

2013 PLAN OF WORK AND OPERATIONS

The purpose of the Annual Plan is to identify resource issues within Pope Soil and Water Conservation District. The Annual Plan outlines specific goals to resolve these resource problems.

The Pope SWCD board and staff will review this plan annually.

The goals and objectives of the Pope Soil & Water Conservation District are defined as:

1. Improve water quality and help reduce water erosion in our lakes, streams, groundwater, ditches, wetlands, and water resources.
2. Expand research opportunities at the Herman Rosholt Research Farm.
3. Reduce point source pollution from feedlots.
4. Promote and provide Irrigation Management Program to landowners and operators.
5. Promote Land Conservation programs.
6. Reduce soil erosion by promoting conservation tillage and increasing the acres under conservation tillage in the county.
7. Continue and expand the District's Conservation Tree Program.
8. Continue to develop native grass program.
9. Implement EEO and civil rights responsibilities resulting in strong working relationships with agencies, units of government, and organizations.
10. Continue to educate the public and students about Conservation efforts in Pope County.
11. Continue to promote better stormwater runoff management and water resource best management practices.

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OBJECTIVE 1

Improve water quality and help reduce water erosion in our lakes, streams, groundwater, ditches, wetlands, and water resources

- A. Continue to cooperate with the North Fork Crow River, Chippewa River, and the Sauk River Watershed Districts.
- B. Continue as LGU for the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act.
- C. Assist Water Plan Coordinator with high priority watersheds and buffer strip projects.
- D. Work with the Pope County Land & Resources Management Department to help protect and educate the public about water resource concerns.
- E. Continue to assist DNR with Groundwater Quantity Monitoring.
- F. Install one hundred acres of filter strips.
- G. Install three water and sediment control structures.
- H. Assist in implementing the Pope County 110B Water Plan.
- I. Promote Cost Share practices in news media and at the Pope County Fair.
- J. Pursue funding and technical training to fund projects to improve impaired water(s).
- K. Encourage installation of alternative tile intakes.
- L. Work with municipalities to improve storm water quality management.

OBJECTIVE 2

Continue with research work at the Herman Rosholt Research Farm.

- A. Partner with Prairie Lakes Co-op and MN Department of Agriculture to conduct demonstrations farming techniques using new technology and productive Ag techniques.
- B. Coordinate efforts with Prairie Lakes Cooperative for field day to demonstrate new technology and techniques.
- C. *Partner with MN Department of Agriculture to provide nitrate water testing for private wells.*
- D. *Seek out opportunities including cost share or grant funding to experiment with cover crops.*
- E. Coordinate with other entities to utilize the research facilities for education and training.

OBJECTIVE 3

Reduce point source pollution from feedlots.

- A. Recommend/Design practices on two feedlots to reduce water pollution.
- B. Provide recommendations to four feedlot operators on guidelines for Nutrient Management.
- C. Encourage staff to become Nutrient Management certified.
- D. Assist Pope County Land and Resource Management and the Pope County Feedlot Officer on feedlot issues.

OBJECTIVE 4

Promote and provide Irrigation Management Program to landowners and operators.

- A. Secure enrollment of 1,000 acres in the program.
- B. Promote the program in 2 articles (newspaper or newsletter).
- C. Contact and send program information to all irrigators in Pope County.

OBJECTIVE 5

Promote the Continuous CRP sign up program and General CRP program when available. Promote other programs such as EQIP, GRP, WRP, WHIP, and CSP including others as they are available.

- A. Work with Chippewa River Watershed, Sauk River Watershed, and North Fork Crow River Watershed Districts and Pope County Land & Resource Management Department to provide information to help promote conservation.
- B. Work with local sportsmen groups to promote wildlife habitat through the CRP programs including program and display for local banquets.
- C. Distribute a newsletter to Pope County Landowners promoting all the programs available.
- D. Publish two news articles regarding programs that are available.
- E. Promote CRP, CCRP programs through Farmbill Conservation Technician position and other programs as available.
- F. Promote Living Snow fences, the DOT initiative, and provide technical knowledge to the public.

OBJECTIVE 6

To reduce soil erosion by promoting conservation tillage and increasing the acres under conservation tillage in the county.

- A. Produce two newspaper articles concerning conservation tillage.
- B. Write conservation tillage newsletters and articles to be published in our local county-wide newspapers.
- C. Assist and Conduct Tillage Workshops as needed.
- D. Conduct Tillage Transect Survey as needed.
- E. Continue to make no till drills available to landowners/renters.

OBJECTIVE 7

Continue with and expand the District's Conservation Tree Program.

- A. Establish two miles of field windbreaks.
- B. Install 5 miles of weed control fabric.
- C. Produce two annual publications which promote the District's Conservation Tree Program.
- D. Promote conservation trees at the Pope County Fair.
- E. Establish ten farmstead shelterbelts.
- F. Establish Wildlife Habitat plantings.
- G. Work with FSA, NRCS, and DNR Forestry to promote plantings.

OBJECTIVE 8

Continue to develop and streamline the District's native grass program.

- A. Provide a variety of quality certified seed mixes to ensure germination rates.
- B. Provide operators with knowledge of how to establish and maintain their own plantings.
- C. Provide operators access to equipment needed.

- D. Promote Native grass plantings.

OBJECTIVE 9

Implement EEO and civil rights responsibilities resulting in strong working relationships with agencies, units of government and organizations.

- A. Review semiannually status of assistance by race & sex to check for deficiencies.
- B. Document correction in NRCS civil rights folder.
- C. Review Memorandum of Understanding including CR, EEO, and Drug Free.
- D. Include nondiscriminatory statements on public releases.
- E. Maintain a civil rights file with NRCS.
- F. Review handicap accessibility issues annually.

OBJECTIVE 10

Continue to promote and educate the public and students about Conservation efforts in Pope County.

- A. Promote the Districts activities through a website, newsletters, and brochures.
- B. Educate students about conservation through educational Conservation Day and Water Festival Day.
- C. Educate students about water quality through Nitrates in the Classroom education program with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.
- D. Promote conservation programs through displays at events include Pope County Fair, Area Ag Show, and other events as appropriate.
- E. Provide educational materials and give presentations to elementary schools for annual poster contest.
- F. Provide and distribute Soil Stewardship materials to local churches.
- G. Select an Outstanding Conservationist for the year.
- H. Participate and assist in the planning and organizational efforts of the Area II Envirothon/Jr. Envirothon.
- I. Promote and conduct Nitrate Testing Clinic(s).

OBJECTIVE 11

Continue to promote better management of urban land and water to control stormwater runoff through the following.

- A. Educate the public about rain gardens, retention ponds, pervious vs. impervious surfaces.
- B. Educate and Promote Lakescaping for stormwater runoff control.
- C. Write articles about Best Management Practices for urban areas.
- D. Work with municipalities, townships and lakes to secure funding for water conservation that include stormwater projects.