

# Annual Plan of Work

## Rock LMO/SWCD

### January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010

#### I. INTRODUCTION

This plan is written to develop a guide for positive action concerning the use and protection of the natural resources located within the boundaries of Rock County.

#### II. ANNUAL OBJECTIVES

##### A. Comprehensive Local Water Plan

- Continue data collection pertinent to water quality and quantity in Rock County and assemble this information and data in a useable format.
- Provide Nitrate Testing of water at County Fair
- Use our Comprehensive Water Plan & TMDL Implementation Plan as a guideline in decision making processes.
- Continue to work with the City of Luverne and Rock County Rural Water ( i.e. wellhead protection and watershed protection areas.
- Focus efforts to provide landowners in the priority areas with information on programs to protect these areas.
- Coordinate our efforts and resources with MDA MDH, MPCA, DNR, BWSR, and U.S. Fish Wildlife partners.
- Facilitate and develop a TMDL assessments of impaired waters of Rock County
- Utilize TMDL technical & advisory groups to provide input on adapting the TMDL Implementation Plans as needed.
- Coordinate a TMDL Implementation plan to address reaches of water courses listed on the impaired waters list with local, state, and federal partners, as guidance in our efforts to improve the quality of our surface water resources.
- Continue exploring all possibilities for funding the TMDL implementation plan projects
- Apply for and manage Clean Water Legacy Grants to fund BMP practices and incentives that correct TMDL listed streams

##### B. Conservation

- Continue to promote the State Cost-Share Program.
- Continue to support and promote the EQIP Program.
- Promote & improve the tree program through emphasis on energy savings, environmental/wildlife benefits, property enhancements, and snow reduction
- Promote the tree matting machine benefits of increased growth rates, lengthened growing season, and reduced site maintenance to consumers
- Promote Riparian Buffers.
- Promote the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program by contacting landowners and processing applications
- Promote stream bank stabilization.
- Continue to promote the abandoned well sealing program to reduce the contamination of water . Seal 12 abandoned wells.
- 10,000 feet of terraces
- 20 acres of grass waterways
- 10,000 feet of underground outlet
- 3 Animal waste systems
- Assist producers with new construction of feedlots and conduct inspections as needed.
- Develop a conservation credit initiative program.
- Provide technical assistance for SRF funded conservation practices.

- Coordinate with the Joint Powers for engineering and technical assistance for SRF BMP's
- 25 acres of CRP or Restoration seeding with no-till drill.
- Collect samples at 6 permanent surface water sites, sampling and testing the waters (7 sites on Rock River) in conjunction with the CLWP.
- Develop a more strategic water sampling program that will coincide with the development of the TMDL plans
- Test water levels for the DNR in 6 observation wells in Rock County (10 times per year).
- Coordinate and promote conservation practices that will follow through with the TMDL Implementation Plan.
- Cooperate with the City of Luverne with the removal of the Luverne Dam
- Continue the installation of Rain Gardens to address water quality.
- Promote and assist with wetland replacement projects.

### C. Geographic Information System

- E911
- Continue to utilize GIS to enhance daily operations of the Land Management Office / SWCD
- Continue to be a clearinghouse for GIS data for the county
- Obtain and utilize a parcel data layer
- Maintain a current and accurate data base for feedlot information as well as other GIS data.
- Develop a GIS for all departments in the county.
- Create an official Zoning Map
- Continue to obtain and utilize data through Government agencies
- Attend training at the annual GIS/LIS conference
- Update and enhance Rock County GIS to include non-ag and non-residential development, especially Wind Turbines and Telecommunication Towers
- Maintain online parcel mapping service
- Expand functionality of online mapping
- Conduct a data compliance check on all parcels and address points
- Digitize the county's streams
- Start a manure application layer to track land application of manure

### D. Education

- Monthly newsletter to over 950 operators in Rock County, in cooperation with the Ag Service Center and Rock County Extension.
- Participate and cooperate with SWMACDE 2010 Environmental Fair held at the Murray County Fairgrounds in Sept.- 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Participate in Essay, Poster, and Coloring Contest.
- Participate in the The Farmer Magazine Conservation Cooperative Contest.
- Participate in the Rain Gauge monitoring program in SW Minnesota.
- Soil Identification class to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students - 2 sessions
- HHW learning stations - 5<sup>th</sup> grade - 5 sessions
- Promote ISTS Education to public through newsletters, and public meetings.
- Promote well head protection through newsletters and public meetings.
- Sponsor 6 sessions with the Ecology Bus for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students.
- Host open houses and informational meetings for the TMDL Implementation Plan
- Publish a newsletter for the TMDL Watershed residents to educate them on the programs being offered

### E. Environmental

- Provide copies of the recycling solid waste guides that list the requirements for Rock County residents.
- Create a Wetland Brochure that highlights benefits of wetlands and how to enhance the areas.
- Maintain safety training - 16 hours.

## F. Feedlots

- Maintain a Feedlot Database
- Provide technical assistance to all producers in Rock County.
- Continue support to MPCA and MACFO Board.
- Provide technical assistance for Best Management Practices of manure management and whole farm plan.
- Maintain a Certified Crop Advisor license to provide a high level of technical assistance.
- Maintain the Level 3 Inventory.
- Maintain GPS database on all active feedlots.
- Promote and assist producers in writing nutrient management plans for their operations.
- Assist area agronomists and crop consultants in providing nutrient management planning for producers choosing to contract for their service
- Provide enhanced technical assistance to the producers of Rock County with the EIT Position thru SWJPO
- Inspect 7% of all active feedlots in the County per MPCA feedlot work plan per year.
- Continue to assist producers in permitting new and expanding feedlots.
- Assist eligible producers in obtaining cost-share and low interest loans for feedlot corrections and manure management.

## III. District Administrative Objective

Provide for an effective and efficient district operation by:

- 1) Hold regular monthly meetings.
- 2) Review annual plan of work bi-annually, comprehensive plan bi-annually, calendar of events and budget monthly.
- 3) Review The Memorandums of Understandings.
- 4) Job descriptions, annual plan for work, and performance evaluations will be reviewed annually, preferably in December.
- 5) Training needs will be provided as needed and available.
- 6) District participates in the NACD, MASWCD, and Area V Association programs and pay dues.
- 7) Cooperate with NRCS in administering, training and supervising volunteers and assigning work for the Earth Team Volunteer program.
- 8) Receive computer training when needed.
- 9) Maintain card files by race and status for EEO.
- 10) Encourage Civil Rights training for SWCD board.
- 11) Work to improve NRCS/LMO/SWCD District Board and FSA goals and relations. DC/District Manager will work monthly to achieve this.
- 12) Work closely with NRCS to achieve maximum return on EQIP Funds.
- 13) Work closely with MASWCD & Lobbyist for Stabilize Funding.
- 14) Maintain EDP Review & update twice annually
- 15) Update FO files so as to ensure that the files are under the current owner and/or operators
- 16) Update LMO/SWCD, NRCS, and BWSR Memorandums Agreement

## IV. Units of Government Objective

Maintain and increase involvement of the District in all levels of government by:

- 1) Cooperate in planning and conducting the Rock County Comprehensive Water Plan. Continue representation on the Local Water Planning Board and implement the water plan.
- 2) Wetland Conservation Act-provide assistance to the LUG by being on the WCA technical panel, attend training sessions as provided by BWSR. This includes possible wetland bank, and to provide and administer WCA on non ag land.

- 3) Attend as needed County Commissioner meetings to report on the budget, work programs and consult with them on other issues.
- 4) Conduct a conservation tour for Commissioners, agency heads and affiliate members annually.
- 5) Provide assistance and support to:
  - a) County on high priority feedlot problems and county planning and zoning (as defined under High Priority Feedlots). Assist all livestock producers with feedlot registration and technical support.
  - b) Work with MPCA on state sighted pollution problems.
  - c) Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District in programs, promotion, public information, permit application and preparation of long-term contracts.
  - d) DNR on monitoring wells, reporting rain gauge observer's amounts, water permits, wildlife land acquisition and establishment, and also grain and forage sorghum plots.
  - e) Develop a local permanent new well record file.

V. Conduct the State Cost-Share Program in high priority areas of the county.

- 1) Funds will be offered on high priority critical area conservation practice applications.
- 2) Funds will be encumbered on projects that we feel assured the applications thereof will actually be installed and in a timely matter.
- 3) Administration will be accomplished by the Office Manager.
- 4) Publication of information on CRP, WCA and RIM will continue.
- 5) Promote SRF Program

VI. STAFFING NEED

A. Natural Resource Conservation Service--The County needs to maintain 2 full-time personnel in this office, a District Conservationist and a Conservation Technician. This is approximately their present division of time/labor:

	District Conservationist	Conservation Technician
Application (all practices)	.4 FTE years	.6 FTE years
Planning	.5 FTE years	.4 FTE years
P.R. & I.	<u>.1 FTE years</u>	<u>.0 FTE years</u>
	1.0 FTE years	1.0 man years

B. District-The County needs both a full-time District Manager and a full-time District Office Manager. The division of the labor force will be based on a 40-hour workweek:

District Manager:		Dist Office Manager	
Bookkeeping	5%	Bookkeeping	20%
I & E	10%	Clerical (NRCS)	10%
Planning	20%	Application	40%
Promoting & Implementing	25%	State Board Reports	10%
District Programs	35%	State Cost-Share Programs	15%
Miscellaneous	<u>5%</u>	Miscellaneous	<u>5%</u>
	100%		100%

IV. COST-SHARE REQUIREMENTS

A. High Priority Erosion Problems

"High priority erosion problems" means areas where erosion from wind or water is occurring on Class I-IV soils equal to or in excess of 2 x T tons per acre per year or any area within 300 feet of a water course or within 1,000 feet of a water basin or wetland eroding by water in excess of T tons per acre per year. The water basin, wetland, or watercourse

must be classified by the Department of Natural Resources as protected water. Erosion problems occurring on non-shore land areas in excess of T but less than 2 x T tons per acre per year are classified as secondary priority.

The District has determined the areas of potential erosion in Rock County. The area with the greatest need; is greatly eroding in excess of 3T. This erosion from wind and/or water occurs for the most part in the southwestern and western part of the Rock County.

We plan to spend our 2010 state cost-share money, on qualified cost-share practices by our land users on high priority basis as we have in the past. We use 20% of the funds for administrative expenses and technical services to implement these projects. The division of cost-share money to be spent tentatively will be:

T & A Services	20%
Terraces	40%
Ag-Waste	5%
Grass Waterway	35%

In case of funding constraints, committed applicants will be given top priority.

### B. High Priority Water Quality Problems.

"High priority water quality problems" means areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals, or other pollutants discharge to DNR designated protected waters or to a sinkhole or ground water so as to impair their quality or usefulness, including high priority feedlots and sedimentation problems.

The upland areas that drain into streams and creeks in Beaver Creek township generally erode in excess of 3 T per acre. Many localized areas in the county exceed the 2 T per acre. Gravel outwash areas that are in close proximity to our major rivers and streams are highly susceptible to groundwater contamination. Provide information and technical assistance to land users to improve water quality by assisting them in the abatement of point and non-point pollution.

### C. High Priority Sedimentation

"High priority sedimentation problems" means areas within 300 feet of a water course or 1,000 feet of a water basin or wetland where the water erosion rate exceeds 3 tons per acre per year or areas where the districts can show that sediment delivery occurs from a watershed or direct conveyance structure such as a storm sewer or paved outlet channel discharging to these waters. The water basin, wetland, or watercourse must be classified by the Natural Resources as a protected water. Sedimentation problems not meeting these criteria are not eligible for cost-sharing assistance.

As stated in the Comprehensive Plan, only minor, isolated areas of high priority sedimentation may occur since there are no lakes in the county. These areas will be addressed as the need arises.

### D. High Priority Feedlots

"High priority feedlots" means feedlots where the pollution potential rating from the MINNFARM model shows the feedlot does not meet regulatory compliance and which are discharging pollutants to Department of Natural Resources designated protected waters or to a sinkhole or shallow soils overlying fractured or cavernous bedrock or within 200 feet of a water well.

In conjunction with CLWP, we will provide assistance and support to the County on high priority feedlot problems, permitting of feedlots and county planning and zoning. We will inventory, evaluate and assess the location and pollution potential of feedlots in close proximity to the Rural Water wells and the City of Luverne's well system. The out-wash gravel plains are the biggest potential hazard in Rock County. Maintain County feedlot inventory. We will assist producers in obtaining nutrient management plans for those feedlots that are required to keep a MMP and feedlots within the DWSMA areas.

Rock County is one of the seven counties that have the highest animal unit numbers per square mile in the state. It also has from 10 - 13 feedlots per township that are close enough to a stream that may create problems. We will continue to conduct and maintain a level 3 inventory.

MPCA and Rock County have issued 618 feedlot permits/registrations in the County Maintaining a continuing program of education to inform livestock managers of the need for permit and registration process to expand or develop new feeding operations. Feedlot wastes are an important part of a good fertilizer program and information on approved ways to dispose of animal wastes that will assist feeders in formalizing their own livestock waste management system.