

State of the District 2009 Summary

In spite of the national and state's economy, we are holding our own!

A summary of all of the district programs is provided below:

State Cost Share Program:

Assisted 33 landowners with contracts totaling **\$24,252.88**
4 more pending with 2010 contracts totaling **\$5,437.46**

Feedlot Water Quality Program:

Assisted 2 highly polluting riparian feedlots totaling **\$38,094.61**
2 more pending completion with **\$71,000** set aside
7 landowners were submitted for funding for FWQ. The state funded **\$275,000** but it is yet unknown which landowners were approved.

319 Swan River Grant:

Assisted 3 watershed landowners for a total of **\$13,223.74**
1 final contract pending completion which will complete the **\$70,000** grant.

Army Compatible Use Buffer Program:

Since 2006, we have 36 landowners under contract, 22 completed and paid totaling **8,269** acres enrolled, with payments to landowners of **\$8,910,084.10**.
Revenue to the district/s to date from ACUB has been **\$361,218.75** (approximately \$37,000 to Crow Wing SWCD) revenue to BWSR **\$361,218.75**

Wetland Conservation Act:

Violations remained down, with 19 sites investigated, nearly all resulting in restorations either done or pending. Processed the usual over 222 field visits determinations and 56 permits for exemptions.

Managed the Burggraft, Hobson, and Obawa banks. Sales of credits for landowners amounted to **\$60,913.42**. Fees to the district amounted to **\$14,329.50** and that same amount to BWSR.

Tree Program:

2009 spring trees, 46,495 sold.

For **2010** spring plant, so far 17,533 sold, and 340 fruit trees.

Tree Open House sales alone were almost 10,000.

Environmental Reviews for Feedlots:

Conducted **6** environmental reviews for Morrison County Planning and Zoning, and received **\$3,915** for the reviews and additional feedlot work. (NRGB budget for that service) In addition, began attending Planning Commission meetings and Board of Adjustment meetings to provide answers that might arise.

Local Water Plan:

The county requested that the SWCD take over the plan administration and re-writing responsibilities in June of 2009. Since the county had already received BWSR extensions, time was short to meet the deadlines. As of this writing, the public hearing is scheduled and we are on task.

Projections for 2010:

ACUB REPI dollars will remain about the same as first of the year funding (\$765,000) for at least the first allocation which is expected to be about the same as last year, \$750,000.00 Partial funding was received from the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council so details on how that will be used this year are pending. Hopefully year end funding will once again be strong. We sent out 52 letters to landowners within the zone that had never indicated an interest and received over 30 back, so interest in the program remains very high.

State Cost Share was cut by approximately 50% so discretion on how/rate of projects funded will need to be scrutinized.

Tree Program appears to be a little less than last year, however there is high interest in the fruit trees. Oddly, not as many people are seeking cost share assistance.

Feedlot Water Quality Program: FWQ Grant was announced receiving \$275,000 but not known which sites were funded. This will be helpful, due to the 14 landowners interested in constructing in 2010. We still have a lot of high polluting riparian feedlots to fix, but we are encouraging the state to

look at the animal units requirements and modify them to match the Ag BMP program and EQIP requirements.

Wetland Conservation Act work will remain about the same. We remain one of the highest WCA workload counties, funding from the NRGB remains the same as it always has been. We can't seem to get anywhere with that problem legislatively.

Environmental Reviews: Likely to remain about the same, or less.

Having the Local Water Plan administered by our office will increase our workload and we have not increased our staff to take on the responsibilities. The first effort we made was to encourage the county to request a Geologic Atlas. Members of the SWCD staff as well as Planning and Zoning staff will be working on the well location effort before the atlas can be started. We have a year to complete the well logs. The LWP should have BWSR approval by summer of 2010 and the implementation has actually already commenced. The plan itself will drive more collaboration with adjacent counties to address watershed planning.

Rural Preserve Program: A new workload will be assisting landowners in their transition between the Green Acres and the Rural Preserve Program. We aren't sure how much time and effort that will take but it is estimated that between 600-1,000 plans will have to be written. We coordinated fees with surrounding counties.