



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

kandiyohi soil and water
conservation district

1005 High Ave
Willmar, MN 56201



The Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a local government agency providing programs to the public for conservation use and the development of soil, water, and related resources. The district provides funding, technical assistance, and education. We work alongside with Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) and Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR).

our mission

Our mission is to encourage the wise use of land and water and to treat these resources in accordance with their needs for protection and improvement.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 1: Norway Lake, Colfax, Artander, Lake Andrew, and Dovre Townships – **Ron Dilley**

District 2: Burbank, Roseville, New London, Irving, and Harrison **Donnel Williamson**

District 3: Green Lake, Willmar, Kandiyohi, and Fahlun Township - **Doug Hanson**

District 4: Genessee, Lake Elizabeth, Roseland, Lake Lillian, and East Lake Lillian Townships - **Jane Youngkrantz**

District 5: Mamre, St Johns, Edwards, Whitefield, and Holland Townships - **Brandon Smith**

KANDIYOHI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF

Margaret Johnson, District Manager, Margaret.Johnson2@mn.nacdnet.net
Ryan Peterson, District Technical Coordinator Ryan.Peterson@mn.nacdnet.net
Sandy Laumer, Office Manager, Sandra.Laumer@mn.nadnet.net
Ellie Faber, Conservation Technician, Ellie.Faber@usda.gov

PHEASANTS FOREVER STAFF

Aaron Wilson, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, awilson@pheasantsforever.org

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES STAFF (ASSISTING KANDIYOHI SWCD)

John Jaschke, Executive Director, St. Paul
Jason Weinerman, Board Conservationist, St Cloud
Cade Steffenson, Wetland Specialist, St Cloud

KANDIYOHI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMPLETED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS IN 2022

REINVEST IN MINNESOTA (RIM) (Mn Statute 103F)

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP) &

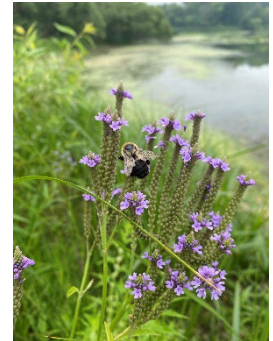
CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

- Site evaluations and inspections on 93 RIM Conservation Easements
- 1 CREP Wetland Restoration project completed
- 207 Kandiyohi RIM Easements
- 9,290 Acres of Easements



STATE COST SHARE PROGRAMS (BWSR BASED FUNDING)

- State: 6 well sealings \$2,209.12
- State: 2 Pollinator plantings \$4,800
- State: 2 Rain gardens \$9,013.50
- State: 2 Shoreline projects \$13,900.50
- State: 1 Water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) \$20,916.74
- State: 2 Lakeshed reports \$2,700
- State: 1 Manure pit closure \$13,935



CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP) & CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)

- 2022 CRP enrollment: 232 contracts/ 3,916 acres
- General CRP: 9 contracts/ 241 ac./ avg. rate = \$128/ac.
- CCRP: 198 contracts/ 3,240 ac./ avg. rate = \$252/ac
- CLEAR30 CRP: (30-year contract) 24 contracts/ 382 ac./ avg. rate = \$302/ac.
- CRP Grasslands: 1 contract/ 53 ac./ rate = \$22/ac.



Kandiyohi County currently has around 1,640 CRP contracts which total approximately 25,400 acres and annual payments of \$4.87 million dollars.

STATE REVOLVING FUND

- Funds were used for 1 new well project \$20,250. Applying for continued funding in 2023.

MINNESOTA AG WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (MAWQCP) (Mn Statute 17.9891)

- 8 new Landowners certified
- Promoted program to landowners via newsletter, newspaper articles, word of mouth, and CSP applications
- Plans are made for 2022 to promote more certifications and continue to certify other landowners who submitted applications



BWSR's ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN (Mn Statute 103B.801)

- 1 plan being implemented
- 1 plan completed
- 2 plans in planning phases

SERVICE PROGRAMS

- Tree sales of \$40,065.56
- Tree plantings at 6 sites
- Filter fabric – 18 rolls of fabric installed
- Prairie restoration/seeding – 409 acres seeded on 43 sites
- Seeding plans & sales - 13 sites

VOLUNTEER RAIN GAUGE MONITORS/DNR WELL MONITORING

- 10 monitors countywide reported monthly
- 13 groundwater wells monitored quarterly



SPECIAL EVENTS

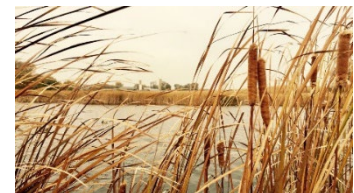
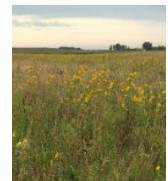
- Cost Share funds for Cover Crops
- Cost Share fund to design and install rain gardens
- Technical Advisor to Kandiyohi County Planning & Zoning Committee
- State Forestry Committee
- EQIP Technical Committee
- Plant Materials Committee
- NRCS State Technical Committee
- AIS Kandiyohi Committee
- Invasive Phragmites Treatment Coordination

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

- Earth Day Celebration at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center
- Presentations to Lake Associations in Kandiyohi County
- New London-Spicer High School Soil Judging Class
- National Association of Conservation District's Poster Contest
- Newsletter - West Central Tribune's Reminder
- Free Nitrate Drinking Water Clinics: New London, Atwater, Lake Lillian, Raymond, Willmar, PWELC
- Parks To Prairie Kick-Off at Robins Island Park
- Pints and Pollinators Event at Goat Ridge Brewery
- SWCD Open House at Willmar Community Center
- Conservation Presentation to 4th-5th grade students at BBE School
- Soil Health Day at Ridgewater College
- AIS Field Day with 4th Graders
- Shoreline Planting with Dream Academy

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT (WCA) (Mn Statute 103G.221)

- 10 Notice of Applications (boundary and type of wetlands)
- 17 Notice of Decisions
- 6 Agricultural Exemptions
- 2 Wetland Bank Applications
- 14 TEP panel site visits



TAX FORFEITED LAND

- Assisted Kandiyohi County Auditor's Office

MINNESOTA WALK-IN ACCESS (Mn Statute 97A.126)

- Total of 10 sites and 911 acres to be open for public hunting



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS (Mn Statute 103G.301)

- Total of 41 permits reviewed

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST

Kandiyohi SWCD 2022 Outstanding Conservationists

Church Lake Farms

Conservation practices are increasing across Minnesota to protect the land and waters, and those leading the efforts on their land were recently recognized at the state level. Church Lake Farm of Pennock was honored as outstanding conservationists at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD). They were selected by the Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the award. Each year, the state's SWCDs recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding accomplishments in implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources. The award program is done with support from *The Farmer* magazine.

Church Lake Farm was recognized for using a wide variety of conservation practices on their farm, said SWCD District Technical Coordinator, Ryan Peterson. Church Lake Farm has constructed water and sediment control basins to help manage water runoff and control erosion on their land. They primarily grow alfalfa and are use cover crops along with conservation plantings to help protect their soils from eroding year-round. A variety of wildlife and pollinators also benefit from the native buffers installed to help filter and keep water clean. Solar panels, Irrigation water management, wetland restorations, and nutrient and pest management plans are some additional examples of Church Lake Farm conservation efforts.

“We’re really proud of Church Lake Farm and what they have done for conservation in Kandiyohi County,” said Peterson. “Church Lake Farm provides a wonderful example of how conservation can be successfully implemented using modern technology and farming practices. They are excellent stewards of the land and great models for future conservationists.”



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (ASSISTING KANDIYOHI SWCD)

Melanie Dickman, District Conservationist
Rick Gronseth, Civil Technical Engineer

NRCS SERVICES

The Kandiyohi SWCD and NRCS partner and assist each other on conservation practices that not only benefit the land, but the landowner as well.

	contracts funded
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP):	\$57,510
CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):	\$1,228,963
REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM – LAND MANAGEMENT (RCPP-LM):	\$5,557