

# 2019 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

## KANDIYOHI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 1005 High Ave. NE, Willmar, MN 56201 320-235-3906, ext. 3

**MISSION STATEMENT:** “The Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation District is dedicated to protecting our soil and water resources through education and technical assistance.”

The Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation district’s regular meeting is held the second Tuesday of the month, with a starting time of 2:30 p.m. in the Ag Service Center, Willmar, MN.

The following outlines the accomplishments of the Kandiyohi SWCD in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, made toward resource protection and public awareness during January 1 to December 31, 2019.

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jane Youngkrantz, Chairman, Lake Lillian  
Doug Hanson, Vice Chairman, Willmar  
Ron Dilley, Secretary, Pennock  
Brandon Smith, Treasurer, Raymond  
Donnel Williamson, Public Relations and Information, Spicer

### KANDIYOHI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF

Rick Reimer, District Administrator; [Rick.Reimer@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:Rick.Reimer@mn.nacdnet.net)  
Ryan Peterson, RIM Coordinator; [Ryan.Peterson@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:Ryan.Peterson@mn.nacdnet.net)  
Sandy Laumer, Office Manager, [Sandra.Laumer@mn.nadnet.net](mailto:Sandra.Laumer@mn.nadnet.net)  
Ellie.Dittes, Conservation Technician, [Ellie.Dittes@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:Ellie.Dittes@mn.nacdnet.net)  
Aaron Wilson, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, [awilson@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:awilson@pheasantsforever.org)

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE STAFF (ASSISTING KANDIYOHI SWCD)

Melanie Dickman, District Conservationist  
Daniel Jarosz, Soil Conservationist-ACEP  
Denise TeBrake, Farm Bill Tech-ACES  
NRCS Southwest Area Staff, Marshall  
NRCS Staff, St. Paul

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

John Jaschke, BWSR, St. Paul  
BWSR Staff, St. Paul  
Kevin Bigalke, Regional BD, St Paul  
Jeremy Maul, BC, Mankato  
Lynda Ponting, Wetland Specialist, St Cloud

## **REINVEST IN MINNESOTA (RIM), WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP) & CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)**

- Site evaluations and inspections on 101 RIM Conservation Easements.
- Grass Lake Prairie Wetland Restoration Project Easements.
- RIM/WRP completed wetland restoration projects totaling 41 acres
- 1 CREP easements completed for 29 acres.
- 2 RIM Wetland repair projects
- 3 LCCMR Bee & Butterfly Enhancement Projects completed

## **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP); CONTINUOUS CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CCRP)**

- CRP: 94 re-enrolled contracts for 1,969.65 acres
- CCRP filter strips (CP21): 147.12 acres
- CCRP Riparian Buffer (CP22): 9.23 acres
- CCRP wetland restorations (CP23A): 1,054.39 acres
- CCRP (CP27): 23.26 acres
- CCRP (CP28): 18.56 acres
- CCRP Duck Nesting (CP37): 716.25 acres
- Kandiyohi County currently has 1,853 CRP contracts which total 29,565.64 acres and annual payments of \$4,746,655
- Technical Assistance of wetland restorations, 2 projects, 8 wetland restorations

## **COST SHARE PROGRAMS**

- State: 1 sediment basins \$1,554

## **WATERSHED PROJECTS & LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**

We work cooperatively with the following watershed projects and lake associations, promoting conservation and providing technical assistance for water quality activities.

- Chippewa River Watershed Association
- Hawk Creek Watershed Project
- Rice/Koronis Watershed
- Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District
- Diamond Lake Association
- Games Lake Association
- Norway Lake Association
- Eagle Lake Association
- Calhoun Lake Association
- Kandi-Wakanda Watershed
- Kandiyohi County Lake Association
- 1W1P- North Fork CROW Watershed District
- 1W1P-Hawk Creek Middle Minnesota Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

## **SERVICE PROGRAMS**

- Tree sales of 12,987
- Tree plantings at 15 sites
- Filter fabric – 1.5 miles of fabric installed
- Prairie restoration/seeding – 963 acres seeded on 98 sites
- Seeding plans & sales on additional 25 sites totaling 97 acres

## **STATE REVOLVING FUND (SRF)**

- Received \$380,000 Funds were used for 2 minimum tillage equipment, 2 septic systems, and 1 manure application equipment. Applying for continued funding for 2020. Total since 1995 - \$2,380,202 into county, and rollover funds for last 20 years at \$714,190= \$3,880,190.

## **WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT (WCA)**

- 30 sites were reviewed
- 6 Restoration Plans

## **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

- \$54,175 obligated in 2019 and 14,131.8 acres

### **CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)**

- payments total \$4,411,876.39 and 91,464.1 acres per year

### **MN WALK-IN ACCESS**

- Promoted program to landowners with postcards
- Total of 12 sites and 1,158 acres to be open for public hunting
- Mapped open hunting areas in reporting system

### **BUFFERS**

- Buffer Cost Share: 63 contacts
- Compliance Status: Public Waters 99%, Public Ditches 99%
- 50 + Ditch flagging
- 100 + Compliance Checks
- 100+ land consultations for buffer strips & cost share

### **MINNESOTA AG WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (MAWQCP)**

- 2 Landowners certified, 2 applications in progress
- Promoted program to landowners at County Fair, Prairie Pothole Day, and general landowner visits
- Plans are made for 2020 to promote more certifications

### **EDUCATIONAL EVENTS**

- New London Elementary Environmental Day
- Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center: continue to serve in an advisory capacity
- Soil Stewardship: 2 churches participated
- Kandiyohi County Fair, August 2019
- Presenter for Area Envirothon, April 2019
- Presentations to Lake Associations: Diamond Lake, Norway Lake, Eagle Lake, Lake Calhoun, Nest Lake, Green Lake, Lake Wakanda, Willmar Lake, Foot Lake and Lake Florida
- Grass Lake Presentation to Willmar Noon Lions Meeting
- Willmar Kiwanis Presentation
- Willmar Lakes Presentation
- 6<sup>th</sup> Graders Environmental Days at Prairie Woods Environmental Center (275 students)
- North Fork Crow River Education Day at Lake Koronis, May 2019
- Earth Day Event at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center (PWELC), April 2019
- Arbor Day, May 2019
- Willmar High School
- New London-Spicer High School, Arboretum/Survey Class
- New London-Spicer High School Soil Judging Class
- Power Point presentation to County Commissioners in 2019
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Education Outreach
- Rain Garden Demonstration Site

### **TAX FORFEITED LAND**

- Assisted Kandiyohi County Auditor's Office
- Rural Preserve Program

### **DNR OBSRVATION WELL PROGRAM**

- Monitor 17 wells for groundwater levels

### **OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST**

- Schueler Farms, Willmar

### **VOLUNTEER RAIN GAUGE MONITORS**

- 8 monitors countywide report monthly

### **SPECIAL EVENTS/OTHER**

- December Legislative Meeting

- 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 (Reimer)
- EQIP Technical Committee (Reimer)
- Plant Materials Committee (Peterson)
- NRCS State Technical Committee (Reimer)
- AIS Kandiyohi Committee (Reimer)

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