection and stabilization
5. General public awareness of SWCD programs

2008 Revenue

County	\$185,473
State	\$123,835
Local	\$ 8,883
Charges for Services	\$ 59,675
Miscellaneous	\$ 6,513
Total	\$384,379

Recent Projects

Community Plants Woodpecker Ridge



Pine City's neighborhood planting event on May 31, 2008 came to fruition, and over 30 rainwater gardens are now planted in Woodpecker Ridge.



Approximately 35 volunteers met for a brief orientation, and then were dispersed to plant and mulch. A picnic lunch, provided by SEH (Short Elliot Hendrickson, the city's engineering firm) was held at Lion's Park for all of the volunteers. City Planner Nathan Johnson said the city staff was impressed that they were able to rely on the neighborhood to come together to donate time, energy and experience in a variety of areas.

The gardens will serve as a natural way of treating storm water before it enters the Snake River or Cross Lake. Pine City is one of the first cities in greater Minnesota to develop rainwater gardens. The planting of the rainwater gardens was one of the final components of the 2007 street reconstruction project.

Volunteers Clean & Stabilize Inlets to Pine Lakes



Volunteers from the Big Pine Lakes Association cleaned up two creeks draining into Pine and Big Pine Lakes. In July, volunteers cleaned up Sunset Creek located on the east side of Pine Lake. Approximately 5 yards of debris was removed, which included: metal parts, bed springs, wood, logs, car parts, pop cans, and tires. Once the cleanup was completed, 12 yards of river rock was laid down in the creek bed. The sides of the entire creek were riprapped to reduce erosion and to stabilize the creek sides. Trees and shrubs were planted. Future improvements include the planting of native vegetation along the sides of the creek to help stabilize the banks and to filter sediment and nutrients entering the creek.

In September, more volunteers cleaned up Whiskey Creek located on the east side of Big Pine Lake. River rock was laid down in the creek bed to stabilize the soil and minimize erosion and sediment transport into the lake. Trees and shrubs were also planted. Care was taken to maintain natural vegetation and minimize disturbance to the areas of concern. Natural vegetation will be planted on the creek banks to stabilize the soil with the long roots and to act as a buffer to reduce sediment and nutrients from entering the creek.

Hinckley-Finlayson Students Receive MN Waters Training To Assess Grindstone River

Several students at Hinckley Finlayson High School participated in Stream Health Evaluation Project (SHEP) workshops Sponsored by Minnesota Waters this fall. The purpose was training for macroinvertebrate and habitat assessment in the Grindstone River on a yearly basis. The students attended a Field Training to learn sampling techniques and two Lab ID sessions for identification of invertebrates to family level. The group will monitor four Grindstone River sites in or near Hinckley each fall.

The first year of sampling involved some trial and error. The students learned to sort detritus in the field more thoroughly and to sort immediately after sampling to ensure having the minimum of 100 organisms required for reliable data. Lab ID went well so the group is confident that they will have solid baseline data in 2009 and the future. Initial results indicated high biodiversity and the presence of stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies, and other low pollution tolerance organisms, which would show good water quality.

This program is a partnership of Minnesota Waters, Hinckley-Finlayson High School, Pine County SWCD, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency designed for citizen monitors interested in and committed to finding out the health of our streams. The group is led by Dennis Boxrud HFHS Life Science/Conservation teacher, and Don Grice HFHS biology teacher.

Future Projects

The district's major focus in the next few years will be the implementation of the updated county water plan, and TMDL implementation in the Snake River Watershed, St. Croix Watershed Basin, and Grindstone Lake.

Board Members

Douglas Odegard	Chair	(320) 629-6502	31159 St Croix Rd, Pine City, MN 55063
Paul Olesen	Secretary	(320) 838-3435	61715 Beaver Tail Rd, Askov, MN 55704
Kelly Osterdyk	Vice Chair	(320) 629-7180	16539 Henriette Rd, Pine City, MN 55063
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