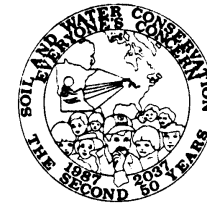


Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District
501 7th Street, PO Box 457
Nicollet, MN 56074
507-232-2550

PRSR STD
US Postage Paid
Permit # 9
St. Peter, MN 56082



Nicollet SWCD News

January

2025

THANK YOU BRUCE!

The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District

501 7th Street
PO Box 457
Nicollet, MN 56074
Phone: (507) 232-2550

District Board

Don Hermanson
John Kral
Tim Braun
Eric Annexstad
John Luepke

District Employees

Kevin Ostermann
District Manager
Blake Honetschlager
District Technician
Mackenzie Bratsch
District Technician
Judy Beetch
Administrative Assistant

Bruce Hulke retired from the Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District Board after serving for 29 years. Bruce represented District 3, which consists of Courtland and Granby Townships. He served on the South Central TSA Board, Personnel Committee, and numerous other committees throughout the years. Bruce was on the SWCD Board from 1996–2024.

Bruce is pictured with District Manager, Kevin Ostermann. We wish Bruce well in his retirement and thank him for the many years served.



Now Taking Tree Orders for Spring Planting



The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District Tree Program was developed to provide landowners with an affordable and convenient way to purchase trees and shrubs for conservation practices. Practices may include: windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences and wildlife habitat.

The tree program is on a first come, first serve basis. If you place an order, you will be notified by postcard when the trees can be picked up. Approximate delivery time is the end of April. Trees can be picked up at the Nicollet SWCD in Nicollet. The tree order form is on the inside back page and can also be found on our website: www.Nicolletswcd.org. Give us a call with any questions or to request that an order form be mailed to you.

Exciting Opportunity to Boost Soil Health and Farm Profit—Farmers for Soil Health



I'm excited to share a practice incentive opportunity with you – one that not only benefits the environment but also your bottom line. Our **Farmers for Soil Health** program is tailored to assist farmers like you in adopting cover crops for your operation. Cover crops can significantly improve soil health, reduce erosion, and enhance the overall sustainability of your farming practices. Best of all, this program can be stacked with other state or local funding!

The Farmers for Soil Health collaboration, with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation serving as the designated administrative lead, was selected by USDA to receive a \$95 million Climate Smart Commodities award, with the goal of reaching 30 million acres of cover crops by 2030. This three-year initiative is also supported by the National Corn Growers Association, the United Soybean Board, and the National Pork Board.

To learn more about the financial and technical assistance offered by our program, Contact Dan Coffman, MN Soil Health Specialist at 507-508-6556 or please visit our website: [Farmers for Soil Health](http://FarmersforSoilHealth.org).



Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:00pm

Natural Resource
Conservation Service
Phone: (507) 237-5435 ext. 3

Christopher Engh
District Conservationist
Jacob Stich
CST Lead

SOIL HEALTH Panel Discussion EVENT

DATE: Thursday, February 6th, 2025

TIME: 2:00pm - 3:30pm

LOCATION: Sibley County Service Center
111 8th St
Gaylord, MN 55334

Have questions about soil health? Come learn about three different operations working towards better soil health. Bring your questions for an informative open panel discussion!



This newsletter is published by the Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District, 501 7th St., Nicollet, MN 56074 and USDA NRCS, 112 5th St, Gaylord, MN 55334. For more information regarding this newsletter, contact (507) 232-2550. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Agenda posted on the website one week prior.



Online version available @ www.nicolletswcd.org
Email info@nicolletswcd.org for updates
"Like us" on the Nicollet Soil & Water Facebook page!

507-702-7077

tara.obrien@sibleyswcd.org



Lower Minnesota River West
HICWD McLeod Nicollet Sibley



LOWER MN RIVER WEST WATERSHED SEES SUCCESS



By: Tara O'Brien, Conservation Technician

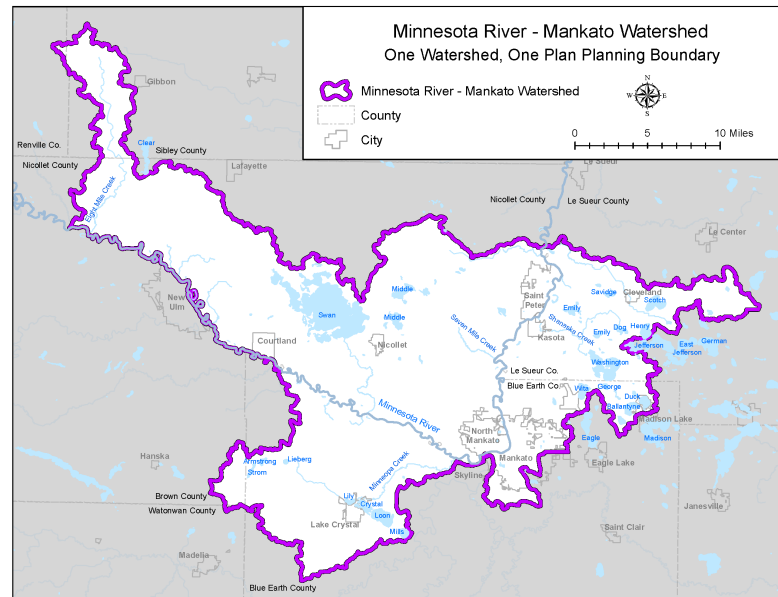
Thanks to Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF), the Lower Minnesota River West Watershed (LMRW) has seen tremendous success. Numerous conservation practices were implemented throughout the watershed to help improve soil health and water quality. The Lower Minnesota River West Watershed covers parts of Nicollet, McLeod, Sibley, and Renville counties. The watershed implemented 23 projects, 5 of which were located in Nicollet County. These practices consisted of water and sediment control basins, cover crops, and no-till/strip-till. In the two-year grant period, the watershed has contracted towards 4,707.56 acres of cover crops, 1,809.2 acres of no-till/strip-till, 2 grade stabilization structures, 11 water and sediment control basins (WASCOBs), and 1 terrace.



WBIF funding covers many practices, including structural practices and incentives for non-structural practices. Structural practices will be cost-shared at an unprecedented 90% and incentives for non-structural practices vary depending on the chosen practice. The implementation of these projects is successful because of the cooperation with landowners who support and promote the sustainability of the land and waters we all rely on. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District about opportunities for you.



Minnesota River — Mankato One Watershed, One Plan



The Minnesota River – Mankato Watershed One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) planning process has begun. This watershed has representatives from Blue Earth County, Blue Earth Soil and Water Conservation District, Le Sueur County, Le Sueur Soil and Water Conservation District, Nicollet County, Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District and the cities of: Lake Crystal, Mankato, North Mankato, and St Peter. This summer, the 1W1P representatives hosted 2 public kickoff meetings to include the community within the planning process, educate community members on the purpose of a watershed plan and provide opportunities to offer feedback about what issues and resources are most important to them. After reviewing data from the

public kickoff meeting, agency reports, and feedback from local experts, we identified some priority issues that we will focus on addressing throughout the planning and implementation process. Please stay tuned for future funding opportunities within our watershed & reach out to Nicollet SWCD with any questions. To stay informed on our county's 1W1Ps, please refer to the links on our website.

2025 Tree Order Form				Order Number (office use)
Mail Order NICOLLET SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT				Name:
To: 501 7th St., PO Box 457, Nicollet MN 56074				Address:
PHONE: (507) 232-2550				Email:
QUALITY NURSING STOCK				Phone:
CONIFER POTTED				Important Notice Trees are distributed in April. We will notify you of your pickup day. The cost of trees does not warrant free replacement and the district offers no guarantee of survival.
Species	Size	# of Trees	Cost	
1 Quart Red Pine	5-10"	_____	x \$5.50/Tree = _____	
1 Quart White Pine	5-8"	_____	x \$5.50/Tree = _____	
1 Quart Colorado Spruce	8-16"	_____	x \$5.50/Tree = _____	
1 Quart Blackhills Spruce	8-12"	_____	x \$5.50/Tree = _____	
1 Quart Pine Ponderosa	6-10"	_____	x \$5.50/Tree = _____	
1 Quart American Arborvitae	6-12"	_____	x \$5.50/Tree = _____	
2 Gal. American Arborvitae	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Tree = _____	
2 Gal. Blackhills Spruce	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Tree = _____	
2 Gal. Colorado Spruce	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Tree = _____	
2 Gal. White Pine	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Tree = _____	
BARE ROOT DECIDUOUS 1 Bundle = 10 Trees				Payment due in full on day of order. No refunds on cancelled orders after February 28th, 2025.
Sugar Maple	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
Red Maple	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
Swamp White Oak	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
NEW 1 Bundle = 5 Trees				Availability and size are subject to change.
Autumn Blaze Maple	3-4'	_____	x \$160.00/Bundle = _____	
SMALL TREES 1 Bundle = 10 Trees				Please check the online order form or call the district office if you have questions. 507-232-2550
Elderberry	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
Crab, Red Splendor	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
Nanking Cherry	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
American Plum	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
SHRUBS 1 Bundle = 10 Trees				Pick up location will be at the Nicollet SWCD 501 7th Street Nicollet, MN
American Hazelnut	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
Common Lilac	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
Dogwood Redosier	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
Flame Willow	18-24"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
Cranberrybush	12-18"	_____	x \$18.00/Bundle = _____	
FABRIC TREE SQUARES & ROLLS Price includes 6"x1"x6" Staples				# of Mats or Rolls
Pre-Cut Tree Squares	3' x 3'	_____	x \$2.00/Square = _____	
Fabric Roll Mat (whole roll)	300 Feet	_____	x \$130.00/Roll = _____	
SUBTOTAL			_____	Make Checks Payable to Nicollet SWCD
SALES TAX (7.375%)			_____	
TOTAL DUE			_____	
Please Round Sales Tax Correctly				