



2008 Annual Plan Freeborn County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)



Water & Sediment Control Basin



Filter Strips

Action Items Being Implemented (from previous plans)



Conservation Education/ Fair Booth



Grass Waterway under construction

Mission Statement:

To serve the residents of Freeborn County by creating an awareness of soil and water resource concerns, by offering practical alternatives to manage these concerns, and by providing technical assistance (as local resources allow) to apply and maintain best management practices (BMPs) that impact water quality while sustaining soil productivity and land-user profits.

FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2008 ANNUAL PLAN

I. Introduction:

The purpose of this Annual Plan is to chart a course of action for the Freeborn County SWCD during calendar year 2008. The primary focus of these actions will be soil & water resource protection and improvement.

We will briefly describe several objectives and relevant action items we plan to concentrate on. The action items will identify specific work efforts aimed at accomplishing our objectives.

A workload analysis will compare projected staff days needed with those available from present staff.

High priority erosion areas will be identified and needed conservation practices will be discussed.

A summary of specific practices applied in 2007 will demonstrate which practices are in demand and give us an indication of potential workload for 2008. We'll close this section with a few comments on cost share policies and priorities.

In conclusion we'll present our proposed budget for 2008. This will include estimated revenues and expenditures.

II. Objectives and Action Items:

Objective #1

Reduce Soil Erosion and resulting Sediment Delivery to Surface Waters or Soil Movement Off-Site by developing and implementing various program contracts benefiting 8,000 acres.

Action Items:

1. Plan, design and implement 50 structural practices on 50 tracts. These will be supported by vegetative component practices where needed.
2. Assist landowners or operators in developing compliance plans or revisions on 25 tracts. These are requested as farming operations change and needed to keep landowners or operators eligible for USDA benefits and programs.
3. Continue promotion of and disseminate information regarding various cost share programs available to landowner/operators. These include State Cost Share; Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP).
4. Create an awareness of and seek applicants for special cost share opportunities. These include Clean Water Legacy Act grants that have been received to encourage accelerated practice implementation in specific watersheds, i.e.: the Cobb River Watershed in Northwest Freeborn County.
5. Spot check and monitor existing cost shared practices during their expected life time to insure continued functionality and effectiveness in erosion control.
6. Communicate with state and federal legislators, county commissioners and local agency officials to keep them aware of our programs, services and funding needs.
 - a. Attend and Participate in Legislative Day at the Capitol.
 - b. Plan and conduct a local "Conservation Practice Tour" for legislators, county commissioners, political candidates and other interested people.

Objective #2

Improve surface water runoff quality, reduce sediment delivery, increase surface water storage capacity and enhance wildlife habitat by enrolling 350 acres in new long-term set aside contracts or easements.

Action Items:

1. Work with our partners, Ducks Unlimited, and NRCS Staff to promote the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP).
2. Cooperate with Turtle Creek, Shell Rock River and Cedar River Watershed Districts to identify areas that would provide significant storage for flood mitigation benefits in our county.
3. Include the above mentioned benefits and program opportunities in our information and education programs.

Objective #3

Protect and/or enhance water quality, our ecosystem and wildlife habitat by partnering with local government agencies and organizations to maintain ongoing and/or existing regulatory programs and statutes aimed at natural resource protection.

Action Items:

1. Assist landowners seeking information about proposed projects that may be impacted by Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) or other wetland rules.
2. Continue to partner with local LGUs (City and County) to implement provisions of the Wetland Conservation Act.
3. Continue SWCD representation on the Technical Evaluation Panels for WCA.
4. Include wetland concerns in our education & information programs.

Objective #4

Maintain existing programs to enhance local wildlife habitat.

Action Items:

1. Continue to provide a quality source of trees & shrubs for tree planting projects.
2. Continue to provide planning assistance and equipment rental to ensure proper tree planting design, variety selection and planting procedures.
3. Partner with other agencies, i.e.: U.S. Fish & Wildlife, MN DNR, Ducks Unlimited and others to prioritize habitat areas and seek enrollment of these areas in some type of management program.
4. Use newsletters and local media to inform residents of various programs available.

III. High Priority Erosion Problems:

Areas needing conservation practices installed:

- The computer map on page 4 shows high priority areas of combined wind and water erosion by 40's.

Practices needed to control high priority erosion problems:

- Waterways, terraces, water and sediment control basins, conservation tillage systems, grade stabilizing structures, and windbreaks.

IV. High Priority Sediment Problems:

Areas needing conservation practice application:

- The computer map shown on page 4 shows areas within 1000 feet of a lake or 300 feet from a stream where erosion exceeds 3 tons per acre per year and where sediment delivery for a watershed outletting to these waters exceeds 2 tons per acre per year.

Practices needed to control high priority sedimentation areas:

- Terraces, water and sediment control basins, waterways, grade stabilizing structures, conservation tillage systems and grass buffer strips.

V. High Priority Feedlots:

Number Existing:

- We have 490 active feedlots, 89 signed open lot agreements, 20 are considered "High Priority".

VI. State Cost-Share Allocation and Implementation Policies:

- Our 2008 state cost-share allocation for project use is \$21,477.00. Freeborn County S.W.C.D.'s policy is to reserve all of its available contract money for high priority erosion problems. The cost-share rate remains at 75% of project cost. Each project is considered individually on its own merits and no maximum dollar limit per landowner exists. If applications exceed funds available, the supervisors prioritize the projects according to cost effectiveness and location, etc.
- Landowners can be paid based on invoices or paid receipts received from contractors. The landowner or operator selects his or her own contractor, and bids are not required. The maximum time frame between SWCD Board of Supervisors approval of the project and the start of construction is 18 months. The entire project must be completed within 24 months.

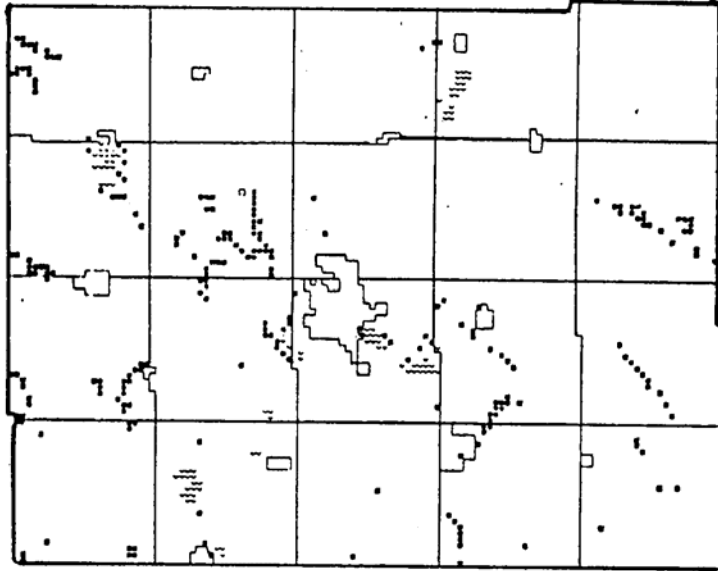
State Cost Share Program (2007 calendar year) Summary (contracts finalized – payments made)

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Water & Sediment Basins & Side Inlet Pipe	11	\$20,333
Grassed Waterway	1 acre	\$1,852
Side Inlet Pipes	2	\$3,720
JPB Technical Contribution	1	\$1,271

Federal EQIP Approved for Fiscal year 2007

Total Dollar Amount **\$320,000.00**

VII. HIGH PRIORITY TOTAL EROSION AREAS IN FREEBORN COUNTY (COMBINED WATER AND WIND EROSION)



High priority areas for combined water and wind erosion are defined as shoreland with a potential soil loss due to water erosion between soil loss tolerance (T) and double the T value. Cultivated land with a potential soil loss due to water and wind erosion greater than double the T value, or non-cultivated land with a potential soil loss due to water erosion greater than double the T value.

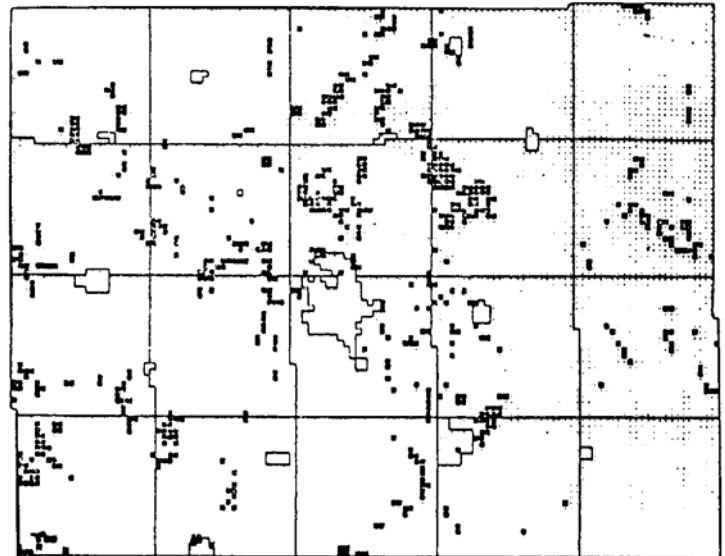
Shoreland is defined as any 40 acre parcel adjacent to a permanent or intermittent stream as shown on USGS Topographic Maps. Soil Tolerance values have been established by SCS, and range between 2 and 5 tons per acre per year.

This computer generated map displays high priority erosion areas in Freeborn County with each 40 acre parcel represented by an individual map symbol. Lines on the map represent boundaries of townships and cities. Potential soil loss estimated by USLE and WEE.

SYMBOL COUNT % ACRES LEGEND

1	10,730	93.8	429,200	Low priority areas - Non shoreland with potential soil loss less than double T value or shoreland with potential soil loss less than T value.
2	6	0.1	240	High priority areas - Shoreland with potential soil loss greater than or equal to T but less than double T value.
3	705	6.2	28,200	High priority areas - Any land with potential soil loss greater than or equal to double T value.

**CRITICAL SEDIMENTATION
FREEBORN COUNTY
(WINDOWED FROM STATE FILE)**



SYMBOL COUNT % ACRES LEGEND

1	232	2.0	9,280	Shoreland with estimated soil loss equal to 3 tons per acre per year.
2	93	0.8	3,720	Water
3	111,116	97.2	444,640	Other

**VIII. Staffing Needs:
Staffing Days Needed, 2008**

Workload Analysis, January 1 - December 31,2008

Staffing Days Currently Available, 2008

Activity	Admin.	Tech.	Clerical	Source	Admin.	Tech.	Clerical
Annual Work Plan Development	5		2	** District Board Members	10		
Annual Report Preparation	5		4	District Manager	80	180	
Annual Budget Preparation	3		1	District Admin. Assist.	30		230
Audit Preparation	2		2	District Technician		260	
Bookkeeping System	1		48	Ducks Unlimited Partnership Tech.	24	236	
Cost-Share Program Admin.	24		14	NRCS District Conservationist	100	160	
SWCD Board Meetings & Prep.	24		14	NRCS Area Engineer		12	
Trees Sales Program	2	60	15	NRCS Area Engineering Tech.		12	
Service EQIP C/S Applications 20 @ 3 days each	10	12	10	NRCS Conservation Tech.		260	
Service State Cost Share Appl. 10 @ 3 days each	5	22	3	NRCS Soil Conservationist	50	60	
Develop Conservation Plans		5	5	TOTAL	294	1180	230
Service Sod/Swampbuster		5	2				
Design Conservation Practices 50 @ 2.0 days		100					
Construction Staking & Survey 50 @ 2.0 days X 2 persons		200					
Construction Checking 50 @ 1 day X 2 persons		100					
Recording & Reporting	12						
Information Program	6	6	20				
Wetland Conservation Act	6	24	6				
RIM & State Cost Share Spot Checks	1	20					
Photography	1	3					
Comprehensive Water Planning	2	6	2				
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP & CCRP)	48	100	24				
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CCRP) Wetland Restoration	24	96	2				
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP and RIM/WRP)	60	250	10				
RC&D Meetings, etc.	2						
Training and Workshops	8	36	5				
DNR OBWELL Readings & Reporting		6	1				
Rain Gauge Reporting			2				
Web Page Development & Maintenance			15				
Newsletter Preparation	3	5	12				
Envirothon			2				
Outstanding Conservation Farmer	2	1					
Annual Leave	20	60	15				
Sick Leave	8	30	5				
Holidays	12	38	9				
TOTAL	296	1185	250	SUMMARY			
				Admin.	Tech.	Clerical	
				STAFFING DAYS NEEDED:	296	1185	250
				STAFFING DAYS AVAILABLE:	294	1180	230
				DIFFERENCE (+ or -)	-2	-5	-20

*260 staff days = 1 work year

** Does NOT include SWCD Board Meetings

IX. Budget Summary, January 1 - December 31, 2008

<u>Fund General</u>		Proposed Budget	<u>Fund General</u>		Proposed Budget
EXPENDITURES:			REVENUES:		
District Operations			Intergovernmental Revenue		
Personal Services			BWSR Project Grant \$ 22,277.00		
Supervisor Compensation	\$	7,500.00	BWSR Service Grant \$ 28,955.00		
Employee Compensation	\$	118,500.00	RIM Service Grant \$ 5,486.00		
Employee Benefits:			County Grant \$ 141,000.00		
PERA	\$	7,700.00	WCA Grant \$ 5,000.00		
FICA	\$	7,347.00	Total Intergovernmental \$ 202,718.00		
Medicare	\$	1,718.00			
Medical Ins.	\$	19,000.00			
Health Sav. Acct.	\$	3,000.00			
Dental Ins.	\$	1,100.00			
Payroll Exp.	\$	150.00			
Total Personal Services	\$	166,015.00			
Other Services & Charges			Charges for Services		
Supervisor Expense	\$	2,700.00	Tree Sales \$ 20,500.00		
Employee Expense	\$	100.00	Tree Planter Rental \$ 500.00		
Employee Education & Train	\$	2,000.00	Tree Mats, Fert. Pkts., Flags \$ 500.00		
Office Maintenance	\$	100.00	Well Readings \$ 390.00		
Fees & Dues	\$	4,800.00	Newsletter Ads \$ 800.00		
Office Rent	\$	7,000.00	Contribution Agreement w/NRCS \$ 6,000.00		
Shed Rent	\$	540.00	T & A for Other Projects \$ 2,000.00		
Office Supplies	\$	400.00	Total Charges for Services \$ 30,690.00		
Computer Supplies	\$	200.00			
Postage	\$	300.00	Misc. Revenue Other \$ 300.00		
Field Supplies	\$	403.00	Interest Earnings \$ 3,000.00		
Vehicle Expense	\$	2,500.00	Total Misc. Revenues \$ 3,300.00		
Insurance (MCIT)	\$	3,000.00	Transfer of funds from reserves to balance budget \$ 6,745.00		
Equipment Purchases	\$	1,000.00			
RIM Reimb. (recordings)	\$	100.00			
Promotion & Education	\$	1,500.00			
Audit Expense (pro-rated)	\$	800.00			
Misc. Services & Charges	\$	100.00			
Total Other Services & Charges	\$	27,543.00	TOTAL REVENUES \$ 243,453.00		
Project Expense, District			BUDGET SUMMARY		
Trees	\$	15,000.00	District Operations \$ 193,558.00		
Newsletter	\$	1,500.00	Project Expense - District \$ 16,600.00		
Misc. Project Expense	\$	100.00	Project Expense - State \$ 21,477.00		
Total Project Expense, District	\$	16,600.00	Clean Water Legacy Grant (JPB Tech.) \$ 11,818.00		
Total Project Expense, State	\$	21,477.00	Total Expenditures \$ 243,453.00		
Clean Water Legacy Grant (JPB Tech. Support)	\$	11,818.00	Intergovernmental Revenue \$ 202,718.00		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	243,453.00	Charges for Services \$ 30,690.00		
			Micellaneous Revenues \$ 3,300.00		
			Transfer from reserves \$ 6,745.00		
			TOTAL REVENUES \$ 243,453.00		