



"Helping bring YOU clean water"

Lincoln SWCD
PO Box 32
Ivanhoe, MN 56142
P-507-694-1630, x3
F-507-694-1850
lincolnsxcd.net

LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Ivanhoe, Minnesota

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Table of Contents -----	1
Supervisors; Staff; Cooperating Agencies; Board Meetings -----	2
Introduction; Mission; Programs -----	3
Priority Goals, Objectives, Actions	
• Groundwater Protection for the Verdi Well Field -----	4
• Surface Water Quality Deterioration Priorities -----	4-5
• Erosion and Sediment Control -----	5-10
• Lake Management Improvement -----	10
• Surface Water Runoff and Drainage -----	10-11
• Effective/efficient District Operation and Provide Assistance -----	12
• Educational, promotional and Information activities -----	13

The SWCD prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District was organized July 3, 1944. The district works with landowners in both rural and urban settings to carry out a program for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and related resources. The district is a political subdivision of the State and is governed by a five member Board of Supervisors. The board sets policy, hires employees, and is responsible to see that the operations of the district are run effectively and according to law and rule. Listed are the Supervisors, employees, and cooperating agencies.

LINCOLN SWCD SUPERVISORS:

Daniel Christianson.....Chairperson
Glen Sorensen Vice Chairperson
Conrad Schardin Secretary
Joe Weber Treasurer
John Boulton PR&I

LINCOLN SWCD STAFF:

Pauline VanOverbeke District Manager
Terry Dybsetter Education Coordinator
Ron Madsen Engineering Technician
Dale Sterzinger..... Conservation Technician
Randy Kraus..... Farm Bill Assistant

COOPERATING AGENCIES:

Board of Soil and Water Resources:

John JaschkeDirector, St. Paul
David Sill Board Conservationist, Marshall
Kane Radel..... Wetland Specialist, Marshall

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service:

Marshall Area Office:

Gary WatsonArea Conservationist

Ivanhoe Field Office:

Dennis Johnson District Conservationist
Randy SheikSoil Conservation Technician
Nathan Blankers.....Soil Conservationist

Lincoln County Commissioners:

Joan Jagt.....Tyler
Curt Blumeyer..... Canby
Larry Hansen..... Tyler
Donald Evers..... Lake Benton
Adam Gillund..... Hendricks

OTHER AGENCIES:

- Lincoln County Environmental Office
- Yellow Medicine River Watershed District (YMRWD)
- Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA)
- Lac qui Parle River Watershed District (LqPWD)
- Southwest Prairies Technical Service Area (SWPTSA)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Farm Service Agency – Ivanhoe
- Resource Conservation and Development
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW)
- MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Department of Health

LINCOLN SWCD BOARD MEETINGS:

Regular board meetings are held the Third Wednesday of each month as follows, unless otherwise published in the Ivanhoe Times or on the Lincoln SWCD web site:

- April to October: 7:00 a.m.
- November to March: 10:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTION:

The Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Plan is developed from the long-range priority concerns and objectives in the Lincoln County Water Management Plan, which was adopted by the Lincoln SWCD as our Comprehensive Plan. The Annual Report lists the accomplishments that occurred during 2009.

The priority concerns identified in the Management Plan are:

- *Ground water protection for the Verdi Well Field.*
- *Surface water quality deterioration priorities being nutrients and bacteria focusing on two identified TMDL sites: Lake Shaokatan and the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River.*
- *Erosion and sediment control on agricultural land primarily gully erosion and concentrated flow with several priority areas being the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed, Norwegian Creek, Coon Creek, Lake Benton Lake and Dead Coon Lake.*
- *Lake management improvement (water quality) and recreational opportunities targeting Lake Benton, Lake Shaokatan and Lake Hendricks.*
- *Surface water runoff and drainage addressing runoff volume and water quality through drainage management.*

The plan also addresses the following:

- Provide for an effective/efficient District Operation and provide assistance to landowners/operators.
- Increase public awareness through educational, promotional and informational activities.

MISSION:

1. To identify existing and potential problems and opportunities for the protection, management and development of water and related land resources; and
2. To develop objectives and carry out a plan of action to promote sound hydrologic management of water and related land resources and effective environmental protection.

PROGRAMS:

The Lincoln SWCD is involved with many programs and projects throughout the year. Some of the programs listed are described and accomplishments reported throughout the report.

District Programs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| - Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program | - Tree Program |
| - eLink Reporting | - Tree Mat Program |
| - State Cost-Share Program | - Rain Gauge Program |
| - Grant Writing | - Joint Agency Newsletter |
| - Annual Plan/Year End Reporting | - Haybuster Drill Program |
| - LGU and Administer WCA | - DNR Well Monitoring |
| - County Fair Booth | - Process Water Permits |
| - Farmer Magazine Award Program | - Educational Newsletter |
| - Riparian Buffers | - Tree Repellent Program |
| - District Web Site | - Conservation News Releases |
| - Clean Water Land and Legacy | - Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative |
| - Engineering – Ag Waste Systems, W&SCB, Terraces, Waterways | |

Federal Programs (assisted by the Lincoln SWCD):

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| - Water Quality Incentive Program | - Conservation Plans |
| - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) | - Status Reviews |
| - Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP) | |

Administer the Local Water Management Plan:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Well Sealing Program | - Rock Inlet Program |
| - Conserving Use Acres Program | - Ag BMP Loan Program |

PRIORITY CONCERNS; GOALS; OBJECTIVES; ACTIONS

PRIORITY CONCERN: *Groundwater Protection for the Verdi Well Field.*

GOAL: *Protect the public water supply from potential contaminant sources due to land use activities; and Establish and maintain a Wellhead Protection Plan (WHP) continuing public education and information program.*

OBJECTIVE: *Encourage property owners to adopt tillage, chemical and nutrient BMP's for cropland within the Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA).*

ACTION: Contact one feedlot owner in the DWSMA area to personally discuss feedlot operations, tillage, chemical/nutrient management, develop an understanding of local drinking water issues/benefits of implementing a wellhead protection plan and the BMP's best suited for them in the DWSMA.

Accomplishment: One feedlot producer was contacted in the DWSMA to discuss his feedlot operation.

OBJECTIVE: *Inventory and prioritize areas within the DWSMA for adoption of set-a-side and buffer easement programs.*

ACTION: Contact property owners in the WHP area to encourage enrollment in easement programs, such as CRP, Working Lands Initiative (WLI), various incentive programs and adoption of buffer strips. Increase acres of easement programs by 25 acres per year. Funding Sources: CRP, WLI, LPRW.

Accomplishment: No easement program available for the WHP program in 2009.

ACTION: Increase conservation tillage practices in the DWSMA, reducing sedimentation in the surface waters recharging the ground water. Promote Ag BMP Loans for upgrading conservation tillage equipment to reduce erosion and runoff by targeting one landowner per year. Funding Sources: Ag BMP.

Accomplishment: No Ag BMP funds were available in 2009.

PRIORITY CONCERN: *Surface Water Quality Deterioration being Nutrients and Bacteria focusing on two identified TMDL sites: Lake Shaokatan and the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River.*

GOAL: *To restore and protect the surface water quality of Lincoln County's lakes, rivers and streams.*

OBJECTIVE: *Protect surface water quality from contamination caused by point and non-point source pollution and properly treat both human and animal waste.*

ACTION: Work with 4-5 producers per year with high priority feedlots. Priority based on the size of the operation and their proximity to water. Work with engineers to survey problem feedlots and supply the producer with 2-3 options to fix the pollution problem (cost-estimate included). Work with the SWCD/NRCS on possible cost-share availability. Cost: \$50,000 – 150,000; EQIP, CWP's: Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle, Ag BMP.

Accomplishment: Worked with five producers with high priority feedlots of which the following was accomplished: two of the five had complete fixes; one of the five is working towards completion; the two remaining producers were consulted with of which one of the feedlots has been surveyed.

ACTION: Reduce feedlot pollution by working with 3-feedlot producers on developing nutrient management plans on 750 acres. Priority will be given to feedlot producers spreading manure in sensitive areas and with 300+ animal units. Cost: \$3,000; EQIP.

Accomplishment: No nutrient management plans were developed in 2009 through the EQIP program or the Environmental Office.

OBJECTIVE: *Protect and improve existing surface water quality by addressing nutrient and bacteria issues.*

ACTION: Pursue funds for watershed based activities and practices for the Yellow Medicine River Watershed, Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed, Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area and the Big Sioux Watershed, by addressing the nutrient and bacteria issues. Cost: \$50,000 - \$250,000; CWP, EQIP, BWSR, RCRCA, SWCD-C-S, NRCS-EQIP, Ag BMP, and Apply for funding through the Constitutional Amendment.

Accomplishment: Developed Clean Water Fund Applications with neighboring SWCD's for 2010 funds for the Redwood-Cottonwood Watersheds; Lac qui Parle Watershed and the Yellow Medicine Watershed in which the Lincoln SWCD would be the project sponsor for this watershed.

ACTION: Identify and implement BMP's in the Lake Shaokatan Watershed and the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River to help reduce Phosphorus. Funding Sources: EQIP, State C-S, Ag BMP.

Accomplishment: BMP's installed in the Lake Shaokatan Watershed and the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River are shown under the Erosion and Sediment Section of the Plan.

OBJECTIVE: *Educate property owners, land owners/operators on the importance of protecting our surface waters from deterioration.*

ACTION: Educate land owners/operators on feedlot pollution and the importance of proper manure management and on the need for BMP's in order to reduce the nutrients and bacteria in surface water quality. Outreach sources: newsletters and one-on-one contacts. Cost: \$50.

Accomplishment: "Conservation with a Capital "C" – Improving water quality" published in the winter 2009 newsletter along with an article "Feedlots" for the Environmental Office.

ACTION: Educate land owners/operators in the Lake Shaokatan Watershed and the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River on the TMDL Study and the need for implementation of conservation practices, accomplished through newsletters and one on one contacts. Cost: \$50.

Accomplishment: A TMDL landowner meeting was held on July 2, 2009 at Lake Shaokatan. Approximately 65 people were in attendance.

Letters were sent to 300 landowners in the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River in which approximately 25 people were in attendance at the meeting held in Taunton on November 19, 2009.

Articles on the opportunity for cost-share/incentives in the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River were published in the summer and winter 2009 Newsletters.

PRIORITY CONCERN: *Erosion and Sediment Control on agricultural land primarily gully erosion and concentrated flow with several priority areas being the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed, Norwegian Creek, Coon Creek, Lake Benton Lake and Dead Coon Lake.*

GOAL: *To protect and preserve Lincoln County's long-term valuable soil resources.*

OBJECTIVE: *Protect and improve existing surface and ground water quality, by addressing and reducing soil erosion, sedimentation and potential attached pollutants.*

ACTION: In the Yellow Medicine River Watershed, accelerate the implementation of filter strips, sediment basins and waterways, etc., through the Clean Water Partnership Program and other funding sources. Cost: \$10,000-\$15,000; CWP, and Shaokatan Sportsmen's Club Cost-Share dollars.

Accomplishment: South Branch TMDL: BMP's implemented in the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed through funds from the YMRWD during 2009 include:

Funding Source	Practice	Number Contracts	Units/ Number	C-S	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved Tons/yr.
					Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	
CWL2007-319	Blind Intakes	6	29 Ea.	\$10,426.84	43.5	29	
	Filter Strip Incentive	1	32.6 Ac.	\$16,300.00	873.7	666.2	134.31
Totals		6		\$21,626.84	917.2	695.2	134.31

BMP's implemented in the Lake Shaokatan Watershed with funds through the Shaokatan Sportsmen's Club Cost-Share dollars in 2009 are as follows:

Lake Shaokatan Watershed:

Project	Number of		Cost-Share	Pollution Reductions	
	Contracts	Number		Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr
Dam	1	1 Ea.	\$ 7,290.25		
Blind Intakes	5	14 Ea.	\$ 6,822.75	21	14
CRP Incentive	1	2.7 Ac.	\$ 810.00		
Totals	7		\$14,923.00	21	14

ACTION (ADDED): In the Lac qui Parle River Watershed, accelerated the implementation of filter strips through the Clean Water Partnership-Clean Water Legacy Grant incentive program.

Accomplishment: In 2009 the following practices were completed in the Lac qui Parle Watershed with Clean Water Legacy Grant funding:

Grant	Number Contracts	Practice	Amount	Dollar Am. Funded
FY08-CWL	7	Filter Strips Incentive	42.7Ac.	\$32,025.00
FY08-CWL	1	Rain Garden-Hendricks	1125.0 Sq.Ft.	\$ 3,694.94
Totals	8			\$35,719.94

ACTION: Reduce water erosion to 5-ton or less soil loss per acre on cropland. Implement BMP's such as but not limited to (approximate footage – per year when listed):

- Terraces-2,000 feet,
- Water & Sediment Control Basin's-70 each,
- Waterways-6 acres,
- Conservation Tillage, and,
- Increase the number of acres for buffers, filter strips and Critical Area Plantings by 25 new sites (125 acres) per year through CRP, and CCRP. The entire county is a concern with priority given to areas deemed necessary by the Technical Groups in each of the watersheds. Cost: \$100,000 - \$250,000; EQIP, State C-S, Native Buffer C-S, CRP, Ag BMP, WLI.

Accomplishment: The following best management practices were completed in 2009. Funding source for the projects listed are EQIP Cost-Share dollars. Projects completed in 2009, but are not all funds from this year.

Year	Practice	Number Contracts	Units/ Amount	EQIP C-S	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved Tons/Year
					Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	
2009	Waterway	1	3.1 Ac.	\$ 5,500	2.73	2.37	2.37
	WSCB's	13	37 Ea.	\$74,161	101.01	87.69	87.69
	Nutrient Mgt.	14	3,500 Ac.	\$15,275			
	Rotational Grazing	6	1,500 Ac.	\$29,009			
	Pest Mgt.	11	2,750 Ac.	\$ 9,868			
Totals		45		\$133,813	103.74	90.06	90.06

The following State Cost-Share practices were completed in 2009 w/the program/Fiscal Year shown. Tree projects used with cost-share funds are shown under the wind erosion action.

Fiscal Year	Practice	Number Contracts	Units/ Amount	State C-S	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved
					Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	Tons/Year
FY08	WSCB's	1	7 Ea.	\$9,298	5.43	4.72	26.25

In 2009 the following conservation practices were installed through the agencies listed with cost-share funding shown throughout the report.

Agency	Unit	Practice
Lincoln SWCD	18	WSCB's
	5	Feedlot Projects (assisted with)
	1	Dam Project-Sediment Survey (assisted with)
NRCS	26	WSCB's
	14	Nutrient Management Plans
	11	Pest Management Plans
	1	Waterway
Southwest Prairie Tech. Service Area	1	Dam Project-Sediment Survey started
	3	Feedlot Projects
RCRCA	15	WSCB's
	1	Sediment Basin
	1	Underground Outlet

Blind Intakes: Through the Lincoln County Water Management Plan open tile intakes were replaced with blind/rock intakes. Cost-share was 75% not to exceed \$400.00 per intake replaced.

Year Installed	Contracts/Landowners	Number of Intakes Installed	Dollars to Landowners	Fiscal Year Dollars
2009	1	1	\$ 300	FY08
2009	2	5	\$2,000	FY09
Totals	3	6	\$2,300	

In 2009, the total CRP payments issued to producers in Lincoln County were \$2,328,913 on 1,301 CRP Contracts with a total acres enrolled of 27,873.2. Acres enrolled in CRP in 2009 (calendar year January-December) include the following practices: filter strips, tree practices, waterway, wetland practices, and CP38-SAFE Practice.

Year	Contracts	Acres	Practice	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved
				Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	Tons/Year
2009	6	21.1	Trees			
2009	32	327.5	Filters	3,871.31	2,968.44	982.50
2009	27	691.6	Wetland	1,126.77	656.70	552.50
2009	24	487.1	CP38-SAFE	756.66	650.89	1,948.00
2009	1	1.0	Waterway			
Totals	90	1,528.3		5,754.74	4,276.03	3,483.00

Working Lands Initiative contracts which include easements and incentive payments are as follows:

Year	Payment Type	Contracts	Acres	Dollars to Landowners
2009	Easements (Wetlands)	2	111.8	\$151,185.43
2009	Incentives	14	453.3	\$373,665.00
Totals			565.1	\$524,850.43

ACTION: Reduce wind erosion to 5-ton or less soil loss per acre on cropland selling 50,000 trees per year by implementing the following (approximately footage – per year when listed): 1 mile-Field Windbreaks/Living Snow Fences, 10 acres-Farmstead Shelterbelts, and 20 acres-Wildlife Tree Plantings, depending on programs available. Make the following contacts: 10-contacts in areas MN DOT and the County have identified for the Living Snow Fence Program/Field Windbreaks; 30-contacts to promote the tree program, follow-up contacts on

all tree projects and keep townships informed on the available tree programs. Cost: \$100,000 - \$150,000; CRP, BWSR, DNR, MNDOT, PF.

Accomplishment: Trees sold through the Lincoln SWCD and practices implemented in 2009.

Year	Total Trees Sold	Number	Practice
2009	35,000	8.3 Ac.	Working Lands Initiative
		17.1 Ac.	Farmstead Shelterbelts
		3.24 Mi.	Living Snow Fences (4 total)
		85.6 Ac.	Riparian Buffer Plantings

The following practices were completed in 2009 with the funding sources shown.

Program	Practice	Number	C-S Amounts
Funding Source		Contracts	
FY08-State C-S	Farmstead Shelterbelts	2	\$ 3,044.00
FY09-State C-S	Farmstead Shelterbelts	6	\$ 9,505.00
MN-DOT	Living Snow Fences	3	\$10,189.95
DNR	Wildlife Tree Plantings	3	\$ 3,823.00
Totals		12	\$26,561.95

ACTION: Provide a Conserving Use Acres Contract to landowners where the Water Management Task Force pays \$599.00 for planting 10 acres or more of small grain in order to do earthwork construction from August 10 to September 30. Cost: \$3,600; WMP.

Accomplishment: Provided Conserving Use Acres contracts to 7-landowners for a total cost of \$4,193, with the following BMP's being installed through this effort: 13-WSCB's and 1,100 feet of waterway.

ACTION: Provide cost-share dollars (75% not to exceed \$350/well) to 6 landowners for sealing their abandoned well(s). Cost: \$1,500; WMP.

Accomplishment: Provided well sealing cost-share dollars to 7-landowners in 2009. Sealing as follows: 2 wells-\$700 with FY08 dollars; 4½ wells-\$1,500 with FY09 dollars; ½ well-\$155 with FY2010 dollars.

OBJECTIVE: *Reduce the volume of sedimentation reaching County lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands.*

ACTION: Increase the amount of residue on 2,500 acres with conservation tillage equipment. And promote/encourage landowners to plant 500 high residue acres with a No-Till Drill. Dollars for conservation tillage equipment will be through the Ag BMP Loan Program. Cost: \$75,000 - \$125,000.

Accomplishment: There were no Ag BMP Loan dollars available in 2009 for conservation tillage equipment.

Along with the Haybuster Drill through DNR, the district purchased a second Haybuster Drill to help with our effort. 2009 Native Grass Drill-DNR Roadsides for Wildlife include:

Total number of operations/operators	39.0
▪ Total Acres Planted	791.7 ac
▪ Between new tree rows	31.3 ac
▪ Landscaping (golf course inter-seeding)	3.0 ac
▪ Pasture inter-seeding	45.2 ac
▪ Construction projects/roadsides	9.0 ac
▪ Crops (beans)	6.5 ac
▪ CRP, Filter Strips, Native Buffers	696.7 ac

2009 was a huge year for "Natives". Miles put on the drill are the equivalent of planting from Mankato, MN to Denver, CO with a 10 foot drill in the ground. Considering the amount of miles in delivery and return of the drill by the 39 different operations it is possible to believe that we could have reached Phoenix, AZ.

OBJECTIVE: *Implement Best Management Practices in the Redwood River Watershed-Clean Water Partnership Project area. Implementation will be dependant on the success of the Extension of the CWP for the Redwood River Watershed.*

ACTION: Implement grassed waterways, terraces, water and sediment control basins, livestock exclusions and CRP/CCRP to reduce external loading from surface runoff. Cost: \$200,000; RCRC, CWL.

Accomplishment: Through the RCRC, the following practices were installed in 2009 with the CWP Grants: the 2005-Lincoln/Redwood River Watershed Restoration Project Continuation CWP Funds (Lincoln/Rdwd) and the 2007-Redwood River Watershed Phosphorus TMDL Compliance Project CWP Funds (2007TMDL).

Funding Source	Practice	Number		Cost-Share	Reductions	
		Contracts	Installed		Sediment	Phosphorus
2005Lincoln	WSCB's	5	8 Ea.	\$41,016.69	119.1	130.6
2005Lincoln	Conserving Use Acres	1	1 Ea.	\$ 900.00		
2005Lincoln	Underground Outlet	1	1 Ea.	\$ 225.00	1.0	1.15
2007TMDL	WSCB's	1	7 Ea.	\$24,000.00	45.9	56.9
2007TMDL	Conserving Use Acres	1	1 Ea.	\$ 1,500.00		
2007TMDL	Sediment Basin	1	1 Ea.	\$ 1,973.25	14.86	17.1
Totals		10		\$69,614.94	180.86	205.75

Through the Clean Water Legacy Funds (Redwood SWCD-Grant Administrator) the following practices were installed in 2009.

Funding Source	Practice	Number		Cost-Share paid in 2009	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved Tons/Year
		Contracts	Amount		Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	
FY08CWL-319	Nutrient Mgt.	1	250 Ac.	\$ 3,750			
	Blind Intakes	1	3 Ea.	\$ 900	4.5		3.0
FY07CWL-319	Nutrient Mgt.	2	455 Ac.	\$ 6,825			
	No-till	4	353 Ac.	\$10,590	664.73	363.4	1,030.7
	Strip-till	1	123 Ac.	\$ 3,708			
	Blind Intakes	1	3 Ea.	\$ 675	4.5		3.0
Totals		10		\$25,448	673.73	363.4	1,036.7

OBJECTIVE: *Increase and protect wildlife habitat.*

ACTION: Increase the number of wildlife-habitat management areas, living snow fences, wildlife plantings and restore 18 acres of wetland restorations per year making the opportunity for wildlife enhancement and hunting opportunities greater. Funding Sources: DNR, PF, BWSR C-S, WLI, USFWS.

Accomplishment: The following wetland restoration projects were completed (paid out in 2009):

FY Program and/or Year	Year	Number	Program	Acres	Cost	Type
CRP	2009	27	CP23A & CP27-28	691.6		Wetlands
F08-NB C-S	2009	1	Native Buffer	32.0	\$3,068	Native Buffer

OBJECTIVE: *Educate landowners/operators about erosion and sediment control, the importance of installing conservation practices and encourage conservation programs that help protect wildlife and recreational benefits in Lincoln County.*

ACTION: Provide information/options about BMP's to reduce sediment and nutrients to land users on severe soil erosion through newsletters, news releases and individual contacts.

Accomplishment: "Conservation with a Capital "C" – Managing and protecting wildlife habitat" published in the winter 2009 newsletter. Two news releases were published in 2009; one on EQIP and one on the Grazing Lands Reserve Program.

ACTION: Increase awareness of buffer programs: CRP, CCRP, RIM, WLI, critical area plantings, filter strips, etc. through newsletters, news releases and individual contacts.

Accomplishment: “Conservation with a Capital “C” – Improving water quality and Managing and protecting wildlife habitat” published in the winter 2009 newsletter.

ACTION: Promote implementation of field windbreaks, living snow fences, farmstead shelterbelts, and wildlife tree plantings through newsletters, news releases and individual contacts.

Accomplishment: “Conservation with a Capital “C” – Managing and protecting wildlife habitat” published in the winter 2009 newsletter. Published two news releases on the tree program(s) during 2009.

ACTION: Educate landowners/operators on an individual basis and through newsletters about protecting the wildlife-habitat management areas, restored wetlands, and wildlife tree plantings for better wildlife enhancement and recreation opportunities.

Accomplishment: “Conservation with a Capital “C” – Managing and protecting wildlife habitat” published in the winter 2009 newsletter.

PRIORITY CONCERN: *Lake Management Improvement (water quality) and Recreational Opportunities targeting Lake Benton, Lake Shaokatan and Lake Hendricks.*

GOAL: *Increase recreational opportunities by improving the water quality and quantity of Lincoln County’s lakes.*

OBJECTIVE: *Reduce the blue-green algae in Lake Shaokatan to improve the economic and recreational activities in the lake.*

ACTION: Implement BMPs for water quality in Lake Shaokatan in the watershed above the lake. Projects included in this section are funded through the Shaokatan Sportsmen’s Club.

Accomplishment: Shown under the Erosion Control Section.

OBJECTIVE: *Educate the residents, owners and operators around the three main lakes on the importance of protecting the recreational benefits of the lakes in Lincoln County.*

ACTION: Educate lake/city residents and landowners/operators around their priority lakes, on protecting the lake water quality, through the various watershed districts through meetings, one-on-one contacts, and newsletters. Cost: See specific education actions throughout plan.

Accomplishment: A TMDL landowner meeting was held on July 2, 2009 at Lake Shaokatan. Approximately 65 people were in attendance.

PRIORITY CONCERN: *Surface Water Runoff and Drainage addressing runoff volume and water quality through drainage management.*

GOAL: *Improve surface water management by decreasing runoff, flooding and erosion while maintaining the drainage systems already in place to sustain agricultural productivity.*

OBJECTIVE: *Apply watershed-based principles in properly managing drainage systems and wetlands and repair small dams in the county.*

ACTION: Reduce flooding potential by restoring 10 acres of wetlands. Cost: \$200,000; USFWS, BWSR, CRP, WLI.

Accomplishment: CRP: Enrolled in 2009, 27 contracts were approved for 691.6 acres for the CP23A and CP27-28 programs which are to restore wetlands including the upland buffers. These numbers are also shown under the erosion section of the report.

Working Lands Initiative (WLI): In 2009, two projects were enrolled in the WLI program (RIM Easements) for restoring wetlands of which one project was for 77.4 acres for a cost of \$96,265.22 and one for 34.4 acres for a cost of \$54,920.21. These two projects are also listed under the erosion section of the report. They will be completed in 2010.

ACTION (ADDED): Repair an existing small dam used for flood control and water storage that are located in the county. Cost: \$10,000–\$20,000.

Accomplishment: The following dam project was completed in 2009:

DRAMMEN 15 DAM

T110N R46W Section 15 – Redwood River Watershed

Total project cost: \$120,225.97 – of which \$15,099.06 was a Wetland Credit purchase through Lyon County

\$ 44,176.48 – State of MN Bonding

\$ 45,993.00 – Other Funding Source

\$ 20,056.49 – Area II MN River Basin counties

\$ 10,000.00 – Landowner

ACTION: Administer the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Administration will come from the Local Governmental Unit-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District. Cost: \$20,000; BWSR and Lincoln SWCD.

Accomplishment: Administered the WCA Program. Held four Technical Evaluation Panel meetings on projects that impact or may impact wetlands. Specifics for 2009 include:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Contacts Made</u>	<u>In-Field Inspections</u>	<u>Rest. Wetland Exemption</u>	<u>No-Loss Determination</u>	<u>Cease/ Desist</u>	<u>Wetland Replace.Plan</u>	<u>Wetland Violations</u>
2009	335	270	1	4	2	1	4 w/3 restored

OBJECTIVE: *Incorporate flood control benefits into future road and bridge replacements.*

ACTION: Develop a Wetland Banking Program that will provide “Replacement Acres” for wetlands lost in County Highway Improvement projects and Lincoln County Enterprise Development Projects.

Accomplishment: No wetland banking program was established in Lincoln County in 2009.

OBJECTIVE: *Educate landowners/operators in Lincoln County on the Drainage programs/issues.*

ACTION: Educate landowners/operators of the importance of keeping the buffers in place to protect the drainage ditch systems and concerns about farming right next to the ditch systems in Lincoln County.

Accomplishment: “Conservation with a Capital “C” – Conserving cropland and Managing and protecting wildlife habitat” published in the winter 2009 newsletter.

ACTION: Educate land users on the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) regulations, USDA Swampbuster and Army Corp. of Engineers wetland regulations through newsletters and one-on-one contacts.

Accomplishment: “SWCD requires WCA release forms” published in the fall 2009 newsletter and “Wetlands on Ag Land in Minnesota” was published in the winter 2009 newsletter. 335 contacts were established for the WCA Program.

Provided for an effective/efficient District Operation and provided assistance to landowners and operators

Accomplishments:

- Held regular board meetings on the third Wednesday of every month with the exception of two meetings.
- Sent county commissioner representative the meeting notice and all county commissioners the minutes.
- Staffed a District Manager, Engineering Technician, Conservation Technician, Farm Bill Assistant, and Education Coordinator.
- Provided training for all personnel in order to carry out the SWCD's Programs.
- Reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding with other agencies.
- The Comprehensive Plan is the Lincoln County Local Water Management Plan. The district had input in the updated/amended process of the Implementation Portion of the plan.
- Commented on all DNR water permits and reviewed with the Board.
- Participated in the MASWCD, Area V Association and the NACD Programs.
- District Manager, Coordinator for the Local Water Management Plan, implemented the Ag BMP Program, Rock Inlets, Well Sealing, and the Conserving Use Acres Program.
- Provided representation to the various organizations: RCRCRA, RC&D, Lincoln County Water Management Plan, Yellow Medicine Watershed Advisory Board and the Clean Water Technical Committee, Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed Clean Water Technical Committee, Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area, Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water, EQIP Local Work Group.
- Developed an Annual Plan and reviewed once during the year.
- Implemented the Working Lands Initiative (WLI) in Lincoln and Lyon Counties. Administer the WLI funds for projects implemented in Lincoln, Lyon and Yellow Medicine Counties.
- State C-S practices were spot checked by the District Staff according to the State C-S Guidelines.
- According to their job approval authority, Dale Sterzinger was the technical representative on all tree practices and Ron Madsen was the technical representative on all other practices unless otherwise stated in minutes.
- The Cost-Share rate as set by the Board for 2009 did not exceed 75%.
- Monitored wells designated by the DNR.
- Utilized e-link web based reporting system to report progress.
- Held a district brainstorming meeting to discuss and set priority projects for the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in our county/individual watersheds within the county.
- Participated in area/neighboring brainstorming meetings setting priorities in the specific watersheds (Yellow Medicine, Redwood, and Lac qui Parle) for the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.
- Worked with the neighboring SWCDs, Counties and Watershed District's on the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Applied for dollars to implement selected projects.
- Assisted in developing conservation programs with other agencies/SWCDs particularly the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.
- The District promoted and implemented the Buffer Strip Program through various funding mechanisms.
- Provided landowner assistance in the Minnesota River basin through various Clean Water Projects.
- The district is the LGU for the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Program, administered by BWSR guidelines.
- Promoted landowner incentives/programs through the WLI, and the Clean Water Partnership Programs in the Redwood Watershed, Yellow Medicine Watershed and the Lac qui Parle Watershed.
- Worked with multiple lenders on the Ag BMP Program; Farm Credit Services, Lincoln County-Septic Systems, and Lake Benton First Security Bank.

Increased public awareness through educational, promotional and informational activities

Accomplishments:

- Three newsletters were published in 2009.
- Selected a Conservation Farmer and participate in the Farm Magazine Award Program.
- Participated in the Poster Contest “Soil Our Layer of Life” with 90 students participating from two schools.
- Work with the SWMACDE to sponsor an Environmental Fair for all 6th graders in September in which a total of 1,900 students attended the event (approximately 90 students from Lincoln County).
- An educational newsletter was sent to all teachers in the schools.
- Publish 11 news articles to address conservation issues and concerns.
- Coordinated and presented programs to the K-6 grades on following programs: Poster Contest-6 presentations; Arbor Day Tree Planting Program-14 presentations and planted 7 linden trees.
- Provided presentations to the three libraries in Lincoln County. A total of nine (9) programs were presented throughout the year with the average attendance other than summers being 10-15 individuals including parents.
- Promoted the Soil Stewardship Material in which six churches in Lincoln County participated. Educational materials were also distributed to Pre-K-6th grade for 300 students.
- Participated in the Lincoln County fair in which a booth was prepared.
- Coordinated the 4th Grand Prairie Field Day at Hole in the Mountain Park on April 30th. Approximately 90 students attended.
- Held a women’s day program/workshop with 6-neighboring SWCD’s with 66 participating from the 7-counties of which 13 were from Lincoln County. Developed a women’s day display.
- Maintained and updated the SWCD web site throughout the year.
- Assisted with and promote the SWMACDE Area Envirothon at Camden State Park. Lincoln County did not have any teams participating in this event.
- Had 11 rain gauge volunteers participate in the rain gauge program.
- Hosted an open house September 29, 2009 in celebration of 65 years of existence in soil and water conservation serving the residents of Lincoln County. Approximately 125 people were in attendance.