

# Crow Wing

## Soil and Water Conservation District

### 2010 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 to perform from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010. 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.
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.
8. Implement a fee schedule for services.
9. Maintain an equipment replacement fund.
10. Participate in the MASWCD Area VIII meetings and Annual Tour.
11. Pursue training as needed for district duties.

B. Objective: Create awareness about the SWCD and conservation programs we provide.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Utilize the County Fair to inform and educate public about Best Management Practices (BMPs) for soil and water.
2. Formulate informational news releases 4/year.
3. Provide local churches the NACD Soil Stewardship Week materials.
4. Invite legislators, County Administrator and County Commissioners to SWCD monthly board meetings.
5. Update the Crow Wing County Commissioners on District projects.
6. Provide local schools information about Area VIII Envirothon and encourage participation in the event.
7. Promote DNR Invasive Species prevention practices.
8. Maintain the Crow Wing SWCD web page on the internet.

C. Objective: Improve Water Quality and reduce soil erosion

Goal 1: Reduce organic and inorganic pollution from surface and ground water.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Provide technical assistance for streambank, bioretention, and shoreline projects.
2. Cost-Share on agricultural waste management system.
3. Review and approve stormwater management plans for new developments.
4. Use North Central Minnesota Technical Service Area engineer and technician to design plans for water quality projects.
5. Promote rain gardens (bioretention), buffer strips, native plants and pervious pavement for stormwater BMPS.
6. Assist with wellhead protection activities.
7. Educate landowners, golf course operators, and resort owners on fertilizer BMPS.
8. Provide information to the county, municipalities, and individuals on vegetation management.
9. Complete lot development plan reviews on new plats or as requested by zoning authorities.
10. Promote and coordinate a countywide water monitoring program.
11. Work on the Surface Water Assessment Grant and assist lake associations and citizens with water quality monitoring.
12. Work with MPCA on Total Maximum Daily Loads for area water bodies.
13. Assist the MPCA with Crow Wing River Project.

Goal 2: Reduce the soil erosion T-value throughout the District

Action: SWCD to:

1. Install 600 linear feet of lakeshore stabilization projects.
2. Cost-Share on high priority projects based on soil erosion.
3. 1 wetland restoration (improvement).
4. Stabilize 600 feet of streambank.

D. Objective: Partner with other governmental agencies, non-profit groups, and private landowners.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Attend WesMin RC&D meetings and pay dues.
2. Utilize the North Central Minnesota Technical Service Area and use the TSA Engineer and Technician for engineering assistance.

3. Attend LARA and Lakes Area Clean Waters Council Meetings.
4. Provide technical assistance to Lake Associations and attend meetings when requested.
5. Participate in Brainerd Lakes Area Environmental Learning Network (BAELN) monthly meetings and planning meetings.
6. Collaborate with University of Minnesota Extension, DNR, and Crow Wing County to educate landowners.
7. Partner with other counties and SWCDs on projects.
8. Work with USDA to implement the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill.
9. Develop a partnership with Thirty Lakes Watershed District for projects within their boundaries.
10. Support the BHS Community Ag Center, FFA Alumni, and Education Agriculture Technology Group (EAT).
11. Support and work with Gull Lake Metropolitan Project.
12. Assist Crow Wing County in developing Hazard Mitigation Plan.
13. Rent and maintain the GA 500 Gopher Getter Machine.

E. Objective: Administer the Army Compatible Use Buffer and Reinvest in Minnesota.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Meet all state guidelines.
2. Encourage landowners to enroll in the program.
3. Collaborate with Camp Ripley, Cass SWCD, Morrison SWCD and BWSR to implement the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program.

F. Objective: Administer the Wetland Conservation Act for Municipalities in 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. Draft restoration orders and inspect for compliance.

G. Objective: Encourage 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. Develop staff capacity to 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."

H. Objective: Technical review of projects for zoning authorities for municipalities 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.

I. Objective: Assist Crow Wing County in Implementing Comprehensive Water Plan.

Action: SWCD to:

1. Assist the County as requested.

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

Action: SWCD to:

1. Assist NRCS when requested

K. 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.