Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has the unique designation as the oldest, and one of the newest SWCDs, in the State of Minnesota. On May 3, 1938, the Burn-Homer-Pleasant Conservation District was formed; this was the first Conservation District in Minnesota. Over time, more Conservation Districts, the Rolls-Royce-Stickelman Districts and the Whitefish were formed in Winona County. Mergers of these Conservation Districts in 1958 and 1966 formed what is now known as the Winona County SWCD.

Many significant events led to the forming and continuation of these Conservation Districts. These are some of these events:

A History of Conservation & Headlines:

1938: The State of Minnesota certified the organization of the Burn-Homer-Pleasant Conservation District, forming the first in the State of Minnesota. The District held its first meeting under the new law at Follen Hall.

1939: The State certified the Rolls-Royce-Stickelman Conservation District, the second in the State.

1941: The State certified the Winona Conservation District, the third in the State.

1947: Termites and cruise-ship rotation are two of the practices being tested to reduce the rate of small and conserve the soil. Pleasant Valley Floodway is to start next week. Five counties completed in Valley Project.

1959: The Rolls-Royce-Stickelman Mississippi and the Whitefish Waterways Conservation Districts merged to form the Winona County Conservation District.

1966: Pleasant Valley Flood Plan to go on draw new structures completed in the valley.

1971: Pollution control helps prevent erosion by stemming water from higher ground. Reclaiming tile drainage and Preventing Erosion with Terraces and crop-pasture rotation, new methods of soil conservation.


1986: The Burn-Homer-Pleasant and the Winona County Conservation District merged to form the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District. The District established a flood control zone in the city of Winona. This authorized the District to adopt the District’s flood control zone in the city of Winona.

1988: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Lake LaBelle is formed and the Whitewater Joint Water and Soil Resources and the Soil Conservation Service coordinate their efforts to restore Lake LaBelle and numerous fish populations within the upstream watershed to help reduce pollution of the water.

1997: Flood leaves sediment mixing. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and Local SWCD’s work together to protect Minnesota’s resources by creating a partnership for Soil Conservation Easements and Public Assistance.

2007: Unprecedented rainfall hits much of Winona County, dropping as much as 17” of rain over a 24 hour period. Erosion, landslides, washouts and flooding covers the county. Local, State and Federal agencies and officials rallied together to clean-up and repair that followed this devastating flood. In addition to technical and financial assistance from the local, state and federal agencies, Winona County SWCD was able to secure over $1.5 million in financial assistance through special State Legislation and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for repairs within the county. This assistance on over 200 sites ranged from riprap and washout protection and paved stormwater, to landslide and slump repairs and, at some locations included a site in Winona County with an existing wetland.

2009: Voters approve the constitution amendment to protect jurisdiction over soil conservation operations, and revenue from taxes, properties, and fees, parks, trails, wildlife habitat, parkways, and cultural heritage support programs; the purchase of water, wetland, and forest rights; and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

2012 Winona County SWCD Outstanding Conservationist

The Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District, the second in Minnesota, was formed in 1938 and serves the people of Winona County. It’s mission is to conserve and protect the natural resources of the county through a variety of programs and educational outreach. The District Board will review all nominations and make the final selection. The selected 2013 Outstanding Conservationist will be honored at the December luncheon at the annual convention of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The District would like to nominate a landowner, family, or organization, please send a letter to this district explaining who and why your nomination is deserving of this award by July 31, 2013. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Riddle, Conservation District Conservationist at P.O. Box 39, 400 Wilson Street, Lewiston, Minnesota 55949-0039. Phone: (507) 523-2171 ext. 101.

The search is on for the 2013 outstanding conservationist

Winona County SWCD is now looking for the 2013 Outstanding Conservationist. Each year, SWCD recognizes a local landowner, family, or organization for their outstanding efforts in helping the Winona County Conservation District of the Year. This is an opportunity for the district to recognize the local conservation efforts happening in Winona County. The district supervisors and staff look forward to this event. We would like to give the public a chance to make nominations. This gives the District Board a chance to see the nominations and make the final selection. The selected 2013 Outstanding Conservationist will be honored at the December luncheon at the annual convention of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) in St. Paul, Minnesota.

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Community and County:

The Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors would like to extend its thanks to our volunteers, partners and staff who work so hard to protect our natural resources. If you would like to nominate a landowner, family, or organization, please send a letter to this district explaining who and why your nomination is deserving of this award by July 31, 2013. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Riddle, Conservation District Conservationist at P.O. Box 39, 400 Wilson Street, Lewiston, Minnesota 55949-0039. Phone: (507) 523-2171 ext. 101.

The Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors hold their regular monthly board meeting at 5:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month, at the Ag Service Center at 400 Wilson Street, Lewiston, Minnesota.

Monthley Board Meeting Information

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Upcoming events and Tree Orders

Keep up with the latest events and Tree Orders by visiting our website.

Also, look for the 2013-2014 SWCD Tree Order Form in October 2013 on our website at www.winonaswcd.org.
Making your feedlot a success story

When Lynne Buelow saw son Brian and Taylor, of round Leawood, contact, the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in 2011, they knew that he had made a meaningful connection concerning the need for assistance to do something to ease their concerns about riparian management on their farm foraging and keeping the land healthy.

The SWCD and NRCS staff worked together with the Buelow’s to address their concerns, review the site conditions and evaluate solutions options and identify the two financial assistance options for their particular farm. The SWCD identified the soil erosion assistance of the Feedlot Manure Management Project, and the NRCS identified the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

Is a Land Conservation Program right for me?

To determine if a Land Conservation Program (LCP) is right for your operation, you need to determine if you have land that needs assistance with soil and water conservation. You may need assistance with soil and water conservation if you have:

- Three or more continuous years of crop residue removal
- More crop residue being removed and not recycled
- Cropland resulting in more cropland being farmed with residual crop residue mulch also suppresses weedy growth.
- Wetland, thicket, or steep slope
- A riparian area

The Winona SWCD and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) are in the process of developing a Web-based Riparian Management Planning Tool which will help landowners understand the benefits of riparian management and assist landowners in taking action to implement riparian management practices.

Winona County is faced with erosion, sediment loss, and soil degradation. Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District is charged with the responsibility to manage and protect water and soil resources and to promote the wise use of soil resources. To that end, the Winona SWCD is working closely with landowners to help them make their properties more productive, while still maintaining the quality of our environment.

Winona SWCD helps landowners implement conservation practices that protect and enhance the environment. Winona SWCD provides in-depth technical assistance and financial assistance to help landowners take action to improve the quality of the environment and the productivity of their lands.

Winona SWCD is committed to protecting and improving the quality of the environment and the productivity of land and natural resources. To that end, Winona SWCD provides assistance to landowners to help them meet their goals and improve the quality of the environment and the productivity of their lands.

Winona SWCD helps landowners protect and enhance the environment and the productivity of their lands by providing technical assistance and financial assistance to help landowners make their properties more productive, while still maintaining the quality of our environment.

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What is the Clean Water Fund?

On November 8, 2000, Minnesota voters approved the Clean Water, Soil and Wildlife Conservation Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. This Amendment is to protect drinking water,iranian territories, wetlands, prairies, forests, and scinevand habitats, support or buy lands and waterlakes, rivers, streams, and groundwaters. The Amendment increases the amount each voter will pay on taxable property. This money is used to help counties with their share of the costs.
FSA Updates

For more information on where group maps are available for pickup at one of our office locations, please contact us and we will be more than happy to send out your group maps to you. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm.

Our office is in the process of updating the group maps for 2013. The new group maps are expected to be completed by the end of the year 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE pro-
session for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible produc-
ers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP or ACRE in 2013. Those who have enrolled in the National Program or the DCP for ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible produc-
ers that have enrolled in DCP may also elect to enroll in the National Program or the DCP for ACRE in 2013. The 2013 DCP and ACRE pro-
session for the 2013 crop year.

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For additional information on these topics, please contact the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District, 507-457-6522.

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