# 2018 Annual Plan of Operations Norman County Soil & Water Conservation District

# **MISSION STATEMENT:**

It is the mission of the Norman County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to provide a local organization through which the local landowners/operators and units of government may cooperate with each other or with state and federal agencies to conserve and promote the development of soil and water resources for agriculture, forestry, wildlife, recreation, public use, private and public development of housing and land. Proper use of land and resource planning will be promoted and technical assistance to cooperators will be available through Memoranda of Understanding with the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and other federal and state agencies. The District encourages the adoption of sound land management and application of conservation practices to all land in the District. We also recognize that our natural resources are fundamental and essential to a permanent and prosperous economy.



The 2018 Annual Plan addresses the Priority goals of the SWCD Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors adopted the County's Local Water Management Plan as the Comprehensive Plan for the District.

# PERSONNEL:

#### DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ron Thorsrud Kelly Skaurud Erik Rockstad Gene Ueland Bruce Tufte Chairman Vice Chairman Treasurer Secretary Reporter Twin Valley Gary Ada Ada Borup

#### DISTRICT STAFF

Lori Thronson Mark Christianson Courtney Habedank District Manager District Technician Conservation Technician

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Sharon Lean	Acting District Conservationist
Jessie Heitman	Soil Conservation Technician

All of our Board of Supervisor's meetings are open to the public. Regular meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 8:00 AM. Special meetings are posted in advance.

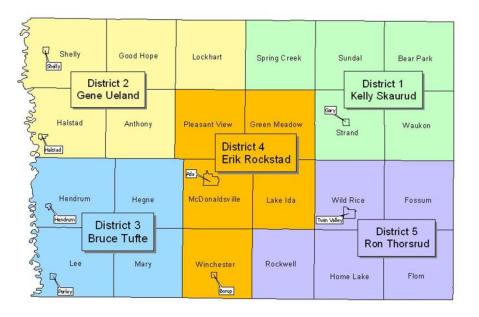
The District office is located at 100 Main Ave E Twin Valley

Mailing address is PO Box 60 Twin Valley

Phone number is 218-584-5169 Fax number is 218-584-5667

Website address is <u>www.normancountyswcd.org</u>

# Norman County SWCD Supervisor Districts



# **Cooperating Agencies**

# State

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Minnesota Association of District Employees (MACDE) Environmental Service Office (ESO) Red River Valley Conservation Service Area (RRVCSA) National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Minnesota Extension Service (MES) Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) Wild Rice River Watershed District (WRWS) Sandhill River Watershed District (SHRWS) Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Northwest Regional Development Commission (NRDC)

# Federal

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Service Agency (FSA) US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) United States Geological Survey (USGS)

# Local

Norman County Commissioners Norman County Agencies Local Cities Local Townships Red River Water Management Board (RRWMB) Red River Basin Commission National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) Ducks Unlimited (DU) Pheasants Forever

# Annual Dues paid by the District

MASWCD	NACDE
MACDE	MACFO
Area 1 State	Area 1 Local

# **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this plan is to protect our natural resources through the promotion and implementation of Best Management Practices throughout the County and associated Watersheds.

# PRIORITY CONCERN 1

Norman County will focus on water movement throughout the watersheds.

The Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup has identified Priority areas for both Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) and Natural Resource Enhancement (NRE) activities within Norman County. The Concerned Citizens of the Wild Rice Watershed have also identified storage requirements to flood proof the watershed.

Concerns have been raised by FEMA on the quality of the flood plain maps. Digital soil maps will be used in project planning for water control across the county. Technology has improved and many projects can be prioritized using this technology. BMP's need to be included in all water control projects.

Priority Concern 1 would benefit from working with landowners, local, state and federal agencies to identify potential water control projects.

# **PRIORITY CONCERN 2**

# Norman County will focus on wind and water erosion and the associated sedimentation that occurs within Norman County.

Wind erosion has been a long term problem across all of Norman County. A greater portion of the middle of the county are sandy eroded soil types. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has identified Highly Erodible Soils based on production loss. The soils in the western half and eastern edge of the county are made up of loams and clays that require less protection but are at risk to wind erosion.

Water erosion is a problem in the eastern half of the county, where slopes are steep and soils are prone to erosion. In the eastern half of the county, the slopes are steep enough for the water to carry a heavy sediment load. Sedimentation occurs in the western half of the county, where the general slope has dropped to less than one foot per mile.

State programs are utilized in Norman County to help pay for technical and financial assistance to the landowner for programs that reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and increase water quality and wildlife habitat.

Priority Concern 2 would benefit from working with landowners to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet the requirement of the Lower Wild Rice River (LWRR) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan and implementing BMPs to reduce wind and water erosion.

# **PRIORITY CONCERN 3**

# Norman County will focus on surface and groundwater quality within watersheds.

Groundwater quality within Norman County could be affected by 3 main events;

- 1. Contamination by failing wells.
- 2. Contamination by abandoned wells.
- 3. Surface contamination entering aquifers from the ground sensitive area in eastern Norman County.

There are no identified groundwater contamination zones within Norman County. Nitrate problems in Norman County have been identified in sandpoint wells and failing deep water wells, where casings are cracked.

Water hardness increases from east to west as the age of the water increases. We have a very large supply of water, but with a slow aquifer recharge, that water is very limited. Wellhead protection and management plans need to be developed. Agricultural and household hazardous waste needs to continue to be disposed of properly.

Surface water quality has been affected by natural and manmade events within the county. There are two identified impaired waters in Norman County at this time; Wild Rice River and the South Branch of the Wild Rice River. Sedimentation is a visible problem within the Wild Rice River and its tributaries, that is being addressed.

Priority Concern 3 would benefit from continued monitoring efforts, implementation of BMPs, and working with agencies in regards to the impaired waters status.

# PRIORITY CONCERN 4

# Norman County will focus on the appropriate use of natural resources within Norman County, using Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Correct land use opinion varies greatly, depending on if you are talking to landowners, local agencies, state and federal agencies or private organizations. The coordination of the meaning of correct, and the appropriate compensation for an alternative use of natural resources, will make the difference in whether many projects are completed in the county.

The SWCD, Wild Rice Watershed District, and the Norman County Highway Department all have buffer programs they promote using BMPs, which are conservation activities that utilize Best Management Practices.

The Shoreland program is a state program protecting shoreland areas. The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) is a state program to protect wetlands in Minnesota.

Priority Concern 4 would benefit from the implementation of WCA, working with NRCS on their 1026 reviews, establishment of a State Ag Wetland Bank Program and promotion of the SWCD and NRCS land conversion programs.

# PRIORITY CONCERN 1

Norman County will focus on water movement throughout the county.

#### **INITIATIVE**

Work with local, state and federal agencies and the FDR workgroup to install projects that reduce runoff speed and volume.

- Work with the FDR to identify and install flood and erosion control projects. Lead/Role: Wild Rice Watershed – technical & financial Partners/Roles: SWCD – technical & financial NRCS – technical
  Red River Management Board – technical & financial Priority - Medium
- 2. Work with local, state and federal agencies and the Project Team to identify funding sources for installing water control projects. Lead/Role: SWCD – technical & financial Partners/Roles: NRCS - financial LCMR - financial MPCA 319 – financial BWSR Clean Water Fund – financial International Waters Institute - technical Priority - Medium
- Work with local and state agencies to administer the Aquatics Invasive Species Program for the county. Lead/Role: SWCD – technical Partners/Roles: County - financial Priority – Medium

# **PRIORITY CONCERN 2**

Norman County will focus on reducing unwanted soil movement.

# **INITIATIVES**

Focus on land applications of BMPs in targeted areas.

1. Work with landowners to establish field and farmstead windbreaks, buffers, wildlife plantings and living snow fence.

Lead/Role: SWCD - technical & financial Partners/Roles: NRCS - technical & financial MN DOT - technical and financial DNR - technical Priority - High 2. Work with landowners to establish the following BMPs; streambank erosion, grade stabilization, gully erosion repairs, water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, conservation tillage practices, application of biochar and conservation water control projects, etc.

Lead/Role: SWCD - technical & financial Partners/Roles: Wild Rice Watershed – technical NRCS - technical & financial RRVSA - technical Priority - High

3. Implement the LWRR TMDL plan by installing sediment control basins, side inlets and riparian buffers.

Lead/Role: Wild Rice Watershed - technical & financial Partners/Roles: SWCD - technical & financial NRCS - technical & financial MPCA - technical DNR - technical Priority – High

- 4. Work with landowners to comply with the new Buffer Initiative. Lead/Role: SWCD - technical & financial Partners/Roles: Wild Rice Watershed – technical NRCS - technical & financial RRVSA - technical Priority – High
- 5. Work with landowners to comply with the Soil Loss Ordinance. Lead/Role: SWCD - technical & financial Partners/Roles: Wild Rice Watershed – technical NRCS - technical & financial RRVSA - technical Priority – High

#### <u>PRIORITY CONCERN 3</u> Norman County will focus on surface and groundwater quality.

#### **INITIATIVES**

Focus on well sealing, groundwater monitoring and testing.

1. Work with landowners to identify and seal abandoned wells in the county.

Lead/Role: SWCD - technical & financial Partners/Roles: NRCS - technical & financial MN Dept of Health - technical Priority – High 2. Continue to monitor static water levels in 7 DNR observation wells.

54002     Rudy Braseth     T143 R44 S32	_
54003 Natco Inc. T144 R45 S12	
54004 Richard Ista T145 R44 S17	
54005 Natco Inc. T144 R44 S7	
54006Syre WildlifeT143 R44 S29	
54007 Ada Rod & Gun T144 R45 S12	
54008 Gary Pines T144 R44 S8	

Lead/Role: SWCD - technical Partners/Roles: DNR - technical & financial University of MN - technical Priority - High

3. Work with the Dept of Ag to test wells for nitrates.

Lead/Role: SWCD - technical Partners/Roles: Dept of Ag - technical & financial Priority - Low

4. Implement and update the Local Water Management Plan for Norman County pursuant to MN Statute 103B.

Lead/Role: SWCD - technical Partners/Roles: LWMP Advisory Group - technical Priority - Medium

5. Implement the Shoreland Program and the Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems Program (SSTS).

Lead/Role: ESO – technical & financial Partners/Roles: SWCD - technical Priority - Low

- 6. Assist landowners with compliance of the county's Feedlot Program to protect and enhance water quality. An annual work plan will be prepared for the MPCA that will address the following tasks;
  - a. Conduct site visits/inspections and assist when requested.
  - b. Provide current and new feedlot owners with information about Norman County and the MPCA feedlot registration, permitting, regulation and rule requirements.
  - c. Assist producers with the proper permitting requirements.
  - d. Provide educational opportunities to producers such as newsletters, newspaper articles, workshops and tours.

- e. Provide informational and technical assistance, and when available provide financial assistance to producers.
- f. Report all feedlot activities in the MPCA's Citrix/Tempo Program.

Lead/Role: SWCD – technical & financial Partners/Roles: MPCA - technical & financial NRCS – technical & financial Priority - Medium

7. Collect monthly rainfall precipitation from our volunteers and send the information to the state.

Name	Location
Norman County SWCD	54-144-44-27
Jon Peterson	54-146-46-29
City of Ada	54-144-46-09
City of Halstad	54-145-48-30
David Mickelson	54-143-44-05
Cecil Malme	54-146-48-06
Kelly Skaurud	54-145-43-34
Laurie Hanson	54-145-45-02
Lyle Simonson	54-145-44-21
George Gilbertson	54-144-46-26
Roger Meline	54-143-48-04

Lead/Role: SWCD - technical Partners/Roles: State Climatology Office - technical Priority - Medium

8. Work with Discovery Farms to collect water samples on surface and tiled sites.

Lead/Role: SWCD – technical Partners/Roles: Discovery Farms – technical MAWRC – financial MDA – financial and technical Priority - Medium

9. Work with the Wild Rice Watershed and the Sand Hill River Watershed to improve water drainage and retention. The watersheds require a permit from anybody who requests to change the flow of water in any way. Every permit application has a field review before it is considered for approval. The permit must be approved by the board of managers. This helps control and monitor the flow of water across the watershed. Some of the ways landowners can change the flow and retention of water include drain tile, culverts, and control structures.

Lead/Role: Watersheds – technical & financial Partners/Roles: SWCD – technical Priority - Medium

- 10. Put significant importance on successful programs that contribute to improving surface water quality in the county.
  - a) Support agencies and landowners to implement the Surface Water Assessment Grant, Observation Well Data Collection, the River Watch Program, and additional programs related to surface water quality.

Lead/Role: SWCD – technical Partners/Roles: Mn Dept of Health – technical & financial Mn DNR – technical & financial Priority - Medium

#### **PRIORITY CONCERN 4**

#### Norman County will focus on the correct use of natural resources within Norman County.

#### **INITIATIVE**

Promote state and federal land conversion programs.

- 1. Coordinate activities to ensure the county meets the requirements for administering the Wetland Conservation Act.
  - a. Act as the LGU for the county.
  - b. Work with participating federal, state and local agencies.
  - c. Provide informational and technical assistance to landowners inquiring about the requirements and limitations of work in or near a wetland.
  - d. Conduct field investigations and make wetland determinations.
  - e. Assist with the replacement plans, bank deposits and withdrawals and other related paperwork.

Lead/Role: SWCD – technical & financial Partners/Roles: BWSR – technical MN DNR – technical Norman County Highway Dept – technical Army Corp of Engineers - technical Priority - High

 Complete the RIM portion of the WRP/RIM applications. Lead/Role: SWCD - technical Partners/Roles: BWSR – technical & financial NRCS – technical & financial Mn Waterfowl Association – technical Priority - Low

- 3. Work with NRCS and FSA to implement land protection programs such as;
  - a. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
  - b. Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)
  - c. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
  - d. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
  - e. Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Lead/Role: NRCS & FSA – technical & financial Partners/Roles: SWCD - technical Priority - Medium

4. Work with landowners to establish a State Ag and Commercial Wetland Bank Program.

Lead/Role: SWCD – technical & financial Partners/Roles: NRCS – technical BWSR – technical Priority – High

5. Work with landowners and other agencies to fund a cost share program to control or eliminate noxious weeds in the county.

Lead/Role: SWCD – technical & financial Partners/Roles: Norman County Weed Inspector – technical Norman County Highway Department - technical NRCS – technical BWSR – technical Priority – Medium

- 6. Advertise for the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP).
  - a) Work with landowners, federal, state, and local agencies to implement this program and help landowners become certified.
  - b) Provide technical assistance and MAWQCP information to interested landowners.

Lead/Role: SWCD – technical & financial Partners/Roles: Mn Dept of Ag – technical Priority – Medium

#### EDUCATION/ADMINISTRATION COMPONENT

Norman County will provide educational opportunities for all citizens in Norman County. The education component is associated with all 4 of the Priority Concerns in this plan.

- 1. Provide educational activities and materials for school students such as; Envirothon, NW Mn Water Festival, Trees for Kindergarteners, etc and give presentations when requested.
- 2. Provide educational opportunities for landowners through newspaper articles, radio ads, tours and workshops such as Crop, Seed and Trade Show, Norman County Fair, website, local landowner meetings, grazing workshop, etc. The Norman County SWCD Conservation Park was established to demonstrate cell grazing for the establishment of native grasses and the economics for landowners.
- 3. Promote and educate the citizens of Norman County about BMPs and the wise use of our natural resources with technical and financial assistance with programs such as;

State Cost Share Program Buffer Program Ag BMP Loan Program Enrollment in Federal Conservation Programs and any additional Conservation Programs Clean Water Legacy Fund Program Establishing new federal, state and local funded programs or projects

- 4. Report activities in the eLink Program.
- 5. Report to County Commissioners and the SWCD board, the activities completed in the NRBG and other grants.
- 6. Update the Local Water Management Plan.

#### State Cost Share Program

#### **Priority 1: High Priority Wind Erosion Problems**

- A. Minimum tillage and other resource conservation practices in Norman County have increased over the past few years. NRCS coordinates the EQIP Program to assist with wind erosion issues. The SWCD will be updating the wind erosion-sedimentation cost share priority maps.
  - 1. FY 2018 funds will be spent on tree planting, tree maintenance, feedlots, TMDLs, water control structures, buffer strips and energy crops.

# Priority 2: High Priority Water Erosion & Water Quality Problems

A. Due to the flat terrain and deeply entrenched legal drains in this county, gully erosion and sedimentation within the legal systems are serious problems. We will work with local, state and federal agencies to acquire technical and financial assistance for landowners to correct these problems.

- B. Since the beginning of the Comprehensive Local Water Management Program and the Wetland Conservation Act, the Norman County SWCD has been able to give water quality a high priority. In 1999, the District was delegated as the agency to administer the county feedlot program.
  - 1. The County Feedlot Officer will coordinate with NRCS to develop programs to assist producers with the installation of ag waste management systems.
  - 2. Producers will be able to use EQIP and the State Cost Share Program for potential funding for any ag waste issues.
  - 3. The County Feedlot Officer will assist producers with completing the MPCA registration requirements and compliance, and also find potential funding sources, and technical assistance.
  - 4. High priority feedlots are feedlots located in shoreland zones.
  - 5. The District will adopt the Annual Feedlot Workplan for 2018.

# State Cost Share Base Grant:

The District received \$9,605 in State Cost Share Program funds for 2018. In 2017; cost share funds were used to implement 3 field windbreaks, seal 2 abandoned wells, install 30 acres of cover crop.

# NRBG Grant:

The district will receive a grant in 2018 in the amount of \$36,026 that will be used to help fund the Local Water Management Program, Wetland Conservation Act Program and the Feedlot Program.

# **Conservation Delivery Grant**:

The district will receive a grant in 2018 in the amount of \$18,986 that will be used to help fulfill the day to day activities of the Norman County SWCD.

# Easement Delivery Grant:

The district will receive a grant in 2018 in the amount of \$2,571 that will be used to conduct inspections on RIM land.

# Aquative Invasive Species Program:

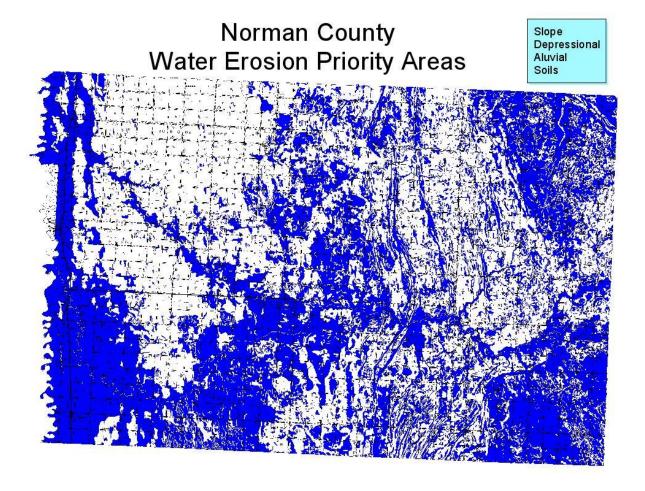
The district will receive \$13,353 in 2018 from the county to administer this program.

# Buffer Program:

The district will receive \$35,000 in 2018 to administer the Buffer Program. The district also received \$225,000 in buffer cost share to financially help landowners install buffers.

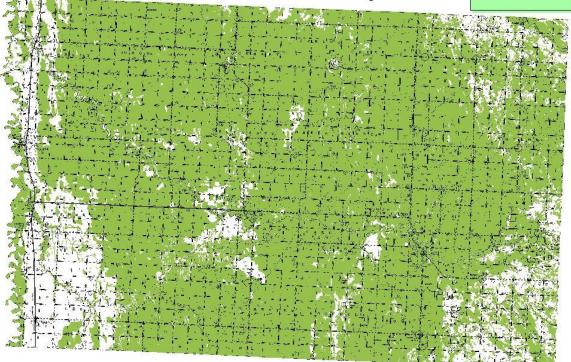
# SWCD Local Capacity Services:

The district will receive \$100,000 in 2018 to work with landowners and the county on installing conservation practices.



# Norman County Wind Erosion Priority Areas

Soils with an Erodibility Index Greater than 86



# **NORMAN COUNTY SWCD STAFF TIME FOR 2018**

AIS Discovery Farms	110 20	40	40 20	
Cost Share	100	10	10	
RIM	5	50	75	
Capacity	700	890	519	20
Buffer	108	193	380	20
Holidays	80	80	80	
Sick Leave	104	104	104	
Annual Leave	182	182	130	
Sick Leave	104	104		104
ual Total Hours	2088	2088	2088	200

• This worksheet reflects 3 full time employees and 2 part time employees

# 2018 Budget

	Jan - Dec 17	
Income		
District Charges for Services	\$25,800.00	
Intergovernmental Rev-County	\$116,433.00	
Intergovernmental Rev-State	\$391,051.00	
Misc. Rev Interest	\$500.00	
Misc. Revenue	<u>\$4,700.00</u>	
Total Income	\$538,484.00	
Expense		
Dist. Op. Other Services & Chgs	\$48,000.00	
District Op, Capital Outlay	\$30,000.00	
District Op. Personal Service	\$206,660.00	
District Operations-Supplies	\$9,600.00	
Project Expense-County	\$9,000.00	
Project Expenses-District	\$8,800.00	
Project Expenses-State	\$231,704.00	
Total Expense	\$543,764.00	

**Net Income** 

-5,280.00

# **2018 CALENDAR OF DISTRICT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

#### JANUARY

**Regular Supervisor Meeting** Close Out of Accounting Books for the Year Payroll Reports, etc. Re-organization of Board Appoint representatives to other boards and groups Pay Area, State and National Dues Discuss and Review Natural Resources Block Grant **Review and Approve District Budget Review Insurance** Meet with County Commissioners to approve reports for NRBG **Elink Reporting** Promote Tree Planting Booth-Annual County Crops, Seed and Trade Show–January 17th Planning for the Envirothon **Project Team Meeting Envirothon Meeting** 

#### FEBRUARY

Regular Supervisor Meeting Area 1 Supervisors Meeting Publicize District Programs News Articles Promote Tree Planting Planning for the Envirothon Area 1 Winter Training Feedlot Training Approve Annual Plan of Operations, and Calendar of Events Project Team Meeting Elink Reporting for BWSR Grants – February 1<sup>st</sup>

#### MARCH

Regular Supervisor Meeting Review Memorandums of Understanding Review Civil Right Agreement Review Applications for Cost Share Program Financial Reports Due, Calendar of Events, Annual Plan due – March 15<sup>th</sup> MACFO Conference, St Cloud – March 27-29 Promote Tree Planting News Articles Planning for the Envirothon Project Team Meeting MASWCD Legislative Days at the Capitol – March 12<sup>st</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

#### APRIL

Regular Supervisor Meeting Review Applications for Cost Share Program Pick up trees for planting Promote Residue Management Envirothon – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rydell Refuge Review Budget Hire Tree Planters Project Team Meeting

#### MAY

Regular Supervisor Meeting Supply Trees for Kindergartners and School Plantings Pick up trees for planting Field and Farmstead Windbreak Plantings News Articles Review State Cost Share Projects State Envirothon – May 21<sup>st</sup>, Shetek Lutheran Ministries at Slayton, MN Project Team Meeting Promote Tree Maintenance

#### JUNE

Regular Supervisor Meeting Review Insurance Committee Meeting with FSA Booth-County Fair – June 20 – 23 Feedlot Training Administrative Training News Articles District Cost Share Projects Project Team Meeting Tree Maintenance Prepare for District Capacity Award Prepare for Outstanding Conservationist Award

#### JULY

Regular Supervisor Meeting Tree Planting Report District Cost Share Projects Red River Valley Service Conservation Area Board Meeting Project Team Meeting News Articles Tree Maintenance Review trees, planting and maintenance charges Prepare for District Capacity Award Selection for the Outstanding Conservationist Award National Envirothon- July 22 – July 28, Idaho State University,

Pocatello, Idaho

#### AUGUST

Regular Supervisor Meeting Review Farmer Magazine Score Sheet Promote Trees District Cost Share Projects Review Budget Project Team Meeting News Articles

#### SEPTEMBER

Regular Supervisor Meeting Distribute Educational Materials to Elementary Schools Resolutions from MASWCD Promote Trees District Cost Share Projects News Articles Project Team Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Water Festival Meet with Teachers to discuss educational activities

#### **OCTOBER**

Regular Supervisor Meeting Resolutions Area 1 Supervisor Meeting Promote Trees District Cost Share Projects BWSR Academy Project Team Meeting News Articles

#### NOVEMBER

Regular Supervisor Meeting Promote Trees District Projects Review Budget Planning for the Envirothon Red River Valley Conservation Area Board Meeting Staff evaluations Project Team Meeting

#### DECEMBER

Regular Supervisor Meeting Outstanding Conservationist Recognition Employee Salary Review State Convention- Dec 9 - 11, Doubletree at Bloomington Meet with County Commissioners on-District Budget -Grant-in-kind Projects, other Money Programs for County District Projects Promote Trees News Articles Project Team Meeting Review MCIT Insurance covered items Elink Reporting Report due to DNR for the AIS Program