

2016 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 third Tuesday of the month, with a starting time of 10:00 a.m. October through April, and 9:00 a.m. May through September, 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, 2016.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

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
Laura Merten, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, lmerten@pheasantsforever.org
Service Program Assistants

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE STAFF (ASSISTING KANDIYOHI SWCD)

Melanie Dickman, District Conservationist
Daniel Jarosz, Soil Conservationist
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
Jeff Nielsen, Regional BD, New Ulm
Tara Ostendorf, BC, St Cloud
Chris Hughes, BC, New Ulm
Lynda Ponting, Wetland Specialist, St Cloud

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

- Site evaluations on 116 RIM sites.
- Grass Lake Prairie Wetland Restoration Project.
- RIM/WRP 2008-2016 completed 45 easements for 2,746 acres.
- 3 RIM Riparian Buffer easements completed 43 acres.
- Rasmus Lake Restoration completed 118 acres.
- 4 RIM Wetland Restoration Projects completed. (10 Restored wetlands for 63 acres)

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

- CRP: 37 new contracts totaling 717.21 acres; 89 re-enrolled contracts for 1093.55 acres; 68% re-enrollment rate; 187.28 acre net loss; 866.46 acres to be seeded to natives
- CCRP field windbreaks (CP5A): 72.31 acres
- CCRP Shelterbelt Establishment, Noneasement (CP16A): 15.55 acres
- CCRP Living Snow Fence (CP17A): 1.89 acres
- CCRP filter strips (CP21): 431.70 acres
- CCRP Riparian Buffer (CP22): 6.47 acres
- CCRP Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer (CP30): 55.18 acres
- CCRP wetland restorations (CP23A): 352 acres,
- CCRP (CP27): 81.39 acres
- CCRP (CP28): 145.81 acres
- CCRP Duck Nesting (CP37): 374.77 acres
- CCRP (CP42): 78.35 acres
- Kandiyohi County currently has CRP contracts which total 32,368.31 acres and annual payments of \$4,407 million

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

- State: 1 windbreak \$380; 4 stream bank stabilization \$19,475; 2 well decommissions \$582.50
- State: 2014 & 2016 Cooperative Weed Management Grant: 5 contracts \$2,278.76
- Local Cost Share Program: 5 filter fabric contracts, \$3,100; 2.8 miles of fabric installed
- Local Windbreak Program: 2 windbreaks \$1,105.43

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

SERVICE PROGRAMS

- Tree sales of 12,160
- Tree plantings at 17 sites
- Filter fabric – 2.8 miles of fabric installed
- Prairie restoration seeding on RIM & CRP – 919 acres seeded on 69 sites

STATE REVOLVING FUND (SRF)

- Received \$110,000 Funds were used for 1 ag waste pit, 1 minimum tillage equipment, 3 septic systems and 1 manure application equipment. Applying for continued funding for 2017. Total since 1995 - \$2,309,211 into county, and rollover funds for last 13 years at \$602,367= \$2,911,586.

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT (WCA)

- 42 sites were reviewed
- 4 Restoration Plans

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

- 8 contracts totaling \$38,813

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

- 34 contracts totaling \$2,206,156

MN WALK-IN ACCESS

- Promoted program to landowners
- Total of 1055 acres to be open for public hunting
- Mapped open hunting areas in reporting system

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

- New London Elementary Environmental Day
- Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center: continue to serve in an advisory capacity
- Soil Stewardship: 3 churches participated
- Ag Show Booth, March 2016
- Kandiyohi County Fair, August 2016
- Presenter for Area Envirothon, April 2016
- 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
- Presentation on Stormwater Control to Willmar City Council
- Grass Lake Presentation to Willmar Storm Water Task Force
- 6th Graders Environmental Days at Prairie Woods Environmental Center (275 students)
- North Fork Crow River Education Day at Lake Koronis, April 2016
- Earth Day Event at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC), April 2016
- Arbor Day, May 2016
- Willmar High School
- New London-Spicer High School, Arboretum/Survey Class
- Power Point presentation to County Commissioners in 2017
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Education Outreach
- Agro-Forestry Training/ U of M, Extension, August 2016

TILLAGE TRANSECT SURVEY

- No survey in 2016

TAX FORFEITED LAND

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

DNR OBSRVATION WELL PROGRAM

- Monitor 24 wells for groundwater levels
- Monitor 27 wells for nitrate levels

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST

- LeRoy & Kathy Ruud, Lake Lillian MN

MASWCD TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- Laura Molenaar, New London- Spicer Schools

VOLUNTEER RAIN GAUGE MONITORS

- 7 monitors countywide report monthly

SPECIAL EVENTS/OTHER

- December Legislative Meeting
- Presentations to Ridgewater College Ag Classes (Cover Crops and Soil Health)
- Living Snow Fence Task Force
- Seed distribution center for local Pheasants Forever (PF) Chapter – free seed for food plots
- 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)
- Conservation Tour for Board of Supervisors, County Commissioners, and Legislators (August 2017)
- NRCS State Technical Committee (Reimer)
- NACD Forestry Committee (Reimer)
- AIS Kandiyohi Committee (Reimer)