

2011 Annual Report



607 9TH ST NE, LONG PRAIRIE, MN 56347 PHONE: 320-732-2644 FAX: 320-732-2565 www.toddsxcd.org

Todd Soil & Water Conservation District

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 begin in 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.

Mission Statement: To meet society's needs in protecting the land and safeguarding water quality by providing technical and financial assistance to landowners and users.

Todd SWCD Merges with Todd County

On November 1, 2011, during a regularly scheduled Commissioner's board meeting; the Todd County Board of Commissioners and the Todd Soil & Water Conservation District Board approved and signed an agreement between the County and SWCD which will co-locate and integrate the Todd SWCD with the County Planning and Zoning and GIS Departments. The agreement becomes effective January 1, 2012, and will allow both parties to collaborate and work together to better serve all residents of Todd County. The planning process took several months and lots of work. A committee was formed to draft the initial agreement consisting of two County Commissioners, two SWCD Supervisors, the County Administrator and the SWCD District Manager. The co-location will allow for one stop environmental shopping for residents and an easier avenue for staff to share knowledge and expertise. The units will co-locate on February 1st at the Main Street Government Center, and all parties involved are excited to begin this new chapter in conservation.



Inside...

Public Relations & Education
Projects & Programs
Tree Planting
Recognition & Awards
Other News & Happenings
NRCS & TSA Engineers
Staff & Board

Public Relations & Education

- SWCD staff met and presented information to a variety of organizations including lake associations in Swan River Watershed, Long Prairie River Watershed & residents at Sylvan Shores
- Todd County SWCD & NRCS displayed conservation information at the Todd County Fair
- SWCD staff took part in the Sauk River Watershed Lake Advisory Committee
- SWCD staff took part in the Livestock Advisory Committee
- Held Annual Feedlot meeting at the Clarissa Ballroom
- Held Annual Contractor Meeting in conjunction with Planning & Zoning at the County Board Room
- Held 1st Annual River & Lake Day at Thunder Lodge
- Presented at the 2011 Breakfast at the Farm hosted at the Rhode Farm
- The 17th Annual Enviro-Fest was held at the Dale & Marie Katterhagen farm on September 22, 2011. Enviro Fest is an outdoor, hands-on educational day for all 6th grade students in Todd County. 188 students from seven schools participated in the day.

Pictured Below: NRCS Nutrient Management Specialist, Grant Pearson, presenting at the Annual Feedlot Meeting



Pictured Below: Nate Hylla & Ross Reiffenberger, WCTSA Engineers, presenting at the 1st Annual River & Lake Day



Pictured Below: Todd SWCD 2011 Fair Booth



Pictured Below: Rhonda Freise, MNDNR CO, presenting at the 17th Annual Enviro-Fest



Projects & Programs

- Coordinated 11 Todd County precipitation volunteer monthly monitor reports
- Monitored 14 observation wells for static water levels in Todd County
- Administer the TMDL Implementation Plan for the Long Prairie River Watershed
- Partnered with Sauk River Watershed District for MRBI
- Reviewed 3 Irrigation Water Appropriation permit applications and developed Conservation Plans for 271 acres
- Provided guidance and support to the County Drainage Program
- Supported and utilized engineering services and partnership with West Central Technical Service Area Engineers
- Provided Cost Share to seal 5 unused wells
- SWCD sponsored a Private Well Nitrate Testing Clinic in cooperation with MDA & MDH

Best Management Practices Installed

- 1 Reforestation
- 2 Shoreland Protection
- 1 Ag Waste System
- 1 Bio-retention Basin
- 1 Prescribed Grazing Plan
- 1 Concrete Scrape Lane
- 1 Shoreland Stabilization
- 1 Waste Impoundment Closure
- 2 Shelterbelts
- 1 Sediment Basin

WCA

- 20 Exemption determinations sent to landowners
- 3 DIRT team meetings for new plats
- Contacted with 210 wetland related questions

Feedlots

- 26 Feedlot Re-registrations
 - 15 Construction Short Forms (new buildings or expansions)
 - 57 Site visits (assistance/compliance)
 - Contacted with 260 feedlot related questions
-

Tree Planting

In 2011, Todd SWCD sold 18,500 trees to 203 landowners. The SWCD planted a total of 17 sites; three reforestations, five shelterbelts and nine field windbreaks. A total of 23,410 feet of mulch fabric was installed.



Recognition & Awards

Jim Johnson of Grey Eagle is the **Todd SWCD's 2011 Outstanding Conservationist**. Jim operates a dairy farm where he raises corn, small grains and alfalfa on 282 owned acres and 132 rented acres. Jim has farmed for twenty years and the farm has been in the family since 1968. Over the years Jim has installed feedlot containment with livestock manure storage, utilizes a nutrient management plan and has gone to minimum tillage. Jim likes to hunt, fish and enjoys seeing wildlife; which is evident by the 23 acres of his farm land adjacent Trace Lake that he left unfarmed for wildlife habitat.



Gerry Buescher and his family have a dedicated interest in planting trees on their property, located in the north east corner of Todd County, in Villard Township. The sandy, sensitive soils of this cropland field site make it a perfect fit to help improve the water quality of the nearby Long Prairie River, by planting the entire field site to trees. Because it was located in the Long Prairie River watershed, Gerry was able to secure funding available through the Todd SWCD office in helping with the costs of the trees and planting. DNR forester Jason Kern provided the reforestation plan, and DNR nursery stock was utilized. The Todd Soil & Water

Conservation District planted 5,000 trees and shrubs on ten acres in 2010 and another 5,000 in 2011. There are only 3.2 acres left of the field to plant, which will be completed in the spring of 2012. Gerry had hand planted many trees on this property before. Gerry and his family are great stewards of their land.

BWSR Board Tour of Conservation Projects

On August 24, 2011, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) toured Morrison and Todd Counties to see what the priorities of the counties are and how we are addressing them. This is an annual tour that takes place in different areas around the state each year. BWSR is the state soil and water conservation agency, and it administers programs that prevent sediment and nutrients from entering our lakes, rivers, and streams; enhance fish and wildlife habitat; and protect wetlands. This tour also provided the opportunity for BWSR Representatives to get feedback from local agency staff on programs. The tour stopped at feedlot project sites, shoreland erosion project sites and at Camp Ripley to discuss the ACUB program.

Todd SWCD receives the 2011 DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources Appreciation Award

The Todd SWCD board of supervisors and staff were presented the 2011 DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources Appreciation Award at the 75th Annual Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Convention held December 4-6, 2011 in Bloomington at the Double Tree Hotel.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Division of Ecological and Water Resources sponsors this award to honor an SWCD which has implemented innovative conservation activities, demonstrated leadership and achieved significant results in the protection of Minnesota's land and water resources. "I truly appreciate your hard work and dedication in managing our natural resources," stated Tim Crocker, DNR.

Other News & Happenings

- Clean Water Legacy Grant funding from both the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) was administered by the Todd SWCD. Monies from these funds were used to complete cost share projects throughout the Long Prairie River Watershed
- The Long Prairie River was monitored from April to October, either every two weeks or after significant rain events
- Monitoring of Pine Island and Fawn Lakes was done once a month from June to September, using a Surface Water Assessment Grant from the MPCA
- The Water Plan annual meeting was held October 12; accomplishments and future activities were discussed
- Todd SWCD hosted the March Area II meeting
- The SWCD participated in the Todd County Land-use Ordinance update
- The SWCD participated in the County's Strategic Aligned Management process
- Todd SWCD is working with the MPCA and neighboring counties and SWCDs on the 10 year Watershed approach being done by the MPCA. Currently the Long Prairie River, Crow Wing River, Redeye River, and Sauk River watersheds are undergoing the process.

SRF Low Interest Loan

- 3 Ag Waste Systems Completed
- 1 ISTS Upgrades Completed

NRCS

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- 4 Waste Storage Facilities
- 3 Seasonal High Tunnels
- 4 Closures of Waste Impoundment
- 1 WaSCoB
- 134.4 Acres of Cover Crop
- 1 Acre Vegetated Treatment Area
- 967 Acres of Residue and Tillage Management
- 119.9 Acres of Irrigation Water Management
- 162.9 Acres of Prescribed Grazing
- 1744.3 Acres Nutrient Management
- 1744.3 Acres Integrated Pest Management
- 1 Irrigation sprinkler conversion to low pressure

WHIP

- 9 Acres of Trees, Native Grasses & Pollinator Habitat

*NRCS data is unofficial and has not been reviewed

TSA Engineers

West Central Technical Service Area Engineers

WCTSA engineers were utilized on the survey and/ or design of:

- 9 Shoreland Stabilization & Restorations
- 3 Raingardens
- 9 Feedlot Sites

The WCTSA Staff also presented at the Annual Feedlot Meeting, Annual Contractor Meeting and the 1st Annual River and Lake Day.

Staff & Board



Todd SWCD Staff

Sandy Rohr—District Manager

Greg Ostrowski—Technical Manager

Ed Uhlenkamp—Feedlot Technician/WCA

Amy Piekarski—Resource Conservationist

Sarah Katterhagen—Administrative Assistant

2011 SWCD Board

Leland Buchholz—Chairman

Kenneth Pesta—Vice Chairman

Dale Katterhagen—Secretary

Norman Krause—Treasurer

Thomas Williamson—Member

NRCS Staff

Russell Kleinschmidt—District Conservationist

Darlene Drayna—Soil Conservation Technician

Grant Pearson—Nutrient Management Specialist

To view the 2011 SWCD Board Meeting Minutes, visit the SWCD website

*Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard
at work worth doing*—Theodore Roosevelt