

2013 Annual Report

Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District



Mission Statement

"Protecting our Soil and Water Resources and Promoting their Wise Use"

Introduction

The Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1954 as a legal subdivision of the state operating under a charter insured by the Secretary of State. The District is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors who is responsible for directing all District activities and establishing operational policies. Each supervisor is elected for a 4-year term. Each supervisor lives in a different geographic area of the District and represents that portion of the District. By utilizing a combination of available local, state and federal

assistance, the District directs conservation programs to service the resource management needs of all those who live within Nobles County.

The District cooperates with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation District under a Memorandum of Understanding whereby full-time technical assistance on soil survey, engineering, agronomy, biology, woodland conservation and administration is furnished to the District by the Natural Resources conservation District's field, area and state office staff. The Nobles SWCD share the Agriculture Service Center at 1567 McMillan St., Worthington Minnesota, with several USDA agencies.

District Supervisors

Jim Knips	Chairman	Leota, Wilmont, Lismore and Larkin Townships
Paul Langseth	Vice-Chairman	Lorain, Ransom, Bigelow, and Indian Lake Townships
Rick Nelsen	Secretary	Seward, Graham Lakes, Elk and Hersey Townships
Lynn Darling	Treasurer	Bloom, Summit Lake Dewald and Worthington Townships
Ken Wolf	PR&I	Westside, Olney, Grand Prairie and Little Rock Townships

District Staff

Ed Lenz.....District Manager
John Shea.....District Technician

Jane Steffl....Financial/Contracting Officer
Chessa Frahm.....MOB Watershed Coord.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Stephanie McLain....District Conservationist
Brad Harberts.....Civil Engineer
Joseph Sanchez.....Soil Conservationist

Dawn Madison.....Soil Conservation Tech.
Jean Jansma.....Office Clerk

Nobles SWCD Board Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m.

2013 Nobles SWCD Programs Report

Tree Program



The NSWCD offered for sale different tree and shrubs species native to Minnesota. Producers purchased the trees to plant into windbreaks, urban and rural conservation, and wildlife food and habitat. Through the annual tree program the NSWCD is able to promote conservation practices and the value of forestry resources in preventing soil loss and improving water quality. The District sold over 13,650 trees, in 2013, and assisted 22 landowners with tree planting. More than 770 tree mats were sold and over 10,300 feet of mating was installed in 2013.

State Cost-Share



The State Cost-Share program is a viable source of funds that provides financial incentives to landowners that wish to install conservation practices on their land. In addition to the State Cost-Share program, landowners were given an opportunity to participate in various other cost-share or financial incentive programs, such as the Federal EQIP program and the State Revolving Loan Program. The SWCD and NRCS provide technical assistance for the survey design and installation of water quality practices. The SWCD received \$22,598.00 for FY 2013 allocations.

Environmental Education



Environmental education is an important part of our SWCD office. Classes and materials are offered to schools and churches across Nobles County.

2013 activities included

- Prairie Elementary Earth Day Presentations
- Fifth Grade Adrian Environmental Learning Area Tours
- Fifth Grade Prairie Wetlands Environmental Learning Area Tours
- Ecology Bus presentations
- Envirothon Area 5, Worthington had two teams participate
- Fifth and Sixth Grade Environmental Fair – Marshall, MN
- High School FFA Speech Contest judging

Wetland Conservation Act Program



The NSWCD assists cities, townships, citizens, and County departments in the administration of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act. NSWCD staff provides technical and administrative assistance for wetland related activities throughout Nobles County. Common activities involved with the program include tile and drainage applications as well as wetland banking. The NSWCD has continued its commitment to ensure that staff is adequately trained and updated on current wetland rules and policy. In 2013, NSWCD worked on over 1,000 landowner drainage requests.

State Revolving Loan Program



During 2013 the NSWCD in conjunction with the Nobles Co. Commissioners, Southwest State Bank Worthington, United Prairie, Fulda Credit Union and MinnWest Bank worked with local landowners to obtain MN Department of Agriculture AgBMP Loans. During 2013 over \$290,940.00 worth of loans were dispersed related to conservation tillage, ISTS, and ag waste management.

Federal ARRA (stimulus) Funds



The NSWCD provided Administrative and Technical assistance to implement over \$300,000 worth of federal cost share funds designated for use in the Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District. Over 20 projects were put under long-term contracts. All remaining work was completed in 2013.

Water Monitoring Program



The Nobles SWCD is participating in the Pollution Control Agency's Major Watershed Approach. For the past two years, Nobles SWCD has housed a watershed coordinator for the Missouri River Basin. Work continued this year towards completing the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies document and supporting reports. Sampling was completed on nineteen sites throughout the basin ten times in 2013.

Clean Water Assistance Funds



The Nobles SWCD applied for and received funding from the Clean Water Funding over the past 4 years to install erosion control practices. In 2013, 35 waterways and sediment basins were installed. Three landowners received Clean Water Assistance Funds for completion of 20 J-hook rock wiers to assist with stabilization of 2,500 feet of streambank on the Kanaranzi and Champepedan Creeks.

Clean Water Feedlot Funds



The Nobles SWCD in partnership with the Southwest Prairie TSA Engineers and additional private engineers developed site evaluations and plans for the repair of two feedlot sites in Nobles County. One feedlot on Lake Ocheda received Clean Water Funds to reduce the phosphorus runoff into Lake Ocheda and the Worthington Wellhead Area. The second feedlot will reduce pollution potential to the City of Lismore wellhead area by reducing groundwater potential. Both projects will be ready for construction in 2014.

Watershed Boards and Staff

Heron Lake Watershed District Board

Dale Bartosh
Jim Buschena
Gary Ewert
Roger Hartman
Mike McCarvel

Jan Voit, HLWD Admin.
Ross Behrends, HLWD Tech

Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District

Jerry Brake
Connie Frahm
Coleen Gruis
Layton Gruis
Tim Taylor

Bruce Heitkamp, Exec. Secretary

K-LR Watershed Project-Joint Powers Board

Lynn Darling
Coleen Gruis
Don Reker
Connie Frahm
Gene Metz

Jane Steffl, Contracting Officer

Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District

Casey Ingenthron
Lester Johnson
Rolf Mahlberg
Jay Milbrandt
Jeff Rogers

Dan Livdahl, Administrator