

Waseca

Soil and Water Conservation District

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*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Thursday of Month
at 6:30 pm*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Accelerated run-off resulting in erosion and sediment transport
2. Loss of remaining small woodlots due to encroachment of other land uses
3. Loss of natural resources
4. Economic development within the riparian areas of our impaired water bodies and tributaries
5. Soil sustainability due to current farming practices

2008 Revenue

Total \$293,248

Recent Projects



In-stream habitat structures, such as the cross vane shown above on Iosco Creek, benefit both water quality and fish habitat. Water-quality benefits include reduction of bank erosion, elimination of down cutting and maintenance of water level for upstream wetland features. Habitat benefits include providing substrates for aquatic invertebrates and creation of a riffle-pool bed profile which is beneficial for fish and other aquatic life. Two structures were installed in Iosco Creek in partnership with the Fish & Wildlife Service, the MN Darkhouse Assoc. (local chapter), the landowner, the SWCD and designed by the South Central Technical Service staff.

The District was fortunate to receive a BWSR 2009 Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant to assist one of the few remaining dairy producers in Waseca County. The basin is designed for 12 months of manure storage, resulting in better nutrient management. The site is located in the Lake Elysian watershed, which is one of the impaired waters in Waseca County





A 24 ac. wetland restoration completed in 1995 through the Re-Invest in MN (RIM) program was drawn down the summer of 2009. The wetland is within a flood plain of the LeSueur River and a large population of carp and other opportunistic fish have muddy the waters. The dry conditions will allow the aquatic vegetation to respond and once again flourish as the wetland returns to its natural state in 2010.



3 rock check dams were installed in the ravine pictured above to eliminated the downstream silt fan in Reeds lake.

For the past 15 years, the SWCD has hosted an Outdoor Education day for 1st grade students from 7 of the local schools. The students attend 7 stations to learn the value of our natural resources. Presentations are given on wetlands, soils, forestry, fish, wildlife, water quality and ground water. Cooperating agencies include: DNR- Fisheries, MN Pollution Control, NRCS, DNR-Forestry, BWSR and Waseca Co. Approximately 4500 students have had the opportunity to attend.



Future Projects

A streambank stabilization project will be completed on a tributary to the LeSueur River. The unstable channel and high sediment load is a result of the accelerated upstream drainage practices. A series of practices will be installed to not only improve the water quality, but also to improve the substrates for aquatic invertebrates and other aquatic life. Partnering agencies are DNR- Fisheries, MN PCA, BWSR and the MN Darkhouse Assoc. (local chapter).

A joint effort to restore a drained 115 acre lake basin will have a positive impact in both water quality and quantity to the receiving impaired watercourse. Partners involved in the project are the landowners, DNR-Fisheries, BWSR, NRCS and the SWCD.

Board Members

Larry Hagen	Chair	(507) 835-1564	42390 120th St, Waseca, MN 56093
Jurgen Peters	Vice Chair	(507) 835-4117	30529 128th St, Waseca, MN 56093
Ron Purcell	Treasurer	(507) 835-4757	809 7th Ave NW, Waseca, MN 56093
Robert Drager	Secretary	(507) 462-3627	20870 10th St, Minnesota Lake, MN 56068
Wayne Cords	Member	(507) 234-6165	37341 35th St, Janesville, MN 56048