



“Helping bring YOU clean water”

Lincoln SWCD

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LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Ivanhoe, Minnesota

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

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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
Ron Madsen Engineering Technician
Dale SterzingerConservation Technician
Randy KrausFarm Bill Assistant

COOPERATING AGENCIES:

Board of Soil and Water Resources:

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

Lincoln County Commissioners:

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

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Marshall Area Office
Gary WatsonArea Conservationist

Ivanhoe Field Office
Dennis Johnson..... District Conservationist
Randy Sheik..... Soil Conservation Technician

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 (FSA) – Ivanhoe
- Resource Conservation and Development
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW)
- MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- MN 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.

PROGRAMS:

District Programs:

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

Federal Programs (assisted by the Lincoln SWCD): Water Quality Incentive Program, Conservation Plans, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Status Reviews and Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP).

Administer the Local Water Management Plan: Well Sealing Program, Rock Inlet Program, Conserving Use Acres Program, and the Ag BMP Loan Program.

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. This plan was adopted as the Comprehensive Plan of the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Specific actions, an annual budget, staffing and funding needs and State Cost-Share program requirements have been identified in order to implement the plan.

The mission of the Lincoln SWCD:

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.

The priority concerns identified in the Management Plan are:

- ***Ground Water Protection for the Verdi Well Field*** – The Verdi Well Field is the main source of water supply for: portions of 4-counties which include most of Lincoln, and portions of Lyon, Murray, and Pipestone; have availability to move this source of water to other areas; 3,500 rural customers, 31 cities/communities, and 206 rural customers using more than one million gallons per year per customer.
- ***Surface Water Quality Deterioration focusing on MPCAs list of TMDLs and Impaired waters. TMDL-South Branch, Yellow Medicine River for Fecal Coliform. Impaired waters include various river reaches and the following Lakes: Dead Coon, Benton, Perch, Shaokatan and Hendricks. TMDLs underway: Lac qui Parle River-Yellow Bank-Bacteria, Turbidity, and Low Dissolved Oxygen; Lake Shaokatan-Excess Nutrients; Redwood River-Fecal Coliform and Turbidity; and Minnesota River-Turbidity*** – Our primary focus will be on Nutrients and Bacteria in the TMDL sites and on Impaired Waters listed by MPCA.
- ***Erosion and Sediment Control on agricultural land primarily gully erosion and concentrated flow with several priority areas throughout Lincoln County including: TMDL-South Branch, Yellow Medicine River for Fecal Coliform. Impaired waters including various river reaches and lakes including: Dead Coon, Benton, Perch, Shaokatan and Hendricks. TMDLs underway: Lac qui Parle River-Yellow Bank-Bacteria, Turbidity and Low Dissolved Oxygen; Lake Shaokatan-Excess Nutrients; Redwood River-Fecal Coliform and Turbidity and Minnesota River-Turbidity*** – Reducing the volume of sedimentation, potential attached pollutants and nutrients reaching County lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands, will improve surface and ground water quality, through implementing Best Management Practices particularly in listed priority areas.
- ***Lake Management Improvement (water quality) and Recreational Opportunities targeting Lake Benton, Lake Shaokatan and Lake Hendricks*** – Lincoln County has six major lakes having a total water surface area of about 6,480 acres with an average depth ranging from three to twelve feet and many smaller lakes. We will focus on three major Recreational Lakes in Lincoln County, as they represent the greatest potential for additional recreational development including Lake Benton, Lake Shaokatan and Lake Hendricks.
- ***Surface water runoff and Drainage addressing runoff volume and water quality through drainage management*** – In this section, we will focus on the Wetland Conservation Act, Wetland Banking and the Lincoln County Public Drainage Ditch Systems.

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.

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 BMPs for cropland within the Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA).

Action: Continue to work with current feedlot owners/operators in the DWSMA area and contact any potential new operators to discuss feedlot operations. Develop an understanding of local drinking water issues and the benefits of implementing the wellhead protection plan.

Accomplishment: Contacted two feedlot producers in the DWSMA concerning the CWF grant application for the Verdi Wellhead Protection – 2011.

Action: Encourage the development and adoption of tillage, pesticide and nutrient management plans on cropland within the DWSMA to reduce potential for contaminants entering the aquifer. LPRW will cost share with other local agencies for nutrient soil testing as a component of nutrient management plans. Through this process the application of commercial fertilizer will be applied at recommended agronomic rates and nitrogen management plans are implemented from cropland in the DWSMA.

Accomplishment: Contacted 19-landowners/operators in the DWSMA concerning the CWF grant application for the Verdi Wellhead Protection – 2011. One of the main implementation items is development of nutrient management plans.

Objective: Continue to upgrade septic systems in the DWSMA and encourage closing of abandoned wells.

Action: Provide cost-share assistance to landowners in the Verdi DWSMA and the entire Big Sioux Watershed to properly seal their abandoned wells. The Verdi DWSMA is a high priority for well sealing and sealing as funds allow. Funding: WMP.

Accomplishment: Funds were made available for landowners in the DWSMA, however, no wells in the Verdi DWSMA were sealed in 2010.

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

Action: Continue to work with property owners in the DWSMA to encourage enrollment in easement and cost-share programs such as CRP/CCRP, RIM, WRP, WHIP and adoption of buffer strips. Increase the number of acres of easement programs by 10 acres per year. LPRW will offer a \$15/acre incentive for land enrolled in the CRP in those areas identified as “high priority” in the Verdi Wellhead Protection Area (WHP). Funding: LPRW Incentives.

Accomplishment: Contacted 19-landowners/operators in the DWSMA concerning the CWF grant application for the Verdi Wellhead Protection – 2011. One of the main focuses of the application is the implementation of filter strips and enrollment in the CRP.

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 or as loan funds permit. Funding: \$50,000; Ag BMP.

Accomplishment: Funds were available for conservation tillage equipment loans, however, no one participated in the Ag BMP Loan Program in the DWSMA.

Objective: Protect the groundwater and the drinking water sources for the Verdi Well Field.

Action: Educate and provide information to land owners/operators on the importance of protecting groundwater from pesticides, nutrients, etc. by providing information through various outreach sources: SWCD fair booth and web site, newsletters/releases, and individual contacts. Funding: \$250.

- Proper usage and rates of pesticides/herbicides through the Minnesota Department of Ag (MDA) product use requirements;
- Sealing abandoned wells and septic system upgrades;
- Feedlot pollution reduction, and the importance of proper manure management;
- CRP/CCRP, RIM, WRP, WHIP and adoption of buffer strips; and
- Conservation tillage, pesticide and nutrient management plans.

Accomplishment: Information provided to land owners/operators:

- Fair Booth: had available the RIM Reserve Clean Water Fund targeting wellhead protection area handout.
- Newsletter: Ag BMP Loan Program-October 2010.
- News release: Ag BMP Loan Program-October 2010; Conservation Easement Opportunity-Dec, 9, 2010.

PRIORITY CONCERN: Surface Water Quality Deterioration focusing on MPCAs list of TMDLs and Impaired waters. TMDL-South Branch, Yellow Medicine River for Fecal Coliform. Impaired waters include various river reaches and the following Lakes: Dead Coon, Benton, Perch, Shaokatan and Hendricks. TMDLs underway: Lac qui Parle River-Yellow Bank-Bacteria, Turbidity, and Low Dissolved Oxygen; Lake Shaokatan-Excess Nutrients; Redwood River-Fecal Coliform and Turbidity; and Minnesota River-Turbidity.

GOAL: To restore and protect the surface water quality entering 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/year with high priority feedlots. Priority based on 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 pollution problems (cost-estimate included). Work with the SWCD/NRCS on possible cost-share availability. Funding: \$50,000-\$150,000; EQIP, BWSR, Watersheds, CWF.

Accomplishment: Worked with the Southwest Prairies Technical Service Area and the Environmental Office on five feedlots in Lincoln County. An analysis of a possible fix was given to each landowner. SWPTSA will be developing plans for these feedlots in 2011, providing the landowners are interested in the "fix" presented.

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 who spread manure in sensitive areas and with 300+ animal units. Funding: \$3,000/ EQIP.

Accomplishment: None in 2010.

Objective: Protect and improve existing surface water quality by addressing nutrient loading, bacteria issues, fecal coliform, and turbidity.

Action: Assist in pursuing grants through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy and Clean Water Partnerships for watershed based activities for the following watersheds: Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank, Redwood and Big Sioux. This is for current projects, TMDLs underway and for new TMDLs/Impaired waters projects as they are updated through MPCA in 2010 and beyond. Address pollutants/stressors in each of the affected water bodies. This would be done through the technician work groups for the Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle, the RCRCA joint powers and through neighboring SWCDs. Funding: \$2,500; SWCD.

Accomplishment: Developed the following CWF grant applications for 2011: Verdi Wellhead Protection Area – 2011; Lac qui Parle Watershed Project – 2011 with Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine SWCD's. Received the 2011 CWF grant for the Verdi Wellhead Protection Area for \$184,211.

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

Action: Educate and provide BMP information to land owners/operators on water impairments and the importance of reducing nutrients and bacteria in surface water quality. Outreach sources: newsletters, releases, SWCD web site, fair booth, and individual contacts for:

- Feedlot pollution reduction, and the importance of proper manure management;
- Upgraded SSTs; and
- Implementation of BMPs in order to reduce the nutrients and bacteria in surface water.

Funding: \$750.

Accomplishment: News releases-Feb. 11-RIM-Buffer; Feb. 25-Conservation Programs; May 5-Stewardship Program signup; Aug. 18-EQIP; Aug. 18-Cost-share/CWF; Newsletter-Oct. 13; web site.

Action: Educate landowners/operators in the Lake Shaokatan Watershed and the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River on the TMDL Study and implementation programs through newsletters and one on one contacts.

Accomplishment: News release-Aug. 18; Newsletter-Oct. 13.

PRIORITY CONCERN: Erosion and Sediment Control on agricultural land primarily gully erosion and concentrated flow with several priority areas throughout Lincoln County including: TMDL-South Branch, Yellow Medicine River for Fecal Coliform. Impaired waters including various river reaches and lakes including: Dead Coon, Benton, Perch, Shaokatan and Hendricks. TMDL/s underway: Lac qui Parle River-Yellow Bank-Bacteria, Turbidity and Low Dissolved Oxygen; Lake Shaokatan-Excess Nutrients; Redwood River-Fecal Coliform and Turbidity and Minnesota River-Turbidity.

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

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

Action: Reduce water erosion to 5-ton or less soil loss per acre on cropland. Implement BMPs such as but not limited to (approximate footage/year):

- Terraces-2,000 feet,
- Water & Sediment Control Basin's (WSCB'S)-70 each,
- Waterways-6 acres,
- Conservation Tillage, and,
- Increase acres of buffers, filter strips and Critical Area Plantings by 20 new sites (125 acres) per year through CCRP. The entire county is a concern with priority given to areas deemed necessary by the Technical Groups in each of the watersheds. Funding: \$300,000-\$1,000,000; EQIP, BWSR, CRP/CCRP, CWF.

Accomplishments: The following are the accomplishments for the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP's) in the following order: Conservation Security Program (CSP); State Cost-Share Program practices; Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); practices completed by agency; Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres enrolled; CRP payments; and the Working Lands Initiative (WLI).

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): 2010 contracts for the CSP include:

Year	Number of Contracts	Acres	Dollars to Landowners
2010	14	10,584	\$264,620

The following State Cost-Share practices were completed in 2010 w/the program/Fiscal Year shown. Tree project distances are shown under the wind erosion action. *Includes an Amendment.

Year	Number/ Contracts	Practice	Cost-Share Amount	Landowner Share	Units	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved
						Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	Tons/Year
2009	1	WSCB's	\$ 7,452	\$ 3,500.00	1-Ea.	5.5	4.7	4.7
2009	3	Shelterbelts	\$ 4,694	\$ 6,129.67	18,630-Ft.			
2010	7*	Shelterbelts	\$11,960	\$ 7,059.98	28,175-Ft.			
2011	1*	Shelterbelts	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,124.71				
Totals			\$25,471	\$17,814.36		5.5	4.7	4.7

EQIP: The following best management practices were completed in 2010, with funding being from multiple years. Funding source for the projects listed are EQIP Cost-Share dollars.

Year	Practice	Number Contracts	Units/ Amount	EQIP C-S	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved
					Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	Tons/Year
2010	Waterway	2	3-Ac.	\$ 5,399	2.7	2.4	2.4
	WSCB's	11	24-Ea.	\$ 72,510	65.5	56.8	56.8
	Nutrient Mgmt.	16	4,375-Ac.	\$ 35,800			
	Rotational Grazing	6	1,500-Ac.	\$ 29,009			
	Pest Mgmt.	14	3,500-Ac.	\$ 12,559			
Totals		38		\$155,277	68.2	59.2	59.2

In 2010 the following conservation practices were completed by the agencies listed. Cost-share funding is shown throughout the report. 2010 was a bad year for construction due to the very wet weather conditions.

Agency	Unit	Practice
Lincoln SWCD	5-Ea.	Feedlot Assessments (assisted SWPTSA)
	7-Ea.	Water and Sediment Control Basins-completed
	1-Ea.	Sediment Survey-Hauschild Dam (assisted SWPTSA)
NRCS	3-Ac.	Waterways
	3,500-Ac.	Pest Management Plans
	4,375-Ac.	Nutrient Management Plans
	24-Ea.	Water and Sediment Control Basins
	6-Ea.	Wetland Restorations
	1,500-Ac.	Rotational Grazing Systems
SWPTSA	1-Ea.	Dam Repair w/Area II MN River Basin
	1-Ea.	Sediment Survey-Hauschild Dam
RCRCA	1-Ea.	Dam Repair w/Area II MN River Basin
	3-Ea.	WSCB's

Seed Sale Program: The District provides a seed program to owners/operators needing seed for CRP/CCRP and other conservation programs. In 2010, the district sold seed to 45 customers to seed 872 acres.

CRP Enrolled in 2010: Acres enrolled in CRP in 2010 (calendar year January-December) include the following practices: trees, filter strips, wetland, general, CP38-SAFE, waterways and wellhead protection.

Year	CRP		Acres	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved
	Contracts	Practice		Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	Tons/Year
2010	8	Trees	18.4			
	15	Filter Strips	137.8	1,628.9	1,249.0	413.4
	33	Wetland	1,068.4	1,740.7	1,068.4	853.5
	8	General	135.2	210.0	180.7	540.8
	12	CP38-SAFE	226.7	352.2	302.9	906.8
	2	Waterways	2.5	54.8	47.7	47.7
	2	Wellhead	207.4			
Totals		80	1,796.4	3,986.6	2,848.7	2,762.2

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Payments: In 2010, the total CRP payments issued to producers in Lincoln County with the SAFE dollars being an estimate as these dollars are paid out of Kansas:

Year	Payment Type	Contracts	Acres	Dollars to Landowners
2010	CRP	1,339	27,671.9	\$2,321,194.00
2010	SAFE Program	65	1,224.9	\$ 165,779.50-Est.
2010	C-S Payments			\$ 45,770.00
Totals		1,404	28,896.8	\$2,532,743.50

Working Lands Initiative contracts paid in 2010, include easements and incentive payments as follows:

Year	Payment Type	Contracts	Acres	Dollars to Landowners
2010	Incentives	10	421.3	\$219,452.49
2010	C-S Payment	2	N/A	\$ 12,349.00
Totals		12	421.3	\$231,801.49

Action: Reduce sediment loads to waters of the state throughout Lincoln County by replacing open tile intakes with blind intakes. Funding source is through the Water Management Plan with approximately 15 alternative tile intakes being replaced in 2010. Funding through watershed sources are listed under the individual watershed projects. Funding: \$6,000; WMP.

Accomplishment: Through the Lincoln County Water Management Plan, open tile intakes have been replaced with rock inlets. Listed below is the funding fiscal year, the number of landowners who installed inlets, number of intakes installed, and the dollars paid out to the landowners to install the intakes.

Year	Contracts/ Installed	Number of Landowners	Number of Intakes Installed	Dollars to Landowners	Landowner Share	Fiscal Year Dollars
2010	2.5	8		\$2,400	\$ 800.05	FY2009
2010	4.5	12		\$4,336	\$1,327.68	FY2010
Totals	7	20		\$6,736	\$2,127.73	

Action: Reduce wind erosion to 5-ton or less soil loss per acre on cropland selling 35,000 trees per year by implementing the following (approximately footage – per year): 1 mile-Field Windbreaks/Living Snow Fences, 10 acres-Farmstead Shelterbelts, and 10 acres-Wildlife Tree Plantings, depending on programs available. Funding: \$25,000; BWSR, DNR, PF, MN-DOT.

Accomplishment: Tree projects completed are shown in the table:

Year	Total Trees Sold	Number	Practice
2010	17,500	23 Ac or 66,792 Feet	Farmstead Shelter Belts
		16,896 Feet	Living Snow Fences
		1.9 Acres	Riparian Buffer Plantings
		14.9 Acres	Wildlife Tree Plantings

The following practices were completed in 2010 with the funding sources shown:

Program	Practice	C-S Amounts
CRP	Farmstead Shelterbelts	\$17,506.00
FY09-State C-S	Farmstead Shelterbelts	\$ 4,694.00
FY10-State C-S	Farmstead Shelterbelts	\$11,960.00
FY11-State C-S	Farmstead Shelterbelts	\$ 1,365.00
Lincoln County Highway Dept.	Living Snow Fences	\$ 740.00
Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM)	Wildlife Tree Planting	\$ 4,000.00
DNR	Wildlife Tree Planting	\$ 8,000.00
EQIP	Riparian Buffer	\$ 2,235.58
Totals		\$50,500.58

Action: Make the following contacts: 10-contacts in areas where 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. Funding: SWCD.

Accomplishment: Contacts were made and follow-up on tree projects were completed.

Action: Provide a Conserving Use Acres Contract to six landowners where the Water Management Task Force pays \$599.00 for planting 10 acres or more of small grain for conservation practice design (9 WSCB's left to complete) and/or earthwork construction from August 10 to September 30. Providing funding is available. Funding: \$3,594; WMP.

Accomplishment: In 2010, provided the Conserving Use Acres program to 6 landowners. The funding allowed operators to plant small grain for design and/or construction of conservation practices.

Fiscal Year	# Landowners	# of Projects	BMP Constructed	Dollars/Landowner
2010	3	6	WSCB	\$1,797
2010	3	3 (10.4 Ac.)	Waterway	\$1,797
Totals	6			\$3,594

Action: Provide cost-share to approximately 10 landowners to seal their abandoned well(s). Funding: \$3,500; WMP.

Accomplishment: Wells sealed in 2010 are shown in the table. The dollars spent reflect the Fiscal Year allocation.

Fiscal Year	Wells Sealed	Cost-Share	Landowner Share
2010 Funds	18	\$5,166.00	\$2,946.60
2011 Funds	3	\$ 931.00	\$1,075.60
Totals	21	\$6,097.00	\$4,022.20

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

Action: Increase conservation tillage on 1,500 acres with high residue and encourage landowners to plant 500 high residue acres with a No-Till Drill. Funding: \$190,000; Ag BMP.

Accomplishment: No Ag BMP loan dollars were spent on high residue equipment in 2010.

The District utilized two Haybuster Drills in 2010 of which one is through the DNR, and the district purchased a used Haybuster Drill to help with our effort. 2010 Native Grass Drill-DNR Roadsides for Wildlife include:

Total number of operations/operators	46-operators
Total Acres Planted	917 acres
Windbreaks (Between the tree rows)	10 acres
Pasture/Alfalfa inter-seeding	52 acres
Construction projects/roadsides	33 acres
CRP, Filter Strips, Native Buffers	822 acres
Average per operator	20 acres

Action: Assist in pursuing grants/funding for implementation of conservation practices for watershed based activities through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy, Clean Water Partnership, Ag BMP, Watersheds, and BWSR. Funding based on current projects, TMDLs underway and for new TMDLs/Impaired waters projects as they are updated through MPCA in 2010 and beyond in the following watersheds: Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, Redwood River and the Big Sioux. Address pollutants/stressors in each of the affected water bodies and areas deemed as high priority through the watershed project areas. This would be done through the technical work groups for the Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle, the RCRCAs and neighboring SWCDs. Funding: \$2,500; SWCD.

Accomplishment: Developed the following CWF grant applications for 2011: Verdi Wellhead Protection Area – 2011-\$184,211; Lac qui Parle Watershed Project – 2011-\$129,316 with Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine SWCD's. Received the 2011 CWF grant for the Verdi Wellhead Protection Area for \$184,211.

Objective: Implement Best Management Practices in the Yellow Medicine Watershed project area. Future projects will be implemented based on future funding.

Action: Implement BMPs, alternative tile intakes, nutrient management, feedlots, or filter strips in the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River to help reduce Phosphorus loading. Funding source is the 2007 South Branch TMDL Implementation Plan through the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District. Funds remaining: \$111,000 for feedlots, nutrient management, alternative tile intakes, and filter strips.

Accomplishment: South Branch TMDL-Funding Source is through the CWL2007-319 Project: BMP's implemented in the South Branch of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed through funds from the YMRWD during 2010 include:

Practice	Number/ Contracts	Units/ Amount	C-S Amount	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved Tons/Yr
				Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	
Alt. Intakes	7	16-Ea.	\$ 4,643.95	24	16	
Filter Strip Inc.	9	127.7-Ac.	\$64,350.00	1,510.6	1,157.5	383
			\$68,993.95	1,534.6	1,173.5	383

Action: Continue to implementation the 2009 Clean Water Legacy Grant funded for the Yellow Medicine Watershed through the Lower Minnesota River TMDL. This grant is for the Lincoln, Lyon and Yellow Medicine SWCDs with the Lyon SWCD administering the grant.

Accomplishment: Through the 2009 Clean Water Legacy Grant for the Yellow Medicine Watershed (administered through the Lyon SWCD) the following practices have been completed in 2010.

Practice	Number/ Contracts	Units/ Amount	C-S Amount	Landowner Share	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved Tons/Yr
					Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	
WSCB's	2	3-Ea.	\$13,425.00	\$6,629.37	26.5	40.4	32.1
Intakes	1	2-Ea.	\$ 600.00	\$ 200.00	3.0	2.0	
			\$14,025.00	\$6,829.37	29.5	42.4	32.1

Action: Participate in the Yellow Medicine River Watershed technical team meetings to develop monitoring and implementation plans the team deems a priority in the watershed based on the TMDLs/impaired waters. Funding: YMRWD, SWCD.

Accomplishment: Attended the following Technical team meetings: Jan 19, Feb. 8, Aug. 9, Sept. 28, Nov. 4.

Action: In the entire Yellow Medicine Watershed accelerate the implementation of BMPs such as sediment basins, waterways, filter strip incentive program, alternative intakes, etc. Funding is dependent on future grants specific for current and future TMDL/impaired water projects. Funding: \$75,000; YMRWD, SWCDs, CWF.

Accomplishment: Obtained a 2010-Clean Water Funds Grant for a total of \$90,125 for the entire Yellow Medicine Watershed. The amount of funds spent and projects completed in 2010 are reflected in the table. Amounts reflect Lincoln County totals only.

Practice	Number/ Contracts	Units/ Amount	C-S Amount	Landowner Share	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved Tons/Yr
					Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	
Alt. Intakes	4	14-Ea.	\$4,089	\$2,373.31	21	14	

Objective: Implement Best Management Practices in the Redwood River Watershed project area. Future projects will be implemented based on future funding.

Action: Implement WSCBs and encourage enrollment of acres in the CRP/CCRP to reduce external loading from surface water runoff. Funding is for the Redwood/Cottonwood watersheds. Implementation of the CWL portion is administered through the Redwood SWCD and the 319 portion through RCRCA.

Accomplishment: Through RCRC, the following practices were completed in 2010 with the CWP and 319 grants. CWL funding is administered through the Redwood SWCD and the 319 grant funds are administered through the RCRC. For the Dam Repair Project for additional information such as other contributing agencies, go to the Surface Water Runoff and Drainage section of this report. This is the second payment for the 2007 CWL Strip Till Project and the third and final payment for the 2-Nutrient Management Payments.

Funding Source	Number/ Practice	Units/ Contracts	Units/ Amount	C-S Amount	Landowner Share	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved
						Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	Tons/Year
2007-CWL	Intakes	1	4-Ea.	\$ 900.00	\$ 700.00	6.0	4.0	
2007-CWL	Strip Till	1	123.6 Ac.	\$ 3,708.00		100.0	77.0	173.0
2007-CWL	Nutrient Mgt	2	455.0 Ac.	\$ 9,555.00				
2008-CWL	Intakes	2	6 Ea.	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 525.00	9.0	6.0	
2009-319	Dam Repair	1	1-Ea.	\$23,586.51	\$ 6,862.17	329.5	329.5	329.5
2010-319	WSCB's	2	3-Ea.	\$14,497.31	\$ 4,832.44	27.3	27.3	27.3
				\$53,821.82	\$12,919.61	471.8	443.8	529.8

Action: Participate in the RCRC joint powers meetings and technical team meetings through the SWCDs for the Redwood River Watershed to develop monitoring and implementation plans the team deems a priority in the watershed based on the TMDLs/impaired waters.

Accomplishment: Supervisor attended the monthly Joint Powers meetings as scheduled. One-staff attended the Redwood-Cottonwood TMDL meeting on November 16, 2010. Engineering Technician will serve on Redwood-Cottonwood Technical Advisory Committee, with meetings scheduled to start in January, 2011.

Action: In the Redwood River Watershed accelerate the implementation of BMPs such as sediment basins, waterways, filter strips, etc. Funding is dependent on future grants specific current and future TMDL/impaired water projects in the watershed. Funding: \$50,000; RCRC, SWCDs, CWF.

Accomplishment: Two-319-2010 grants remain for implementation of conservation practices.

Objective: Implement Best Management Practices in the Lac qui Parle Watershed project area. Future projects will be implemented based on future funding.

Action: Participate in the Lac qui Parle River Watershed technical team meetings to develop monitoring and implementation plans the team deems a priority in the watershed based on the TMDLs/impaired waters. Funding: SWCD, LqP-CWP, Watershed.

Accomplishment: Technical team meetings attended: Feb. 3, April 14, June 1, June 29, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 19.

Action: Implementation the 2008 Clean Water Legacy Grant funded for the Lac qui Parle Watershed through the LqP River Watershed District.

Accomplishment: Through the LqP River Watershed District-2008 Clean Water Legacy Grant for the Lac qui Parle River the following incentive practice were installed in 2010.

Practice	Number/ Contracts	Units/ Amount	C-S Amount	Pollution Reductions		Soil Saved
				Phos.#/Yr	Sed.Tons/Yr	Tons/Year
Filter Strip	1	12.2 Ac.	\$9,150.00	80.9	54.2	19.3

Objective: Increase and protect wildlife habitat.

Action: Assist private landowners with information, cost share, and habitat management plans regarding prescribed burning, invasive tree management, and prairie management to further enhance wildlife habitat while providing hunting opportunity. Funding: \$10,000; DNR, PF, WHIP, BWSR, USFWS, EQIP, FSA, LOHC.

Accomplishment: Met with landowners on a one-to-one basis on promoting the various programs.

Action: Implement the Working Lands Initiative (WLI) Program which is designed to help enhance wildlife habitat through private land ownership. This program was developed by joint agencies with the DNR managing the funds. These funds are made available through a WLI Grant Agreement with the Lincoln SWCD. The WLI Market adjustment incentives are paid to the landowners depending on acres and CRP rates. Land must be in a priority area established by the working group. Funding: \$200,000-\$400,000; WLI, LOHC.

Accomplishment: CRP and WLI accomplishments are located under the erosion control section.

Action: Promote and implement the Wetland Reserve Program/Reinvest in Minnesota (WRP-RIM) Program using funding from the federal government and the new Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council. Acres enrolled and accepted depend on dollars available which will vary every year. Funding: \$50,000-\$250,000; Federal, BWSR.

Accomplishment: In 2010, the WRP/RIM payments paid out were as follows:

Contracts	Acres	WRP Payment	RIM Payment	Total Paid to Landowners
2	198.1	\$277,023.06	\$239,831.11	\$516,854.17

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 BMP and cost-share information to land owners/operators to reduce sediment and nutrient loading of surface and ground water and to enhance wildlife and recreation opportunities. Outreach sources: newsletters, news releases, SWCD web site, SWCD fair booth on BMP's. Funding: \$1,500; SWCD.

- WSCB's, terraces, waterways, conservation tillage, restored wetlands,
- Feedlots, nutrient/pesticide management;
- Replacement of open tile intakes with alternative/blind intakes;
- Enhance and protect remnant native prairies, and wildlife habitat management areas;
- Buffer programs: CCRP, RIM/WRP, Working Lands Initiative, critical area plantings, filter strips; and
- Field windbreaks, living snow fences, farmstead shelterbelts, wildlife tree plantings.

Accomplishment: Education through news releases (see the "Increase public awareness" section for specific news releases published throughout the year). Newsletter published October 13, 2010 to 1,380 landowners/operators of Lincoln County. Other outreach sources included: fair booth, Website and one-on-one contacts.

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 BMP's deemed necessary through the Shaokatan Sportsmen Club dollars in the Lake Shaokatan Watershed. Funds remaining of \$14,000; Sportsmen Club.

Accomplishment: In 2010, installed a WSCB in the Lake Shaokatan Watershed. Total cost of project: \$2,559.35; cost-share of \$1,919; landowner-\$640.35.

Action: Promote landowner awareness around the lake in the watershed on the importance of protecting the lake and reduce the blue-green algae in Lake Shaokatan. Outreach sources: newsletter, news releases.

Accomplishment: One on one contacts.

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 wetlands by 10 acres. Funding: \$40,000; DNR, PF, BWSR, USFWS.

Accomplishment: Lincoln County did not restore any wetlands in 2010.

Action: Repair existing small dams used for flood control and water storage that are located in the county. Funding: \$50,000; Area II, Watersheds.

Accomplishment: The following dam project was completed in 2010:

DRAMMEN 14 DAM

T110N R46W Section 14 – Redwood River Watershed

Total project cost: \$32,576.18.

\$23,586.51 – RCRC (see Priority Concern: Erosion and Sediment Control for more information).

\$ 2,127.50 – Area II MN River Basin counties.

\$ 6,862.17 – Landowner.

Pollutant reductions for phosphorus and sediment:

12,190 Tons of soil captured over the life of the old structure; 329.5 Pounds of Phosphorus/year and 329.5 Tons of Sediment/year.

Action: Administer the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Administration will come from the Local Governmental Unit-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District. Technical panel consists of a representative from BWSR, NRCS, and SWCD. Funding: \$10,000; BWSR, \$10,000; SWCD In-kind.

Accomplishment: Administered the WCA Program. Held four Technical Evaluation Panel meetings on projects that impact or may impact wetlands and two meetings with the DNR on wetland issues. Also worked with two-wind tower companies, Area II-MN River Basin on one-dam site and three other possible dam sites, three lake developments (2 private; 1-county), one Utility Company and three county tile projects all with wetland issues. Specifics for 2010 include:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Contacts Made</i>	<i>In-Field Inspections</i>	<i>Exemptions</i>	<i>No-Loss Determination</i>	<i>Cease/Desist</i>	<i>Wetland Replace/Plan</i>	<i>Wetland Violations</i>
2010	615	332	3	5	1	0	14

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

Action: Educate land users on the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) regulations, USDA Swampbuster and Army Corp. of Engineers wetland regulations. Outreach sources: newsletters, the SWCD web site.

Accomplishment: Newsletter-October 13, 2010. News release-October 7, 2010. SWCD web site-Newsletter.

Provide for an effective/efficient District Operation.

Actions:

- Held regular board meetings on the third Wednesday except for May and June which were on the Third Tuesday.
- Sent county commissioner representative the meeting notice and all county commissioners the minutes.
- Staffed District Manager, Engineering Technician, Conservation Technician, Farm Bill Assistant, and Education Coordinator from January through May.

- Provided appropriate training for all personnel in order to carry out the SWCD's Programs.
- Reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding with NRCS.
- The Comprehensive Plan is the Lincoln County Local Water Management Plan.
- Commented on all DNR water permits and review with the Board.
- Participated in the MASWCD, Area V Association and the NACD Programs.
- District Manager is the Water Plan Coordinator for the Local Water Management Plan.
- Provided representation to various organizations such as the RC&D, Lincoln County Water Plan, Yellow Medicine Watershed Advisory Board, Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area, Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water, EQIP Local Work Group.
- Developed an Annual Plan of Work and reviewed in October, 2010.
- State C-S practices were spot checked by the District Staff according to the State C-S Guidelines.
- The District Technician's (Sterzinger-tree practices and Madsen-all other practices unless stated in Minutes) were the designated Technical Representatives for the State C-S Program.
- Monitored wells designated by the DNR.
- Utilized e-link web based reporting system to report progress and develop an Annual Report.
- Worked with multiple lenders on the Ag BMP Program.

Increase public awareness through educational, promotional and informational activities.

Actions:

- Published a county-wide newsletter (1,380-owners/operators), October 13, 2010.
- Selected Keith and Julie Needham as the Conservation Farmer Award winners for 2010 and participated in the Farm Magazine Award Program.
- Gave winter and spring presentations to the libraries in Ivanhoe, Tyler and Hendricks and one presentation to the Nursing Home residents in Ivanhoe.
- Worked with the SWMACDE to sponsor an Environmental Fair for all 6th graders September 21-22, 2010.
- Distributed an educational newsletter, February, 2010 to all teachers in the schools.
- Publish news articles to address conservation issues and concerns as follows:

-Local farmer honored for cons-Jan 1, 2010	-New easement option-CRP/w' ways-Jan 6, 2010
-Conservation priorities/meeting-Jan 6, 2010	-Cons. Corner-Wonderful "What's It"-Feb 11, 2010
-New RIM Buffer Ease Prog.-Feb 11, 2010	-SWCD meet w/local legislators-Feb 24, 2010
-Conservation programs/apps-Feb 25, 2010	-Let's get dirty; spring library program-Apr 21, 2010
-Open House – May 19, 2010	-May is Arbor Month-Apr 29, 2010
-Ken Swanson-Climate Observer-Apr 29, 2010	-File for SWCD Supervisor-May 5, 2010
-New stewardship program-May 5, 2010	-Reminder-File for Supervisor-May 20, 2010
-C-S/Incentive payments-CWF-Aug 18, 2010	-EQIP-LWG participation-Aug 18, 2010
-Think Trees for 2011-Sept 23, 2010	-Ag BMP Loan Program-Sept 30, 2010
-WCA News-Oct 7, 2010	-Well Sealing Dollars Available-Oct 7, 2010
-St. Flood Recovery Dollars-BWSR-Nov 10, 2010	-MDA Flood Assistance-Nov. 10, 2010
-Conservation Easement Opportunity-Dec 9, 2010	-Living Snow Fence Ach. Award-Dec 23, 2010
-Outstanding Conservationist Award-Dec 29, 2010	
- Coordinated and presented programs to all grades in the schools: preschoolers-Soils Program and Grubby Gloves; Lake Benton and Lincoln HI Elementary schools-Water Cycle Program.
- Developed a display for the Lincoln County Fair, held in July/August.
- Held a conservation/prairie day for all 4th graders in May.
- Held a women's day program/workshop with six neighboring SWCD's in June at Marshall-June 16, 2010.
- Continue to maintain the SWCD web site on a monthly basis.
- Developed the following brochures: RIM Reserve Clean Water Fund-Wellhead; SWCD's Growth; MN "Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative"; and Cost-Share Programs.
- Hosted an Open House May 19, 2010 at the new office location with NRCS & FSA.