

## **Goodhue Co. SWCD Annual Report 2010**

The SWCD promotes the establishment of vegetative buffers along all streams and rivers to filter out and trap pollutants before they enter the surface water. Working with Goodhue County and local townships, SWCD staff have helped many landowners understand the benefits and requirements for these buffers. Various programs offer incentives to establish these buffers, including CRP. A new Clean Water Legacy Grant coordinated thru the Rice SWCD and Cannon River Watershed Partnership was implemented that provided payments to establish buffers that can be hayed along public waters. .

Erosion control and stormwater runoff control continue to be priorities, with two full time staff working in cooperation with our federal partner (NRCS) to survey, design, and monitor construction of these practices. SWCD staff assisted on the following projects which had State Cost Share funding:

1 Prescribed Burning of a Buffer, 4 Water and Sediment Control Basins, 1 Compost Barn, 1 Grassed Waterway, 1 Grade Stabilization Structure/Diversion, 4 Feedlot Fixes, 1 Manure Pit. These were funded with \$126,993 from State Cost-Share, \$53,798 from USDA EQIP funds and \$132,037 in landowner costs for a total of \$312,828. In addition SWCD staff assisted NRCS on 24 new contracts which resulted in 62 new practices being applied that included 2 Storm Water Ponds, 35 Basins, 3 Terraces and 22 Grassed Waterways; resulting in \$455,107 in EQIP payments.

Water Quality is a SWCD priority and is promoted through educational efforts, a nitrate well testing program, and stream quality monitoring on several streams, including the Little Cannon River, Butler Creek, Spring Creek, Pine Island Creek, Trout Brook, and the North Branch Zumbro River.

A County Feedlot Officer works as part of the SWCD staff to administer all parts of the County Feedlot Program. 1161 feedlots are registered, with 701 of them having over 50 Animal Units or within a shoreland area. 60 feedlots were inspected, 2 Construction Short Form or Interim Permits were issued. The SWCD works closely with county land-use staff on permitting issues when necessary.

Feedlot technical assistance is provided by SWCD technicians in coordination with engineering staff and nutrient management planning staff from the Non-Point Engineering Assistance program. This gives landowners technical assistance on complex feedlot runoff control projects. The Goodhue SWCD also has on staff an engineering technician dedicated to assisting on similar projects in addition to Nutrient Management Plans with manure spreader calibrations.

Through the SWCD's No-Till Drill Rental Program, the SWCD provides a John Deere 1590 no-till drill with an appropriate seed mix for use on newly constructed grass waterways. Seeding is done into the firm untilled soil to reduce erosion potential, and is a time saver to landowners who do not have to purchase small amounts of seed and locate a small drill that fits their new waterway. 47 landowners rented this drill in 2010 to plan 448.0 acres, many being less than 3 acre per use.

A Truax No-till drill available to rent from the SWCD for planting native grass and forbes. These seeds do not flow well through conventional planting equipment and must be planted very shallow. Because the seed is 'fluffy', each seed mix requires drill calibration to achieve proper planting rates. 14 landowners used this drill last year on 153.2 acres.

The SWCD also coordinates Low Interest Rate Loan Programs for both Ag Best Management Practices and Small Septic Treatment System repair or replacements. \$1.8 million in new loan funds have been allocated to Goodhue County thru this program since its start in 1995. As these loans can be 'revolved' during their first 10 years, the net result has been \$4.1 million in low interest loans.

Woodland management is promoted with a tree and shrub program along with providing a Forest Stewardship Planner in cooperation with the MN DNR Division of Forestry. 18,903 bare root trees and shrubs were sold last year to 133 individuals, provided with technical assistance when needed; including windbreak design, species recommendation, spacing, and other technical assistance.

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

John Jaeger – Chairman  
Larry Thomforde – Vice-Chairman  
Paul Voxland – Treasurer  
Donald Banks – Secretary  
Edward McNamara – Reporter

### **GOODHUE SWCD DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

Josh Finnesgard – Feedlot Compliance Coordinator  
Chris Fritz – District Technician  
Coty Hyllengren – District Technician  
Beau Kennedy – Water Planner/Wetland Administrator  
Glen Roberson – District Manager  
Chris Wagner – Administrative Assistant

### **Cooperating Agencies:**

The Goodhue Co. SWCD works closely with many local, state, and federal agencies to complete its work. The following are some of our main cooperating partners:

Goodhue County (Administration, Public Works, Public Health, Land Use Management,  
County Attorney, Recorder Office)  
Cannon River Watershed Partnership  
Well Creek Watershed Partnership  
Zumbro River Watershed Partnership  
SE MN Water Resources Board  
SE SWCD Technical Support Joint Powers Board  
MN Board of Water & Soil Resources  
MN Department of Natural Resources: Forestry and Waters  
MN Pollution Control Agency  
University of MN Extension Service;  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
USDA Farm Service Agency