

Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District



2010 Annual Report



*Mission: To Promote Conservation of Natural Resources through
Education, Technical Assistance and Stewardship.*

Staff



*Kyle Krier
Administrator*



*Stephanie LaBrune
Administrative Assistant*



*Angie Raatz
Conservationist*

District Supervisors



*Cal Spronk, Anna Mae Fritz, LeRoy
Stensgaard, Ed Loll, Ian Cunningham*

Introduction:

The Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1952 and operates under MN Statute 103C. In 1997 the Conservation District and County Zoning Offices were joined and now operate as the Pipestone County Conservation and Zoning Office. We also are co-located and work jointly with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This Annual Report provides a reflection of 2010's efforts and accomplishments

State Cost-Share Program Funds

In 2010 an Ag Waste system was installed for a producer who utilized 2009 State Cost-Share Funds. Project expenditures were \$17,852 in cost-share assistance and \$2,736 for Technical Assistance.

District Tree Program



Established tree planting

This year there were a total of 9,294 trees sold and 5,438 trees that were planted within the county for county producers. Trees were utilized for field windbreaks, farmstead / feedlot windbreaks, and wildlife habitat planting. Tree fabric was also installed on most plantings.

District Monitoring

Monthly reports from 11 Rain Gauge Observers were submitted to the State Climatologist and 10 DNR monitoring wells water depths were recorded monthly and submitted.

USDA Programs

District staff provided secretarial assistance to the NRCS throughout the year and also assisted the USDA in implementation and producer

signup as well as the development of plans for programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), EQIP, and SAFE Programs.

Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program

Approximately \$317,589 of low interest Ag BMP loans were issued to 10 producers who implemented non-point source reduction projects. Projects included Ag waste, Sediment control basins and no-till equipment purchases. An additional \$269,008 has been delegated to 7 producers who have also signed up for the Ag BMP loan program.

Educational Events



Conservation Farmers of the year 2010

This year the District sponsored the Conservation Farmer of the Year award program. The Schulze Family from Holland, MN was nominated for the award for their continuous conservation efforts.

A contract is maintained with the local Radio station which provides the airing 2 or more 30 second conservation PSA per day.

District staff provided funding and assistance at the annual Environmental Fair. 1000 students from the South West region of Minnesota attended the educational event.

District staff gave an environmental presentation to 120, 4th graders from both

Pipestone & Lincoln Counties at a field day held in Lincoln County.

The District was a sponsor of the area Women's Conservation Field Day in Marshall, MN; 12 women from the County were in attendance.

\$3000 in funding was provided to local schools who utilized the Prairie Ecology Bus.

The district was awarded 2 - \$1,000 grants from the RC&D to be utilized for educational purposes. 1 of the grants will be utilized to fund school transportation costs and the Ecology Bus Program and the other \$1000 grant will be used by the Southwest Area SWCD's Women's day program to cover the costs to have the Ecology bus educate several women landowners within the area on water quality.

Land Water Management Funds

Program dollars were utilized to provide 50% cost-share assistance to seal 9 abandoned wells. A small portion of the money was also used on SSTS & other meeting expenses.

Feedlot Delegation

Pipestone County is delegated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to oversee and manage feedlots. Accomplishments included 80 onsite compliance inspections, 1 interim and 4 construction short form permits issued. Staff also assisted 3 local producers with manure spreader calibrations. 3 producers also implemented feedlot fixes in 2010.

Geographic information systems (GIS)

GIS services were provided to County departments and City of Pipestone. Services provided included loading of software and layers, creation of projects, and training of staff. Staff also create and maintain layers along with created maps as requested.

County Planning & Zoning

Within the County Planning and Zoning Department 66 land use permits were issued and 2 wind tower projects were permitted. There were also 7 variances and 5 conditional use hearings held throughout the year.

Drill Rental Program



Approximately 300 acres of permanent and rotational grasses/hay was planted with the District Brillen drill.

Local Water Management Total Maximum Daily Load's



Rock River TMDL / Commercial Animal Waste Technician Meeting

A Clean Water Legacy grant was received by the Rock County SWCD to clean up impaired waters within the Rock River. The Pipestone SWCD held producer incentive meetings in conjunction with the Rock SWCD to help educate and persuade crop and livestock producers that live within the Rock River Watershed to minimize any pollution that may be going on within the watershed. Approximately 13 people from Pipestone County attended the meetings.

New SWCD Supervisor Elected

This year Leroy Stensgaard who represented the Pipestone SWCD Supervisor District 5 for many years decided to retire from his position as a district supervisor and not to run in the November 2nd election for the position. Newly elected supervisor Joyce LaBrune will be taking Leroy's place in January 2011.

2010 Flood Disaster Funds

Staff assisted the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) with producer sign-ups for flood relief. The district also obtained \$25,000 from the state of Minnesota to use to help producers fix any flood related damages that they may have incurred during the flood in September 2010. So far \$680.00 of the funds has been provided to a landowner to repair a sediment control basin that had been washed out during the flood event.

Clean Water Legacy SSTS Grant Program

The district distributed approximately \$48,000 of Low- Income Clean Water grants to 11 residents within the county that updated their septic system in 2010. The low-income grant program is offered to all of the residents within Pipestone County who have an adjusted gross

income of \$35,000 or less. The program provides these homeowners a chance to obtain up to 50% of the cost of a septic system so that they can update or replace their septic systems so that they are in compliance with the state rules.

Clean Water Legacy Feedlot Cost-Share Program



SW Prairie T.S.A & BWSR staff along with 2 Local Producers on Project site.

In 2010 the Pipestone SWCD was awarded \$44,050 in Clean Water Legacy Feedlot Water Quality funds. The project funds were utilized on an open lot runoff control and manure storage structure. The total project costs were \$491,190.61. The producer was awarded \$30,050 from the Clean Water Funds and also worked with the NRCS' EQIP Program and obtained money through that program as well. The remaining \$14,000 Clean Water Funds were given to the S.W. Prairie T.S.A for their Technical Assistance expertise on the project.

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Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) Program



Subsurface Sewage Treatment System

Site inspections were completed for verification of soil and system installation certification for 39 Septic systems.

Assistance was also provided to 1 sewered community which is currently in the process of repairing their SSTS.

Distributed approximately \$64,000 of county low interest loan dollars for 9 system updates.

Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Program



Photo of material that has been accepted at a monthly recycling collection event.

Monthly Electronic, Appliance, Fluorescent light / ballast, Lead Acid Battery, & Empty pesticide container collections were held from which approximately 200 tons of electronics were collected and recycled. This year 5 household hazardous waste (HHW) collections were also held and staffed from which 8,700 lbs. hazardous material was collected, 7,500 florescent bulbs, and an estimated 800 major household appliances were collected and recycled.