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Le Sueur County
Soil and Water Conservation District
2020 Annual Report



COVID-19

2020 was a year most of us would like to forget, but for us at the SWCD we will remember it as a year where we were challenged and had to adapt. Over the year, our office had to adjust to the growing concerns of the pandemic. Our SWCD and staff did a great job. As much as we wanted to avoid bringing up Covid-19 in our Annual Report, it is important to address it. Here are some of the changes our SWCD had to overcome to deliver our conservation mission in Le Sueur County.

- Early in 2020 SWCD staff worked exclusively from home
- SWCD purchased 5 new laptops to adapt as the office only had desktop computers
- SWCD created a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District and a copy can be found at: <http://www.lesueurswcd.org/>
- Board Meetings were virtual early in 2020 and later were moved to the Emergency Operations Center at the Justice Center to follow social distance guidelines for in person meetings. The SWCD held hybrid meetings with virtual and in person participants.
- Almost all face to face meetings went virtual
- Meeting with landowners had its own challenges. At times, landowners were not allowed in the SWCD, while other times they were. Contact tracing documents were filled out for anyone that entered the building
- Meeting with landowners in the field followed social distancing guidelines (one staff per vehicle)
- Communication between staff consisted of phone calls, zoom meetings and at times in person

As you will see going through the annual report, the SWCD still managed to accomplish our mission despite the challenges that everyone had to face. **The SWCD was able to install \$248,900 in structural practices, \$38,000 in incentive projects such as cover crops and completed \$298,071 of County Drainage construction work.**

Version 4.30.2020 (EO 2048)

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District

Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our workers and customers. To ensure that, we have developed the following COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Supervisors and staff are all responsible for implementing this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our workplaces and communities, and that requires full cooperation among our supervisors, staff and customers. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our workplaces.

Supervisors and staff are responsible for implementing and complying with all aspects of this COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. The Le Sueur County SWCD supervisors fully supports enforcing the provisions of this policy.

Our workers are our most important assets. We are serious about safety and health and keeping our workers working at Le Sueur County SWCD. Worker involvement is essential in developing and implementing a successful COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. We have involved our workers in this process by limiting the number of staff in office at one time, providing staff with laptops and cell phones to allow them to work from home, holding staff meetings through teleconferencing, discontinuing public entry into the SWCD buildings, providing masks to employees to wear when working with the public, providing hand sanitizer to staff in the office and in SWCD vehicles, ensuring clean and disinfected work areas, discussing sick and annual leave uses, installing plexiglass barriers for employee protection, making sure all SWCD office entry doors are closed and sustaining a 6 foot social distancing barrier between employees. Our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines, federal OSHA standards related to COVID-19 and Executive Order 20-48, and addresses:

- hygiene and respiratory etiquette;
- engineering and administrative controls for social distancing;
- customer controls and protections for drop-off, pick-up and delivery;
- housekeeping, including cleaning, disinfecting and decontamination;
- prompt identification and isolation of sick persons;
- communications and training that will be provided to managers and workers; and
- management and supervision necessary to ensure effective implementation of the plan.

Screening and policies for employees exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19

Workers have been informed of and encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The following policies and procedures are being implemented to assess workers' health status prior to entering the workplace and for workers to report when they are sick or experiencing symptoms. The District Manager discussed and encouraged employees to use their sick leave and stay home if any staff are not feeling well. Employees will report to the District Manager their symptoms and will self-monitor. If Covid-19 occurs in any employee, all staff that has come into contact with said employee will self-quarantine for 14 days. Said



Education & Outreach

The District Manager Michael Schultz attended the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting in Las Vegas in February. This was the first time someone from the SWCD had attended the event in over 15 years. Schultz stated “It was definitely a great opportunity to learn and understand how differently everyone in the United States addresses conservation”.



Above: Schultz was able to complete a customized conservation tour of the Hoover Dam and learn how much of a resource it is for so many people in the Southwestern United States.



Above: Lake Mead created from the Hoover Dam.

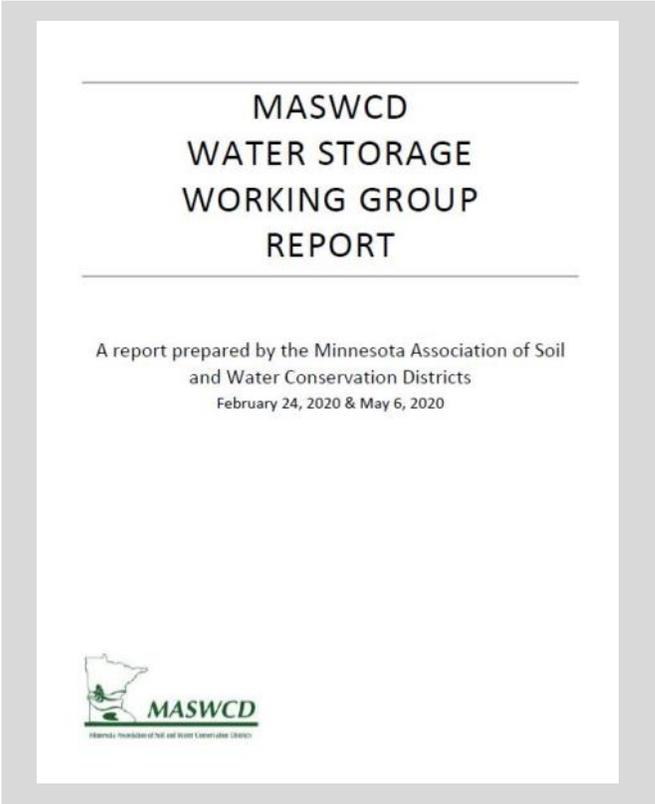


Left: MN BWSR Matt Drewitz speaking on PTM App on how it is used in Minnesota for Targeting Conservation.



Education & Outreach

Starting in late 2019 and carrying throughout 2020; District Manager Michael Schultz participated in a water storage workgroup with the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD). 3 SWCDs in southern Minnesota, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Natural Resource Conservation Service provided their knowledge and concerns regarding water storage. The SWCD staff represented different landscapes, backgrounds, and resource concerns. The workgroup completed a report to deliver to the State Legislature to start conversation on how SWCDs and partners could deliver storage needs to address local issues. Due to COVID-19, delivering the report to the State Legislature has been delayed and may be taken up in 2021.




Polishing the chain

Clean Water Funds from BWSR, cooperation from landowners and support from the lakes association advance Le Sueur County SWCD's prioritized phosphorus reduction project in the Jefferson German chain of lakes watershed



LE CENTER — The most conspicuous of Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District's water quality improvement projects within the Jefferson German watershed restored a 2.5-acre wetland at the edge of a hog farm directly across a county road from Middle Jefferson Lake.

"The water doesn't come off of our farm, but we get blamed for it because it runs across our property," said Leo Koppelman, who runs the feeder pig operation with his brother and son. "All I've heard is, 'Koppelman's hog farm is polluting the lake.'"

Middle Jefferson — one of five lakes in the chain that includes German, East Jefferson, West Jefferson and Swede's Bay — is impaired for aquatic recreation due to nutrient loading.

The SWCD's \$484,000 phosphorus reduction project aims to improve water quality in the chain with strategically placed best management practices that help to reduce nutrient loading. The chain lies within the Cannon River watershed, which drains into the Mississippi River.

Top: Le Sueur County SWCD Manager Mike Schultz and Cleveland Township farmer Leo Koppelman discuss the restoration planned for the 2.5-acre wetland at left. Completed in summer 2020, the work was part of the SWCD's \$484,000 phosphorus reduction project made possible with a Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR. Middle: Jefferson Lake lies across the county road seen in book. Above: Le Sueur County SWCD aims to improve water quality in the Jefferson German chain of lakes with strategically placed best management practices that reduce nutrient loading. Photo Credits: Ann Wessel, BWSR

Late in 2020 the Le Sueur SWCD had an article published by the State Board of Water and Soil Resources regarding a wetland enhancement project that was completed as part of the Jefferson German Phosphorous Reduction Project where the Le Sueur SWCD received a \$387,000 Clean Water Fund Grant. The article was published in many news sources.

A link to article is below:

https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2020-12/Le%20Sueur%20County%20SWCD%20Jefferson%20German%20CWF%202020_0.pdf



SWCD Programs

Tree Program

In 2020, over 6000 new trees and shrubs were planted in Le Sueur County as a result of the annual SWCD tree program. A large variety of bare root and potted evergreens, hardwoods such as oaks, maples, aspen and birch to shrubs like lilac, dogwood and plum were available for purchase. Customers received their orders directly from staff by delivery this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Outstanding Conservationist

Mitch Holicky of rural Le Center, MN was chosen as the 2020 Outstanding Conservationist.

Holicky grew up on his parent's farm working with his dad and brother on their farrow-finish hog operation. They also raised corn, soybeans, sweet corn, peas and small grain. Mitch attended the University of Minnesota after high school and received a degree in mechanical engineering. He worked off the farm for a few years but then decided to make farming his full time career.



He operates a 286 acre farm where soil health and erosion control are his main priorities. Mitch has personally built terraces and waterways, installed buffers along ditches, no-tills and plants cover crops.

The SWCD board chose Holicky be-

cause of his dedication to incorporating cover crops and soil health practices into his operation. Mitch has seen the benefits such as reduced erosion, less need for chemicals and lower farming costs due to reduced tillage.

Mitch has also been a great local resource to area producers who are beginning to incorporate soil health practices in their operations.





SWCD Programs

SWCD Drill Programs

The SWCD has 2 seeders available for rent– A Dew Drop Seeder and a Truax No-Till Drill. The Dew Drop seeder is used for seeding small areas and can easily be used with an ATV, UTV or small tractor. It has an electric lift so no hydraulics are necessary to operate the seeder. Rent is \$50 per day. In 2020, the drill was used 8 times for a total of 8 acres. The SWCD office helped seed 6 one acre pollinator plots throughout the county in partnership with Le Sueur County Pheasants Forever.

The Truax No-Till Drill is used for planting larger areas. It can be used to plant cover crops, small grains and native seed mixes. The drill has a seeding width of 8 ft. The drill is available to rent for a minimum charge of \$120, or \$12 per acre. The rental charge includes delivery to your farm, calibration/set up and pickup of the drill when the seeding is completed. In 2020, 25 producers rented the drill totaling about 250 acres.



Above: Le Sueur County resident using the Dew Drop Seeder to plant a small food plot to Sorghum



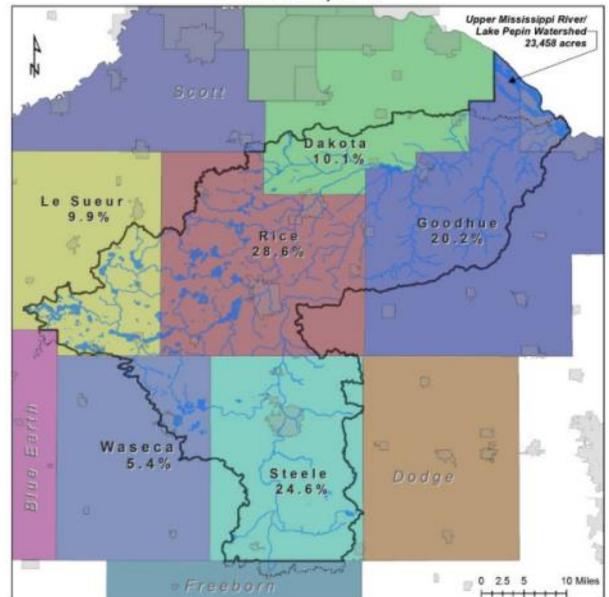
Above: Le Sueur County producer seeding Native Grasses with the Truax Drill



SWCD Programs

One Watershed One Plan, Cannon River

In 2016 planning partners joined together to submit an application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to develop the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) for the Cannon River Watershed. The goal of 1W1P is to align local water planning within major watershed boundaries using state strategies to prioritize, target and



implement plans. In August of 2016, BWSR selected the Cannon River as one of seven major watersheds across the state to receive a planning grant.

In late 2016, the County and SWCD Boards in each of the six counties located within the watershed, along with the Belle Creek Watershed District and the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization, entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to develop a watershed plan. The planning area encompasses 952,933 acres and a wide variety of land uses.

The process will be locally lead through a Policy Committee comprised of one elected official from each of the 14 Local Government Units within the watershed. It will involve a broad range of stakeholders throughout the process including the use of an Advisory Committee and public meetings. The plan will address the most significant threats to our water resources and an implementation strategy that provides the greatest benefit to the watershed. Late in 2020, the plan was approved by BWSR and implementation starts early 2021.

In late 2019, the plan was submitted to BWSR for final approval. The plan is slated to be approved in 2020.



SWCD Programs

Wetland Conservation Act

Le Sueur SWCD acts as the WCA Local Government Unit for Le Sueur County. 2020 was a busy year for wetland inquiries.

- 57 landowner consulted the SWCD on WCA issues
- 5 WCA applications were approved
- 27 potential WCA Violations were investigated
- 1 wetland violation site was restored
- 6 Wildlife Pond Requests



Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program

The MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program's goal is to protect and enhance water quality within Minnesota's agricultural lands by working with farmers and landowners to promote stewardship.

Le Sueur County SWCD partnered with the MN Department of Ag and began administering this program in 2019. Currently 13 landowners in Le Sueur County have been certified or are working towards certification.

Certified farms receive a 10 year exemption from any new water quality rules and regulations and can obtain financial assistance to implement practices that promote water quality. They also receive a sign to display their accomplishment and may promote their business as a MN Ag Water Quality business.



Walk In Access

WIA is a voluntary program that compensates landowners to allow public access for hunting on their land from September 1st through May 31st. With the number of hunters diminishing in the past decades, largely due to the lack of quality hunting land, the WIA program is more important than ever. A decrease in hunters means less support for wildlife and habitat; which in turn will have a negative effect on local wildlife populations. The WIA program will help sustain future generations of hunters while creating more local hunting opportunities.



Above: Currently Le Sueur County has 1 active WIA site. It is a 62 acre piece located on the northeast side of Lake Dora. Le Sueur County will be working with landowners in the spring of 2021 to enroll more WIA sites.



SWCD Programs

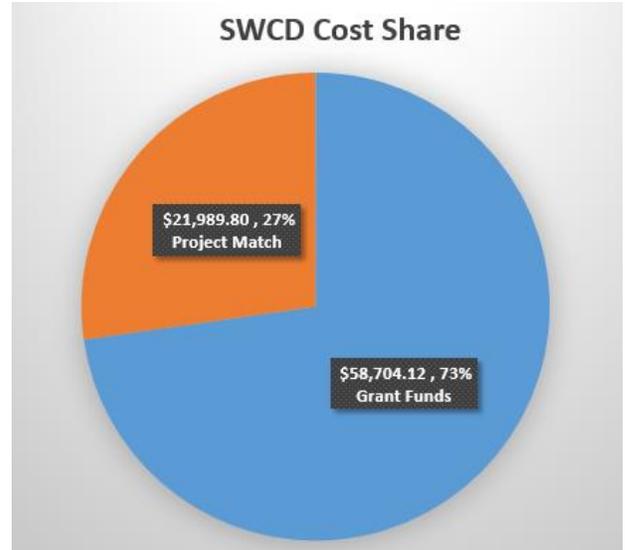
Cost Share

SWCD Technician Joe Jirik took advantage of a long fall in 2020 to complete projects with 7 different land-owners dispersing a total of **\$80,694** in project funds.

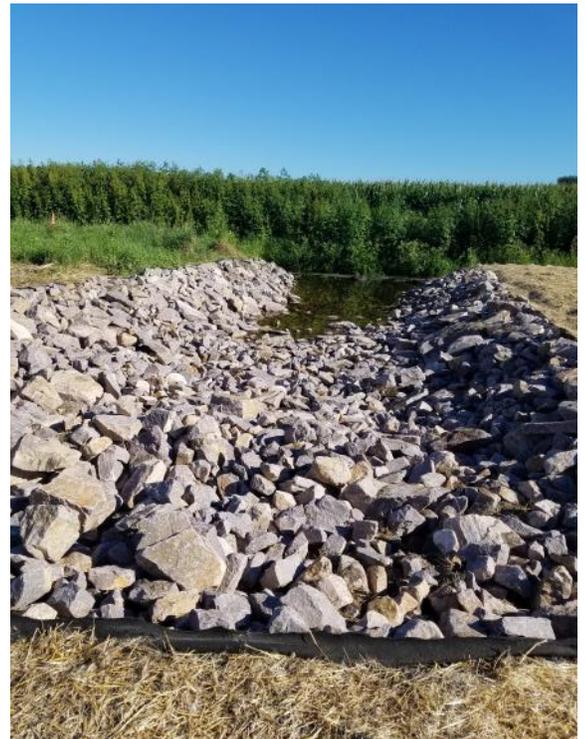
- 17 Water and Sediment Control Basins Installed
- 1 Outlet Control Structure on Restored Wetland



Above: Sediment Basin Construction near Lexington



Above: Tile being Installed for a series of 2 Sediment Basins in the Washington Lake Watershed



Above: Rock Line Outlet to a wetland restoration that had an unstable control structure



SWCD Programs

Food Plots



In Partnership with the Le Sueur County Pheasants Forever Chapter the SWCD gave out 34 acres worth of food plot corn, 8 acres of Soybeans and 8 acres of Sorghum to 17 Landowners. The Le Sueur SWCD has been in partnership with the local PF Chapter since the 1990's.



Jefferson German Watershed Phosphorus Reduction Project

In 2017 the Le Sueur SWCD in partnership with Le Sueur County received a Clean Water Fund Grant to target the phosphorus reduction in the Jefferson/German Lake Chain. The list below shows the completed 2020 projects.

- Installed 2 Shoreline Protection Projects
 - Installed 1 Storm Water Pond
 - Installed 1 Wetland Restoration
 - Installed 1 Cover Crop field for a total of 40 acres
- * A total of 160 acres have been enrolled so far as part of the grant



The grant was approved for one additional year due to COVID-19 and will expire in fall of 2021.



Left: Shoreline Protection Project with Field Stone

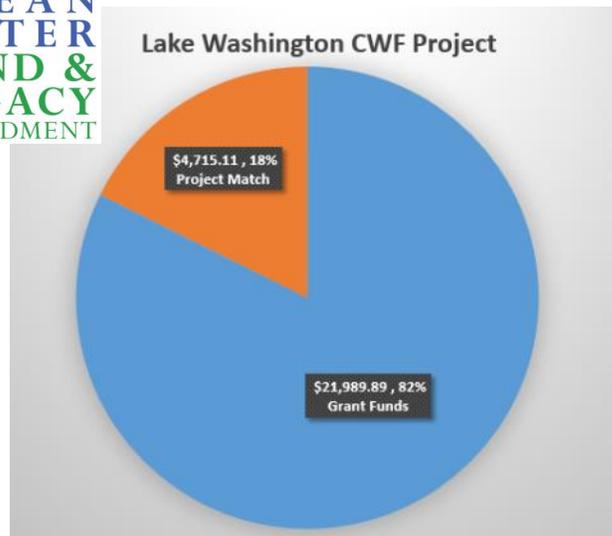
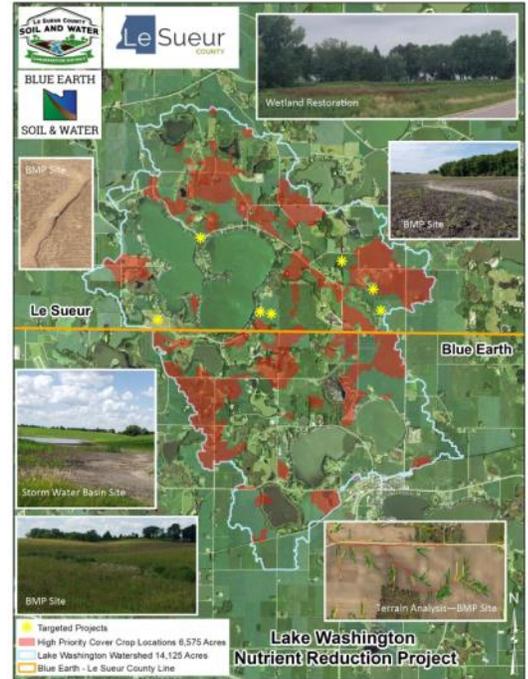




SWCD Programs

Lake Washington Nutrient Reduction Project

In 2020 the Le Sueur SWCD was awarded \$310,250 from the State Board of Water and Soil Resources to address resource concerns in the Lake Washington watershed. These resource concerns were targeted in partnership with Le Sueur County and the Blue Earth SWCD. The Lake Washington Improvement Association has pledged to pay all the matching funds needed for the grant in the amount of \$77,563 and have been a huge supporter of the project and partnership. One project was completed for a total of 4 water and sediment control basins in the eastern part of the watershed. A total of \$26,705 was spent in 2020 in the Lake Washington Watershed.



Top Left: Installed Water and Sediment Control Basin

Bottom Left: Before photo of the site prior to a Water and Sediment Control Basin installed

Top Right: Map of our current project locations that were identified prior to applying for the grant

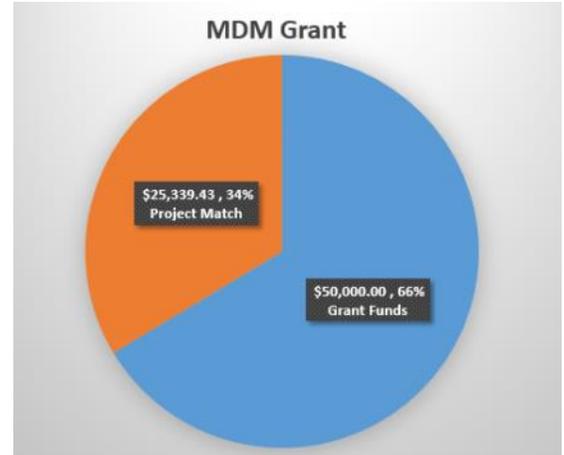
Bottom Right: Funds spent to date on the grant



SWCD Programs

Multipurpose Management Grant

The Le Sueur SWCD was able to secure a \$50,000 sub grant from the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) through the Clean Water Fund to create a Storage and Treatment Wetland on Judicial Ditch 63 with Rice County. The project permanently protects 5.52 acres that stores and treats water on the drainage system. The total project cost was \$75,339.43.



Above: Site prior to construction

Below: Site shortly after construction was completed

Right: Partnership sign that was installed on site

Le Sueur & Rice Counties

Joint Ditch 63

**Storage & Treatment
Wetland Restoration**

Project Partners:

- Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA)
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- South Central Technical Service Area
- Le Sueur County
- Rice County











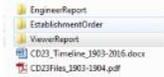


SWCD Programs

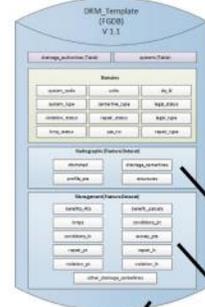
Multipurpose Management Grant

In 2018 Le Sueur County was awarded a grant and partnered with the SWCD office to modernize drainage records. The project followed the Drainage Records Modernization Guidelines created by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources. The project made our historical documents available electronically and created GIS based data for the County and partners to utilize. The grant totaled \$51,500 and the County and SWCD contributed \$87,171 in match funds through staff time and equipment purchases. The project partnership involved the GIS Department and County Administrative Assistant.

Phase I: Follow DRM Naming Conventions LSC Current Drainage Records

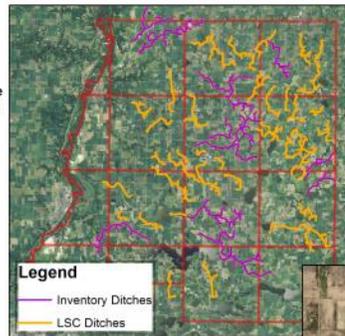


Phase II: Digitize Drainage Records, Import to DRM GIS Database Template Drainage DB Historical Ditch Records



- Drainage Systems
- 1922
 - Count.Fls, December 4th
 - Count.Fls, December 22nd
 - 1973
 - Count.Fls, February 8th

Phase III: Import Ditch Survey From 10 Problematic Ditches



Below is a sample record for the systems table:

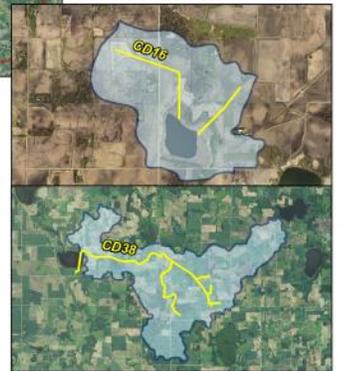
- ObjectID = 1
- System Name = County Ditch 33
- System Code = CD33
- Drainage Authority ID = 27331
- Legal Type = County

Task Name	Action	Type	Domain	Required	Description
System Name	Required	Text	Yes	Yes	System Name - Name of the drainage system as it appears on the map. It should be a unique identifier for each system. Do not use abbreviations.
System Code	Required	Text	Yes	Yes	System Code - Code assigned to the system. It should be a unique identifier for each system. Do not use abbreviations.

Le Sueur County Drainage Records Modernization Grant



Phase IV: Create a Parcel Based Ditch Benefit Map



[Link to the page:](https://mn-lesueurcounty.civicplus.com/517/Drainage)

<https://mn-lesueurcounty.civicplus.com/517/Drainage>

Public Access's Dashboard

Create New Repair
*Repair # auto assigned

Go To

Drainage System: enter system ID ...

Repair: enter repair # ...

Violation: enter violation # ...

Lists

- All Drainage Systems 63 [List](#)
- Repairs - For Review 46 [List](#)
- Repairs - In Progress 61 [List](#)
- Violations - Open 1 [List](#)

Board Approval

- Repairs - For Approval 0 [List](#) [Report](#)
- Repairs - For Payment 0 [List](#) [Report](#)
- Violations - For Action 0 [List](#) [Report](#)

Reports

- [Activity Search/Report](#)
- [Annual Inspection Report](#)

MAP LAYERS

- ESRI - Streets
- ESRI - Aerials
- 2017 Farm Service Agency
- 2011 South MN
- DrainageDB Layers
- Repair - For Review
- Repair - In Progress
- Repair - Closed
- Repair - For Approval
- Repair - For Payment
- Violations - Open
- Violations - Closed
- Conditions
- BMPs - Existing
- BMPs - Recommended
- Reference Layers
- Counties
- County Boundary
- Townships
- Sections
- Districts
- Parcels
- Public Drainage Systems
 - Open
 - Shallow Ditch
 - Tie



SWCD Programs

Cover Crops

2020 SWCD Cover Crop Program

- 1362 Total Acres Seeded
- 252 Acres Applied by High Clearance Seeder
- 251 Aerial Applied Acres
- 859 Acres Drilled or Broadcast after Harvest
- 4 Producers Planted Green into Standing Rye



Le Sueur County Farmer No-Tilling Soybeans into Standing Cereal Rye (Planting Green)

Targeted Watershed Grant Acres

- Sand Creek Targeted Watershed Grant– 100 Acres
- German /Jefferson Phosphorous Reduction Grant– 160 Acres

Soil Health Meetings

- Due to Covid 19 Pandemic we were unable to have soil health workshops, field days or soil health team meetings.



Annual Rye Cover Crop High Clearance Broadcast Applied



Drilled Cereal Rye Cover Crop After Corn Silage



Aerial Applied Cover Crops



SWCD Programs



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



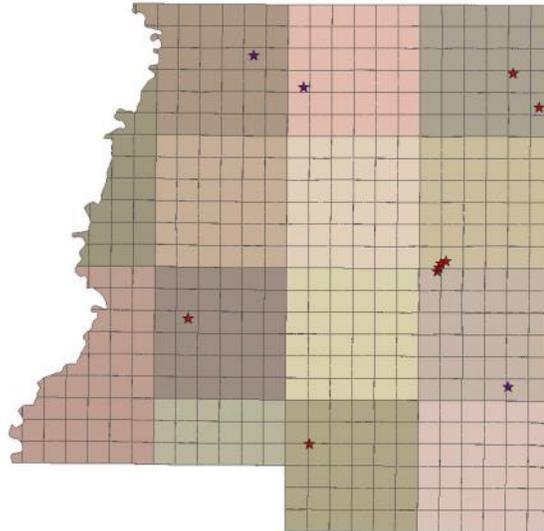
Left: 31.31 acre wetland restoration located in Lanesburgh Township section 23. Construction spring 2021



Above: 145.20 acre wetland restoration located in Lanesburgh Township section 25. Construction: Spring 2021



Above: 15.41 acre wetland restoration located in Tyrone Township section 14.



Above: 32.45 acre wetland restoration located in Kilkenny Township section 35



Left: 38.54 acre wetland restoration located in Elysian Township sections 8 & 17. Construction: Spring 2021



Left: 52.45 acre wetland restoration located in Derrynane Township section 19

Above in **Red**: In 2020 the Le Sueur County Soil & Water Conservation District recorded 3 CREP easements, totaling 215.05 acres. These acres include 3 wetland restorations.

Above in **Purple**: Currently 4 CREP easements are in the process of being recorded, totaling 106.81 acres. These acres include 3 wetland restorations and 1 filter strip.

Beginning in April there will be another CREP sign up period. Landowners in Le Sueur County continue to show interest in the program and the Soil & Water office expects to submit more applications this coming spring.



SWCD Programs

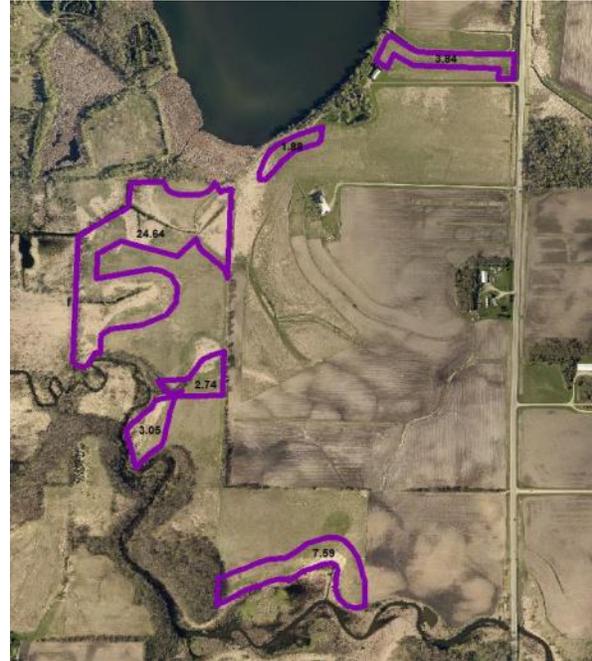
Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Pollinator Project

In 2018 Pheasants Forever received funding from the LCCMR to provide funds to local government groups to enhance permanently protected land. The goal of the project was to increase forb biodiversity for pollinator habitat.

In 2019 the Le Sueur County Soil & Water office applied for and received funds from Pheasants Forever to enhance a 43.74 acre RIM easement that was established in 2000. The site was dominated by Smooth Brome and Reed Canary Grass and had little biodiversity.

In the Spring of 2019 the stands of Smooth Brome and Reed Canary grass were sprayed with glyphosate. That following summer the land operators were allowed to farm soy beans with chemical restrictions to create an optimal seed bed.

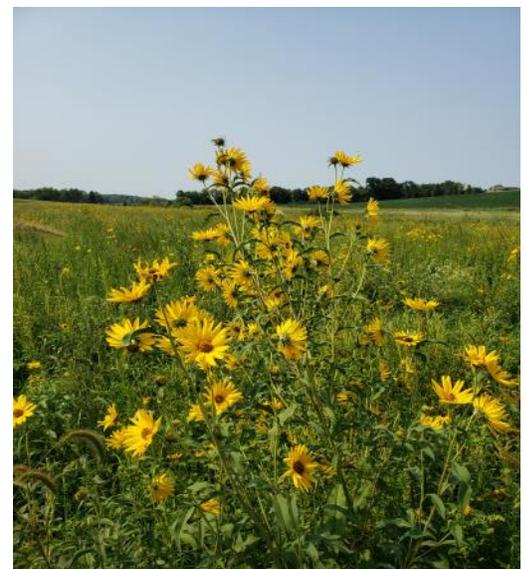
In the Fall of 2019 after the beans were harvested, Zumbro Valley Forestry LLC seeded the RIM easement with a pollinator mix.



Above: Map of 43.74 acres seeded with pollinator seed mix. Located in Kilkenny Township Sec-



Left: Original vegetation on RIM easement



Right: Summer of 2020



Ditch Inspector

Drainage Ditches

The ditch system had a busy year completing 38 ditch projects. Completed projects included: ditch cleanings, repairing bank sloughs, replacing culverts, repairing farm crossings and removing beavers and their dams. Our trappers caught 21 beavers between 9 ditch systems.

In 2020 the ditch system continued the process of spraying and mowing 1/3 of the county ditches. The program helps to alleviate woody and noxious weeds in the ditch buffer. Between 2019 and 2020 the County has sprayed and mowed 41 county ditches.

In 2020 Le Sueur County Drainage Authority spent \$1,749,675.04 throughout the drainage systems while the Ditch Inspector oversaw \$298,071 of construction work completed. Every system incurred costs from repairs, engineer reports, correction of records, redetermination of benefits, ditch spraying/ mowing, general inspections and labor. Cost to landowners were supplemented by grants and federal funds. .



Above: County Ditch 56 in Sharon Township. This is one of the repair projects from the 2019 flooding disaster that FEMA funded.



Left: A beaver dam holding back 4 FT of water on CD45 in Derrynane Township. The dam was removed in the fall near Sheas Lake.



County Ditches/ Buffer Compliance

FEMA Projects for County Ditches

In 2020 there were 2 rain event State of Emergency Declarations for Le Sueur County on the dates of June 29th and July 25th. Due to the flooding from these events Le Sueur County has received funds from FEMA to help with the destruction. We currently have 5 projects repaired and are in the process of being funded through FEMA.



Left: JD 63 Montgomery Township culvert was destroyed by the 2020 flooding events.

State Buffer Law & Compliance

In 2015 Minnesota established a State Buffer Law that requires perennial vegetative buffers of 50 feet along lakes, rivers, streams and buffers of 16.5 feet along county ditches. These buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment. The deadline for implementation of buffers on public waters was November 1, 2017. The deadline for public ditches was November 1, 2018

As of 2020 The Le Sueur County SWCD has been doing field checks and staking non-compliance parcels in an effort to get 100% compliance with the Minnesota Buffer Law. The SWCD will be monitoring the public water and county ditch buffers at least once every three years. Le Sueur County is currently 99% compliant on public waters and 94% compliant the County Ditches.



Above: Established Ditch Buffer in Le Sueur County



2020 Completed Projects



Left: A storm water pond was installed along the road right away on Maple Lane on West Jefferson Lake. The pond will help capture water prior to entering into the lake and flooding nearby areas. Below: The storage pond shortly after construction holding somewhere between 6-8" of rainfall.



Above/Right: A native shoreline planting that was installed as part of The Jefferson German Watershed Project. The native shoreline will help reduce erosion and provide clean water benefits. Over 400 native plant plugs were installed on the property near Swede's Bay.



2020 Completed Projects



Left: A shoreline that was starting to undercut and erode along the shores of Middle Jefferson Lake.

Above: After photo that shows the field stone placed and native vegetation installed above.

Below: The Multipurpose Storage and Treatment Wetland after our partnership sign was installed





2020 Completed Projects



Jefferson German Phosphorus Reduction Project Wetland Enhancement:

Left: The before picture of the wetland enhancement project the SWCD worked on as part of the Jefferson German Phosphorus Reduction Project. The site was identified thorough the TMDL that was completed in 2014. This series of photos shows progress through the construction phases.

Right: The project managed to contain the initial runoff from a 5" rain event that took place during construction.



Below: The completed Wetland Enhancement Project near freeze up that shows the site has vegetation established.





2020 Completed Projects



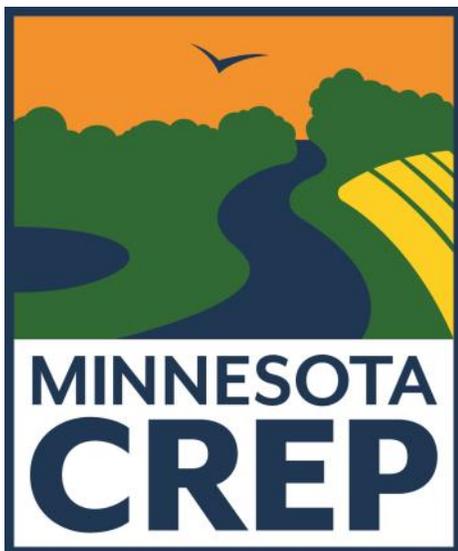
Above: The before photo of the wetland outlet that was installed improperly years ago. The water had created a path under the concrete which drained the wetland from its original elevation. Right: Completed Project Rock Lined Outlet Control Structure Which Restored a Wetland near Montgomery



Above: As part of the Lake Washington Nutrient Reduction Project, 2 Water and Sediment Control Basin were targeted on the eastern watershed. Photo above is part of construction in the fall of 2020.



2020 Completed Projects



Above: In the fall of 2020 the Le Sueur County SWCD assisted in completing a 103.04 acre CREP wetland restoration in Cleveland Township. The construction consisted of three scrapes, multiple tile breaks, and the rerouting of existing tile. The upland portion of the project was seeded to an 18 species native grass and forb mix.



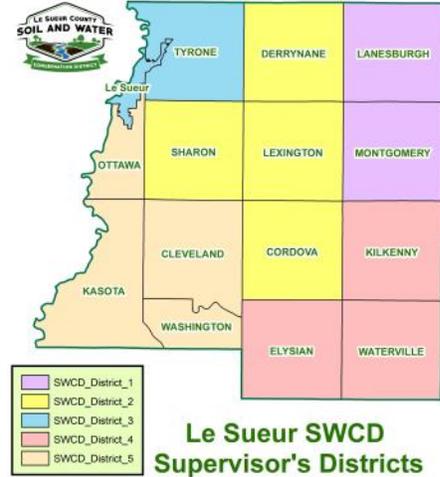


SWCD Office

Le Sueur SWCD Supervisors



Left to Right:
Jim Struck (District 5),
Cletus Gregor (District 4),
Greg Entinger (District 1),
Earl Traxler (District 2),
Glendon Braun (District 3).



Le Sueur SWCD Staff



Michael Schultz, District Manager



Sue Prchal, Program Specialist



Joe Jirik, District Technician



Karl Schmidtko, Resource Technician



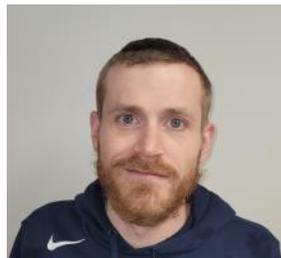
Nik Kadel, Ditch Specialist



Le Sueur Natural Resource Conservation Service



*Steve Breaker,
 District Conservationist*



*Geoff Popken,
 Soil Conservation Technician*



*Colin Williams,
 Civil Engineering Technician*