

# SWCD Focus

## New Supervisor for District 2

Marcel Noyes was appointed as our District 2 Supervisor for Hubbard SWCD at the January 11, 2017 Board Meeting. He has lived in the Laporte community for the past 10+ years on Steamboat Lake in Hart Lake Township. He is retired after 30+ years in the high-tech industry where he developed and managed strategic partnerships. He comes to us eager to serve as a SWCD Supervisor. Welcome, Marcel, we look forward to great things coming from your district!

## Wetland Conservation

By Jamin Carlson

Thinking of purchasing property? Building or working on your land? (excavating, vegetation, driveway etc.) Want to know more about the rules with regards to **wetlands**? If you answered yes to any of these questions or just want to learn more please contact the SWCD for an office consult or a site visit to the property. First visit is free, a charge of \$50 per hour applies for additional visits. The Hubbard SWCD administers the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act.



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## Help monitor water quality on your favorite Minnesota lake or stream

By Julie Kingsley

Lowell Deede was on a mission to walk all of the roads in Becker County. While walking past the Buffalo River at a bridge crossing in April of 2015, the river looked beautiful. About a month later, he walked by the same bridge crossing and the river had turned to a muddy soup. This got him wondering – how did this happen? Lowell thought he might be able to figure out what was going on in the Buffalo River by monitoring it. After enrolling in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s (MPCA) Citizen Stream Monitoring Program, Lowell began using a “Secchi tube” to measure water clarity at stream locations across the watershed.



One thing that surprised Lowell was how large rainfalls significantly influenced his water clarity readings at some locations, but had less of an impact at other locations. To Lowell, his monitoring suggested that “... Watersheds can be overwhelmed by rain events, but it doesn’t necessarily mean that they decline in water clarity. Some landscapes cannot handle this kind of event, while others can. What causes these differences, and what can be done to moderate the impacts? Buffers come into place, grass waterways. This leads to more questions,

More than 1,300 Minnesotans currently participate in the MPCA’s Citizen Lake and Stream Monitoring Programs, but to reach all water bodies across Minnesota, more volunteers like Lowell are needed. As part of the program, volunteers are asked to perform a short and simple water clarity test at their favorite lake or stream, once per week throughout the summer. Equipment and training are provided by the MPCA and no prior experience is necessary. For some lakes and streams, volunteer-collected data is the only data available, making citizen involvement critical to ensuring the lasting health of Minnesota’s waters.



A Secchi tube (left) is used to measure water clarity in streams, and a Secchi disk is used in lakes (right)

Find out if your favorite lake or stream needs monitoring by visting: [https://cf.pca.state.mn.us/water/watershedweb/wdip/search\\_more.cfm](https://cf.pca.state.mn.us/water/watershedweb/wdip/search_more.cfm). To become a volunteer or learn more about the program, visit: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/citizen-water-monitoring>, or call 651-296-6300 (Twin Cities) or 800-657-3864 (Greater Minnesota).

### District Supervisors

Hubbard County SWCD Board meets the 2nd Wednesday, monthly, at 8:30 a.m. at our new location, 603 Central Avenue North

- Lynn Goodrich, Chair
- Don Sells, Vice-Chair
- Don Rettinger, Secretary
- Bob Iles, Treasurer
- Marcel Noyes, PR & Information

### District Staff

Julie Kingsley, District Manager (julie.kingsley@mn.nacdnet.net)

Annette Olson, Admin Assistant (annette.olson@mn.nacdnet.net)

Jamin Carlson, Water Quality/Resource Specialist (jamin.carlson@mn.nacdnet.net)

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

Assisted by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dan Pazdernik, D.C (daniel.pazdernik@mn.usda.gov)

Alicia Laturnus, Soil Technician (alicia.laturnus@mn.usda.gov)

# NRCS Information

## Conservation Client Gateway

By Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist

The Conservation Client Gateway is an NRCS website that provides secure access to conservation plans, practice implementation schedules, financial applications, contracts, and supporting documents and payment information.

Instead of driving to your field office multiple times, Conservation Client Gateway enables you to request assistance, sign documents and interact with NRCS field staff online at your convenience. NRCS staff will still be available in person to work with you in the office or field. This secure online tool just provides another option for client service.

Some benefits of using Conservation Client Gateway include reducing the amount of trips you need to take to your field office. You will be able to electronically sign payment forms and track payments through this tool. The tool is available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, enabling you to choose the time that works best for you. It is also accessible by mobile devices.

Using Conservation Client Gateway is not required. You may continue working with NRCS as you always have. Now, you simply have more options. You can drive to or call the field office for assistance, or log onto the Conservation Client Gateway.

Conservation Client Gateway is available to individual agricultural producers and authorized members of business entities, consistent with USDA's entity categories.

In order to get started, you can find step by step instructions by visiting [www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway). Additional assistance is available at 970-372-4200. If you would like more information on Conservation Client Gateway you can contact the NRCS field office at 218-732-9723 ext 3 or stop by the office.

## Time to start planning for EQIP 2018

By Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist

Every year the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces a program application submission deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Once applications are received, there is limited time to complete the planning process to be eligible for that year's funding. It is beneficial to have the planning initiated or completed prior to the program signup. It is never too early to start planning for the next program signup.

The EQIP program has been around for a long time. It has been a major contributor to voluntary conservation across the United States on agricultural land. The program can

*Time to start planning...continued*

provide financial assistance with something as simple as a fall seeded cover crop to as complex as a comprehensive nutrient management plan with an associated agricultural waste management system.

The program also covers landowners with non-industrial private forest land. There is opportunity for forestry practices such as tree plantings and forest stand improvement projects. EQIP also may provide financial assistance for forest stewardship plans with no minimum or maximum acreage.

Other conservation practices that may be of interest to you as a landowner or operator may include; filter strip, grassed waterway, high tunnel system, irrigation sprinkler conversion to low pressure, manure pit closure, pollinator planting, rotational grazing system, well sealing, and wind break establishment to name a few. For eligibility requirements and a complete list of practices that NRCS has available, please visit our website at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) or contact the field office in Park Rapids at 218-732-9723 ext 3 or stop by the office.

## Test your soil prior to planting

By Alicia Laternus

Spring is a great time of year to get your soil tested. This baseline information will confirm that your plant selection is wise or not. You'll also receive a fertilizer recommendation. A test will give you important information about your soil: soil texture, organic matter, soluble salts, pH, Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium. Other tests will report: Sulfur, Zinc, Iron, Copper, Manganese, Boron, Lead, Calcium and Magnesium.

You should take samples from the top 6 inches of soil at different locations in the field. Pull out any roots or plant material and mix the samples together. You'll need about a pound of soil to send to the soil lab.

You can find a list of certified soil testing laboratories on the MN Department of Agriculture website: <http://www2.mda.state.mn.us/webapp/lis/soillabs.jsp> You'll have to contact the lab of your choice to find out the cost of the tests.

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### Spring Scramble

Frogs	Easter
Lilacs	Rainbow
Outside	Sprouts
Water	Flowers

## StormWater/Erosion Problems

### Persist Throughout County

By Jamin Carlson

The last few summers have seen an increase in more dramatic rain events around Hubbard County. The SWCD office has received a number of inquiries on multiple road and shoreline erosion/run-off problems. Some of these roads were built more than 70 years ago and their designs (most of the time) did not incorporate storm-water drainage or even a ditch for that matter. Steep topography and no ditches turns these



roads into rushing river beds that flush sediments and pollutants (oil, grease, sodium chloride) into the nearby lake or waterbody. The shorelines of many lakes that have steeper slopes saw significant erosion and in some cases slumping of the substrate after these heavy rain events. These problems are only going to persist as the climate warms and the rain



events get even more intense. There are some positive things that property owners can do to prevent erosion from storm-water especially on their lakeshore properties. Planting native vegetation on their shoreline can create a nice, thick buffer that not only acts as a filter, but the deep roots of native plants and shrubs can act as a natural anchor for our sandy soils. The road issues will need more help in regard to redesign and installing best management practices to prevent storm-water from not only eroding the road, but preventing run-off from entering nearby waterbodies until it is treated. If you need technical expertise or have questions on storm-water or erosion problems contact the Hubbard SWCD office at (218) 732-0121.

## Don't forget to pick up your trees!

We will be distributing your tree orders on May 5-7 at the Hubbard County Fair Grounds again this year. If you haven't placed your tree order yet, please do so before the end of the month. Many of our tree species are running low and several are already out of stock! Our website has updated information on what species are still available to help you plan your order.

(visit our website at [www.hubbardscd.org](http://www.hubbardscd.org))

**Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-6 pm**  
**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 9-3 pm**  
**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm**

### Nitrate Testing

With many of us concerned about nitrates in our water, the Hubbard Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) will continue to hold Free Nitrate Testing Clinics the first Friday of every month between 9 am and 2 pm at our office located at 603 Central Avenue, N Suite 100, Park Rapids, MN. We will also continue our Free Nitrate Clinic at the Hubbard County Fair on July 14, 2017 – 9 am to 6 pm and July 15, 2017 from 9 am to 2:00 pm.

To take a sample, allow the water to run five minutes before filling a clean reusable container or zip-lock bag with ½ cup of water. Samples work better at room temperature, no need to refrigerate. Homeowners with distillers, reverse osmosis or other nitrate removal systems should take two water samples, one before the filtration system and one after to determine if the nitrate removal system is working properly.

We suggest testing at least two times a year, once in the spring and once in the fall due to fluctuating aquifer levels during the seasons.

The Department of Health drinking water standards state that 0-9.9 ppm nitrates is safe for all humans. A higher nitrate level can suggest some source of contamination is present. Sources of contamination may include: runoff from fertilized lawns or fields, leaky septic tanks, animal waste, and decaying plants. Old, poorly constructed or shallow wells can also foster nitrate contamination and should be investigated and corrected.

If your nitrate levels are 10 or higher, it is critical that infants six months and younger do NOT drink this water as this can lead to Blue Baby Syndrome in the child. The elderly or chronically ill are also advised not to drink this water. Nitrates in water are odorless, tasteless and not visible to the naked eye and cannot be eliminated from water by boiling. This, in fact, concentrates the nitrate level in a smaller amount of water.

For questions and for help with your problem please contact the Hubbard SWCD at 218-732-0121. There are solutions through reverse osmosis systems and can be paid for with Department of Agriculture Best Management Practices (BMPs) low interest loans which are no higher than 3% interest up to a ten year period.



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Park Rapids, MN  
Permit #21

**NEW ADDRESS!**  
603 Central Avenue N Suite 100  
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Phone: 218-732-0121  
Fax: 855-547-8729

*EEO- All programs of the Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.*

*EEO-The USDA prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political belief, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should contact USDA's TARGET center at 202-720-2600.*

**Mission Statement**

The purpose of the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District is to help preserve surface and ground water quality, to encourage wise land use decisions throughout the district, and to foster a secure and prosperous community with agriculture, tourism, and industry working together in harmony for the general welfare of the people of the district.

**Free Nitrate Clinic held the first Friday of every month at the SWCD office located at 603 Central Ave N, Park Rapids, MN.**

**Kids Corner  
Spring Scramble**

- 1. gorsf            \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. llicas           \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. eotsudi        \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. rteaw           \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. seatre         \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. wnaibro        \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. rpsotus        \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered them correct your first letter of each word will create this word:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteers needed!**

**Hubbard SWCD is looking for volunteers to do rain monitoring in Hubbard County.** The following townships at this time do not have coverage for rain monitoring: Akeley, Argo, Badoura, Clover, Crow Wing, Fern, Guthrie, Hart Lake, Helga, Lake Alice, Lake Hattie, Mantrap, Nevis, Schoolcraft, Thorpe, and White Oak. Rain Gauge and materials are supplied, all we need from you are a few minutes each day to record information and turn it in to our office at the end of each month. If interested please call the office for more information and ask for Annette! (218) 732-0121 x101

**The Hubbard SWCD Freshwater Festival is in need of volunteers at Camp Wilderness Boy Scout Camp on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.** Anyone interested in helping bag 300 trees for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade participants on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm, or help May 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm at the festival with directing students to activities, help teachers and presenters and/or help clean up after the event should call the office at (218) 732-0121. Thank you in advance for your interest in helping our children learn about our water!