

Isanti Conservation District

2009 Annual Plan

I. Introduction

The Isanti Conservation District was organized by landowners to provide technical assistance and local guidance for the conservation of natural resources. The District provides technical expertise in controlling erosion, proper land use, improving water quality, wetlands management, and related resources.

The annual plan, based on the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan, was developed to give the Board of Supervisors and staff direction in carrying out their programs while addressing the resource concerns of the Isanti Conservation District.

The purpose of this annual plan is to identify opportunities for conservation and development of natural resources in the Isanti Conservation District. It will serve as a guide for planning and implementation of work by the District, its cooperators, units of government and associated agencies.

The Districts goal to remain an active voice in natural resource management and to provide for the county and its landowners the resources necessary to resolve crucial environmental and land management issues.

This plan reflects the changing role of the District in the community. The District once assisted primarily the agricultural sector, now services are provided to a wide range of clientele, ranging from individuals managing wildlife areas to municipalities with erosion problems. The staff and Board of Isanti Conservation District recognize their growing responsibility in managing our natural resources; we also recognize the unique role and services provided by the District in the community. It is our goal to improve these services.

Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Plan of Work

Fiscal Year - 2009

(January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009)

I. RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR ACCOMPLISHING THE PRIORITY CONSERVATION MEASURES IN THE DISTRICT.

A. District Resources.

1. Personnel.

- a. 5 Elected Supervisors
- b. Resource Conservationist - full time.
- c. Administrative Assistant – full time
- d. Field Assistant - seasonal, part time.
- e. Office Assistant - seasonal, part time.

2. Equipment owned by the District.

- a. Truax No-Till Drill
- b. 1560 John Deere No-Till 10' Drill
- c. Detco 303 Tree Planter
- d. Tree planter (pull behind) (1).
- e. Miller Tree Planter (pull behind) (1).
- f. Dell Precision 330 1.7 GHz, Pentium 4
- g. HP LaserJet 4 plus printer
- h. 15 acres Land
- i. John Deere 7420 tractor
- j. 2002 Chevy Pick-up 4X4
- k. 40 x 80 Pole Shed

3. Financing

(See IV. Budget Requirements).

**B. U. S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service**

- 1. Personnel.**
 - a. District Conservationist - full time.**
 - b. Soil Conservation Technician-full time.**
- 2. Office Space and Equipment.**
 - a. 66% of office space and storage provided by NRCS for staff and Board.**
 - b. Desks, chairs, tables and file cabinets.**
 - c. Telephone.**
 - d. Utilities**
 - e. Vehicle available to district employee while servicing district cooperators.**

C. Farm Service Agency

- 1. Cooperate with and assist the Farm Service Agency on the Natural Resource Conservation Programs. A supervisor will serve on the Local Work Group.**

D. Governmental Units.

- 1. Board of Water and Soil Resources.**
 - a. Comprehensive Local Water Planning.**
 - b. Streambank, Lakeshore and Roadside Erosion Control Program.**
 - c. Erosion, Sediment Control or Water Quality Improvement Work (Cost Share Program).**
 - d. Technical, Education and Demonstration Program.**
 - e. RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota) Program.**
 - f. Rainfall Monitoring Program.**
 - g. Assistance from the State Board Representative for implementing these programs as his time and monies permit.**
 - h. Wetland Conservation Act.**
 - i. State Revolving Fund (SRF).**
- 2. Department of Natural Resources.**
 - a. Comment and evaluate water permit applications and cooperate with the review of state protected waters.**
 - b. Cooperate with DNR Wildlife on habitat improvement programs.**
 - c. Assist DNR Forestry tree planting**
 - d. Well monitoring program**

3. **University of Minnesota.**
 - a. **Receive assistance from and cooperate with the County Extension Director on education programs.**
4. **Zoning Office.**
 - a. **Assist the Zoning Office on planning commission items. (Examples: grading, filling, permits, Wetland Conservation Act, flood plain survey.)**
5. **Other Agencies and Organizations.**
 - a. **Pheasants Forever**
 - b. **Isanti County Sportsman Club**

**Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District
Plan of Work
Fiscal Year 2009**

OBJECTIVE #1

ADDRESS NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS IN ISANTI COUNTY

<u>Goals and Actions</u>	<u>People Responsible</u>
1. Promote and increase the application of conservation practices.	
a. Maintain district no-till planting program at a level of 1000 acres.	DeMuth
b. Maintain district tree sales program at a level of 80,000.	DeMuth Swanson
c. Maintain district native grass planting program at a level of 250 acres.	DeMuth Part-time
d. Develop and maintain a follow-up program to review 100% applied conservation practices annually.	DeMuth Bork
e. Review and research new programs and practices to address natural resource concerns.	DeMuth Bork
f. Provide technical assistance to the Wetland Conservation Act.	DeMuth
g. Serve on Isanti County Water Plan Technical Committee.	Bork DeMuth Supervisor
h. Implement and promote the State Revolving Fund (SRF).	DeMuth
i. Complete conservation system plans on 2,500 acres.	Bork
j. Promote RC&D by completing 2 projects.	DeMuth Bork
k. Conduct WC and HELC determinations as requested for USDA participants.	Bork
l. Provide technical assistance to 4 engineering commitments.	DeMuth Bork
M. Serve on 4 corners committee	DeMuth
N. Serve on East Central Bio-Fuel Committee	DeMuth Commissioner

2. **Improve the quality of conservation practices installed.**
 - a. **Perform status reviews on cost shared practices on the first, fifth and ninth year after installation.** **Bork
DeMuth**
 - b. **Spot-check 5% RIM and CRP seedings.** **DeMuth
Bork**
 - c. **Review completed conservation plans with supervisor for their approval.** **Supervisors**
 - d. **Perform reviews in the field for Wetland Conservation Act and USDA Wetland Conservation requests.** **DeMuth**
 - e. **Specific tracts will be selected and appropriate contacts made for Conservation compliance plan status reviews.** **Bork**
 - f. **Job approval authorities are current and reviewed annually by November 1. Recommendations are made in writing to area staff for assistance in updating JAA's. Assistance is provided in accordance with current job approval authority.** **Bork
DeMuth**
 - g. **Operation & Maintenance information is reviewed and provided to landowner.** **DeMuth
Bork**

3. **Promote Natural Resource Conservation Programs**
 - a. **RIM** **DeMuth**
 - b. **EQIP** **DeMuth**
 - c. **CRP (Continuous sign-up for high priority practices)** **DeMuth-Bork**
 - d. **Pheasants Forever Program** **DeMuth-Bork**
 - e. **Conservation cost-share program (Isanti County Water Plan)** **DeMuth-Bork**
 - f. **State Cost-Share Program** **DeMuth-Bork**
 - g. **Other Local Cost-Share Programs** **DeMuth-Bork**
 - h. **Resource Conservation and Development** **DeMuth-Bork**
 - i. **WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program)** **DeMuth-Bork**
 - k. **North Branch of Sunrise River Watershed** **DeMuth-Bork**
 - L. **Rum River Monitoring Program** **DeMuth**

OBJECTIVE #2

ASSIST GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND LANDOWNERS WITH PLANNING AND PROGRAM EFFORTS.

Goals and Actions	People Responsible
1. Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.	
a. Participate on the Task Force/Technical Committee.	DeMuth Bork
2. Inventory groundwater resources.	
a. Work with DNR and USGS in the well monitoring program.	DeMuth
3. Address non-point pollution sources.	
a. Supply technical assistance to Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission and DNR Division of Waters as requested. (site plans; water permit applications).	DeMuth
4. Assist landowners with conservation efforts.	
a. Work with BWSR, DNR and Zoning Office to assist Isanti county landowners with the permit rules of the Wetland Conservation Act.	DeMuth Supervisors
b. Assist USFWS and private landowners with survey, design and/or installation of conservation practices for improving wildlife wetland habitat.	DeMuth Bork
5. Assist Isanti County Pheasants Forever	
a. Continue to serve as Pheasants Forever Habitat Chairman.	DeMuth
b. Service approximately 30 Pheasants Forever Habitat Project Agreements.	DeMuth
6. North Branch of Sunrise River Watershed	
a. Work with Chisago County.	DeMuth Bork
7. Rum River Monitoring Program	
a. Work with Isanti County Water Planner	DeMuth

OBJECTIVE #3

DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC RELATIONS AND CONSERVATION INFORMATION/EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

<u>Goals and Actions</u>	<u>People Responsible</u>
1. Information/Education Program.	
a. Attend 11 regular SWCD Board Meetings and provide written reports of NRCS activities to SWCD.	Bork
2. Conservation Education.	
a. An informational education campaign approach is used to achieve priority conservation objectives and includes 10 presentations, programs or news releases.	DeMuth Bork Supervisors
b. Area III Envirothon-Informing teachers and students about the learning event.	Swanson Supervisor

OBJECTIVE #4

IMPROVE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES FOR EFFICIENT USE OF FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES.

Goals and Actions	People Responsible
1. Improve Personnel Management.	
a. Continue to evaluate and update job descriptions.	Personnel Comm.
b. Conduct performance appraisals annually.	Personnel Comm. Swanson DeMuth
c. Attend Training sessions/conferences.	DeMuth Swanson Supervisors
2. Staffing plan related to work load.	DeMuth
3. Financial Management.	
a. In-depth financial review of district programs and expenses.	Treasurer DeMuth Swanson
b. Continue to consider revenue generating programs within the district to increase operating capital. (Refer to Objective #1 Supervisors Goal if for new program developments.)	DeMuth Swanson
4. Team Meetings	
a. Regular team meetings are held to discuss schedules and job assignments, share information and resolve any conflicts.	DeMuth Swanson Bork Supervisors
5. Safety Activities	
a. Carry out safety activities according to established policy and guidelines.	DeMuth Swanson Bork Supervisors

OBJECTIVE #5

WORK WITH THE COORDINATOR OF THE 'ONANEGOZIE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT' OFFICE TO LOCATE AND SECURE POSSIBLE PROJECTS IN THE COUNTY

<u>Goals and Action</u>	<u>People Responsible</u>
1. Attend monthly meetings.	Supervisor DeMuth Bork
2. Active and potential RC&D measures are reviewed and status updated with local RC&D committee as well as SWCD supervisors annually. Make recommendations to committee for potential project measures to propose to council.	DeMuth Supervisors Bork

OBJECT #6

SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRAM COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

<u>Goals and Action</u>	<u>People Responsible</u>
1. Civil Rights issues will be discussed in at least 2 team meetings during the year and documented in the minutes.	DeMuth Swanson Bork
2. 3 articles (newspaper, magazine, etc.) are routed to staff for reading.	Bork
3. Review and discuss the civil rights policy as outlined in the Mutual Agreement Between the United States Department of Agriculture and the State of Minnesota And Isanti Conservation District.	Bork
4. Participate in a special emphasis activity.	Bork
5. Refrains from using gender-bias or any type of offensive language.	All
6. Encourage involvement of minorities, women and persons with disabilities in decision and policymaking process.	All

III. Cost Share Program Requirements.

A. High Priority Erosion Problems.

The fund amount needed to install practices to control high priority erosion problems has decreased to \$15,000 due to the fact that the RIM and CRP programs will take some of this land out of production. The high priority areas where the practices will be installed is mainly the sand plain of Isanti County although other areas of the county are certainly considered.

B. High Priority Sedimentation Problems.

The fund amount needed to install practices to control high priority sedimentation problems is \$10,000. This figure has decreased because of the high cost of installing erosion control structures and also willing landowners. The high priority areas where the practices would be installed is mainly the Dalbo township, Maple Ridge township, North Branch township, Stanford township and Stanchfield township although the other parts of the county will be reviewed and also the Valley of the Rum River Watershed.

C. High Priority Feedlots.

- D. Special Projects=**
1. Bioengineering project
 2. Native Buffer Cost-Share Program: Received grant of \$55,000 to establish and or maintain restored native prairie and restored prairie using seeds of local ecotype.

E. Familiarize ourselves with the Streambank, Lakeshore and Roadside Program.

IV. BUDGET REQUIREMENTS.

Budget Summary

January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009

PROPOSED

Expenditures:

District Operation	163,000
Project Expense - State	11,303
Project Expense - District	68,000
Project Expense - Sportsman's Club	10,000
Wetland	5,000
Capital Outlay	<u>-0</u>
Total All Expenditures	<u>257,303</u>

Revenues:

Intergovernmental Revenue - State	41,505
Intergovernmental Revenue - County	57,000
Miscellaneous Revenue - Interest	1,500
Sportsman's Club Cost Share	10,000
Charges for Services	<u>145,000</u>
Total All Revenues	<u>255,005</u>

V. District Organization.

A. Board of Supervisors

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Member	Ryan Carpenter 2591 – 261 st Ave. NW Isanti, MN 55040	3	2012
Chairman	Wayne Calander 4019 311 th Ave. NE Cambridge, MN 55008	5	2010
Secretary	Raymond Marsh 4690 285 th Ave. NE Isanti, MN 55040	2	2010
Treasurer	Al Koczur 1255 S. Adams St. Cambridge, MN 55008	4	2012
Vice Chairman	Brian Devries 5693 – 399 th Trail NW Dalbo, MN 55017	1	2012

B. District Employees

Mark DeMuth-Resource Conservationist
Annette A. Swanson-Administrative Assistant

C. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Josh Bork, District Conservationist
Herman Bartsch, Soil Conservation Technician

D. State Board Representative

Jason Weirnerman
BWSR, Board Conservationist
1601 Minnesota Drive
Brainerd, MN 56401

E. Standing Committees and Members

Comprehensive Water Plan - Open and Mark DeMuth

Personnel & Budget – Al Koczur

Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) - Currently Vacant

R C & D – Board Member

State Revolving Fund - Mark DeMuth and Wayne Calander