

Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District

2007 Annual Plan



I. INTRODUCTION

The Crow Wing SWCD Supervisors and Staff with the aid of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are developing this plan to serve as a tool in measuring and reviewing district soil and water conservation performance. The Annual Plan provides identification of actions performed from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. It will guide the use of time and funds to be used in reaching desired goals. The Crow Wing SWCD was established on June 14, 1956.

II. ANNUAL OBJECTIVES

A. Objective: Improve the management and maintenance of the Crow Wing SWCD.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Implement conservation practices and programs to benefit the water and soil resources of Crow Wing County including assisting with the update of the Crow Wing County soil survey.
2. Improve communication among all persons associated with the district.
3. Improve relations with other governmental entities.
4. Improve overall district operating efficiency while actively pursuing existing and new sources of revenue to increase staff capability and continue District solvency.
5. Maintain accurate records of all financial transactions.
6. Maintain updated technical and computer capability.
7. Have adequate staffing for Wetland Conservation Act, NPDES, water plan and Shoreland Management responsibilities.
8. Implement a fee schedule for services.
9. Maintain a vehicle replacement fund.
10. Better equipped for meetings for public relations purposes in new building.
11. Improve natural resource conservation by participating in the MASWCD Area VIII Tour.

B. Objective: Technical review of projects for zoning authorities in Crow Wing County as required by their ordinances.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Assist the zoning authorities to revise their ordinances as needed.
2. Conduct on-site inspections and provide technical reports as required by the ordinances.
3. Review and approve storm water management plans for new developments.
4. Review reclamation plans for gravel pits.
5. Pursue training as needed for these duties.

C. Objective: Administer the Wetland Conservation Act for Crow Wing County.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Follow rules of Wetland Conservation Act as determined by the Board of Water and Soil Resources and place information into eLINK.
2. Be involved in the mitigation process.
3. Assist other zoning entities as requested.
4. Assist county, city, and township road authorities to comply with the Wetland Conservation Act.
5. Establish a Crow Wing Wetland Bank and pursue other banking sites.
6. Conduct informational meetings and compile an informational sheet for landowners, realtors, and contractors about the Wetland Conservation Act.
7. Complete inspections of wetland projects to ensure compliance.
8. Inform the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners on Wetland Conservation Act activity on a quarterly basis.
9. Administer wetland water quality fund for wetland replacement.

D. Objective: Update the Crow Wing County Soil Survey.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Continue to read and place more piezometers to track groundwater movement in the soil.
2. Provide adequate staffing to continue work on updating the soil survey legend.
3. Continue fieldwork for MLRA legend development.
4. Obtain aerial photography (DOQs) and prepare them for use to continue soil survey development.
5. Cooperate with Soil Survey Crew Leader.
6. Complete 2007 soil mapping goals.

E. Objective: Work with MPCA on the Construction Stormwater Partnership Education and Assistance Model.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Identify construction sites in the county that are one acre or greater in size.
2. Determine the number of construction sites that are not covered by a Construction Stormwater Permit and work to get the sites permitted.
3. Conduct stormwater technical assistance inspections and assist MPCA with enforcement as necessary.
4. Provide field data to MPCA in the required format.
5. Attend stormwater training as required by the MPCA.
6. Complete stormwater training for contractors, developers, and real estate

agents.

7. Complete quarterly and annual reports and submit to MPCA as required.

F. Objective: Encourage more and better use of the small privately owned forestland within the county.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Administer a private forest management program for area landowners who own less than 20 acres of forest land.
2. Promote more intense forest management.
3. Write Forest Stewardship Plans and encourage their implementation on acreage of 20 to 1,000 in conjunction with DNR- Forestry and its rules and guidelines.
4. Assist landowners in planning forest roads to prevent erosion.
5. Provide forestry advice to the municipalities and townships in Crow Wing County.
6. Offer trees to landowners for conservation and wildlife purposes and conduct a tree sale open house.
7. Turn stewardship plans into total conservation plans.
8. Conduct follow-up visits to convince landowners to implement conservation plans.
9. Assist landowners with agroforestry, hybrid poplar, and silvopasturing.
10. Work with MNDOT and other road authorities to place living snow fences in areas that have a high amount of drifting along public roads.
11. Work with the MASWCD Forestry Committee.
12. Support and work with the MN Forestry Association and other
13. Promote the MN Forest Resource Council's "Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines."
14. Work with landowners within one mile of the Mississippi, Pine, and Nokassippi Rivers through the Clean Water Legacy Program.

G. Objective: Administer the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Water Plan.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Assist with the education of shoreland/watershed residents about BMPs with the Extension Service, LARA, lake associations, and Planning and Zoning.
2. Submit reports on Water Plan activities that are completed to BWSR, District Board, and County Board.
3. Review water plan Board structure and prioritize activities within the current water plan.
4. Work with Initiative Foundation on Healthy Lake Partnership.
5. Work with MPCA on Total Maximum Daily Loads for area water bodies.
6. Work on the Conservation Easement Challenge Grant with Aitkin and Cass

Counties.

7. Promote and coordinate a countywide water monitoring program.
9. Complete the update of the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Water Plan.
10. Ensure there is adequate staff to implement the water plan.

H. Objective: Assist other governmental agencies, non-profit groups, and private landowners.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Participate in the WesMin RC&D.
2. Participate in the North Central Minnesota Technical Service Area and use the TSA Engineer and Technician for engineering assistance.
3. Assist local non-profit groups such as LARA, the Northland Arboretum, the Paul Bunyan Nature Learning Center, lake associations, and the Minnesota Forestry Association.
4. Support and assist with Pine River Joint Powers Taxing District.
5. Continue to participate in Brainerd Lakes Area Environmental Learning Network and the Brainerd Lakes Area Conservation Collaborative.
6. Invite FSA Committeemen, CED, County Administrator and County Commissioners to SWCD monthly board meetings.
7. Sponsor a joint conservation demonstration project.
8. Assist with the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and Section 319 Program and help provide leadership to these programs.
9. Work with other counties and SWCDs on projects.
10. Work with USDA to implement the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill, such as the Conservation Security Program.
11. Work on shoreline activities with all governmental entities.
12. Work with Thirty Lakes Watershed District within their boundaries.
13. Support the BHS Community Ag Center FFA Alumni and Education Agriculture Technology Group (EAT).

I. Objective: Reduce organic and inorganic pollution to improve the water quality of the surface and ground water within the District.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Work on strategies to reduce impact from livestock to rivers, lakes, and streams.
2. Streambank and lakeshore stabilization projects.
3. (1) Agricultural waste management system.
4. Review and approve storm water management plans for new developments.
5. Assist landowners with the design of plans and for applying to DNR for funding of Lakescaping projects.

6. Implement the AgBMP ISTS Loan Program and seek a lender.
7. Assist producers in transition to organic production standards.
8. Provide landowners with Natural Landscaping Protection Plans and BMPs when they are needed.
9. Use North Central Minnesota Technical Service Area engineer and technician to develop specifications for water quality projects.
10. Promote rain gardens and pervious pavement for stormwater management.
11. Assist with wellhead protection activities.
12. Continue to assist MPCA with the NPDES program.

J. Objective: Expose and educate more non-agricultural landowners, general public and groups to the benefit of the surrounding soil and water conservation measures.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Utilize the County Fair to inform and educate public about Soil and Water Conservation practices.
2. Formulate informational news release 4/year.
3. Continue support of the NACD and MASWCD contests and Soil Stewardship Week activities.
4. Use various methods to update the Crow Wing County Commissioners on District projects.
5. Support the Envirothon.
6. Support phosphorus fertilizer reduction programs.
7. Develop a SWCD web page on the internet.

K. Objective: Reduce the soil erosion T-value throughout the District by aiding and encouraging accepted conservation practices.

Action: SWCD to:

1. 600 linear feet of lakeshore stabilization projects.
2. Keep at least 19,000 acres under some form of conservation tillage and strip cropping.
3. 100 feet of diversions and 2 grassed waterways.
4. 4 livestock water ponds.
5. One erosion control structure.
6. Sell tree packets for conservation purposes.
7. Promote other water resources management.
8. Write Forest Stewardship plans.
9. 1 wetland restoration (improvement).
10. Complete 750 acres of pasture management practices.
11. 600 feet of streambank stabilization.

L. Objective: Improve Water Quality by preventing runoff and sedimentation of rivers and lakes.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Educate landowners, golf course operators, and resorters about best management practices of lawn fertilization.
2. Assist with educational efforts to promote conforming septic systems.
3. Advise the county, municipalities, and individuals on vegetation management.
4. Encourage the use of riparian buffer strips.
5. Provide education and support for pervious pavement demonstrations.
6. Continue to complete NPDES inspections that promote BMPs.

M. Objective: Provide other services beneficial to Crow Wing County landowners.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Rent a GA 500 Gopher Getter Machine to all interested landowners and maintain it in good working order.
2. Assist landowners with Shoreland Management Act.
3. Complete lot development plan reviews on new plats or as requested by zoning authorities.
4. Review of storm water management plans.
5. Offer mapping services using ArcView.
6. Offer technical services as capability allows.

N. Objective: Pursue feedlot delegation from MPCA for Crow Wing County and assist with the county feedlot ordinance administration.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Provide technical review for feedlot permit applications.
2. Attend training sessions for County Feedlot Officers.
3. Pursue feedlot delegation from MPCA to the county.

O. Objective: Apply for Special Project grants

Action: SWCD to:

1. Prioritize and submit Special Project applications to BWSR.
2. Complete approved Special Projects.

P. Objective: Administer the Reinvest in Minnesota and Permanent Wetland Preserves Programs.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Meet all state guidelines.

2. Encourage landowners to enroll in the program.
3. Cooperate with Camp Ripley, Cass SWCD, Morrison SWCD and BWSR to implement the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program.

Q. Objective: Implement EEO and Civil Rights responsibilities resulting in strong working relationships with agencies, units of government, and organizations.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Quarterly review data by race and sex for deficiencies.
2. Document corrections of disparities in the Civil Rights case file.
3. Review MOU with SWCD Board and employees including Civil Rights, EEO, and Drug Free Workplace.
4. Include non-discrimination statements on all public information.
5. Review policies and encourage equal representation.
6. Maintain Civil Rights Case File.
7. Review handicapped accessibility of buildings and parking lot.