

2009 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 are provided by the five locally elected SWCD Supervisors. The role of the elected District Supervisors includes policy development, long-range plan preparation, annual budget development and 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, 2009, through December 31, 2009.

I. ORGANIZATION

District Board

Ewald Gruetzmacher, Chairman
Paul Krueger, Vice Chairman
Jim Schwingler, Secretary-Treasurer
Jim Fitzsimmons
Linda Brown

Committees Formed To Carry Out District Goals and Objectives

Finance	Paul Krueger, Peter Beckius, Shelly Tietz, Jim Schwingler, Paul Nelson
Legislative	Jim Fitzsimmons, Linda Brown, Peter Beckius, Katundra Shears-NRCS
Education	Jim Schwingler, Diane Hrabe, Shelly Tietz, Andy Porupsky-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
Personnel	Jim Fitzsimmons, Ewald Gruetzmacher, Katundra Shears-NRCS, Peter Beckius
State Revolving Fund	Linda Brown, Scott County Board Representative, Peter Beckius, Shelly Tietz, Scott Schneider
Tree	Ewald Gruetzmacher, Ryan Holzer, Diane Hrabe, Willie Peters, Andy Porupsky-NRCS
Equipment Rental	Paul Krueger, Peter Beckius, Scott Schneider, Diane Hrabe

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 are 12.0 FTE District and NRCS employees available to provide administrative and technical assistance for implementation of the 2009 Work Plan. In order to carry out Section VII through X of the 2009 Work Plan, 12.5 FTE will be needed. Additional staff to provide 0.5 FTE will be solicited from cooperating agencies and grant programs.

District

Peter Beckius, Manager
 Emily Javens, Engineer
 Willie Peters, Engineering Technician
 Shelly Tietz, Administrative Clerk
 Douglas Schoenecker, Urban Conservation Technician
 Scott Schneider, Resource Conservationist
 Jaime Rockney, Water Quality Technician
 Ryan Holzer, Resource Conservation Technician
 Diane Hrabe, District Secretary/Communications Specialist
 David Rickert, Bio-Mass Technician

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Katundra Shears, District Conservationist
 Andy Porupsky, Soil Conservation Technician
 Area and State staff – as needed, NRCS Agronomists, Biologists, Soil Scientists and Engineers will be available for special projects.

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 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 2009 WORK PLAN

Disbursements:

Salaries	\$527,500.00
P.E.R.A.	35,606.00
FICA	40,353.00
Insurance Benefits	117,100.00
Supervisor Compensation	11,000.00
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	1,800.00
Audit	2,100.00
TOTAL	\$817,459.00

Revenues:

State Grant	\$ 24,321.00
RIM	3,349.00
Interest	45,000.00
Tree Program	16,500.00
Misc Income	33,500.00
Scott County WMO	342,607.00
Scott County Funds	98,000.00
Construction Site Inspection Program	70,000.00
NRBG - Feedlot Program	18,696.00
NRBG - WCA Program	47,337.00
NRBG – Shoreland Program	1,490.00
NRBG - ISTS Program	1,500.00
Vermillion River Watershed JPO	18,000.00
Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District	12,000.00
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District	13,000.00
Met Council	8,000.00
Metro WCA Enforcement	10,000.00
Funds from Reserve	54,159.00
TOTAL	\$817,459.00

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 WITH WATER MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Scott Watershed Management Organization
2. Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
3. Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District
4. Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
5. City of Shakopee
6. City of Savage
7. City of Prior Lake
8. City of Jordan
9. City of Belle Plaine
10. City of New Prague
11. City of Elko New Market
12. Belle Plaine Township
13. Blakeley Township
14. Cedar Lake Township
15. Credit River Township
16. Helena Township
17. Jackson Township
18. Louisville Township
19. New Market Township
20. Sand Creek Township
21. Spring Lake Township
22. Saint Lawrence Township
23. Metropolitan Council
24. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
25. US Fish and Wildlife Service
26. USDA Farm Service Agency
27. University of Minnesota Scott County Extension Service
28. MN Department of Natural Resources – Forestry, Water, Wildlife Divisions
29. MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
30. MN Department of Agriculture
31. MN Pollution Control Agency
32. MN Department of Health
33. MN Association of Metropolitan Soil and Water Conservation Districts

34. Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
35. Scott County – Planning, Environmental Health, Natural Resources, Building and Inspections, Highway Divisions

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 Scott CWRMP by reference as the Scott SWCD Comprehensive Plan.

- A. Agricultural Land Management
- B. Storm Water/Flood Management
- C. Surface Water Quality
- D. Wetland Management
- E. Groundwater Management
- F. Wildlife Habitat Management
- G. Urban Land Management
- H. Education

VII. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CATEGORY AND ANNUAL OBJECTIVES 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.

Objective:

Reduce soil erosion (sheet, rill, wind, gully and stream bank) on Scott County lands. 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.

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 lead 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.

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 systems.

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.

Objective:

Protect and improve surface water quality.

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 have altered or eliminated almost 70 percent of our historical wetlands. Recent inventories indicate only 21,978 acres of unaltered and 8,814 acres of partially drained shallow water habitat wetlands remain.

Objective:

Preserve, protect and enhance wetland ecosystems, and ensure/encourage a measurable net gain of wetland functions and acreages.

E. Groundwater Management – To ensure 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 aquifers.

Objective:

Preserve and protect groundwater resources both in quality and quantity.

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.

Objective:

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

G. Urban Land Management - 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.

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.

H. Education Program – Public awareness of watershed issues has increased significantly in recent years. The efforts of the County WMOs, University of Minnesota Extension Service, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Council have increased this awareness.

Objective:

Provide educational activities throughout Scott County which involves local partnerships, utilizes quality materials and is prepared with local funding and staff to ensure program success.

VIII. Partnerships and Implementation Actions to Address Objectives

A. Federal Programs –

1. USDA NRCS (United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Programs administered by NRCS with SWCD Technical Support

- a. Implement Contribution Work Agreement with NRCS
- b. Provide Technical Service Provider Services
- c. CRP (Conservation Reserve Program)
 - Contact 30 landowners to solicit participation
 - Process 15 applications
 - Conduct status review on 10 contracts
- d. CCRP (Continuous Conservation Reserve Program) Filter Strip
 - Contact 100 landowners to solicit participation
 - Process 25 applications

- Conduct status reviews on 20 contracts
- e. CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)
 - Contact 25 eligible landowners to provide program details
 - Conduct status reviews on 2 contracts
- f. EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)
 - 2009 EQIP applications will be submitted for all interested land operators in priority watersheds
 - Obtain Conservation Planner Certification for Conservation Technician
 - Prepare 20 Conservation Plans on 1,000 acres
 - Survey, design and construct 25 conservation practices – i.e., grade stabilization structures, water and sediment basins, grassed waterways, stream bank stabilization practices, etc.
 - Design and install 25 agronomic practices – i.e., conservation tillage, nutrient management plans, windbreaks, native grass plantings, riparian buffers, etc.
- g. PWP (Permanent Wetland Preserve Program)
 - Contact 15 landowners to solicit participation
 - Survey, design and install 2 wetland restorations
- h. WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program)
 - Provide program information to 15 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
- i. SAFE (State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement)
 - Contact 40 landowners to solicit participation
 - Prepare planting plan for 25 contracts
- j. Conservation Compliance (CC) initiatives
 - Prepare 30 Conservation Plans on 2,000 acres
 - Conduct status reviews on 20 Conservation Plans
 - Update producer information in TOOLKIT data base
 - Complete Sodbuster/Swampbuster determinations for 50 program participants
 - Complete 40 tract splits - HEL/NHEL determinations

2. USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service)

Programs administered by SWCD via agreement with USFWS

- a. Wetland Restoration Program
 - Contact 25 landowners to solicit interest in wetland restoration
 - Conduct 15 field reviews to determine feasibility for wetland restorations
 - Provide survey assistance to aid in the design and construction of 7 wetland restorations on 40 acres
 - Supervise construction and prepare as-built drawings for certification
 - Design 2 wetland restoration structures
- b. Native Grass Program - Provide technical and financial assistance to Scott County landowners to establish native grass plantings
 - Conduct 10 field reviews/contacts for interested landowners
 - Provide cost-share assistance to landowners for site preparation, seed costs and fertilization
 - Develop 5 native grass plantings and provide cost share for 10 acres
- c. Lakeshore/Stream bank Stabilization Program – Provide technical and financial assistance to Scott County landowners to restore stream bank and lakeshore
 - Contact 10 lakeshore/stream bank property owners to solicit interest in native planting restoration
 - Design natural shoreland/stream channel restoration practices for 2 landowners
 - Provide cost-share assistance to landowners for construction costs

B. State Programs –

1. MBWSR (Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources)

Programs administered by SWCD via agreement with BWSR

- a. Erosion, Sediment Control and Water Quality Cost-Share Program
 - 2009 State Cost-Share grant funds will be targeted to high priority non-point source pollution reduction practices
- b. RIM (Re-Invest In Minnesota)
 - Complete status reviews for 20 RIM contracts
 - Revise 4 easements for land ownership changes and/or planting goal changes
- c. Native Buffer Cost-Share Program
 - Contact 25 landowners to solicit participation in establishing native grass buffers
 - Develop planting plans for 3 landowners on 30 acres of native grass buffers
- d. Conservation Tillage Transect Survey
 - Conduct a conservation tillage transect survey to determine level of crop residue management used in Scott County
- e. Farmbill Assistance Grant
 - Employ a Bio-Mass Technician to work in a four-county focus area to research, develop and implement a bio-mass for bio-energy production program
 - Develop a Work Plan for the Bio-Mass Technician
 - Work with the DNR to develop a Working Lands Initiative (WLI) proposal
 - Identify target areas to implement projects and direct WLI grant dollars
 - Document landowner interest in producing bio-mass for bio-energy

2. BWSR

Programs administered by SWCD via agreement with Scott County

- a. WCA (Wetland Conservation Act) - Assist the 18 LGUs (cities, townships, WMO) in Scott County with the implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) of 1991
 - Provide technical support to the LGUs 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 plan applications; 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 in obtaining 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
 - 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. ISTS (Individual Sewage Treatment Systems Program) - Provide technical and 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
 - Provide annual report for practices applied to MDA
- c. Shoreland

- Provide technical support to the Scott County with the implementation of the shoreland zoning ordinance
- Survey, design and supervise construction of 3 lakeshore and streambank restoration projects
- Complete an annual report of activities

3. **MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)**

Programs administered by SWCD via agreement with Scott County

- a. Feedlot Program - 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 in completing 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 (MAPs) for 5 livestock confinement facilities
 - Conduct follow-up contact for 20 existing MAPs
 - Provide financial incentives for soil testing for all MAPs
 - Coordinate a Feedlot Registration Workshop
 - Develop map of all Scott County Waste-Handling Facilities that meet MPCA Standards
- b. Stormwater Steering Committee
 - Maintain membership on the Stormwater Steering Committee

4. **MDA (Minnesota Department of Agriculture)**

Program administered by SWCD via agreement with Scott County

- a. SRF (State Revolving Fund Loan Program) - 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 25 applications for ag waste systems, conservation tillage equipment, SSTS and ag BMP practices
 - Provide necessary technical certification for completed practices
 - Maintain an account of available funds and provide an annual report of practices applied to MDA
 - Provide annual report for practices applied to MDA

5. **MDNR (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)**

- a. DNR Wildlife - Provide 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
- b. DNR Waters - Shoreland Protection Program -
 - 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
- Obtain monthly data from 7 abandoned Scott County wells under contract with the DNR
- Send data to the DNR Waters for logging

C. Regional Programs

1. MC (Metropolitan Council)

- a. Water Quality Monitoring Program – Assist MC with water quality monitoring
 - Develop contracts for service
 - Purchase, install and maintain water quality monitoring equipment
 - Obtain rating curve measurements, grab samples, composite samples, base flow samples for 2 sites
 - Provide data to appropriate laboratories for analysis
 - Create hydrographs, enter data online

2. TSA 8 – AMSWCD (Technical Service Area 8 – Association of Metropolitan Soil and Water Conservation Districts) Programs administered by Scott SWCD via agreement with TSA 8 - AMSWCD

- a. Landscape Specialist Program
 - Provide 80 hours of Landscape Restoration Specialist and Technician time for 4 educational presentations to lake associations and watershed organizations, sportsmen clubs and other groups
 - Provide 600 hours of Landscape Restoration Specialist time to cooperating WMOs for rain gardens, lakeshore and stream bank restoration and other bio-engineering practices
- b. NPEAP (Non-point Engineering Assistance Program) - Provide technical and administrative assistance to the AMSWCD TSA 8 for implementation of the NPEAP
 - 2009 NPEAP grant funds will be used to obtain engineered designs for 12 conservation practices
 - Accept designation as Host Fiscal Agent for the 2009 NPEAP Grant Program
 - Review all project and equipment applications submitted from member districts for compliance with program objectives
 - Obtain consultant contracts for approved applications
 - Monitor approved project contracts
 - Prepare annual budget
 - Prepare annual report
 - Provide bi-monthly reports to TSA 8 member districts
 - Work to develop an updated JPA and contract for program administration

3. WRC (Water Resource Center) - Assist the Minnesota River Water Resource Center with collection of resource information

- Complete the annual transect of Scott County cropland to determine acres of the conservation tillage practice being implemented

D. County Programs

1. SC (Scott County)

- a. County-Wide Storm Water Management, Erosion Control, Wetland Protection, Forest Preservation Inspection Program –
 - 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 BMPs

- Review EAWs and AUARs as requested
- Provide educational material for developers, homebuilders and homeowners in Scott County on Erosion and Sediment Control Program requirements
- Provide inspections for compliance with erosion and sediment control requirement for all single-family residences and new developments in the un-incorporated areas of the county
- Conduct 8 workshops for developers and builders to educate on Chapter 6 and NPDES requirements
- Maintain Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) and Certified Erosion, Sediment and Storm Water Inspector certifications for SWCD staff
- Provide inspection service for erosion and sediment control plan implementation for all county highway projects
- b. Living Snow Fence Program - 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 Department
 - Assist with the design of Living Snow Fences
 - Supervise the installation and certification of plantings
- c. Wetland Restorations
 - Solicit interested wetland restoration site owners for Scott County Highway mitigation needs

E. Watershed Management Organization Programs

1. PLSLWD (Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District)

- a. Rain Garden/Shore land Restoration Program
 - Accept applications and assist with the scoring and prioritization
 - Provide technical assistance in the development and installation of shore land restoration, stream buffer and rain garden projects
 - Distribute cost-share funds to those approved practices meeting program guidelines
- b. Filter Strip Program - 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
 - Obtain 20 acres of filter strip contracts using CRP and Prior Lake/Spring Lake WD funds
 - Develop new agreements and prepare conservation plans for all filter strip contracts
 - Provide the Brillion seeder grass drill to 3 landowners to seed 10 acres of filters
 - Complete compliance spot checks on all filter agreements
- c. Cost Share Program - 2009 PLSLWD 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
 - Process cost-share applications, survey, design and construct 5 conservation practices – i.e.,
 - 1 acre of grassed waterways
 - 5 water and sediment control basins
 - 2 wetland restorations
 - 3 well sealings
- d. Clean Water Legacy Grant Programs
 - Provide host fiscal agent assistance for the administration of the Clean Water Legacy Grant
- e. Water Quality Monitoring - Assist the Prior Lake/Spring Lake WD with water quality, quantity, fecal and thermal monitoring
 - Identify high priority monitoring sites in the sub-watersheds
 - Develop contracts for service

- Purchase, install and maintain water quality monitoring equipment
 - Obtain rating curve measurements, grab samples, composite samples and base flow samples for 2 sites
 - Provide data to appropriate laboratories for analysis
 - Coordinate the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program
2. **Scott WMO (Scott Watershed Management Organization)**
- a. Rain Garden/Shore land Restoration Program
 - Accept applications and assist with the scoring and prioritization
 - Provide technical assistance in the development and installation of shore land restoration, stream buffer and rain garden projects
 - Distribute cost-share funds for those approved practices meeting program guidelines
 - b. Filter Strip Program - 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
 - Obtain 100 acres of filter strip contracts using CRP funds and Scott WMO 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
 - c. Cost share Program - 2009 Scott WMO 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
 - Process cost-share applications, survey, design and construct 25 conservation practices – i.e.,
 - 5 acres of grassed waterways
 - 15 water and sediment control basins
 - 3 grade stabilization structures
 - 1,000 feet of terraces
 - 250 feet of diversions
 - 2,500 feet of stream bank stabilization
 - 5 storm water control systems
 - 100% of contributing watershed to practice site (managed by the applicant) will have planned conservation
 - Conduct follow-up in headwater sub-watersheds (33022 and 33133) in Scott County to solicit participation in non-point source pollution reduction practices
 - Meet with 250 landowners to discuss alternatives
 - Grant programs
 - 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
 - Provide technical support to the implantation of the McKnight Foundation Grant
 - d. Water Quality Monitoring Program – Assist the Scott WMO with water quality, quantity and thermal monitoring
 - Identify high priority monitoring sites in the sub-watersheds
 - Develop contracts for service
 - Purchase, install and maintain water quality monitoring equipment
 - Obtain rating curve measurements, grab samples, composite samples and base flow samples for 5 sites
 - Provide data to appropriate laboratories for analysis
 - Create hydrographs, enter data online.
 - Maintain/update the GIS database layer of all ditches, streams and wetlands in Scott County
 - Coordinate the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program (VSMP)
 - Macro-invertebrate Program with 4 Schools in Scott County
 - Attend River Summit

3. **VRWJPO (Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization)**
 - a. Filter Strip Program - 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
 - Obtain 20 acres of filter strip contracts using CRP funds and VRWMO funds
 - Develop new agreements and prepare conservation plans for all filter strip contracts
 - Provide the Brillion seeder grass drill to 3 landowners to seed 10 acres of filter
 - Complete compliance spot checks on all filter agreements
 - b. Cost share Program - 2009 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
 - c. Water Quality Monitoring Program - Assist the Vermillion River WMO with water quality, quantity, fecal and thermal monitoring
 - Identify high priority monitoring sites in the sub-watersheds
 - Develop contracts for service
 - Purchase, install and maintain water quality monitoring equipment
 - Obtain rating curve measurements, grab samples, composite samples and base flow samples for 1 site
 - Provide data to appropriate laboratories for analysis
 - Coordinate the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program

4. **LMRWD (Lower Minnesota River Watershed District)**
 - a. Water Quality Monitoring Program - Assist the Lower Minnesota River WD with water quality, quantity, fecal and thermal monitoring
 - Identify high priority monitoring sites in the sub-watersheds
 - Develop contracts for service
 - Purchase, install and maintain water quality monitoring equipment
 - Obtain rating curve measurements, grab samples, composite samples and base flow samples for 1 site
 - Provide data to appropriate laboratories for analysis
 - Coordinate the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program
 - b. Groundwater Monitoring - Cooperate with the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District and DNR Waters to monitor surficial groundwater and aquifer fluctuations
 - Obtain surficial groundwater readings for 18 wells in the Savage Fen for the LMRWD
 - Post data on the LMRWD web site
 - c. Erosion Control Inspection Program
 - d. Thermal Monitoring Program
 - Conduct thermal monitoring on 2 Eagle Creek sites

F. Local Programs

1. **PF (Scott County Pheasants Forever Chapter)**
 - a. District Food Plot/Wildlife Habitat Establishment Program - 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

2. **Scott SWCD (Scott Soil and Water Conservation District)**
 - a. District Tree program- 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 to 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 Scott County to develop a tree preservation ordinance and erosion control ordinance
- b. District Equipment Rental Program - Coordinate an equipment rental program (JD 1560, Great Plains Drill, Brillion Seeder, Finn Krimper) to educate landowners on the benefits of reduced tillage and residue management
- Accept applications for use of the conservation equipment
 - Provide transportation and setup of conservation equipment
 - Plant 1,500 acres of agricultural land to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff
- c. Rainfall Monitoring Program
- Assist the State Climatologist with rainfall monitoring in Scott County, providing precipitation data from 11 SWCD monitoring stations
 - Provide official rain gauges to volunteer monitors
 - Collect monthly reports and log data on SWCD website
 - Forward monthly reports to the State Climatologist for record keeping and trend analysis
- d. District Educational Programs - Facilitate and support education/public outreach activities with stakeholders within Scott County to provide a network of knowledgeable people who support and help carry out the goals of this plan
- Hold a county-wide Outdoor Education Day for all sixth-grade students
 - Set up a booth/display at the Scott County Fair, City to Farm Tour and all Scott County City business fairs (New Prague, Jordan, Belle Plaine, Shakopee, Prior Lake, Savage)
 - 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 presentation 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
 - Participate in the area and state Junior and Senior Envirothon contests
 - 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
 - Conduct educational programs for homeowners, lake associations, developers, WMO, WD, city and county personnel
 - 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 bimonthly articles to the Scott County SCENE Magazine editor
 - Maintain the Scott SWCD website with up to-date-fact sheets, program highlights, staff contacts
 - Prepare hallway display to promote a district program or activity in January, April, July and October

- e. Recognition Programs - Coordinate cooperator appreciation programs that recognize landowners and operators for their dedication to the District's initiatives
 - Select a "Conservation Cooperator" to be recognized at the annual convention
 - Submit entry to *The Farmer* magazine
 - Complete District Capacity Award Program applications
 - Hold Annual Appreciation Banquet for rainfall monitors, outdoor education day station coordinators and selected conservation partners
 - Select a monthly "Land Steward of the Month" for recognition in local newspapers

IX. 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 and water quality problems. Resource inventories, which identify high priority areas, 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. Shelterbelts
- e. Grass Waterways
- f. Livestock Waste Management
- g. Filter Strips
- h. Sediment Basins
- i. Streambank & Shoreland Protections
- j. Stripcropping
- k. Terraces
- l. Well Sealing (50% maximum cost-share)

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's 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. Scott WMO, PLSLWD and VRWJPO 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 75 - 90% depending on the practice priority.
- Available for a wide range of practices consistent with the EQIP program, but also includes Rain Gardens and Shoreland Restoration practices

D. AgBMP Loan Program

- The AgBMP loan program is a Minnesota Department of Agriculture program that is delegated to Scott County for implementation. The SWCD administers the program via an agreement.
- Borrower needs to complete an AgBMP Loan Application and submit it to the SWCD.
- Borrower needs to complete the Loan/Lease Application and submit to AgStar Financial.
- The loan rate is 3%, with the lending institution charging a 1.5% origination fee. Maximum loan is \$100,000.00.
- Eligible practices include: conservation tillage equipment, manure handling equipment, well sealing, sub-surface sewage treatment systems and best management practices that reduce erosion and water pollution.

X. REQUEST FOR 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 weekly and assigned to a technician. The technician assigned to the card will contact the landowner within 45 days to schedule a review of the site and complete a Technical Assessment.

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.

XI. 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 to thank 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, the Scott County CFSA Committee and other interested groups and individuals as appropriate.