

# *Pipestone County Conservation & Zoning*



## **2016 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  
Laura DeBeer, Water Resources Tech.  
Danielle Evers, Area MAWQCP Specialist

### *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 2016's efforts and accomplishments.

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

## **Programs Review**

### **Environmental Office**

#### **Zoning Ordinance**

- Conditional Use Permits - 7
- Variances – 10
- Rezoning - 1
- Land use permits - 50

#### **Feedlots**

- Permitting - 7
- Inspections - 40
- Registration - 442
- Staff offered Technical Assistance with runoff control, manure management planning, spreader calibration

#### **Septic's**

- Permitted and Installed - 23
- 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 – 4500 Tons
- Household Hazardous Waste / Problem Materials Collected -38 Tons
- Automotive Batteries - 40 Tons
- Electronics - 65 Tons
- Appliances - 75 Tons
- Tires - 56 Tons
- Fluorescent Bulbs – 2.5 Tons
- Rural Cleanup Waste Collection - 8 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
- Provided \$14,834.68 in 2014 cost share funds to a producer and the SWPTSA to implement a waterway practice.
- Provided \$3,174.60 in 2015 cost share funds to the SWPTSA for engineering services on a waterway practice.
- Provided \$1,892.25 in 2016 cost share funds to a producer to implement a grade stabilization structure.

### **Flood Relief Funds**

- Promote, Design, and install Conservation Practices
- Provided \$44,435.50 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 \$658,900 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 (RIM)**

- Promote program
- 7 site inspections completed
- Enroll Lands
  - 1 RIM application with 40.8 acres was processed
  - 128.6 acres of land enrolled in the RIM program

## **Walk in Access (WIA)**

- 1 WIA re-enrollment in 2016

## **Tree/Drill Program**

- Purchased a new Brillion Conventional Drill
- Provided custom seeding services
- Seeded 450 acres
- Designed 20 windbreaks
- Installed 6300 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
- SWCD board set a policy to provide incentive dollars for native seed

## **Clean Water Fund**

- Applied to BWSR for project dollars but did not receive any grants in 2016.

## **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)**

- Hired new staff to serve the area
- Staff promoted the MDA program, processed applications, and completed field verifications
- Certified 5 producers in Pipestone County
- Certified a total of 40 producer's area wide
- Processed a total of 124 applications in 2016
- Trained field staff in 3 counties to assist with the program implementation

## **Rock River Terrain Analysis**

- Staff worked with Rock County SWCD to identify areas of concern
- Field walk overs were performed
- One on one meetings with producers were held to discuss concerns and work towards implementing conservation practices to eliminate problems