

**YELLOW MEDICINE  
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

**Clarkfield, Minnesota**

**ANNUAL PLAN**

**2009**

## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE

The Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was duly organized as a government subdivision of this State, and a public body corporate and politic on the 17th day of April 1950. The soil conservation district was organized in order to provide a local organization for farmers and others to work together and with local, state, and federal organizations in solving their land-use problems and maintenance of soil fertility, erosion control, flooding, and drainage problems.

This annual plan is written to implement the Yellow Medicine Comprehensive Local Water Plan which the Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District adopted as their comprehensive plan starting in 2004.

The goals for 2009 are:

- Promote and Educate the Public on the District's Ongoing Programs.
- To Protect and Improve the Soil Resources and Surface Water Quality in the County.  
Reduce erosion and sediment problems to sustainable levels by promoting the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's).
- To Enhance and Restore the County's Water Quality.  
Reduce priority pollutants to sustainable levels.
- Protect and Improve the Quality and Quantity of Groundwater in the County.  
Assist with wellhead protection planning.  
Support good land use decisions regarding groundwater resources and wellhead protection areas.  
Expand groundwater monitoring.
- Improve Surface Water Management to Decrease Flooding in the County.  
Minimize losses associated with the flooding of agricultural lands.
- Implement Sound Surface Water and Drainage Management Strategies in the County.  
Apply watershed based principles while properly managing drainage systems.
- Protect Surface Water Quantity in the County.  
Preserve existing wetlands and restore legally drained wetlands having potential for flood damage reduction, wildlife, recreational and groundwater recharge benefits, where practical.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is to provide technical, financial, and educational support to the public for the purpose of conserving and protecting soil, water, and other natural resources.

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.

## GOAL & OBJECTIVES

### **GOAL: PROVIDE FOR AN EFFICIENT DISTRICT OPERATION – Actions:**

1. Hold regular board meetings the fourth Thursday of each month.
2. Develop budget, annual plan of work and annual report.
3. Staff a District Manager, District Technician, District Administrative Assistance, Education Coordinator and Farm Bill Assistant/Technician.
4. Provide or seek training for all personnel in order to carry out the SWCD's programs.
5. Conduct employee evaluations and update job descriptions.
6. Supervisors will review policies and develop priorities.
7. Review various memorandums of understanding.
8. Provide representation to various organizations. Such as but not limited too: RCRC, RC&D, Yellow Medicine County Water Task Force, Yellow Medicine Watershed Advisory Board, Yellow Medicine Watershed Clean Water Technical Committee, Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed Clean Water Technical Committee, Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Board, etc.
9. Utilize e-link web based reporting system to report progress.

### **GOAL: PROMOTE & EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE SWCD'S PROGRAMS – Action:**

1. Publish 3 newsletters.
2. Select a conservation farmer.
3. Contact all schools in the county to see if they wish to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade poster contest sponsored by MASWCD and Area V.
4. Set up displays at the county fair, banks, restaurants, family resource fairs, etc.
5. Distribute educational material and conduct a classroom presentation to each grade level (Pre-school through sixth grade) in the county.
6. Work with the SWMACDE to sponsor an Environmental Fair for all 6th graders in Marshall.
7. Distribute an educational newsletter once a year to all teachers; scout leaders, 4H leaders, etc.
8. Publish weekly news articles to address conservation issues and concerns.
9. Promote soil stewardship week.
10. Informational calls to landowners/operators regarding current programs.
11. Hold conservation days for all 5th graders in the county.
12. Work with Extension and Water Plan Coordinator in promoting Environmental Education in the classroom through various presentations, videos, materials, etc.
13. Assist and promote the SWMACDE Area Envirothon. SWCD will serve on the Committee for 2009.
14. Assist Pezuta Zizi Environmental and Cultural Learning and Resource Center with educational activities.
15. Hold a mini envirothon for Junior High Students in the county.
16. Meet with County FAC Committee at least 4 times a year to discuss building issues.
17. Promote Clean Water Partnership Project for the Yellow Medicine Watershed and the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Watershed District.
18. Hold SWCD retreat to discuss goals and objectives.
19. Hold a Ladies Workshop with Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Cottonwood, Murray and Pipestone SWCDs.
20. Hold regular staff meetings.
21. Develop promotional presentations, tours and/or educational activities for local organizations and/or technical colleges in the county.
22. Continue to maintain the SWCD's website.
23. Meet with other agencies and organizations to prioritize resource concerns, setting goals and objectives.
24. Participate in an Earth Day Event.
25. Develop radio ad program.
26. Hold a workshop for all lenders in the county to discuss various programs available to landowners/operators.
27. Hold coffee sessions in supervisors' homes to discuss concerns and solutions to conservation issues.
28. Conduct a survey, asking the public how they feel the funding from the new sales tax initiative should be spent.
29. Conduct classroom presentation for 7-12 grade students when requested by the teacher.
30. Hold an Arbor Day Event in the County.

## TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE SOIL RESOURCES AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY IN THE COUNTY

### REDUCE EROSION AND SEDIMENT PROBLEMS TO SUSTAINABLE LEVELS BY PROMOTING THE USE OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) .

#### Action:

1. Promote Best Management Practices in the County. Concentration will be on the following designated high priority areas as identified through the Stakeholder and Local Work Group Process :
  - a) Yellow Medicine Watershed – specifically the monitoring sites #4 (1 mile west of Hanley Falls, the outlet of Cottonwood Lake) and #12 (Mud Creek) having a high nitrate problem.
    - Sandnes – Sections 9-11, 13-17, 19 and 36
    - Norman – Sections 13-14, 22-14, 26-28, and 33-36
    - Wergeland – Sections 16-21, and 18-33
  - b) Yellow Medicine River to Spring Creek as listed as impaired waters (turbidity). This is the area from Hanley Falls to the Minnesota River.
  - c) Lac qui Parle Watershed – specifically the following areas:
    - Norman – Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, and 14
    - Omro - Sections 1-16, 22-24, 26-28, and 34
    - Oshkosh – Sections 1-12, 14-23, and 28-33
    - Tyro – Sections 4-9; 16-19; and 30
    - Wergeland – Sections 4-7
  - d) Canby Creek Watershed – specifically the following areas above Del Clark Lake:
    - Fortier – Sections 11, 13-16 and 20-34
    - Norman – Sections 8, 9, 16-18, 19-20, and 30
  - e) Main channel of the Yellow Medicine River, Lac qui Parle River, Florida Creek and Lazarus Creek (1 mile on each side).
  - f) Vulnerable well areas (Canby, Echo, and Wood Lake)
  - g) Land adjacent to the lake of Wood Lake
  - h) Judicial Ditch #10 Watershed – HUC Code 702004560
2. Reduce the amount of wind erosion on the most severely erodible acres by designing and planting 2,400 feet of field windbreaks and/or living snowfence during the 2009 season. This will be accomplished by co-sponsoring a field windbreak drawing with the local financial agencies during January; promoting the State and/or county’s Living Snowfence Program; and promoting field windbreaks through the Yellow Medicine SWCD’s newsletter and personal contacts. Twenty acres of farmstead windbreaks, 2.4 acres of wildlife habitat and 25.6 acres of riparian buffers will also be planted in 2009.

Promote the SWCD’s Tree Mat Program by installing 40,000 feet of plastic mulch for better weed control and/or soil moisture.
3. Conduct the Conservation Tillage Transect Survey for the County. Take information from conservation tillage survey and establish priorities for educational purposes and analyze data on tillage systems and crop residue cover. Seek to achieve a 10% increase in fields meeting crop residue targets countywide based on tillage transect survey. Promote enrollment of 2,000 acres into the residue management practice incentive program offered through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

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Action: Continued

4. Reduce the amount of water erosion on severely eroded acres by the installation of the following conservation practices:

- a. Terraces and/or water & sediment control basins      6,000 feet
- b. Grassed Waterways      15 acres

Funding for these practices will be obtained through various agencies and/or programs, such as Federal Funds, Clean Water Legacy Funds, and the State Cost Share Program. The Ag BMP Loan Program could be used to supplement cost share dollars or to fund projects. If the SWCD is successful in obtaining funds through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment Funds, the SWCD will be able to substantially increase the number of feet of terraces and acres of waterways that could be established in 2009. The district will be meeting with the adjacent SWCDs in both the Yellow Medicine Watershed and the Lac qui Parle Watershed setting goals and objectives for the perspective watersheds if additional funding would be received. The district anticipates applying for any and all dollars available in the future through grants offered by the state and/or federal government. The district also hopes to obtain grant dollars for conservation practices through the Yellow Medicine Watershed Clean Water Partnership Grant and/or Lac qui Parle Yellowbank Watershed Clean Water Partnership Grant. The district will distribute funds for the State Cost Share Program according to state guidelines and policies. Concentration will be on hot spots determined by the Yellow Medicine Clean Water Partnership Project, the Lac qui Parle Yellowbank Watershed Clean Water Partnership Project, and/or the EQIP Local Work Group.

Assist the Farm Service Agency in promoting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) by promoting installation of grassed waterways through this easement program and/or installing other conservation practices.

Assist NRCS in promoting the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and other aspects of the current Farm Bill.

5. Continue to manage CREP and/or RIM easements, and conduct status reviews. Continue to stake CREP easements. GPS CREP and/or RIM sites and enter coordinates into Arc View.
6. Establish 40 acres of filter strips/buffers along ditches and streams to capture sediment as it leaves the fields. Assist FSA in promoting and processing the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. Determine if buffer strips exist along the watercourses in the county. If not, make personal phone calls and/or personal visits with landowners promoting the CRP Program and/or any other easement programs. Maintain the minimum one-rod grassed areas as it applies to drainage policy. Continue to work with the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District and the Lac qui Parle Watershed District to accelerate the implementation of filter strips/buffers in these areas and promote filter strip incentive programs.
7. Develop plans to enroll or re-enroll 800 acres of cropland subject to severe erosion into existing programs (i.e., CRP, RIM, etc.) The district was able to receive another grant through BWSR/DNR/Pheasants Forever to extend the Farm Bill Assistant position in the county through June 30, 2009. The district will apply for dollars for this position in FY2010. This individual will contact prospective long-term conservation program participants. Contacts will be personal phone calls and/or personal visits with landowners whom may possibly enroll into long term conservation programs such as, but not limited to, CCRP, CRP, WRP, GRP, WHIP, etc. If funding is obtained for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program, the district will promote, encourage enrollment, process applications, develop conservation plans, process easement, etc.
8. Enroll 100 acres of pasture land into a prescribed grazing system.
9. Selling the native grass drill. The district will no longer operate a native grass drill program.
10. Conduct an annual meeting of stakeholders and/or Local Work Group to discuss resource concerns and set priority areas and practices for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Promote installation of best management practices utilizing the EQIP, Ag BMP Loan Program, Clean Water Legacy Program and/or the State Cost Share Program for financial support. Advertise and hold EQIP informational meetings to promote program. Assist with taking applications and planning for EQIP contracts.

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REDUCE EROSION AND SEDIMENT PROBLEMS TO SUSTAINABLE LEVELS BY PROMOTING THE  
USE OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) .**

**Action: Continued**

11. Educate landowners/operators about erosion and sediment control, the importance of installing conservation practices and encourage enrollment into conservation programs by providing information and options about BMP's through newsletters, news releases and individual contacts.
12. Assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in implementing the Conservation Security Program (CSP). The SWCD will inform all producers and/or operators of different aspects of the CSP Program for future CSP signup periods.
13. Serve on the Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Board and support the technical staff by setting goals, objectives, and policies. SWCD will contribute \$1,000.00 towards the Southwest Prairie Joint Powers. Work with Joint Powers Board to relocate staff to a more centrally located area.
14. Continue to work with RCRCRA on the Redwood River Clean Water Project.
15. Restore 20 acres of wetlands into a conservation program.
16. Promote the use of alternative intakes, such as blind intakes, that promote efficient trapping of sediments and nutrients that enter drainage systems. A blind intake cost share program will be offered in Yellow Medicine County to landowners for replacing approximately 48 intakes with blind intakes. The SWCD will also promote the cost share program to install blind intakes through the Clean Water Legacy for the Redwood Watershed, the Lac qui Parle Watershed and the Yellow Medicine Watershed with a goal to install another 20 intakes.
17. A grant application was submitted to the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) in 2008 for the protection of Granite Rock Outcrop in the Minnesota River Valley. The application was funded. The district along with Renville, Redwood, and Chippewa SWCDs will develop a Rock Outcrop Program. Enroll 200 acres into the Rock Outcrop Program in Yellow Medicine County.
18. The SWCD received a \$25,000 grant from BWSR in 2008 for the Native Buffer Cost Share Program. To date the SWCD has encumbered \$7,000 of those dollars. Five additional landowners have shown significant interest in this program. If all five landowners signup for this program we would need approximately another \$15,000.00 to fund signups. The SWCD will continue to promote the native buffer cost share program utilizing all grant dollars.
19. RIM Clean Energy Program. If this program gets funded and implemented in any part of the county, the SWCD will promote landowner participation in establishing and harvesting biomass for local energy projects.
20. Apply for dollars through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, to install conservation practices in the county and to hire additional staff to help promote, design and layout conservation practices in the county.
21. Administer the Working Lands Initiative Program which is available only in Fortier Township which includes all of Sections 19, 20, SW1/4 of Section 27, and Sections 28-34. Landowners in this priority area will be contacted and encouraged to participate in this program.

**ENHANCE AND RESTORE THE COUNTY'S WATER QUALITY  
REDUCE PRIORITY POLLUTANTS TO SUSTAINABLE LEVELS.**

**Action:**

1. Work with the MPCA to get waters off the Clean Water Act's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) 303d list of impaired waters.
2. Assist in promoting nutrient and/or pesticide management plans, targeting 2500 acres countywide. Promoting the timing, rate, and placement of synthetic and/or organic fertilizers and pesticides using incentives (such as EQIP and others). Educate landowners on the need to follow University of Minnesota's nutrient management recommendations.

## **ENHANCE AND RESTORE THE COUNTY'S WATER QUALITY**

### **REDUCE PRIORITY POLLUTANTS TO SUSTAINABLE LEVELS.**

#### **Action: (Continued)**

3. Continue to support the upgrading of Individual Sewage Treatment Systems (ISTS). Administer the Ag BMP Loan Program for the county for fixing non-conforming Individual Sewage Treatment Systems. The SWCD will seek technical assistance from the Yellow Medicine County Zoning Office staff to determine if projects are eligible and will submit the applications to local lenders.
4. Protect Del Clark Lake by encouraging landowners to install Best Management Practices, seal abandoned wells and bring non-conforming sewer systems and feedlots into compliance in the Canby Creek Watershed.
5. Assist feedlot operators with completing MPCA permits, developing Manure Management Plans, and/or seeking financial assistance. Work with the Yellow Medicine County Feedlot Officer in encouraging landowners to take soil samples and develop a manure management plan. Co-sponsor, along with the Yellow Medicine County Feedlot Officer, a Nutrient Management Workshop in the county.
6. Assist in planning and installing three Ag Waste Systems in 2009.

## **PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY & QUANTITY OF GROUNDWATER IN THE COUNTY**

### **ASSIST WITH WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLANNING.**

#### **Action:**

1. Participate in wellhead/source water protection teams, when invited by the local public water suppliers.
2. Contact cities and the rural water system with available assistance. Advise and assist public water suppliers with technical land use information and planning assistance, when Wellhead Protection Plans are developed.

### **SUPPORT GOOD LAND USE DECISIONS REGARDING GROUNDWATER RESOURCES AND WELLHEAD PROTECTION AREAS.**

#### **Action:**

1. Continue to have Wellhead Protection Areas as priority areas for cost share and other land use incentive programs (i.e., upgrading septic systems, feedlot management, cropland nutrient management, and CRP/RIM).
2. Contact cities and the rural water system and request location of wells and the names of renters and/or landowners where the wells are located. Contact these property owners in the Wellhead Protection Area to encourage enrollment in easement programs, such as CRP & RIM, and establish buffer strips. The district will try to seek funds, maybe through the sales tax amendment funds, to offer incentives to protect these areas. If wellhead protection areas for public water suppliers have not been established yet, identify and prioritize a 2 mile radius around each of the public water wells for BMP land use incentive programs.
3. Continue to cooperate with Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water on the expansion of the rural water system and advise them about county programs that will help manage potential contamination sources.

### **EXPAND GROUNDWATER MONITORING.**

#### **Action:**

1. Monitor five (5) groundwater observation wells designated by DNR.
2. Comment on DNR water permits.
3. Encourage testing of wells in order to identify the extent of groundwater pollution problems.
4. Encourage sealing of abandoned wells.
5. Participate in the state rainfall-monitoring program with 15 rainfall monitors to record daily precipitation.
6. Work with Yellow Medicine Water Task Force to educate the public on sensitive groundwater areas and promote proper use of management to protect these areas.

**IMPROVE SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT TO DECREASE FLOODING IN THE COUNTY  
MINIMIZE LOSSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FLOODING OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS.**

**Action:**

1. Address the smaller flood events, such as 2 year and 5 year events, by restoring 20 acres of wetlands through various conservation programs. Target sites within the watersheds to achieve strategic flood storage in conjunction with water quality and wildlife benefits.
2. Take flood prone land along rivers, streams and/or waterways out of crop production by encouraging enrollment into land retirement programs, such as CRP, RIM, WRP, etc., and applying best management practices to those areas.
3. Work with Area II, RCRCA, Watersheds, and surrounding counties to assess, prioritize and pursue funding through various agencies for water storage opportunities. Continue working with the Lac qui Parle Yellowbank Watershed District on Lazarus Creek Flood Control Project by promoting and installing best management practices in the area.
4. Cooperate with Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed District, the Yellow Medicine Watershed District, the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area, and the 639 Study Area concerning flooding in the county. Assist with flood damage recordings.
5. Work with Area II, RCRCA, Watersheds, landowners and the county to seek funding for streambank stabilization projects where needed and feasible.

**IMPLEMENT SOUND SURFACE WATER AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN THE COUNTY  
APPLY WATERSHED BASED PRINCIPLES WHILE PROPERLY MANAGING DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.**

**Actions:**

1. Seek funds to repair small dams in the county that were previously constructed by landowners (Area II, SWCD, and/or NRCS). Apply for funds through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, to conduct an inventory of all dams in the county to see which ones are in need or repair, contact landowners to see if they are interested in repairing the dams and repair dams as funds allow.
2. Promote the use of alternative intakes, such as blind intakes, that promote efficient trapping of sediments and nutrients that enter drainage systems. A Blind Intake Cost Share Program will be offered to landowners to replace approximately 48 open intakes utilizing the SWCD's Blind Intake Program. The SWCD will also continue to encourage landowners in the Redwood Watershed, Lac qui Parle Watershed and/or the Yellow Medicine Watershed to install blind intakes utilizing Clean Water Legacy dollars.
3. Educate landowners/operators on the importance of keeping buffers in place to protect the drainage ditch systems and concerns about farming right next to the ditch systems in the county. Maintain the minimum one-rod grassed areas as it applies to drainage policy.
4. Protect the Lazarus Creek Project by promoting upland treatment by encouraging landowners to install best management practices, seal abandoned wells and bring non-conforming sewer systems and feedlots into compliance in the Lazarus Creek Watershed.
5. Utilize the USFWS Drained Wetland Basin Inventory to address current and future water quality and surface water management goals and issues.

## **PROTECT SURFACE WATER QUANTITY IN THE COUNTY**

**PRESERVE EXISTING WETLANDS AND RESTORE LEGALLY DRAINED WETLANDS HAVING POTENTIAL FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION, WILDLIFE, RECREATIONAL, AND GROUNDWATER RECHARGE BENEFITS, WHERE PRACTICAL.**

### **Actions:**

1. Administer the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Yellow Medicine County appointed the SWCD as the local government unit to administer the WCA and the rules of the Board of Water and Soil Resources adopted under the act. The SWCD will serve as chair of the WCA Technical Panel. Training will be sought for the SWCD staff as needed.

**STAFFING NEEDS**

**YELLOW MEDICINE WORKLOAD ANALYSIS WORKSHEET FY 2009**

Objective	Staff Years	
	Administrative	Technical
Districts Operations: Plans, reports, & financial affairs	.75	
Educational & Promotional Activities	.50	
Protect & Improve Soil Resources & Surface Water Quality	1.25	2.50
Wind Erosion Windbreaks, Wildlife Habitat areas, Conservation Tillage		
Water Erosion Terraces, Grass Waterways, Diversions Grade Stabilization Structures, Contouring, etc. CRP, CREP, RIM, conservation programs etc.		
Enhance and Restore County's Water Quality	.07	.11
Administer Ag BMP Loan Program Animal Waste Systems		
Protect & Improve the Groundwater Quality & Quantity	.03	.04
Assist with wellhead protection planning & continue to list as priority areas for cost share Support Good Land Use Decisions Expand Groundwater Monitoring		
Improve Surface Water Management to Decrease Flooding	.05	
Restore wetlands – Streambank Stabilization Work with Watershed Districts 639 Study Area, RCRCA & RC&D Flood damage records		
Protect Surface Water Quantity in the County – Preserve Existing wetlands and restore legally drained wetlands	.35	.35
Administer Wetland Conservation Act		
<b>Total Staff Years</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>

These staff years include two full-time SWCD staff members, three part-time SWCD staff members, and two full-time NRCS staff members.

## **COST SHARE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **High Priority Wind and Water Erosion Problems**

High priority erosion problems mean areas where erosion from wind or water is occurring equal to, or in excess of, 2 X T tons per acre per year; or is occurring on any area that exhibits active gully erosion; or is identified as high priority in the comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district's comprehensive plan.

State cost-share funds will be used to install critical area stabilization, diversions, field windbreaks, grass waterways, waste management, riparian buffer strips, sediment retention, erosion or water control structures, streambank, shoreland and roadside protection, and terraces.

Wind erosion can occur in most parts of the district, but is greater in the Canby area and also on the lighter soils. Many acres will be coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program in the next several years. Wind erosion is a high priority concern in Yellow Medicine County. Heavy rain and spring runoff on the steeper slopes in the Canby area, Stony Run Township and Sioux Agency Township have the most critical water erosion. Potential for severe combination wind and water erosion occurs on approximately 104,120 acres of cropland.

Priority will be given to the following: Yellow Medicine River Watershed, concentrating on hot spots as determined by the Yellow Medicine Watershed, in particular Sandnes, Norman and Wergeland; Canby Creek Watershed; Lac qui Parle Watershed, in particular portions of Norman, Omro, Oshkosh, Tyro and Wergeland Townships; above the structure of Lazarus Creek; Public wellhead protection areas; land adjacent to the lake of Wood Lake; immediate vicinity of the Minnesota River (Stony Run, Minnesota Falls and Sioux Agency Townships) and the Redwood River Watershed, along with any other areas in the county.

### **High Priority Water Quality**

High priority water quality problems mean areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals, or other pollutants discharge to Department of Natural Resources designated protected waters; or to any high priority waters as identified in a comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district's comprehensive plan; or discharge to a sinkhole or groundwater. The pollutant delivery rate to the water source is in amounts that will impair the quality or usefulness of the water resource.

### **Special Projects and Funding Sources**

Unfortunately with the anticipated state budget cuts, no funds will be received through the Minnesota River Basin Cost Share Program, State Cost Share rollover funds, or special project funds. The district anticipates applying for any and all dollars available in the future through grants offered by the state and/or federal government. The district also hopes to obtain grant dollars for conservation practices through the Yellow Medicine Watershed Clean Water Partnership Grant, the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed Clean Water Partnership Grant, Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, and/or Clean Water Legacy Funds.

The district applied for loan dollars through the Ag BMP Loan Program. The district will continue to utilize the revolving dollars and new dollars as received. The following is a chart showing the years and dollars encumbered.

1996	\$168,379.34
1997	\$ 92,863.53
1998 ( BMP & ISTS)	\$ 36,938.50
1999	\$ 41,258.66
2001	\$ 24,650.91
Consolidated Loan	\$ 25,821.02
2007 (CWL Grant)	\$ 65,000.00
2008 (CWL Grant)	\$208,129.00

It is estimated that the SWCD will have approximately \$171,769.97 of local revolving funds available for loans in 2009. The SWCD also applied for an additional \$100,000.00 through the Ag BMP Loan Program to be used in 2009.

## **COST SHARE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (Continued)**

### **State Cost Share Program Funding**

The Yellow Medicine SWCD allocation amount for FY 2009 is \$ 29,926.00. The cost share dollars will be used to install high priority erosion problems. The Ag BMP Loan Program and the EQIP Program can be used to supplement cost share dollars. Yellow Medicine County received EQIP funding in the amount of \$553,578 in 2007 and \$493,832 in 2008. We hope to receive that amount again in 2009. The district anticipates applying for any and all dollars available in the future through grants offered by the state and/or federal government. The district also hopes to obtain grant dollars for conservation practices through the Yellow Medicine Watershed Clean Water Partnership Grant, the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed Clean Water Partnership Grant, Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment and/or Clean Water Legacy Funds. State Cost Share dollars will be targeted to the installation of terraces and/or sediment control basins. Grassed waterways could be funded through the Conservation Reserve Program. However, cost share could be given for grassed waterways, field windbreaks, farmstead windbreaks, animal waste systems and/or other eligible practices.

### **State Cost Share Policies**

October 29, 1991: Motion by Karen Halverson, seconded by Gordon Erickson to establish a policy that all landowners and/or operators in Yellow Medicine County are considered District Cooperators. Affirmative: Karen Halverson, Gordon Erickson, and Menno Fokken. Negative: none. Motion carried.

October 26, 1995: Motion by Karen Halverson, seconded by Burton Kuehn to make a policy that State Cost Share Contract payments can be paid from receipts instead of bills marked paid. Affirmative: Menno Fokken, Karen Halverson, Burton Kuehn, and Dennis Kruger. Negative: none. Motion carried.

April 25, 1996: Motion by Karen Halverson, seconded by Norris Peterson to make it a policy to cost share the following State Cost Share approved practices at 75% of the cost, not to exceed \$7,500.00 per project unless otherwise agreed to by the board:

Critical Area Stabilization	Diversion
Field Windbreaks	Grass Waterways
Waste Management	Riparian Buffer Strips
Sediment Retention, Erosion or Water Control Structures	Terraces
Streambank, Shoreland and Roadside Protection	

Affirmative: Menno Fokken, Norris Peterson, Karen Halverson, and Dennis Kruger. Negative: none. Motion carried.

The District Manager talked to the NRCS District Conservationist about appointing a technical representative for the State Cost Share Program. He indicated that NRCS would be willing to be the technical representative for the State Cost Share Program.

Motion by Menno Fokken, seconded by Norris Peterson to appoint the NRCS Technician and/or the NRCS District Conservationist as the technical representative for the State Cost Share Program. Affirmative: Menno Fokken, Norris Peterson, Karen Halverson, and Dennis Kruger. Negative: none. Motion carried.

July 31, 1996: Motion by Menno Fokken, seconded by Karen Halverson to make a policy to set the same rate per acre as the federal cost share program for seedbed preparation and seeding. Payment will be based on 75% of the flat rate allowable. Motion carried.

March 23, 2000: Motion by Menno Fokken, seconded by Karen Halverson to make it a policy that terraces and/or waterways are given a higher priority for funding over farmstead windbreaks for the State Cost Share Program. Affirmative: Karen Halverson, Menno Fokken, Burton Kuehn, Dennis Kruger and Norris Peterson. Negative: none. Motion carried.

November 20, 2000: Motion by Menno Fokken, seconded by Dennis Kruger to change the policy for partial payments for the State Cost Share Program as follows: "The district will consider allowing partial payments. The partial payment requests will be reviewed on an individual basis". Affirmative: Menno Fokken, Burton Kuehn, Dennis Kruger, and Norris Peterson. Negative: none. Motion carried.

**2009 BUDGET REQUIREMENTS:**

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	Budget
District Operation – Personal Service-	
Supervisor’s Compensation	\$6,500.00
Employee Salary	\$140,257.28
Employer Contributions (FICA)	\$9,005.95
Employer Contributions (PERA)	\$9,467.37
Health, Dental & Life Ins.	\$43,097.15
Employer Contribution Medicare	\$2,106.23
Workman’s Compensation	\$690.00
Errors/Omissions & General Liability	\$2,345.00
Employer Contr. Supervisor PERA/DCP	\$90.00
<b>Total District Operations – Personal Services</b>	<b>\$213,558.98</b>
<b>District Operation – Other Services and Charges</b>	
Supervisor Expense	\$4,200.00
Electricity	\$105.00
Telephone	\$4,000.00
Training	\$1,000.00
Employee Expenses	\$2,000.00
Office Maintenance	\$1,000.00
Building Maintenance	\$300.00
Professional Services	\$1,000.00
Fees and Dues	\$4,835.00
Gasoline	\$2,500.00
Vehicle Maintenance & Repair	\$2,000.00
Education and Promotion	\$4,200.00
Insurance	\$3,108.00
Rent	\$200.00
Misc. Other Services & Charges	\$100.00
<b>Total Distr. Operation Other Services &amp; Charges</b>	<b>\$30,548.00</b>
District Operations – Supplies – Office Supplies	\$2,000.00
Postage	\$1,000.00
Field Supplies	\$120.00
<b>Total District Operations – Supplies</b>	<b>\$3,120.00</b>
<b>District Operations – Capital Outlay</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
Native Buffer Cost Share Program – Project Expenses	\$40,870.00
Project Expenses - State Cost Share Projects	\$29,926.00
<b>Total Project Expenses – State</b>	<b>\$70,796.00</b>
<b>District Expenses</b>	
Tree Expenses	\$13,000.00
Tree Building Expense	\$100.00
Tree Mat Expenses	\$8,500.00
Blind Intake Program Expense	\$4,806.00
Misc. Tree Expense	\$500.00
Misc. Tree Mat Expense	\$100.00
Misc. Project Expenses	\$50.00
<b>Total District Expenses</b>	<b>\$27,056.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$346,578.98</b>

**2009 BUDGET REQUIREMENTS (Continued)**

	<b>Budget</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>	
<b>Intergovernmental Revenue</b>	
State	
BWSR Project Grants	\$29,926.00
BWSR Service Grants	\$23,526.00
Native Buffer Cost Share Grant	\$40,870.00
SWCD Farm Bill Assistant Grant	\$31,500.00
Other State Grants	\$510.00
CREP Grant	\$12,029.00
<b>Total State Grants</b>	<b>\$138,361.00</b>
Local Government Revenues	
County Grant	\$104,025.16
WCA Grant	\$10,000.00
Lyon SWCD/Share Ed Coordinator & Redwood CWL Technical Dollars	\$2,724.00
<b>Total Local Government Revenue</b>	<b>\$116,749.16</b>
Federal Grants	<b>\$77.00</b>
<b>Total Intergovernmental Revenue</b>	<b>\$255,987.16</b>
<b>Charges for Services</b>	
Tree Sales	\$25,000.00
Planting Charges	\$4,900.00
Finance Charges	\$100.00
Laminating Charges	\$80.00
Flags, Stakes & Sign Sales	\$10.00
Tree Mat Sales	\$18,000.00
Other Services and Charges	\$50.00
<b>Total Charges for Services</b>	<b>\$48,140.00</b>
<b>Interest Earnings</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
<b>Other Miscellaneous Revenues</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$310,727.16</b>

Part of the increase in the 2009 budget reflects a substantial increase in wages for employees. The SWCD approved the county's nonunion pay scale in December of 2007. Future year's budget will show increases in wages until the employees reach the step they should be on according to their years of service. Difference from expenditures to revenues will be made up with \$4,806.00 set aside for blind intake program, and district reserves.