

# West Polk

Soil and Water Conservation District

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[www.nwmnswcd.org](http://www.nwmnswcd.org)

*SWCD Board Meeting: Third Thursday of  
Month 7 a.m.*



## Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Monitoring, protecting and where needed, restoring surface water quality
2. Assessing water quantity by inventorying, assessing and evaluating the drainage infrastructure of minor watersheds
3. Preservation and enhancement of natural resources within the Glacial Lake Agassiz Beach Ridge area
4. Reduction of soil erosion through the implementation of living snow fences, field windbreaks, as well as conservation tillage practices
5. Reduction of agricultural runoff by promoting Best Management Practices

## 2008 Revenue

Total \$238,552

## Recent Projects

### ***Sand Hill River Restoration & City of Climax Trail Crossings Project***

West Polk SWCD, in partnership with the City of Climax, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and American Crystal Sugar Inc., have been implementing a restoration project on the Sand Hill River as well as promoting fish passage on the Sand Hill River by replacing two Texas-crossings associated with the City's trail system with removable, floating bridges.



## Northwest Minnesota Water Festival

The Northwest Minnesota Water Festival was established in 2002 to provide an annual hands-on water resources learning opportunity for fourth grade students in Northwest Minnesota.

Funding and coordination is provided by northwest area soil and water conservation districts.

Approximately 640 students and their teachers attend every year.



## West Polk SWCD Tree Program

West Polk SWCD promotes and implements a successful tree program offering Minnesota State Cost-Share to landowners who want to install field and farmstead windbreaks for the purpose of reducing erosion. An estimated 275,000 trees have been installed in western Polk County over the past 5 years. The District, through the tree program, also offers a Tree Maintenance Program which includes the installation of fabric mat weed barrier, tube/stake enclosures, and chemical weed-control applications for landowners.

## Future Projects

**Clean Water Legacy Projects:** The West Polk SWCD will be partnering with the Nature Conservancy, the East Polk Soil and Water Conservation District and the Red Lake Soil and Water Conservation District on restoration of a stream to its historical function by reestablishing meanders and streambanks.

Funding will be sought through the Clean Water Legacy Grant process.

**Junior Envirothon:** The West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District would like to initiate a Junior Envirothon for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Currently the District sponsors and participates in the Rydell Area Envirothon for high school students and West Polk County schools have been active participants and we would like to expand on that success with a Junior Envirothon.

## Area I Website—[nwmnswcd.org](http://nwmnswcd.org)

In 2006 SWCDs in Area I jointly established the Area I Website. This website is a portal-based website which makes it exceptionally user-friendly for the public user as well as the webmaster. The Area I website can be accessed at: [nwmnswcd.org](http://nwmnswcd.org)

## Geist's Streambank Restoration and Stabilization Project, Burnham Creek

This was a streambank stabilization project along Burnham Creek south of Crookston. The eroding bank toe was causing bank failure and subsequent sedimentation of the creek. The failure was occurring at a fairly rapid rate and put the landowners home in jeopardy. This project used bio-engineering practices to help establish a stable bank.

Minnesota State Cost-Share money was used in this project.

Partners include the Technical Service Area I and the Red Lake Watershed District.

## Board Members

Todd Radi	Chair	(218) 281-1769	20110 - 320th Ave. SW, Fisher, MN 56723
Ben Larson	PR&I	(218) 857-3303	35781 State Hwy. 220 SW, Climax, MN 56523
Mark McWalter	Secretary	(218) 773-8053	506 - 12th St NW, East Grand Forks, MN 56721
Dale Peterson	Vice Chair	(218) 745-4923	18717 Hwy 75 NW, Warren, MN 56762
Russ Severson	Treasurer	(218) 281-3248	28247 - 160th Ave SW, Crookston, MN 56716