



## **Introduction**

The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District is a legal Subdivision of State Government organized under provisions of Minnesota Statute 103C. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors composed of five members nominated by the voters of the County, and who are responsible for directing all District activities. The board meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the Month.

## **Mission Statement**

“To assist the landowners of Nicollet County in efficiently and effectively using the natural resources in order to increase the productive use of the cropland, pastureland, woodland, wildlifeland, urbanland, and recreationland, while maintaining and improving the soils base, water quality, tree production, wildlife, and the quality of life in the county.”

We submit to you this annual report for 2009.

**2009 Annual Report**  
**Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**(507)-931-2550**

**[www.nicolletswcd.org](http://www.nicolletswcd.org)**

**District Supervisors**

John H. Kral  
William Hohenstein  
Eldon H. Brown  
Bruce Hulke  
Robby Gieseke

**Area of Representation**

Lafayette, West Newton, Ridgely Twp.  
Lake Prairie, Traverse Twp. & City of St. Peter  
Belgrade, Nicollet, Oshawa Twp.  
Courtland, Granby Twp.  
Bernadotte, Brighton, New Sweden Twp.

**District Employees**

Kevin Ostermann, District Manager  
[Kevin.Ostermann@nicolletswcd.org](mailto:Kevin.Ostermann@nicolletswcd.org)

Blake Honetschlager, District Technician  
[Blake.Honetschlager@nicolletswcd.org](mailto:Blake.Honetschlager@nicolletswcd.org)

**Cooperating Agencies**

**Board of Water & Soil Resources**

Thomas Fischer, Board Conservationist

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Jamie Rindels, District Conservationist  
Marie Lynch, Technician

**Nicollet County Farm Services Agency**

Steve Luther, County Executive Director

**Nicollet County Environmental Services**

Mandy Landkamer, Department Head

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

Joel Anderson, Area Wildlife Manager

**Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**2009 Accomplishments**

**Tree Program**

The Nicollet SWCD offered for sale different tree and shrubs species native to Minnesota. Producers purchased the trees to plant into windbreaks, urban and rural conservation, and wildlife food and habitat. Through the annual tree program the Nicollet SWCD is able to promote conservation practices and the value of forestry resources in preventing soil loss and improving water quality. The District sold over 9,000 trees, in 2009, and assisted 17 landowners with tree planting.

**Cost-Share Programs**

In 2009 the District emphasized the application of soil conservation practices such as: grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, terraces, erosion control structures, animal waste control systems, and farmstead windbreaks. These practices have controlled erosion and reduced sedimentation while improving water quality. During the past year the District assisted landowners with plans and designs for different conservation practices. These Districts received funds from the State Cost Share Program and Rush River Project to complete the following practices:

- 41 Rock tile inlets installed in the Rush River Watershed.
- 3 Water and Sediment Control Basins installed.
- 2 Grade Stabilization Projects completed.
- 1 Grassed Waterways installed.
- 2 Well sealing projects completed.
- 1.0 Acres of farmstead windbreaks installed using State Cost Share Dollars.
- Assisted in distributing \$63,126.00 in assistance to Nicollet County Landowners for Conservation practices, through the Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- Over 300 Cost Share proposals mailed out to the Rush River and 7-Mile Creek Watersheds, with the assistance of student interns.
- Assisted in distribution of 100 rain barrels to residents in the Rush River Watershed

## **Environmental Education**

Environmental education is an important part of our SWCD office. Classes and educational materials are offered to schools and churches across Nicollet County. 2008 activities included:

- Presented at 2 Career Day events for local High School Students.
- Presented to South Elementary School 1<sup>st</sup> Graders on the importance of trees, and donated a tree to each student to plant.
- Staff attended fall training secession for conservation in Brainerd, MN.
- Stewardship Materials for Area Churches
- 1 Conservation newsletters published.
- Website updated monthly: [www.nicolletswcd.org](http://www.nicolletswcd.org)
- Staff attended Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting held in December at the Duluth Convention Center.

## **Wetland Conservation Act Program**

The Nicollet SWCD assists cities, townships, citizens, and County departments in the administration of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act. District staff provides technical and administrative assistance for wetland related activities throughout Nicollet County. Common activities involved with the program include tile and drainage applications as well as wetland banking. The District has continued its commitment to ensure that staff is adequately trained and updated on current wetland rules and policy. In 2009, District Staff worked on 78 landowner drainage requests.