

West Otter Tail

Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.wotswcd.org

*SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Monday of Month
at 9:00 A.M.*



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Surface and Ground Water Quality
2. Water Erosion
3. Wind Erosion
4. Wetland Preservation
5. Education and Information

2008 Revenue

Monitoring / Research	\$1,800
Education / Outreach	\$6,000
Wetland Conservation Act	\$38,000
Cost Share / Project Construction Implementation and Maintenance	\$540,000
Planning / Other Local Water Management Duties	\$4,000
Conservation Easement Funding / Assistance	\$11,000
Programs and Operations	\$7,500
Total	\$608,300

Recent Projects



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizens Stream Monitoring Program is a joint water quality monitoring program between the PCA and the West Otter Tail SWCD. Pictured is SWCD Supervisor Charles Piekarski taking weekly samples of the Pelican River northwest of Fergus falls.

Working Lands Initiative

The West Otter Tail (WOT) SWCD in cooperation with DNR, NRCS, Fish and Wildlife Service, has received funding for Working Lands Initiative. Mud Lake and Haldorsen Lake are two recent areas that have been targeted for their importance to nesting waterfowl, wildlife, and natural resources concerns. Landowners will be educated on the need for native grass buffers to help clean up the watersheds that contribute to the targeted lakes. The Mud Lake WLI area has 58 acres and Haldorsen Lake WLI area has over 165 acres in CRP that is being enrolled, and is ongoing.

A Shoreland Buffer was created on scenic Lake Alice, located in Fergus Falls. This native buffer will be used as a demonstration site for the city of Fergus Falls to build on. The WOT SWCD has been working with the City of Fergus Falls on targeting lakes with water quality issues in the city limits. This buffer will help demonstrate how native grasses and wildflowers will help control eroding shorelines and filter contaminants from entering lakes and streams.

RIM/WRP Partnership



(Before and After)

(2009 Planting of a 180' Native Prairie Shoreland Buffer on Lake Alice in Fergus Falls. This project was funded using state cost share dollars).

The RIM/WRP Program is a premier wetland restoration program in Minnesota. It combines the states Re-Invest in Minnesota (RIM) and USDAs Wetland Restoration Program (WRP). West Otter Tail SWCD is currently working with 5 landowners to restore 290 acres of drained wetlands. Lands surrounding these restored wetlands will be seeded to native grasses and wildflowers, which will provide nesting habitat for area wildlife.

Future Projects

Rural Preserves Program

New to Otter Tail County in 2010 will be the Rural Preserves Program. SWCDs in Otter Tail County will be assisting over 900 landowners with their conservation needs by developing/assisting landowners with conservation plans. These conservation plans will address Best Management Practices (BMPs) for landowners in Otter Tail County with eligible class 2b land.

Pomme De Terre Watershed

The MPCA has listed two lower reaches of the Pomme De Terre River as impaired for excess levels of fecal coliform and turbidity (clarity). The Pomme De Terre River association and Joint Powers Board (made up of county commissioners and SWCD supervisors within the watershed) received grant funding from MPCA to address these impairments. The project coordinator along with SWCD staff will work with landowners within the watershed to implement conservation practices and best management practices to these impairments. Any landowners interested in water quality within the watershed are asked to contact their local Soil and Water District.

Board Members

Rod Wenstrom	Chairman	(218) 739-9578	25811 County Hwy 18, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Charles Piekarski	Vice Chairman	(218) 736-7918	24678 Co Hwy 11, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
John Walkup	Secretary	(218) 739-2580	11301 150th Ave, Campbell, MN 56522
Richard Viger	Treasurer	(218) 589-8727	12598 US Hwy 59, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Julian Sjostrom	Public Relations	(218) 863-7785	17890 County Hwy 28, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572