

Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District



235 Cedardale Dr SE
Owatonna, MN 55060-4417
PHONE: (507) 451-6730 x3
FAX: (507) 444-2421

www.steeleswcd.org

SWCD Board Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of Month at 7 p.m.

Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Soil Erosion (wind and water).
2. Sediment entering surface waters.
3. Surface and groundwater degradation.
4. Pollution from feedlots and non conforming septic systems.
5. Loss of prime farmland.

2008 Revenue

Charges for Services	\$ 49,857
Easement Maintenance Prog.	\$ 9,573
County Allocations	\$ 119,715
Feedlot Funding	\$ 5,821
WCA Technical Services (2 yrs.)	\$ 17,677
State Funds (incl. c/s)	\$ 45,526
Federal TSP Funding	\$ 6,675
Misc. Rev.	\$ 36,076
Interest	\$ 5,429
Total	\$ 296,349



(Pictured left to right: Noel Frank, NRCS DC; Supervisors – Kyle Wolfe, Mark Ihlenfeld, Dan Hansen, Dave Melby, Jim Klecker; Steele County Commissioner Bruce Kubicek; and Dan Arndt, Steele SWCD Manager.)

On-Going Project

The Straight River Marsh wetland restoration project began in 1996 through the combined efforts of the District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the Fish and Wildlife Foundation. To date, 1600 acres have been restored to wetland and associated upland native prairie. Project benefits include: improved fish and wildlife habitat, reduced flooding, water retention, erosion control, and water quality improvement.



EASEMENT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Non-native species invading non-cropland areas are becoming a serious problem in Steele County. Invasive species such as European Buckthorn, Wild Parsnip, Wild Carrot are encroaching conservation lands, native prairie, and woodland. In 2008, the District initiated a Conservation Easement Maintenance program to help address the problem. District staff has already assisted landowners by spot spraying invasive species on several hundred acres.

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FUTURE PROJECTS

Steele County SWCD and NRCS staff has recently assisted a landowner with signing up an 800 acre RIM/WRP easement. Although still in the planning stages, we are looking forward to implementing this project and achieving significant resource benefits.



STEELE COUNTY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDING

Oct. 1, 2008 to Sept. 30, 2009 (fiscal year)

<u>Program</u>	<u># of Participants</u>	<u>\$ Paid out</u>
CRP	930	\$1,262,175
EQIP (paid out)	28	\$ 189,555
WRP	21	\$ 296,710
State Cost-share	<u>4</u>	<u>\$ 7,598</u>
Totals	983	\$1,756,038

The Steele County SWCD and the Steele County NRCS continues to operate as Partners to implement the financial assistance programs as well as technical assistance. When most producers and landowners ask the office for assistance, they look at our office as one unit and do not make distinction between the two entities. This system was set up to bring federal assistance (both financial and technical) to farmers with the local input through the SWCD. This unique system is one that works and works well now for 64 years in Steele County. We hope that this relationship continues to flourish. In this office, we feel it is important to remember that people looking for help and ideas get that service whether we are SWCD or NRCS. In these fast and complex times we try, as a team, to keep our service as simple as possible for the clientele. The goals of both SWCD and NRCS are the same and we will continue to strive for those goals as simply as we can.

OUR VISION:

“We did not inherit this land from our ancestors – we borrow it from our children!”

2009 Board Members

Mark Ihlenfeld	Chair	(507) 451-5864
Dan Hansen	Secretary	(507) 451-1191
James Klecker	Vice Chair	(507) 451-0129
Dave Melby	Reporter	(507) 451-4904
Kyle Wolfe	Treasurer	(507) 451-6139

6148 NW 50th St, Owatonna, MN 55060-9307
 711 SW 75th St, Ellendale, MN 56026
 3071 SE 108th St, Owatonna, MN 55060
 4825 SE 38th St, Owatonna, MN 55060
 2980 Northridge Lane NE, Owatonna, MN 55060

CONSERVATION DOESN'T COST - IT PAYS