

Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District



2009 Annual Report



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

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 last years efforts and accomplishments.

Staff



*Kyle Krier
Administrator*



*Stephanie LaBrune
Administrative Assistant*



*Angie Raatz
Conservationist*

District Supervisors



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

State Cost-Share Program Funds

Projects included the installation of 6 Sediment Control Basins, and 5 Farmstead Windbreaks. Project expenditures were \$8,322.56 in cost-share assistance and \$2,107.22 for Technical Assistance.

District Tree Program



New District Matting Machine

This year, a new matting machine was purchased for the district tree program. There were a total of approximately 12,500 trees 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.

Educational Events

The district staff organized a conservation bus tour that was open for the public to come and see some of the conservation projects that have been put into place within Pipestone County. The tour consisted of stops at 12 different sites and approximately 60 people attended. The District was also present at the Pipestone Spring Home & Garden show this year, approximately 3,000 people were in attendance and had a chance to view the district's booth.

The poster essay program was presented by the SWCD office staff to the county 5th and 6th grade classes. Presentations were completed to an estimated 300 students. This year the students from Pipestone did an excellent job with their posters; First, Second, and Third place prizes were awarded to students from Pipestone County.



Bus Tour Site Visit

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 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. 1717 students from the South West region of Minnesota attended the educational event.



Conservation Farmers of the year 2009

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

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; 6 women from the County attended.

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

The District also utilized the Prairie Ecology Bus' educational services for the 4 day County Fair this year.

Drill Rental Program



Approximately 650 acres of permanent and rotational grasses/hay was planted with the District Brillion drill. The district also donated their time to plant a 3.5 acre field of native grasses around the new Family Services building which is located near the Pipestone National Monument.

USDA Programs

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

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.

Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program

Approximately \$113,170.88 of low interest loans were issued to 6 producers who implemented non-point source reduction projects. Projects included Ag waste, SSTS updates, Sediment control basins and no-till equipment purchases.

Feedlot Delegation

Pipestone County is delegated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to oversee and manage feedlots. Accomplishments included 86 onsite compliance inspections, 3 interim and 2 construction short form permits issued, and 4 complaints were filed. Hosted farm tour in cooperation with the Farm Bureau 65 were in attendance. Co-sponsored an open lot tour with the MDA. Held a Manure Economics workshop with the University of Minnesota. Assisted 4 local producers with manure spreader calibration.

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.

Land Water Management Funds

Program dollars were utilized to provide 50% cost-share assistance to seal 19 abandoned wells. A small portion of the money was also used on SSTS & other meeting expenses.

Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) Program



At Grade Subsurface Sewage Treatment System

Site inspections were completed for verification of soil and system installation certification for 28 Septic systems. An installer training course held with attendance of 13 installers.

Assistance was provided to 1 non-sewered community which is currently in the process of conducting a viability study.

Distributed approximately \$58,000 of county low interest loan dollars for 6 system updates.

Distributed approximately \$10,000 of Low-Income Clean Water grants to 2 residents within the county that updated their septic system in 2009.

Local Water Management

Total Maximum Daily Load's

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.

County Planning & Zoning

Within the County Planning and Zoning Department 63 land use permits were issued. There were 8 variances, 7 conditional uses, and 1 rezoning hearing held.

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 115 tons of electronics was collected and recycled. Four house hold hazardous waste HHW collections were also held

and staffed from which 9,300 lbs. hazardous material was collected, 8,200 florescent bulbs, and an estimated 400+ major household appliances were collected and recycled.