

Wadena

Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.wadenaswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: Third Monday of Month at
7:30 p.m. April-Oct, 1:00 pm Nov-March



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Erosion Control
2. Nutrient Management
3. Water Resource Protection
4. Forest Management
5. Grazing

2008 Revenue

BWSR Project Grants	\$129,765
BWSR Service Grants	\$23,566
Wadena County Allocation	\$72,366
NRBG	\$61,926
Federal Contributions	\$7,241
Other Grants & Projects	\$49,468
Charges for Services	\$85,092
Interest Earnings	\$701
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$5,780
Total	\$435,905

Recent Projects

Buckthorn Battle Going Strong

We held a working buckthorn field day with 28 attendees from Wadena and Ottertail Counties, including private landowners, local natural resource agency staff and a Sentence-to-Service crew. This included a brief educational session on what buckthorn is and what local landowners are doing to control this invasive. Then we went to work! The STS crew had chainsaws and brush saws to cut, landowners brought their own lopping shears. Stumps were then treated with brush killer. Our goal is to develop a control program that focuses first on small buckthorn "neighborhoods" with a domino effect throughout the county.

18th Annual "Conservation Days"

This event was held at Old Wadena Park with 373 students from 9 schools attending. Learning stations were set up throughout the park on forestry, history of the area, nature, soils, water and wildlife.

CWL Menahga Citywide Storm Water Disconnect

CWL Tech Assist	\$50,000
DNR Fisheries	\$53,257
Spirit Lake Assoc.	\$5,000
MN Waters	\$5,000
Landowners	\$24,575
BWSR Challenge Grant	\$21,500
	\$158,657

Four rain gardens are located in the parking lot of the Westside Laestadian Church which has been promoted as a show case for the city as an alternative to solid asphalt. Three rain gardens have been built on the Menahga Public School lawn. Many students and teachers have expressed an interest in learning more about the rain gardens in their front yard. One rain garden has been built in front of a commercial building along Highway 71 to collect sand and run off from the street. A new pervious surface gazebo and gray water tanks for water storage have been installed at the recently remodeled West Central Telephone building. 60 rain barrels are located throughout the town to disconnect roof run off from the streets. Six private shorelines plus the city property have been restored for fish habitat and to maximize infiltration versus run-off entering the lake. Several other rain gardens plans are in place and waiting for future funding to implement.

GRAZING TOUR

In August of 2008 the SWCD office in cooperation with NRCS, GLCI, and MARC&D held a grazing tour throughout Wadena County. There were 51 attendees and we stopped at 4 sites in the county that are utilizing NRCS funds for rotational grazing. These four sites were diverse and showcased a range of animal numbers, backgrounds, watering and fencing options. We took a school bus and even ran out of room on it!



Cooperative Weed Management Area

The Wadena SWCD received a \$20,000 grant to develop a Cooperative Weed Management Area plan for Wadena County. A CWMA committee was formed and developed the CWMA Plan for Wadena County. Staff worked with landowners and used \$15,000 of the funds as a 50% cost share for landowners and townships to control Spotted Knapweed (as pictured above), Leafy Spurge and Buckthorn. Thirty seven landowners took part in the program and controlled noxious weeds on over 1,000 acres of private and public land. Funding for 2010 has been applied for as many more landowners would like to control weeds on their property. This is a very successful program.

New Projects

MPCA Red Eye River Watershed Source Water Assessment Grant (SWAG)

\$50,819

Red Eye SWAG 16 sites,
Crow Wing 10X 6 Volunteers 6 sites/staff

Fifth Annual Citizen Based Shell River Mussel Survey



This is the fifth year the Menahga Conservation Club has worked with the SWCD and the DNR to survey mussel beds in the Shell River. The group verified the presence of the *strophus undulates* “creeper”, not thought to be present, and a new

“lake” floater but still have not found a live specimen of the historically present *lasmigona compressa* “white heelsplitter”.

CWL Shell River Watershed Cooperative Source Water Assessment Grant

19 sites in Wadena, Becker and Hubbard Counties were monitored by 9 citizen volunteers. Hubbard COLA assisted with sample delivery to the certified lab. This Clean Water Legacy Source Water Assessment Grant was for \$51,000.

AgBMP Low Interest Loan Program

The AgBMP Low Interest Loan Program has been used this year for 7 landowners who received \$42,530 for new septic systems and 1 landowner received \$6,500 for a manure auger system. Sixty Six Wadena County landowners have received \$287,648 for new septic systems since the beginning of the program. This is also a very successful program.

2010

MPCA Crow Wing River Watershed Integrated Watershed Management Assessment

2011

Red Eye River Watershed and Long Prairie River Watershed Integrated Watershed Crow Wing River Watershed Management Assessment

Board Members

Marvin Runyan	Chairman	(218) 445-5810	10293 County Rd 23, Verndale, MN 56481
Thomas Schulz	Vice Chairman	(218) 837-5728	27027 Co Rd 23, Sebeka, MN 56477
Ken Berg	Secretary	(218) 894-3384	10869 - 255th St, Staples, MN 56479
Nancy Benson	Treasurer	(218) 472-3232	23064 Co Rd 26, Verndale, MN 56481
Melvin Kinnunen	Public Relations	(218) 564-4334	34730 Co Rd 23, Menahga, MN 56464

Staff

Malinda Dexter, District Manager Anne Oldakowski, District Education/Forestry Technician
Molly Costin, District Technician Kari Tomperi, District Water Resource Technician