



Introduction

The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District is a legal Subdivision of State Government organized under provisions of Minnesota Statute 103C. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors composed of five members nominated by the voters of the County, and who are responsible for directing all District activities. The board meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the Month.

Mission Statement

“To assist the landowners of Nicollet County in efficiently and effectively using the natural resources in order to increase the productive use of the cropland, pastureland, woodland, wildlifeland, urbanland, and recreationland, while maintaining and improving the soils base, water quality, tree production, wildlife, and the quality of life in the county.”

We submit to you this annual report for 2013.

2013 Annual Report

Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District

(507)-931-2550

www.nicolletswcd.org

District Supervisors

John H. Kral
Kim Olson
Eldon H. Brown
Bruce Hulke
Robby Gieseke

Area of Representation

Lafayette, West Newton, Ridgely Twp.
Lake Prairie, Traverse Twp. & City of St. Peter
Belgrade, Nicollet, Oshawa Twp.
Courtland, Granby Twp.
Bernadotte, Brighton, New Sweden Twp.

District Employees

Kevin Ostermann, District Manager
Kevin.Ostermann@nicolletswcd.org

Blake Honetschlager, District Technician
Blake.Honetschlager@nicolletswcd.org

Karen Galles, Seven Mile Creek Coordinator
Karen.Galles@nicolletswcd.org

Cooperating Agencies

Board of Water & Soil Resources

Adam Beilke, Board Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jamie Rindels, District Conservationist
Joel Wurscher, Soil Conservation Technician

Nicollet County Farm Services Agency

Cassie Buck, County Executive Director

Nicollet County Environmental Services

Mandy Landkamer, Department Head

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Joe Stangel, Area Wildlife Manager

Great River Greening

Wayne Ostlie, Director of Conservation Programs

Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District
2013 Accomplishments

Tree Program

The Nicollet SWCD offered for sale different tree and shrubs species native to Minnesota. Producers purchased the trees to plant into windbreaks, urban and rural conservation, and wildlife food and habitat. Through the annual tree program the Nicollet SWCD is able to promote conservation practices and the value of forestry resources in preventing soil loss and improving water quality. The District sold over 11,000 trees, in 2013, and assisted 12 landowners with tree planting.

Cost-Share Programs

In 2012 the District emphasized the application of soil conservation practices such as: grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, terraces, erosion control structures, animal waste control systems, and farmstead windbreaks. These practices have controlled erosion and reduced sedimentation while improving water quality. During the past year the District assisted landowners with plans and designs for different conservation practices. These Districts received funds from the State Cost Share Program and Rush River Project to complete the following practices:

- Applied to the 2013 clean water funds for \$683,950 7-mile creek watershed riparian protection and enhancement.
- Received \$269,975 MPCA 319 Grant.
- Partnered with Great River Greening to hire a Watershed Technician to work on 319 Grant for Seven Mile Creek.
- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)/Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) Easements totaling 105.8 acres are enrolled and accepted totaling \$649,612.
- 36 Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) easements inspected in 2012
- Completed a \$21,000 wetland restoration project in Lake Prairie Township.
- Completed a \$62,000 water control structure in Belgrade Township.
- Completed a \$8,000 water and sediment control basin in Oshawa Township.
- Completed a \$30,000 rip rap project for Ridgely Township.
- 6.0 Acres of farmstead windbreaks installed using State Cost Share Dollars.
- 10,000 Trees and shrubs distributed to Nicollet County Residents.
- 35 County Ditch requests for wetland impacts have been reviewed.
- 25 MN Wetland Conservation Act Contractor Responsibility and Landowner Statements have been review for wetland impacts.

- Received \$28,000 from Fishers & Farmers for conservation practices installed in the Seven Mile Creek Riparian Area.

Environmental Education

Environmental education is an important part of our SWCD office. Classes and educational materials are offered to schools and churches across Nicollet County. 2013 activities included:

- Presented at 2 Career Day events for local High School Students.
- Staff attended fall training for conservation at Brainerd, MN.
- 2 Conservation newsletters published.
- Website updated monthly: www.nicolletswcd.org
- Staff attended Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting held in December at the DoubleTree Hotel Bloomington.

Wetland Conservation Act Program

The Nicollet SWCD assists cities, townships, citizens, and County departments in the administration of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act. District staff provides technical and administrative assistance for wetland related activities throughout Nicollet County. Common activities involved with the program include tile and drainage applications as well as wetland banking. The District has continued its commitment to ensure that staff is adequately trained and updated on current wetland rules and policy. In 2013, District Staff worked on 201 landowner drainage requests.