

2018 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

KANDIYOHI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 1005 High Ave. NE, Willmar, MN 56201 320-235-3906, ext. 3

MISSION STATEMENT: “The Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation District is dedicated to protecting our soil and water resources through education and technical assistance.”

The Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation district’s regular meeting is held the second Tuesday of the month, with a starting time of 2:30 p.m. in the Ag Service Center, Willmar, MN.

The following outlines the accomplishments of the Kandiyohi SWCD in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, made toward resource protection and public awareness during January 1 to December 31, 2018.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brandon Smith, Chairman, Raymond
Jane Youngkrantz, Vice Chairman, Lake Lillian
Terry Schaefer, Secretary, Paynesville
Doug Hanson, Treasurer, Willmar
Ron Dilley, Public Relations and Information, Pennock

KANDIYOHI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF

Rick Reimer, District Manager; Rick.Reimer@mn.nacdnet.net
Ryan Peterson, RIM Coordinator; Ryan.Peterson@mn.nacdnet.net
Sandy Laumer, Office Coordinator, Sandra.Laumer@mn.nadnet.net
Ellie Dittes, Conservation Technician, Ellie.Dittes@mn.nacdnet.net
Laura Newberg, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, lmerten@pheasantsforever.org

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE STAFF (ASSISTING KANDIYOHI SWCD)

Melanie Dickman, District Conservationist
Daniel Jarosz, Soil Conservationist-ACEP
Denise TeBrake, Farm Bill Tech-ACES
NRCS Area IV Staff, Brooklyn Center
NRCS Staff, St. Paul

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES STAFF (ASSISTING KANDIYOHI SWCD)

John Jaschke, BWSR, St. Paul
BWSR Staff, St. Paul
Kevin Bigalke, Regional BD, St Paul
Tara Ostendorf, BC, St Cloud
Lynda Ponting, Wetland Specialist, St Cloud

REINVEST IN MINNESOTA (RIM), WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP) & CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

- Site evaluations and inspections on 87 RIM Conservation Easements.
- Grass Lake Prairie Wetland Restoration Project Easements.
- RIM/WRP completed 6 wetland restoration projects totaling 26 restored wetlands
- 1 CREP easements completed for 41 acres.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP); CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- CRP: 29 new contracts totaling 397.05 acres; 96 re-enrolled contracts for 1852.47 acres; 47% re-enrollment rate; 728.59 net loss; 1305.36 acres to be seeded to natives
- CCRP filter strips (CP21): 268.96 acres
- CCRP Riparian Buffer (CP22): 13.96 acres
- CCRP wetland restorations (CP23A): 735.98 acres
- CCRP (CP27): 33.46 acres
- CCRP (CP28): 55.12 acres
- CCRP Duck Nesting (CP37): 1012.16 acres
- Kandiyohi County currently has 1,889 CRP contracts which total 30,359.68 acres and annual payments of \$4,792,553
- Technical Assistance of wetland restorations, 2 projects, 6 wetland restorations

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

- State: 7 stream bank stabilization \$29,192.50; 2 well decommission \$600
- State: 2 sediment basins \$10,228.80
- State:2016 Cooperative Weed Management Grant: 1 contract \$800
- Local Cost Share Program: 1 channel restoration contract, \$1,625; 1 shoreline restoration contract \$1,000

WATERSHED PROJECTS & LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

We work cooperatively with the following watershed projects and lake associations, promoting conservation and providing technical assistance for water quality activities.

- Chippewa River Watershed Project
- Upper Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project
- Hawk Creek Watershed Project
- Crow River Organization of Water Project
- Rice/Koronis Watershed
- Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District
- Diamond Lake Association
- Games Lake Association
- Norway Lake Association
- Eagle Lake Association
- Calhoun Lake Association
- Kandi-Wakanda Watershed
- Kandiyohi County Lake Association
- 1W1P- Crow River Organization
- 1W1P-Hawk Creek

SERVICE PROGRAMS

- Tree sales of 13,756
- Tree plantings at 19 sites
- Filter fabric – 5 miles of fabric installed
- Prairie restoration seeding on RIM & CRP – 1,398 acres seeded on 71 sites
- Seed planting & sales on additional 25 sites totaling 141 acres

STATE REVOLVING FUND (SRF)

- Received \$80,000 Funds were used for 1 minimum tillage equipment, 2 septic systems, 1 manure pit, and 1 manure application equipment. Applying for continued funding for 2019. Total since 1995 - \$2,609,116 into county, and rollover funds for last 19 years at \$691,230= \$3,300,233.

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT (WCA)

- 59 sites were reviewed
- 8 Restoration Plans

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- 7 contracts totaling \$187,387

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

- Contracts totaling \$1,313,104 in payments

MN WALK-IN ACCESS

- Promoted program to landowners with postcards and press release in West Central Tribune
- Total of 12 sites and 1,194 acres to be open for public hunting
- Mapped open hunting areas in reporting system
- 4 Projects approved for Walk in Access Habitat Enhancement (WIAHE): 4 prescribed burns for 609 acres and 9.86 acres of volunteer tree removal

BUFFERS

- Buffer Cost Share: 65 contacts
- Compliance Stats (Including Ditches and Public Waters): 93% complaint
- County Ditches Stats: 70% compliant; 30% non-compliant
- Public Waters Stats: 99.17% compliant; less than 1% non-complaint
- 100+ land consultations for buffer strips
- Promotions: 496 County Ditch Postcards

MINNESOTA AG WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (MAWQCP)

- 3 Landowners certified, 2 applications in progress
- Promoted program to landowners at County Fair, Prairie Pothole Day, and general landowner visits
- Plans are made for 2019 to promote more certifications

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

- New London Elementary Environmental Day
- Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center: continue to serve in an advisory capacity
- Soil Stewardship: 3 churches participated
- Kandiyohi County Fair, August 2018
- Presenter for Area Envirothon, April 2018
- Presentations to Lake Associations: Diamond Lake, Norway Lake, Eagle Lake, Lake Calhoun, Nest Lake, Green Lake, Lake Wakanda, Willmar Lake, Foot Lake and Lake Florida
- Grass Lake Presentation to Willmar Noon Lions Meeting
- Willmar Kiwanis Presentation
- Willmar Lakes Presentation
- 6th Graders Environmental Days at Prairie Woods Environmental Center (275 students)
- North Fork Crow River Education Day at Lake Koronis, May 2018
- Earth Day Event at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC), April 2018
- Arbor Day, May 2018
- Willmar High School
- New London-Spicer High School, Arboretum/Survey Class
- New London-Spicer High School Soil Judging Class
- Power Point presentation to County Commissioners in 2018
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Education Outreach

TAX FORFEITED LAND

- Assisted Kandiyohi County Auditor's Office
- Rural Preserve Program

DNR OBSRVATION WELL PROGRAM

- Monitor 27 wells for groundwater levels
- Monitor 8 wells for nitrate levels

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST

- Randy & Dawne Post, Prinsburg, MN

VOLUNTEER RAIN GAUGE MONITORS

- 7 monitors countywide report monthly

SPECIAL EVENTS/OTHER

- December Legislative Meeting
- Living Snow Fence Task Force
- Local Cost Share funds for farmstead windbreaks and filter fabric
- Local Cost Share funds for Cover Crops
- Local Cost Share fund to design and install rain gardens
- Technical Advisor to Kandiyohi County Planning & Zoning Committee
- State Forestry Committee (Reimer)
- EQIP Technical Committee (Reimer)
- Plant Materials Committee (Peterson)
- NRCS State Technical Committee (Reimer)
- NACD Forestry Committee (Reimer)
- AIS Kandiyohi Committee (Reimer)