

Traverse

Soil and Water Conservation District



1700 Third Ave S Room 205
Wheaton, MN 56296
PHONE: (320) 563-8218
FAX: (320) 563-8219

Website: www.traverseswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: First Thursday of
Month at 7:30 a.m.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Reduce Soil Erosion Resulting From Wind and Water
2. Reduce Regional/Local Flood Damage
3. Reduce Contaminated Runoff into Waters of the State
4. Prevent Groundwater Contamination
5. Improve Water Quality, Quality and Quantity of Wildlife Habitat

2008 Revenue

Services	\$135,226
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$195,621
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$15,461
Total	\$346,308

Notes: Revenue from "Services" include sales of tree and grass program products as well as services such as planting, rototilling, mowing, and rental of equipment. "Intergovernmental Revenue" includes service grants, our county allocation, grant funds for projects, and other funds for programs. "Miscellaneous Revenue" includes income from interest earned and finance charges on accounts.



Recent Projects

SEPTIC SYSTEM OWNERS EDUCATION

Two workshops were conducted for septic system owners in Traverse County; one in July 2008 and one in January 2009. The workshops featured information for homeowners in regards to how individual subsurface sewage treatment systems work and how to properly maintain a system. A University of Minnesota Extension Educator, Valerie Prax, presented the workshop hosted in July 2008 which educated approximately 20 homeowners. In January, 2009 SWCD Manager, Sara Gronfeld, presented a similar workshop to approximately 30 homeowners.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION



A WORKING AGREEMENT WITH TRAVERSE COUNTY was established to transfer administration of the land use management programs and funding to the Traverse SWCD. The program decision making authority for the Local Unit of Government remains with the county board but SWCD staff divided the workload from each program and the arrangement has been working well for the past two years. Property owners within the county are now conveniently served at one central location. SWCD staff members administer the following programs: Planning and Zoning, DNR's Shoreland program, MPCA's Subsurface Septic Treatment Program and Feedlot Program, BWSR's Wetland Conservation Act, and Local Water Management program. Funding to administer the programs is made available from the Natural Resources Block Grant and Traverse County.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Nestled on the southern edge of the Red River Valley, Traverse County may not be known as a prime location for viewing moose, but several of the animals have been a common sight around the northern end of the county for the past several years.



Photo of Moose Family in Traverse County Along Highway 75 (Taken by SWCD Staff in October 2008).

The Traverse SWCD along with thoughtful landowners and dedicated conservation partners helped to work towards the fulfillment of the goal of resource concern #5: improvement of the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat. In 2008 the SWCD worked to establish nearly 17,000 trees at 22 sites along with 150 acres of native grasses at 25 sites. In 2009, Traverse SWCD staff planted over 24,000 trees at 29 sites along with over 1,000 acres of grass! The SWCD was also able to purchase a new, 15 foot wide, no-till grass drill (planter) this year. Purchase was made with income from services along with funding in part from Local Water Plan grant funds along with a donation from the Traverse County Chapter of Pheasants Forever. The SWCD also maintains a 10 foot no-till grass drill and a 20 foot no-till grain drill which are available for rental use by local landowners.

Future Projects

WATER TESTING

The Traverse County Local Water Plan is working on an extensive, county-wide groundwater testing project. Households will be selected in each township for sampling and analyzation of individual groundwater drinking water supplies. The samples will be sent to a lab to analyze levels of toxic elements or substances including lead, copper, nitrate, nitrite, fluoride, and arsenic. Results of the analyzation will be provided to each property owner as well as reviewed by staff to determine if further investigations of contamination sources are required.

A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROMOTE SIDE INLET CONTROLS along ditches in the northern part of Traverse County is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2010. Promotion of the structures, which reduce soil erosion from field edges, will be based from a successful program offered in Wilkin County which is situated directly north of Traverse. Staff from the Wilkin SWCD generously shared information and photographs of established projects that will be used to produce a brochure to be distributed to landowners. Traverse SWCD staff are likely to apply for Clean Water Legacy grant funds to help landowners cover the cost of project installation.



A bumble bee flies towards a native wildflower in Traverse County (Courtesy of SWCD Staff taken August, 2009).

Board Members

Alan Bruce	Secretary	(320) 563-4032	6413 - 760th St., Wheaton, MN 56296
Gregory Hoppe	Chair	(320) 748-7934	5084 County Rd 9, Graceville, MN 56240
Carol Johnson	Vice Chair	(320) 563-8063	6257 720th Ave, Wheaton, MN 56296
David Rinke	Treasurer	(320) 563-4864	6738 - 610th St., Wheaton, MN 56296
Dennis Zimbrick	PR&I	(320) 265-6252	5519 Cty Rd 3, Beardsley, MN 56211