



Todd SWCD Plan of Action- DRAFT

2023 Objective: A Focus on Heath: Healthy Water; Healthy Soils; Healthy Humans

Scope of Duties Targeted Initiative:

– Strengthen Partnerships in Water Quality Protection for Surface/Groundwater (Goal 1-4)

Through what means will the initiative be achieved throughout 2022?

(Assigned to.....)

- As funding opportunities increase, capacities as a Soil and Water, as a County, the local Contractor community, and other technical, engineering, professional. educational agency support systems will be stretched. In 2023 Todd SWCD will seek innovative ways to create connections and partnerships to sustain cost—associated and time efficiencies in getting conservation on the ground. *Todd SWCD Staff and Board of Supervisors, IWIP Policy Members & Technical Committees, and NRCS*
- Engage Pheasants Forever, NRCS, and BWSR in bringing back the Farm Biologist Position to address landowner opportunities and desires in pasture, forest, wetlands, and grassland management *SWCD Management & NRCS Staff*
- Increase technical strength and understanding in Irrigation and other groundwater protection measures with a focus on reducing nutrients to groundwater in closer ties with Minnesota Departments of Health and Agriculture and local Irrigation groups *SWCD Management and Farm Conservation Staff*
- Hold a Contractor Meeting for 2023 with contractor capacity being a point of discussion. Invite representatives from the CLC Heavy Equipment Program to join. *Todd SWCD Staff*
- To support local foresters and facilitate landowner cost-share opportunities in forest management, ie. thinning, succession mgt, streambarbs, diverse specie diversity, that are profitable, sustainable, and ecologically beneficial. These strategies will dovetail with concurrent practices incorporating soil health and long term water quality principles. *Todd SWCD Supervisors and staff*
- Help our communities to understand natural hydrology and the long term effects of altered hydrology through news articles, radio outreach, and providing technical assistance to landowners who have drainage, erosion, and other hydrology concerns. *Riparian Conservation Team*

-- Protect Surface Waters Through Cost-shared Practices (Goal 2-6)

- Fiscally manage, utilize, implement the One Watershed, One Plan Watershed Based Implementation Funding opportunities in the Long Prairie (as the Fiscal Agent), Sauk, and Red Eye River Watershed *Todd SWCD Program Coordinator and Manager*
- Connect willing landowners to the LCCMR funds for forestry and grassland practices in the Long Prairie (as the Fiscal Agent,) and Red Eye River watersheds and to DNR cost-shore opportunities in the other areas of the County where applicable *Todd SWCD Staff*
- Connect interested landowners to Irrigation RCPPP and local Irrigation funding opportunities to update and conserve water use through irrigation systems *Todd SWCD Technical Staff*

-- Protect Land Productivity with Effective Soil & Nutrient Mgt. (Goal 4-3)

- The majority of the landbase is agricultural. Focus on farm conservation activities. *SWCD Board/Staff*
- Recent weather patterns have increased field erosion. Todd SWCD will encourage and emphasize the importance of keeping soil in its place when working with landowners. *SWCD technical staff*
- Promote conservation practices, ie. grassed waterways, contour farming, terraces, and cover crops that improve soil health and to help educate farmers and the general public on the benefits of healthy soils in our communities as a whole. *SWCD Technical Staff*
- Seek and increase educational opportunities and awareness of the importance of carbon, carbon sequestration, and value added farm based evaluations for carbon credits *SWCD Board/Staff*
- Assist irrigators with decision-making that benefits the commodity being produced while utilizing our water resources as efficiently as possible *Farm Conservation Team*
- Show compassion for farmers/ landowners facing hardship. Know when & to whom to refer for help.