

Pipestone County Conservation & Zoning



2017 Report



*Mission: To Promote Conservation of Natural Resources through
Education, Technical Assistance and Stewardship.*

Staff

Kyle Krier, Environmental Administrator
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Stephanie LaBrune, Administrative Assistant
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District Supervisors

Bill Folger, Chairman
Ian Cunningham, Vice Chair
Cal Spronk, Secretary/Treasurer
Arvin Pater, Programs
Ken Christensen, PRI

Introduction:

The Pipestone Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1952 and operates under MN Statue 103C. In 1997 the Conservation District and County Zoning Office were joined and now operate as the Pipestone County Conservation and Zoning Office. The District is co-located and works jointly with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This Annual Report provides a reflection of 2017's efforts and accomplishments.

The Pipestone SWCD Board meets every second Thursday of each month.

Programs Review

Environmental Office

Zoning Ordinance

- Conditional Use Permits - 2
- Variances – 4
- Rezoning - 1
- Buffer Ordinance Adopted
- Land use permits - 53

Feedlots

- Permitting - 8
- Inspections - 33
- Registration - 100
- Staff offered Technical Assistance with runoff control, manure management planning, spreader calibration

Septic's

- Permitted and Installed - 20
- Staff reviewed the design & construction
- Staff oversight of the City of Trosky municipal project
- Overseen the Land transfers which require septic upgrade

Shore land

- Enforced the shore land Ordinance
- Enforced the shore land Setbacks

Ag Inspector

- Overseen the MDA Commercial Applicator Testing
- Took care of Noxious Weed complaints

Solid Waste

- Enforced the SW Ordinance
Collected the following materials:
- Recycling – 4300 Tons
- Household Hazardous Waste / Problem Materials Collected -46 Tons
- Automotive Batteries - 25 Tons
- Electronics - 72 Tons
- Appliances - 85 Tons
- Tires - 54 Tons
- Fluorescent Bulbs – 2 Tons
- Rural Cleanup Waste Collection - 6 Tons of MSW / Demolition Waste

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- Contact and distribute data
- Update data on server
- Create data and maps as needed

Soil and Water Conservation District

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

- Enforce wetland rules

Local Water Management

- Offered Free Water and Manure Sample Kits
- Offered 50% Cost share on Well Sealing's – 13 Wells were Sealed
- Ecology Bus presents at area schools

State Cost-Share

- Promote, Design, and install Conservation Practices
- Provided \$7,414 in 2016 cost share funds to a producer to implement a grade stabilization structure.

Flood Relief Funds

- Promote, Design, and install Conservation Practices
- Provided \$63,785 in 2014 flood disaster relief funds were spent on implementing conservation projects

Ag BMP Loan Program

- Apply for funds
- Approve loans for non-point source reduction projects
- Loaned out \$189,627 in funds to producer's county wide for best management equipment and practices

Wellhead Protection Program

- Hired new staff to serve the area
- Worked with public water suppliers and area counties
- Hosted Soil Health and Cover Crop meetings
- Staff met with public water suppliers to discuss areas of concern and plans to address concerns.
- Staff met with producers located within the wellhead protection areas.
- Provided approximately \$42,678 to Landowners for Nitrate Reduction practices to landowners in Rock, Nobles, and Pipestone Counties.
- Pipestone staff acted as the Fiscal Agent for the Nitrogen reduction program

Reinvest in Minnesota (CREP/RIM)

- Promote program
- 16 site inspections completed
- CREP was promoted by sending out 119 proposals

Walk in Access (WIA)

- 2 WIA re-enrollment in 2017

Tree/Drill Program

- Purchased a new Brillion Conventional Drill
- Provided custom seeding services
- Seeded 850 acres
- Designed 9 windbreaks
- Installed 6000 trees and provided matting services

Buffer Compliance

- 200+ Acres were identified as needing buffer protection.
- Maps and letter mailed to all affected
- Producer assistance provided
- Buffer tool data submitted
- 119 parcels have been granted wavers

Clean Water Fund

- Applied to BWSR for project dollars, received funding for Rock Rural Water Nitrate reduction.

1W1P (One Watershed One Plan)

- Began working with neighboring Counties in the area on the Missouri River watershed plan

MAWQCP (MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program)

- Staff promoted the MDA program, processed applications, and completed field verifications
- 12 Producers have been Certified in Pipestone County
- Certified a total of 84 producer's area wide
- Processed a total of 192 applications
- Trained field staff in counties to assist with the program implementation

Cover Crop Field Day

- Staff hosted a cover crop field day
- 35 landowners attended.