

**YELLOW MEDICINE  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



2013

The following Annual Report for the Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) consists of a list of personnel and cooperating agencies, the goals of the district, a description of services provided and a narrative of the accomplishments for 2013.

### **YELLOW MEDICINE SWCD SUPERVISORS**

<b>Norris Peterson</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
<b>Burton Kuehn</b>	<b>Vice Chairperson</b>
<b>Hollis Weber</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Menno Fokken</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Jerry Nelson</b>	<b>Reporter</b>

### **YELLOW MEDICINE SWCD STAFF**

<b>Lou Ann Nagel</b>	<b>District Manager</b>
<b>Nancy Dyrdaahl</b>	<b>District Administrative Assistant</b>
<b>Kurt Johnson</b>	<b>District Engineer Technician</b>
<b>Tyler Knutson</b>	<b>Farm Bill Assistant</b>

### **COOPERATING AGENCIES**

#### **Board of Water & Soil Resources**

<b>John Jaschke</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>Dave Sill</b>	<b>Board Conservationist</b>
<b>Kane Radel</b>	<b>Wetland Specialist</b>

#### **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

<b>Don Baloun</b>	<b>State Conservationist</b>
<b>Gary Watson</b>	<b>Area Conservationist</b>
<b>Desmond Glenn</b>	<b>District Conservationist</b>
<b>Jon Paul Pringle</b>	<b>Soil Conservation Technician</b>

#### **Yellow Medicine County Commissioners**

<b>Ronald Antony</b>	<b>Canby</b>
<b>Gary Johnson</b>	<b>Montevideo</b>
<b>Greg Renneke</b>	<b>Echo</b>
<b>Louis Sherlin</b>	<b>Canby</b>
<b>John Berends</b>	<b>Granite Falls</b>

#### **Other Agencies**

<b>Peggy Heglund</b>	<b>County Administrator</b>
<b>Jolene Johnson</b>	<b>Water Plan Coordinator</b>
<b>Liz Ludwig</b>	<b>FSA County Director</b>
<b>Randy Jacobson</b>	<b>County Feedlot, Zoning &amp; Ag Officer</b>
<b>Chris Balfany</b>	<b>County Ditch Inspector</b>
<b>Wendy Krueger</b>	<b>DNR Wildlife Habitat Specialist</b>
<b>Lucas Youngsma</b>	<b>DNR Area Hydrologist</b>
<b>Alicia Webb</b>	<b>MN Extension 4-HProgram Coordinator</b>

The district, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other agencies, provide technical and financial assistance to individuals, groups, organizations, and governments in reducing costly waste of soil and water resulting from soil erosion, sedimentation, pollution and improper land use.

In 2013 the district provided the following:

- Tree planning, planting, and matting services.
- Technical assistance for the installation of conservation practices.
- A manager for the district.
- Assistance to other agencies in promoting programs concerning conservation.
- Promotion of educational activities in the district.
- Promotion and administration for the CREP/RIM/PWP and WRP/RIM Reserve Programs.
- Promotion and administration of Rock Outcrop Easement Program
- Promotion and administration for the State Cost Share Program.
- Assistance to the county in implementing the Yellow Medicine County Water Plan.
- Administration for the Wetland Conservation Act of 1991.
- Promotion and administration for the Native Buffer Cost Share Program.
- Administration of the Rainfall Monitoring Program.
- Promotion and administration for the Ag Best Management Loan Program.
- Promotion and administration for the Blind Intake Program.
- Promotion and administration for the Working Lands Initiative Program.
- Promotion and administration for the Vegetative Management & Enhancement of Conservation Easements.
- Promotion and administration for the Clean Water Fund Drainage Program.
- Promotion and sign up landowners for the Walk In Access Program
- Annual and year end reporting in BWSR reporting system – reporting of progress of conservation practices through the BWSR webpage.

## **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, family 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.

This annual plan is written to implement the Yellow Medicine Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan which the Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District adopted as their comprehensive plan starting in 2004. The goals as defined in the Yellow Medicine County Water Management Plan for 2013 are as follows:

- 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.
- 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.

## **SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

- Tree Program – Design, Planting, and Mats
- State Cost-Share Program – Cost Share dollars available for installation of best management practices
- Vegetative Management & Enhancement of Conservation Easements Cost Share Program - This program provides cost share up to 100% with a maximum of \$300/acre to convert cool season grass stands to native grasses, or to enhance and inter-seed additional species into an existing native grass planting on eligible lands enrolled into certain conservation easements
- Blind Intake Program – Cost share available to replace existing open intakes with alternative intakes
- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), RIM Riparian Buffer Program, WRP/RIM Program, and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – Permanent conservation easement programs
- Rock Outcrop Easement Program – RIM Program
- Education Programs
- DNR Well Monitoring - Monitor DNR observation wells throughout the County
- Water Permits - Process and review the DNR water permits
- Annual and Year End Reporting in BWSR Reporting System - Reporting of progress of conservation practices through the Board of Water and Soil Resources web page
- Wetland Conservation Act
- Ag BMP Loan Program
- Assist with Yellow Medicine County Local Water Management Plan -See Yellow Medicine County Website: [yellowmedicine.govoffice.com](http://yellowmedicine.govoffice.com)
- Engineering
- Walk In Access Program
- Rain Gauge Program
- Clean Water Fund Drainage Program
- Clean Water Fund Projects
- Yellow Medicine Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)

## 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 Assistant, 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 to: RCRC, 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 web based reporting system to report progress.
10. Utilize district website to publish annual plans/reports and other reports.
11. Convene stakeholder meetings and local work group meeting for establishing priorities for EQIP and other conservation programs.
12. Apply for Clean Water funds and other sources of funding as they become available.
13. Install all cost share practices according to standards and specifications required by the program.
14. Conduct State Cost Share spot checks as required by the program.
15. Participate in brainstorming meetings that will establish priorities and needs in all watersheds in the County.

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

1. **Goal - Publish 3 newsletters:** The SWCD published one newsletter in March of 2013.
2. **Goal - Select a Conservation Farmer:** Gary Lentz from Echo was selected as the 2013 Conservation Farmer of the Year. He has managed his 160 acres of grassland, native prairie, and wooded habitat for over 40 years. Gary is a principled conservationist. He is currently working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Area II River Basin to construct a flood retention dam on a creek within this land. Gary ensures that his pasture is strictly managed. He has completed a large invasive tree removal projects, using his horses, to open the pastureland and restore extremely rare native species of plants. He works with Echo Charter School to utilize his prairies for hands-on education. This summer, through NRCS, an archeological dig was conducted on a cabin foundation where several European artifacts from pre-Dakota Conflict were identified. Gary holds a deep belief of the need for careful maintenance on every delicate landscape.
3. **Goal - Set up displays:** A display was developed for the county fair. This year's theme was "SWCD Deals a Winning Hand".
4. **Goal - Work with the SWMACDE to co-sponsor an Environmental Fair for all 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Marshall.** The SWCD served on the 2013 Environmental Fair Committee. This year 1,986 students from 38 schools (including several home schools) registered to learn about soil, water, and other resources at fair. Yellow Medicine County Schools included Echo Charter School, YME/Bert Raney School, Clarkfield Area Charter School, Canby Elementary, and St. Peters Catholic School. The fair remains a positive experience that enables students to be informed decision makers in the future.
5. **Goal - Distribute an educational newsletter:** Did not distribute an educational newsletter to the schools.
6. **Goal - Publish weekly news articles:** The SWCD published news articles, unfortunately not weekly.
7. **Goal – Make informational calls to landowners/operators regarding current programs:** Through the efforts of the SWCD staff, approximately 770 landowners were contacted one on one promoting the current SWCD and Federal programs. Approximately 2,400 landowners were reached through the SWCD's newsletter. News articles, workshops and the SWCD website have been used to reach landowners in Yellow Medicine County.

**GOAL: PROMOTE & EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON THE SWCD'S PROGRAMS – Actions - Continued:**

- 8. Goal - Assist and promote the SWMACDE Area Envirothon:** Unfortunately, not enough teams signed up for the SWMACDE Area Envirothon in 2013. Therefore the competition was cancelled.
- 9. Goal - Assist Pezuta Zizi Environmental and Cultural Learning and Resource Center:** Megan Ulrich, from the Pezuta Zizi Environmental and Cultural Learning and Resource Center borrowed the SWCD's EnviroScape Model to use in her classroom.
- 10. Goal - Meet with County FAC Committee:** The SWCD met periodically with the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Extension Service and the Yellow Medicine County Zoning Office as needed to discuss building and/or county concerns.
- 11. Goal - Promote Clean Water Partnership Projects for the Yellow Medicine Watershed District and the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Watershed District:** The SWCD continues to promote the installation of conservation practices, as well as promoting the filter strip incentives for both the Yellow Medicine River Watershed and the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank River Watershed. The SWCD also serves on the technical committee for both of the Watershed Districts.
- 12. Goal - Hold SWCD Retreat:** The SWCD held a SWCD Strategic Planning Session/Retreat on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Supervisors and staff discussed priority areas and priority projects in the Yellow Medicine Watershed.
- 13. Goal – Hold a Ladies Workshop in Yellow Medicine County:** The SWCD did not hold a ladies workshop in 2013.
- 14. Goal - Hold regular staff meetings:** Staff meetings were held regularly throughout the year.
- 15. Goal - Develop promotional presentations:** Promotional items were developed and used at workshops and the county fair.
- 16. Goal - Continue to maintain the SWCD's website:** In 2013, the District Manager, utilizing the Expression Web Software, redid the SWCD's website. The District Manager continues to update this site.
- 17. Goal – Meet with agencies/organizations to prioritize resource concerns, etc.:** The SWCD continues to meet with the Yellow Medicine Water Task Force, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Yellow Medicine County Zoning Office, Lac qui Parle Watershed District and the Yellow Medicine Watershed District to discuss resource concerns. Resource concerns are addressed at the Local Work Group Meeting held for the Federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program.
- 18. Goal – Schedule meeting with SWCDs, Watersheds and County officials to discuss watershed based planning:** The SWCD, along with the Watershed Districts and the County, met periodically to discuss watershed based planning.
- 19. Goal – Present at the Ag in the Classroom Event in Clarkfield:** The Ag in the Classroom annual event was scheduled to be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Granite Falls Vocational School. However, due to winter weather conditions it was reschedule to April 12<sup>th</sup> and then eventually cancelled. This event invites 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the county to learn about agriculture. Kurt Johnson was scheduled to conduct a tree session at this event.

**GOAL - 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. **Goal - Promote Best Management Practices in the County:** The SWCD promotes Best Management Practices in the county by writing news articles, newsletters, conducting presentations, and holding workshops in the county.
2. **Goal- Reduce the amount of wind erosion on the most severely erodible acres by designing and planting 6,665 feet of field windbreaks and/or living snowfence:** The SWCD planted 6,335 feet of field windbreaks and/or living snowfence in 2013.

**Goal – Plant 14.2 acres of farmstead windbreaks, and 22.2 acres of wildlife habitat and riparian buffers:** The SWCD planted 19.27 acres of farmstead windbreaks and 22.2 acres of wildlife habitat.

**Goal – Install 77,000 feet of plastic mulch:** 40,655 feet of plastic mulch was installed this year. Some of the matting projects were not completed due to the wet conditions.

3. **Goal - Reduce the amount of water erosion on severely eroded acres by installing 15 water and sediment control basins, and 1 grassed waterways:** The Natural Resource Conservation Service, along with the SWCD, funded and/or installed the following:
  - a. Ten (10) Water & Sediment Control Basins
  - b. Two (2) Terrace systems
  - c. Four (4) acres of Grassed Waterways

Funding for these practices was obtained through various agencies and/or programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Program and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

The SWCD, through the efforts of the SWCD Farm Bill Assistant, assisted the Farm Service Agency in promoting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) by promoting the installation of grassed waterways and/or installing other conservation practices.

The SWCD assisted the 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.

4. **Goal - Continue to manage CREP and/or RIM easements, and conduct status reviews:** The SWCD conducted seventy-three CREP/RIM status reviews in 2013 and also conducted 27 State Cost Share Status Reviews.
5. **Goal - Establish 300 acres of filter strips/buffers:** 105.5 acres of filter strips/buffers have been established through the Conservation Reserve Program and Conservation Stewardship Program.
6. **Goal – Promote the Riparian Buffer Clean Water Fund RIM Reserve Program:** The SWCD processed one application in 2013 that enrolled 23.8 acres in Sections 11 and 14 of Wood Lake Township into the permanent RIM Riparian Clean Buffer Program.
7. **Goal - 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:** The SWCD published a newsletter and wrote numerous articles promoting and educating landowners on the need to install conservation practices and enroll acreage into conservation programs. The SWCD also sent out direct mailings to individuals in the Lower Yellow Medicine River Watershed, the Curtis Lake Watershed, and Wood Lake Watershed encouraging people to sign up for dollars from the Clean Water Fund Grants.
8. **Goal - Serve on the Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Board:** Menno Fokken served on the Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Board as Chairperson for 2013. The SWCD contributed \$1,000.00 towards the Joint Power's budget.
9. **Goal - Continue to work with RCRCAs on the Redwood River Clean Water Project:** The SWCD continues to work with RCRCAs and the SWCDs in the Redwood Watershed to promote conservation. The SWCD Manager attended a RCRCAs Strategic Planning Meeting in Marshall on February 27, 2013.

**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: Continued**

10. **Goal – Restore 600 acres of wetlands into a conservation program:** 260.5 acres of wetlands were enrolled/reenrolled in various conservation programs.
11. **Goal – Replace open intakes with alternative intakes:** In 2013, thirty eight (38) open tile intakes were replaced with alternative tile intakes utilizing Clean Water Drainage Funds.
12. **Goal –Apply for funds through LCCMR to operate a Rock Outcrop Easement Program in Yellow Medicine County:** In 2013, the SWCD along with Renville, Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Redwood, Brown, and Nicollet SWCDs submitted a grant application to LCCMR for enrolling land into a Rock Outcrop Easement Program. Unfortunately, LCCMR did not fund the grant proposal.
13. **Goal – Promote and enroll acres into the Vegetative Management and Enhancement of Conservation Easement Cost Share Program:** Worked with three landowners to improve cover on 82.9 acres on their Easements. Worked with 6 potential landowners wanting to improve their cover on their RIM Easements.
14. **Goal – Process the eleven RIM/WRP applications:** The SWCD/NRCS processed two RIM/WRP easements for a total of 71.9 acres. We are currently working on processing the remaining 13 RIM/WRP Easements.
15. **Goal – Apply for Conservation Corp Apprentice:** The 2013 Conservation Corp Apprentice was Patrick Bukowski. Patrick assisted in conducting status reviews for Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), RIM Rock Outcrop, and/or Wetland Reserve Program/RIM easements. He also assisted with the SWCD Tree Program by planting trees for conservation purposes and installing tree fabric for better weed control and moisture retention. Patrick, along with Kurt Johnson, designed and finished a landscaping project in front of the SWCD’s storage facility in Clarkfield.

**ENHANCE AND RESTORE THE COUNTY’S WATER QUALITY**

**REDUCE PRIORITY POLLUTANTS TO SUSTAINABLE LEVELS.**

**Action:**

1. **Goal - Work with MPCA to get waters off the Clean Water Act’s Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) 303d list of impaired waters:** The SWCD continues to work with their partners to get the Minnesota River Basin, Redwood Watershed, Lac qui Parle Watershed and the Yellow Medicine Watershed off the Clean Water Act’s TMDL list of impaired waters.
2. **Goal - Continue to support the upgrading of Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS):** The SWCD administered the Ag BMP Loan Program for the county, offering loans to fix 5 non-conforming Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems. The SWCD sought technical assistance from the Yellow Medicine County Zoning Office staff to determine if projects were eligible and submitted applications to local lenders.
3. **Goal - Assist in planning and installing Ag Waste Systems:** One Ag Waste System was installed in 2013.
4. **Goal – Work with other agencies to discuss developing watershed plans and identifying priority areas and projects in the Yellow Medicine River Watershed, Lac qui Parle River Watershed and the Redwood River Watershed:** The SWCD is working with the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District, and the Lincoln and Lyon SWCDs to provide information for the Yellow Medicine River Wetland Restoration and Protection Project. This process is identifying priority areas and projects to be completed in the Yellow Medicine River Watershed.

**PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF GROUNDWATER IN THE COUNTY**

**EXPAND GROUNDWATER MONITORING.**

**Action:**

1. **Goal - Monitor three (3) groundwater observation wells designated by DNR:** The SWCD entered into a contract with DNR to monitor three groundwater observation wells.



## PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF GROUNDWATER IN THE COUNTY

### EXPAND GROUNDWATER MONITORING.

#### Action (Continued):

2. **Goal - Comment on DNR water permits:** The SWCD commented on DNR water permits as requested.
3. **Goal - Encourage testing of wells in order to identify the extent of groundwater pollution problems:** The SWCD continues to encourage testing of wells.
4. **Goal - Encourage sealing of abandoned wells:** The SWCD, along with the Yellow Medicine County Water Planner, continue to encourage sealing of abandoned wells in the county. Funds were obtained through the Water Plan for assistance in sealing abandoned wells.
5. **Goal - Participate in the state rainfall-monitoring program with 16 rainfall monitors to record daily precipitation:** The SWCD participated in the state's rainfall monitoring program. Yellow Medicine County currently has thirteen rainfall monitors that record precipitation daily. These reports are sent to the State monthly.
6. **Goal - 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:** Wrote articles for Water Task Force Newsletter on RIM Riparian Buffer Opportunity, Low Interest Loan Dollars Available and Dollars Available for Drainage Water Management.

## IMPROVE SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT TO DECREASE FLOODING IN THE COUNTY

### MINIMIZE LOSSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FLOODING OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

#### Action:

1. **Goal - Address the smaller flood events, such as 2 and 5 year events, by restoring 600 acres of wetlands through various conservation programs:** 260.5 acres of wetlands were enrolled/re-enrolled into various conservation programs.
2. **Goal - Take flood prone land along rivers, streams and/or waterways out of crop production:** The SWCD processed one RIM Riparian Buffer Easement and two WRP/RIM Easements. We are still assisting with processing another thirteen WRP/RIM Easements.
3. **Goal - Work with Area II, RCRCA, Watersheds, and surrounding counties to assess, prioritize, and pursue funding through various agencies for water storage opportunities.** The SWCD continues to work with all of our partners to minimize flooding.
4. **Goal - Cooperate with Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed District, the Yellow Medicine Watershed District, the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area, and the 639 Study Areas concerning flooding in the county:** The SWCD works closely with the above organizations to address flooding issues in the county.
5. **Goal - Work with Area II, RCRCA, the Lac qui Parle Watershed District, the Yellow Medicine Watershed Districts, landowners and the county to seek funding for streambank stabilization projects where needed and feasible:** The Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area engineer and technician looked at sites needing streambank stabilization.

## IMPLEMENT SOUND SURFACE WATER AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN THE COUNTY

### APPLY WATERSHED BASED PRINCIPLES WHILE PROPERLY MANAGING DRAINAGE SYSTEMS.

#### Actions:

1. **Goal - Seek funds to repair small dams in the county:** One dam was repaired utilizing Natural Resources Conservation Service funds in 2013.
2. **Goal - Replace open intakes with alternative intakes; such as dense pattern tile and risers:** Thirty eight (38) open tile intakes were replaced with alternative tile intakes in 2013.
3. **Goal - Administer the 2012 Conservation Drainage Grant for the Lower Yellow Medicine River Sub-Watershed by:** The SWCD continued to promote conservation drainage in this watershed by sending direct mailings to landowners encouraging them to apply for funds. Unfortunately, no landowners applied for these funds.

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

**Actions: (Continued)**

4. Goal – Administer the 2013 CWF Target Drainage Water Management Grant on behalf of Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine SWCDs.
  - a. Offer up to 75% cost share to replace 38 open surface tile inlets with alternative inlets such as: Perforated risers, dense pattern tile, etc., reducing sediment and phosphorus loads improving water quality. Maximum of \$600/inlet.
  - b. Offer up to 75% cost share not to exceed \$1,650.00 for landowners to hire a certified technical service provider to develop two drainage water management plans.
  - c. The SWCDs promoted and encumbered all but \$125.00 of this grant.
  
5. **Goal - 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:** Educated the public on the need to maintain the minimum one-rod grassed areas as it applies to the drainage policy. Also encouraged landowners to enroll their riparian buffer areas into a conservation program establishing filter strips on these areas.

**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. **Goal - Administer the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act (WCA):**Yellow Medicine County appointed the SWCD as the local government unit to administer the Wetland Conservation Act and the rules of the Board of Water and Soil Resources adopted under the act. The SWCD served as chair of the WCA Technical Panel. In 2013, 42 hours of training were obtained for the District Technician; staff spent over 451 hours administering WCA; made over 583 landowner contacts: 218 drainage requests; 110 building and zoning requests; 31 on-site investigations; received 4 basic applications, made 5 decisions; 3 potential violations were investigated; 16 drainage maintenance were approved; 24 bringing land in production.