

2008 Annual Work Plan

The Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota established to carry out a program for the conservation, use and development of soil, water and related resources.

Leadership and governance is provided by the five locally elected SWCD Supervisors. The role of the elected District Supervisors are policy development, long-range plan preparation, annual budget development, directing staff in preparing and implementing this annual work plan.

It is the objective of the Scott SWCD to carry out a well-rounded program of conservation by working in partnership with local, county, regional, state, and federal conservation agencies and organizations, to obtain available technical, financial, and educational resources, and focus or coordinate them to help Scott County residents conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources.

To meet this objective, the District has adopted this Annual Plan of Work for the period - January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

I. ORGANIZATION

District Board

Ewald Gruetzmacher, Chairman
Paul Krueger, Vice-Chairman
Jim Schwingler, Secretary-Treasurer
Jim Fitzsimmons
Scott Tracy

Committees Formed To Carry Out District Goals and Objectives

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Finance/Insurance | Paul Krueger, Peter Beckius, Shelly Tietz, Jim Schwingler, Paul Nelson |
| Legislative & PRI | Jim Fitzsimmons, Peter Beckius, Katundra Shears, NRCS |
| Equipment Rental | Paul Krueger, Peter Beckius, Scott Schneider, Jodi Worm |
| Education | Jim Schwingler, Jodi Worm, Shelly Tietz, Andy Porupsky, NRCS, Derrick Harmon, NRCS, representatives from: DNR-Forestry, DNR-Waters, DNR-Fish & Wildlife, Scott County-Extension Service, Environmental Health Office & Natural Resource Office and Metropolitan Mosquito Control District |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Permit Review | Jim Fitzsimmons, Peter Beckius, Willie Peters |
| Personnel | Scott Tracy, Ewald Gruetzmacher, Katundra Shears, NRCS, Peter Beckius |
| State Revolving Fund | Scott Tracy, Bob Vogel, Scott County Board, Peter Beckius, Shelly Tietz, and Scott Schneider |
| Tree | Ewald Gruetzmacher, Ryan Holzer, Jodi Worm, Willie Peters, Andy Porupsky, NRCS |
| Urban Problems | Jim Schwingler, Paul Krueger, Peter Beckius, Doug Schoenecker, Katundra Shears, NRCS |

The Board of Supervisors will meet at 8:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Notice of the meetings will be listed in the local newspapers. All regularly scheduled meetings will be held at the SWCD office, 7151 West 190th Street in Jordan, MN.

Special committee meetings will be scheduled as needed.

II. STAFF AVAILABLE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

There is 11.0 FTE are available with the District and NRCS employees to provide administrative and technical assistance for program implementation. In order to carry out Section VII through X of the 2008 Work Plan, 12.1 FTE will be needed. Additional staff to provide 1.1 FTE will be solicited from cooperating agencies and grant programs.

District

Peter Beckius, Manager
 Willie Peters, Engineering Technician
 Douglas Schoenecker, Urban Conservation Technician
 Scott Schneider, Resource Conservationist
 Jaime Rockney, Water Quality Technician
 Ryan Holzer, Resource Conservation Technician
 Shelly Tietz, Administrative Clerk
 Jodi Worm, District Secretary/Communications Specialist

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Katundra Shears, District Conservationist
 Derrick Harmon, Soil Conservationist

Andy Porupsky, Soil Conservation Technician
 Area and State staff – as needed, NRCS Agronomists, Biologists, Soil Scientists
 and Engineering will be available for special problems

Association of Metropolitan Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Landscape Specialists (600 hours) - Available for streambank, lakeshore and rain
 garden designs and implementation as well as educational presentations
 NPEAP Consulting Engineering Program - The TSA 8 receives \$72,000.00 of
 Non-point Engineering Assistance Program grant funds each year for contracting
 engineering services to design non-point source pollution reduction practices

Other Service Providers

Summer interns, 4-H clubs, Scouting Organizations, Minnesota Conservation
 Corp, Community Service and Sentence-to-Serve staff will be utilized, as needed,
 to help implement program objectives.

III. FUNDS NEEDED TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE 2008 WORK PLAN

Disbursements:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries | \$500,975.00 |
| P.E.R.A. | 32,563.00 |
| FICA | 38,325.00 |
| Insurance Benefits | 106,104.00 |
| Supervisor Compensation | 10,000.00 |
| Telephone/Postage | 3,500.00 |
| Office Supplies | 3,500.00 |
| Field Supplies | 500.00 |
| Education & Promotion | 1,500.00 |
| Convention/Meeting Expenses | 6,500.00 |
| Dues & Fees | 6,000.00 |
| Insurance Expenses | 10,500.00 |
| Vehicle Maintenance | 12,000.00 |
| Equipment Purchases | 35,000.00 |
| Employee Training & Expenses | 3,000.00 |
| Office Maintenance | 1,600.00 |
| Audit | 2,000.00 |
| TOTAL | \$773,567.00 |

Revenues:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| State Grant | \$ 24,321.00 |
| RIM | 2,000.00 |
| Interest | 33,000.00 |
| Tree Program | 15,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 39,312.00 |
| Scott County WMO | 323,607.00 |
| Scott County Funds | 110,000.00 |
| Construction Site Inspection Program | 90,000.00 |
| NRBG - Feedlot Program | 20,000.00 |
| NRBG - WCA Program | 47,337.00 |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| NRBG – Shoreland Program | 1,490.00 |
| NRBG - ISTS Program | 1,500.00 |
| Vermillion River Watershed JPO | 25,000.00 |
| Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District | 15,000.00 |
| Lower Minnesota River Watershed District | 18,000.00 |
| Met Council | 8,000.00 |
| TOTAL | \$773,567.00 |

IV. EQUIPMENT NEEDS

An inventory of existing equipment will be reviewed. Repairs on equipment will be made as needed. New equipment will be purchased as needed. Work vehicles available through NRCS will be utilized.

V. COOPERATING UNITS OF GOVERNMENT

1. U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
2. U.S.D.A. Farm Service Agency (FSA)
3. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
4. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
5. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Wildlife Division, Forestry, Division, and Waters Division
6. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
7. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
8. Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)
9. U of M Scott County Extension Service (CES)
10. Metropolitan Council (MC)
11. Association of Metropolitan Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AMSWCD)
12. Scott County (SC) Scott County - Community Development Division – Planning and Zoning, Environmental Health, Natural Resources, Building and Inspections, Public Works, and Community Services Divisions
13. Scott Watershed Management Organization (Scott WMO)
14. Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District (PL/SL WD)
15. Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO)
16. Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD)

VI. DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

The following list of resource management categories are consistent with the water management categories identified in the Scott WMO Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan (CWRMP). The Scott SWCD Board of Supervisors adopted the 2003-2008 Scott CWRMP by reference as the Scott SWCD Comprehensive Plan.

- A. Agricultural Land Management
- B. Surface Water Quality
- C. Storm Water/Flood Management

- D. Wetland Management
- E. Groundwater Management
- F. Wildlife Habitat Management
- G. Urban Land Development Management
- H. Education

VII. ANNUAL OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS TO ADDRESS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

A. Agricultural Land Management – There are approximately 850 agriculture producers in Scott County. The agricultural producers plant corn, soybeans, wheat, rye, oats, alfalfa and vegetable crops on 93,300 acres of the 236,784 acres of land in the county. Seventy five percent of the cropland is in a corn-soybean rotation (68,722 acres) while the balance is in a rotation with small grain and alfalfa or it is planted to vegetable crops. Almost 25% of the cropland (21,340 acres) has highly erodible soils that need a high level of conservation treatment to prevent erosion and sedimentation of our water resources.

1. Objective:

Reduce soil erosion (sheet, rill, wind, gully and stream bank) on agricultural land to the recommended "T" value or below.

2. Actions:

- a. Provide technical assistance to USDA - FSA and NRCS program participants to insure compliance with the Farm Bill initiative to conserve Scott County natural resources
 - Implement the Cooperative Work Agreement with NRCS
 - Request Technical Service Provider reimbursement for services provided
 - Obtain Conservation Planner Certification for SWCD staff
 - Maintain Nutrient Management Planner Certification for SWCD staff
 - Prepare/Revise 50 conservation compliance plans on 5000 acres of cropland
 - Conduct status reviews for 20 conservation compliance plans
 - Updates producer information in the TOOLKIT data base
 - Complete Sodbuster-Swampbuster determinations for 50 program participants
 - Complete 40 tract splits HEL/NHEL determinations
 - Promote CRP/CCRP, CREP and EQIP through targeted mailings to Vermillion River Watershed JPA, Scott WMO and Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD landowners
 - Process 35 CRP applications on 200 acres of highly erodible land
 - Conduct 30 status reviews on existing CRP/CCRP contracts
- b. Target local, state and federal cost-share funds for structural and agronomic conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, sediment, nutrient and chemical contamination of land in the high

priority sub-watersheds of the Minnesota River. These include: Sand Creek, Credit River, Roberts Creek, Prior Lake/Spring Lake, Vermillion River and direct unnamed tributaries of the Minnesota River.

- 2008 BWSR Regular State Cost-share grant funds will be targeted to high priority non-point source pollution reduction practices
 - 2008 USDA EQIP applications will be submitted for all interested land operators in priority watersheds
 - 2008 Scott WMO, Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD and Vermillion River Watershed JPO Cost-share funds will be used to leverage other local, state and federal cost-share funds to implement high priority non-point source pollution reduction practices
 - 2008 Non-point Engineering Assistance Program will be used to obtain engineers designs for 12 conservation practices
 - Solicit grant funds from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for cost share assistance to implement non-source pollution prevention practices
 - Process 25 Cost-share applications to implement the following practices:
 - 2,500 acres of residue management plans
 - 5 acres grassed waterways
 - 15 water and sediment control basins
 - 3 grade stabilization structures.
 - 1,000 feet terraces
 - 250 feet diversions
 - 2,500 feet stream bank stabilization
 - 5 storm water control systems100% of contributing watershed to practice site (managed by the applicant) will have planned conservation treatment
- c. Provide technical and administrative assistance to the AMSWCD TSA 8 for implementation of the NPEAP
- Accept designation as Host Fiscal Agent for the 2008 NPEAP Grant Program
 - Review all project and equipment applications submitted for compliance with program objectives
 - Obtain consultant contracts for approved applications
 - Monitor approved project contracts
 - Prepare annual budget
 - Prepare annual report
 - Provide monthly reports to TSA 8 member districts
 - Work to develop an updated JPA and contract for program administration
- d. Provide technical and administrative assistance to Scott County for implementing the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF).
- Use SRF Loan Program screening committee to prepare an annual budget
 - Distribute applications for low interest loans to interested landowners

- Review and process 5 applications for ag waste systems, conservation tillage equipment, and ag BMP practices
 - Provide necessary technical certification for practices completed
 - Maintain an account of available funds and provide an annual report of practices applied to MDA
 - Provide annual report for practices applied to MDA
- e. Coordinate a Drill Rental Program (JD 1560, Great Plains, Brillion) to educate landowners on the benefits of reduced tillage
- Accept applications for use of the No-till drills
 - Provide transportation and set-up of drills to applicants
 - Seed 1,500 acres of agricultural land to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff
- f. Assist the Minnesota River Water Resource Center with collection of resource information
- Complete the annual transect of the Scott County to determine acres of the conservation tillage practice being implemented
3. **Staff Needs: Approximately 3.5 FTE are needed to accomplish these action items.**

B. Storm Water/Flood Management – Scott County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Of the 236,784 acres of land in Scott County, 41,123 acres are municipal/tribal land. The development of over 3,000 acres per year to single family residences, commercial and industrial uses leads to increased environmental risks. Scott County is bordered on the west and north by the Minnesota River. Drainage of Scott County is primarily serviced by three tributaries of the Minnesota River; Sand Creek, Credit River, and Roberts Creek and two tributaries of the Mississippi River; Chub Creek and the Vermillion River. Approximately 26,688 acres are in the floodplain of these watercourses and adjacent wetland basins in Scott County.

1. Objective:

Encourage close coordination between developing lands in cities and townships with the implementation of the Scott WMO, Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD and Vermillion River Watershed JPA CWRP rules that address storm water and downstream assessment of water conveyance systems to prevent unnecessary flooding and preserve and use natural water storage and retention system.

2. Actions:

- a. Assist the Watershed Management Organizations with the implementation of the Rain Garden/Shoreland Restoration Program
- Accept applications and assist with the scoring and prioritization
 - Provide technical assistance in the development and installation of shoreland restoration, stream buffer, and rain garden projects
 - Distribute cost share funds for those approved practices meeting program guidelines

- b. Provide Scott County with technical and educational support for the review of development and building permit plans that propose changes to storm water runoff rate and volume
 - Maintain membership on the Development Review Team (DRT) to review plats as requested for wetland impacts, forestland impacts and compliance with erosion and sediment control BMP's
 - Review EAW's and AUAR's as requested
 - Provide educational material for developers, homebuilders and homeowners in Scott County on Erosion and Sediment Control Program requirements
 - Conduct workshops for developers and builders to educate on Chapter 6, NPDES requirements
- c. Assist the state Climatologist with rainfall monitoring in Scott County providing precipitation data from 12 SWCD monitoring stations.
 - Provide official rain gauges to volunteer monitors
 - Collect monthly reports and log data on SWCD web site
 - Forward monthly reports to the State Climatologist for record keeping and trend analysis
- d. Require 100-year flood plain information for all developments reviewed by the DRT. Provide soils information and their potential for flooding, to individuals, developers, organizations and units of government, to aid them in making land use decisions.
 - Provide technical assistance to FEMA flood study project

3. Staff Needs: Approximately .5 FTE are needed to accomplish these action items.

C. Surface Water Quality Management – There are 106 DNR Public Waters and 206 DNR Public Waters Wetland in Scott County covering 16,846 acres. In addition, there are approximately 4,916 other wetlands covering 19,580 acres in the county that are regulated by local, state and federal governmental units. There are 289 miles of DNR Public Watercourses and 213 miles of other public and private ditches in Scott County that are subject to water quality impairment if not properly protected.

1. Objective:

Protect to the greatest extent possible, all surface and groundwater resources from soil erosion, sedimentation, nutrient and chemical contamination.

2. Actions:

- a. Assist the Scott WMO, Vermillion River Watershed JPO, Lower Minnesota River WD and the Prior Lake/Spring Lake WD with the development and implementation of their Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plans (CWRMP).

- Provide: 1) Administration/Coordination/Meeting/Training 2) Land and Water Treatment/Capital Projects Implementation 3) Monitoring/Data Collection 4) Regulation/Ordinance/Planning 5) Public Outreach/Information/Education 6) Inventory/Mapping 7) Feedlot – Permitting, Registration, Compliance Inspection
 - Document CWRMP Technical and Administrative initiatives in E-Link
 - Maintain/update the GIS database layer of all ditches, streams and wetlands in Scott County
 - Provide technical support to the Scott WMO on the implementation of the Clean Water Partnership Grant for the Sand Creek Watershed TMDL and Impaired Waters Resource Investigations
 - Provide host fiscal agent assistance for the administration to the Clean Water Legacy Grant recipients
- b. Assist Scott County and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency with the administration of the County delegated Feedlot Program by providing technical, financial and enforcement support of Chapter 7020.
- Maintain the Level III feedlot inventory
 - Inspect 20 feedlots for compliance with state regulations
 - Inspect 5 feedlots for complaints/concerns
 - Assist with a mailing to all feedlot operations notifying them of registration requirements
 - Assist all feedlot operators complete registration application forms
 - Coordinate the permitting of new 3 feedlots or expansions
 - Prepare designs for 2 Waste Storage Facilities and 2 Waste Management Systems identified as having a high pollution potential to water resources.
 - Prepare Manure Application Plans (MAP's) for 10 livestock confinement facilities
 - Conduct follow-up contact for 20 existing MAP's
 - Provide financial incentives for soil testing for all MAP's
 - Coordinate a Feedlot Registration Workshop
 - Develop Map of all Scott County Waste Handling facilities that meet MPCA Standards
- c. Assist Metropolitan Council (MC) with monitoring efforts on Scott County streams
- Secure a cooperative agreement to collect water quality data from two monitoring stations located at the outlets of watershed 33139 and 33029
- d. Assist the Prior Lake Spring Lake WD, Lower Minnesota River WD, Scott WMO, Scott County and Vermillion River WMO with water quality, quantity, fecal and thermal monitoring.
- Identify high priority monitoring sites in Scott County watersheds
 - Develop contracts for service

- Purchase, install and maintain water quality monitoring equipment
 - Obtain rating curve measurements, grab samples, composite samples, base flow samples for 15 sites
 - Provide data to appropriate laboratories for analysis
 - Provide monthly reports which contain data on aquifer fluctuations for 22 county wells to the DNR Division of Waters
 - Conduct thermal monitoring on Eagle Creek
 - Obtain grab samples to be tested for fecal coliform from 11 sites on the Vermillion river main stem and tributaries
 - Coordinate the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program including a Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Program with 4 Schools in Scott County
- e. Assist the Scott WMO, Scott County, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota DNR Waters Division on Lakeshore, Stream bank and Public Water and Wetland projects
- Conduct an inventory of active streambank erosion sites on Roberts Creek
 - Provide field review, survey and/or design assistance for 10 Lakeshore Restoration and Stream bank Stabilization projects along 1,000 feet of shore land and stream bank
 - Review and provide resource protection comments for 20 DNR permit applications to appropriate water or work in protected wetlands, waters or watercourses in Scott County
 - Review 5 building permit applications for work in shoreland
 - Provide consultation to DNR staff for all jurisdictional wetlands
 - Use the DNR issued general permit for 5 stream bank projects
 - Provide 400 hours of Landscape Restoration Specialist time for the field review and design for 4 stream bank and lakeshore restoration projects
- f. Provide technical assistance and financial incentive payments to landowners for establishing grass filters along ditches, streams, wetlands, gully heads and around tile intakes in cooperation with USDA NRCS, Scott WMO, PL/SL WD and VRWMO funds
- Obtain 100 acres of filter strip contracts using CRP funds
 - Obtain 100 acres of filter strip contracts using Scott WMO, PL/SL WD and VRWMO funds
 - Develop new agreements and prepare conservation plans for all filter strip contracts
 - Provide the Brillion seeder grass drill to 8 landowners to seed 50 acres of filter
 - Complete compliance spot checks on all filter agreements
- g. Provide administrative and technical support to Scott County for the implementation of the ISTS component of the MDA State Revolving Fund Low Interest Loan program
- Administer the ISTS Loan Program
 - Solicit applications for loans to repair failing septic systems
 - Process 20 applications for loans to upgrade failing septic systems

3. Staff Needs: Approximately 2.6 FTE are needed to accomplish these action items.

D. Wetland Management - It is estimated that there were almost 74,000 acres of wetland in Scott County prior to settlement (based on hydric soils). Draining and filling has altered or eliminated almost 70 percent of our historical wetlands. Recent inventories indicate only 21,978 acres of un-altered and 8,814 acres of partially drained shallow water habitat wetlands remain.

1. Objective:

Preserve, protect and enhance wetland areas to improve water quality, prevent flooding and erosion from surface flows, protect fish and wildlife habitat and promote groundwater recharge.

2. Actions:

- a. Assist the eighteen LGU's (cities, townships, WMO) in Scott County with the implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) of 1991.
 - Provide technical support to the LGU's in the administration of the WCA
 - Provide regulatory information to all Scott County landowners and operators
 - Participate as a member of the WCA Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) to review; 1) wetland banking plans, 2) determine if Minnesota Local/State/Federal Applications for Water/Wetland Projects are no loss, exempt, require replacement plan submittal or no WCA jurisdiction, 3) process cease and desist/restoration orders, 4) complete wetland boundary and type determinations and 5) review wetland replacement plan applications
 - Assist Scott County to obtain a functional assessment for vegetative diversity for all wetlands where land use changes are being proposed in order to determine wetland buffer widths
 - Maintain a database for wetland projects reviewed
 - Obtain Wetland Delineator Certification
 - Use the DNR Public Waters and Wetland map, National Wetland Inventory map, Scott County Wetland Inventory map, Scott SWCD Wetland Inventory and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service wetland maps to guide the SWCD in planning for wetland protection
- b. Assistance to the USFWS, Scott County and Scott County WMO's for survey, design and field review of wetland restorations projects will be provided.
 - Provide 15 field reviews to determine feasibility for wetland restorations
 - Provide survey assistance to aid in the design and construction of seven wetland restoration structures on 40 acres
 - Provide 40 hours of design assistance to create plans for contractors to follow in constructing wetland restorations
 - Supervise construction as needed on wetland restoration projects

- Solicit interested wetland restoration site owners for Scott County Highway mitigation needs
- c. Coordinate with the Vermillion River WMO and Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District to complete the inventory of all wetlands and watercourses in the Scott County portion of the Vermillion River Watershed
- Complete a data sheets for 800 Scott County wetlands in the Vermillion River Watershed
 - Complete a data sheet for all Scott County watercourses with drainage areas over 640 acres for a defined channel in the Vermillion River Watershed
 - Develop a GIS layer for use by the Vermillion River WMO

3. Staff Needs: Approximately 1.3 FTE are needed to accomplish these action items.

E. Groundwater Management Goal – To assure county residents access to potable water by protecting ground water resources. Scott County relies almost 100 percent on groundwater for its domestic, municipal, and industrial supplies. Scott County has four principle aquifers that provide potable water to residents, they are; the glacial drift aquifer, the Prairie du Chien-Jordan, the Franconia-Ironton-Galesville, and the Mt. Simon.

1. Objective:

To protect groundwater quality and quantity from contamination by human impacts as a result of the increasing population and demand on the groundwater resource.

2. Actions:

- a. Cooperate with the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District and DNR Waters to monitor surficial groundwater and aquifer fluctuations
- Obtain monthly data from 11 abandoned Scott County wells under contract with the DNR
 - Send data to the DNR Waters for logging
 - Obtain surficial groundwater readings for 20 wells in the Savage Fen for the LMRWD
 - Post data on the LMRWD web site

3. Staff Needs: Approximately .1 FTE are needed to accomplish these action items.

F. Wildlife Habitat Management - Scott County has 10,976 acres of land in Federal parks, State parks and wildlife management areas. In addition there are 3,798 acres of county and regional parks, 2,908 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program, 920 acres in the Re-Invest in Minnesota program, 165 acres in USFWS easements.

1. Objective:

Protect to the greatest possible extent all existing wildlife areas and promote the development of additional wildlife habitat.

2. Actions:

- a. Assist the local Pheasants Forever Chapter with the implementation of a wildlife habitat and food plot program
 - Process 25 applications for the food plot and nesting cover program
 - Provide corn and sorghum to landowners for food plot establishment on 50 acres
 - Provide grass seed for nesting cover on 10 acres

- b. Work with the Scott County, the DNR - Forestry Division, Wildlife Division and FSA Office to make available technical and financial assistance for developing forest management or reforestation plans
 - The district will make available 40,000 trees for Scott County residents
 - Provide design assistance for 10 farmstead windbreak plans and 10 wildlife plantings
 - Obtain design assistance for development of reforestation plans from the DNR Forester
 - Provide technical support to the Scott County to develop a tree preservation ordinance and erosion control ordinance

- c. Make every effort possible to promote, administer and implement RIM, CREP and CRP/CCRP according to the expectation of the BWSR, NRCS, legislators and general public.
 - Solicit applications for easements on eligible lands in Scott County
 - The screening committee will meet to review RIM, CREP and CRP/CCRP applications to ensure quality easements are obtained
 - Develop and implement conservation plans for landowners contracted under the RIM, CREP and CRP/CCRP
 - Complete status reviews for 25 RIM, CREP and CRP/CCRP plantings

- d. Using USFWS grant funds, provide technical and financial assistance to Scott County landowners to establish native grass plantings.
 - Conduct 10 field reviews/contacts for interested landowners
 - Develop 5 native grass plantings on 10 acres of land
 - Provide cost-share assistance to the landowner for site preparation, seed costs and fertilization
 - Coordinate a Native Grass Drill Rental Program (Brillion Seeder or Tye Drill)
 - Provide the Tye No-till drill to 8 landowners to seed 75 acres to native grass

- e. In cooperation with the NRCS promote the USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
 - Provide program information to 10 private landowners on the WHIP program
 - Obtain and process 4 WHIP applications

- Provide technical assistance to implement 2 wildlife plantings, 1 wetland restoration and 2 native grass plantings
- f. Provide the DNR Wildlife office technical assistance on Wildlife Management Area acquisition and protection
- Review 2 WMA acquisition proposals
 - Assist with the implementation of the DNR Wetland Restoration Program
 - Provide technical assistance for wetland restorations and correction of erosion problems
- g. Work with Scott County Highway and Minnesota Department of Transportation to implement a Living Snow Fence Program
- Re-identify high priority sites for snow fences
 - Solicit applications to establish 5,280 L.F. of Living Snow Fences along critical snow drifting locations identified by Scott County Highway
 - Assist with the design of living snow fences
 - Supervise the installation and certification of plantings

3. Staff Needs: Approximately .8 FTE are needed to accomplish these action items.

G. Urban Development - Of the 236,784 acres in Scott County over 41,123 acres are municipal/tribal land. Urban land disturbing activities in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county encroach on cropland acres and expose over 3,000 acres annually to erosion

1. Objective:

Encourage the protection and preservation of prime and important farmland and the reduction of soil erosion (sheet, rill, wind) from urban land disturbing activities.

2. Actions:

- a. Encourage the county, cities, and townships to implement a countywide coordinated erosion and sediment control program.
- Assist Scott County, Cities and Townships with the development of an erosion and sediment control inspection program
 - Implement the erosion and sediment control inspection program contracts with Scott County and Credit River Township
 - Solicit contracts with other Cities to perform erosion and sediment control inspections to insure compliance with Zoning Ordinances, Stormwater Ordinances, Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plans, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Programs, and associated NPDES II permits that pertain to erosion and sediment control
 - As needed, provide standards and specifications for erosion and sediment control practices to developers and builders
 - Maintain Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) certification for technical staff
 - Coordinate a mulch anchoring disk rental program

- b. Provide assistance to Scott County Planning Office as requested on evaluation of plats, conditional use permits, EAW's, variances and rezoning requests.
 - Provide land use planning information to Scott County and townships upon request
 - Provide conservation planning service to Agricultural Preserve Program applicants

- c. Assist Scott County Extension Service with the Small Acreage mini-session. Provide information on various natural resource protection, wildlife habitat management and wetland restoration programs available through the SWCD.
 - Develop a fact sheet on conservation options for small acreage landowners

3. Staff Needs: Approximately 2.7 FTE are needed to accomplish these action items.

H. Education - To inform, educate and involve individuals, groups, businesses, industry and government in the protection and cleanup of Scott County's soil and water resources, thereby increasing the understanding of soil and water resource management and creating long-term commitment to improve and protect the County's water resources.

1. Objective:

Educating and working with stakeholders within Scott County provides a network of knowledgeable people that support and help carry out the goals of this plan.

2. Actions:

- a. Facilitate and support education/public outreach activities
 - Set up a booth/display at the Scott County Fair, City to Farm Tour and all Scott County Cities (New Prague, Jordan, Belle Plaine, Shakopee, Prior Lake, Savage) business fairs
 - Sponsor a poster, essay, video and mural contest and encourage all schools, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and FFA members to participate in these programs by sending program information to organizational leaders.
 - Provide a slide/talk presentations to schools on the annual conservation theme
 - Participate in the annual observance of Soil Stewardship Week by providing information to churches, newspapers and radio stations.
 - Provide a speaker for classroom training, civic groups and special interest groups
 - Hold a county-wide Outdoor Education Day for all 6th grade students.
 - Participate in the area and state Junior and Senior Envirothon Contest
 - Arrange for the tour of locally implemented conservation practices for Scott County Commissioners, local Legislators and Government Officials

- Participate in the Children's Water Festival
- b. Conduct educational programs for homeowners, lake associations, developers, WMO, WD, city and county personnel
- Provide 80 hours of Lakescape Restoration Specialist and Technician time for 4 educational presentations to lake associations and watershed organizations, sportsmen clubs and others groups
 - Educate and inform landowners, schools, units of government, special interest groups and clubs on the various erosion control and natural resource protection programs available to Scott County residents.
 - Distribute 12 newspaper articles to 5 county newspapers
 - Provide 10 bi-monthly articles to the Scott County **SCENE Magazine** editor
 - Maintain a Scott SWCD Web Page with up to date fact sheets, program highlights, staff contacts
 - Conduct a conservation tillage transect survey to determine level of crop residue management used in Scott County
 - Hold a Contractors meeting
- c. Coordinate cooperators appreciation programs that recognize landowners and operators for their dedication to the Districts initiatives
- Select a "Conservation Cooperator" to be recognized at the annual convention
 - Entries will be submitted to "The Farmer Magazine" and District Capacity Award Program.
 - Invite rainfall monitors and outdoor education day instructors to the annual appreciation dinner as guests of the District.
- 3. Staff Needs: Approximately .5 FTE are needed to accomplish these action items**

VIII. COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

A. State Cost-Share

The District will take part in the State Cost-share Program and request funds to finance agricultural best management practices.

Technical assistance and cost-share grant money will be targeted to high priority erosion, sedimentation and water quality problems. Resource inventories which identify high priority areas and an established priority system which ranks each type of assistance will be used when action is taken on State Cost-share applications received by the District.

- State Cost-share Program is administered by the SWCD. The following practices are eligible for 75% cost-share:
 - a. Critical Area Planting
 - b. Diversions

- c. Field Windbreaks
- d. Shelterbelt
- e. Grass Waterway
- f. Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control
- g. Filter Strips
- h. Sediment Basins
- i. Streambank & Shoreland Protections
- j. Stripcropping
- k. Terraces

In addition to the State Cost-share funds available for the practices listed above, there are Special Project funds, Special Minnesota River Basin grants, Special Minnesota River Basin Water Quality Improvement Project funds, Feedlot Water Quality Management grants and rollover funds administered by the BWSR for projects not covered by the District's State cost-share Program allocation.

- Grant applications will be submitted to meet the practice needs identified in the annual work plan
- Grant reports will be prepared to meet grant documentation requirements
- Requested funds are based on 75% cost-share. The Farm Service Agency, EQIP cost-share contribution has been deducted from practice money needs
- The state program is available to non-farming land occupiers and units of government.
- Maximum state cost-share rate is \$10,000 per year for Animal Waste Control systems and \$15,000 per year for Erosion and Sediment Control practices

B. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- An EQIP cost-share allocation will be available for agricultural conservation practices.
- The District will provide assistance in making initial needs determination on EQIP referrals within 45 days except in cases where survey and design is necessary for making adequate needs and cost determination. The FSA will be notified of those referrals which will be delayed for survey and design.

C. Metropolitan Environmental Partnership Program (MEP)

- Administered by the SWCD using the administrative guidelines provided by the BWSR on the State Cost-share Program and WMO watershed priorities. Technical assistance and grant money will be targeted to high priority erosion, sedimentation and water quality problems.
- Maximum cost-share payment rate in combination with other cost-share programs is 75%
- Available for Buffer Strip Easements, Riparian Land Easements, Ag Waste System upgrades, and Land Management Practice implementation

D. Scott WMO, PLSLWD, Vermillion River Watershed JPO Cost Share Programs

- Administered by the SWCD using the administrative guidelines provided by the Watershed Management Organizations and WMO watershed priorities. Technical assistance and grant money will be targeted to high priority erosion, sedimentation and water quality problems.
- Maximum cost-share payment rate in combination with other cost-share programs is 90%
- Available for a wide range of practices consistent with the EQIP program, but also includes Rain Gardens and Shoreland Restoration practices

IX. TO KEEP INFORMED OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AND TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION MOVEMENT ON A LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL

The District supervisors will request placement on the mailing list for legislative reports from both the Minnesota House and Senate.

The Scott SWCD will participate in the Adopt-A-Legislator Program by providing SWCD Program information to selected legislators to keep them informed on Federal, State and Local conservation programs

Local legislators will be invited to the District's annual planning meeting or a separate meeting to review legislative concerns will be arranged.

The Legislative Committee will review proposed legislation and will contact legislators as appropriate regarding legislation. Federal legislators will also be contacted thanking them for their support in promoting the efforts of the District.

A supervisor will attend meetings of the Association of Metropolitan SWCDs. At least two supervisors will attend area meetings along with selected staff members

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's convention will be attended by at least one supervisor and selected staff members.

Annual dues will be budgeted for and active membership will be maintained by paying the annual NACD, MASWCD, Area and Metro dues.

The District will cooperate with other agencies in carrying out the public information programs on subjects relating to the District program. Committees involving selected interested agencies and citizens will be organized to help plan program direction.

The annual report and annual work plan will be distributed to the State Board, cooperating agencies, county commissioners, state legislators, Scott County CFSA Committee and other interested groups and individuals as appropriate.

- 1. Staff Needs: Approximately .1 FTE are needed to accomplish these activities.**

X. PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING ASSISTANCE

Requests for assistance are made by phone, in person, by mail and by referrals from other agencies.

Each request will be recorded on a 3 x 5 card. The name, address, phone number, date of request, staff member taking the request and type of assistance requested will be shown on the card.

The request for assistance cards will be reviewed at the monthly staff meetings. Each request for assistance will be prioritized and assigned to a technician. The technician assigned to the card will contact the landowner within 45 days of the staff meeting to schedule a review of the site and make a needs determination.

In cases where the technician is unable to determine the amount of assistance required or where the land user can be given the help on a single visit or in the office and it appears that no further request for assistance will be made, the initial assistance may be provided on the basis of the oral request.

Where it is determined that additional visits will be required to provide the assistance requested, a case file will be started that includes information on the project along with planning and implementation notes reflecting the assistance provided to date. Units of government may be assisted upon receipt of a written request each time assistance is needed or upon documented oral request or written request when a Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into with the unit of government.