

Pipestone County Conservation & Zoning



2015 Report



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

Staff

Kyle Krier, Environmental Administrator
Adam Ossefoort, SWCD Conservationist
Stephanie LaBrune, Admin Assistant
Nicole Schwebach, Technician

District Supervisors

Cal Spronk, Chairman
Arvin Pater, Vice Chair
Anna Mae Fritz, Programs
Bill Folger, Secretary/Treasurer
Ian Cunningham, 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 2015's efforts and accomplishments.

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

Programs Review

Environmental Office

Zoning Ordinance

- Conditional Use Permits - 3
- Variances - 8
- Land use permits - 71

Feedlots

- Permitting - 2
- Inspections - 53
- Registration - 450
- Staff offered Technical Assistance with runoff control, manure management planning, spreader calibration

Septic's

- Permitted and Installed - 21
- Staff reviewed the design & construction
- Staff oversight of the City of Trosky municipal project
- Overseen the Land transfers which require septic upgrade

Shoreland

- 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 in 2014:
- Recycling – 4700 Tons
- Household Hazardous Waste / Problem Materials Collected -38 Tons
- Automotive Batteries - 60 Tons
- Electronics - 44 Tons
- Appliances - 60 Tons
- Tires - 62 Tons
- Fluorescent Bulbs -3.5 Tons
- Rural Cleanup Waste Collection - 11 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 – 5 Wells were Sealed
- Ecology Bus presents at area schools

State Cost-Share

- Promote, Design, and install Conservation Practices
- Provide funding up to 75% on a Feedlot Runoff structure.

Ag BMP Loan Program

- Apply for funds
- Approve loans for non-point source reduction projects
- Report dollars loaned out

Wellhead Protection Program

- Coordinate Program
- Provided approximately \$17,500 to Landowners for Nitrate Reduction Incentives to landowners in Rock, Nobles, and Pipestone Counties.
- Hosted several producer meetings.
- Fiscal Agent

Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Walk in Access (WIA)

- Promote program
- Enroll Lands
 - 2 properties were enrolled
 - 187.5 acres

Tree/Drill Program

- Design and install windbreaks
- Custom seeding

Watershed Projects

- TMDL's Rock River and Pipestone Creek

Clean Water Fund

- Apply to BWSR for dollars (approx. \$350,000 received to date)