



Quarterly News & Updates

August 2022 | Issue 9

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!

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Follow us on Facebook for more updates!

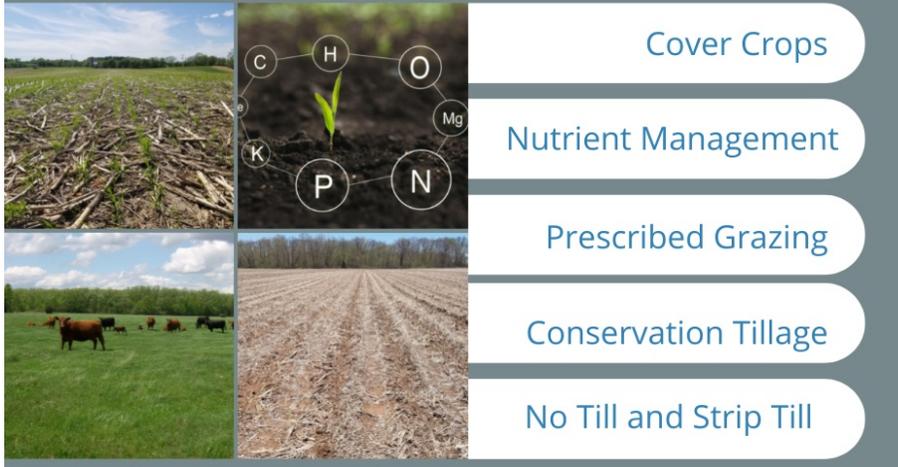


**Financial Assistance Available for
Non-Structural Agriculture Projects**

NEW PROGRAM! Technical and financial assistance for non-structural practices



LOWER ST. CROIX WATERSHED
PARTNERSHIP

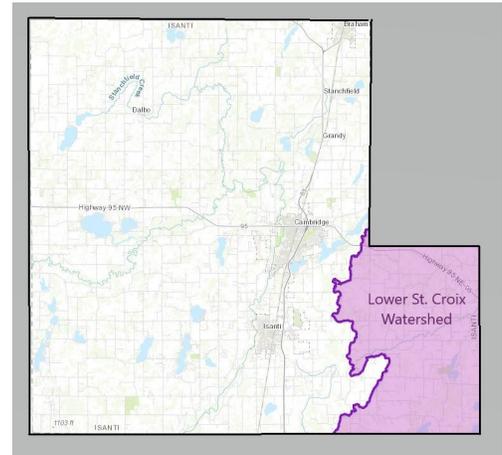


We have a new program with funding available to implement cover crops, reduced tillage, strip-till, no-till, prescribed grazing, and nutrient management! This program is part of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership and will provide financial and technical assistance for non-structural practices.

This program is designed with flexibility, providing greater opportunities for it to be integrated into local rotations. You can choose to implement one or more practices to suit your needs. Contracts have a length of three years. However, the acres included may be altered depending on the practices and your needs. Practices can be implemented on the same acres for three years, cover crops and residue management can move with the rotation, and cover crops and residue management can be interchangeable each year on the same acres to allow easier incorporation of the practices. Conservation staff will work one on one with you to create an individualized plan for your farm.

In order to qualify for the program, your farmland must be located within the Lower St. Croix Watershed. The southeastern part of Isanti County, including Oxford and North Branch Township, falls in the watershed.

Funding is limited. To get started call Matthew Remer, SWCD Technician, at 763-689-3271.



Nature Photo Contest Winners

In July we hosted a Nature Photo Contest. Participants were encouraged to submit any photos they had of nature in Isanti County such as wildlife, landscapes, plants, or other natural resources.

We had 62 photos entered into the contest from all around the county! All submitted photos will be posted on our website. Thank you to all who entered!

Three winners were selected to win a prize. Here they are!



First Place: Coyote Pups by Crystal Blackledge

Location: The trails near the Anoka Ramsey Community College.



Second Place: Hidden Tree Frog by Julie Robillard

Location: Her home in Isanti County.



Third Place: Hoar Frost by Aaron Fahnestock

Location: Cambridge City Park

The Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan has been Adopted!

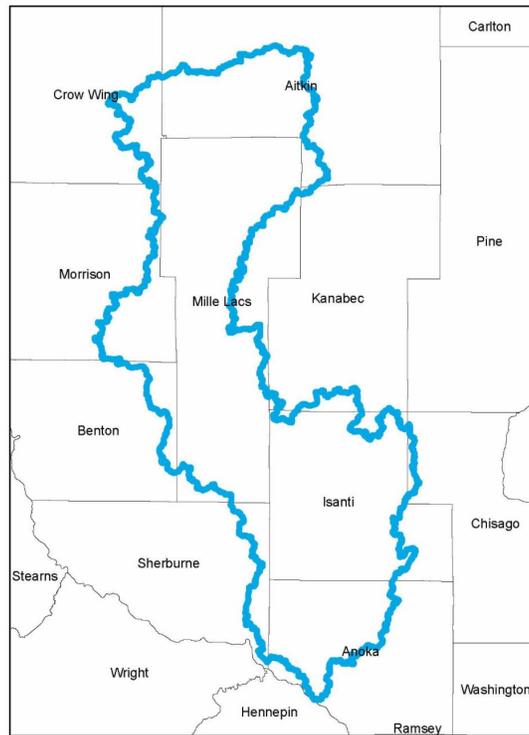
The Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan has been approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and has been adopted by the Isanti SWCD as well as 12 other partners! Forming the Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Plan was a multi-year process involving community input, technical expert advice, and many agency partnerships. The plan was made as part of Minnesota's One Watershed, One Plan program whose vision is to create a local water plan on major watershed boundaries instead of traditional county boundaries. Now there will be increased communication and collaboration within the Rum River Watershed!



Now that the plan has been adopted, partners from across the basin will meet regularly to form and approve work plans for the watershed. Priority issues are laid out in the plan and form the basis of the work that will be done. In the coming years, partners will receive funding to accomplish goals in priority areas. This means more projects on the ground that will benefit water quality throughout the watershed!

To view the Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Plan visit www.millelacsswcd.org/1w1p

Rum River 1W1P Boundaries



Upcoming Events

August 20th - Shoreline Restoration Workshop

When: August 20th 9:00 am - 12:00pm

Where: on Blue Lake. [Click here for the location.](#)

What you will learn?

- Types of flowers and plants that thrive along lake shores.
- How to prevent erosion.
- How to capture stormwater.
- What materials are needed for installing shoreline restorations.
- How to install your own shoreline restoration!

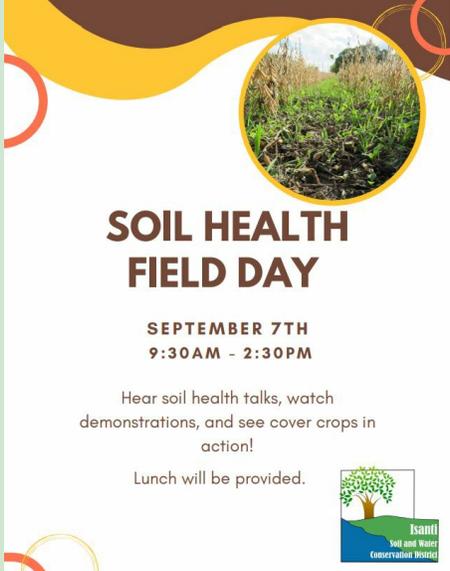


September 7th - Soil Health Field Day

When: September 7th 9:30am - 2:30pm

Where: East off HWY 65 in East Bethel on 241st Ave NE for about half a mile. [Click here to find it on a map.](#)

Hear talks about soil health, network with other farmers, watch demonstration and see cover crops in action! Lunch will be provided. RSVP by emailing Lgodfrey@isantiswcd.org or calling 763-689-3271.



**SOIL HEALTH
FIELD DAY**

**SEPTEMBER 7TH
9:30AM - 2:30PM**

Hear soil health talks, watch demonstrations, and see cover crops in action!

Lunch will be provided.



September 18th - Fall Fest

When: September 18th 12:00pm – 4:00pm
 Where: Irving & John Anderson County Park – 27241 Furman St NE, North Branch, MN 55056

Enjoy fun family activities, food, and music. The Isanti SWCD will be present, and CLIMB Theatre will perform an interactive kids performance about aquatic invasive species. [View the event flyer here.](#)

Projects Completed on Spectacle Lake



We have completed two projects on Spectacle Lake to improve and protect the lake's water quality! Funding for both projects was sourced from a Clean Water Fund grant that the Isanti SWCD secured in 2019 in partnership with the Spectacle Lake Association. Several homeowners have taken initiative and installed projects that protect water quality! Check out the two newest projects below.



Mickelson Shoreline Restoration

This project includes a hillside



Miller Raingardens

Dual raingardens with native plants

stabilization and shoreline restoration using native plants and willow bundles. The goal of the project is to protect and improve the health of Spectacle Lake by filtering stormwater runoff and reducing shoreland erosion. The project also creates important wildlife habitat.

Funds to install the project came from a grant obtained from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Act. as well as a landowner contribution of 25% of the total project cost.

were installed to increase water retention. The raingardens will reduce and filter stormwater entering Spectacle Lake, as well as provide habitat. The project will also help reduce erosion.

The grant from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Act was used to cover project costs along with a 25% contribution from the landowner.



NRCS Contact

If you have questions for NRCS about EQIP or CSP please contact Brian Steffen. Brian is the acting Team Lead for Isanti County. To reach him call 763-689-3354 ext. 118 or email brian.steffen@usda.gov.

Brian is pictured on the far right

Blue Lake Moves Forward with Alum Treatment this Fall



The Isanti SWCD gearing up for the alum treatment on Blue Lake this fall! Alum is a safe, effective, and well-studied lake management tool. The Isanti SWCD has been working to protect the health of Blue Lake by completing a variety of projects. Now, the alum treatment is the next most logical and cost-effective way to protect Blue Lake.

In June we received a letter of support for the alum treatment from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This was a necessary step in the treatment process. The letter declares that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency approves the alum treatment on Blue Lake and that they require the lake's pH is monitored during the treatment. The Isanti SWCD is monitoring Blue Lake for a variety of lake health

measurements (including pH) before, during, and after the treatment. The letter can be accessed on our website.

When is the alum treatment happening?

The treatment will be happening this fall, and there will be a follow-up treatment in 2024. **The alum treatment will take place September 12th - 16th. The Blue Lake boat access will be closed to the public on these dates.** The easiest way to stay up to date is by checking out our webpage.

Will the treatment affect how I use the lake?

The boat access will be shut down for a few days while the treatment is applied. We also ask other boaters to stay off the water during those days so the treatment has time to settle on the bottom of the lake. After those few days, you can use the lake as usual! However, to best protect the longevity of the alum treatment, it is recommended that wake boat users reduce their wake. Large wake, typically from wake boats, can disturb the lake bottom where the alum treatment is hard at work! You can read about the impact of wake boats here.

Funding for the alum treatment is from Clean Water Fund Grant as well as the Blue Lake Improvement District who provided a 25% match. This treatment would not be possible without the help of the Blue Lake Improvement District! Learn more about the treatment at <https://www.isantiswcd.org/blue-lake-alum-treatment.html>.

Join Our Volunteer Network!

Take a survey to join our network of volunteers and be notified about volunteer opportunities! Those that fill out the form will be contacted about relevant opportunities with the Isanti SWCD. There is no commitment required!

Fill out the volunteer interest form here: <https://forms.gle/NQ3yN6fLPsChLBNx8>



Become a Volunteer

Meet A Board Member - Dave Medvecky

Why did you become a Supervisor?

I do a lot of conservation projects so I work a lot with FSA and NRCS [who share an office with the SWCD]. One year I came in to talk with FSA and they informed me there was an opening on the SWCD board. I told them I didn't have time right now! Well, after coming in a few more times and getting more encouragement I was convinced.

How many years have you been a supervisor?



About two years.

What are your interests and hobbies?

I like to do anything outdoors, such as canoeing especially up in the boundary waters. I also enjoy working with nature on my farm and tree farm, and I tap our maple trees.

What was your favorite subject in high school?

I really liked biology.

What was your first job?

At ten years old I was a newspaper delivery boy for a small town and rural farm area. It was a lot of walking! When I got a bit older I would help bail hay on farms.

Dave represents District 5: North Branch and Isanti 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

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