



AGENDA

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting

April 8, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

This Board meeting will be via telephone and conducted under Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021. Members of the public may access the meeting through teleconference by calling 651-372-8299 and entering the conference ID number of 951 0137 2289 followed by # sign. If prompted to enter a passcode, the passcode is 414837

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Audience
Anyone wishing to address the Board regarding an item that is not on the agenda may come forward at this time. Comments are limited to five minutes.
3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

CONSENT AGENDA

To be adopted under one motion unless a request is made to move an item to Regular Agenda for discussion

4. Approval of March 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of April 8, 2021 Accounts Payable
6. Acceptance of the March 2021 Finance Report

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Authorization to Execute Contract with Molitor Land, LLC for Installation of Grassed Waterways Action
8. Authorization to Execute Contract with Jay Frandrup for Establishing Cover Crops (multi-year) Action
9. Authorization to Execute Contract with Charles Schaffer for Installation of Water and Sediment Control Basins Action
10. Authorization to Execute Three Contracts with Peine Farms for Establishing Cover Crops (multi-year) Action
11. Authorization to Execute Contract with Molitor Brothers, LTD Partnership for Installation of Water and Sediment Control Basin Action
12. Authorization to Execute Contract with Dan Duncomb for Installation of Grade Stabilization Structure Action
13. Authorization to Execute Contract with Ambrey Gartner for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinators Action
14. Authorization to Execute Contract with Century South Single-Family Homeowners Association for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinators Action
15. Authorization to Execute Contract with Eric Johnson for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinators Action
16. Authorization to Execute Contract with City of Burnsville for Installation of Native Prairie with Pollinators Action
17. Review 2020 Annual Report Information
18. Announcements and Reports
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Dakota County
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board
Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
District Managers Report
Board of Supervisor Announcements

19. Upcoming Events

Events listed are expected to be held through a call-in format. If information is needed to access the meetings, please contact staff.

April 7, 2021	Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
April 8, 2021	Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
April 14, 2021	Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization Meeting – 3:00 p.m.
April 20, 2021	Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
April 21, 2021	Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Meeting – 5:00 p.m.
April 21, 2021	Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
April 21, 2021	North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
April 22, 2021	Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board Meeting -1:00 p.m.
May 13, 2021	Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District Regular Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
May 13, 2021	USDA-NRCS Local Work Group meeting – 10:00 a.m.

20. Adjourn

Please note the Board meeting will take place via teleconference by phone. Our building remains closed in response to COVID-19. No in-person meeting will be available. We are following provisions in Minnesota Open Meeting Law addressing meetings in the case of pandemic. For more information please call 651-480-7777.



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thursday, March 11, 2021

9:00 a.m.

4100 220th Street W, Suite 102
Farmington, Minnesota

Board Members Present:

Laura Zanmiller, Chair
Kevin Chamberlain, Vice
Jayne Hager Dee, Treasurer
Chelsea Skog, Secretary
Bruce Johnson, Public Information Officer

SWCD Staff Present:

Brian Watson
Curt Coudron
Lana Rotty
Todd Matzke
David Holmen
Ashley Gallagher
Diane Schmidtke
Joe Barten

Others Present:

Mark Zabel, VRW JPO

Due to the local state of emergency and social distancing, the Board of Supervisors participated in the meeting via telephone and the Board meeting was conducted under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Zanmiller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair Zanmiller requested a roll call. All Supervisors were present.

2. Audience

Chair Zanmiller asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to address the Board on an item that is not on the agenda. Nobody came forward.

3. Approval of Agenda

21.014 Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to approve the agenda. Members voting in favor: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Approval of February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes were presented.

5. Approval of March 11, 2021 Accounts Payable

The March 11, 2021 Accounts Payable were presented.

- 6. Authorization to Execute Contract with the Food Group for Establishment of Cover Crop (one-year)**
Contract 21-IPP-01 with The Food Group for establishment of cover crop on 85 acres encumbering \$2,125 based on \$25 per acre on one-year contract from Agreements with Dakota County and Vermillion River Watershed Management Organization.
- 7. Authorization to Execute Contract with Rehder and Associates for Engineering Services**
Authorize execution of contract with Rehder and Associates for Engineering Services for the Dave and Maureen Fasbender and Jeff and Roger Peine properties in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed. Funding available through the FY18 CWF Trout Brook Gant, Metro Conservation Engineering Technical Assistance funds, or CY Agreement with Dakota County.
- 21.015** Motion by Johnson, second by Chamberlain to approve the consent agenda items. Members voting in favor: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Finance Committee Report

8.1 Acceptance of December 31, 2020 Finance Report

Watson stated that the Finance Committee and staff met on March 3 to review the December 31, 2020 Finance Report. Watson reported that the budgeted fund balance shortfall was \$47,007 however, the actual shortfall was \$69,625. It was noted that with the 2020 year-end finances, we are now slightly below the Board approved fund balance policy of 6-10 months. Chamberlain asked if any new revenue opportunities are surfacing. Watson indicated staff will need to prioritize tasks associated with executed grants first and keep moving those initiatives forward while also continuing to look for new grant opportunities. Existing staff commitments also need to be balanced with new opportunities and commitments. Much of our grant and agreement work is specific to a task or set of tasks. The shortfall in revenue typically occurs when we have spent grant funds for staff time but have not met deliverables, provide education and outreach tasks that are not billable to a grant or agreement or the need for staff time to coordinate with new or existing partners. The COVID issue also had an impact on the 2020 budget as there was more administrative time associated with responding to the pandemic.

21.016 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to accept the December 31, 2020 Finance Report as presented. Members voting in favor: Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog. Motion carried.

8.2 Acceptance of January and February 2021 Finance Reports

The January and February 2021 Finance Reports were reviewed.

21.017 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Dee to accept the January and February 2021 Finance Reports as presented. Members voting in favor: Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson. Motion carried.

9. Legislative Updates

Watson stated that a lot of legislative activities and bills have been introduced that may impact soil and water conservation districts. There are many soil health initiatives that have been introduced. Watson highlighted House File 639 which includes State funds to soil and water conservation districts for local capacity and some of the changes being proposed.

10. Announcements and Reports

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michelle Wohlers provided the NRCS report. She stated that regarding the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, priority was given to the 43 applications that were not funded last year. Six new contracts received medium priority. Those contracts receiving pre-approval were scheduled to be announced on March 3rd, however due to software glitches, they will be announced on March 30. All contracts funded will be announced on May 7. In addition, they received seven applications for round two and they will be considered if funding is still available. They are currently working on 35 contracts totaling

\$1,264,033 covering a variety of practices. Staff have been participating in Local Work Group training each Wednesday in March and Wohlers is seeking a date for a Dakota County Local Work Group meeting prior to July 30. Watson added that SWCD staff are also participating in the Local Work Group training and training for SWCD Supervisors is scheduled for March 31. A date for the Local Work Group meeting will be scheduled within the next month.

Dakota County

There was no Dakota County report.

Metropolitan Conservation Districts Joint Power Board

Zanmiller provided the Metropolitan Conservation District Joint Powers Board report. She stated they met on February 24. Officers were elected as follows: Chair - Mark Zabel (Carver), Vice-Chair - Shelly Binsfeld (Sherburne), Secretary - Glenda Meixell (Anoka), Treasurer - Doug Schoenneker (Scott). The Board also discussed future program opportunities where some Members might be eligible to participate but others are not and if the joint powers board as a whole would support that concept and administer those types of grant opportunities. The consensus was to pursue all opportunities even if some Members are ineligible to participate but to ensure the costs of those opportunities are paid for by those that receive the funding.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

It was reported that the Legislative Briefing is scheduled for March 18 and the Local Work Group Training for Supervisors is scheduled for March 31.

Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board

There was no Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board report. The next meeting is April 7.

Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Mark Zabel provided the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) report. He stated that John Stelzner and Curt Coudron presented at a recent Watershed Planning Commission and Joint Powers Board meetings to highlight the general SWCD programs and progress on the Braun wetland bank project. He added that the Commissioners and others in attendance were impressed, especially with the onset of the harvestable cover program. He anticipates this to lead to additional cover on the landscape and address erosion in the county. He again thanked staff and the Board for their work on the cost share policy.

District Managers Report

Watson stated that staff have completed the Pay Equity Report which is required every three years. He noted that required report is a method of reviewing gender equity for jobs requiring comparable levels of expertise. Watson indicated that he would share the Pay Equity Report with Supervisor Dee as she was in the office and could review prior to submitting.

Watson expressed appreciation to the Supervisors for their patience and coordinating the use of iPads under County IT requirements. Staff will be looking to fully utilized all capabilities at the April Board meeting.

There are signs of COVID receding and the return to traditional work could begin sometime this summer. Watson further stated that through the CARES Act, Dakota County has provided much appreciated resources to the SWCD; such as computer workstations, and monitors, for telework purposes.

Watson added that there will be more Groundwater outreach to landowners occurring in the eastern portion of Dakota County. Partners include Dakota County to implement their groundwater plan, University of Minnesota, Cannon River Watershed Partnership and Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Board of Supervisors Reports

There were no reports or updates.

Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were reviewed.

11. Adjourn

20.018 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Members voting in favor: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog
Secretary

**Dakota County SWCD
Income and Expense Summary**

March 2021

	Current Month	Year to Date
Income		
County Revenues	\$27,608.50	\$82,825.50
State Revenues	\$11,615.00	\$11,615.00
Local Revenues	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Funds	\$0.00	\$20.37
Charges for Services	<u>\$1,401.31</u>	<u>\$2,101.31</u>
Total Income	\$40,624.81	\$96,562.18
Expense		
County Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
State Expenses	\$11,615.00	\$11,615.00
Local Expenses	\$0.00	\$775.32
Operating Expenses	\$4,149.97	\$14,158.30
Payroll/Personnel Expenses	\$96,174.86	\$301,179.78
Project Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expense	\$111,939.83	\$327,728.40
Revenues Over/-Under Expenditures	<u>-\$71,315.02</u>	<u>-\$231,166.22</u>

Dakota County SWCD**Balance Sheet****March 2021****ASSETS:**

Cash in Checking - Castle Rock	\$18,928.03
Cash in Savings - Castle Rock	\$830,459.64
Cash in Checking - Vermillion Bank	\$27,553.62
Certificate of Deposit - Vermillion Bank	\$400,472.05
Petty Cash	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total Cash:	\$1,277,513.34

Accounts Receivable:

BWSR	DC Drinking Water PP 40% of Grant	\$36,040.72	
DC Environmental Resources	Q4 2020 Invoice for Services	\$106,652.88	
Lower MN River WD WBF	Q4 2020 Invoice for Services	\$449.43	
MCD Cannon River Direct SWA	2020 Invoice for Services	\$9,597.93	
MCD Hosting	Q4 2020 Invoice for Services	\$2,187.05	
MCD ETA	Q4 2020 Invoice for Services	\$0.00	
MCD MAWQCP	Q4 2020 Invoice for Services	\$185.93	
North Cannon River WMO	Q4 2020 Invoice for Services	\$10,511.50	
			\$165,625.44

TOTAL ASSETS:**\$1,443,138.78****LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:****Unearned Revenue:**

Buffer Law Funds 2019	\$3,768.14	
Buffer Law Funds 2020	\$20,000.00	
Buffer Law Funds 2021	\$17,200.00	
Conservation Delivery 2020	\$7,961.92	
Conservation Delivery 2021	\$21,240.00	
CWF 2018 Trout Brook Watershed Projects	\$99,092.25	
Local Capacity Services 2019	\$6,268.96	
Local Capacity Services 2020	\$56,916.62	
Local Capacity Services 2021	\$124,387.00	
Met Council WOMP Funds	\$5,145.57	
NRBG Wetland Conservation Act 2021	\$52,804.00	
State Cost Share 2020	\$22,054.00	
State Cost Share 2021	\$22,054.00	
WBF 2019 Dakota SWCD	\$15,484.20	
WBF 2019 LM WD	\$32,725.00	
WBF 2021 Cannon River	\$152,647.00	
WBF 2021 Miss River East	\$16,283.00	
WBF 2021 MN River South	\$25,000.00	
WBF 2021 Vermillion River	\$42,458.00	
DC Annual Operating Allocation	\$248,476.50	\$991,966.16

Total Liabilities:

\$991,966.16

Fund Balance Beginning of Year	\$682,338.84
Current Net Increase/-Decrease	<u>-\$231,166.22</u>
Fund Balance End of Current Period	\$451,172.62

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:**\$1,443,138.78**

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 4/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of a contract with Molitor Land, LLC not to exceed \$12,975 for the installation of grassed waterways.

SUMMARY:

Molitor Land LLC is proposing to construct grassed waterways in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River. The new waterways will replace existing waterways that are beyond their functional lifespan and no longer have capacity to adequately convey runoff.

The total costs of the project are estimated at \$17,300. Staff is recommending approval at 75% cost share not to exceed \$12,975.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds are available through the FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant.

Supporting Documents:
21-IPP-02 Molitor Land LLC WW Factsheet

Previous Board Action:
None

MOLITOR LAND LLC

GRASSED WATERWAYS



PRACTICE:

- Grassed Waterways

BENEFITS:

- 92 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- 92 lbs. of phosphorous per year prevented from traveling downstream

PARTNERS:

- Dakota County
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

WATERSHED:

- Cannon River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Trout Brook

INSTALLATION:

- Spring 2021

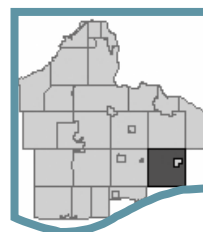
PROJECT: The existing grassed waterways are beyond their functional lifespan and surface water runoff that cannot be handled by the waterways is causing gully erosion in the field. The waterways will be reconstructed to adequately convey runoff.

FUNDING:	Estimated Project Cost:	\$17,300
	Cost Share Amount:	\$12,975
	Landowner Amount	\$4,325



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Protecting and restoring
Minnesota's waters for
generations to come.*

LOCATION:
Douglas Township



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 4/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of contract with Jay Frandrup not to exceed \$10,500 for the establishment of cover crops.

SUMMARY:

Jay Frandrup is proposing to establish cover crops on 120 acres over a three-year period. The field is located in Vermillion Township, in the Middle Mainstem Watershed of the Vermillion River.

A seeding plan for each year has been prepared and accepted. Although the seeding plan is for 120 acres, each contract is limited to 100 acres. Based on our adopted cost share policy, a landowner is eligible for up to \$35 per acre per year on a three-year contract.

Under District cost share policy, payment for the first year will be made upon certification of the installation and District Board approval. Payments for additional years will be made annually when cover crop seeding has been completed for that year and has been certified by District staff.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and through the FY21 Metro WBIF - Vermillion River grant.

Supporting Documents:

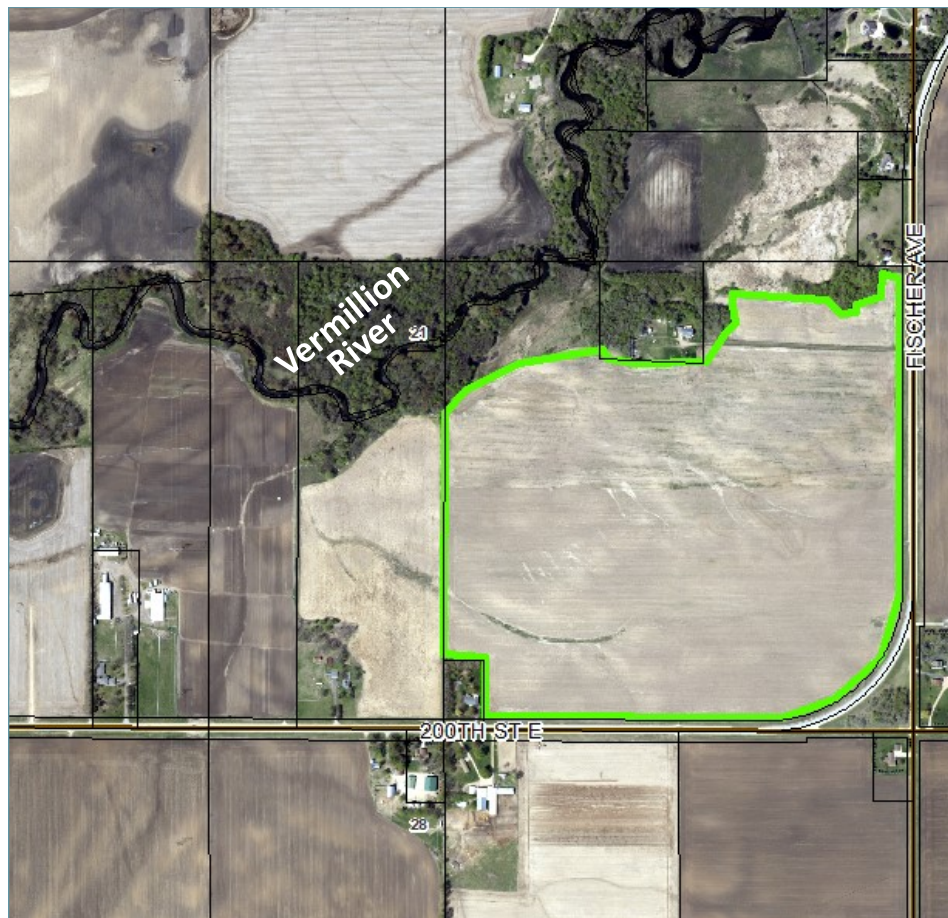
21-IPP-03 Frandrup, Jay CC Factsheet

Previous Board Action:

None



JAY FRANDRUP COVER CROPS



PRACTICE:

- Cover Crops

BENEFITS:

- 6 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- 9 lbs. of phosphorous per year prevented from traveling downstream
- Reduced leaching of nitrate into groundwater on highly vulnerable and sensitive soils
- Retained nutrients and improved soil health.

PARTNERS:

- Dakota County
- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

PROJECT: An oat cover crop will be planted on 120 acres following sweet corn harvest for three years. The cover crop will provide erosion control, reduce weed pressure, and prevent nutrient leaching.

FUNDING: Incentive Amount: **\$10,500**
(100 acres X \$35 per acre X 3 years)

WATERSHED:

- Vermillion River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Vermillion River

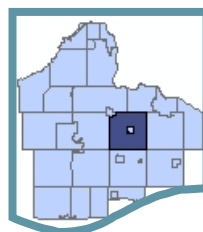
INSTALLATION:

- Fall 2021, 2022 and 2023



LOCATION:

Vermillion
Township



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 4/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of a contract with Charles Schaffer not to exceed \$27,150 for the installation of 5 water and sediment control basins and a critical area planting.

SUMMARY:

Charles Schaffer is proposing to construct five water and sediment control basins and a critical area planting in Hampton Township, Lower Mainstem Watershed of the Vermillion River. The water and sediment control basins will capture surface water runoff and outlet the runoff to previously constructed grassed waterways to reduce future erosion and sedimentation. The critical area plantings will also reduce rill erosion.

The total costs of the project are estimated at \$36,200. Staff is recommending approval at 75% cost share not to exceed \$27,150.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

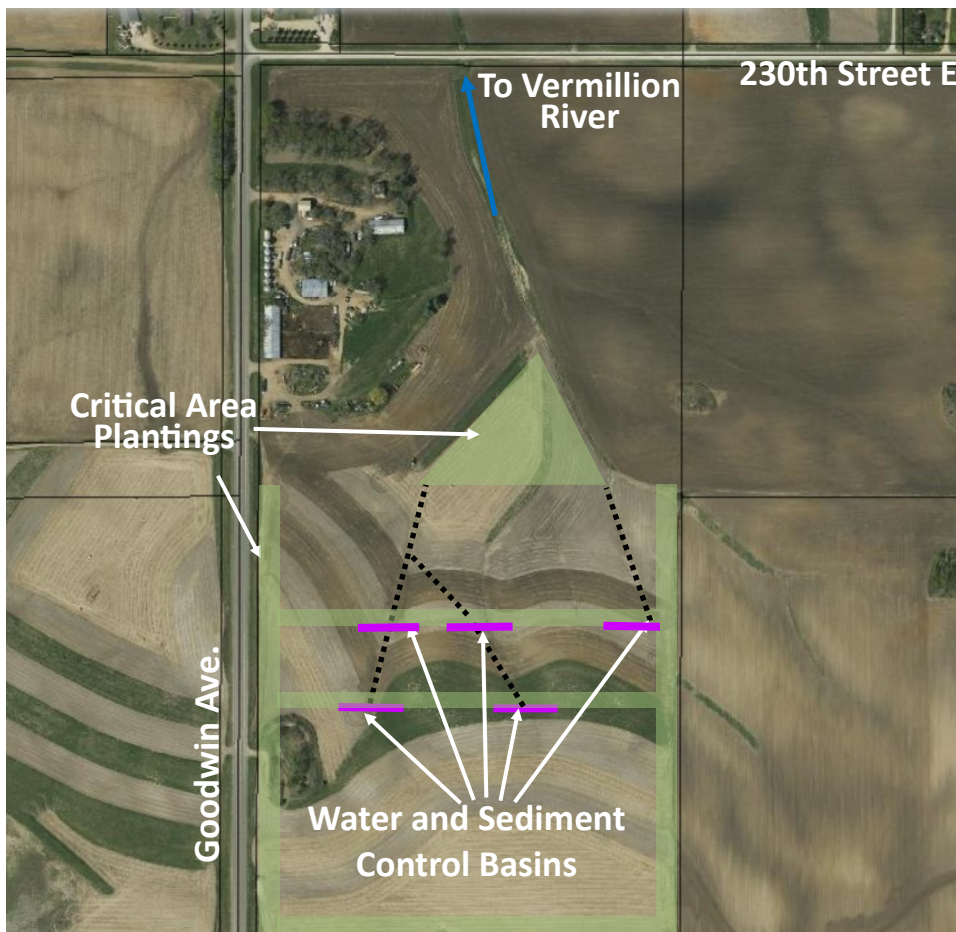
Supporting Documents:
21-IPP-04 Schaffer, Charles WASCBS Factsheet

Previous Board Action:
None



CHARLES SCHAFFER

**WATER & SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS
AND CRITICAL AREA PLANTING**



PRACTICES:

- Water and Sediment Control Basins (5)
- Critical Area Planting

BENEFITS:

- 34 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- 38 lbs. of phosphorous per year prevented from traveling downstream

PARTNERS:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- Dakota County
- USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

WATERSHED:

- Vermillion River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Vermillion River

INSTALLATION:

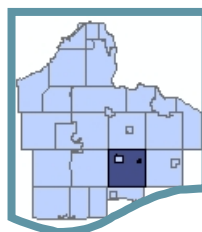
- Spring 2021

PROJECT: Five water and sediment control basins will be constructed to control gully erosion. The basins include underground outlets that discharge to existing grassed waterways which were constructed in 2020. Critical Area Planting strips will also be installed to reduce rill erosion.

FUNDING:	Estimated Project Cost:	\$36,200
	Cost Share Amount:	\$27,150
	Landowner Amount	\$9,050



LOCATION:
Hampton Township



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**Regular Agenda**

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 4/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of 3 contracts with Peine Farms, Inc. not to exceed \$10,500, 10,500, and \$7,875 for the establishment of cover crops.

SUMMARY:

Peine Farms, Inc. is proposing to establish cover crops on three different fields. The fields are located in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River.

Each field will have a separate contract that will require establishment of cover crops for three consecutive years. Based on our adopted cost share policy, a landowner is eligible for up to \$35 per acre per year on a three-year contract. However, adopted policy limits contracts to 100 acres per field which results in a maximum of \$10,500 per field.

Under each contract, incentives for establishing cover crops are as follows:

- 135 acres not to exceed \$10,500 (100 acres @ \$35/acre/year)
- 151 acres not to exceed 10,500 (100 acres @ \$35/acre/year)
- 75 acres not to exceed \$7,875 (75 acres @ \$35/acre/year)

Seeding plans for each year have been prepared and accepted. Under District cost share policy, payment for the first year will be made upon certification of the installation and District Board approval. Payments for additional years will be made annually when cover crop seeding has been completed for that year and has been certified by District staff.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization and through the FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant.

Supporting Documents:

21-IPP-05 Peine Farms CC Factsheet
 21-IPP-06 Peine Farms CC Factsheet
 21-IPP-07 Peine Farms CC Factsheet

Previous Board Action:

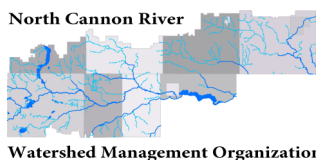
None

PEINE FARMS, INC COVER CROPS



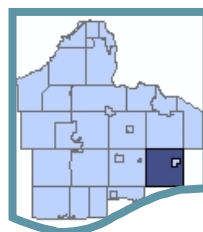
PROJECT: A winter cereal rye cover crop will be planted on 135 acres following corn earlage harvest for three years. The cover crop will provide erosion control, reduce weed pressure, and prevent nutrient leaching.

FUNDING: Incentive Amount: **\$10,500**
(100 acres X \$35 per acre X 3 years)



Clean Water Fund:
Protecting and restoring
Minnesota's waters for
generations to come.

LOCATION:
Douglas
Township



PRACTICE:

- Cover Crops

BENEFITS:

- 14 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- 24 lbs. of phosphorous per year prevented from traveling downstream
- Reduced leaching of nitrate into groundwater on highly vulnerable and sensitive soils
- Retained nutrients and improved soil health.

PARTNERS:

- Dakota County
- North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

WATERSHED:

- Cannon River

RECEIVING WATERS:

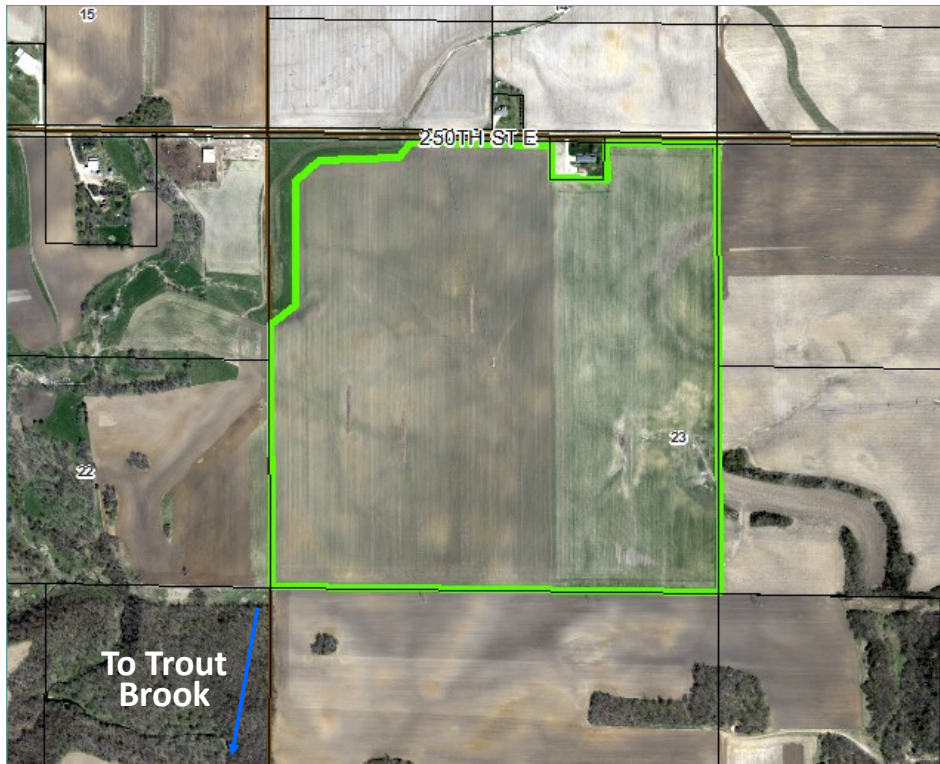
- Trout Brook

INSTALLATION:

- Fall 2021, 2022 and 2023

PEINE FARMS, INC

COVER CROPS



PRACTICE:

- Cover Crops

BENEFITS:

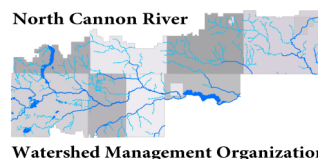
- 44 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- 71 lbs. of phosphorous per year prevented from traveling downstream
- Reduced leaching of nitrate into groundwater on highly vulnerable and sensitive soils
- Retained nutrients and improved soil health.

PARTNERS:

- Dakota County
- North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

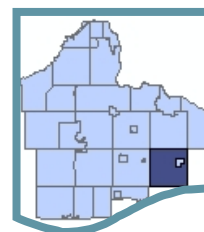
PROJECT: A winter cereal rye cover crop will be planted on 151 acres following corn earlage harvest for three years. The cover crop will provide erosion control, reduce weed pressure, and prevent nutrient leaching.

FUNDING: Incentive Amount: **\$10,500**
(100 acres X \$35 per acre X 3 years)



Clean Water Fund:
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Minnesota's waters for
generations to come.

LOCATION:
Douglas
Township



WATERSHED:

- Cannon River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Trout Brook

INSTALLATION:

- Fall 2021, 2022 and 2023

PEINE FARMS, INC COVER CROPS



PRACTICE:

- Cover Crops

BENEFITS:

- 12 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- 23 lbs. of phosphorous per year prevented from traveling downstream
- Reduced leaching of nitrate into groundwater on highly vulnerable and sensitive soils
- Retained nutrients and improved soil health.

PARTNERS:

- Dakota County
- North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

WATERSHED:

- Cannon River

RECEIVING WATERS:

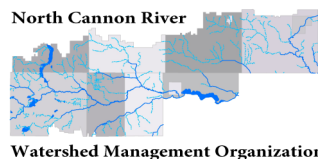
- Trout Brook

INSTALLATION:

- Fall 2021, 2022 and 2023

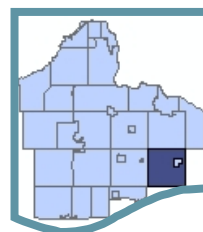
PROJECT: A winter cereal rye cover crop will be planted on 75 acres following corn earlage harvest for three years. The cover crop will provide erosion control, reduce weed pressure, and prevent nutrient leaching.

FUNDING: Incentive Amount: **\$7,875**
(75 acres X \$35 per acre X 3 years)



Clean Water Fund:
Protecting and restoring
Minnesota's waters for
generations to come.

LOCATION:
Douglas
Township



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 4/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of a contract with Molitor Brothers LTD Partnership not to exceed \$4,350 for the installation of a water and sediment control basin.

SUMMARY:

Molitor Brothers LTD Partnership is proposing to construct a water and sediment control basin in Douglas Township, Mississippi River Direct Watershed of the Vermillion River. The basin will capture surface water runoff and convey it through an underground outlet to reduce future erosion and sedimentation.

The total costs of the project are estimated at \$5,800. Staff is recommending approval at 75% cost share not to exceed \$4,350.

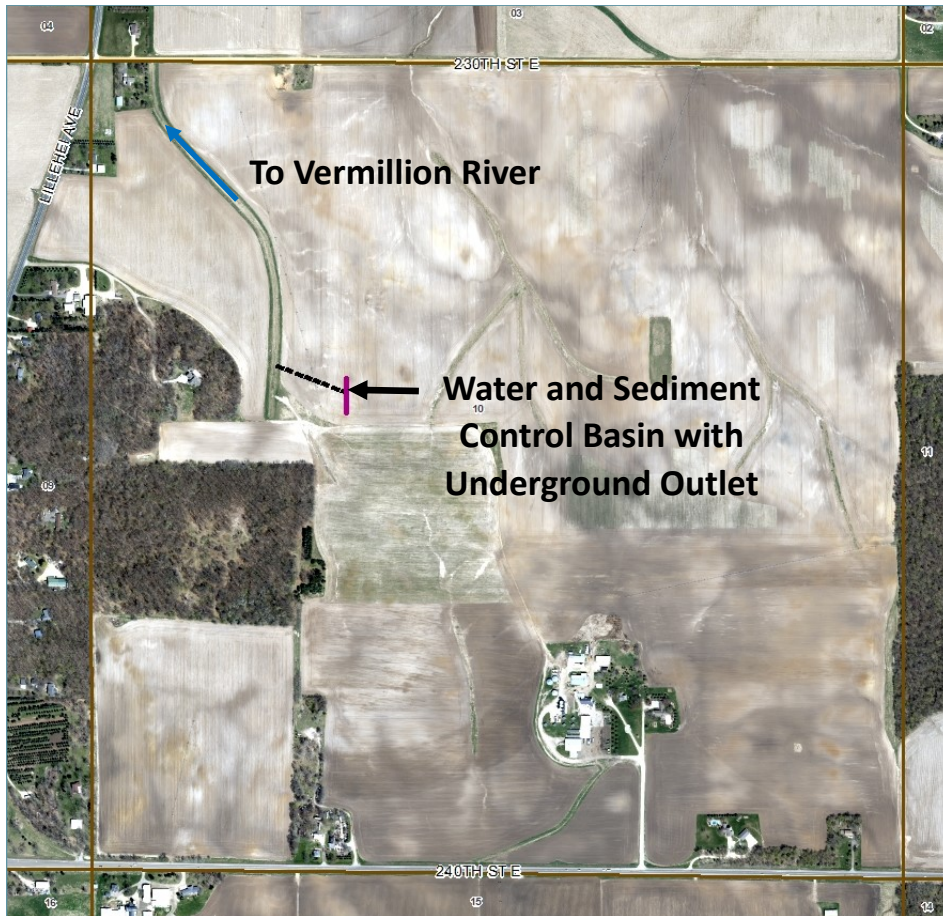
EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds to install the project are available through our agreements with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and Dakota County.

Supporting Documents:
21-IPP-08 Molitor Brothers WASCB Factsheet

Previous Board Action:
None

MOLITOR BROTHERS PARTNERSHIP WATER & SEDIMENT CONTROL BASIN

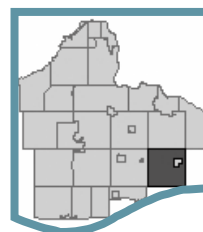


PROJECT: Surface water runoff is causing erosion in the field. The project includes the installation of a new water and sediment control basin that will outlet into an existing waterway.

FUNDING:	Estimated Project Cost:	\$5,800
	Cost Share Amount:	\$4,350
	Landowner Amount	\$1,450



LOCATION:
 Douglas Township



PRACTICE:

- Water & Sediment Control Basin

BENEFITS:

- 4.3 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- 3.6 lbs. of phosphorous per year prevented from traveling downstream

PARTNERS:

- Dakota County
- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

WATERSHED:

- Vermillion River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Vermillion River

INSTALLATION:

- 2021

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 4/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of a contract with Dan Duncomb not to exceed \$15,300 for the installation of a grade stabilization structure.

SUMMARY:

Dan Duncomb is proposing to construct a grade stabilization structure in Douglas Township, Trout Brook Watershed of the Cannon River. The structure will replace a structure that was originally built in 1958 and is in need of repair. The new structure will meet current design standards.

The total costs of the project are estimated at \$20,400. Staff is recommending approval at 75% cost share not to exceed \$15,300.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds to install the project are available through the FY18 Trout Brook Watershed Initiative Grant.

Supporting Documents:
21-IPP-09 Duncomb, Dan Factsheet

Previous Board Action:
None



DAN DUNCOMB

GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE



PRACTICE:

- Grade Stabilization Structure

BENEFITS:

- 20.4 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- 10.2 lbs. of phosphorous per year prevented from traveling downstream

PARTNERS:

- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

WATERSHED:

- Cannon River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Trout Brook

INSTALLATION:

- Spring 2021

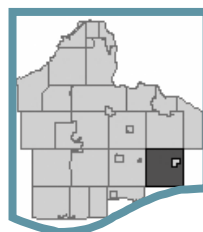
PROJECT: Rebuild an existing grade stabilization structure to meet current design standards. The original structure was constructed in 1958.

FUNDING:	Estimated Project Cost:	\$20,400
	Cost Share Amount:	\$15,300
	Landowner Amount	\$5,100



*Clean Water Fund:
Protecting and restoring
Minnesota's waters for
generations to come.*

LOCATION:
Douglas Township



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 4/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of a contract with Ambrey Gartner not to exceed \$2,400 for the installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat.

SUMMARY:

Ambrey Gartner is proposing to install 0.8-acre of native prairie with pollinator habitat in Marshan Township, Lower Mainstem Watershed of the Vermillion River. Existing non-native vegetation will be removed and native prairie plants will be seeded. The project will improve infiltration, protect water quality, and provide pollinator habitat.

The total costs of the project are estimated at \$5,500. Projects that install native prairie vegetation with pollinator habitat are eligible for cost share up to \$3,000 per acre. Staff is recommending approval at 75% cost share not to exceed \$2,400.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds to install the project are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

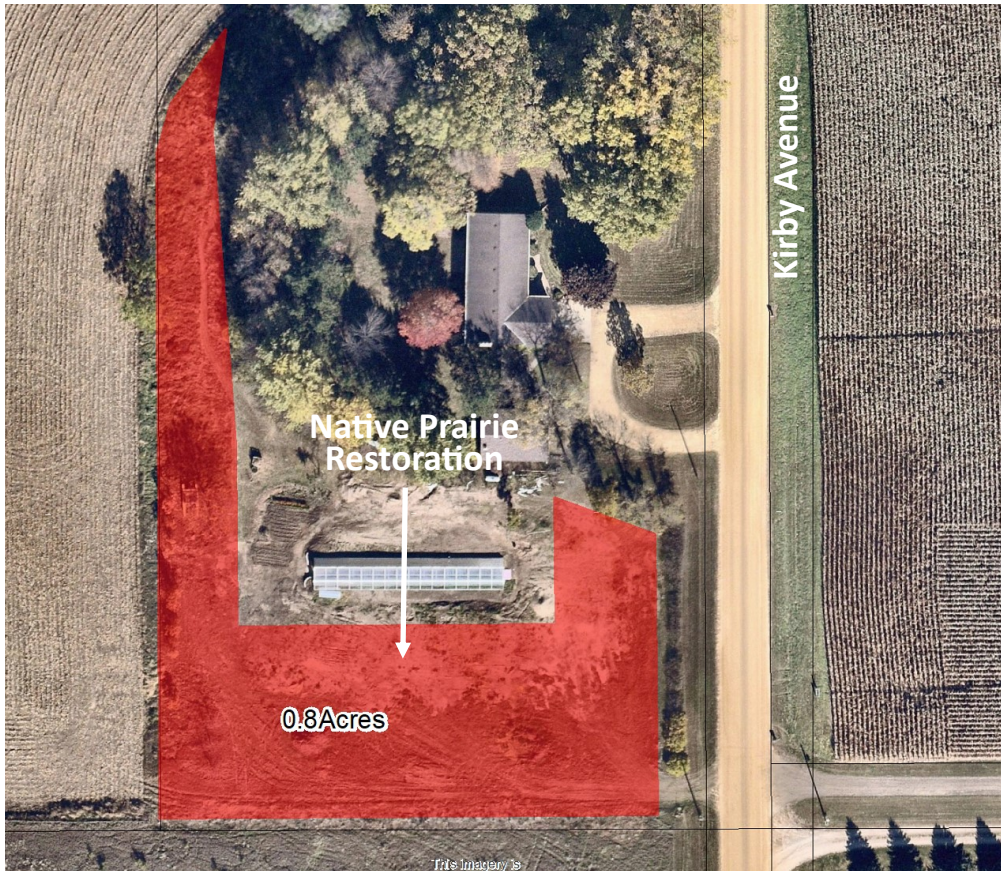
Supporting Documents:
21-IPP-10 Gartner, Ambrey NPR Factsheet

Previous Board Action:
None



AMBREY GARTNER

NATIVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION



PRACTICE:

- Restoration of Rare and Declining Communities

BENEFITS:

- 8 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- Improved wildlife habitat, in particular for pollinators

PARTNERS:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- Dakota County

WATERSHED:

- Vermillion River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Vermillion River

INSTALLATION:

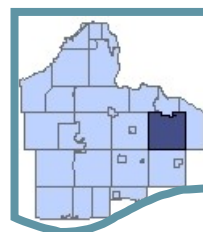
- 2021

PROJECT: 0.8 acres will be restored to native prairie vegetation. The native prairie will improve infiltration, reduce erosion and provide wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators.

FUNDING:	Estimated Project Cost:	\$5,500
	Cost Share Amount:	\$2,400
	Landowner Amount	\$3,100



LOCATION:
Marshan Township



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 4/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of a contract with Century South Single-Family Homeowner's Association not to exceed \$1,500 for the installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat.

SUMMARY:

Century South Single-Family Homeowner's Association is proposing to install 0.5-acres of native prairie with pollinator habitat in the City of Hastings, Lower Main Stem Vermillion River Watershed. Existing non-native vegetation will be removed, and native prairie plants will be seeded. The project will improve infiltration, protect water quality, and provide pollinator habitat.

The total costs of the project are estimated at \$5,600. Projects that install native prairie vegetation with pollinator habitat are eligible for cost share up to \$3,000 per acre. Staff is recommending approval at 75% cost share not to exceed \$1,500.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds to install the project are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

Supporting Documents:
21-IPP-11 Century South NPR Factsheet

Previous Board Action:
None

CENTURY SOUTH HOA NATIVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION



PRACTICE:

- Conservation Cover

BENEFITS:

- 0.4 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- Improved wildlife habitat, in particular for pollinators

PARTNERS:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- Dakota County

WATERSHED:

- Vermillion River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Vermillion River

INSTALLATION:

- 2021

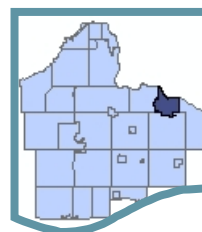
PROJECT: 0.5 acres will be restored to native prairie vegetation. The native prairie will improve infiltration, reduce erosion and provide wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators.

FUNDING:	Estimated Project Cost:	\$5,600
	Cost Share Amount:	\$1,500
	Landowner Amount	\$4,100



LOCATION:

Hastings



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 4/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of a contract with Eric Johnson not to exceed \$9,600 for the installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat.

SUMMARY:

Eric Johnson is proposing to install a 3.2-acre of native prairie with pollinator habitat in Ravenna Township Lower Main Stem, Vermillion River Watershed. The area is currently agricultural cropland and native prairie plants will be seeded. The project will improve infiltration, protect water quality, and provide pollinator habitat.

The total costs of the project are estimated at \$14,100. Projects that install native prairie vegetation with pollinator habitat are eligible for cost share up to \$3,000 per acre. Staff is recommending approval at 75% cost share not to exceed \$9,600.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds to install the project are available through our agreements with Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

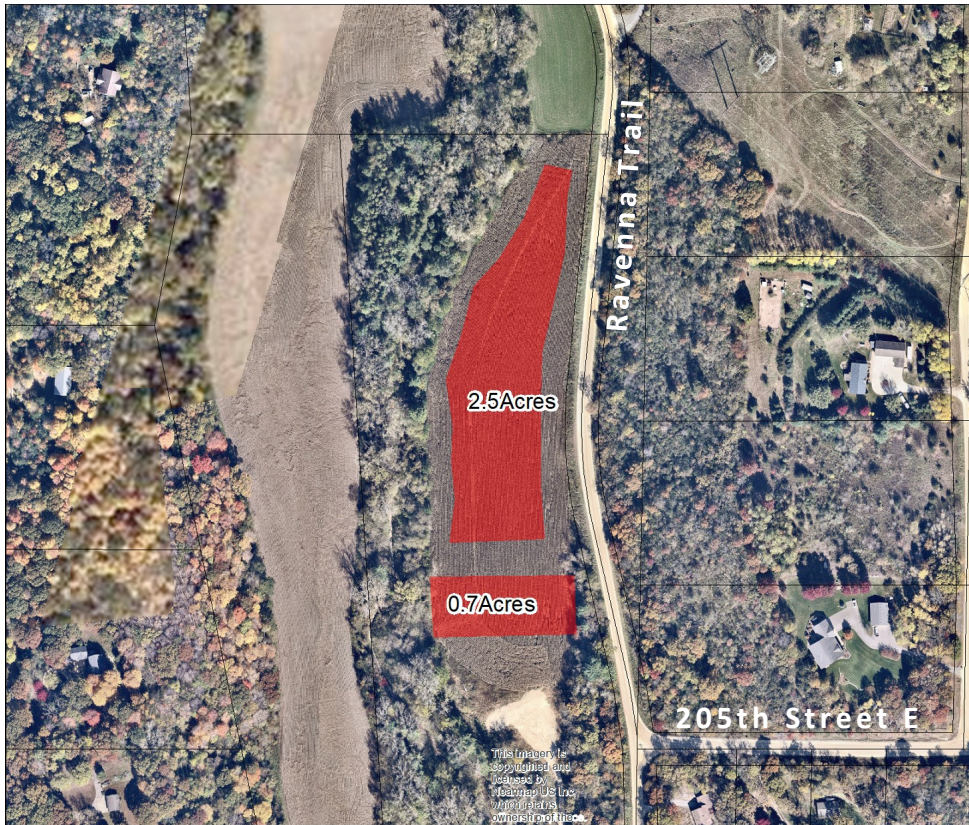
Supporting Documents:
21-IPP-12 Johnson, Eric NPR Factsheet

Previous Board Action:
None



ERIC JOHNSON

NATIVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION



PRACTICE:

- Conservation Cover

BENEFITS:

- 0.1 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- Improved wildlife habitat, in particular for pollinators

PARTNERS:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- Dakota County

WATERSHED:

- Vermillion River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Etter Creek

INSTALLATION:

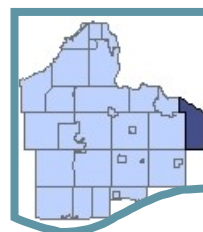
- 2021

PROJECT: 3.2 acres of row crop will be restored to native prairie vegetation. The native prairie will improve infiltration, reduce erosion, and provide wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators.

FUNDING:	Estimated Project Cost:	\$14,100
	Cost Share Amount:	\$9,600
	Landowner Amount:	\$4,500



LOCATION:
Ravenna Township



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Regular Agenda

Request for Board Action

Roll Call Vote

Meeting Date: 4/8/2021

Prepared by: Curt Coudron

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Authorize execution of a contract with the City of Burnsville not to exceed \$15,000 for the installation of a native prairie with pollinator habitat.

SUMMARY:

The City of Burnsville is proposing to install a 3.2-acre native prairie with pollinator habitat in the Minnesota River Watershed. Existing non-native vegetation will be removed, and native prairie plants will be seeded. The project will improve infiltration, protect water quality, and provide pollinator habitat.

The total costs of the project are estimated at \$33,900. Projects that install native prairie vegetation with pollinator habitat are eligible for cost share up to \$3,000 per acre with maximum of \$15,000 per contract. Staff is recommending approval at 75% cost share not to exceed \$15,000.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Project funds to install the project are available through our agreement with Dakota County.

Supporting Documents:
21-IPP-13 North River Hills Park NPR Factsheet

Previous Board Action:
None



NORTH RIVER HILLS PARK NATIVE PRAIRIE RESTORATION

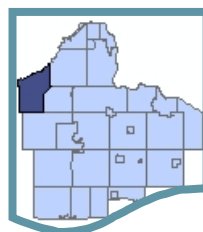


PROJECT: 8 acres of turfgrass will be restored to native prairie vegetation. The native prairie will improve infiltration, reduce erosion and provide wildlife habitat, particularly for pollinators.

FUNDING:	Estimated Project Cost:	\$33,900
	Cost Share Amount:	\$15,000
	Landowner Amount	\$18,900



LOCATION:
Burnsville



PRACTICE:

- Restoration of Rare and Declining Natural Communities

BENEFITS:

- 0.22 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- Improved wildlife habitat, in particular for pollinators. Rusty Patched Bumble Bees, federally endangered species, have been documented in the area.

PARTNERS:

- Dakota County

WATERSHED:

- Minnesota River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Minnesota River

INSTALLATION:

- 2021

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**Regular Agenda**

Information Item

N/A

Meeting Date: 4/8/2021

Prepared by: Brian Watson

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Review draft 2020 Annual Report and provide any final comments before publication.

SUMMARY:

Staff has generated a 2020 Annual Report showcasing stats, news, and successes from the past year. This Annual Report will be mailed to select partners, posted and shared online through our website, social media, and newsletter; and made available while tabling public events once the pandemic lifts.

The purpose of this Annual Report is to market our successes and our programs to the public, tell our story in a different way, and provide a snapshot of the year.

Staff will provide a quick overview of the Report's contents and then take questions, comments, or suggested edits. The draft was sent to the Education and Outreach Committee for initial review which resulted in the adding more pollutant reduction outcomes to the report.

Suggested edits will be incorporated post-meeting and the Annual Report will be considered final and distributed.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Staff time to compile our 2020 Annual Report is funded through County Levy and BWSR Local Capacity funding.

Supporting Documents:
Draft 2020 Annual Report

Previous Board Action:
None

2020 Annual Report

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District

2020 was a challenging year for many, the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (Dakota County SWCD) included. The onset of the pandemic forced all of us to adapt what was “tried and true” and find new and creative ways to achieve our mission of land and water conservation.

As life moved online, our staff worked to stay connected with residents, utilizing virtual platforms to meet with landowners, coordinate projects with partners, and host our popular Landscaping for Clean Water program. Masked up and socially distanced site visits became the norm as staff met with landowners to discuss drainage and erosion issues, or when inspecting construction of water and sediment control basins or streambank stabilizations.

Good ideas and great partners are essential for achieving high goals. Thank you for being our partner and we look forward to working with you in the future!

Connect with us through Conservation

Need some information about the many different programs we offer? Head over and check out our **BRAND NEW WEBSITE** - www.dakotaswcd.org - to learn more and get your questions answered!

Connect with us on one of our social media platforms—**Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter!**

Got conservation on your mind? Shoot us an **email** with your questions and we can discuss potential partnerships and available grant opportunities!



2020 Highlights

In 2020, the Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District...

- Assisted landowners with land and water issues at over **210** sites around the county
- Provided technical assistance and cost share funds to install **107** rural & urban conservation projects resulting in the removal of **1,885** lbs of phosphorous, **921** tons of total suspended solids (sediment) and **9,348** lbs of nitrogen from reaching our lakes, streams or groundwater resources annually
- Transitioned the Landscaping for Clean Water program online and educated over **750** people on landscaping practices that benefit water quality and pollinators
- Monitored water quality in **21** water bodies across **4** watersheds



Landscaping for Clean Water

The **Landscaping for Clean Water** (LCW) program got a complete makeover in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Only four in-person classes were held before the state shutdown in March and the Landscaping for Clean Water program transitioned to an online only format. All three programs — Introduction Class, Design Course, and Maintenance Workshop — were available to participants beginning in mid-April.

Program highlights:

- Through the **Introduction to Clean Water Class**, over 500 local residents learned how their efforts can have positive impacts on local water quality and provide pollinator habitat!
- New in 2020, SWCD hosted virtual garden consultations for **Design Course** participants as part of the new office hours program! This was a great opportunity for staff to meet one-on-one with participants, answer questions about project design and plant selection. With socially distanced site visits and following mask guidelines, Dakota County residents **installed 50 great projects** all across the county!
- Over 100 past LCW participants attended the **Maintenance Workshop**, learning how to keep their gardens healthy and beautiful year-round to provide maximum water quality benefits and property beautification. Participants found value in the program as they were provided with trouble shooting tips and best practices for proper maintenance.

Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive regarding the online format and many recommended including an online option in future years!

Countywide Plans

In 2020, there were several efforts to complete comprehensive plans in partnership with Dakota County. The Dakota SWCD participated in the planning process for the **Aquatic Invasive Species**, **Groundwater**, and **Land Conservation** plans.

The plans are available on the **Dakota County website**, search by plan name.

2020 Outstanding Conservationist



Kurt Kimber, Chris Kimber, and Carol Lowry, siblings and owners of Contours family farm. Their mission for the 240 acre farm is to grow food for local consumption. Over the last seven years, they implemented several conservation practices including becoming organic certified in 2017, contour farming, reduced tillage, cover crops, and 14.7 acres of prairie restoration as prairie strips to improve infiltration, reduce erosion, and provide pollinator habitat. The farm became a certified participant in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) in 2017. Kurt, Chris and Carol strive to farm more sustainably and be good stewards of the land.

The Dakota County SWCD commends **Kimber Contours** for being leaders in conservation and supporting clean water practices in Dakota County!



Conservation Work : Rural

In 2020, Dakota SWCD works with rural landowners and operators on projects to promote soil health, reduce erosion, and protect local water quality. We worked with landowners and operators to install:

- 13 water and sediment control basins
- 5,763 linear ft of grassed waterways
- 77 acres of wetlands restored
- 2,313 acres of cover crops

Conservation Work : Urban

In 2020, we worked with residents, cities, schools, churches, and businesses to improve stormwater management, water quality, and pollinator habitat. Projects include:

- Installed 6 bioretention basins
- Planted 11.2 acres of native prairie on five different projects with the Native Prairie Restoration program
- Connected with over 750 residents through the Landscaping for Clean Water program and installed 50 raingardens, native gardens, and shorelines



2020 Partners

This is a partial list of partners worked with in 2020:

- Black Dog Watershed Management Organization
- Cities and Townships of Dakota County
- Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board
- Cannon River Watershed Partnership
- Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa
- Dakota County
- Eagan-Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization
- Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
- Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization
- Metropolitan Council
- Metro Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board
- North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization
- State of MN: Board of Water & Soil Resources; Department of Agriculture; Department of Health; Department of Natural Resources; Pollution Control Agency
- USDA: Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Project Partnerships

Major conservation projects can only happen as a result of partnerships! Dakota County SWCD worked on projects around the County with several project partners this year, including:

- Cherokee Heights Channel Stabilization
- Records Trail Grade Stabilization
- Conservation Corps Shoreline Stabilization Projects (Bachman's and Vermillion PCA)
- Conservation Corps Trout Brook Streambank Stabilization repair
- Lebanon Hills Iron Enhanced Sand Filters
- Holland Lake Channel Stabilization
- Inver Grove Heights Underground Stormwater Chambers
- Western Service Center Entrance Bioretention
- Jordan and Braun Wetland Banks
- Thompson Lake Restoration
- Spring Lake Park Erosion and Gully Stabilization
- CR 78-06 Wetland Restoration
- Jensen Lake Gully Erosion



Water Quality Monitoring

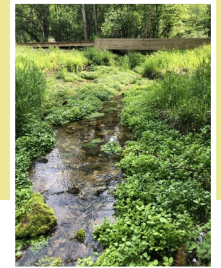
Dakota County SWCD partnered with local watershed organizations and Dakota County Parks to collect samples from lakes and rivers all around the county. The robust dataset provides natural resource managers with data to use when evaluating watershed health and determining ways to improve water quality. This year's activities included:

- 78 days of fieldwork
- 21 water bodies visited & tested
- 265 samples collected

Sites were monitored for temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, and transparency. Water samples were analyzed for sediments, nutrients, and *E. coli*.



Dakota County SWCD also works with state and local agencies to monitor groundwater levels as part of the Minnesota DNR's Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring Program, a network of observation wells used to collect static groundwater level data of different aquifers all around the state, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's fen well monitoring program, and Dakota County Parks nitrate spring monitoring program in the Trout Brook Watershed.



Cooperative Weed Management Area

In 2020, the Dakota County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is a formal partnership between state and local governmental agencies, and non governmental organizations was created. CWMA's are tasked with managing invasive plants across jurisdictional boundaries. The CWMA establishes a defined work area where these groups can pool resources to address invasive species problems.

All cities, townships, and county departments within Dakota County as well as state agencies, federal agencies are eligible to join. The partnership developed the 2020-21 Dakota County CWMA plan listing wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa L.*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula L.*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe L.*), and palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) as priority species due to public concern and interest.



Dakota County Board of Supervisors & Staff

December 2020

Board

District 1: Kevin Chamberlain, Vice Chair

District 2: Laura Zanmiller, Chair

District 3: Chelsea Skog, Secretary

District 4: Bruce Johnson, Public Relations & Information Officer

District 5: Jayne Hager Dee, Treasurer

Staff

Brian Watson, District Manager

Curt Coudron, Project Management Supervisor

Joe Barten, Sr. Resource Conservationist

Ashley Gallagher, Resource Conservationist

Todd Matzke, Resource Conservationist

Gabe Okins, Resource Conservationist

John Stelzner, Resource Conservationist

Lindsey Albright, Water Resource Specialist

Dave Holmen, GIS Specialist

Lana Rotty, Finance & Grants Coordinator

Diane Schmidtke, Administrative Specialist

Cannon River Joint Powers Organization

In 2020, the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources and adopted by the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board.

The fourteen member Board continues to work together, but have shifted their focus to implementation of the Plan. In order to begin implementation, the group had to develop funding and operational policies, secure grant funding, develop reporting and measuring systems, and then work with partners and landowners to accomplish activities outlined in the Plan.

Dakota County SWCD will serve the group in an administrative role by providing oversight for how water quality improvement projects are documented and measured. The 10-year implementation timeframe of the Plan contains work all across the watershed. A couple of the focus areas in Dakota County include wetland restorations in Chub Creek, as well as cover crops and soil health practices in Trout Brook.

