Todd County is a rural county covering almost 1,000 square miles, located in the geographical center of Minnesota. It is part of the transitional area where the eastern forest meets the western prairie. Six major watersheds flow through Todd County, so what occurs in these watersheds not only affects the water resources used by the citizens of the county, but other Minnesotans living along the Mississippi River corridor. The Todd Soil and Water Conservation District was organized on March 29th, 1965 by the Todd County Commissioners and was certified by the Secretary of State on April 12th, 1965. Leadership and governance is provided by a board of five locally elected Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors. The role of the elected District Supervisors is to develop policy, long range plans and budgets.

The SWCD executed a grant agreement with the MPCA to provide cost share dollars for projects within the Long Prairie River Watershed. The 319 money is available for projects in Douglas, Todd and Morrison counties. Priority will be given to projects in impaired waters riparian zones or areas of high value protection for installing best management practices (BMP’s). Examples of projects could include feedlot fixes, Ag waste storage structures, pond closures, streambarbs and shoreland restoration.
Programs

- Coordinated 11 Todd County precipitation volunteer monthly monitor reports
- Monitored 13 observation wells for static water levels in Todd County
- Administered the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan for the Long Prairie River Watershed
- Reviewed 20 Irrigation Water Appropriation permit applications and developed Conservation Plans for 1,531 acres
- Irrigation Scheduling Program through East Otter Tail SWCD
- Provided guidance and support to the County Drainage Program
- Administered the Todd County Local Comprehensive Water Plan and Began the 2015-2020 Revision
- Promoted stalk nitrate program with Todd County Farmers through East Otter Tail Staff

Wetlands Conservation Act
- 11 Exemption Determinations
- 4 No Loss Decisions
- 29 Site Visits
- Contacted with 63 wetland related questions

Feedlot
- 561 Feedlot Re-registrations Mailed Out
- 6 Construction Short Forms (new buildings or expansions)/ 2 Interim Permits
- 106 Site Visits (Assistance/Compliance)
- Contacted with 234 feedlot related questions
- 4 pond closures

Tree Program
- 9800 Trees Sold
- 150 One Gallon Potted Stock
**Best Management Practices Installed**

**AgBMP Loan Program**

- 1 Ag Waste Storage & Runoff: $100,000
  - 1 Septic: $11,250
  - 1 Well Relocate: $6,152

**State Cost Share**

- 1 Tree Replacement
  - 1 Shelterbelt
  - 3 Well Sealing
  - 3 Native Buffers
  - 92 Cost Share Spot Checks

**CWF Livestock Management**

- 1 Ag Waste Runoff Control

**MPCA Grant**

- 1 Shoreland Stabilization (Morrison Co.)
Public Relations & Education

- Representatives on the Sauk River Watershed’s & Livestock Advisory’s Committee
- Annual Feedlot meeting at The Hub Supper Club, 77 people attended
- River & Lake Day newsletter
- 20th Annual Enviro-Fest
- 2 SWCD Newsletters and 9 newspaper articles
- Monthly radio show on KEYL/Hot Rod Radio
- Attended DIRT, Liaison, LWG, Lake Association, Amish, Area II and Township Meetings
- Todd County Fair booth
- Attended MASWCD Convention & Day at Capitol
- Provided technical assistance to landowners through field site visits
- Annual awards program for Outstanding Conservationist and Land Stewardship Awards
Todd Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors and staff hosted a conservation award luncheon this past week at The Hub Supper Club to honor two area couples. Roger and Bonnie Dukowitz of Browerville, MN received the Outstanding Conservationist Award and Kathy and George Brezinka received the Land Stewardship Award for 2014.

The Dukowitz’s have farmed since 1975 on land initially farmed by Roger’s grandfather in 1917 implementing practices such as rotational grazing, tree plantings, adaptive nitrogen management, and reduced tillage.

In addition, Roger is active on several boards and committees related to farming, irrigation, 4H, the County Fair, and Breakfast-on-the-Farm. Roger is well known for taking a stand on issues that may impact farming and has spoken before the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners on many occasions.

Kathy and George Brezinka who live on Big Swan Lake were honored for their work with the Big Swan Lake Association and Big Swan Lake Improvement District (LID). George helped establish the Big Swan Lake Association in 1985 and has served on that board since. George’s work with the LID helped fund water monitoring, outreach activities, and several landowner projects around the lake. George has worked cooperatively with Todd SWCD, the MN DNR, MPCA, and Todd County on issues that could impact Big Swan Lake. George has served on the County Water Plan Committee, and worked cooperatively with the Long Lake Association to promote the “Save the Lake” fundraiser.
Other News & Happenings

MPCA Watershed Approach

- **Redeye River Watershed** (2011): This watershed previously had no listed impairments. After two years of monitoring was completed, the Wing River south of Hewitt has a pending Fishes Bioassessments Impairment (meaning it doesn’t support a fish community) and north of Hewitt the Wing River has a pending e.coli impairment. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) draft has been prepared.

- **Crow Wing River Watershed** (2010): This watershed also had no previously listed impairments, but after the two year assessment, the Partridge River now has a pending e.coli impairment. The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAP) is available for public review on PCA’s website.

- **Long Prairie River Watershed** (2011): The Long Prairie River had a dissolved oxygen (DO) impairment since 2006; the new monitoring confirms that the river is still impaired for low DO levels. New impairments in this watershed include: Eagle Creek and Moran Creek for e.coli and Harris Creek for Biological Macroinvertebrate Bioassessments Impairment and Venewitz Creek for a Fishes Bioassessment Impairment. Lake Latimer will also be listed for excess Nutrients. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) draft has been prepared.

- **Sauk River Watershed** (2008/2018): Several waterways in the Sauk River Watershed are listed for impairments. This year the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Report (WRAPS) Draft was completed.

Water Plan Update

The Todd County Comprehensive Local Water Plan is on its 25th anniversary. This year marks the start of the next update which will be in place for another five years. A Task Force Committee has been convened and is discussing the next generation of Water Plans: Prioritizing areas which the water resource is protected, impaired or is at risk.
Partners

West Central Technical Service Area (WCTSA)

- 7 Site Visits
- 8 Site Surveys
- 9 Preliminary Projects Designs
- 7 Final Project Designs
- Provided Construction Oversight on 3 Projects

Tri-County Irrigation

This year 36 Todd County fields were enrolled into the program for a total of 2,120 acres, an increase of 16 fields from 2013. Wade Salo, the technician from East Otter Tail SWCD, worked with farmers to monitor the weather and soil moisture to give them a second opinion on whether they should irrigate or not.

Stalk Nitrogen Program

Fifteen local producers enrolled in the guided stalk sampling program. The program offers growers an opportunity to evaluate how their nitrogen management program performed from year to year.

Pheasants Forever

Two new EQIP incentives, Honey Bee and Prairie Pothole, were very popular in Todd County resulting in 18 applications, 9 contracts and 399 acres enrolled. Twelve landowners signed up for Continuous CRP contracts totaling 253.3 acres. A pollinator grant was approved to enable around 30 kids to seed a 1.5 acre area into native pollinator habitat.

NRCS

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<tr>
<th>NRCS</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 CSP Contracts</td>
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<td>19 EQIP Contracts</td>
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<td>259 Certified Pest Management Acres</td>
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<td>1 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan</td>
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<td>43 Acres Tree Planting</td>
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<td>4 Livestock Waste Pond Closures</td>
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<td>1 VTAs</td>
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<td>5 Ag Waste Storage Facilities</td>
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<td>46 Cover Crop Acres</td>
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<td>2 Ag Energy Plan</td>
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<td>92 Irrigation Water Management Areas</td>
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<td>12 Continuous CRP Signups</td>
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**Deja Anton.**

NEW! Feedlot Officer. Having worked in the same position for Douglas County as well as being an operator herself at Deja View Dairy she has hit the ground running. Deja will be managing the Feedlot program by reporting, registering, handling complaints and helping farmers come into compliance.

**Mitch Ness.**

NEW! WCA Officer. Mitch came to us from the Southern part of the state working with NRCS after graduating from the University of MN Crookston. He grew up in the Staples area and is an avid outdoor enthusiast. He will be handling the wetland conservation program as well as measuring DNR observation wells, assessing tax forfeit properties and assisting the feedlot officer and tree program.

**Shannon Haasser.**

NEW! Water Planner. A native of Long Prairie Shannon has returned to the area after working in the environmental field in Duluth, MN and completing her MBA in England. She will be responsible for coordinating the Water Plan, Long Prairie River Watershed Project, Enviro-Fest and the Aquatic Invasive Species Program as well as providing shoreland restoration technical support.

**Robert “Bob” Krause.**

Teacher, Friend and Land Steward. Robert "Bob" E. Krause, 76, died peacefully at his home surrounded by his wife and daughters on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 after succumbing to a battle with liver cancer.

Bob worked as a teacher before working for the Soil Conservation Service as a District Conservationist. In both Wheaton MN and Long Prairie until he retired. After retiring Bob started a Christmas tree and blueberry farm, and milled lumber with his saw mill. He helped organize Everybody's Market Food Cooperative and the Headwaters Forestry Cooperative, kept bees, was a Round Prairie township supervisor, and reported monthly to the MN Climatology network for 23 years.

Bob was loved and will be missed by many.
**SWCD Board**

- Dale Katterhagen
- Leland Buchholz
- Kenneth Pesta
- Norman Krause
- Tom Williamson

**County Commissioners**

- Barb Becker
- David Kircher
- Gary Kneisl
- Randy Neumann
- Rod Erickson

**SWCD Staff**

- Mitchell Ness—WCA Officer
- Deja Anton—Feedlot Officer
- Tim Stieber—Division Director
- Greg Ostrowski—District Technician
- Shannon Haasser—Water Planner
- Sarah Katterhagen—Program Coordinator

**NRCS Staff**

- Sabin Adams—Pheasants Forever Biologist
- Justin Lindner—Soil Conservationist
- Russell Kleinschmidt—District Conservationist
- Cariss Benning—Administrative Assistant
- Grant Pearson—Nutrient Management Specialist
- Darlene Drayna—Soil Conservation Technician
To view the 2014 SWCD Board Meeting Minutes, visit the Todd County website

HTTP://WWW.CO.TODD.MN.US/