

# SWCD Focus

## Fencing Project on the Kabekona River Exclusion

By: William Lee, Hubbard SWCD

Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and its partners finished a project on November 1, 2018 that included installing exclusion fencing along the west side of the Kabekona River, near the City of Laporte. Funding came from a grant supplied through the State of Minnesota associated with the Buffer Law. Volunteer workers installed just over 1,000 feet of fencing, including gates and braces. These exclusion fences will assist in the reestablishment of perennial vegetation in these previously high-traffic watering areas. This project will also exclude cattle from watering from three different areas along the Kabekona River, assisting in reducing the amount of sediment deposited into the river by eliminating soil disturbance on the banks or bed of the river. The last area is a crossing area that will still allow the landowner to move cattle between pastures on each

side of the river to allow for pasture management but will limit the frequency and duration of each crossing. This project took about two-and-a-half days to fully install and would not have been possible without the combined efforts of the volunteers from our partnering organizations involved with this project. The partnering organizations for this project were the Laporte Lions Club, Kabekona Lake Association & Foundation and Trout Unlimited Headwaters Chapter. The landowner's assistance and cooperation with this project was critical in the identification of an issue and implementation of this project. It was not only a success in the exclusion fences being installed, but also the partnerships that were forged as part of this project. It was encouraging to see the landowner and these organizations help each other and come together to benefit our shared natural resources.



Trillium

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### District Supervisors

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

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

### District Staff

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

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William Lee, Water Quality/Resource Specialist (WilliamT.Lee@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 Laturmus, Soil Technician (alicia.laturmus@mn.usda.gov)

**Don't forget! Your tree orders will be available for pick-up May 3rd, 4th & 5th on the south end of the fair grounds in Park Rapids!**

## Minnesota's Walk-In Access Program

By: Julie Kingsley, Hubbard SWCD

Have you heard of the Minnesota Walk-In Access (WIA) Program? Many have not, or it is a best kept secret. The Minnesota Walk-In Access program is managed by the Department of Natural Resources and provides public hunting on private land and then compensates those landowners for providing that access. Through WIA nearly 30,000 acres of private land are open for public hunting from September 1 through May 31. Many of the acres enrolled are grassland and wetlands with some river bottom and forested parcels. Hubbard County does not have any WIA access sites currently and is looking for people to enroll their property. To sign up, contact the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at 218-732-0121 ext. 4. For people to legally hunt on designated Walk-In

Access (WIA) they need to purchase a (WIA) Validation that costs \$3.00 and is available at any electronic license system (ELS) licensed agent.

Visit the WIA website at Minnesota Walk-In Access for printable maps, aerial photos of each site, and interactive maps. Smartphone users may access DNR Recreational Compass to also locate sites. Printed copies of the WIA Atlas are available at DNR Wildlife offices, SWCD offices and local commerce and tourism outlets. You may also call the DNR at 888-646-6367, or for other resources go to <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/walkin/index.html> to find out about the program, what is and isn't allowed on the WIA land, how to enroll your land and program funding.

## Establishing Pollinator Habitat

By: Alicia Laternus

For some time now, the importance of pollinator species has been emphasized in the conservation community. In simplest terms, a pollinator is an animal that moves pollen from one flower to another aiding in the fertilization process. A lot of foods we eat everyday would not exist without this process.

Luckily, many different folks can help provide food and habitat for these pollinator species. A gardener, farmer, lake shore owner, forest land owner and pasture grazer are such examples. Any one of these groups could plant a little piece of pollinator bliss. All they need is some seed, soil (on the landscape or in a pot) and water.

Ideally you would want a diverse mix of forbs, legumes and grasses. The diversity would make flowers available throughout the growing season. The flowers provide nectar to the many pollinator species: bees, wasps, butterflies, hummingbirds, bats, moths, beetles and flies. These areas also provide nesting and egg laying habitat: in the soil, host plants, woody debris, duff and twig bundles.

Site preparation is needed prior to planting the seed mix. Work up the area to get rid of any grass or roots. You can use a cultivator, disc, tiller, etc. Most of the seed is small and would get buried too deep if the soil is too fluffy. The soil should be packed or rolled to create a firm seed bed. Then the seed can be planted by a drill planter or broadcast seeder. A broadcast seeder requires 1.5 times the rate of a drill in order to get good seed to soil contact. Add water and wait for it to grow.

Don't be surprised when you see weeds after planting the seeds. They are opportunistic and grow quickly in disturbed soil. Weeds are like a scab on a wound. You can mow the weeds before they go to seed. That way the plants that you want to grow will be shorter at the time of mowing. They should crowd out the weeds as they grow taller and drop their own seeds.

If you're interested in planting bigger plots you can call our office or go to the following website for more information: [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/ndpmetn10293.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/ndpmetn10293.pdf)

## Forest Management Plans

By: Dan Pazdernik

Planning is essential for the future health of a forest. Management decisions made now will affect a forest for decades. That is why it is important to be well informed and have a plan in place.

What is a forest management plan (FMP)? A FMP can be looked upon as a "road map" for your forest. It will outline the goals you have for your forest, inventory the current conditions, and provide a plan of action to reach your goals on your property. It will take into consideration forest management and health, wild-life habitat, water quality, wetlands, soil quality, cultural resources, recreational opportunities and aesthetics. The FMP may provide recommended practices and identify cost share and other program opportunities.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has funding available to assist landowners in getting FMPs through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). NRCS refers to this FMP as a CAP106. There is an application process that entails application deadlines, eligibility, and ranking deadlines. If applications are received by the announced application deadline, those applications will be considered for the current year funds. If funded, the participants sign a contract and then the development of the FMP can begin. NRCS requires a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) to develop the CAP106. A list of TSPs can be found on the NRCS website as well as more information on the EQIP program at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mn/home/>.

The NRCS established an application deadline of January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 but will have a second application deadline of April 19<sup>th</sup>. If interested, please visit or call our office in Park Rapids at 218-732-9723 ext. 3 to learn more about what NRCS offers for private working lands.

### *Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Free Nitrate Clinic held the first Friday of every month at the SWCD office located at 603 Central Ave N  
Park Rapids, MN. Please call 218-732-0121 if you have any questions.

## Hubbard County Geologic Atlas, Part A Complete & Available

By: Julie Kingsley, Hubbard SWCD

The county Geologic Atlas provide information that is essential to sustainable management of ground water resources such as monitoring, water allocation, permitting, remediation and well construction. Aquifer properties and boundaries are defined as well as the connection of aquifers to the land surface and surface water resources. The Atlas also provides a broad range of information on county geology, mineral resources and natural history and consists of parts A and B.

Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) partnered with the Minnesota Geological Survey to compile county wide well data and ground truth well locations for this project. Part A of the Hubbard Geologic Atlas has been completed which includes a set of six geologic maps showing properties and distribution of sediments and rocks in the sub-surface.

Packets are available at the Hubbard SWCD office at 603 Central Ave. N, Park Rapids, MN. There are also two copies available for viewing at the Park Rapids Library. Part B of the County Geologic Atlas is now being constructed by the Department of Natural Resources and will include maps of hydrogeology and sensitivity of groundwater to pollution and should be completed in 2021. These maps will include water levels in aquifers, direction of groundwater flow, water chemistry and sensitivity to pollution.

This information can also be accessed at the Minnesota Geological Survey website: [https://www.mnngs.umn.edu/county\\_atlas/countyatlas.htm](https://www.mnngs.umn.edu/county_atlas/countyatlas.htm). Scroll down the homepage and you can find a CGA County Story Map header, click on it and go to the Hubbard County CGA tab and you can access the maps there.

# 8th Annual Hubbard County Grazing Workshop

By: Alicia Laturus

Attendance was down this year as the extreme cold weather prevented two speakers, multiple sponsors and many producers from attending the workshop. Next year we hope to have a backup date in case this situation happens again. The remaining speakers did a great job and had a captivated audience.

The Farm Service Agency was represented by Karl Sabrowsky and Jay Backowki. They gave the producers information about Disaster and Farm Loan programs.

Eric Mousel is the Cow-Calf Management Educator from the University of Minnesota – Extension. He talked about Woodland Grazing, which Hubbard County has a lot of. Some of the producers liked how he uses bale grazing during the winter months. During that time the cattle can trample undesirable species to make room for more grass species.

Randy Lindemann, DVM with the MN Board of Animal Health, talked about what happens during a disease outbreak.

One of the best deterrents an animal operation can establish is controlling who accesses their animal operation. You can find more information on emergency planning at the following website: [www.securebeef.org](http://www.securebeef.org)

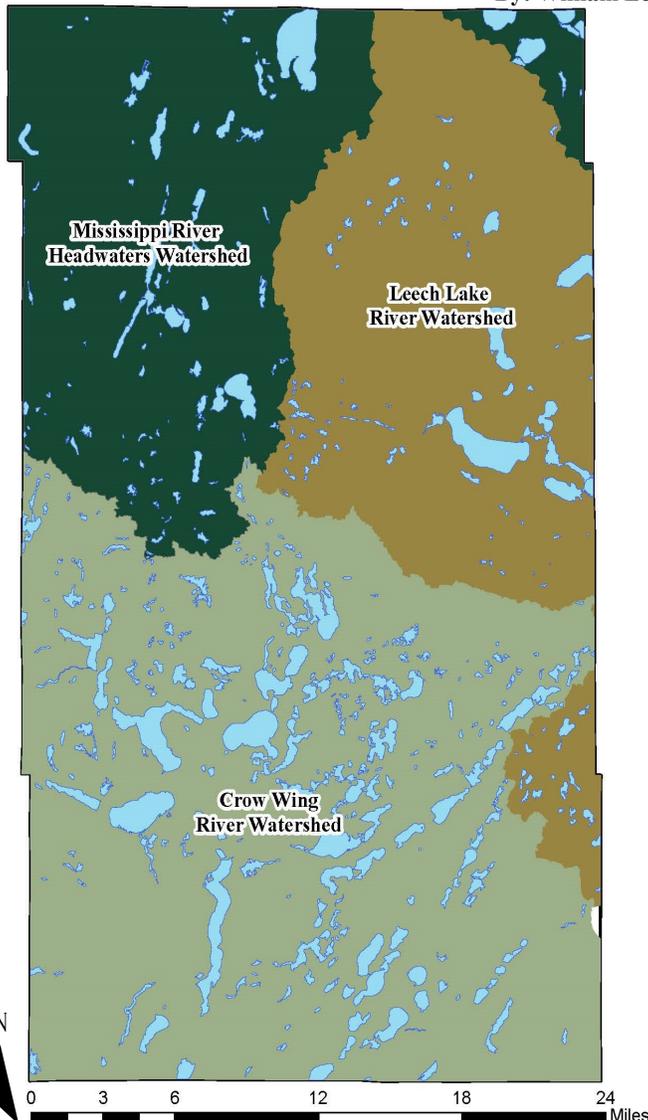
Our final speaker was Neal Gaalswyk who has a custom grazing operation in Cass County. He and his brother, Don, practice management intensive grazing on 350 acres of pasture, providing grass for approximately 275 head of cattle. Their operation, Grand View Leasing, provides feed, water, secure fencing and day to day management of the herd for their client on a fee basis. Their goal is to maximize the productive capacity of their land in a sustainable manner while improving soil health, and provide an economic benefit to the landowner, client and themselves.

Please inquire at the office if you would like a copy of the information presented at the workshop.

We hope to see you at our event next year!

## Mississippi Headwaters One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

By: William Lee, Hubbard SWCD



The planning effort for the Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed One Watershed One Plan is underway and includes the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Hubbard, and Clearwater by and through their respective County Board of Commissioners, and the Beltrami, Itasca, Cass, Hubbard, and Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation Districts, by and through their respective Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. This partnership is undertaking the development of a watershed-based plan in the Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed. This is a locally driven process that relies on elected local government officials to hear input from local government staff and local stakeholder groups to prioritize, target and measure issues in these plans. These local groups, staff members and stake holder groups also work with staff from state agencies to assist in bringing together these local plans with statewide strategies. The plan is designed to allow, and foster, collaboration between upstream and downstream neighbors to work on the prioritized, targeted and measurable goals in the watershed that is not limited by jurisdictional boundaries. These address many issues in the watershed such as water quality, water quantity, groundwater, drinking water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation and others. We are planning on local staff taking a very active role and writing parts of this plan to not only utilize their area of expertise but also to help in making this plan usable and readable to the public. This plan could be locally adopted as soon as October 2020 or in early 2021, depending how long the planning process takes. Please contact Hubbard SWCD for more information on this planning process and watch for announcements on our website and our Facebook page. The public will have their chance to comment on the plan as well.



**HUBBARD COUNTY  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

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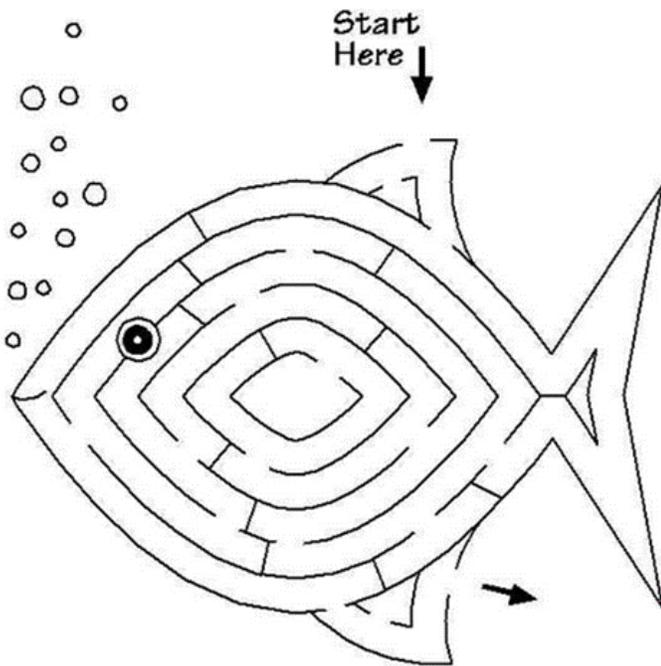
*EEO— All programs of the Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.*

*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**



*Spring is a great time of the year to take your child/children fishing!*

**Looking for Volunteers for our Annual Freshwater Festival**

Our 2019 Annual Freshwater Festival Event is scheduled for May 15th and will be here before you know it! We are looking for volunteers to help us pack trees on Tuesday, May 14th from 1-4 pm and help with our event on Wednesday, May 15 from 8am-3pm. Both days will be at the Camp Wilderness Boy Scout Camp near Emmaville, MN. Please call our office if you are interested.

Thank you! 218-732-0121 ext. 4

**Rain Monitors Needed!**

**Do you have a few minutes to spare each day?** Hubbard County SWCD would like to have someone monitoring our precipitation in each of our townships. We are looking for monitors in the following townships: Arago, Badoura, Clover, Fern, Helga, Hendrickson, Lake Alice, Thorpe, Rockwood 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.



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