

# Crow Wing

## Soil and Water Conservation District

### 2009 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, 2009 to December 31, 2009. 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 other responsibilities.
8. Implement a fee schedule for services.
9. Maintain an equipment replacement fund.
10. Improve natural resource conservation by participating in the MASWCD Area VIII meetings and annual 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 when required.
4. 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 eLINK4web.
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 wetland bank in Crow Wing County.
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. Assist NRCS when requested

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. Work to develop 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.

4. Seek habitat funding through the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Committee.
5. Assist landowners in planning forest roads to prevent erosion.
6. Provide forestry advice to the municipalities and townships in Crow Wing County when requested.
7. Offer trees to landowners for conservation and wildlife purposes and conduct a tree sale open house.
8. Assist landowners with agroforestry, hybrid poplar, and silvopasturing.
9. Work with MNDOT and other road authorities to place living snow fences in areas that have a high amount of drifting along public roads.
10. Work with the MN SWCD Forestry Committee.
11. Support and work with the MN Forestry Association.
12. Promote the MN Forest Resource Council's "Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines."

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, Land Services, Lakes Area Clean Water Council, and Thirty Lakes Watershed District.
2. Create a process and procedure for the new water plan committee.
3. Develop and implement Quarterly Public Input Meetings.
4. Prioritize activities within the current water plan and on work on action items that are priority.
5. Submit reports on Water Plan activities that are completed to BWSR, District Board, Water Plan Committee, and County Board.
6. Seek additional funds to help implement priorities and be prepared and seek opportunities for the clean water legacy amendment grants.
7. Complete the enhanced portion of the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Water Plan and adopt it as an amendment.
8. Develop mini grant program to provide funding for citizens, non-profits, schools, and business to implement BMP's and educate the general public about water quality issues within the county.
9. Promote and coordinate a countywide water monitoring program.
10. Work on the Surface Water Assessment grant and assist lakes associations and citizens with water quality sampling.
11. Provide a hands-on shoreline training workshop
12. Work with Initiative Foundation on Healthy Lake Partnership when possible.
13. Work with MPCA on Total Maximum Daily Loads for area water bodies.
14. 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 and pay dues.
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. Continue to participate in Brainerd Lakes Area Environmental Learning Network.
5. Invite Legislators, County Administrator and County Commissioners to SWCD monthly board meetings.
6. Sponsor a joint conservation demonstration project.
7. Work with other counties and SWCDs on projects.
8. Work with USDA to implement the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill.
9. Work on shoreline activities with all governmental entities.
10. Work with Thirty Lakes Watershed District within their boundaries.
11. Support the BHS Community Ag Center FFA Alumni and Education Agriculture Technology Group (EAT).
12. Support and work with Joint County Uniform Ordinance Language Project on Gull Lake.
13. Assist Crow Wing County in developing Hazard Mitigation Plan

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. Five streambank and lakeshore stabilization projects.
2. (1) Agricultural waste management system.
3. Review and approve storm water management plans for new developments when required.
4. Assist landowners with the design of plans and for applying to DNR for funding of Lakescaping projects.
5. Use North Central Minnesota Technical Service Area engineer and technician to develop specifications for water quality projects.
6. Promote rain gardens (bioretention) and pervious pavement for stormwater management.
7. Assist with wellhead protection activities.
8. 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 releases 4/year.
3. Continue support of the NACD Soil Stewardship Week activities.
4. Use various methods to update the Crow Wing County Commissioners on District projects.
5. Support the Envirothon and work with other youth groups.
6. Include invasive species education.
7. Maintain the Crow Wing 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. Sell trees for conservation purposes.
3. 1 wetland restoration (improvement).
4. 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. Advise the county, municipalities, and individuals on vegetation management.
3. Encourage the use of riparian buffer strips.
4. Provide education and support for pervious pavement demonstrations and bioretention (rain gardens).
5. 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 developing and implementing shoreland BMPs.
3. Complete lot development plan reviews on new plats or as requested by zoning authorities.
4. Review of storm water management plans when required.
5. Offer technical services as capability allows.

N. Objective: Administer the Army Compatible Use Buffer and 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.

O. 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.