



# Wright Soil and Water Conservation District

## 2017 Annual Report

311 Brighton Ave S Suite C

Buffalo, MN 55313

Phone: 763-682-1970

Minnesota has 89 Conservation Districts charged with protecting and improving our water and soil resources.

### Inside this issue:

Financial Summary	2
Outstanding Conservationist	3
Education & Outreach	4-5
MAWQCP & Weed Management	6
1W1P, Trees, RIM	7
Wetland Conservation Act	8
Volunteer Lake Monitoring	9
Filters Projects & Discovery Farms	10
Aquatic Invasive Species	11
Water Monitoring	12
Food Plot Seed & Conservation Corps	13
Completed Projects	14-15
NRCS Programs	16
Earth Team Program	17
Buffers	18
Staff	19
Cover Crops	20

### Working Together For Common Goals

Beginning in 2015, the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) applied for and received a Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Grant. This grant was used to inventory and prioritize areas along Joint Ditch 15 (JD 15) that would benefit from conservation practices which would reduce erosion and enhance the function and sustainability of the ditch system. The results of the JD 15 Inventory

were used to acquire \$139,700 in Clean Water Funds for project implementation throughout the JD 15 watershed.

In 2017, the Wright SWCD, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Wright County Ditch Authority teamed up to fund and construct seven water and sediment control basins, two grade stabilization structures, and one grassed waterway on one landowner's property in the headwaters of the JD 15 ditch system. It is estimated that in one year these projects will save 54.37 tons of sediment and 78.33 pounds of phosphorus from washing into the ditch, and ultimately the



downstream waters of Sucker Creek, Cokato Lake, and the Crow River.

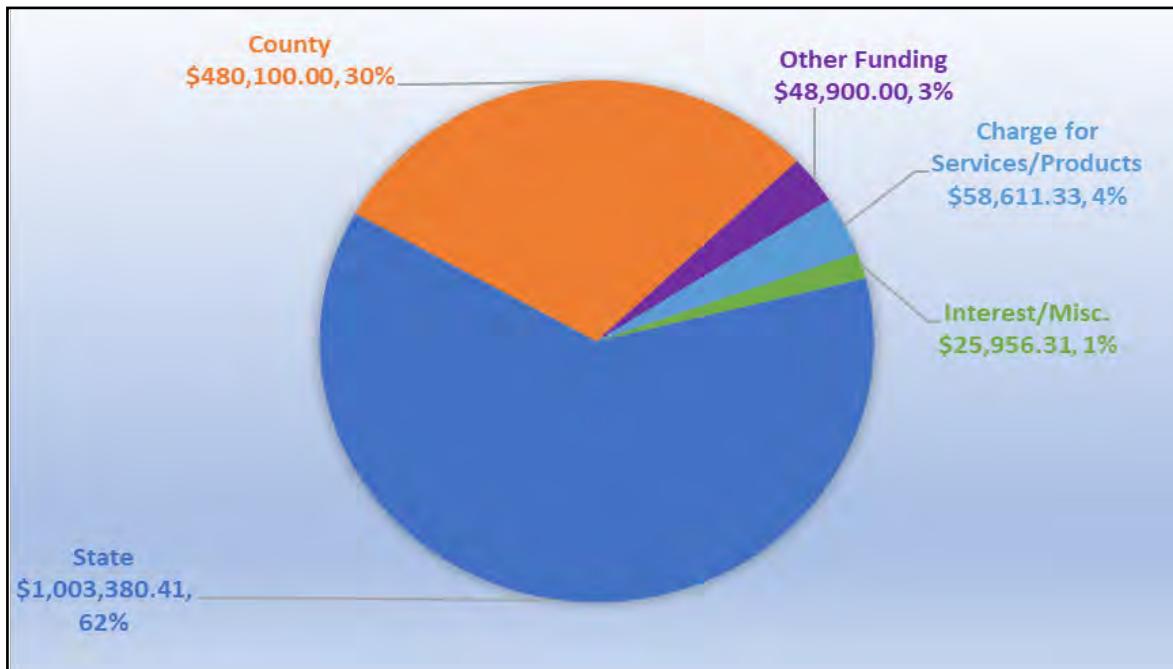
This investment into the public ditch systems has provided a unique opportunity for the Wright SWCD, County Board of Commissioners, Drainage Authority, agricultural producers, and water quality advocates to work together on the common goals of better agricultural production and water quality enhancement.



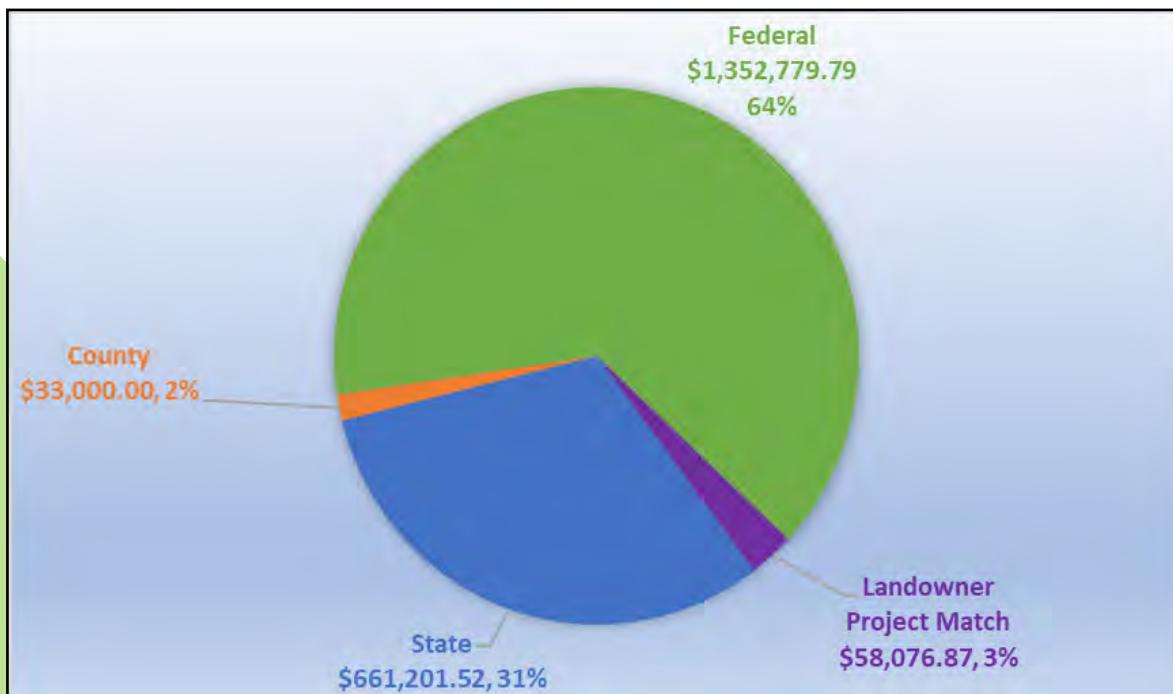
# 2017 Financial Summary

The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) does not have taxing authority, and relies on support from Wright County, which enables the SWCD to leverage and secure additional technical assistance funds and financial assistance funds for Wright County landowners.

## Wright SWCD Revenues



## Projects, Easements, AIS, and CRP Expenditures



# 2017 Outstanding Conservationist

3

Every year the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) honors an individual or conservation organization with the “Outstanding Conservationist” award. Selected by the SWCD Board, this award recognizes the recipient for their work and accomplishments implementing conservation practices. This year, **Laura Bihl** (Clearwater, Minnesota) was selected to represent the Wright District as their “Outstanding Conservationist”.

Over forty years ago, Laura Bihl and her husband, Marvin (deceased), established their farm, **Homeplace Beef Organic Farm**. Laura’s experiences as a public health nurse, with a degree in Public Health from the University of Minnesota, greatly influenced the Bihl’s farming approach. In this profession, she saw what the effects of antibiotics, pesticides, hormones and other chemicals have on the human body. Laura truly believes that by farming organically you not only improve the health of consumers but also the animals and the land.

Using a sustainable method of farming known as “holistic agricultural management”, Laura and her family keep the well-being of people, their cattle and the land in mind. Laura believes that “the key to a healthy grow is healthy soil” and feels strongly that pesticides and fertilizers basically do more harm than good. The only fertilizer Bihl uses is composted cattle manure. At any given time, this 240 acre farm raises approximately 45 Hereford cattle. The Herefords graze on organic, rotated pastures and always have access to free choice mineralized salt and Diatomaceous Earth which is a natural de-wormer. Calves are born in the spring on fresh green grass and nurse until they are 10 months old when they are weaned. Their beef is direct marketed where their customers know they are buying local, healthy and clean meat and are assured that the soil and water is being protected for future generations. Wooded areas, grasslands, fence lines and wetlands provide habitat for pollinators and wildlife. A bee keeper and his bees thoroughly enjoy being on the Bihl farm. Laura’s farming ethic made **Homeplace Beef Organic Farm** an excellent applicant for the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). As a participant of this program, Laura selected water quality activities to enhance her farming practices.

In early December, Laura received and was honored as an “Outstanding Conservationist” at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Convention. This award is given by “The Farmer” magazine. The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District congratulates and thanks Laura Bihl for her hard work in conservation which helps improve Wright County’s natural resources.



Left: Laura Bihl and her family  
Below: Hereford's on Bihl's farm



# Outreach and Education



*Left:* On May 25th the Wright SWCD, Wright County Pheasants Forever, and Wright County Deer Hunters Association hosted an outdoor classroom, teaching about pollinators. There were 170 students from Tatanka Elementary School in Buffalo that participated and helped to plant 1/2 acre of native grasses and flowers surrounding a stormwater pond on school grounds.



*Right:* Each spring and fall the Wright SWCD and Wright County Parks partner up to host a 5th grade Environmental Education Days at Ney Park. In 2017, over 1,300 students learned about macroinvertebrates, pheasant habitat, fisheries, bees, furs, skulls, mushrooms, water quality, aquatic invasive species, mosquitoes, and “farm to food”.



*Left:* The Wright SWCD/NRCS assisted with the Metro Area Envirothon that was held at the University of Minnesota Arboretum on April 19th where Junior and Senior High students compete in teams to test themselves on various natural resources topics, including: soils, trees, water quality, wildlife, and current event topics.

*Right:* The Wright SWCD coordinated one of the many tour stops for the 15th Annual Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Western Media Summit on August 28th.



# Outreach and Education

5



*Left:* The Wright SWCD hosted an informational meeting with residents on County Ditch 10, presenting the draft plan for the Multiple Purpose Drainage Management Plan on July 19th.



*Left:* The Wright SWCD and Wright Coalition of Lake Associations hosted an Annual Lakes Update on April 29th.



*Right:* On August 31st the Wright County Extension and Wright SWCD/NRCS held a Subsurface Drip Irrigation (SDI) field day for area farmers.

# Wright SWCD Cooperative Programs

## Minnesota Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect Minnesota's waters. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified, and in turn obtain State regulatory certainty for a period of ten years.

This program certifies farmers for managing the land within their operation in a way that protects water quality. Agricultural operations and landowners seeking certification undergo a three step process. Local conservation professionals assist farmers throughout the certification process.

**Step 1: Application** - a self-verification by producers that they are meeting existing Minnesota laws and regulations regarding water quality.

**Step 2: Assessment** - evaluation of each field within an operation using the assessment tool.

**Step 3: Verification** - on-farm field verification by a MAWQCP licensed certifier.



5

Certified Farms in Wright County

16

Signed Contracts to be Certified



## Wright Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)

In 2008, the Wright CWMA was formed in Wright County to address concerns of threats to native wetland and terrestrial systems posed by invasive plant species. Currently, the Wright SWCD, in cooperation with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT), Wright County's Commissioners, Townships, Wright County Highway and Parks Departments, along with private landowners, have come together to control the spread of Wild Parsnip, Tansy and other invasive species. However, much more participation from private landowners and railroad companies is needed to increase control effort success in the future.

### Summary of 2017 Actions

#### *Annual Meeting in April noted the following*

- County Ag Inspector sent letters to private landowners
- SWCD will apply for new CWMA Grant (BWSR)
- Priority Area to focus on for each group to manage
- Herbicide application record form
- Chemical reimbursement eligibility
- Update on new noxious weeds
- Four townships (Silver Creek, Rockford, Woodland, and Clearwater), Wright County Parks, and one landowner were reimbursed for chemical purchases for treating Wild Parsnip.

\$11,056.71

Reimbursement for chemical in 2017



*Flowering Wild Parsnip*

*(shown during summer months)*

# Wright SWCD Cooperative Programs

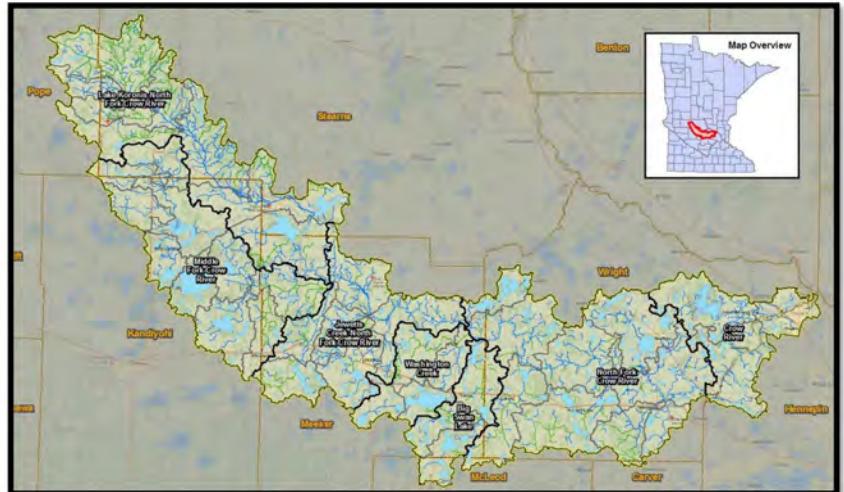
7

## One Watershed, One Plan, North Fork Crow River



In 2012, legislation was passed in Minnesota to help natural resource managers in the water planning process, improve the targeting efforts of priority areas and locate projects which will achieve water quality goals. In addition, it was felt this effort should create consistency in water planning and consolidate the over 200 Water Management Plans produced by a multitude of government entities to 81 plans based upon Minnesota's major watersheds. This is an effort to increase management efficiency as well as help focus targeting while implementing efforts to increase water quality.

In 2017 the North Fork Crow River 1W1P process continued with Wright SWCD staff working with 5 other counties, 5 other SWCDs, 2 watershed districts and a joint powers board to complete a computer model and budget estimations. The computer model estimated loads of sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen leaving the landscape. It also identified locations of best management practices to reduce the loads and improve water quality. The plan is nearing completion. A draft plan was released for public comment in January 2018 and is available for review at [wrightswcd.org](http://wrightswcd.org). Comments will be taken until March 31, 2018 and should be directed to: Diane Sander ([diane.sander@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:diane.sander@mn.nacdnet.net)) and Steve Christopher [steve.christopher@state.mn.us](mailto:steve.christopher@state.mn.us)). The completion of the plan opens the opportunity for over \$600,000 to be used throughout the watershed.



Above: Planning Regions Map

## Tree Program

The Wright SWCD distributed an informational packet which included a Program Letter, 2017 Order Form, 2017 New Species Description Sheet and Spacing Guide for windbreak plantings. All orders were filled on a first come, first served basis. In 2017 the Wright SWCD sold and distributed 37,410 trees, at our new location North of Wright County Parks Department.

2009	2010	2011	2012	Past Tree Sales	2013	2014	2015	2016
38,950	34,300	30,700	25,145		18,300	25,805	27,325	37,925

## Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)



Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) is a BWSR administered program that restores wetlands and grasslands through permanent conservation easements on privately owned lands. This program is funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. RIM keeps private lands in private ownership and on local tax rolls while contributing to the State's conservation and water quality goals. In 2017, the Wright SWCD participated in the implementation of 1 RIM conservation easement that enrolled 82.7 acres in this program. These marginal cropland acres will be restored permanently to wetlands, forests and grassland cover, providing ideal wildlife habitat and riparian buffers. Currently RIM funds are being paired with federal funds in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) sign-up, where applications can be submitted for wetland restorations and buffers.

# Wetland Conservation Act

The MN Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) is administered locally by Local Governmental Units (LGU's) such as the Wright SWCD and some cities within Wright County. The primary goal of WCA is to achieve no net loss in the quantity and quality of wetlands in Wright County and throughout Minnesota. Regulated activities under WCA include draining, filling, and in some cases excavation. Contact us if you have any questions about wetland regulation or the current LGU in your area. Wetland services provided by the district include, and are not limited to:

- Assist landowners in determining where wetlands may exist on their property and regulatory implications of proposed projects
- Review and issue decisions on wetland delineations
- Review and issue decisions on exemption/no-loss applications
- Review and issue decisions on wetland replacement plan applications
- Review and issue decisions on wetland bank applications
- Investigate and assist with the enforcement of WCA violations
- Review replacement wetland monitoring requirements
- Serve as a member of the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP)
- Speak at educational events
- Assist landowners interested in enrolling lands into various wetland conservation programs
- Provide technical assistance for completing wetland delineations and WCA applications for cities and townships
- Assist landowners with any questions they may have regarding wetlands in general



*The Wright SWCD will assist local road authorities in completing wetland delineations and applications for the repair of roads that do not meet current road safety standards. The steep road shoulder in the above image represents a legitimate safety concern for the traveling public. The BWSR Road Replacement Program allows local road authorities to make these repairs without bearing the high cost of wetland mitigation.*

## 2017 Accomplishments

- Responded to approximately 404 landowner contacts regarding wetlands
- Participated in 63 Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meetings
- Reviewed 12 wetland delineation reports
- Reviewed 4 exemption and 4 no-loss applications
- Reviewed 2 replacement plan applications proposing to permanently impact 7,737 square feet of wetland
- Investigated 37 potential WCA violations, resolved 4 informally, and 4 formal Restoration Orders were drafted
- Hosted and assisted with the 1 day delineation training course sponsored by the U of M's MN Wetland Delineator Certification Program
- Digitized all historic WCA records to create a digital file database

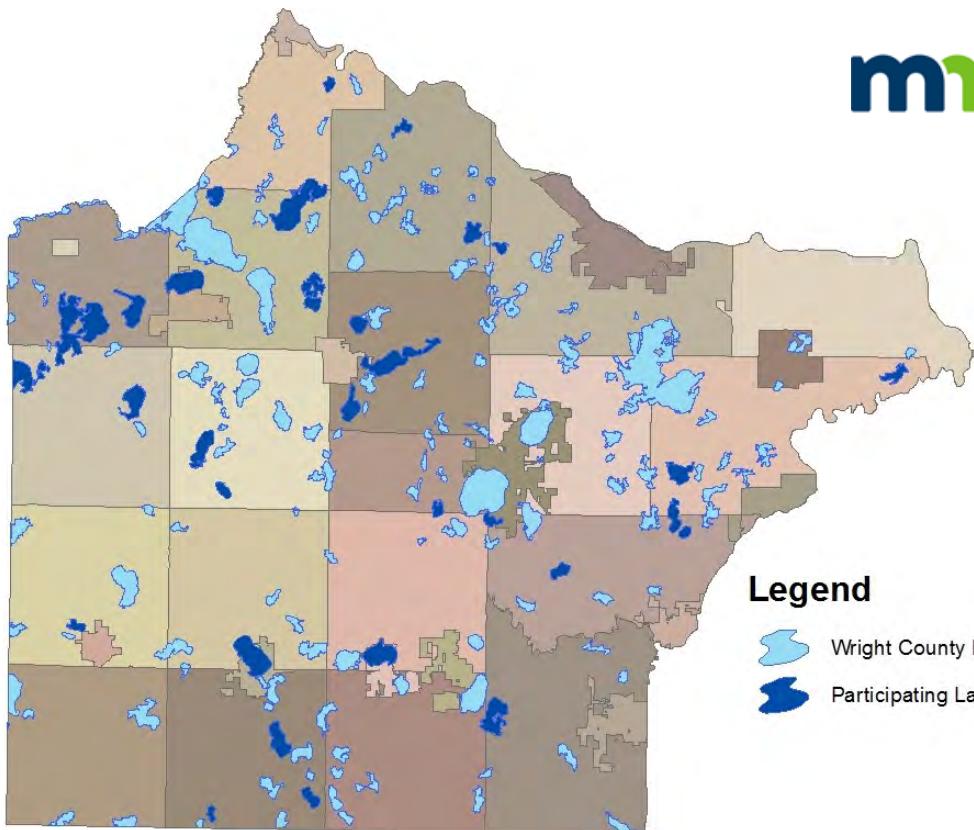


*The maintenance of drainage is crucial for agricultural producers to avoid the loss of crops and pastureland due to flooding. Drainage maintenance is oftentimes legal under the various state and federal wetland laws, however, some individuals improve drainage rather than maintain the drainage that was there historically. The Wright SWCD relies on complaints and the review of aerial photography to identify potential wetland violations and work towards resolving them. The above images illustrate a potential wetland violation where a 3 acre wetland has been converted to row crop agriculture.*

# Water Management

9

## Citizen Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program



Above: Lakes participating in citizen lake monitoring.

This program is important because it gets lakeshore owners more involved with their lake water quality. The samples taken each year could be considered the lake's annual "physical" and they help build a long-term trend to better illustrate if water quality is improving or declining.

More importantly, to be able to prevent and address problems in our lakes we need good information about the status of our water resource, potential and actual threats, and options for addressing the threats.



Volunteer  
Training

Volunteer  
sample  
collection

Lab  
Analysis

Data  
posted  
online

Data used  
by local  
organizations

Data used  
by County  
Water Plan

Data used  
by MPCA

### By the Numbers

1

the number of hours each sample takes to collect

2002

the year most lakes started monitoring

30

the number of lakes participating in 2017

5

the number of samples taken at each lake per year

\$250

Cost for a lake to participate in 2018

# Water Management

## Martha Iron Enhanced Sand Filter

A filter was installed near Martha Lake and Charlotte Lake in Wright County, Minnesota in the fall of 2012. It receives runoff from approximately 19 acres of farmland used for crops and livestock via a tile drain. The filter is located on land that is currently used to pasture cattle. As water passes through the filter, phosphorus is removed.

In 2017, eleven water samples were collected from February to November. Phosphorus removal varied widely throughout the season but a maximum of 94% reduction in total phosphorus concentration was observed. In addition, the filter removed an average of 20% of total nitrogen concentrations. In October, nine soil samples were taken. These samples show that the filter has captured a great deal of phosphorus. The filter's life expectancy is still unknown, but continued water and soil sampling will help Wright SWCD monitor its efficiency.



*Above: Photo of the Martha iron/sand filter.*

## Mink-Somers Limestone Filter



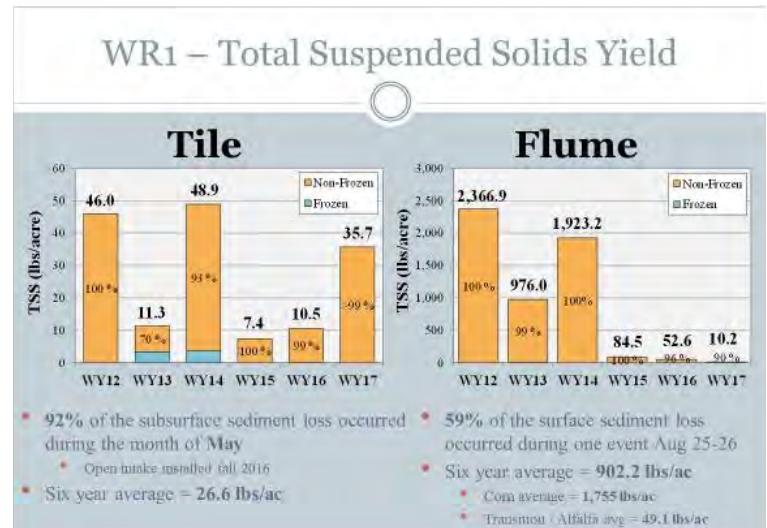
A new limestone filter was installed at an inlet to Mink Lake in September 2017. This filter is designed to remove phosphorus from water entering Mink Lake.

Early sampling results have shown as much as 99% reduction in dissolved phosphorus concentrations. Wright SWCD intends to place automated sampling equipment at the site to collect storm event samples in addition to regularly scheduled baseflow samples.

*Left: Photo of the Mink-Somers limestone filter.*

## Discovery Farms

Water samples are collected at the edge of the field on a farm in Howard Lake (surface and tile). The graph on the right notes the dramatic difference in soil loss after a crop rotation from corn to alfalfa in 2015. The perennial vegetation helps hold soil on the landscape.



# Water Management

11

## Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic Invasive Species are plants and animals that have come to Minnesota's lakes and rivers from other places. They can take over a waterbody and disrupt the ecosystem. In an effort to combat the spread of AIS, Wright County receives funds from the state and has delegated authority to Wright SWCD to help enforce the AIS statute.

At-the-ramp inspections check boats going in and out of Wright County waters. In 2017 Wright County inspectors covered 28 accesses, performed 17,147 inspections and 344 decontaminations.

The educational campaign helps remind waterbody users of the AIS statute requirements. Material was posted at 16 different gas stations throughout the county. Homeowners near public accesses also posted over 300 signs reminding lake users to clean, drain, and dry their water-related equipment.

### Aquatic Invasive Species By the Numbers

17,147

Boat inspections in  
Wright Co.

\$239,772

State funds to prevent the  
spread of AIS in Wright  
Co.

344

Free  
decontaminations

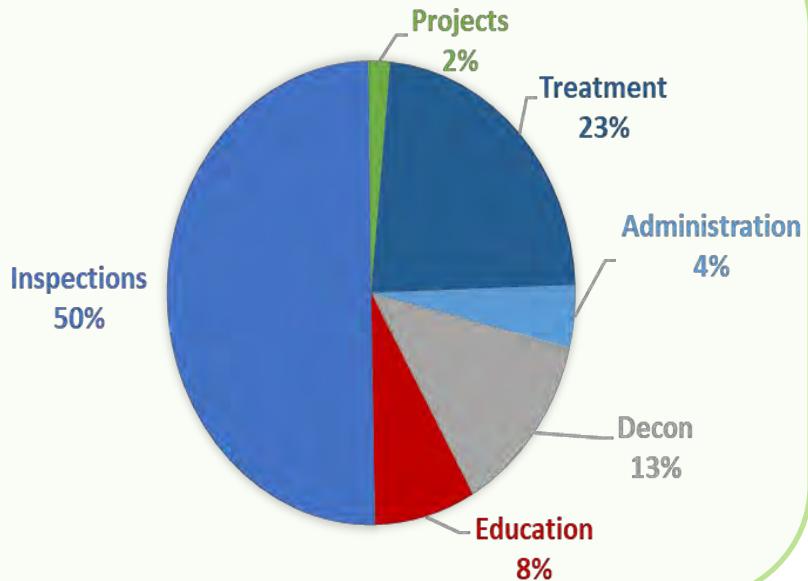
28

Public accesses  
that had inspectors

41

Wright County lakes  
with Eurasian  
watermilfoil

### Funds Spent in 2017: \$257,308.57



## Wright Regional Inspection Program

Wright SWCD in partnership with the County, MN DNR and several lake associations piloted a new AIS inspection program in 2017, a regional based inspection program. In lieu of inspectors at the boat accesses, the inspectors are located at a regional inspection station. In theory, this program would provide greater inspection coverage for Wright County Lakes.

The pilot program covered three lakes; Sylvia, John and Pleasant from October 11<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>. During this time 313 inspections and 8 decontaminations were performed. The three week pilot cost was \$19,000.

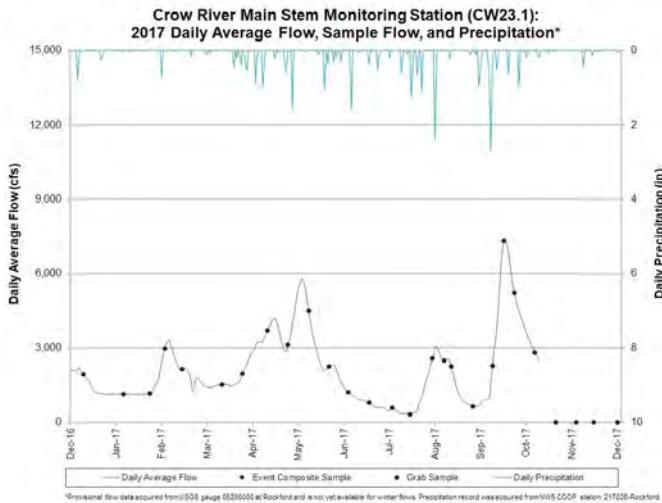
Wright SWCD is applying to continue the pilot in 2018.



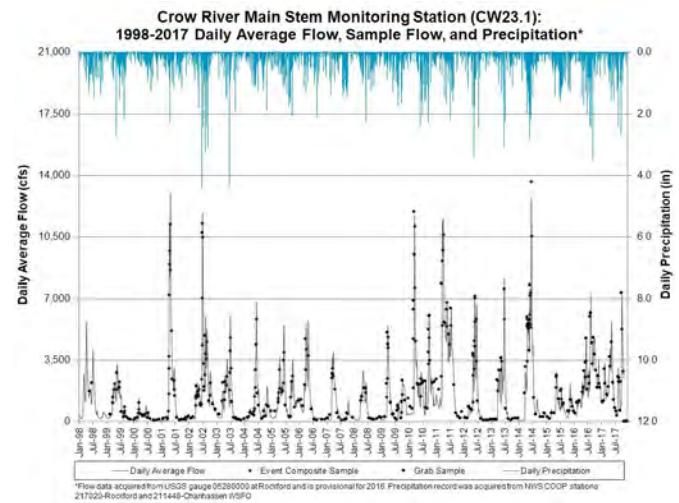
# Water Management

## Crow River Monitoring at Rockford

Met Council and the Wright SWCD partner on collecting water quality data. Every two weeks year-round the Wright SWCD takes a grab sample at the Hwy 55 bridge over the Crow River in Rockford. General observations on the river's current conditions such as flow level, vegetation or recent weather are recorded. The parameters that are sampled for are; chloride, total suspended solids, phosphorus, and bacteria. The samples are then sent to the Met Council's lab in St. Paul for analysis.

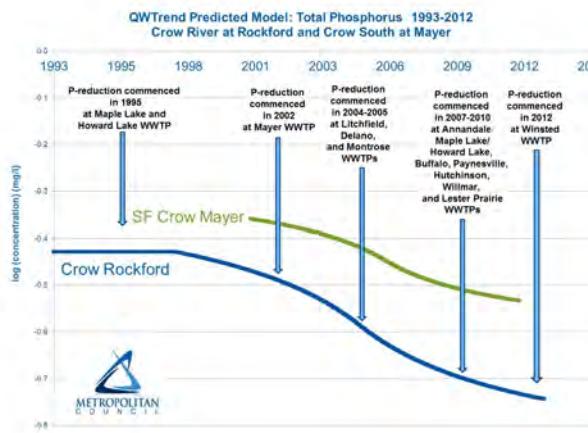


Above: 2017 daily average flow, sample flow, and precipitation.



Above: 1998 - 2017 daily average flow, sample flow, and precipitation.

Right: This shows the downward trend in Phosphorus due to wastewater plant upgrades in the North Fork and South Fork Watersheds.



## Groundwater Level Monitoring Program



Since 1944, the DNR has managed a statewide network of water level observation wells (obwells). Data from these wells are used to assess groundwater resources, determine long term trends, interpret impacts of pumping and climate, plan for water conservation, evaluate water conflicts, and otherwise manage the water resource. The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District, under contract with the DNR, measures 24 wells every 3 months, collects data from electronic loggers, and reports the data to the DNR.

Left: SWCD Staffer checking groundwater levels

# Food Plots

13

In 2017, the Wright SWCD partnered with Wright County Pheasants Forever (WCPF) and Dahlman Farm Inc. to provide corn, soybeans and grain seed mixes to establish 606.5 acres of food plots.

## Seed Donated in 2017 included:

- 247 bags of corn
- 169 bags of soybeans
- 8 bags of Winter Shield Mix
- 8 bags of Dove/Quail Mix
- 6 bags of Western Mix
- 5 bags of Quick Food Cover Mix
- 3 bags of Whitetail Gamebird



Above: 2017 Veteran Waterfowl Hunt

Local volunteers of the WCPF have completed 1,171 habitat projects and planted over 15,000 trees impacting 8,222 acres for wildlife. Since 1985, the WCPF has spent over \$6 million in the local community to benefit youth education and wildlife habitat conservation efforts including 11 land acquisitions which permanently protect 1,310 acres. WCPF also participated in the SWCD's 5th Grade Environmental Educational Field Days at Ney Park.



## Conservation Corps

Beginning in the summer of 2017, the Wright SWCD welcomed Jackie Seamans from Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa as the District's summer intern. The Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa allows young individuals to gain experience in the field prior to entering the job market. During her summer with the Wright SWCD/Crow River Organization of Water, Jackie worked with the conservation technician to assess buffer compliance throughout the County using GIS, and helped develop educational and promotional materials. Jackie worked with the Wright County Parks Department to conduct water sampling on five county beaches, to test bacteria. In addition, she got to sample several lakes and streams throughout the North Fork Crow River Watershed. She also got the chance to assist with wetland delineations and conduct site visits to investigate potential WCA violations. Wrapping up the summer, Jackie met and engaged with Wright County residents at the County Fair in late July.



# Completed Conservation Projects



# Completed Conservation Projects

15



*Ag Waste Storage Facility*



*Limestone Filter*



Total Project Funds

\$440,576.25

Number of Projects

- 25 - Water & Sediment Control Basins
- 2 - Grade Stabilization Structures
- 2 - Grassed Waterways
- 1 - Ag Waste Storage Facility
- 1 - Limestone Filter
- 1 - Sediment Basin
- 1 - Critical Area Planting
- 1 - Wetland Restoration Repair

Total Pollution Reductions

180.61

Sediment (T/yr.)

208.55

Soil Loss (T/yr.)

362.27

Phosphorus (lbs./yr.)

1.77 E+14

Fecal Coliform (Cfu/yr.)

20

Nitrogen (Lbs./yr.)

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a federal program administered by the NRCS and assisted by the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District. EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to assist crop, livestock and other agricultural producers with environmental and conservation improvements to their operations.

In 2017, EQIP funded Wright County agricultural producers **\$176,479** to implement conservation practices on the land, and **\$472,206** in EQIP funds were committed toward 8 new contracts for Wright County agricultural producers to implement conservation practices.



### Summary of Practices Implemented through EQIP in 2017

1	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan CAP
2	Grade Stabilization Structures
18	Water & Sediment Control Basins
1	Grassed Waterway
1	Waste Storage Facility Project
2	Seasonal High Tunnels for Crops
41 acres	Cover Crop
54.6 acres	Residue & Tillage Management—No Till
72.5 acres	Prescribed Grazing
2,700 feet	Pipeline for Prescribed Grazing Systems
10 acres	Forage & Biomass Planting for Grazing Systems
2 each	Livestock Watering Tanks
1.7 acres	Brush Management for Buckthorn Removal



## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program is a voluntary program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining and managing existing conservation activities.

### Common CSP enhancements

- Creating forest openings to improve hardwood stands
- Establish pollinator habitat
- Extend filter strips for water quality protection
- Harvest hay in such a way to allow wildlife to flush and escape
- Use drift reducing nozzles to reduce pesticide drift
- Use GPS and targeted spray application technology
- Use grazing management to improve wildlife habitat
- Use of cover crop mixes
- Use of deep rooted crops to breakup soil compaction



In 2017, **\$70,587** was provided to Wright County agricultural producers through the Conservation Stewardship Program.

# Earth Team Volunteers

17

Earth Team volunteers work side-by-side with conservation professionals and are an integral part of the conservation partnership. The Earth Team offers many new opportunities for people who are interested in volunteering to improve natural resources. Available to anyone 14 and older, the Earth Team provides a variety of opportunities: full or part-time; outdoor or indoor activities; and as an individual or part of a group. There is something for everyone.

For more information regarding the Earth Team program in Minnesota please visit the Minnesota NRCS website, or contact Katie Evans, State Volunteer Coordinator at [Katie.Evans@mn.usda.gov](mailto:Katie.Evans@mn.usda.gov), or by phone at (763) 682-1933 x 3.



Above: Jaime Pouliot, Earth Team Volunteer, assisting the field office with surveying an agricultural field with gully erosion in preparation for developing a design for an erosion control structure.



Left: Kelly Bistodeau, Earth Team Volunteer, assisting the field office with surveying a Wetland Restoration Easement.

Above: Kelly Bistodeau, Earth Team Volunteer, was recognized by Julie Reberg, NRCS District Conservationist, for her outstanding contributions to the field office. Kelly assisted the office in completing field surveys for soil erosion projects, inspecting CRP fields, and assisted with outreach.

The Wright County NRCS has had a strong partnership with the SWCD and Crow River Organization of Water (CROW) and supporting the Earth Team Program.

In 2017, there were 52 volunteers who donated 857 hours of service. The value of this service combined is estimated at \$20,687.

The top 4 activities where volunteers donated their time were:

- Conservation Planning and Technical Consultation
- Outreach and Communications
- Conservation Education
- Clerical Services

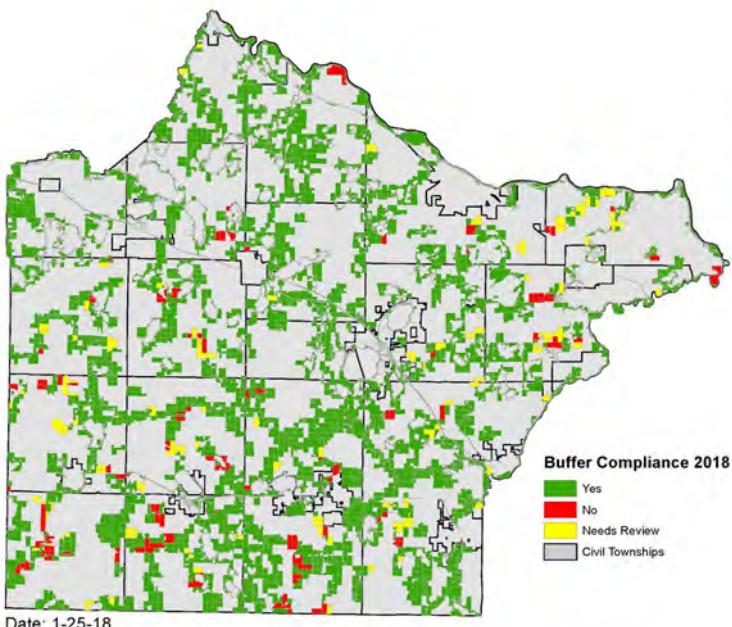
# Buffers



In November of 2017, 430 letters were sent out to landowners who had agricultural land within or near the deemed buffer areas. A response was requested in order to document contact information, and potential compliance. The SWCD talked with 250 landowners, updated BWSR's BuffCAT program with current compliance status and recorded waivers. In addition, site visits were conducted as landowners requested them.

*Left:* SWCD staff out answering questions

*Below:* Staking minimum buffer widths.



Total Parcels: 11,349  
 Parcels in Compliance: 11,129 (98%)  
 Non-Compliant Parcels: 220 (2%)

## What You need to know....

**Public Waters** - Compliance date was Nov. 1, 2017

Waiver A: Technical or Financial Assistance waiver

Waiver B: Parcel Specific Compliance Plan -  
 Compliance date July 1, 2018

**Public Ditches** - Compliance date is Nov. 1, 2018

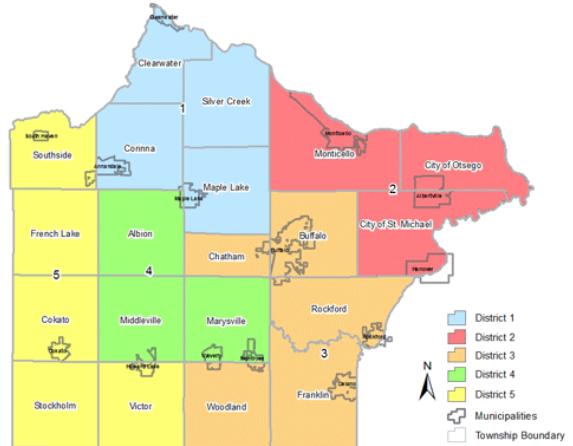
# Conservation Team

## Wright SWCD Board of Supervisors



(left to right) Duane Dahlman (District 5), Christopher Uecker (District 4), Jeff Burns (District 2), Mary Wetter (District 3), and Mike Zieska (District 1)

### Wright SWCD Supervisor's Districts



## Wright SWCD Staff

(left to right)

- Alicia O'Hare - Water Management Specialist
- Pam Kuhn - Administrative Assistant
- Kerry Saxton - Resource Conservationist
- Dan Nadeau - Resource Conservationist
- Luke Johnson - District Manager
- Eric Mattson - Conservation Technician
- Andrew Grean - Wetland Resource Conservationist
- Sandra Hessedal - Office Assistant
- Mark Yrjo - Engineering Technician (not pictured)

**CROW**

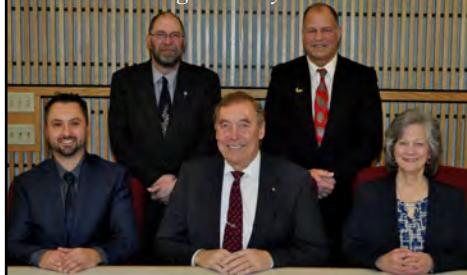
## 2017 Wright County Board of Commissioners

**NRCS**



(left to right) Diane Sander and Nicole Erickson

*Photo credit: Wright County*



(left to right) Darek Vetsch, Mark Daleiden, Charles Borrell, Michael Potter, and Christine Husom



(left to right) Katie Evans, Kelly Bistodeau, Julie Reberg, and Marita Prokop

# Cover Crop Program



Before

After

The Wright SWCD Board of Supervisors approved the Wright SWCD Cover Crop Program Policy in March 2017. The goal of the program was to increase the adoption of cover crops in Wright County via the use of the Board of Water and Soil Resources' State Cost Share Funds. Payment rates were based on the seeding method and seed mix with diverse cover crop mixtures interseeded into a standing crop being incentivized most. Ten (10) landowners initially signed up for the program with 196 acres enrolled. Over the course of the year, three (3) landowners dropped out of the program. Seven landowners implemented their cover crop plans with 128 acres enrolled. Total payments were \$7,000.

The Wright SWCD hopes to grow this program in 2018!

## Our Mission:

“The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District shall provide local leadership in the conservation and wise use of soil, water and related resources through a balanced program that protects, restores and improves those resources by utilizing education, regulation and incentive programs.”

## Follow Us

[www.wrightswcd.org](http://www.wrightswcd.org)



Wright Soil and Water  
Conservation District