



Quarterly News & Updates

January 2021 | Issue 3

Happy New Year Friends and Neighbors!

The Isanti SWCD is publishing this Quarterly e-Newsletter to:

- Help keep you informed of what is happening locally that affects the health of natural resources in Isanti County;
- Increase your understanding of what the SWCD does and how you can get involved in conservation; and
- Keep you informed on how Clean Water Fund tax amendment dollars are being spent locally.

If you have any questions, please give us a call!

If you are not interested in receiving future publications simply click unsubscribe at the bottom of this email. Alternatively, if you want to share this with a friend please do- they can subscribe by visiting our website at: www.isantiswcd.org

Follow us on Facebook for more updates!



New Year- New Mission Statement

In 2020 the SWCD board and staff re-evaluated priorities; in the process we updated our mission statement and identified our core values. We feel these statements really reflect who we are and how we serve the community!

Mission Statement

To provide guidance, to inspire action, and to bring innovative resources to the table so that people become leaders in keeping land and water healthy for future generations.

Core Values:

Core values are principles that give our work meaning, make sure everyone is on the same page, and help us



persevere through adversity.

Communication: When communicating with the public and partners we will quickly get to the point, we will let people know when we don't know the answer and then work to find the answer. We will keep people in the loop, we won't use technical terms and we will always be patient, professional and respectful.

Trust: We will always be upfront, honest and transparent. We will work hard to build trust and relationships with the public and our partners—we invest in relationships by committing to our core values. By gaining trust, we build an emotional bank account that we can rely on when things don't go well.

Accountable: If we say we will do something we will do it, we will work hard, get the job done, and deliver outstanding results. We will strive to go above and beyond expectations. Furthermore, when we make mistakes, we will take responsibility for them and we won't make excuses.

Growth Mindset: We aren't afraid to make mistakes and we will strive to learn from our mistakes. We will work to stay relevant and innovative by thinking outside of the box. We will continually seek out new opportunities to be trailblazers.

Helpful and Kind: We won't leave anyone hanging without answers, we will point the public in the right direction, we will make every effort to aid the public out even if their question does not pertain to our statutory duties.

Open Minded: We will listen to other people's points of view and try to understand them.

Passionate: We show up excited to do our jobs and to carry our mission, even if we are working on a task that is tough or not our area of expertise and/or favorite activity.

Celebrate and Have Fun: We always remember to celebrate small victories and to have fun while doing our jobs! We work hard while we are on the clock but we also strive to take time off to enjoy life - family is priority.

Calling all Agricultural Operators!

If you're like most farmers, you are already incorporating conservation practices into your farming program. Kudos!

However; if you have been considering additional projects to step it up a notch we can help!

The SWCD has funding available to cover the costs for cover crops (county-wide) as well as projects such as filter strips, conservation tillage, wetland restorations, and water and sediment control basins (Green Lake area).

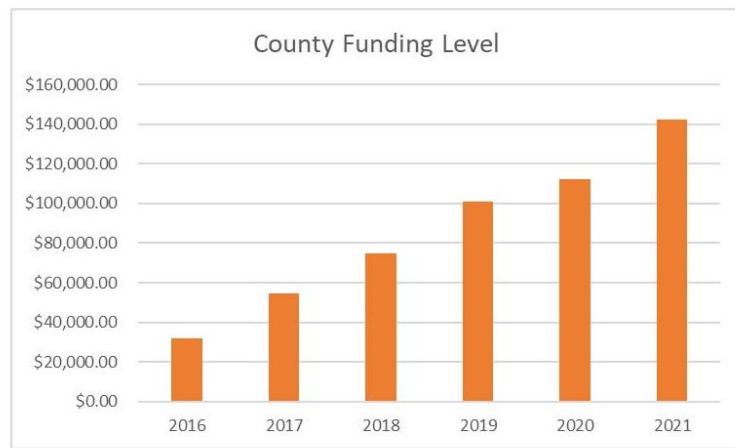


Call us to learn about our new programs and how they can cover the costs for doing good work today!

Local Reliable Funding

Did you know that a portion of the SWCD's annual budget comes from Isanti County?

It's true; each year the SWCD submits a request to the County to fund a portion of our budget. Our goal is to create reliable funding consisting of a 50-50 split of State and local funds. We are getting close to our goal! Over the last six years, the County has consistently increased the SWCD allocation because of our excellent work and relationships.



In the absence of other reliable funding mechanisms, the County allocation supports staffing and operational expenses needed to implement local, voluntary natural resource conservation programs. These programs are based on demand from residents of the County and the State of Minnesota.

Over the last six years we have used this money in combination with State money to:

1. Hire a full-time staff person who focuses on agricultural conservation, land preservation and water monitoring.
2. Hire a half time staff person to assist the District Manager with administrative duties. This allows the District Manager to use her expertise in other areas such as watershed planning.
3. Leverage additional State funding to provide financial assistance to County residents to install natural resource conservation projects- over \$1.5 million to date!

As you can see, the money provides a strong return to taxpayers via additional grants that we leverage with the money, technical assistance with a smile, and protected resources (Quality of Life).

THANK You for your continued support Isanti County!

Conservation Workshops

The community plays a large role in protecting lakes and streams for future generations. Knowing what to do is the first step; that's where we come in!

The SWCD coordinates and hosts workshops to help you understand what you can do! Here's an example of what we have done in the past:



In 2019 the SWCD partnered with the Green Lake Improvement District (GLID) to host a hands-on workshop to teach lakeshore owners how to protect their shoreline from erosion. Participants learned how to plant deep rooted native plants (these are the ones that prevent erosion and provide habitat) and to construct and install willow bundles to protect the lakeshore from erosion. Together, the community members installed a lakeshore restoration project. Participants learned that, in most cases, it doesn't take a special certification to restore their shore—anyone can do it!

Dan Howard, GLID member and Green Lake property owner said, "it was fantastic to see the Green Lake community working together with a common goal. They were excited to learn and participate. It just shows how much people care about keeping the lakes healthy!"

Keep an eye out for upcoming workshops!

Thanks for your Service Roger Larsen!

Do you want to know what qualities that make up an excellent SWCD Board Supervisor? Just ask Roger!

Roger served as a SWCD Supervisor from 2012-2020 representing the Townships of Maple Ridge, Stanchfield, Springvale and Dalbo. Throughout his multiple terms Roger set an example to others by implementing numerous conservation practices on his agricultural land, participating in multiple internal and external committees, and by always actively supporting and believing in us.

The SWCD is on the right track- thanks to people like you!

We are very grateful for your time and dedication to the natural resources in Isanti County!



New Grant Program Focused at Green Lake

Green Lake has been accepted into a 16-year granting program by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The program has a goal of removing Green Lake from the State's Impaired Waters list.



So what does this mean? Over the next 10-16 years the SWCD will put extra effort into improving the health of Green Lake, one of Isanti County's most valuable recreational lakes. The first phase of the grant includes \$284,000 to do projects that will have a direct impact on the lake. The grant requires a 40% match (\$185,926); the match will come from the Green Lake Improvement District, SWCD State funding, private funding, and landowners.

The program will focus on funding projects in the land area draining to North Brook and Wyanett Creek and the land adjacent to the lake itself. The projects will include things like wetland restorations, cover crops, buffers, raingardens and lakeshore restorations.

Keep an eye out for more details. In the meanwhile, if you live in any of these areas and you are interested in helping out give us a call!

Don't forget to order your trees!

Start a new tradition- plant some trees with your family this spring!

Trees have many benefits such as improving air quality, saving energy, creating beauty and they can even reduce stress levels in people!

Ordering online is the best way to ensure you get the trees you want- to do so visit our [website!](#)



Meet A Staff Member- Linda Gehrking

What's your background?

I grew up on a rural farm in Spring Valley, Minnesota. Before coming to the SWCD I worked as a Legal Secretary for 27 years and retired from that field.

What interests you about working for the SWCD? I have always had a love for nature! I love sitting by a creek and just listening to the rapids flow and also looking for fossils.

Interests and hobbies? In my spare time I enjoy, bike riding, fishing, snowshoeing, upholstering. I'm very active the majority of the time.

What do you do at the SWCD? My main priority is to maintain the District's financial records and transactions. I also coordinate the annual tree sale and maintain the website.

What do you like most about working for the SWCD? I get to work with a fantastic team! I actually enjoy coming into the office everyday!



Playing on the Ice in Winter

As ice on the lakes gets thicker and the on-ice activities begin please remember that ice is never 100% safe.

Also, please remember to clean up after yourself! We share our lakes with everyone! Any trash left on the ice will pollute the lake and cause harm to our great natural resources.

[Click here for more information on Ice Safety](#)



4" 5-7" 8-12" 12-15"
MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR NEW, CLEAR ICE

Ice is never 100% safe!

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