

# Yellow Medicine

## Soil and Water Conservation District

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1000 - 10th Ave PO Box 545  
Clarkfield, MN 56223  
PHONE: (320) 669-4442  
FAX: (320) 669-6011

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

*SWCD Board Meeting: 4th Thursday*



### Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Protect and improve the soil resources and surface water quality in the county by reducing erosion and sediment problems to sustainable levels by promoting the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs).
2. Enhance and restore the county's water quality by reducing priority pollutants to sustainable levels with concentration on the Lac qui Parle Watershed, Yellow Medicine Watershed and Redwood Watershed TMDL listing of impaired waters in each watershed.
3. Implement sound surface water and drainage management strategies in the county by applying watershed based principles while properly managing drainage systems.
4. Promote and educate the public on the SWCD's ongoing programs.
5. Protect and improve the quality and quantity of groundwater in the county by supporting good land use decisions, assisting with wellhead protection planning, and expanding groundwater monitoring.

### 2008 Revenue

Intergovernmental County	\$106,493
Intergovernmental Local	\$17,261
Intergovernmental State	\$93,816
Charges for Services	\$49,705
Miscellaneous - Interest	\$8,002
Miscellaneous - Other	<u>\$3,523</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$278,800</u></b>

## Recent Projects



**GRANITE ROCK OUTCROP PROGRAM:** Yellow Medicine SWCD, along with Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Renville and Redwood SWCDs, applied for and received a grant from the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for a Rock Outcrop Permanent Easement Program. Landowners interested in protecting rock outcrops in the Upper Minnesota River Valley had a unique opportunity to sign up for this program to protect their rock outcrops from being mined and enrolling them in a permanent RIM-like easement. This program has won attention for protecting a unique resource. The goal of this program is to provide landowners with compensation for doing the right thing and assisting them with removing invasive species such as red cedar and sumac to restore the outcrops. Of the 35 applications received, 10 were from Yellow Medicine County. 14 applications totaling \$1,290,848 were funded enrolling 540.8 acres. Four of those applications are in Yellow Medicine County and will bring approximately \$290,856 into the County enrolling 128 acres into the Rock Outcrop Program.

**REINVEST IN MINNESOTA (RIM) PROGRAM** acres in Yellow Medicine County will be increasing because of the efforts of the SWCD staff in 2009. 128 acres were enrolled into the Rock Outcrop Program and another 52.5 acres were enrolled into the WRP-RIM Program making a total of 7,529.7 acres enrolled into easements in Yellow Medicine County. The WRP-RIM Program offers competitive payment rates for landowners to restore wetlands that have been drained and have a history of being used for agricultural production. The program is a local-state-federal partnership that combines the state's RIM conservation easement program with USDA's WRP.



**A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR RIPARIAN BUFFER CONSERVATION EASEMENTS** is available for landowners in Yellow Medicine County. The 2009 Legislature appropriated dollars from the Minnesota Clean Water Fund to purchase and restore permanent easements on riparian buffers in eligible cropland areas. A continuous statewide sign up is now open. Eligible land includes land with existing or new Conservation Reserve Program contracts that had a crop history prior to CRP enrollment and that are adjacent to public waters as shown on the DNR Protected Waters Inventory. Landowners will be paid 100 percent of their Assessors Average Township Value (AATV) for cropland and 60 percent of the AATV for non cropland. This program offers another incentive for landowners to enroll their land into a permanent filter strip.

**Yellow Medicine County appointed the SWCD** as the local government unit to administer the Wetland Conservation Act and the rules of the Board of Water and Soil Resources adopted under the act. For all excavation, filling or drainage projects in Yellow Medicine County landowners must check with the SWCD, in addition to the Federal Farm Service Agency/NRCS offices, and Watershed Districts before they proceed with their projects. The SWCD reviewed tiling requests, building permits, and WCA applications and decisions were made.

## Future Projects

**The SWCD will continue to assist with implementing** the Yellow Medicine Watershed and the Lac qui Parle Watershed Clean Water Partnership Grants, providing technical and financial support. The SWCD will also assist with the implementation of the Clean Water Legacy dollars received for the Yellow Medicine Watershed and the Redwood Watershed by contacting landowners and promoting the installation of groundwater infiltration practices and phosphorus reducing practices that will help achieve the TMDL. Priority practices include: Installation of conservation BMP projects that will slow the flow of water during rainfall events, (basins, waterways, etc.); encourage the producers to apply only needed amounts of fertilizers (including manure) and pesticides and to leave residue on cropland to hold soil and water in place; and to promote the establishment of buffers that will filter and slow down water runoff.

**CLEAN WATER FUND AMENDMENT DOLLARS:** The SWCD sought funds through the Clean Water Fund Amendment dollars to accelerate the SWCD's efforts to promote and implement best management practices (BMPs) in various watersheds throughout Yellow Medicine County through the following applications in 2009:

- Applied with Lac qui Parle and Lincoln SWCDs for grants to install BMPs in the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed.
- Applied with Lyon and Lincoln SWCDs for grants to implement BMPs in the Yellow Medicine Watershed, including small dam repairs, rain gardens and alternative intakes; and filter strips/riparian buffers.
- Applied with surrounding SWCDs for grants to be used in the Redwood Watershed for alternative intakes, repair of small dams, and rain gardens; and incentive dollars for grid sampling, and other BMPS.
- Applied for Ag BMP loan dollars to be utilized for fixing nonconforming ISTS.

If funded, these dollars will be used to work with MPCA to get these waters off the Clean Water Act's Total Maximum Daily Load 303d list of impaired waters. The SWCD will continue to partner with other organizations in this effort.

## Board Members

Norris Peterson	Chair	(507) 223-5457	2412 260th Ave, Canby, MN 56220
Menno Fokken	Treasurer	(507) 223-7707	201 2nd Street W, Canby, MN 56220
Steve Hubbard	Secretary	(320) 669-4916	710 9th Ave, Clarkfield, MN 56223
Burton Kuehn	Vice Chair	(507) 925-4389	1521 630th St, Belview, MN 56214
Jerry Nelson	Reporter	(320) 564-3699	4763 290 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Granite Falls MN 56241