



POPE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation News

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www.popeswcd.org



POPE SWCD NAMED MINNESOTA DISTRICT OF THE YEAR



Pope Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded the District of the Year at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Convention December 4-6th in Bloomington, Minnesota. Each year the state of Minnesota recognizes one Soil and Water Conservation District in the state that has gone above and beyond base capacity. Pope SWCD staff and board members that attended the conference accepted the award at the luncheon on Tuesday December 6th.

Across the United States, nearly 3,000 Soil and Water Conservation Districts—almost one in every county—are helping local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and other natural resources. The Pope Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to be a part of this locally-led, voluntary movement, serving as a resource for landowners and farmers of Pope County for more than 67 years.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level. SWCDs provide voluntary, incentive driven approaches to landowners for better soil and cleaner water in the State of Minnesota. Private landowners with financial and technical assistance from local SWCDs are implementing a wide variety of conservation practices including restoring wetlands, planting shelterbelts and buffers, and preventing soil erosion.

Here in our county, Pope Soil and Water Conservation District is engaged in a number of local conservation initiatives, including: water, sediment and erosion control, urban storm water projects, grassed buffer establishment, youth and adult education on conservation, groundwater research under irrigation at the Rosholt Research Farm, and much more. These are the activities that helped them attain SWCD of the Year.

Born in the wake of the Dust Bowl, SWCDs have been involved in delivering conservation across America for more than 70 years. Because Minnesota has a wide variety of landscapes and conservation needs, each district operates at the direction of five locally elected board supervisors. This local perspective allows SWCDs to specifically manage the resources and serve the needs of the citizens in their district.

Soil and Water Conservation District staff and supervisors build partnerships with public and private, local, state and federal entities in an effort to develop locally-driven solutions to natural resource concerns. We work with landowners every step of the way from planning to implementation.

Our work results in clean water, healthy wildlife habitat and productive soil. To learn more about what Pope Soil and Water Conservation District is doing and how you can partner in their efforts, visit www.popeswcd.org or call 320-634-5327.

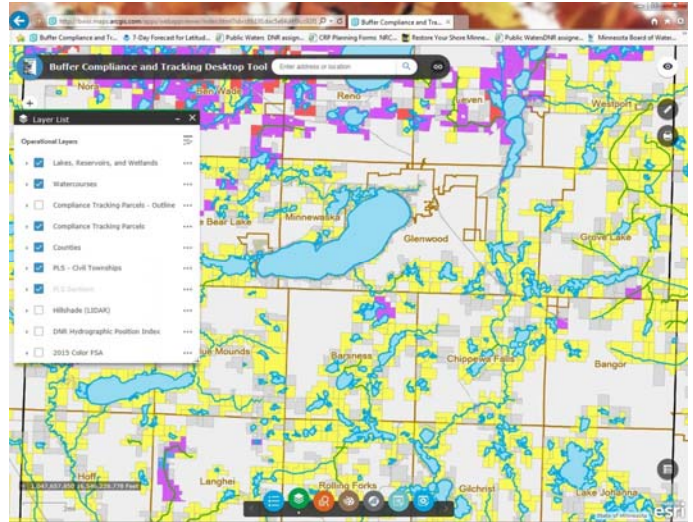
POPE COUNTY BUFFERS- HOT OFF THE PRESS

BY JESSICA OLDAKOWSKI, TECHNICIAN

As we kick off the New Year, we tend to look back on our previous year's achievements. One of those achievements is the continued work done by the state, local agencies, counties, and landowners in regards to the 2015 Minnesota Buffer and Soil Loss Law. This past year has been filled with progress. The Department of Natural Resources released the official Buffer Map and the Board of Water and Soil Resources have been creating tools and guidance documents for local agencies such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and Watershed Districts for effective and consistent implementation.

Here at our Pope SWCD office, I have completed a county wide desktop analysis. Each parcel that is requiring a buffer was reviewed in order to find initial compliance based on aerial maps. **The next steps are to meet with landowners about their parcels, provide technical assistance such as field verification and staking, and compliance validation checks.** I will be sending waves of letters to landowners who have parcels that need further review or assistance. **Please schedule an appointment to meet with me if you receive a letter.** If you do not receive a letter but would still like to check on your buffer requirements I will ask that you also schedule an appointment.

Going through the initial desktop analysis and data review, I found that, with some margin of error, Pope County is sitting quite well. Most landowners when they have come in to visit about buffers realize that they already have the majority of the required buffer width and only need to add a small acreage. Many of these sites are less than an acre that is to be added for full compliance. Overall, **Pope County is 93 percent compliant.** With roughly only 300 parcels to review, a possible 6 percent may be falling short of the buffer requirement. The state of **Minnesota, based on initial review, is 80 percent compliant.** We, as Minnesotans, have been doing great conservation work and are already good stewards of the land. There is just a little bit of last minute work to fully button up the buffer initiative for improving water quality and enhancing habitat.



IRRIGATION CLINIC HELD

Pope SWCD in partnership with Douglas, Stearns, and Kandiyohi SWCDs hosted the second annual Irrigation Clinic in Paynesville on December 15th. A total of 75 people attended the event at the Paynesville American Legion. The irrigator clinic is sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and from support from local vendors. A thank you to: AgSense Inc, Anez Consulting, Bonanza Valley State Bank, CHS Prairie Lakes, Paynesville American Farmers Union Coop, West Central Irrigation, AgStar Financial Services, Centra Sota Cooperative, Grand Irrigation, and Nutradrip Irrigation System.

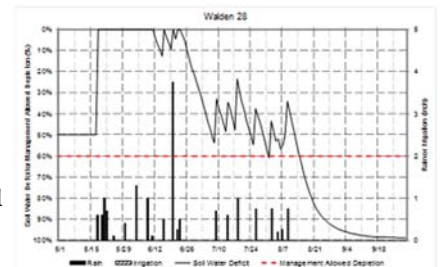
Presenters included: Katie Breth (Stearns County SWCD) and Kelan Buchta (Grand Irrigation) on the topic of irrigation water management, Dan Langseth (Minnesota Department of Agriculture) on the topic of the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan and Township Testing Program, Tom Scherer (NDSU Extension) on the topic of economics of irrigation, and Dr. Donald Wyse (Professor at the University of Minnesota), on the Forever Green Initiative and developing new cropping systems using perennial cover.



Irrigation Management Services Offered

Contact our office to sign up for Irrigation Management Services for 2017

The District provides a custom service to producers with irrigation. This service will help you manage your water appropriation, saving you time and money. The service is a tool to help you decide when and how much to irrigate which is important to conserve and protect our sensitive ground water aquifers.

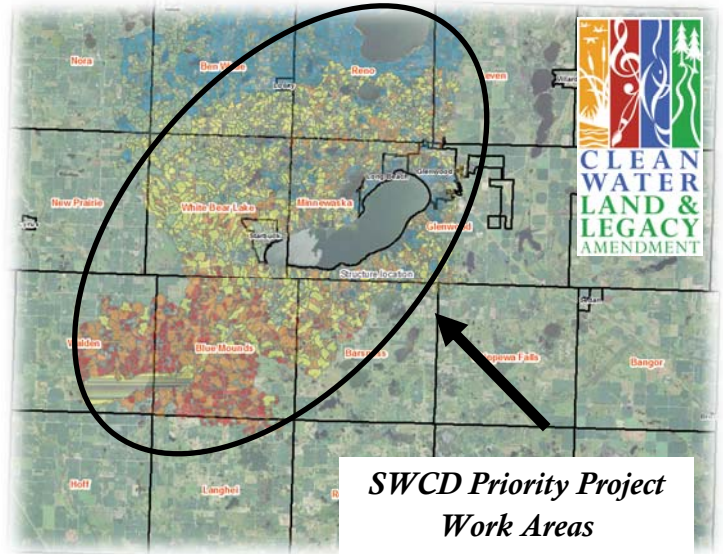


EROSION CONTROL PROJECTS COMPLETED THIS FALL

Pope SWCD, along with the NRCS and the West Central Technical Service Area engineering staff, have been working on erosion and sediment control projects this past spring and this fall. The SWCD continues to prioritize work based on the Pope County Local Water Management Plan and has been working in the two subwatersheds to Lake Minnewaska in the past 4-5 years.

The Pope SWCD in 2016 and in 2017 has secured Clean Water Land and Legacy Funding to continue this work in the Lake Emily subwatersheds as well. Several projects have been implemented already with more scheduled over the next 2-3 years. The map to the right shows the focus area of the current funding and project implementation.

If you have land located in this area of the county and have erosion or gully concerns please stop in to visit with Holly.



TREES FOR SALE

Call now to plan your spring tree planting project. We can assist you with design and installation. Call now as availability is limited on certain species of trees for 2017.



Custom Native Grass Seed
Mixes Available

Call now to visit with Kelly about your grass seeding project. Don't delay to ensure seed availability for your project.



WELL SEALING COST SHARE AVAILABLE



Pope SWCD is currently taking applications for sealing of abandoned wells within the county. If you are interested in the program contact our office and talk to Holly about cost share.

The program will provide 75% cost share not to exceed \$500 per well. We do have a limited amount of funding for this program each year and encourage you to contact our office early. 320-634-5327

No-Till Drill Available to Rent



The Pope SWCD offers a complete package of services and products to aid in implementing native grass plantings enrolled in conservation programs and for seeding buffers. Call today to set up a time to meet with staff to discuss your project and provide an estimate. Ask for Kelly!

CHAMBER BUSINESS OF THE MONTH NAMED FOR JANUARY *POPE SWCD*



D. Gary Reents and Randy Pederson were re-elected to the SWCD Board and were sworn in at the January 3 County Commissioner Meeting by Judge Rodney Hanson.



Front row: Kay Blaurert, Dean Peterson, Tom Talle, Holly Kovarik, Nicole Brede, Kelly Erickson
Back row: Scott Formo, Randy Pederson, D. Gary Reents, Mike Billehus, Keith Nygaard, and Jessica Oldkowski
Photo credit: Pope County Tribune/Marta Johnson

Attention landowners that have expiring CRP in 2017.

If you are interested in re-enrolling this land back into the program, please respond as soon as possible.

- Certain practices will run out of acres in early 2017.
- Staff are trying to complete site verification visits early and first priority will be given to those who let us know early that you wish to re-enroll.
- CREP lands expiring will not be eligible to re-enroll. The state easement (RIM) kicks in after the CRP part expires. These lands must remain in conservation use. We have information that was sent out in December/early January that will tell landowners with CREP lands (where the CRP expires) what they have as options.
- Note: CP38 Safe Acres are now available.

MINNESOTA AG WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



Pictured above: Grant Pearson (Stearns SWCD) and Tom Beuckens

Pope County has two new certified farms bringing the total in our county to 12 operations certified by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture program. The two landowners are Tom Beuckens and Paul Freeman. Their entire operations have been reviewed and they are implementing stewardship practices that make them eligible to become certified under this program. Congratulations Paul and Tom on becoming our latest certified operations.

The MDA Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification program has only been available statewide for a little over a year. The program, currently on a statewide level, has approximately 188,000 certified acres statewide with 10 million tons of sediment saved and 6100 lbs. of phosphorus saved annual per year by the addition of new best management practices or projects. They estimate 548 new practices have been installed with the program.

For more information on how to become certified in the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program visit www.mda.state.mn.us/awqcp or contact the Pope SWCD office to sign up (320) 634-5327. We are now taking applications for enrollment into this program.



Pictured left: Jessica Oldakowski (Pope SWCD), Holly Kovarik (Pope SWCD), Paul Freeman (landowner), Jeff Hellerman (NRCS), Grant Pearson (Stearns SWCD), and Nicole Brede (Pope SWCD)



2017 SALES PROGRAM ORDER FORM

POPE SOIL & WATER



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1680 Franklin St North, Glenwood, MN 56334

PHONE: (320) 834-5327

FAX: (320) 834-4278

www.popeswcd.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Email: _____

Day Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Order early for the best selection of trees.

You will be notified in April of pick-up dates for trees, tree products, and for grass seed orders.

Special orders available upon request, call now to secure your order! No project to big or small!

Prices are subject to change.

ITEM	PRICE	#ORDERED	AMOUNT
SHRUBS (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
Buffaloberry	\$37.50		
Chokeberry, black	\$37.50		
Hazienut	\$37.50		
Hi Bush Cranberry	\$37.50		
Juneberry	\$37.50		
Nanking Cherry	\$37.50		
Cotoneaster	\$37.50		
Redosier Dogwood	\$37.50		
Sand Cherry	\$37.50		
Villosa Lilac	\$37.50		
Common Lilac	\$37.50		
LARGE TREES (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
Siouxland Cottonwood	\$37.50		
Hackberry	\$37.50		
Bur Oak	\$37.50		
Silver Maple	\$37.50		
Sugar Maple	\$37.50		
American Linden Basswood	\$37.50		
SMALL TREES (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
American Plum	\$37.50		
Common Chokecherry	\$37.50		
Red Splendor Crab	\$37.50		
EVERGREENS priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
Black Hills Spruce	\$40.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	\$40.00		
Ponderosa Pine	\$40.00		
American Arborvitae (White Cedar)	\$40.00		
Red Pine (Norway Pine)	\$40.00		

Trees Ordered: _____

Page Total: \$ _____

See Reverse Side for Tax.

****Conservation Grade Trees Must Be Ordered in Minimum Quantities of 25 unless otherwise noted.**

2017 SALES PROGRAM ORDER FORM











Last Name: _____

ITEM	PRICE	#ORDERED	AMOUNT
POTTED EVERGREENS (other varieties of evergreens available upon request)			
Black Hills Spruce	\$15.00 each		
TREE CARE (Plant Skydd Repellent)			
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 200-300 1' seedlings) 1 lb powder	\$25.00		
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 400-600 1' seedlings) 2.2 lb powder	\$37.00		
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 100 1' seedlings) 1 liter premixed	\$20.00		
TREE CARE			
Tree Shelters 4' height (biodegradeable)	\$3.00		
Wood Stakes 4' height	\$0.90		
Weed Control Mats 3x3 w/ 4 staples	\$2.50		
Bulk Roll of Weed Fabric 500'	\$150.00		
Staples/1000 per box (Anchor Pins)	\$70.00		
SERVICES -- All Services have a \$75.00 one time service charge			
Custom Installed Weed Fabric (fabric included in price)	\$0.50 per foot		
Custom Tree Planting (\$100 minimum charge)	\$0.50 per tree		
Custom Mowing	Call for Pricing		
Custom Cultivation	Call for Pricing		
Custom Grass Seeding ATV	Call for Pricing		
Custom Grass Seeding No-till Drill	Call for Pricing		
EQUIPMENT RENTALS (Delivery charges do apply)			
Tree Planter (minimum charge of \$50.00)	\$50.00 per day		
No-Till Drill (minimum charge of \$75.00)	\$8.00 per acre		
Packer (minimum charge of \$75.00)	\$2.50 per acre		
CUSTOM GRASS SEED MIXES (priced per acre)			
<i>Custom mixes available upon request suited to meet program requirements. Call for a quote 320-634-532</i>			
*Planning and Design service with on-site visit. (FREE) *Trees sold are for conservation purposes only. *SWCD cannot guarantee survival rate of trees. *SWCD reserves the right to substitute sizes or cancel species due to availability. *A 25% down payment is required on all orders at the time of the order. All orders after March 1st 2017 must be paid in full at the time of the order. All balances due by April 1st, 2017. Orders Cancelled after February 1st, 2017 will be charged a 25% cancellation fee.		Total This Side :	
		Total Front Side :	
		Subtotal :	
		6.875% Sales Tax :	
		Total Order Cost :	
		Paid :	
		Balance :	

Pope SWCD prohibits discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, and where applicable (including gender identity and expression), marital status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

Walk-In Access 2017 Facts

Walk-In Access (WIA) provides public hunting on private land in Minnesota and pays landowners to allow that access. Through WIA, more than 23,000 acres of private land is open for public hunting from Sept. 1 to May 31 each year. An atlas of hunting parcels is available at retailers within the WIA area, by calling the MN DNR at 888-646-6367, or online at www.mndnr.gov/walkin.

-  WIA began in 2011 and has grown to 23,000+ acres. Currently, approximately 220 WIA sites are enrolled in 46 south central and western Minnesota counties.
-  The addition of a \$3.00 WIA validation to another valid hunting license allows hunting on WIA parcels, with no landowner contact necessary, from Sept. 1 to May 31. WIA validations are available at any DNR license vendor.
-  Landowner participation is crucial to this program, so be respectful and ethical while hunting WIA parcels. No target practice, trapping, dog training or walking, camping, horseback riding, hiking, fires or similar activities are allowed by the public.
-  All hunting regulations apply on WIAs and will be enforced by DNR conservation officers.
-  WIA parcels are for walk-in traffic only. Motorized vehicles of any kind are not allowed on WIAs. Parking is along roads or in designated parking areas.
-  WIA seeks landowners with parcels of 40 acres or more with high quality natural cover. This may include, but is not limited to, parcels already in a conservation program. Only small inclusions of crop or hay land may be present.
-  Local Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) enroll landowners in WIA. Landowners receive \$10-\$13/acre to allow public hunting access. WIA agreements are voluntary and include an opt-out clause. Enrollments run from Jan. 23 to April 28, 2017 this year.
-  WIA allows landowners to carry out habitat management according to an approved conservation plan. Therefore, some sites may not have high quality habitat. Site updates are available at www.mndnr.gov/walkin.



The Walk-In Access program is funded by:

- A grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under number 69-3A75-16-509
- A one-time appropriation from the State Legislature in 2012
- A \$5.00 surcharge on nonresident hunting licenses.
- Donations of \$1, \$3 or \$5 made by hunters when purchasing deer and small game licenses.



POPE SOIL & WATER



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1680 Franklin St North
Glenwood, MN 56334

Pope SWCD and USDA prohibits discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1: Pope SWCD District of the Year

Page 2: Buffer Information, Irrigation Clinic, and Irrigation Management Services

Page 3: Erosion Control Projects, Grass and Tree Programs, Drill Rental, Well Sealing

Page 4: SWCD Supervisors Oath, Chamber Business of the Month, CREP/CRP, MAWQCP

Page 5: Order Form

Page 6: Order Form

Page 7: Walk In Access Program

IMPORTANT DATES

Board Meetings are held the **third Tuesday of each month at 7am.**
The public is welcome to join us.

February 21 Board Meeting

March 21 Board Meeting

April 18 Board Meeting

May 16 Board Meeting



SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Randy Pederson, D.Gary Reents, Tom Talle, Mike Billehus, and Keith Nygaard



SWCD STAFF

Nicole Brede (Farmbill Technician), Holly Kovarik (Manager), Jessica Oldakowski (Technician), Kelly Erickson (Technician)