



TODD SWCD 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Inside this issue:

Programs	2
Projects	3
Public Relations & Education	4
Recognition & Awards	5
Other News & Happenings	6
Partners	7
Staff & Boards	8-9

SWCD 50th Anniversary



Early in 1965 after an intensive educational campaign by a steering committee of county commissioners and interest people, 170 petitions circulated among Todd County landowners to petition the Minnesota Soil Conservation Commission to vote for a Soil and Water Conservation District for Todd County. Over 1200 signatures were obtained.

Responding to the petition, the Commission held a hearing in the county. More than 120 people appeared and again responded in favorably. On the March 24 referendum, the people voted 571 to 54 to organize a Soil and Water Conservation District. March 29 the Commission approved the formation and appointed Percy Perreton, Carlos, and Wayne Voge, Bertha for one and two year terms of office respectively. The Secretary of State issued an organization certificate April 12, 1965 and the remaining three board members were elected June 2.

Todd SWCD is proud of our past accomplishments and will continue to **serve the public's needs by protecting the land and safeguarding the water.**

Swan River Watershed: MPCA Grant

The SWCD executed a grant agreement with the MPCA to provide cost share dollars for projects within the Swan River Minor Watershed. The money is available for projects along the Swan River and Big Swan, Trace, Bass, Lady, Little Swan, Long, Moose and Mound Lakes. Priority will be given to projects in impaired waters riparian zones or areas of high value protection for **installing best management practices (BMP's)**. Grant dollars would be used to install riparian buffers and restore a series of sediment ponds to keep nutrient rich runoff from flowing into the above mentioned river and lakes.



Programs

- Coordinated 11 Todd County precipitation volunteer monthly monitor reports
- Monitored 13 observation wells for static water levels in Todd County
- Reviewed 2 Irrigation Water Appropriation permit applications
- Irrigation Scheduling Program delivered through East Otter Tail SWCD
- Administered the Todd County Local Comprehensive Water Plan and began the 2016-2021 Revision
- Promoted stalk nitrate program with Todd County Farmers through East Otter Tail Staff
- New Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) began and Todd County certified their first local producer and five additional program applications
- New Buffer Initiative work began to provide guidance and support to landowners; Developed inventory of buffer needs in the county



Tyler Carlson Receives Ag Water Quality Certification from Grant Pearson (Certification Specialist) and Tim Stieber (Todd SWCD)

Wetlands Conservation Act

- 9 Exemption Decisions
- 9 No Loss Decisions
- 2 Replacement Plan Decisions
- 81 Site Visits
- 1 Boundary/Type Decision
- 2 Local Road Program Concurrence
- Contacted with 173 wetland related questions

Feedlot Program

- 64 Update Feedlot Registrations Mailed
- 2 Construction Short Forms (new buildings or expansions)
- 6 Interim Permits
- 208 Site Visits (Assistance/Compliance)
- Contacted with 278 feedlot related questions
- 3 Liquid Manure Storage Closures

Tree and Plant Sale Program

- 10,950 Trees
- 175 One Gallon Potted Stock
- 15 Native Plant Kits



Native Plant Kits & Potted Stock

Best Management Practices Installed

State Cost Share

1 Cattle Crossing

4 Well Sealing

1 Shoreland Restoration

CWF Livestock Management

1 Ag Waste Runoff Control with VTA

MPCA 319 Grant

1 Shoreland Stabilization

1 Water and Sediment Basins (Douglas)

1 Stacking Slab (Douglas)

Feedlot Assistance

1 Ag Waste



Cattle Crossing: State Cost Share



Shoreland Restoration: MPCA 319 Grant



Ag Waste with VTA: CWF Livestock Mgmt.



Public Relations & Education

- **Representatives on the Sauk River Watershed's & Livestock Advisory's Committee**
- Annual Feedlot meeting at The Clarissa Ballroom, 105 attendees
- River & Lake Day, 65 attendees
- 21st Annual Enviro-Fest, 208 attendees (students, teachers & presenters)
- 2 SWCD Newsletters, 10 newspaper articles, 10 news releases
- Monthly radio show on KEYL/Hot Rod Radio
- Attended Liaison, Local Work Group, Lake Association, 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
- Hosted 50th Anniversary Open House, 80 attendees
- Sponsor and Lead on Conservation Tour in Southern Todd County, 41 attendees
- Lead SWCD for Central MN Land Use Decision Maker Symposium, 150 attendees



Conservation Tour and 50th Anniversary Open House on July 29th, 2015

Recognition & Awards

Todd Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors and staff hosted a conservation award luncheon September 10th, 2015 at The Hub Supper Club to honor winners of the Outstanding Conservationist Award from Snowy Pines Reforestation operated by Greg Nolan and Marcia Rapatz. Big Swan Lake Shoreland Property Owners were the recipient of the Land Stewardship Award.

Snowy Pines Reforestation has been in family operation for over 40 years where the mission is to create meaningful and rewarding work for our family and friends that improves the natural environment. Working within their mission - Greg Nolan and Marcia Rapatz are involved in a wide range of conservation projects and activities on their 80 acres near Pine Island Lake in Turtle Creek Township NE of Browerville. About half of their land is in forest and the remaining contains several vegetable gardens, pasture, apple orchard, and their wood drying and processing facilities.



Top: Greg Nolan and Marcia Rapatz
Bottom: Solar Powered Wood Kiln



Swan Lake Representatives Denny Harder and Chuck Macy Accepting the Land Stewardship Award from Todd SWCD Chairman Tom Williamson and Director Tim Stieber

The Big Swan Lake Association began in 1985 with the goal of working together to improve the lake. Activities in those early years included removing floating bogs, purchasing marker buoys, conducting lake water quality monitoring, and supporting a septic inventory of property owners around the lake. Various groups and individuals have worked to improve Big Swan Lake over the years.

Big Swan Lake shoreland property owners are to be commended for their efforts and contributions toward watershed improvements and also to other county-wide efforts such as participating in the Water Plan development and Aquatic Invasive Species Plan development.

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) and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) drafts have been prepared and are set to be released in January 2016.
- **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) and the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) drafts have been prepared and are set to be released in January 2016.

Water Plan Update—Priority Concerns Scoping Document

The process selected for identifying priority concerns were four fold and citizen based. First, a notice of decision to revise and update the Todd County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan was sent to state and local agencies. Water and related land resource plans were solicited as were inputs for priority concerns. Second, a Task Force Committee was selected. The group was made up of local leaders from cities, townships, lake associations, industry and supporting agencies. The process was chaired by the Todd SWCD Board Chairman and facilitated by the Todd County Water Planner. The third venue used to solicit priority concerns was a public hearing. The meeting was advertised county wide as an opportunity for citizens to voice concerns they have about Todd County Water. Lastly, a public survey was released for comments.

A total of 350 completed surveys were received exceeding the goals of the project. An even cross section of age and property ownership type was represented in the data. Also, there was a proportionate response from people living in each of the six watersheds to the total watershed size.



Copies of the final document and survey results were made public on the Todd County website.

Partners

West Central Technical Service Area (WCTSA)

- 6 Site Visits
- 8 Site Surveys
- 11 Preliminary Projects Designs
- 6 Final Project Designs
- Provided Construction Oversight on 5 Projects



Clarissa Weather Station

Tri-County Irrigation

This year 22 Todd County fields were enrolled into the program, an increase of 6 fields from 2014. 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

Seven 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 Honey Bee contracts equaling 78 acres and one RIM Easement of 70 acres were put in place. A total of 41 new landowners signed up for Continuous CRP contracts totaling 337 acres. A pollinator grant enabled around 20 children to seed a 1.5 acre area into native pollinator habitat.

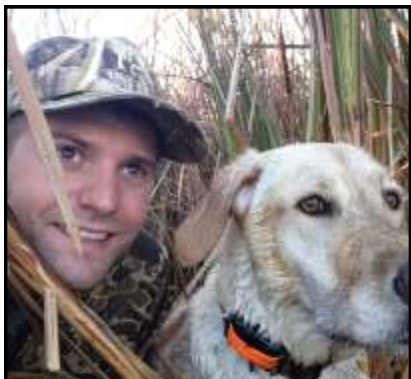
NRCS

Over 4,500 Acres of Conservation Applied
 20 CSP Contracts
 17 EQIP Contracts
 1281 Certified Nutrient Management Acres
 437 Acres of Grass Plantings
 3 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans
 31 Acres Cover Crop
 15 Acres Forest Stand Improvement

682 Acres Prescribed Grazing
 3 Grazing Pipeline Systems
 2 Grazing System Fences
 1 Grassed Waterway
 5 Ag Waste Storage Facilities
 46 Cover Crop Acres
 682 Acres of Prescribed Grazing
 1 Farmstead Energy Improvement
 1 Grade Stabilization Structure
 41 Continuous CRP Signups

Data is unofficial and has not been reviewed

Staff & Boards



Matt Danzl .

NEW! Matt Danzl is the new Wetland Conservation Act Coordinator. He is originally from the Rockville area in Stearns County. He graduated from SCSU with a B.S. in Ecology and Field Biology. Matt has worked in various positions with different agencies such as The Nature Conservancy, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MN DNR, and most recently with North Dakota State University conducting agricultural research for forage production and soil health benefits in central North Dakota where **he is also completing a Master's of Science in Natural Resource Management.**



Daniel I e Kuperus.

NEW! Danielle Kuperus came to us from Renville SWCD where she was an apprentice with the Minnesota Conservation Corps. She graduated with her BA from Minnesota State University Moorhead. **She will be handling the state's new buffer law through outreach,** answering questions and providing technical support. Danielle will also be working with landowners who wish to apply for the MN Agricultural Water Quality Program.

Greg Ostrowski.

Greg Ostrowski retired after 36 years of working for the Todd SWCD. Over the years many landowners had the opportunity to work with Greg as he helped them solve problems ranging from livestock manure to fencing to tree selection and pest control. In 2013 he was awarded Minnesota Outstanding District Employee of the Year for his dedication to conservation.



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



Matt Danzl – Wetland Technician
Deja Anton – Feedlot Officer
Shannon Wettstein – Water Planner
Daniel Lee Kuperus – Conservation Technician
Sarah Katterhagen – Program Coordinator
Tim Stieber – Division Director
Greg Ostrowski (not picture/Retired 2015)

NRCS Staff



Sabin Adams – Pheasants Forever Biologist
Justin Lindner – Soil Conservationist
Russell Klenschmidt – District Conservationist
Cariss Benning – Administrative Assistant
Grant Pearson – MAWQCP Certification Specialist
(no longer with NRCS)
Darlene Drayna – Soil Conservation Technician



To view the 2015 SWCD Board Meeting Minutes, visit the
Todd County website

<http://www.co.todd.mn.us/>