Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Conservation Easements

SWCDs are establishing 1,368 acres of native vegetation to buffer critical areas along streams.

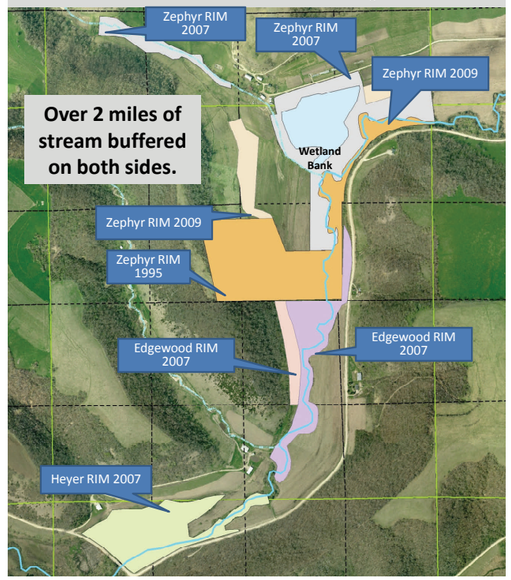
SE MN RIM Flood Recovery 2007

SWCD	Acres	Easement Costs	Practice Costs	Total Costs
Fillmore	151	$268,942	$48,240	$318,142
RR-Houston	277	$611,644	$33,850	$645,494
Olmsted	7	$20,207	$3,200	$23,407
Winona	314	$799,557	$153,300	$952,857
TOTAL	**749**	**$1,700,350**	**$238,550**	**$1,938,900**

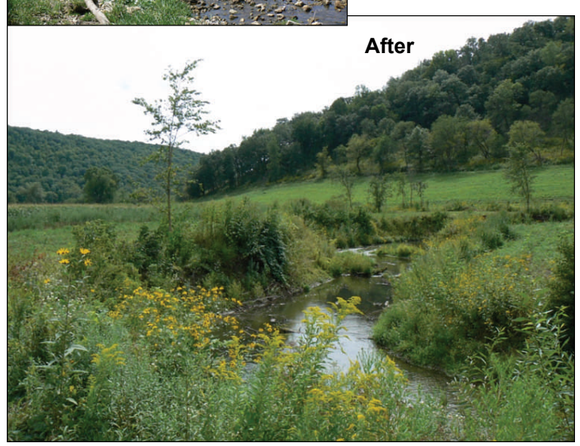
SE MN RIM Flood Recovery 2009

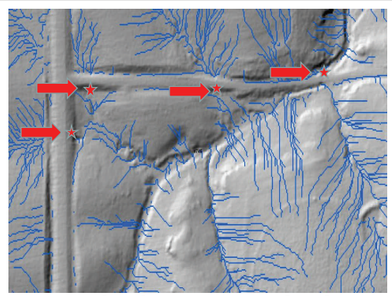
SWCD	Acres	Easement Costs	Practice Costs	Total Costs
Dodge	13	$48,901	$15,290	$64,191
Fillmore	28	$69,561	$13,750	$83,311
RR-Houston	348	$874,367	$55,500	$929,867
Olmsted	28	$117,605	$13,800	$131,405
Wabasha	130	$333,452	$38,330	$371,782
Winona	71	$257,354	$35,750	$293,104
TOTAL	**618**	**$1,701,241**	**$172,420**	**$1,873,661**

Money Creek RIM Corridor Winona County



The Money Creek Corridor is one targeted area that was buffered through SWCD/ BWSR funding.





State funded LiDAR image show typical flow patterns with culvert locations.

Fillmore SWCD, using BWSR Clean Water Legacy funds, contracted with the Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) to completed a road culvert inventory for the purposes of developing temporary flood storage areas. The SWCD has collaborated with the Fillmore County Highway Department 5-year replacement plan, County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Root River Turbidity TMDL and County Water Management plan to describe over 2,700 culverts. BWSR funds were granted to the SWCD to hire an engineering consultant to take this to the next stage of implementation.

Southeast Minnesota Flood Recovery

2009 Progress Report

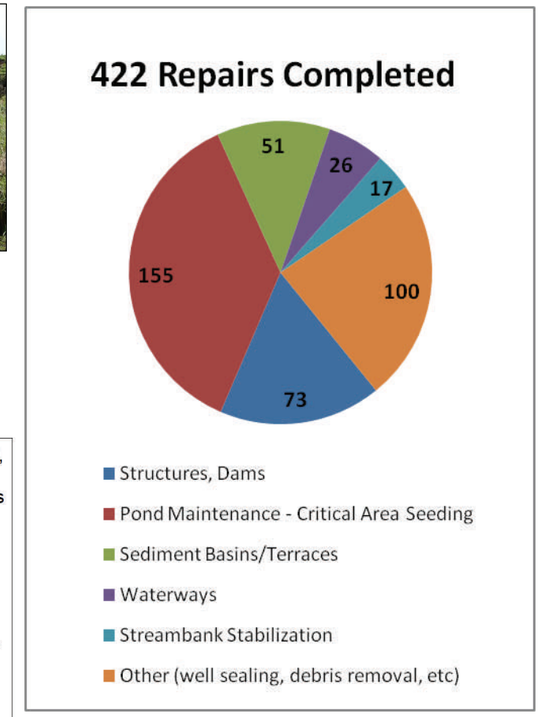
Work continues on conservation flood recovery in seven counties through coordinated efforts of local, state and federal partners. Soil and Water Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources staff are leading the way working with landowners, counties, watershed districts, townships, cities and other state and federal agencies to get the flood repair projects completed.

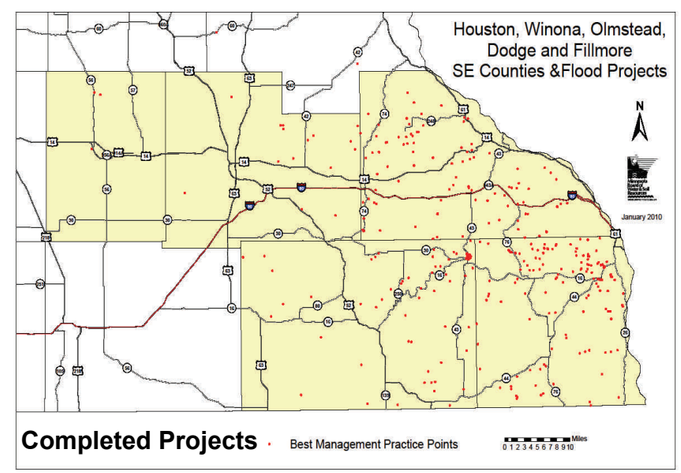
In August 2009, SWCDs, BWSR and NRCS staff hosted a tour for the BWSR board members, legislators and partners to showcase project repairs and progress. This tour site involved the replacement of a blown out pipe and repair of the emergency spillway of this Grade Stabilization Structure in Winona County.

Projects Completed

2007-2008	**152**
2009	**270**
2010-2011	**215***

* Estimate based on 129 projects that are underway and 86 remaining sites that need to be assessed.





Total Repair Costs

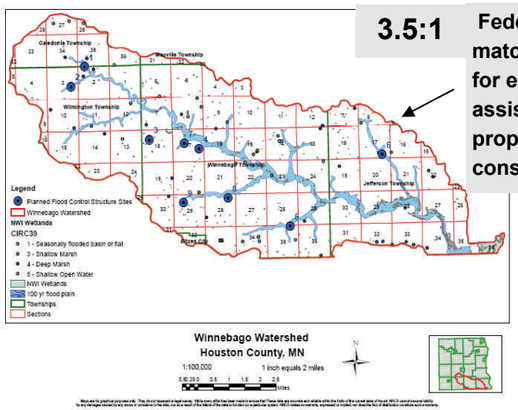
State funds	1,997,570
Federal funds	1,860,933
Landowner / local funds	230,668
Total	$4,089,171

422 projects completed and 215 underway through unprecedented financial and technical coordination

Flood-damaged sites were identified by landowners, SWCDs and NRCS from August 2007 through 2009. BWSR, NRCS, and SWCD partners have met regularly to coordinate needs, develop strategies for increased technical assistance, and to put flood response projects on the ground. SWCDs requested BWSR engineering assistance due to high workload. Additional state funding and authorization sought and received in 2008 enabled BWSR to hire temporary engineering staff to help maximize use of federal funding and accelerate project implementation.

MN SE Flood Recovery Revenue:	Received
SE Flood Relief Funds – Special Session	3,000,000
Supplement Budget - 2008	750,000
DEED Transfer – June 2008	1,890,000
Total State Funds Available:	**$ 5,615,000**

SE Flood Recovery Components	Spent/Obligated
BWSR/SWCD Grant Agreements Executed	4,062,000
Engineering/Staff	988,000
Private Engineering Contracts	290,000
Cost-Share Contingencies/Project Repairs	275,000
Total Funds Spent/Obligated	**$ 5,615,000**

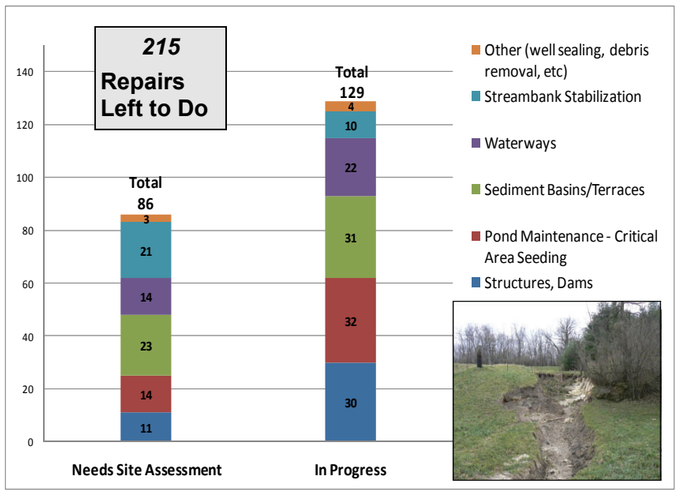


3.5:1 Federal/state match leveraged for engineering assistance and proposed project construction.

Root River SWCD applied to FEMA for a Winnebago Watershed project. It was partially funded for a Phase I engineering design and environmental assessment to install flood control structures with drainage areas ranging from 80 to 2,600 acres. In conjunction with riparian buffers in key areas to reduce future crop losses, improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat and improve fish habitat, the estimated reductions in peak flows for this project is 25%. Total estimated costs are $1.3 Million. Phase I engineering assistance for this project is a combined federal/state effort including private consultants, BWSR SE Flood engineering staff, SE SWCD Technical Assistance JPB staff and FEMA.

This structure was originally constructed in 1957 and had minor repairs in 1977. Damage in 2007 was substantial and required replacement of the principle spillway, shaping and reseeding of the embankment. Olmsted SWCD/NRCS provided technical assistance. Project Costs: $23,125 ($15,625 State Cost-Share Relief Funds, and $7,500 Federal Funds.

USDA Funding Allocated To SE Flood Counties	
NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)	$1,642,140
NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive (EQIP)	$3,093,876
FSA Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	$1,188,000

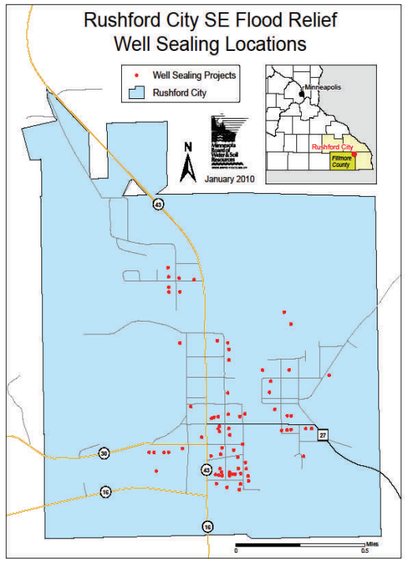


Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted, Houston, Steele, Wabasha and Winona Soil and Water Conservation Districts, along with the USDA NRCS and BWSR, have been leading the conservation recovery efforts at the local level. The timeline, from inspection of needs to the completion of project repairs, have ranged from 1 month to 19 months. Variables affecting a project repair timeline include: complicated repairs, decision making process for leveraging funds/programs, obtaining necessary permits, small window for construction due to weather/crops, contractor availability and technical workload.

Grade Stabilization Structure

A landowner in Elba requested assistance from Olmsted SWCD for flood damages to a structure and principle spillway. The project is located in Whitewater watershed in Olmsted County, and it required another structure to be constructed to address a large gully that formed above the emergency spillway. Engineering was provided by the NRCS staff in Rochester.

Project Costs: $29,251 (State $16,445 and Federal $12,806)



Of the 300-plus wells indentified for sealing, 81 have been decommissioned by the city of Rushford with Cost-Share funds through the Fillmore SWCD.

Streambank Stabilization Project

Cedar Valley Creek, a trout stream in Winona County, experienced acute erosion that has threatened a diversion channel parallel to the creek. The repair alternative selected was to stabilize approximately 245 feet of creek bank, 6 to 8 feet in height, using geotextile fabric and riprap. The landowner received $16,575 through the Winona SWCD for 100% of this cost. Engineering assistance was provided by the BWSR SE Flood Engineer.