

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE FREEBORN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND PARTNERS 2015.



**Freeborn Soil & Water
Conservation District**

1400 West Main Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007-1816
Phone: 507-373-5607 Ext. 3
www.freebornswcd.org



Concentrated flow of water can cause substantial erosion



Concentrated flow erosion has been stabilized with a grassed waterway



Sharing information about conservation best management practices with local producers



Retirement of marginal cropland creates multiple benefits, including nice scenery with Purple Lupine

SWCD Supervisors:

Don Kropp
Chairman

Chris Dahl
Vice-Chair

Dave Ausen
Treasurer

Paul Heers, Jr.
Board Secretary

Colin Wittmer
Supervisor

SWCD Staff:

Mark Schaezke
Manager/Technician

Brenda Lageson
Office/Assistant Mgr.

Senja Melin
District Technician



**United States
Department of
Agriculture
Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

NRCS Staff:

Gary Kurer
District Conservationist

Bryar Johnson
Soil Con. Technician

Chad Billat
DU Wetland Restoration
Consultant

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Dollars paid to landowners in 2015. \$ 1,457,611
Annual rental payments and implementation funds
(1,090 active contracts totaling over 9,571 acres)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Dollars paid to landowners in 2015. \$ 117,356
12 new contracts for Preventive Plant (emergency),
Cover Crop Initiative, General Contracts and Implementation funds

Wetland Reserve Program and Reinvest in MN

Dollars paid to landowners in 2015. \$ 709,593
6 Easements closed and cost share payments

State Cost Share Program

Cost-share practice payments to landowners. \$ 12,749
3 Water & Sediment Control Basins, 1 Windbreak

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA)

2 Rock Chute-Grade Stabilization Structures. \$ 19,561

SWCD Tree Program.

9,250 conservation trees sold \$ 8,650

Total Economic Impact. \$ 2,325,520

Our 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.