

Swift

Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.swiftswcd.org

SWCD Board Meetings: 2nd Thursday of month



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Water quality: Clean up the Chippewa and Pomme de Terre Rivers by reducing the amount of sediment and excess nutrients entering the rivers.
2. Soil Erosion: Restore wetlands and associated upland buffers along drainage ways leading to the river. Increase the level of conservation tillage in the county by encouraging no-till, mulch till, and strip tillage.
3. Nutrient Management: Work with livestock producers to implement Best Management Practices on the land and follow Nutrient Management Plans for their farm. Educate the public on the effects of over-applying fertilizer and water quality degradation.
4. Wildlife Habitat: Work with producers to install buffer strips, tree and shrub plantings, wetland restorations, and native grass seeding through the various programs available such as CRP, RIM, WRP, FWP, EQIP, etc. Work with local conservation organizations to use program funds along with local dollars for projects.
5. Economic development: Promote conservation practices and hunting and fishing opportunities in the county. Encourage the public to invest money into green space and restoring open spaces for public use.

2008 Revenue

Total \$223,365

Recent Projects

The Swift SWCD works closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to get conservation implemented on the land through contribution agreements. This is work done by the SWCD office to do conservation work in their counties. Swift SWCD works on contribution agreements mostly with the EQIP and CRP programs.

Living snow fences have been installed by the Swift SWCD, working with the Swift County Highway Department and local landowners. The SWCD and Highway Department staff have mapped all snow problem areas in the county and continue to work with landowners to install living snow fences. Incentive funds are set aside by the county to use on projects each year, up to \$500 per acre for eligible projects.



Stream bars (top) and grassed waterways are some of the conservation practices that have been installed by Swift SWCD.

RIM WRP Easement Program

There have been six new RIM WRP easement contracts totaling about 825 acres approved in 2008 and 2009. These are scheduled to restore 28 wetlands amounting to approximately 385 acres over the next couple of years.

The Fifth Annual Water Festival

On September 18 the 5th annual Swift County Water Festival was held at Ambush Park Outdoor Learning Center in Benson. Approximately 245 students from Benson and Kerkhoven - Murdock - Sunburg Schools attended. The theme for the day was concentrating on water. The students spent the day learning about the environment and water quality issues through hands-on activities and interactive presentations. This year there were 18 learning stations. The highlight of the day was the presentation by the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Future Projects

The Swift SWCD is working closely with the Chippewa River Watershed to get manure management plans installed. Incentive funds are available to producers who qualify.

The SWCD is working the Pomme de Terre River Watershed and WES MIN RC&D to secure funds for projects to improve water quality. Currently, there is an application in to secure funds for implementation projects as well as continued monitoring.

Another goal of the Swift SWCD is to work with livestock producers in the county to become permitted feedlots.

Board Members

Dale Schlieman	Chair	(320) 394-2445	1470 30th St NW, Holloway, MN 56249
Mark Weimerskirch	Vice Chair	(320) 264-5167	1155 - 150th Ave SE, Kerkhoven, MN 56252
Sheldon Ahrndt	Treasurer	(320) 843-3516	600 10th St. S, Benson, MN 56215
Clinton Schuerman	Secretary	(320) 567-2136	945 60th Street SW, Danvers, MN 56231
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