



Quarterly News & Updates

February 2023 | Issue 11

Greetings Friends and Neighbors!

The Isanti SWCD is publishing this Quarterly e-Newsletter to:

- Help keep you informed of what is happening locally that affects the health of natural resources in Isanti County;
- Increase your understanding of what the SWCD does and how you can get involved in conservation; and
- Keep you informed on how Clean Water Fund tax amendment dollars are being spent locally.

If you have any questions, please give us a call!

If you are not interested in receiving future publications simply click unsubscribe at the bottom of this email. Alternatively, if you want to share this with a friend please do- they can subscribe by visiting our website at: www.isantiswcd.org

Follow us on Facebook for more updates!



More Funding for Projects through the Rum River Watershed



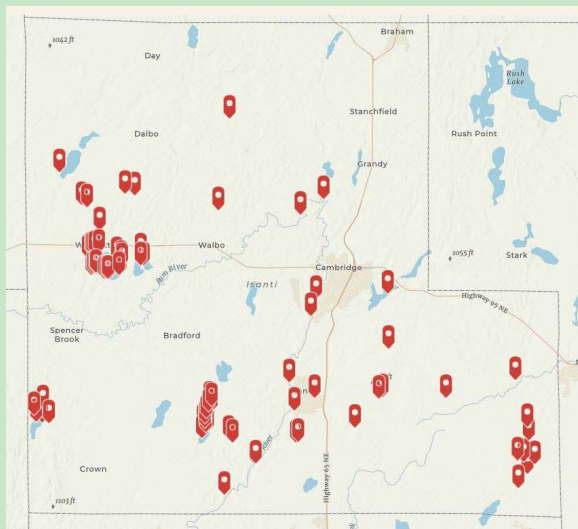
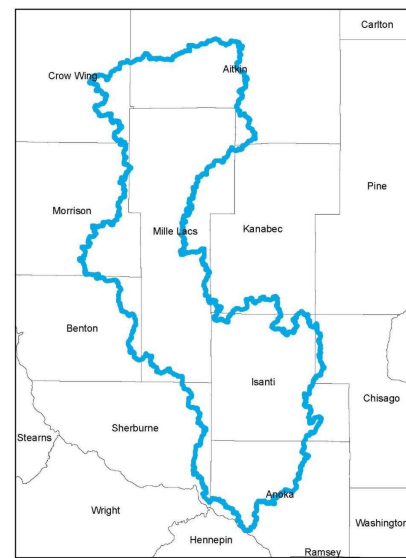
In 2022, the Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and adopted by the Isanti SWCD and 12 other partners. Since then, the partners have met regularly to form a work plan determining the project types they will target in the first two years. These projects, located in priority areas identified in the plan, will be paid for using State Clean Water Land and Legacy funds dedicated to the watershed. Project priorities focus on protecting and restoring surface water as well as education and outreach.

So what does this mean for Isanti County? More projects

and more project funding! Isanti County contains many priority waterbodies in the Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Plan, so there are many opportunities for projects throughout the county- especially since about 80% of the county lies in the Rum River Watershed. In this first round of funding, we plan to complete a wetland restoration in the Green Lake Watershed, update our Subwatershed Assessment for Skogman Lake (so we can identify good project locations for the future), complete shoreline restorations on Skogman and Blue Lake, and provide funding for agricultural non-structural projects, and more! These projects will ensure better water quality in both Isanti County and watershed-wide.

We will keep you updated on everything we accomplish in both the county and throughout the watershed. So keep an eye out, as projects can begin this spring!

Rum River 1W1P Boundaries



Check Out Our Updated Project Map

We updated our project map to include all the wonderful things we accomplished in 2022! Each point on the map represents a project the Isanti SWCD has completed since 2013.

Better yet- the map is interactive. [Click the link](#) to access the Story Map, and click on a point to see exactly what we have done in your area!

Protect Your Land for Generations Through a Conservation Easement



Your land is more than just a place to you —it’s where your kids ran wild, a quiet retreat in your busy life, and a family legacy. The Minnesota Land Trust can help you pass on those memories to the next generation by ensuring the land that made it all possible will be here for them – forever. As a landowner, you can be compensated for permanently protecting your property. The Minnesota Land Trust is currently accepting applications to protect high-quality wildlife, water quality, green space, and recreational opportunities through conservation easements.



A conservation easement safeguards the natural features of a property through voluntary, legally binding, and permanent, land use restrictions. Lands protected by a conservation easement remain in the landowner’s private ownership. Low-impact recreational uses, such as camping and hunting, are still permitted, and public access is not required. Easements guarantee permanent protection because they stay with the land when ownership changes, ensuring permanent preservation for generations to come.

Why apply?

- Protect Minnesota’s important wildlife habitat, water quality, and beautiful open spaces.

- Preserve your family’s legacy on the land.
- Join a community of more than 700 dedicated landowners who steward over 74,000 acres of important Minnesota places.
- Receive tax incentives or other compensation for a permanent conservation easement on your property.
- Receive a free habitat management plan, with the potential for financial and technical land management assistance.

Properties will be chosen from submitted applications. Their selection will be based on property size, habitat quality, landscape context, and the landowner’s desired price per acre. Applications are due April 1, 2023. Apply early as funds are limited.

To learn more or apply, please contact Lydia Fermanich with the Minnesota Land Trust at: (651) 240-7889 or lfermanich@mnland.org.

If you have land along the Rum River or within specific areas of the Rum River or Lower St. Croix drainage areas there are several other state conservation easement programs available. Contact us for more information.

Second Graders Learn about Soil Health and Test their Artistic Abilities



In February, our Outreach Coordinator went into public schools in Isanti County to teach second-graders about soil health. We showed them our “Soil Your Undies Display,” which got a fun reaction! “Soiling Your Undies” is a fun and easy experiment anyone can do to see how healthy their soil is by seeing how active the microbial life is. Simply bury a new pair of 100% cotton underwear for 60 days, and dig it up to see how deteriorated it is. The more stringy and torn-up the underwear looks, the more active the microbial life, and the healthier the soil!

After introducing the display and inspiring the kids to conduct their own experiments, students were given “iSpy Jars” as a learning activity. The iSpy jars were filled with sand and had small items hidden in them, representing things we could find in the soil. Students got to act as soil scientists and, depending on the items they found hidden in their jars, determine if they had healthy or unhealthy soil. The students were very good at figuring out what type of soil they had. Many of them will likely become scientists one day!

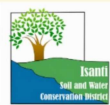


The soil health lesson culminated in a poster contest. Students could draw a poster to advertise soil health and submit it to the Isanti SWCD for a chance to win a prize from GTI Theaters and the Cambridge Dairy Queen. We encouraged creativity but hope there aren’t too many pictures of buried underwear! Ten winners will be selected and announced on our website and Facebook page—so follow to see the winning drawings.

Attend Our Agriculture Lunch and Learn

**JOIN US FOR
THE
AGRICULTURE
LUNCH AND
LEARN**

**MARCH 14TH
9:00AM –
12:00PM
AT ARMED FORCES
RESERVE &
COMMUNITY
CENTER**



505 Spirit River
Drive S
Cambridge, MN
55008



Over lunch, you will learn about opportunities to enhance your good farming practices such as:

- Cover Crops
- Soil Health Practices
- Funding programs: local, state, and federal technical and financial assistance opportunities.

Visit www.isantiswcd.org for more information.
RSVP by March 10th.

763-689-3271 | Lgodfrey@isantiSWCD.org

WHEN: March 14th 9am - 12 pm

WHERE: Armed Forces Reserve & Community Center (505 Spirit River Drive S Cambridge, MN)

Join the Isanti SWCD over lunch to learn how to enhance your good farming practices! You will hear talks from MAWQCP, NRCS, Isanti SWCD, T.J. Kartes with Saddle Butte Ag, and more. They will cover topics like:

- Cover crops (What seed mix should I choose? How can I be successful? Get answers to all these questions and more!)
- Soil health practices
- Funding programs: local, state, and federal technical and financial assistance opportunities.

You also will get to network with other farmers and ask questions one-on-one!

RSVP by March 10th by calling 763-689-3271 or emailing Lydia Godfrey at Lgodfrey@isantiSWCD.org

SWCD Aid: Ask our legislators to support this important funding!

Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District provides conservation information, support, and program management for landowners and other local government units. We are the technical experts and “boots on the ground” who understand our community’s needs and help landowners navigate conservation programs from start to finish.

SWCDs are funded partially by the state legislature through the Board of Water and Soil Resources. If Minnesota wants to continue to help landowners interested in voluntary conservation projects, it must find an adequate and permanent funding solution for SWCDs. Our state legislators will consider a proposed solution – SWCD Aid – which would be a standing, statutory appropriation to SWCDs from the Department of Revenue.



Increased funding in the past has allowed us to hire additional staff and implement more projects in Isanti County. SWCD Aid would provide us with reliable funding so we can put even more projects in the ground! Since 2013 we have accomplished a lot, including planting 940 acres of cover crops, stabilizing 1,365ft of riverbanks, and providing education to 388 people through our events in 2022 alone! SWCD Aid would allow us to accomplish even more, including restoring Green Lake, protecting Blue Lake, and increasing soil health practices.

If you'd like to get involved to make sure that Isanti SWCD and SWCDs across the state have adequate and permanent funding, you can contact our State Representatives and Senators. Ask them to support SWCD Aid so that we can continue to work together to protect and enhance our state's natural resources.



Don't Miss Our Tree Sale!

Place your order for trees now! We still have many available, but some varieties have already sold out. Order now to get your desired trees before they're gone! Ordering online (through our website) is the best way to ensure you get the trees you want.

Pick-up will be on May 6th. Just in time for Mother's Day!

Reflecting on Jerry Schaubach's time as a Supervisor



Jerry Schaubach retired from our Board of Supervisors. He represented District 2, which included Bradford, Athens, and Oxford Townships. Jerry served four years on our board and provided valuable lake expertise through his many years volunteering and serving on the board for Long Lake. We actually first met Jerry through our Community Partners Program on Long Lake. He was one of the crucial residents that helped accomplish the program! Due to its success on Long Lake, we have since used the Community Partners Program elsewhere in the county. The success of the Community Partners Program would not be possible without the dedication of Jerry and the many passionate residents we are lucky to have in Isanti County!

We are grateful for Jerry's service to the SWCD and will miss his insight and fun attitude! Watch [Jerry's retirement video](#) to reflect on his time serving as a Supervisor.

New Cost-Share Grant for Soil Health

The Isanti SWCD recently received a Soil Health Grant to fund and promote projects that will improve soil health in Isanti County! The grant will allow us to cost-share non-structural agriculture best management practices such as cover crops, prescribed grazing, nutrient management, and tillage management. These projects will provide soil health and water quality benefits. If you have been considering a new practice, now is a great time to try it!

We also plan to use the funding to provide outreach to farmers, and offer two events in 2023— an Agriculture Lunch and Learn (planned for March 14th!) and a Soil Health Field Day.



Meet our New Supervisor - Tom Anderson

Why did you become a supervisor?

Nothing in life inspires me as much as the natural world. Healthy natural systems make it possible for me and you to survive. Consequently, I want to do what I can to maintain that natural biological integrity.

How many years have you been a supervisor?

I am in my first year as a supervisor and am impressed and excited about the Isanti SWCD mission, goals, and staff.

What are your interests and hobbies?

My interests and hobbies mostly harbor around the outdoors. I enjoy canoe trips and backpacking, particularly in remote areas. I also enjoy cycling, cross-country skiing, hunting, writing, and reading.

What does your family look like?

My lovely wife is a talented life coach and a very talented violinist/fiddler who has enough instruments to outfit our family. My oldest daughter, Britta, and her husband, Blake live in El Currito, CA. They are expecting a child later this coming summer! My other daughter, Maren lives with her husband Ben, and our grandchildren Eleanor and Thomas, in Tacoma, Washington. While far apart by miles, when we get together we play hard and thoroughly enjoy our time together.

What is a recent favorite book you read?

I am currently reading a very interesting book called *Water Always Wins* by Erica Gies. With a rapidly changing climate, the author introduces the readers to the Slow Water movement. With the frequency of flooding events and drought periods, the author reminds that water's true nature is to flex. By NOT channeling, ditching, or impounding, we can let the natural world absorb floods and recharge aquifers as part of the free services that the natural world provides us.



Tom represents District 2 which includes Bradford, Athens, and Oxford Townships.

Contact Details

Call Us

763-689-3271

Office

110 Buchanan Street North Cambridge, MN 55008

Email Us

[Send Email](#)

Website: www.isantiswcd.org



Visit our website

Isanti SWCD | 110 Buchanan St. N, Cambridge, MN 55008

[Unsubscribe mremer@isantiswcd.org](mailto:mremer@isantiswcd.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by lgodfrey@isantiswcd.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!