

SWCD Focus



New Water Quality Resource Specialist



Hubbard County SWCD would like to welcome William Lee as our new Water Quality Resource Specialist (WQRS). He comes to the district from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency where he worked in a Compliance and Enforcement Unit, inspecting petroleum storage tanks. He also has had summer internships in college with a local watershed district in central MN and the MN DNR fisheries division in Hutchinson, MN. Will has two degrees, one from Vermilion Community College in Ely for Watershed Science, and a Degree from the University of Minnesota Crookston Campus, in Natural Resources Management (Water Resources emphasis). Will grew up in southeast Minnesota and after attending college in two northern

Minnesota communities, he could not pass up the opportunity to move back north when he was offered the WQRS position. During his free time Will enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping, and hiking with his dog.

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Deerview Road Drainage Improvement Project

By William Lee

Hubbard County SWCD completed a large stormwater and erosion control project in Henrietta Township in July 2018. This was one of the largest projects undertaken by Hubbard SWCD. The SWCD acted as the fiscal agent for the project and provided one half of the funding through an Eco Footprint grant, while Henrietta Township contributed the remaining funds. This project was initiated when a landowner along Deerview Road was affected by untreated stormwater from large rain events running directly across his property and into Long Lake, which was contributing sediment and phosphorus directly into the lake. The issue was brought to Henrietta Township and the SWCD, wondering if anything could be done. Erosion, sediment and phosphorus runoff had been a problem in this area for Henrietta Township for years.

This project involved the use of multiple stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's). Deerview Road was widened, re-graded and a ditch was installed on the west side of the road. Rock check dams were installed in the ditch on the north end to assist in metering water through the system at a slower rate which allows more infiltration of the water than what was happening naturally. On the south end of this project rain gardens and earth check dams were installed in the ditch to provide a similar function with a more gradual slope. Both ends of this project flow downhill to an infiltration area and drains into three underground stormwater collection chambers that are designed to hold and allow stormwater to infiltrate into the ground. This will also help reduce the amount of phosphorus and sediment being transported into Long Lake. The new road surface is a Class 1 recycled bituminous material. Right now, the vegetation is starting to take root and grow (cont. on page 2)



District Supervisors

Hubbard County SWCD Board meets the 2nd Wednesday, monthly, at 8:30 a.m. located at, 603 Central Avenue North Park Rapids, MN 56470

- 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)

William Lee, Water Quality Resource Specialist (WilliamT.Lee@mn.nacdnet.net)

www.hubbardswcd.org

Assisted by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dan Pazdernik, District Conservationist (daniel.pazdernik@mn.usda.gov)

Alicia Laturus, Soil Technician (alicia.laturus@mn.usda.gov)

NEWS FROM NRCS

Conservation Activity Plans

By Dan Pazdernik

You may be wondering, what is a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) and why would I be interested? The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) encourages private individuals and businesses with conservation expertise to provide technical assistance on behalf of NRCS. These private individuals and businesses demonstrate their technical expertise to NRCS and are registered as approved NRCS Technical Service Providers (TSPs). TSPs can work with producers to develop Conservation Activity Plans or CAPs that identify conservation practices needed to address a specific natural resource need. The CAPs can be specific to certain kinds of land use such as; Cropland, Cropland transitioning to organic, Farmsteads, and Forestland.

A CAP can also address a resource need, such as excess nutrients in surface or ground water or forestry related concerns. A CAP provides site-specific information on how to address the resource concern. After a CAP is developed, participants can choose to apply for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) financial assistance to implement the practices specified in the CAP. The most common CAP in Hubbard County is for developing Forest Management Plans. Specifically, a Forest Management Plan corresponds to a CAP106.

A CAP is required to include all the fields in the operation that have similar management and resource concerns (all forest land that the participant has control of for instance). NRCS will identify whether more than one CAP is justified for the operation when developing the EQIP conservation plan.

EQIP also provides financial assistance in developing CAPs. Interested producers must submit an EQIP application and complete all the eligibility requirements. They must identify a Technical Service Provider (TSP) who is certified to develop the CAP. If a TSP is available, then the producer may proceed with requesting an EQIP contract which provides financial assistance to pay the TSP for the development of the conservation activity plan. It is important for producers to make sure that a TSP does not start work until the EQIP contract is approved. Interested producers may visit the local NRCS office or view the web at www.nrcs.usda.gov for more information.

Fun Fact: EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT soil health at the NRCS website.



(Deerview Road Project cont. from Page 1) through the erosion control blankets throughout the ditch.

While this was a large project, it went very well thanks to the combined efforts of the landowners along Deerview Road, Russ Johnsrud and Henrietta Township staff, Burski Excavating and their sub-contractors, the Area 8 Joint Powers Board engineer and technicians, Jamin Carlson a former staff member of the SWCD, and the Enbridge Eco Footprint Grant.

NRCS Provides Conservation Planning to Landowners

By Alicia Latunus

Conservation Planning is one of the best methods around to help you (the landowner) assess, inventory and analyze your natural resources. The conservation plan documents what's on your land. It's your plan. It includes helpful information on the practices included, how they benefit your property, how to maintain them and how they help soil, water and wildlife.

A conservation plan includes: landowner-determined goals, aerial photography, soils map and soils descriptions, resource inventory data (such as forage or crop production potential), list of landowner's decisions, location and schedule for applying conservation practices and systems and maintenance information for installed conservation measures.

A first-time client may only be interested in a single practice to meet one of their resource concerns. By introducing the planning process, the client is presented a range of alternatives to address multiple resource concerns and ideally, to develop and implement a resource management system (RMS). Planners and clients work closely together based on where the client is in relation to their knowledge level and where they are in the planning process. It is important to continue assisting the client to address resource concerns by increasing the level of planning and implementation over time and ultimately achieving planned goals.

We will walk the landscape and inventory your property with you; identify potential natural resource concerns; discuss your objectives and economic goals for your property; recommend conservation practice options and respect you as the decision-maker for your property. Some of your plan benefits are: reducing soil erosion and improving soil health, improving water quality on your property and in your watershed, improving wildlife habitat, helping you comply with environmental regulations and USDA compliance requirements and having a conservation plan in place gives your program application (for funding) a higher priority.

You can call or stop by the office to talk with one of our NRCS Staff Members (Dan or Alicia).

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Services Offered Through the Hubbard SWCD

By William Lee

Hubbard SWCD offers many services including Zebra Mussel Veliger Sampling, TrafX Counting System unit rental and report creation, Vegetation Mapping using the point intercept method, Water Chemistry Sampling, and Water Chemistry Monitoring. The newest service is Water Chemistry Parameters done with our HydorLab.

Temperature – Developing a dataset of temperature at set depths throughout the water column identifies the thermocline, or a thin layer in a water body, where the temperature changes faster with depth compared to the rest of the water column. Temperature and oxygen readings can also help identify the range where fish species can survive, and where the preferred depth range is during certain times of the year. These readings are important for indicator species such as the Cisco/Tullibee forage fish.

Dissolved Oxygen – Shows the oxygen levels at set depths throughout the water column and helps identify the range where fish can survive and where their preferred depth range is during certain times of the year. (see chart)

Dissolved Oxygen Percent Saturation – This is the percent saturation of Dissolved Oxygen in the water, 100% saturation means that the water is holding as many dissolved oxygen molecules as it can at equilibrium. Surface water can often be supersaturated at levels above 100% due to photosynthesis and aeration caused by wind/wave action.

pH – Is a measure of how acidic or alkaline a water body is.

Specific Conductivity – Measures the ability of water to conduct an electric current. This depends on ion concentrations in the water. Higher values of conductivity generally mean higher concentrations of dissolved salts in the water.

Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP) – This is a measurement of a lake's ability to break down waste products, pollutants, and dead plant/animal life.

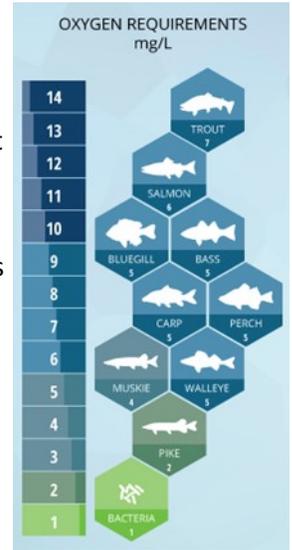
Salinity – A measurement of salt concentrations in a water body.

Resistivity – The ability of water to resist an electrical current, this is the opposite of conductivity.

Total Dissolved Solids – Is the measurement of organic and inorganic materials dissolved in a water body.

Call our office at 218-732-0121 x4, for prices if you are interested in knowing your lake chemistry!

<https://www.fondriest.com/environmentalmeasurements/parameters/water-quality/dissolved-oxygen/>



2019 Tree Orders start in October

Hubbard SWCD is ready to start taking orders for our 2019 trees sale, with distribution planned for May 3 - 5, 2019 at the Hubbard County Fair grounds, in Park Rapids, MN. We added River Birch and a Wetland Pack (3-Speckled Alder, 3-Sand Bar Willow and 4-Redosier Dogwood) to our list this year, and will again offer native seeds packets (pictures to the right) and the popular plant plug kits. Place your order early so you can be assured to get the species that will work best for you!

Fun Fact: Life is remarkably ABUNDANT in healthy soils. There are more microbes in one teaspoon of healthy soil than people on earth!



Minnesota Native Landscapes has announced that they received enough milkweed pods during the 2017 collection that they will not be offering money for collected pods this fall. Please allow your milkweed to spread on your property. If you are still interested in donating extra pods, please visit their website to find a partner hub nearest to you. www.MnNativeLandscapes.com/milkweed.





Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
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

2019 Tree Form Enclosed

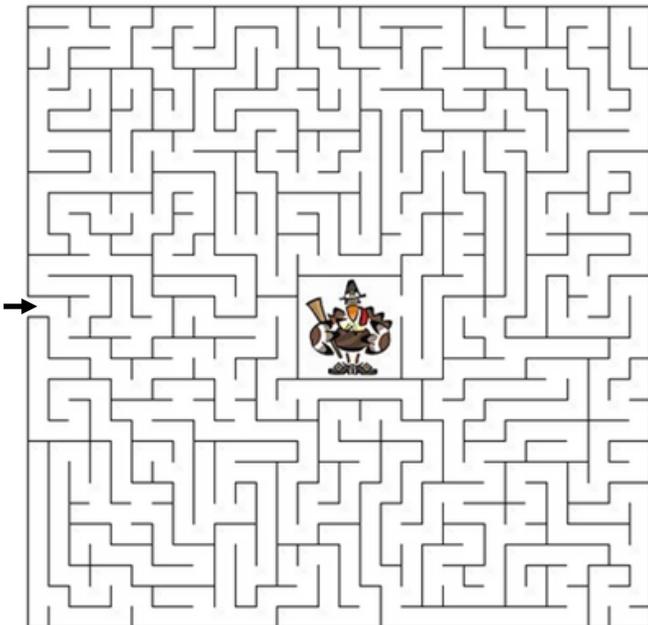
EEO— All programs of the Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

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 provide leadership, education, technical advice, financial assistance to landowners, cooperating agencies for various programs and projects with the goal being the whole community working together in harmony to pursue the sustainable management, wise-use, and protection of the District's soil, water, forests, wildlife, and recreational resources.

Kids' Corner



Find your way to the Thanksgiving Turkey

Fun Fact: PROTOZOA release nitrogen used by plants and members of the food web, contributing to healthy, productive soil. Take a few moments to look it up and learn all you can!

FREE Nitrate Clinics held the first Friday of every month from 9 am-2 pm at the SWCD office located at 603 Central Ave N, Park Rapids, MN. Please call 218-732-0121 if you have any questions.

Volunteers needed!

Do you have a few minutes to spare each day? Hubbard County SWCD would like to have someone monitoring our precipitation for each of our townships. The following townships still need a rain monitor: Arago, Clover, Fern, Hart Lake, Helga, Lake Alice, Mantrap, Nevis, Thorpe, and White Oak. It only takes a moment to check the gauge and record your findings on the monthly sheet we provide and turn in or mail in to our office. If you think you might be interested in helping us collect this data, please call our office at **(218) 732-0121 ext 4** and ask for Annette! A rain gauge and all other materials needed are supplied.