

POPE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT & UPDATES



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www.popeswcd.org

HALLS FAMILY SELECTED OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONISTS

The Halls Family was selected to represent Pope County by Pope SWCD at the 2014 Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts Convention held December 7-9th, 2014. They were one of 64 county conservationists being honored for their efforts in implementing conservation and improving Minnesota's natural resources.



Board and Staff with the outstanding conservationists.

The Halls Family was awarded top honors at the Convention they were selected as this years State Conservationists.

They have been implementing projects in the last several years including: 150 acres of cover crops that are used for rotational grazing, wildlife purposes, wind erosion; conservation tillage on steeper slopes and highly erodible soils; 180 Chi-Angus cattle that graze on public and private lands in cooperation with other agencies while promoting soil health and a longer grazing season; raise club lambs and several head of sheep; invasive species management; soil tests in spring and fall; use of an aerial vehicle to scout areas for pest and nutrient management, and heat stress; two feedlot upgrade projects; riparian buffers around wetland areas; enrollment of 73.9 acres into a wetland restoration project; food plots for wildlife; and a member of the Simon Lake Challenge to rotate grazing on public and private lands.

The Halls Family have also been active in the community in a variety of organizations. Congratulations to the Halls Family for the commitment to agriculture and conservation.



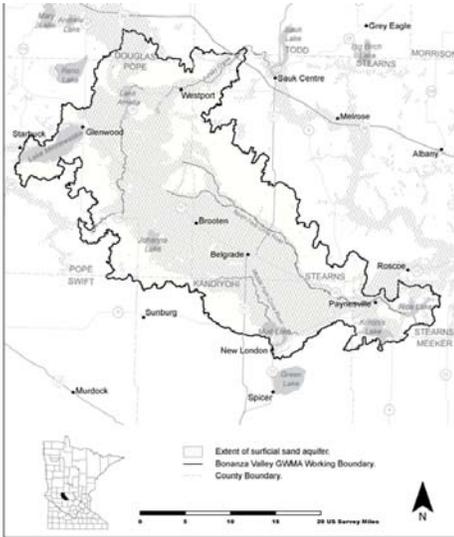
NORTH FORK OF THE CROW SELECTED FOR NEW WATER PLAN PROCESS



Pope SWCD has been working with watershed partners and other agencies on a pilot project with the state to develop a watershed based water plan that will prioritize projects and programs to reach beyond just our own County boundary. This process has just begun and will take about a year to complete.

Every County in the state of Minnesota is required to have a County Water Plan. This is the guiding document that we use to prioritize projects, funding, and assistance to improve our natural resources and working lands. This also aids in our ability to secure financial and technical assistance for private landowner projects. More information will be provided as this process progresses.

BONANZA VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA



Pope County and the Pope SWCD is participating in the Bonanza Valley Ground Water Management Area as part of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources current project to analyze 3 pilot areas in the state that have sensitive groundwater features.

The initiative began almost a year ago and will continue through most of 2015 according to the current schedule.

The purpose of this initiative is to analyze water appropriation impacts and the Department of Natural Resources permitting process.

The Pope SWCD role is as an advisory member to the process and staff has been providing feedback on any sort of impacts this may create for water appropriation permit holders in Pope County. Several local landowners who are water appropriation users have also been a part of these important discussions to ensure water sustainability in our groundwater aquifers.

For more information visit this website at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gwmp/area-bv.html>.

The Pope SWCD monitors 19 observation wells annually for the DNR.

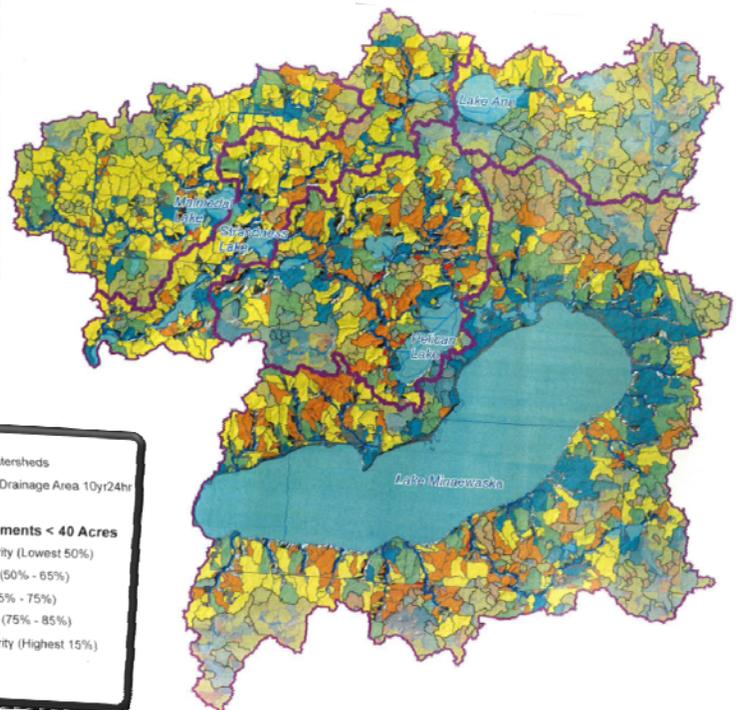
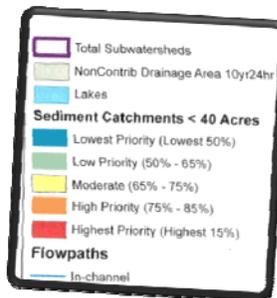
TERRAIN ANALYSIS PROJECT COMPLETED

Pope SWCD and the NRCS office are working hard to assist producers with erosion concerns within the County. There are a few special initiatives in targeted watersheds that have funding currently with the Pope SWCD to implement erosion control practices. This has been one of the largest work loads for the service center with over 70 of these types of projects on waiting lists and at various stages for funding and technical assistance.

We recently completed an analysis of two major sub-watersheds: Pelican and Minnewaska. The graphic below shows a map of information highlighting areas that should receive priority in completing projects especially with our Clean Water Fund dollars from the State. We have several projects that have been surveyed and will be constructed in 2015-2016 under this funding. This study has been

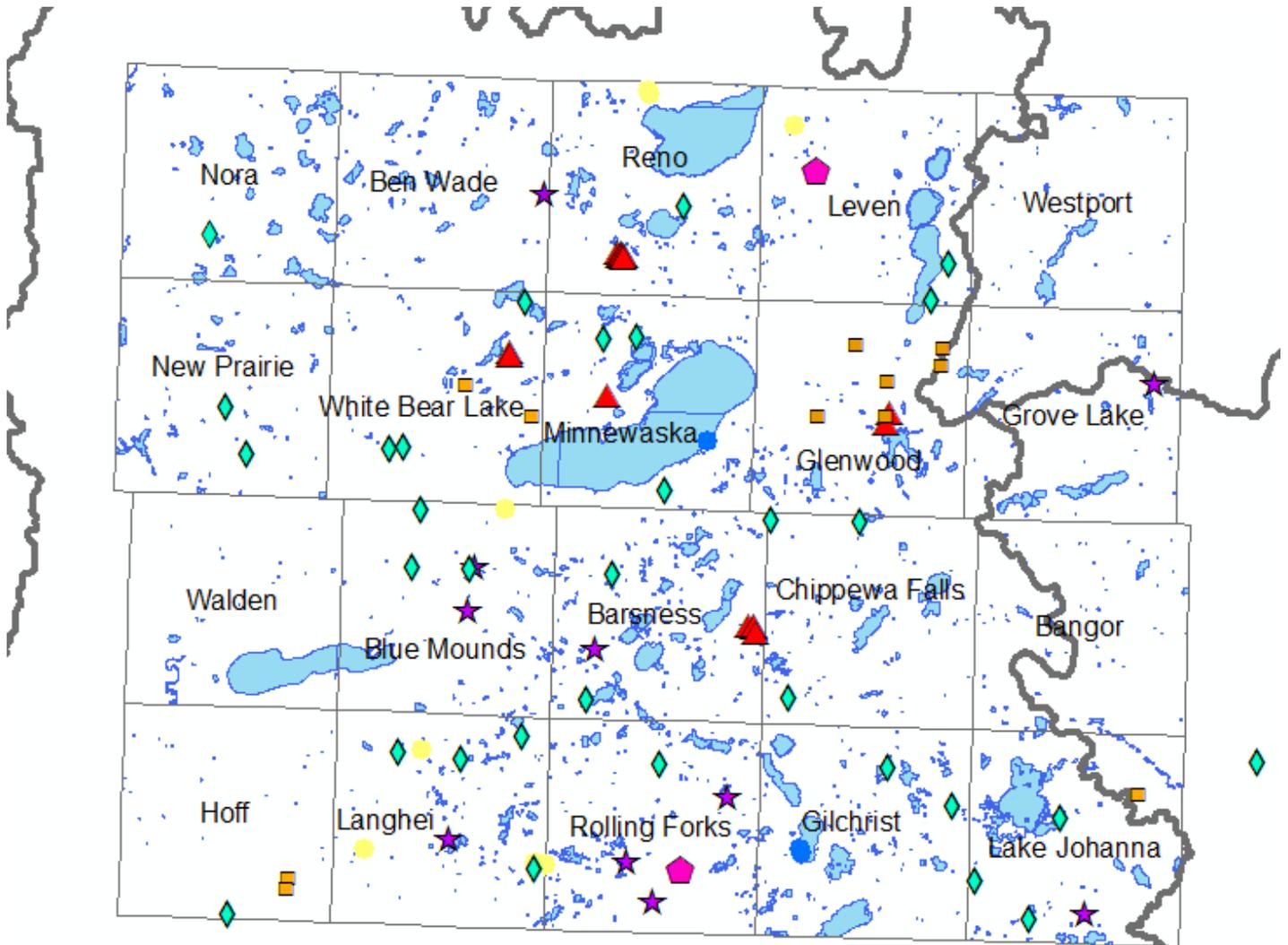
helpful in securing additional project cost share funding to continue this important work on water quality and other resource concerns throughout the County.

This was a priority in the County Water Plan. The main priorities for the County are: Surface Water Quality, Erosion and Sediment Control, Surface Water Management, and Groundwater Quality. A complete copy of the water plan can be found at www.popeswcd.org.



Please Note: A complete financial report will be provided in the spring newsletter at the completion of the 2014 Audit.

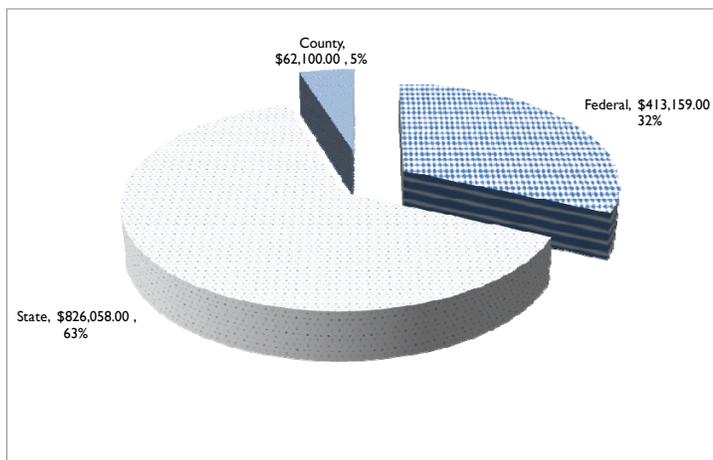
2014 PROJECTS COMPLETED



MAP LEGEND

WATER AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BASINS	15 STRUCTURES	
WELL SEALING	9 WELLS	
SHORELINE RESTORATION	3 SITES	
GRASSED WATERWAY	1 STRUCTURE	
SIDE INLET STRUCTURE	1 STRUCTURE	
IRRIGATION	15 SITES	
DRILL/GRASS	30 SITES	
TREES	10 SITES	

2014 POPE SWCD FUNDING



Farmbill Update

The Pope SWCD staff works closely on Farm Bill programs including Conservation Reserve Program and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. A staff person is funded by a grant to complete this work including landowner contacts, site visits, and conservation plans to enroll into these private lands conservation programs.

In 2014, there were 1,534 staff hours committed to this work through the SWCD. There were over 576 initial contacts which resulted in the following enrollment acres:

- 1,699.64 acres enrolled; 57 contracts completed
- ⇒ 14 Contracts Wetlands; 1,070.28 acres
- ⇒ 13 Contracts Filter Strips; 158.42 acres
- ⇒ 7 Contracts Riparian Buffers; 102.73 acres
- ⇒ 14 Contract Continuous CRP Buffers; 218.5 acres
- ⇒ 9 other Contracts; 149.71 acres

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT UPDATE

Pope SWCD is the local government unit that was delegated responsibility for the implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act in Pope County. There were over 110 contacts taken in 2014 on various requests including wetland mitigation, site reviews, violations, plat reviews, restoration orders, training, and general implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act. This is funded by the State and the County will be providing match in 2015 for the implementation of this program.

SALES PROGRAM UPDATES

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • 10 rain barrels | • 30 acres disking |
| • 1,285 acres of grass seed | • 29 acres packing |
| • 31,402 feet of weed fabric | • 506 acres of mowing |
| • 9 boxes of plantskydd | • 1,254 staples |
| • 25 3x3 weed mats | • 68 stakes |
| • 143 tree tubes | |
| • 21,077 trees/shrubs | |
| • 439 acres of drill rental | |
| • 179 acres of packer rental | |
| • 917 trees/shrubs planted | |
| • 140 acres custom seeding | |

Right: Terrence Chastin-Davis worked for the SWCD this past summer to gain experience in the conservation field. He assisted with shoreline restorations and inspection of the public drainage systems within the County.

YOUTH EDUCATION

The Pope and Stevens County Water fest was held September 12 and the Stevens & Pope County Conservation Day was held on October 2nd. The two events combined reach approximately 600 5th and 6th grade students between the two counties. These events are sponsored by local businesses, the Pope and Stevens County SWCDs, and funded through many local contributions by area business and groups.

The annual poster contest was completed in 3 schools reaching 150 students.

Materials were sent to 20 area churches for Stewardship week.

The events strive to educate our youth about conservation and our natural resources. More information about Conservation Day and the Water Fest can be found on the SWCD website at www.popeswcd.org.



WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM/REINVEST IN MINNESOTA

One restoration project was completed in 2014 for a total of 1.6 acres.

POPE SWCD HOSTED CONSERVATION CORPS INTERN



2015 SALES PROGRAM ORDER FORM

POPE SOIL & WATER



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1680 Franklin St North, Glenwood, MN 56334

PHONE: (320) 634-5327

FAX: (320) 634-4278

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.

ORDERS DUE BY MARCH 1ST TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY

Prices are subject to change.

ITEM	PRICE	#ORDERED	AMOUNT
SHRUBS (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
Buffaloberry	\$30.00		
Chokeberry, black	\$30.00		
Hazlenut	\$30.00		
Hi Bush Cranberry	\$30.00		
Juneberry	\$30.00		
Nanking Cherry	\$30.00		
Cotoneaster	\$30.00		
Redosier Dogwood	\$30.00		
Sand Cherry	\$30.00		
Villosa Lilac	\$30.00		
Common Lilac	\$30.00		
LARGE TREES (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
Siouxland Cottonwood	\$30.00		
Hackberry	\$30.00		
Bur Oak	\$30.00		
Silver Maple	\$30.00		
Sugar Maple	\$30.00		
American Linden Basswood	LIMITED AVAILABILITY		
SMALL TREES (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
American Plum	\$30.00		
Common Chokecherry	\$30.00		
Red Splendor Crab	\$30.00		
EVERGREENS priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
Black Hills Spruce	\$37.50		
Colorado Blue Spruce	\$37.50		
Ponderosa Pine	LIMITED AVAILABILITY		
American Arborvitae (White Cedar)	\$37.50		
Red Pine (Norway Pine)	\$37.50		

Trees Ordered: _____

Page Total: \$ _____

See Reverse Side for Tax.

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

2015 SALES PROGRAM ORDER FORM

POPE SOIL & WATER



Last Name: _____

ITEM	PRICE	#ORDERED	AMOUNT
POTTED EVERGREENS (other varieties of evergreens available upon request)			
Black Hills Spruce	\$12.00 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 2015 must be paid in full at the time of the order. All balances due by April 1st, 2015. Orders Cancelled after February 1st, 2015 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.

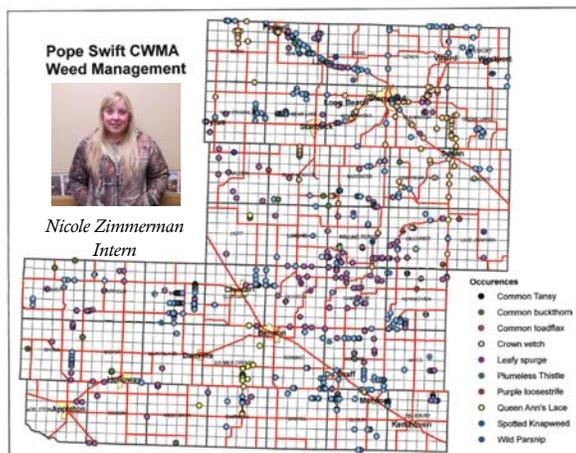
Cooperative Weed Management Program 2014 Annual Update

Invasive weeds are a problem everywhere and have negative affects to the area they invade upon. Invasive plants will have affects on reducing crop yields, reducing native vegetation populations, and some species can disturb the soil. It is important to understand the best management methods available. The Pope Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is working to address the invasive species problems in agriculture areas and native prairies in the county. The CWMA has been working on many goals over the past 6+ years such as educating the public, controlling species with chemical and biological methods, and scouting sites for present and future treatments. There have been many accomplishments over the years and there is a noticeable improvement in the county from the work of the program. Locations of treatment areas and known infested locations are shown on the map to the right. In the future we hope to keep up the program, further educate the public, and help other counties improve their programs.

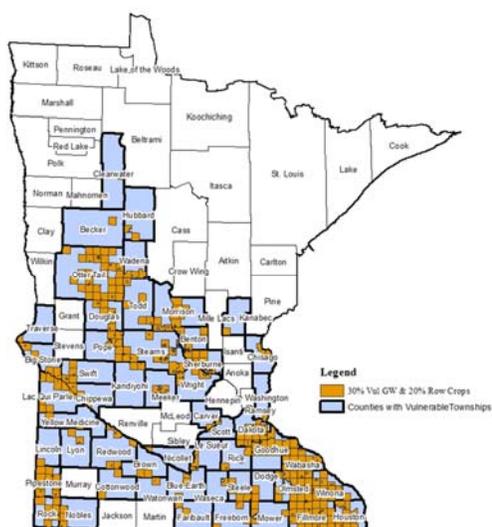
The main invasive species we focused on are:

- Wild Parsnip (8 Sites)
- Leafy Spurge (3 Sites)
- Common Tansy (1 Site)
- Spotted Knapweed (4 Sites)
- Plumeless Thistle (1 Site)

If you want to learn more about the CWMA program visit the website at www.weedwatchers.org.



DOMESTIC WELL NITRATE TESTING PROGRAM



Pope SWCD will be working with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to test domestic wells in targeted townships as shown on the map to the left. These Townships will include: Leven, Westport, Glenwood, Grove Lake, Bangor, and Lake Johanna.

The quality of drinking water is important for every well owner. Nitrate is one of the most common ground water contaminants found in rural areas. Drinking water with high nitrate concentrations can cause serious health effects in infants and the presence of nitrates may be an indicate of other contaminants in water.

Wells in these townships may be at risk to nitrate contamination due to the type of geology and depth to groundwater . We will be coordinating with homeowners in these targeted townships to offer a free nitrate testing for their wells. They will be sent a letter and testing kit in the next couple of months. The information provided by the testing will help these families and provide valuable information on the presence of nitrates in drinking water. If you have questions please call our office and ask for Holly.



The District completed 3 shoreline restoration projects this past summer. There were two sites on Lake Scandinavian and 1 on Lake Minnewaska. The projects were funded through the Pope SWCD with a DNR Shoreline grant.

The SWCD has funding to implement more restorations in 2015-2016. Contact the office to visit with staff to learn more about this program and if you may qualify.



POPE SOIL & WATER



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1680 Franklin St North
Glenwood, MN 56334

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IMPORTANT DATES

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

January 20th	SWCD Board Meeting
February 17	SWCD Board Meeting
March 17	SWCD Board Meeting
April 21	SWCD Board Meeting



SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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



SWCD STAFF

Kelly Erickson (Technician), Holly Kovarik (Manager)

