

Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District



2008 Annual Report



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

Introduction

The Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1952 and operates under MN Statue 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 last years efforts and accomplishments.

Staff



*Kyle Krier
Administrator*



*Angie Raatz
Conservationist*



*Stephanie LaBrune
Administrative Assistant*

Supervisors



Cal Spronk, Anna Mae Fritz, Le Roy Stensgaard, Ed Loll, Ian Cunningham

STATE COST-SHARE PROGRAM AND FEEDLOT WATER QUALITY GRANT FUNDS

Projects included the installation of 8 Sediment Control Basins from 5 contracts and 3 Ag Waste practices. Projects expenditures were \$104,083 in cost-share assistance and \$11,840 for Technical Assistance.



DISTRICT TREE PROGRAM

Staff planted 15,000 trees for county producers. Trees were utilized for field windbreaks, farmstead and feedlot windbreaks, and wildlife habitat planting. Tree fabric was also installed on most plantings. A new matting machine was purchased.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

The poster essay program was presented to 5th and 6th grade classes. Presentations were completed to an estimated 300 students.

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

Soil Stewardship material was provided to 18 local churches to utilize during soil stewardship week.

About 250 people attended an all day Electronic Waste Collection that was held in recognition of Earth Day.

District staff provided their assistance at the area Envirothon where an estimated 200 students were present from multiple counties.

District staff provided funding and assistance at the annual Environmental Fair. 200, 6th grade students from Pipestone County were in attendance.

This year the District sponsored the Conservation Farmer of the Year award program.

District staff gave an environmental presentation to 130, 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; 3 women from the County attended.

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

The District presented a booth at the 4 day County Fair.

1000 Halloween litter bags were handed out to students within the community.



*Reg, Pat & Tracy Fey; Conservation
Farmers of the year 2008*



DISTRICT DRILL RENTAL PROGRAM

800 acres of permanent and rotational grasses/hay was planted with the District Brillion drill.

AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES LOAN PROGRAM

Approximately \$176,000.00 of low interest loans were issued to 7 producers who implemented non-point source reduction projects. Projects included Ag wastes, SSTS updates, and no-till equipment purchases.



Feedlot Runoff Control Structure Completed in 2008

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

District staff assisted USDA in implementation and producer sign up and development of plans for programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and SAFE Programs.

FEEDLOT DELEGATION

Pipestone County is delegated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to oversee and manage feedlots. Accomplishments included

120 onsite compliance inspections, 5 interim and 5 construction short form permits issued, and 3 complaints were filed. Local producer manure management training was also held in which approx 40 producers attended. Assisted 4 local producers with manure spreader calibration.

PLANNING & ZONING

Within the County Planning and Zoning Department 135 land use permits were issued. There were 5 variances and 1 Conditional Use Hearing held. A Planning Commission meeting was also held to discuss future modification and updates to current ordinances.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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. Contracts for parcel data maintenance and E911 services were also created with Lyon County GIS Staff. Staff also create and maintain layers along with created maps as requested.



At Grade Subsurface Sewage Treatment System

SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS PROGRAM

Site inspections were completed for verification of soil and system installation certification for 31 Septic systems. An installer training course held with attendance of 10 installers. Assistance was provided to 2 non-sewered communities one of which installed an SSTS and the other who is currently conducting a viability study. Distributed approximately \$100,000 of county low interest loan dollars for 12 system updates.

RECYCLING AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

County purchased property and building to be used as a county recycling / household hazardous waste facility.

Monthly Electronic collections were held from which approximately 35 tons of electronics was collected and recycled. Three household hazardous waste HHW collections were also held and staffed from which 8,400 lbs. hazardous material was collected, 6,635 fluorescent bulbs, and an estimated 200 major household appliances were collected and recycled.



Pipestone Creek

LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD'S

A local Pipestone Creek TMDL Implementation was written with input and participation from the local Pipestone Creek Advisory Committee, and approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The Rock River TMDL study and implementation were also approved. Clean Water Legacy grants were submitted for both watersheds. Program dollars were utilized to provide 50% cost-share assistance to seal 28 abandoned wells, and assist in BMP projects.