

# ***CLEARWATER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2010 PLAN OF WORK***

## **Introduction & Purpose**

Over the last year the Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District has seen many changes in personnel, funding, programs and a new comprehensive local water management plan. Even with all of the changes the mission of the SWCD has remained strong: To promote the wise use and improvement of our county resources in order for future generations will inherit an economically viable county that has made wise choices in resource management. We understand that in order for conservation to happen on the land we need to have a strong and open relationship between the citizens and the SWCD. The Clearwater SWCD is involved in a variety of resource conservation programs working with many individuals and agencies throughout the region and state to accomplish our mission. We are able to provide Clearwater County residents guidance through technical assistance, resource management, education and information to assist them in the conservation of natural resources.

The purpose of the Clearwater SWCD Annual Plan of Work is to outline the programs to be utilized and the tasks to be accomplished by the District in 2010 to meet its resource conservation objectives and to provide the Board of Supervisors and staff direction in carrying out these programs. Following priorities outlined in our recently updated Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan an emphasis will be placed on surface water quality protection and enhancement, drinking water source protection, exotic and invasive species management, and land use impacts on water quality. The Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District has been designated by Clearwater County as the lead agency for the Comprehensive Local Water Management Program.

The initiatives of the Clearwater County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan and the objectives of the District are outlined in the following pages. These reflect the various conservation programs available to landowners and units of government. In some cases these are broad objectives and will be dependent upon funding that may not be known at this time. In other cases, the objectives are specific, which reflect either on-going programs or known projects.

## **2010 Goals & Objectives**

### **Priority 1: Implementation of the Clearwater County Local Water Management Program: Comprehensively assess and protect the many water resources of the county.**

*Staff Time: District Manager-80 days Resource Technician-60 days Office Manager-30 days*

#### **A. Administration & Coordination**

- a. Cooperate with other units of government (e.g. BWSR, Clearwater County, FSA, Giziibii RC&D, MPCA, NRCS, Red Lake and Wild Rice WSD's and USFWS) in implementing the water plan.
- b. Prepare, submit and report on the Natural Resource Block Grant for the District and County per BWSR requirements.
- c. Serve as the county representative on water quality and planning issues on specific work groups and advisory committees (County Weed Task Force, TMDL Teams, TEP, NRCS work group, ect.).
- d. Track expenditures for the program by the District and submit an annual Comprehensive Local Water Management Budget to the County for review and approval.

- e. Implementation and administration of various grants including the Natural Resources Block Grant, General Services Grant, CWL-AWR Grant, Native Buffer Cost-Share Grant, Forest Stewardship Grant, SWAG Grant and others as needed.
- f. Complete the final County approval process for the 2010-2020 Clearwater County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.
- g. Seek grants, cooperative agreements and funding opportunities for water quality projects in Clearwater County.
- h. Serve as the financial agent for Long Lost Lake Association for funds being given to them from the NW Minnesota Initiative Foundation's "Healthy Lakes & Rivers Program".

#### B. Monitoring & Data Collection

- a. Collect basic water chemistry data on five (5) lakes.
- b. Evaluate data to look at trends in water quality (positive/negative) on lakes that would be considered a priority by the SWCD or have a good amount of data already collected.
- c. Coordinate citizen rainfall & lake monitoring network of volunteers. Participate in Storet recording of water quality data when possible. Continue to seek and train additional volunteers.
- d. Monitoring of six (6) observation well sites (5-MN DNR & 1-City of Shevlin).
- e. Assist Bemidji State University students as requested with monitoring DO, pH, Conductivity, and Redox. Potential on the Clearwater River.
- f. Promote the River Watch and other student monitoring programs.
- g. Continue to improve water quality monitoring skills and knowledge; review new water quality data as it is made available and apply proper programs as needed for specific issue.
- h. Maintain and provide well record information to interested landowners.
- i. Work with the City of Bagley in implementing their Wellhead Protection Plan.
- j. Implement, train & coordinate a minimum of three (3) volunteers to complete lake monitoring & testing through a MPCA Clean Water Legacy Grant. Look to organize volunteers from previous programs to keep collecting data if possible even if grant money is not available.
- k. Coordinate efforts and assist with the development of plans to address nutrient loading, sedimentation, and flood damage reduction in the Clearwater River in northern Clearwater County and its tributaries.

#### C. Inventory and Mapping

- a. Work with NRCS and FSA to upgrade skills, abilities and data available for SWCD use.
- b. Provide assistance to the Environmental Services Office, Lake Associations and other public entities to identify and survey exotic and invasive plant or conduct pilot programs to controlling them.
- c. Identify areas of potential resource concerns within the county.
- d. Work with the EERC in Grand Forks on gathering land use and owner/operator information as per the Agricultural Watershed Restoration Grant.
- e. Begin to develop water quality database for private wells that are compatible with the County Well Index.
- f. Begin the development and use of a ground water quality database showing the distribution of water quality problems, characterizing aquifers of concern, and identifying factors contributing to water quality problems.
- g. Mapping water bodies of the county that currently have or have highest potential of aquatic invasive species invasions.

#### D. Education & Information

- a. Provide educational presentations to Lake Associations, schools and the public as well as continuing to seek other opportunities to increase the public awareness and knowledge of shoreland and agricultural best management practices.
- b. Stay abreast of MPCA feedlot rules and application processes to assist local agencies, officials and landowners as needed.

- c. Participate in a well water testing clinic at the County Fair, serve as a contact for water quality information and distribute water testing kits.
- d. Provide water quality related education displays at the Clearwater County Fair and sponsorship of school age water quality presentations.

#### E. Implementation of LWM Plan

- a. Provide shoreland consultation and technical assistance as requested by the Environmental Services office & Zoning & Planning Commission.
- b. Maintain a list of local contacts for landowners concerned about shoreland protection practices and stay abreast of new methods to inform the public of governmental rules and guidelines.
- c. Provide consultation and technical assistance to landowners to install shoreland or agricultural Best Management Practices. Complete inspection and certify installed practices as NRCS Technical Approval Authority permits.
- d. Continue to monitor rainfall and groundwater levels in the Shevlin area as a base for drainage issues discussion with local citizens and governments.
- e. Follow up the Shoreland Survey with the Shoreland BMP Checklist for each landowner and assist with implementation of three (3) lakeshore projects identified in 2006 for Dahl, Sorrenson & Cucci/Widerski/Holm on Clearwater Lake.
- f. Meet with existing and prospective Lake Associations to review annual plans, assist with the creation of a lake association or assist in the process of establishing a lake management plan.
- g. Work with the Long Lost Lake Association to develop a lake management plan and coordinate/facilitate projects that are created because of the plans development. We will be working with them through the NW Minnesota Initiative Foundation's Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program.
- h. Implement a sediment control pond maintenance plan for the City of Bagley and assist with critical area treatments as needed.
- i. Reduce erosion, sedimentation, flooding and nutrient loading in the Clearwater River, Silver Creek and Wild Rice Watersheds.
- j. Work with the County Environmental Services Office to help distribute the "Clearwater County Shoreland Homeowners Guide to Lake Stewardship" to new and existing shoreland owners.
- k. Monitor Non-Point Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits & Projects.
- l. Participate in the TMDL process and work with the public to help them understand the Impaired Waters/TMDL studies process.
- m. Assist landowners if needed in filling out Water Permit applications, comment on applications and make recommendations for erosion and sediment control practices to meet permit requirements.
- n. Present the water management program updates to the County Commissioners and the Public at a yearly meeting of the Water Plan Task Force Committee.
- o. Work with animal livestock owners in the Silver Creek Watershed to install conservation practices on sites that are contributing to the fecal coliform/e.Coli loading in the creek.

#### F. Local Water Projects

- a. Design and Implement projects identified through the Agricultural Watershed Restoration Grant (AWR) and EERC.
- b. Complete survey, design, and construction of the Streambank.Roadside Protection project in Windsor Township and Eileen Horne, utilizing State Cost-Share, Winsor Township, and Red Lake WSD (if needed) funds.

#### G. Water Plan Update Process

- a. Following BWSR approval by a regional supervisor/subcommittee, present plan to Clearwater County Commissioners for adoption and begin to implement plan.

***Priority 2: Wetland Conservation Act: Provide technical assistance and support to the Clearwater County Environmental Services Office and assistance to landowners in complying with the Wetland Conservation Act and other wetland issues.***

*Staff Time: District Manager-0 days Resource Technician-15 days Office Manager-1 days*

- A. Provide Technical Assistance to Clearwater County Environmental Services Office
  - a. Serve on project appeals & technical advisory committee (TAC).
  - b. Provide technical assistance to landowners as requested.
  - c. Provide wetland, soils, and land use maps, along with other resource information, to landowners with proposed wetland projects.
  - d. Direct persons to contact the Environmental Services Offices, NRCS or other appropriate office regarding wetland permits and regulations.
  - e. Assist landowners with resource assessments for the development of replacement or restoration plans.
  - f. Design and develop restoration and replacement plans to meet WCA referral requirements and the TAC as requested by Environmental Services Office.
  - g. Provide assistance to individuals, schools and other interested parties to promote and increase upland and wetland habitat and increase wildlife benefits.
  
- B. Monitoring & Inspections
  - a. Inspect and certify wetland restorations in Clearwater County.
  - b. Develop project maintenance plans.
  - c. Work with city officials, landowners, and adjacent landowners to monitor their wetland restoration projects in compliance with state and federal wetland conservation law.
  - d. Assist the City of Bagley with wetland monitoring requirements for MPCA.

***Priority 3: District Programs: Administration of District daily operations and programs.***

*Staff Time: District Manager-10 days Resource Technician-70 days Office Manager-100 days*

- A. Tree Program
  - a. Tree, shrub and Plantskydd sales – 20,700 bare root stock ordered for spring 2010.
  - b. Pick up and store stock for individual tree orders from the state nursery (approx. 20,000).
  - c. Maintain tree planting equipment, instructions and coordinate district tree planting rental machines to a minimum of 7 landowners.
  - d. Provide custom tree planting service as requested.
  - e. Assist landowners with tree and shrub identification and provide information on care, disease and species selection.
  - f. Provide technical planning assistance to landowners on plantings, shelterbelts and windbreaks.
  
- B. Forest Stewardship Program
  - a. Work with local landowners to promote forest stewardship programs.
  - b. Attend trainings as needed for Resource Technician to develop, improve skills and stay abreast on forestry issues.
  - c. Complete forest stewardship plans as required under Forest Stewardship Technical Assistance Grant.
  
- C. Clearwater SWCD Conservation Farm and Learning Site
  - a. Continue to monitor WHIP Program components for tree planting.
  - b. Establish a weed control maintenance program.
  - c. Complete assessment and inspection form for materials received from the NRCS Bismarck Plant Materials Center. (Sweetgrass, Slough Sedge, Chokecherry and Gray Dogwood).

- d. Monitor wood duck and bluebird nest boxes.
- e. Maintain restored wetland acres and structures. Complete marking of easement areas.
- f. Establish new work plan for the Conservation Farm.
- g. Do a harvest of hybrid poplar stand on the Conservation Farm
- h. Consider replanting logged area into jack pine, a ecologically threatened forest cover type in the area.
- i. Make new sign for Conservation Farm that reads “Clearwater SWCD Conservation Farm and Learning Site”.
- j. Develop trail maps and work with the MCC to continue maintenance of trails throughout the Clearwater SWCD Conservation Farm and Learning Site.
- k. Monitoring and inspection of County Wetland Bank Sites throughout the farm.
- l. Promotion of the Clearwater SWCD Conservation Farm and Learning Site to area schools and organizations as a learning tool and develop a “Friends of the Conservation Farm” workgroup to help with activities at the Farm.
- m. Establish new work plan for the Clearwater SWCD Conservation Farm and Learning Site.

#### D. General Operations & Administration

- a. Perform personnel supervision, complete employee evaluations, review staffing needs, and oversee time reporting, records maintenance and training requirements.
- b. Develop yearly SWCD and Water Plan budgets for SWCD Board and County Commission to review and approve.
- c. Perform bookkeeping functions and maintain an accounting and record keeping system that meets state standards.
- d. Submit a monthly Financial Statement and Interim Budget Report for Board review and approval, as well as prepare year-end financial statements according to BWSR guidelines.
- e. Prepare Annual Plan of Work and complete Annual reporting requirements including input of data into E-Link reporting system.
- f. Coordinate work plans with cooperating agencies & other local government units.
- g. Complete grant reporting requirements; prepare minutes, agenda, and other materials for Board members and their meetings including pertinent committee meetings, special assignments, and state or regional group meetings.
- h. Attend at least one of the County Commissioners monthly meetings.
- i. Compile background information to facilitate decision-making and policy-making functions of the Board.
- j. Oversee Plat Book sales program. Start the process of developing new County Plat Book for 2011.
- k. Continue to develop and update existing Clearwater SWCD website as per BWSR requirements.

***Priority 4: State Programs: Promotion, administration and implementation of State Programs in Clearwater County focusing on water and wind erosion and sedimentation in priority areas.***

*Staff Time: District Manager-26 days Resource Technician-52 days Office Manager-26 days*

#### A. State Cost Share Program

- a. Promote State Cost Share Program, process applications, project design, oversee installment of approved practices and maintain grant paperwork requirements established by BWSR.
- b. Work with Winsor Township and Eileen Horn site to request bids, complete construction of the Streambank/Roadside Protection projects, and inspection.
- c. Completion of Native Buffer Cost-Share Program by locating and completing potential projects in Clearwater County.
- d. Provide a summary in an Annual Report of the total work accomplished in an acceptable format to the grantor as specified in the grant agreement.

B. RIM, PWP, WRP& Other

- a. Promote programs; review criteria with interested landowners (including RIM/WRP and RIM).
- b. Process new applications and easements.
- c. Follow-up on installation and completion of uncompleted practices.
- d. Perform annual spot checks, per state requirements, of existing RIM easements, including weed control.
- e. Process RIM landowners request for assistance and information. (i.e. conservation plan amendments and management activities)

***Priority 5: Federal Programs: Assist conservation partners and landowners with promotion, planning and implementation of federal programs.***

*Staff Time: District Manager-10 days Resource Technician-10 days Office Manager-10 days*

A. Provide Support to NRCS as Requested

- a. Provide technical or local perspective for design and installation of various practices, including review and sign-off on conservation plans developed by NRCS.
- b. Provide general office assistance as needed and requested by the District Conservationist (DC).
- c. Assist with USDA program sign-ups and processing of applications in specific target areas as time is available.

B. Promote Federal Programs

- a. Work with District Conservationist to organize and facilitate local work group meeting for the EQIP program.
- b. Promote Ag. BMP's to landowners throughout the County to help reduce surface water contamination, sedimentation, and bank erosion through programs such as EQIP, CRP, and CREP.
- c. Distribute soil survey packets, promote the digital soil survey services & provide individualized soils data and maps when requested by the public.
- d. Work with and promote NRCS projects that would reduce runoff from feedlots, especially those in close proximity to impaired waters.

***Priority 6: Education, Outreach & Information: Efforts to raise the level of understanding and public awareness of natural resource conservation issues and best management practices.***

*Staff Time: District Manager-25 days Resource Technician-25 days Office Manager-25days*

A. Promotion of Ag BMP's

- a. Provide information through quarterly newsletters, newspaper articles, mailings, radio spots and County Fair booth and District website to the public on AG BMP practices.
- b. Work cooperatively with other agencies & to promote AG BMP practices when utilizing programs.
- c. Attend training to further promote staff understanding and ability to utilize AG BMP's.
- d. Review and monitor installed practices.
- e. Identify erosion and water quality priority concern areas throughout the County and continue efforts to raise the level of understanding of private landowners, organizations, and other government agencies in their role in the management, protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural resources in Clearwater County.
- f. Work with County Environmental Services to identify homeowners who would be eligible to use the low interest loan program for updating their septic system.
- g. Provide "Valuing Your Manure" workshop in partnership with the U of M extension for local animal producers.

**B. Weed Task Force Participation & Education**

- a. Participating member on the Clearwater County Weed Task Force.
- b. Provide educational information to the public regarding invasive species and various methods of control.
- c. Work with Lake Associations to identify and prevent invasive aquatic plants. Work with those Lake Association to post signs at public lake accesses and areas where the public would see them.

**C. School Age Conservation Education**

- a. Participate and assist with planning for the Minnesota Envirothon Area VIII Regional Contest at Bemidji State Park. Maintain financial records and assets of Area Envirothon.
- b. Classroom presentations as requested to elementary and high school groups.
- c. Participate in MASWCD and District Poster Contest. Clearwater SWCD Board judges posters; award prizes.
- d. Assist with sponsorship of local water quality presentations to elementary age children.
- e. Continue to be the fund-holder of the Area VIII Regional Envirothon.
- f. Work on promotion of the Clearwater SWCD Conservation Farm and Learning Site as a resource to local schools, 4-H Clubs, Boy & Girl Scouts and other youth organizations.
- g. Prepare Enviroscapes, puzzles and educational programs for local schools in County to teach watershed management and sources of surface and groundwater contamination.

**D. Public Outreach & Education**

- a. Outstanding Conservation Cooperator selection and news article releases.
- b. Submit at least six (6) news articles and/or press releases to county newspapers.
- c. Serve on UMN Extension County Committee for Ag Producer Awards selection.
- d. Complete the development and maintain updates as needed for the District Web Site.
- e. Create and publish a semi annual district newsletter.
- f. Create and disperse SWCD quarterly newsletters throughout the County and on Web Site.

**E. MPCA Feedlot Rules (MPCA)**

- a. Stay abreast of rule application processes & provide information to local officials & landowners.
- b. Pursue identifying areas of concern with a special emphasis on the Silver Creek, Walker Brook and Clearwater River watersheds to address TMDL Impaired Waters and special project concerns.
- c. Seek possible funding sources to assist producers with implementing AG BMP's.

**F. Technical Assistance & Planning**

- a. Assist landowners with general planning and technical requests as needed.
- b. Assist with the implementation of BMP's.
- c. Provide assistance to the City of Bagley Park Task Force on park restructuring projects.

***Priority 7: Other Grants: Staff time spent on the administration and implementation of grants.***

*Staff Time: District Manager-40 days Resource Technician-30 days Office Manager-20 days*

**A. Agricultural Watershed Restoration Grant.**

- a. Contacting landowners to identify interest levels and BMP preferences in areas of the model that would provide the achievement of water quality standards.
- b. SWCD Technicians will set-up and run BMP implementation models for identified landowners.
- c. Develop and provide proposed cost share incentives for identified landowners.
- d. Conduct follow up meetings with landowners to review the results of the modeling scenarios and acquire cooperative agreements to install BMP's.
- e. Complete grant requirements and reporting for BWSR.

B. Surface Water Assessment Grant

- a. Identify & establish a Citizen Lake Monitoring network per grant agreement.
- b. Complete training and testing requirements as established in grant work plan.
- c. Continue monitoring 5 of lakes for chlorophyll-a, total phosphorus and Secchi transparency.
- d. Continue data analysis, management and input into STORET with the help of RMB Environmental Laboratories.
- e. Complete required reporting to MPCA as well as tracking project expenditures generated through the study process.

<b>Priorities &amp; Objectives</b>	<b>District Manager</b> # of days	<b>Resource Technician</b> # of days	<b>Office Manager</b> # of days
<b>Local Water Management</b>	80	60	30
Administer & Coordinate the Program Monitoring & Data Collection Inventory & Mapping Education & Information Implementation of LWM Plan Local Water Projects WP Update Process			
<b>Wetland Conservation Act</b>	0	15	1
Provide Technical Assistance to Clearwater ES Monitoring & Inspections			
<b>District Programs</b>	81	70	150
Tree & Custom Planting Program Forest Stewardship Program & Grants Clearwater SWCD Conservation Farm General Operations & Administration			
<b>State Programs</b>	26	52	26
State Cost Share Programs RIM, PWP, CREP & Other			
<b>Federal Programs</b>	10	10	10
Provide Support to NRCS as Requested Promote Federal Programs			
<b>Education, Outreach &amp; Information</b>	25	25	25
Promotion of Ag BMP's Weed Task Force Participation & Education School Age Conservation Education Develop Website & Publish Newsletter Feedlot Assistance & Information Public Outreach & Education Technical Assistance & Planning			
<b>Other Grants</b>	40	30	20
Ag. Watershed Restoration Grant Surface Water Assessment Grant Clean Water Legacy Grants			
<b>Total Number of Work Days</b>	262	262	262

## STAFFING NEEDS & DISTRICT INFORMATION

The Clearwater SWCD staffing needs for 2010 include one District Manager, one Resource Technician and one Office Manager. One full time staff position = 262 days. Additional technical assistance will be acquired through contracting with private individuals qualified or certified to design and conduct conservation planning, education, and the implementation of conservation practices.

The District is administered by five elected supervisors each representing a defined district of townships and unorganized area within the County. These positions are a four year term. Regular monthly board meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in the Bagley USDA Service Center Conference room except during the months of May, June, July and August. These meetings are held at the Clearbrook City Hall Chambers beginning at 8:00 a.m. These meetings are open to the public.

The District works cooperatively with and/or has signed memorandums of understanding with the following agencies:

- Clearwater County
- Cities of Bagley, Clearbrook and Shevlin
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Clearwater County Farm Services Agency
- MN DNR, Division of Forestry, Forestry
- USFWS
- Red Lake WSD
- Wild Rice WSD
- MN Board of Water & Soil Resources

The District policy follows that of The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) which prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

The District uses the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources ELINK reporting system to report annual accomplishments. The District has adopted the County Water Plan as its long range comprehensive plan. An annual plan of work outlining its goals and objectives for the year will be prepared and submitted to MN Board of Water & Soil Resources for approval on an annual basis.

The Clearwater SWCD Budget Committee meets to develop budgets for the SWCD and Clearwater County Water Plan. These budgets are then approved by the Clearwater SWCD Board at a regular board meeting and submitted to Clearwater County Commissioners for review and approval. The following page contains a copy of the approved 2010 Clearwater SWCD Budget.

## Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District 2010 Budget

*Adopted by the Clearwater SWCD Board 6-25-09*

### Revenues

#### A. Intergovernmental

1. State:	Service Grants	22,193
	Cost Share Work	1,479
	Stewardship Grant	4,455
	Native Buffer Grant	1,000
	Easement Services	273

2. County	Appropriation	68,000
	Water Plan	41,049
	WCA	5,000

3. Local	MPCA SWAG Grant	500
	Ag. Watershed Grant	2,000
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$144,849</b>

#### B. Charges for Service

Machinery Rentals	600
Tree Transport/Storage	350
Planting/Other Work	800
Tree Sales/Deposits	17,750
Plat Books Resale	3,435
DNR Ob Well	600
Plantskyyd Sales	1,100

**Subtotal** **\$ 24,635**

#### C. Miscellaneous

Interest Earned	1,500
Other Misc Revenue	3,800

**Subtotal** **\$ 5,300**

**Total Revenues** **\$ 174,784**

### Expenditures

#### A. Personal Services

Supervisor Compensation	7,000
Salaries	103,275
Sup/Emp Benefits	24,983

**Subtotal** **\$135,258**

#### B. Other Services & Charges

Sup/Emp Expenses	2,000
Employee Training & Ed	1,200
Fees & Dues	2,100
Phone & Postage	1,500
Office Maintenance	250
Insurance & Bonds	4,000
Rent	6,500
Education & Promotion	1,116
Publication & Subs	50
Vehicle Maintenance	400
Gas Expense	2,000
Miscellaneous Expense	50

**Subtotal** **\$ 21,166**

#### C. Supplies

Office Supplies	500
Field Supplies	250
Copier Lease	2,350

**Subtotal** **\$ 3,100**

#### D. Project Expenses

Machinery/Tree Storage	735
Planting/Custom Work	400
Trees-Cost	12,000
Trees-Expense	100
Plat Bks/Other Resale cost	500
RIM/CS/OBWELL	25
Conservation Farm	1,000
Water Plan Expense	500

**Subtotal** **\$ 15,260**

**Total Expenditures** **\$ 174,784**

## Cost Share Program Summary

A. High Priority Erosion & Sedimentation Problems: Potential treatment sites are and will continue to be identified and investigated in all watersheds. The Clearwater River Watershed is a high priority area. Special efforts to contact landowners and promote the use of state cost share practices & other federal programs will be focused in three sub-watersheds the Silver Creek, Ruffy Brook and Lost River. The Ag. Watershed Restoration Grant Modeling has been completed and we are now in the process of working with private landowners on fixing any existing feedlot runoff problems.

B. High Priority Water Quality Problems and Concerns: The District continues to assist MPCA and landowners with water quality issues regarding feedlots throughout the county. Areas of emphasis include the Silver Creek, Lost River, Ruffy Brook, Walker Brook and Clearwater River watersheds. The District will continue to work with the landowners and other agencies to offer financial assistance to incorporate agricultural best management practices and compliance with state feedlot regulations. Please refer to the map on the following page outlining high priority areas of focus for 2010 in Clearwater County.

C. Unencumbered Regular State Cost Share Funds: The District has several projects that are in the works for summer 2010. One project is the Clearbrook Urban Runoff Ponds, which will partner with the City of Clearbrook, the Red Lake Watershed District and utilize regular State Cost-Share funds as appropriate to provide funding to complete the project. This project is an outcome of a Challenge Grant the District received to study and create a P8 Model for the City of Clearbrook. There are a number of smaller projects that money will be encumbered for in 2010 for shelterbelts and windbreaks. We will also focus cost-share dollars on projects considered to be in high priority watersheds in the county.

FY09-	\$11,220.00
FY10-	<u>\$ 5,756.00</u>
	\$16,976.00

D. Encumbered Cost Share Project Funds as of December 31, 2009:

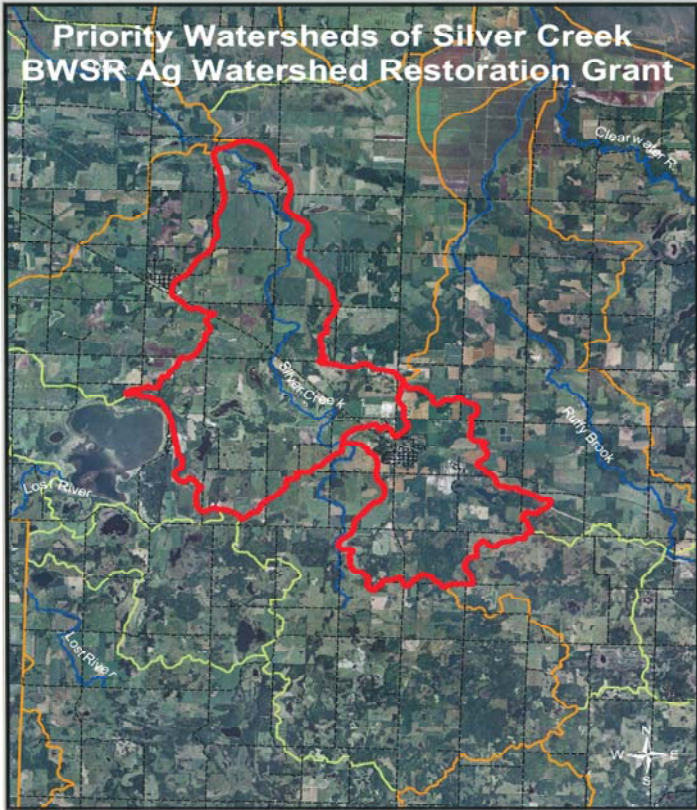
Eileen Horn Streambank Stabilization/Restoration	\$7,240.00
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### Native Buffer Cost Share Grant

A project is being developed to partner with a local private landowner to establish native buffer in recently retired pasture along Stony Lake. The design is to provide a buffer between agricultural land and the lake.

Grant Amount: \$5,000.00

Total Cost Share Funds Encumbered \$7,240.00



Now that the Modeling has been finished in the Silver Creek Watershed we are in the implementation Phase of the project. Currently we are working with landowners in the area that have existing feedlot runoff issues and would be willing to work with the SWCD to mitigate the problem. A number of feedlot sites have been identified as areas of concern and we are working with those landowners to fix the issues.



Over the last year one of the SWCD staff received her Forest Stewardship Plan Writing Certification to work with private landowners to develop plans for sustainable forest management on their lands. This stewardship writing certification is an asset to the SWCD and it great at getting good conservation on the ground and building lasting relationships with private landowners in Clearwater County.