

Conservation Connection

Summer Newsletter 2-18

Upcoming dates, deadlines and events:

August 13: Board Meeting

August 17: CCRP Application
Deadline

August 20: MN CREP
Application Period Deadline

September 3: Labor Day (Office
Closed)

September 11: Board Meeting

October 8: Columbus Day
(Office Closed)

October 9: Board Meeting

November 1: Deadline for
County Ditch Buffer Seeding

November 13: Board Meeting

Contact Info:

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SWCD Board Member Spotlight

Greg Entinger is the newest Le Sueur County SWCD Supervisor from rural New Prague, MN. He represents District 1 of Le Sueur County which includes Lanesburgh and Montgomery Townships. Greg was appointed to the board in April 2017 after Alvin Dietz resigned from his position.

As a 4th generation farmer Greg operates a corn-soybean crop rotation. He has a degree in engineering and only began full time farming in 2013. He took over his family farm after the passing of his father, Paul.

Greg admits he still feels like a beginning farmer due to the fact there is so much to learn and so many things to be involved in. He believes his engineering background has helped him experiment with unconventional farming methods such as strip till farming, no till farming and cover crops.

Greg is very active in Le Sueur County, he currently is the Vice-Chairman of the Le Sueur County SWCD Board of Supervisors, President of Le Sueur/Scott County Corn and Soybean Growers Association and President of the New Prague Snowdrifters Club.

Since Greg has started on the SWCD board he has enjoyed learning about the different agencies and what services each agency can provide farmers and landowners.

The more involved Greg becomes with the SWCD the more inquisitive he is to try different erosion control techniques on his farm. "Neighbors are taking notice and asking questions, which is a good thing".



Starting July 1st, the CREP program will be evolving for 2018. The changes in the program will provide for more acres for non-cropped areas, additional flexibility on CRP practices and an increase in RIM payments. Interested landowners or anyone who inquired in the past should contact the SWCD office to review their project.

CREP recently released its 1st Year Accomplishments statewide: Thirty-nine Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have assisted landowners with submitting 201 filter strip, floodplain wetland, and non-floodplain wetland applications on over 7,000 acres during the past 12 months. Applications have been selected for funding with 154 landowners on 5,720 acres that have a total estimated state and federal cost of \$49,210,000.

Manager's Minute: Mike Schultz– Rain, 1W1P, Lake Volney

With spring almost being nonexistent this year, the spring construction/field season came extremely fast for the SWCD. Things are starting to settle down and we are back at evaluating projects and working with land-owners. Here is a list of the SWCD projects completed spring 2018: three water and sediment control basin's (ex: terraces), two waterways, one wetland restoration, one sediment catch basin, and seven ditch cleanouts.

June Rain:

We are starting to see damages to lands due to the June rains. If you happen to come across any areas that you think may need assistance please do not hesitate to call or come in. If the rains persist, we would like to document all damage in the county for potential future state funding.

Cannon River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P):

The Cannon River 1W1P process is near draft plan stage. Over the next several months, the plan will be reviewed by

many partners. Later this year, a 90 day public review period will take place. Follow along with the process by following the Cannon River 1W1P website:

www.dakotaswcd.org/1w1p

Lake Volney Targeted Restoration Clean Water Fund Grant:

Over the past 3.5 years the SWCD and County Environmental office staff have been working to improve Lake Volney's watershed. On 12/31/2018 the grant will expire. Some of the projects that have been completed around

the watershed include: three agriculture runoff catch basins, four Water and Sediment Control Basin's, three lake inlets being rock armored, agriculture drainage outlet redesign, and shoreland protection. Several WASCOB's are planned for installation fall of 2018. The SWCD plans to focus on the Jefferson German Watershed Phosphorus Reduction Project Grant in the future with the same efforts as the Lake Volney Targeted Restoration Grant.

Jefferson German Watershed Phosphorus Reduction Project:

The SWCD had high hopes of starting construction on several projects this spring, due to late spring weather and rains, no work was started. It is expected that the first projects of the grant will start fall 2018.

June 9, 2018, the Jefferson German Lake Association held a successful fundraiser called the Summer Splash at Beaver Dam Resort with proceeds going towards the required matching funds for the grant. Thanks to all that participated.



(Lake Volney Treatment Basin Project 2018)

Staff Update: Joe Jirik- Cover Crops



(Sand Creek Watershed Cover Crop Inter-seeder)

Cover Crops:

Cover crops are a relatively new conservation tool to Le Sueur County. The Soil and Water Conservation District has set aside grant funding to help producers get started with planting cover crops ranging from \$15 to \$40 per acre. Along with funding for cover crops we

offer a variety of technical information. This information includes; seed mix recommendations, advice on when and how to plant the cover crop and explanations of the benefits cover crops offer to the producers. Last year over 700 acres of cover crops were planted in Le Sueur County with the help of our office through funding and technical information. This year we expect that over 1000 acres of cover crops will be planted as our program continues to grow and producers incorporate cover crops in their farming operations.

Staff Update: Sue Prchal- Tree Sales

2018 Tree Program Summary:

Late April to early May the SWCD wrapped up another successful tree sales season. This year the SWCD offered 11 different species and sizes of evergreens, 5 deciduous trees and 4 deciduous shrubs for sale and distributed them in April. The seedlings range in height from conifers 12-15"; hardwoods and shrubs 1.5' to 4'. Over 7600 trees and shrubs

were sold to be planted in Le Sueur County this year. We will once again start selling in October for spring 2019 arrival. Please contact our office if you would like to be put on the mailing list. You can also visit our website www.lesueurswcd.org and print off an order form.



New Staff: Le Sueur County Water Planner



Greetings everyone! My name is Holly Kalbus and I am the new Water Planner for Le Sueur County. Just a little about myself. I grew up in a small town in Wisconsin where I was raised on a dairy farm, and spent most of my free time enjoying the outdoors. I attended UW-Stevens Point and received my Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Ecology and Biology. Since graduation, I have worked in Wisconsin, Colorado, and Minnesota where I have held positions with managing wildlife, restoring grassland, wetlands, and prairies, and assisting landowners/ farmers to implement conservation practices on their land.

My time so far as the Water Planner has kept me involved with a variety of projects. Some of the work I do includes: assisting landowners with shoreland questions and restoration projects/plans, staying engaged with the Aquatic Invasive Species Program specifically outreach/education and planning efforts, continuing with the development of the Cannon River One Watershed One Plan, and applying for grants to acquire resources to improve groundwater and surface water. I'm looking forward to my time here at Le Sueur County, and I hope to make a difference!

Staff Update: Nik Kadel - Buffer Deadline

Important buffers law deadline coming soon for all county ditches in Minnesota. **On November 1, 2018 all county ditches have to be seeded to a 16.5 foot buffer.**

Minnesota Stat. §103F.48 Subd. 3. (2) for public drainage systems established under chapter 103E, a 16.5-foot minimum width continuous buffer as provided in section 103E.021, subdivision 1. The buffer vegetation shall not impede future maintenance of the ditch.

To find out if you are required by law to have a buffer follow this link to the DNR Buffer Map page:

<http://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/gis/buffersviewer/>

If you have any question feel free to call or stop in the office!



SWCD Rental Programs



The Dew Drop Drill is available to landowners for rent. It has fine and fluffy seed boxes for a variety of uses. It is 3' wide and can be pulled with an ATV/UTV. Rent is \$60 and the SWCD will deliver the drill and pick it up. It works great for small acres of grass and forb seedings or food plots.



The SWCD has two tree planters. Landowners must pick the planters up. Rental rate is \$15/half day or \$30/full day. Works great for planting large amounts of bare root trees.



The Truax drill is available to rent for planting grasses, forbs and small grains but mostly seeds CRP grass mixes. The drill seeds a width of 8 feet. The drill requires a tractor with a minimum of 50 HP and hydraulic hookups. Le Sueur SWCD delivers the drill to and from you. Rental Rate is \$120 minimum or \$12 per acre whichever is greater.

Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District

Winter Newsletter 2018



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SWCD District Manager Received Conservationist of the Year Award:

District Manager Mike Schultz was recognized by the Minnesota Waterfowl Association at their 2018 Conservation Awards and Waterfowl Hall of Fame Banquet held April 13, 2018. Schultz was awarded the Conservation of the Year—Professional, for all the hard work taking place in Le Sueur County. Schultz stated "It truly was a humbling experience, it is great to see people/groups notice the hard work the Le Sueur SWCD has accomplished".



NRCS News Update

The Le Sueur County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is encouraging all county producers that have natural resource concerns on their property to contact the

NRCS office. NRCS has voluntary programs that may provide financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers wishing to address resource concerns on their lands. NRCS program contract lengths vary depending on the practice. By working with your local NRCS office we can help identify which of our programs would work best to address your resource concerns. NRCS will suggest opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and other related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

NRCS encourages volunteering through the Earth Team Program. This program expands NRCS services by using volunteer time, talent and energy to help accomplish the NRCS mission. To learn more about becoming an NRCS volunteer, or USDA-NRCS conservation assistance that is available, contact this office at 507-357-4908 ext. 3.

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SWCD Host Minnesota Conservation Corps Staff May-August:

My name is Karl Schmidtke and I am the 2018 MN Conservation Corps Apprentice for Le Sueur SWCD. I am originally from Marshfield, Wisconsin and relocated to Plymouth, Minne-

sota where I graduated from Wayzata High School. This past year I received Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Minnesota-



Duluth with a major in Biology and a minor in environmental sustainability. Since joining the Le Sueur County SWCD on May 21st, I have spent my time learning the basics of how a SWCD office works, while also being assigned specific tasks like RIM easement inspections and working on CREP applications. Through this apprenticeship I've had the chance to gain valuable experience in both ArcGIS and native plant identification. Working with the Le Sueur County SWCD has been fun and educational. Moving forward I hope to continue my career in natural resources management.