

Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Plan of Work FY 2007

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I. INTRODUCTION

Mission Statement of Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District

Establish programs that assist in the protection of the public health, safety and welfare through soil & water conservation. Encourage land occupiers to conserve and protect our soil and water resources, implement erosion, sediment control and water quality practices.

Promote conservation through education, trained personnel and supervisors. The SWCD will seek and implement conservation practices and programs that will benefit the landowners, the county, watershed and nation.

Purpose of Annual Planning

Annual plans are developed as a guideline for carrying our effective and efficient programs.

Annual plans provide a mechanism to assist in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan (5 year) of the District ~ The Lyon County Comprehensive Water Plan (CLWP) has been adopted as our 5-year plan, by identifying actions that need to be performed each year to accomplish the long-range goals. These plans were adopted after consultation and input from our various partner agencies involved in the environmental and conservation efforts in our county and watersheds.

Annual plans provide specific statements pertaining to the actions to be achieved, implementation of the programs and a budget allocation to carry out these actions.

The plan serves as a tool for guiding actions, measuring performance and assigning committee/individuals responsibilities to guide these actions. To develop realistic timetables that enables us to have a yardstick to evaluate progress. The Annual Plan progress is evaluated several times throughout the year and is adjusted as needed to accomplish goals or to re-direct if priorities necessitate.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PURPOSE

TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN CONSERVATION AND TEACH STEWARDSHIP OF THE SOIL, WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES THROUGH A BALANCED, COOPERATIVE PROGRAM THAT PROTECTS, RESTORES AND IMPROVES THOSE RESOURCES.

II. Objectives ~

1. Protect and enhance surface, ground water and air quality by reducing the amount sedimentation and pollutants entering the resources.
2. Protect our soil resources from erosion by wind and water
3. Protect resources from non-point and point source pollution, as well as defining recharge areas and problem geologic areas, which may cause groundwater contamination.
4. Preserve and restore wetlands for flood water retention, recreation and recharge benefits.

Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District has adopted the Lyon County Comprehensive Water Plan as our Long-range Comprehensive plan (CLWP) for the District operations. *Throughout the actions listed in the following pages, we will tie our actions to the goals of the CLWP.*

As the current years plan progresses, staff and Board will review progress of these actions and goals, adjusting as necessary to fit the accomplishment of them and or programs that become available.

Targeted Areas:

- Riparian areas (including rivers, wetlands and ditches),
- Priority areas as designated by Local Work Group meetings, NRCS and SWCD Board and staff, Comprehensive Water plan and Local, state and federal program priorities
- as well as our watershed partners.

A list of the partner agencies that we work with is part of the attachments at the end of the Plan

ACTION PLAN: all actions will be completed with the following as needed and appropriate:

- Direct Landowner Contact
- Public information, newsletters, meetings, information left in gathering areas of county landowners
- Direct mailings
- Coordination with other agencies
- Demonstrations and tours
- Trained Staff to provide planning assistance

The Soil & Water Conservation District staff and Board of Supervisors, with our cooperative partner Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and input from our conservation partners, have determined that the following actions be adopted to achieve our natural resource and conservation goals:

ACTION I: Bring Water, Wind and Soil Erosion within tolerable loss limits.

(Action Priority: Lyon County Comprehensive Water Plan)

- Reduce Sedimentation and Pollution entering Surface Waters
- Increase the Number of Native Upland Acres Adjacent to Wetland Areas
- Limit, Reduce, or Remove Development or Agricultural Uses in Flood-Prone Zones
- Improve Game and Fish Habitat of Lakes and Rivers
- Identify, Prioritize, and Restore Former Lakebeds/Wetland to their Pre-Settlement State
- Evaluate Flood Control Benefits, and Identify Additional Needs
- Target Best Management Practices Near Areas with Poor surface Water Quality
- Migratory Water Bird Refuge (habitat)

Anticipated workload 2007:

| Item | Est. Time | SWCD Staff cost | Goal | Loans | State C/S | Federal Programs |
|--|--------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| CRP Continuous/General | 850 | \$25,500.00 | 160 acres | | | |
| Conservation Tillage | 60 | \$1,800.00 | 1500 acres | \$100,000.00 | | \$5,000.00 |
| Field Windbreaks | 200 | \$6,000.00 | 10,500 feet | | \$4,000.00 | |
| Farmstead Windbreaks | 200 | \$6,000.00 | 20 acres | | \$30,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Wildlife Projects | 500 | \$5,000.00 | 6 each | | \$5,000.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Living Snowfences | 200 | \$6,000.00 | 15,000 feet | | \$15,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Wetland Restorations | 200 | \$2,250.00 | 150 acres | | | \$6,000.00 |
| Erosion Control Projects (ww, terraces, Etc) | 3200 | \$3,000.00 | 2400 acres | | \$20,000.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| Conservation Planning | 3500 | \$3,000.00 | 11600 acres | | | |
| EQIP Plans/Meetings/Promo | 2200 | \$5,000.00 | 1500 acres | \$20,000.00 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 11110 | \$63,550.00 | | \$120,000.00 | \$74,000.00 | \$41,000.00 |

ACTION II:

Resource monitoring in Lyon County done by watershed partner projects has shown that Ag Waste systems and Non-Complying Individual Septic Systems in Lyon County are contributing the greatest pollution to our surface and groundwater sources. MPCA also estimates that there are 3500+ sites that are not in compliance with state law.

This monitoring was to assist and substantiate the problems that are contributing to the Impaired Waters status of our rivers. During 2006, we successfully applied for Clean Water Partnership legacy funding. This funding will be utilized through the Watersheds of Yellow Medicine, Redwood, & Cottonwood rivers. Projects will be prioritized by the partners of the watershed groups.

The SWCD has provided training to a staff person to assist in Nutrient Management planning. This staff person will provide a needed service to Lyon County landowners to develop plans to reach our goal of reduction of these pollutants. Lyon SWCD will provide staff and cost share funds to compliment Water plan implementation funds for the sealing of wells that are in priority areas that have the potential to pollute groundwater sources.

Staff technicians will be providing FLEVAL services to livestock producers to assist in determination of pollution problems and possible solutions. The SWCD will charge a fee to these landowners if they are not receiving other technical or program services from us. The fee has been set at \$ 200.00 per FLEVAL service.

(Action Priority: Lyon County Comprehensive Water Plan)

- Target Best Management Practices Near Area with Poor Surface Water Quality
- Develop Nutrient & Manure Management Plans
- Improve Game and Fish Habitats of Lakes and River
- Implement Feedlot Best Management Practices
- Media Campaign on Water Resources

| Item | Est. Time | SWCD Staff cost | State C/S Needed | Loans | Federal | Goal | Funding from other sources | Revenue from program |
|--|------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Nutrient Management Planning | 50 | \$1,500.00 | | | | 4 | \$2,500.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| FLEVAL services | 30 | \$900.00 | | | | 4 | | \$800.00 |
| Provide funds to seal wells contributing to ground water pollution | 10 | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | | | 5 | \$1,500.00 | \$60.00 |
| Ag Waste Systems upgrades | 100 | \$3,000.00 | \$100,000.00 | \$300,000.00 | \$300,000.00 | 6 | | \$10,000.00 |
| TOTALS | 190 | \$5,700.00 | \$100,300.00 | \$300,000.00 | \$300,000.00 | 19 | 4,000.00 | 11,860.00 |

ACTION III ~ Public Relation, Information and Education Activities

(Action Priority: Lyon County Comprehensive Water Plan) Media Campaign on Water Resources

Promote and educate landowners and public on the SWCD's ongoing programs. The future of our environment depends on the knowledge that our future leaders and landowners have. To this end we feel it is important to make the students aware of the impacts our actions have on the environment and the importance our resources play in the standard of living we want to maintain. To do this we must spend time and resources on bringing this to our classrooms. The SWCD recognizes the importance bringing information to the public plays in the success of its programs. Landowners rely on information received in the mail, meetings and in discussion with others. In order to insure that our residents are receiving correct and timely information we have pledged to do the following for them in 2006:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Produce user-friendly mailings to residents providing up to date information
2. Request to be on agenda at meetings (sportsman groups, township, etc) to generate support for conservation programs
3. Spend time with classrooms and other activities to educate the youth.
4. Develop radio spots to promote conservation programs and practices
5. Conduct informational forums for landowners and others to encourage conservation

| Item | Goal | Est. Time | SWCD Staff cost | Outlay costs |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Newsletters | 4 | 80 | \$2,400.00 | \$6,200.00 |
| Target Mailings | 6 | 20 | \$600.00 | \$200.00 |
| Township Meetings | 4 | 16 | \$480.00 | |
| County Board Meetings | 2 | 24 | \$720.00 | |
| Sportsman Groups | 5 | 10 | \$300.00 | |
| Schools | 30 | 40 | \$1,200.00 | \$200.00 |
| Radio/Newspaper ads | 48 | 40 | \$1,200.00 | |
| Environmental Fair | 1 | 50 | \$1,500.00 | \$500.00 |
| Envirothon | 1 | 10 | \$300.00 | \$100.00 |
| Nature Areas | 1 | 18 | \$540.00 | |
| 4-H Clubs | 4 | 8 | \$240.00 | |
| County Fair | 1 | 14 | \$420.00 | \$200.00 |
| Farm/Sportsman Shows | 1 | 26 | \$780.00 | \$100.00 |
| Producer Groups | 3 | 16 | \$480.00 | \$50.00 |
| Local work Group Prioritization Mtg | 1 | 16 | \$480.00 | \$25.00 |
| | | | | |
| TOTALS | | 388 | \$11,640.00 | \$7,575.00 |

ACTION IV

Maintenance of additional programs

- **Wetland Conservation Act**
- **Watershed partnerships (Yellow Medicine, RCRCRA, Des Moines)**
- **Windbreak/Shelterbelt Maintenance and Training program**

(Action Priority: Lyon County Comprehensive Water Plan)

- Target best management practices near areas with poor surface water quality
- Increase the number of native upland acres adjacent to wetland areas
- Limit, reduce or remove development or agricultural uses in flood prone zones

ACTION PLAN:

1. Provide information and assistance to landowners and others to ensure State Wetland Law is followed.
2. Cooperate with other agencies, groups and counties as appropriate to accomplish related goals for the watershed areas. Provide staff time for planning and meetings and office space for watershed personnel.
3. Utilize funding opportunities for projects, such as: grants, donations & loans
4. Provide the service of trimming tree plantings, advice about maintenance needs and the opportunity for training to landowners with windbreaks and shelterbelts in the county.
5. Target staff time for grant opportunities and support for educational center on resources.

| Item | Est. Time | SWCD Staff cost |
|---|------------------|------------------------|
| Wetland Conservation Act | 450 | \$13,500.00 |
| Watershed Partner Projects | 100 | \$3,000.00 |
| Windbreak/Shelterbelt Maintenance | 60 | \$1,800.00 |
| Staff and Board participation on Joint Powers and partner agency meetings | 100 | \$3,000.00 |
| Grant writing/support/studies | 200 | \$6,000.00 |
| | | |
| TOTALS | 910 | \$27,300.00 |

ACTION V

Reporting, Record Keeping & Planning

Workload for 2007:

ACTION PLAN:

1. By tracking of hours, we can determine areas requiring more time than anticipated to aid in planning. While we cannot eliminate these work areas, we can work to more efficiently utilize time spent.
2. Develop greater efficiency - possibilities may include: computer programs that could effectively cut time spent on cost analysis, cooperator record keeping, reporting and budget assistance.
3. Research the possible need to charge for services due to the decrease in funding from state and local resources.

| Item | Est. Time | SWCD Staff cost |
|--|------------------|------------------------|
| BWSR Programs | 250 | \$7,500.00 |
| SWCD Record Keeping | 220 | \$6,600.00 |
| County Assistance: | | |
| Water Plan projects | 50 | \$1,500.00 |
| Meetings | 10 | \$300.00 |
| Tax Forfeited Land | 16 | \$480.00 |
| Beginning Farmer applications | 10 | \$300.00 |
| DNR Permit Reviews | 75 | \$2,250.00 |
| MPCA Permit Reviews | 75 | \$2,250.00 |
| Well Reading | 8 | \$240.00 |
| AgBMP Loans, Promo, record keeping, fund application, reporting | 200 | \$6,000.00 |
| NRCS Assistance ~ Contribution agreement, Memorandum Agreed to Items | 500 | \$15,000.00 |
| TOTALS | 1414 | \$42,420.00 |

WORKLOAD ANALYSIS - STAFFING NEEDS
AVAILABLE - NEEDED STAFF AND FUNDING ~ 2007 PROGRAM YEAR

| Workload analysis - Staffing Needs | Staff Hrs to Accomplish | Staff Hrs Available | Staff Hrs Needed | SWCD Staff Cost* | Funds Available | Funds Needed |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Action I | 11110 | 9492 | 1618 | \$63,550.00 | \$284,760.00 | \$221,210.00 |
| Action II | 190 | 350 | -160 | \$5,700.00 | \$10,500.00 | \$4,800.00 |
| Action III | 388 | 388 | 0 | \$11,640.00 | \$11,640.00 | \$0.00 |
| Action IV | 910 | 960 | -50 | \$27,300.00 | \$28,800.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| Action V | 1414 | 1200 | 214 | \$42,420.00 | \$36,000.00 | (\$6,420.00) |
| Action VI | 290 | 290 | 0 | \$8,700.00 | \$8,700.00 | \$0.00 |
| TOTALS | 14302 | 12680 | 1622 | \$159,310.00 | \$380,400.00 | \$221,090.00 |
| *does not include NRCS time for programs or responsibilities solely of NRCS | | | | | | |

To fill needed staffing and funding needs:

SWCD Staff needs may not be able to be met, in order to fill needs, existing staff will need to prioritize programs, utilize better time management if possible and direct work hours to those programs that are showing the greatest need. Program staff needs for the NRCS staff will be analyzed by the NRCS and addressed as their budgets and staffing will allow. Funding will be applied for through special grants if made available and through funding that is not utilized by other counties and states for the EQIP program. Additional funding to cover costs of education and promotion will be pursued by looking for contributions from businesses and groups.

COST SHARE FUNDING
COMPARISON OF NEEDED AND AVAILABLE

| Funding Program | Available | Needed | Balance |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| State Cost Share | \$168,300.00 | \$174,300.00 | \$6,000.00 |
| EQIP | \$250,000.00 | \$341,000.00 | \$91,000.00 |
| Watersheds | \$300,000.00 | \$500,000.00 | \$200,000.00 |
| AgBMP Loans | \$350,000.00 | \$350,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| Other | | | |
| Operational Funds(SWCD only) | \$199,000.00 | \$210,000.00 | \$11,000.00 |
| | \$1,267,300.00 | \$1,575,300.00 | \$308,000.00 |

Funding needed reflects what landowners have requested for services. Cost share programs need to be revised to include grant funds for septic systems as well as tile intakes, and matting cost share through FSA programs for our areas. Cost share programs are under-funded for the needs. Grants are an incentive to landowners that give the programs the push that makes them happen. SWCD's will work to provide greater funding for our programs through legislative contact and education on needs of landowners and our environment. Other funding and needs also includes the funds that the landowners are required to provide. The landowner costs can also be financed through AgBMP funding.

III. Cost Share Program Requirements

A. High Priority Erosion Problems

High priority erosion problems have been defined as: “Erosion from wind and/or water occurring on Class I-IV soils in excess of 2T per acre/per year on any soil within 300 feet of a stream or 1000 feet of a water basin designated as a protected water or wetland eroding in excess of T tons per acre/per year.”

In Lyon County there are approximately 51,000 acres of cropland (or 18% of total cropped Ag Land) is classified a high priority erosion areas. The areas are concentrated in the southwestern part of the county and are made up of soil association numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7. Soil areas 4 and 7 have definite drainage patterns that travel in a northeasterly direction. Wind erosion tends to be a more serious problem in soil areas 1, 2, and 3; and this area makes up 44% of the county ([See High Priority Soils Erosion Map](#)).

Wind and water conservation practices needed are: CREP and Continuous CRP Contracts in Riparian areas, Conservation cropping systems, contour farming, contour strips, terraces, diversions, sod waterway, field and farmstead windbreaks, and conservation tillage and No-Till.

B. High Priority Sedimentation Problems

High Priority Sedimentation Problems have been defined as: “All areas within 300 feet of a stream or 1000 feet of a lake where the erosion rate exceeds 3 tons per acre/per year and areas where the District can show that sediment delivery occurs from a watershed or direct conveyance structure such as a storm sewer unpaved outlet channel discharging to these waters. The water basin, wetland, or water course must be classified by the Department of Natural Resources as protected water.”

Approximately 5640 acres of Lyon County are high priority sedimentation areas. High priority sedimentation areas are identified on the Critical Sedimentation Map. ([please see attached sedimentation priority map](#)).

Areas along the Yellow Medicine, Cottonwood and Redwood River and tributaries, are considered to be the most critical areas. Lakes and wetland areas are showing sedimentation problems and are also deemed critical.

Practices that will alleviate this problem are, RIM, CRP, tree planting, Streambank stabilization, controlled grazing, pasture management, critical area seeding, hayland management, waterways, diversion, terraces, conservation tillage practices and buffer areas.

The District will be providing assistance to the Watershed groups, NRCS in promotion of projects and programs to assist landowners as well as promoting support of incentives through sportsman groups and County Water-plan and Comprehensive Land Use plans.

C. High Priority Feedlots

High Priority Feedlots are defined as: “Feedlots where the pollution potential reassign from the feedlot model is greater than or equal to one and which are discharging pollutants to Department of Natural Resources designated protected waters or to a sinkhole or shallow soils overlying fractured or cavernous bedrock or within 100 feet of a water well.”

Approximately 200 feedlots have been identified as being high priority due to possible pollution potential in Lyon County. These feedlots and their location have been identified on a map on file in the District office as part of the MPCA 2308 study. The SWCD has committed to conducting a Level 3 inventory in Lyon County. This would provide accurate information and hopefully additional grant funds to assist in solving pollution potential sites. The project is dependent upon the availability of grant funds through the MN Pollution Control Agency, BWSR or the County.

The practices needed to solve the problem are: Holding ponds filter strips, diversions, waste storage areas, new facilities to replace those in non-compliance, waste disposal systems as well as manure application management plans.

New feedlot regulations in place will increase the demand for assistance due to compliance dates of 2006 and 2010. The district will be working to provide assistance to the livestock producers as well as MPCA in meeting these dates.

The District and NRCS is at present working with an average of 40 landowners per year through cost share programs and low interest loans. There are an additional 2-4 feedlots are currently being updated each year by landowners themselves as the assistance of State Revolving Loan Joint Powers Engineering staff and other private engineering firms. GOAL: to provide technical and funding assistance to 20 producers to bring Ag Waste facilities and handling equipment up to date in 2006.

D. High Priority Water Quality Problems

High priority water quality problems includes areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals, or other pollutants discharge to Department of Natural Resources designated protected waters or to any high priority waters as identified in the local comprehensive water plan and the State Impaired Waters listing. The pollutant delivery rate to the water source is in amounts that will impair the quality or usefulness of the water resource. These areas are targeted as priorities for state cost share, EQIP and CCRP buffers strips and CREP.

Lyon SWCD will be working with our partner agencies on the implementation of the approved TMDL plans and the completion of projects that were funded through the Clean Water Legacy grants that were awarded in early 2007. We will also be partnering to develop applications for future funding.

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| IV. Budget ~ Lyon SWCD For the Year of 2007 |
|--|

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| District Operations: | |
| Personnel | \$ 121,550.00 |
| District Operations/Services | 52,930.00 |
| Equipment & Supplies | 7,320.00 |
| | |
| Project Expense/State | 168,300.00 |
| Project Expense/District | 17,200.00 |

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$ 367,300.00**

REVENUES

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Intergovernmental | |
| State: | |
| Service Grants(Admin) | \$ 58,500.00 |
| Cost Share Projects | 168,300.00 |
| County | |
| Administration | 75,000.00 |
| Wetland Conservation Act | 10,000.00 |
| Federal | |
| Contribution Agreement | 10,000.00 |
| Charges For Services | |
| Tree Program | 40,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous | |
| Interest/Other Services | 5,500.00 |

TOTAL REVENUES **\$ 367,300.00**

**LYON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM GOAL DATES
 FOR THE YEAR OF 2007**

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <i>January</i> | <i>February</i> | <i>March</i> | <i>April</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Officers • Annual Plan/Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 2006 • Reports to state, federal agencies as due • EQIP Sign-up and scoring period | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Reviews • Area Meetings • Special Grant Requests • Newsletter/General • Review MOU with NRCS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Program update • Final Plans and Report • Soil Stewardship materials • Promotion of Programs • Master Garden Show • Tracy Sportsman show • EQIP final approvals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster & Essay • Arbor Day • Tree Sales • Newsletter/General • Soil & Water Stewardship Observation |
| <i>May</i> | <i>June</i> | <i>July</i> | <i>August</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Plan review • Construction • Tree Planting • Envirothon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Meetings • Construction • Tree planting • Employee Training Session State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Tour • End of State C/S encumbering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Tree Report • Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Fair • Annual Plan review • Newsletter General |
| <i>September</i> | <i>October</i> | <i>November</i> | <i>December</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Fair • Conservation Farmer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction • Women's Ag Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008 Budget • Reports for Federal Programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotional mailing on target programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Meetings • Construction report • Tree Sales for 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Convention • Annual Report • Annual Plan 2008 • Year End Reports |

Soil & Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service
Program Partners

| Entity | Partnership Contribution |
|---|---|
| Lyon County | Financial, program assistance |
| Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | Consultations, Contract services with SWCD |
| Area II Minnesota River Control Area | Technical, financial for projects |
| Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control | Financial for projects, monitoring of resources |
| Yellow Medicine River Watershed | Financial for projects, monitoring of resources |
| Lyon County Sportsman Groups | Financial for projects, education |
| Mn Department of Transportation | Assistance in establishment of Living Snow fences |
| Mn Department of Agriculture | Low Interest loan funds, educational information |
| SW MN Joint Powers | Engineering Assistance |
| Resource Conservation & Development | Funding for projects |
| MN Board of Soil & Water Resources | Program direction, grants |
| Mn Association of Conservation Districts | Legislative lobbying, education and information |
| | |
| | |