

NOBLES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2009 ANNUAL PLAN OF OPERATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Nobles SWCD Annual Plan of Operations is to provide a mechanism to implement the Nobles County Comprehensive Water Management Plan by identifying the goals and objectives that need to be implemented during the year. The annual plan provides specific statements about the actions to be performed, the programs to be implemented, and the budget allocated for the overall program. The annual plan serves as a tool for guiding actions during the year and for measuring performance at appropriate time intervals.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES:

1. Water quality protection
2. Water erosion control
3. Wind erosion control
4. Flood control
5. Resource management education
6. Wildlife habitat creation and enhancement

NOTE: Abbreviations for cooperating agencies which will assist with the implementation of the following priorities are shown within the { }; the abbreviations for the agencies are as follows:

BWSR =	Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
MES =	Minnesota Extension Service
DNR =	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
FSA =	U.S.D.A. Farm Services Agency
FFA =	Worthington Future Farmers of America
HLWD =	Heron Lake Watershed District
JPB =	Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed Project Joint Powers Board
K-LR =	Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District
MNDOT =	State of Minnesota Department of Transportation
NCBC =	Nobles County Board of Commissioners
NRCS =	Natural Resources Conservation Service
O-O =	Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District
NCPW =	Nobles County Public Works Department
SWMACDE =	Southwest Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees
SWPJPO=	Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Organization
USFWS =	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WGTM =	City of Worthington
NCPF =	Nobles County Pheasants Forever

PRIORITY INITIATIVE: 1. Water Quality Protection

Goal: Direct planning and technical assistance to high priority surface water quality problems and to areas with high quality water resources in need of protection as identified by the Nobles County Comprehensive Water Management Plan and DNR protected waters map.

Objective: Plan and implement practices to reduce or abate surface water quality problems to fishable/swimmable or otherwise tolerable levels.

Actions:

1. Administer and implement the Nobles County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.
 - A. Administer and complete Nobles County Water Plan Update. {NCBC}
 - B. Provide technical and administrative assistance for BMP's funded by the local cost-share programs. {NCPW, SWPJPO, NRCS}
 - C. Promote and assist watershed district well sealing programs. {HLWD, K-LR, O-O}
 - D. Promote and assist watershed district and county cost-share programs for replacing septic systems. {NCPW, HLWD, K-LR, O-O}
 - E. Assist County Feedlot Officer to develop a list of feedlot problem sites in Nobles County. {NCBC, NRCS}
2. Administer and implement the Wetlands Conservation Act.
 - A. Evaluate and act on WCA applications.
 - B. Evaluate and act on wetland replacement plans.
 - C. Enforce Wetland Conservation Act as necessary.
 - D. Serve on technical evaluation panel and coordinate meetings as needed.
 - E. Review watershed district permit applications for WCA compliance as requested.
 - F. Issue certificates of exemption and contractor notification forms when appropriate.
 - G. Evaluate and approve wetland banking applications when appropriate. {BWSR, NCBC, NCPW, NCPW}
 - H. Request WCA Administrative Training for Technical Coordinator. {BWSR}
3. Provide representative to the Southwest Prairie Joint Powers Organization and provide administrative, technical and financial assistance as necessary.
4. Promote, administer and provide technical assistance for the Ag. BMP Loan Program. Complete annual report and plan.
5. Assist watershed districts with permit reviews. {K-LR, O-O, HLWD, NRCS}
6. Review and comment on all DNR water permits applications. {DNR, NRCS}

7. Record water levels monthly at 4 observation wells during Mar. through Dec. {DNR}
8. Monitor the Kanaranzi Creek for turbidity and *E. Coli*, and the Little Rock River for *E. Coli*. {MPCA, K-LR}
9. Install 35,000 feet of terraces and water and sediment control basins. {FSA, BWSR, NRCS}
10. Apply 30 acres of grassed waterways and critical area plantings. {NRCS, FSA, BWSR}
11. Develop 10 EQIP contracts using K-LR Watershed Special Funding and complete 10 existing contracts. {NRCS, JPB, K-LR}
12. Make wetland and marginal land determinations on tax forfeited property. {NCBC, DNR}
13. Work with Heron Lake Project Clean Water Partnership to implement the project goals. {NRCS, HLWD}
14. Promote CRP and RIM throughout the County as ways to improve water quality. Request watershed districts and County continue providing additional incentive payments for land enrolled in CRP or RIM programs. {NRCS, HLWD, K-LR O-O, NCPW}
15. Plan for an additional enrollment of 150 acres into CRP with special emphasis on MN SAFE CP38E. {NRCS, BWSR, FSA}
16. Promote and implement Local Cost-Share Programs. Provide technical services as needed. {NRCS, HLWD, K-LR, O-O, NCPW, BWSR}
17. Continue running the grass drill rental program for planting CRP, wildlife habitat and waterway practices.
18. Use the EQIP cost-share program to install 2 agricultural waste systems, write and implement 4 nutrient management plans and apply strip tillage, ridge tillage or 50% mulch tillage on 6 farms.
19. Thirty-eight percent of state cost-share work money (\$9,874) will be targeted for water quality protection. State cost-share funds will be used for manure management systems only on high priority feedlots (see appendix). Local cost-share funding will be allocated for water quality practices as stated in watershed district and Nobles County Comprehensive Water Management plans {BWSR, HLWD, K-LR, NCPW}
20. Monitor the Champepedan Creek for turbidity and *E. Coli*, and Indian Lake for total

phosphorus and chlorophyll A. {MPCA}

21. Plan for and utilize Clean Water Legacy Funding for Water Quality Projects such as Feedlot improvement projects, septic system improvement projects and other water quality improvements thorough out the county. {BWSR}
22. Utilize Farmbill Assistance Grant funding for additional staff time used toward water quality practices that support wildlife such as CRP, RIM, CREP, and tree plantings. {NCPF, BWSR, DNR}

PRIORITY INITIATIVE: 2. Water Erosion Control

Goal: Direct planning and technical assistance to high priority areas with excessive water erosion and/or sedimentation as identified by the Comprehensive Water Management Plan

Objective: Plan and implement practices to reduce soil erosion on cropland to rates at or below tolerable levels and to reduce excessive sedimentation.

Actions:

1. Apply 8000 acres of residue management tillage systems. {NRCS}
2. Install 35,000 feet of terraces and water and sediment control basins. {NRCS, BWSR, FSA}
3. Apply 30 acres of grassed waterways and critical area plantings. {NRCS, BWSR, FSA}
4. Plan for an additional enrollment of 150 acres into CRP. {NRCS, BWSR, FSA}
5. Promote CRP and RIM throughout the County as ways to improve water quality. Request watershed districts and County continue providing additional incentive payments for land enrolled in CRP or RIM programs. {NRCS, HLWD, K-LR O-O, NCPW}
6. Apply 500 feet of diversions. {NRCS, FSA, BWSR}
7. Make marginal land and wetland determinations on tax forfeited property. {NCBC, DNR}
8. Administer and implement the Nobles County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Update.

- A. Promote, administer and provide technical assistance for the Ag. BMP loan program. {NCPW, SWPJPO}
 - B. Provide technical and administrative assistance for BMP's funded by the local cost-share programs. {NCPW, SWPJPO, NRCS}.
9. Continue running the grass drill rental program for planting CRP, wildlife and waterway practices.
10. Use the EQIP cost-share program to apply strip tillage, ridge tillage or 50% mulch tillage on 6 farms.

Water Erosion Prone Areas Map

Sedimentation Prone Areas Map

11. Erosion and sedimentation control practices. Local cost-share funding will be allocated for erosion and sediment control practices as stated in watershed district and Nobles County Comprehensive Water Management plans. {BWSR, HLWD, K-LR, NCPW}
12. Plan for and utilize Clean Water Legacy Funding for Water Erosion Projects thorough out the county. {BWSR}

PRIORITY INITIATIVE: 3. Wind Erosion Control

Goal: Direct planning and technical assistance to high priority areas with excessive wind erosion as identified by the Comprehensive Water Management Plan.

Objective: Plan and implement practices to reduce soil erosion on cropland to rates at or below tolerable levels.

Actions:

1. Apply 8000 acres of residue management tillage systems. {NRCS, K-LR}
2. Plant 1,000 feet of field windbreaks. {NRCS, BWSR}
3. Plant of 20 acres of farmstead windbreaks. {NRCS, FSA}
4. Plan for an additional enrollment of 150 acres into CRP or RIM Programs. {BWSR, NRCS, FSA}
5. Install 5 acres of living snow fences. {NCPW, NRCS, MNDOT, FSA}
6. Plan for application of 100 feet of field borders. {FSA, NRCS, K-LR, JPB}
7. Ten percent of state cost-share work money (\$2,598) will be targeted for wind erosion control. Local cost-share funding will be allocated for erosion and sediment control practices as stated in watershed district and Nobles County Comprehensive Water Management plans. {BWSR, HLWD, K-LR, NCPW}

Wind Erosion Map

Flood Prone Areas Map

PRIORITY INITIATIVE: 4. Flood Control

Goal: Direct planning and technical assistance to three watershed district areas and areas outside watershed boundaries, with significant flooding problems as identified by the Comprehensive Water Management Plan.

Objective: Plan and implement upland treatment practices to reduce flooding impacts to lands adjacent to streams and tributaries within each watershed district.

Actions:

1. Apply 8,000 acres of residue management tillage systems. {NRCS}
2. Install 35,000 feet of terraces and water and sediment control basins. {NRCS, FSA, BWSR}
3. Apply 30 acres of grassed waterways and critical area plantings. {NRCS, FSA, BWSR}
4. Assist Nobles County to implement the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan. Administer and complete County Water Plan Update. {NCBC, NCPW, BWSR, K-LR, HLWD, O-O, DNR, MES}
5. Promote CRP, CREP and RIM wetland restorations as flood reduction measures. {NRCS, BWSR}
6. Implement the Wetlands Conservation Act. {BWSR, NCBC, NCPW}
7. Develop 6 K-LR Special EQIP contracts and complete 6 existing contracts. {NRCS, JPB, K-LR}
8. Two percent of state cost-share work funds (\$520) will be targeted for flood control. Local cost-share funding will be allocated for erosion and sediment control practices as stated in watershed district and Nobles County Comprehensive Water Management plans. {BWSR, HLWD, K-LR, NCPW}
9. Assist K-LR Watershed with the flood control-special project in the Adrian Campgrounds area. {K-LR}
10. Plan for and utilize Clean Water Legacy Funding for Flood Control Projects thorough out the county. {BWSR}

PRIORITY INITIATIVE: 5. Resource Management Education

Goal: Direct administrative and technical assistance to develop, implement and evaluate the dissemination of information to all interested individuals regarding the wise use of natural resources.

Objectives:

1. Plan and implement education and information activities for youth, urban adult and rural adult audiences regarding priority initiatives identified in the Comprehensive Water Management Plan.
2. Engage in on-going communications with cooperating agencies regarding joint implementation of education and information activities described above.

Actions:

A. Water Quality Protection

- i. Implement the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan and complete plan update for Nobles County. {NCPW, BWSR, NCBC, NRCS, K-LR, O-O, HLWD, MES, DNR }

B. Water Erosion Control

- i. Prepare news releases and on RIM and CRP filter strip programs. {NRCS, BWSR }

C. Wind Erosion Control

- i. Prepare news releases on effective wind erosion control practices and programs available to implement them. {BWSR, NRCS, MES }

D. Other Initiatives

- i. Sponsor and work at the 5 grade field day at the Prairie Wetland Learning Area and Adrian Learning Area. {NRCS, USFWS, O-O }
- ii. Make presentations to schools and service organizations on conservation related topics as requested.
- iii. Make wetlands trunk and other traveling conservation displays available to schools.
- iv. Provide information on Envirothon to county high schools. Serve on Envirothon Committee in 2009 and help coach the Envirothon teams and provide transportation to contest.
- v. Work with local school systems to develop tours, projects and lesson plans for the Prairie-Wetlands Learning Area and the Adrian Learning Area. {NRCS, USFWS, O-O, KLR }

- vi. Provide continual updates to the District's website to keep residents informed of programs and activities.
- vii. Provide information on the Area V Environmental Fair to county elementary schools. Serve on Environmental Fair planning committee.
- viii. Make Stewardship Week information available to 50 churches in Nobles County.
- ix. Work with high schools in Nobles County to provide two students tuition to attend state Conservation Camps.
- x. Provide information on District activities on monthly radio program.

PRIORITY INITIATIVE: 6. Wildlife Habitat Creation and Enhancement

Goal: Create and Enhance Wildlife Habitat in Nobles County.

Objective: Plan and implement forestry practices throughout the District.

Actions:

1. Plant 20 acres of farmstead windbreaks. {DNR, K-LR, JPB, NRCS }
2. Plant 1,000 feet of field windbreaks. {DNR, K-LR, JPB, NRCS }
3. Install 5 acres of living snow fences. {MNDOT, NCBC, NRCS, FSA }
4. Plant 25 acres of wildlife plantings on CRP riparian contact sites. {NRCS, FSA }
5. Plan for an additional enrollment of 150 acres into CRP. {BWSR, NRCS, FSA }
6. Promote woody vegetation and compatible grass mixes on riparian buffers. {NRCS, DNR, HLWD, O-O, K-LR }
7. Work with local sportsmen's and environmental groups to promote forestry and wildlife practices. {DNR, NCPF }
8. Send periodic press releases about wildlife habitat creation to area newspapers.
9. Utilize Farmbill Assistance Grant funding for additional staff time used toward water quality practices that support wildlife such as CRP, RIM, CREP, and tree plantings. {NCPF, BWSR, DNR }
10. Promote tree matting program.

2007 LAND TREATMENT ACTION GOALS

<u>Conservation Practice</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Goal</u>	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Goal</u>
Conservation Tillage	19,751 acres	8,000 acres	acres	8,000 acres
Critical Area Planting	23 acres	10 acres	acres	10 acres
CRP (including filter strips, riparian areas and CREP)	1,056 acres	1000 acres	acres	1000 acres
Diversions	1500 feet	500 feet	feet	500 feet
Farmstead Windbreaks	20.4 acres	20 acres	acres	20 acres
Field Windbreaks	1,120 feet	2,500 feet	feet	2,500 feet
Tree Mat - Weed Barrier	21,000 feet	10,000 feet	feet	10,000 feet
Private Wildlife Plantings	1.5 acres	7 acres	acres	7 acres
Field Borders	100 feet	100 feet	feet	100 feet
Grassed Waterways	32.5 acres	20 acres	acres	20 acres
RIM/CREP Enrollment	167.4 acres	0 acres	acres	0 acres
Streambank and Shoreline protection	0 feet	0 acres	feet	0 acres
Terraces and Water and Sediment Control Basins	40,113 feet	35,000 feet	feet	35,000 feet
Living Snowfences	8.8 acres	5 acres	acres	5 acres
Riparian Buffers	88 acres	10 acres	acres	10 acres
Ag. Waste Management System		3 number	number	2 number
Nutrient Management Plans	19,751 acres	5 number	number	4 number
Alternative Intakes	23 acres	15 number	number	15 number

WORKLOAD ANALYSIS

WORK COMMITMENT

Water Quality Protection	Water Erosion Control	Wind Erosion Control	Flood Control	Resource Management Education	Wildlife Habitat Creation & Enhancement
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POSITIONS:

District Administrative Coordinator (100% FTE; 52 weeks)

Work hours available = 2080

450	450	400	280	300	200
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District Technical Coordinator (100% FTE; 52 weeks)

Work hours available = 2080

400	400	500	230	200	350
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District Education Coordinator (20% FTE; 52 weeks)

Work hours available = 400

10	10	10	10	350	10
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Seasonal Technicians (25% FTE; 13 weeks)

Work hours available = 520

85	85	200	50	50	50
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TOTAL WORK HOURS AVAILABLE = 5080

945	945	1110	570	900	610
19%	19%	21%	11%	18%	12%

BUDGET SUMMARY
January 1 through December 31, 2009

EXPENDITURES:

District Operations	
Personal Services	\$ 124,713.00
Other Services and Charges	\$ 38,800.00
Supplies	\$ 1,070.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 2,000.00
Project Expenses--State	
Cost-share	\$ 26,483.00
Project Expenses--District	<u>\$ 14,850.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 207,916.00</u>

REVENUES:

Intergovernmental	
State	
District Operations	\$ 35,483.00
Cost-Share Program	\$ 26,483.00
County	\$ 63,350.00
Local	\$ 23,000.00
Federal	\$ 7,000.00
Charges for Services	\$ 20,100.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 7,500.00
Fund Balance Withdrawal	<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 207,916.00</u>

APPENDIX A: COST-SHARE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

High Priority Problems

1. High Priority Erosion Problems

High priority erosion problems are areas where erosion from wind or water is occurring to, or in excess of, 2 X T tons per acre per year or is occurring in any area that exhibits gully erosion or is identified as high priority in the comprehensive local water plan or the conservation districts comprehensive plan.

2. High Priority Water Quality Problems

High priority water quality problems means areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals, or other pollutants discharge to Department of Natural Resources designated protected waters, or any high priority waters as identified in a comprehensive local water plan or the conservation district=s comprehensive plan, or discharge to a sinkhole or groundwater. The pollutant delivery rate to the water source is in amounts that will impair the quality or usefulness of the water resource.

a. High Priority Feedlots are those where the pollution potential rating from the feedlot model is greater than or equal to one and which are discharging pollutants to Department of Natural Resources designated protected waters or to a sinkhole or shallow soils overlying fractured or cavernous bedrock or within 100 feet of a water well. Feedlots not meeting these criteria are not eligible for cost-sharing assistance unless cited by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

b. High Priority Sedimentation Problems are areas within 300 feet of a water course or 1,000 feet of a water basin or wetland where the water erosion rate exceeds three tons per acre per year or areas where the District can show that sediment delivery occurs from a watershed or direct conveyance structure such as a storm sewer or paved outlet channel discharging to these waters. The water basin, wetland, or watercourse must be classified by the Department of Natural Resources as protected waters. Sedimentation problems not meeting these criteria are not eligible for cost-sharing assistance.

The maps contained in this annual plan indicate high priority problem areas within the district where approved practices will be installed.

APPENDIX B. STATE COST-SHARE NEEDS

1. Water quality protection	\$ 9,874.00
2. Water erosion and sedimentation control	\$ 12,992.00
3. Wind erosion control	\$ 2,598.00
4. Flood control	\$ 520.00

Nobles SWCD received \$32,479.00 for its state cost-share program in 2009. Of this amount, 20% (\$6,495.00) will be used for administration and the remaining 80% for high priority cost-share practices.

Nobles County will receive approximately \$200,000.00 in EQIP funding in 2009.

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