

ISANTI SWCD 2023 Annual Plan

Mission:

To provide guidance, to inspire action, and to bring innovative resources to the table so that people can become leaders in keeping land and water healthy for future generations.

Annual Plan Purpose:

The purpose of this Annual Plan is to set realistic goals that can be accomplished by the Isanti Soil & Water Conservation District (ISWCD), and to specify those objectives that IWCD will work towards annually.

District Priorities:

The SWCD Board completed a Strategic Planning Process in 2020. During the process the board identified Surface Water Quality as a top priority. Below is text from the planning document:

Water quality is the top priority. Staff should focus on opportunities that address water quality. Groundwater and natural resources/habitat are secondary priorities and benefits. When possible, the top priorities should be those that have multiple benefits.

While the District may not take the lead or actively pursue projects or programs that focus solely on groundwater or natural resources, they may consider assisting other agencies or groups if funding and capacity are available.

Based on the above direction, the SWCD activities focus most closely on implementing surface water quality actions identified in the Rum River and Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans.

It is important to note that the Strategic Planning Process also warranted the following programs to be increased when opportunity allows:

- *Water monitoring (to track baselines, trends, project success, and to target BMPs)*
- *Soil health programs (cover crops and tillage management)*
- *Wetland restorations that enhance water quality* top priority*
- *Targeted Agricultural Outreach*

Current SWCD capacity (funding and staffing) does allow for the SWCD to increase all the above items. The specific actions are identified in our 2023 annual work plan.

Statutorily Required Activities:

The SWCD is required through statutory authorities, grant agreement provisions, and good governance standards to conduct a variety of activities. These actions are completed annually and are not specifically called out in the annual work plan. The actions include Grant agreement duties such as tracking and reporting; Board administration such as all actions required to prepare for board meetings; district annual and planning; and human resource management.

Program	Goal
Tree Sale	Sell 19,000 trees
Precipitation Network	1) Increase number of volunteer readers by 2
Water Monitoring	1) Coordinate monitoring of 7 lakes in Oxford Twp, Blue Lake, Green Lake, Skogman Lake, Florence Lake and Elms Lake. 2) Monitor Skogman Lake Inlets, Tiger Street Inlet (Blue Lake), and Green Lake ditches according to plans.
Aquatic Invasive Species	1) Implement the County approved work plan which includes early detection on 12 lakes, education and outreach, and rapid response coordination.
No-till Drill	1) Coordinate no-till drill rental service to landowners for seeding native plants and cover crops.
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	1) Sit on the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) for Isanti County and write Restoration Orders as needed.
Groundwater Observation Wells	1) Monitor 11 observation wells for the Department of Natural Resources.
Water Management Planning	1) Actively participate in the Rum River Watershed Partnership including serving as the Watershed Coordinator and providing staff time to lead Education and Outreach watershed wide. 2) Actively participate in the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership by sitting on Steering Committee and attendance at Policy Committee meetings. 3) Participate on the Isanti County Water Plan Task Force.
Technical Assistance	1) Offer assistance to lake groups to develop and implement lake monitoring and management plans (Elms & Florence). 2) Provide guidance on projects that protect and improve lake and river quality.
Prioritizing Studies	1) Update rural portion of Skogman Lake Subwatershed Assessment (Originally completed in 2014). 2) Complete Multiple-Purpose Drainage Management Plans on County Ditch 17 and 9 in conjunction with County Ditch Inspections.
Lakeshore Restoration	1) Initiate lakeshore restoration program on Skogman Lake 2) Assist Blue Lake Improvement District with development of a Community Partners Program Support Green Lake Improvement District with their community driven program. 3) Install projects on Spectacle Lake using the remaining grant Clean Water Fund Fiscal Year 2020 grant funds. 4) Install 120 linear feet or 1,200 sq feet of lakeshore restorations (Skogman and Blue). 5) Install 360 linear feet or 3,600 sq feet of lakeshore restorations on Green Lake.
NRCS Support	1) Support to the Natural Resource Conservation Service by offering assistance on outreach, conservation plans, and Environmental Quality Incentives Program sign-ups.
Soil Health	1) Build a Farmer-led group to inform the development of a sustainable Soil health program. 2) Implement 200 new acres of cover crops (or other soil health project). 3) Complete compliance checks on existing cover crop contracts. 4) Host annual Soil Health Field Day.
Agricultural Structural Projects	1) Coordinate the installation of 1 Water and Sediment Control Basin. 2) Coordinate the design and installation of 3 projects (WASCOB, livestock Fencing, enhanced buffer) within the Green Lake Watershed.
Buffer Compliance	1) Review 1/3 of County for buffer compliance.
Wetland Restorations	1) Oversee installation of 1-4 acre wetland restoration. 2) Coordinate design of 1 wetland restoration (Cartwright). 3) Use Multi-purpose Drainage Management Plans and other studies to reach out to landowners to get them on the list for future wetland restorations.
Land Protection	1) Complete 5 conservation easements (approximately 160 acres) that protect the health of the Rum River. 2) Assist MN Land Trust with Promotion of their easement program. 3) Seek opportunities to enroll land within Oxford Township and Green Lake into existing BWSR Easement Programs.
Outreach & Education	1) Serve as Isanti SWCD Education Staff lead and implement the Type A outreach activities in coordination with Anoka Conservation District per the Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Education and Outreach Work Plan. 2) Implement the 2023 SWCD Outreach and Education work plan (included as a supplement to this plan). 3) Assist staff with outreach needs as needed.

EXPENSES	
Proposed	2023
	Adopted 12/20/2022
Personnel	
Wages, benefits, FICA, PERA	\$ 389,716.06
Supervisors	
Per Diem, FICA, PERA	\$ 13,791.94
Operating Expenses	\$ 50,084
Capital Outlay	\$ -
Federal Programs/Projects	\$ 95,638
State Programs/Projects	\$ 67,540
District Programs/Projects	\$ 96,984
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 713,754
REVENUES	
	2023
County (includes Pass through)	\$ 186,412
Federal	\$ 126,471
State	\$ 291,398
Charges for Services	\$ 109,473
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 1,465
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 713,754
DEFICIT OR SURPLUS	\$ (0)

Deficits are covered by withdrawal from the reserve fund.