



## **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 2012.

## ***2012 Annual Report***

### ***Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District***

***(507)-931-2550***

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

#### ***District Supervisors***

John H. Kral  
Kim Olson  
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)

Nels Anderson, Seven Mile Creek Coordinator  
[Nels.Anaderson@nicolletswcd.org](mailto:Nels.Anaderson@nicolletswcd.org)

#### ***Cooperating Agencies***

##### ***Board of Water & Soil Resources***

Thomas Fischer, Board Conservationist

##### ***Natural Resources Conservation Service***

Jamie Rindels, District Conservationist  
Joel Wurscher, Soil Conservation Technician

##### ***Nicollet County Farm Services Agency***

Cassie Buck, County Executive Director

##### ***Nicollet County Environmental Services***

Mandy Landkamer, Department Head

##### ***Minnesota Department of Natural Resources***

Joe Stangel, Area Wildlife Manager

##### ***Great River Greening***

Wayne Ostlie, Director of Conservation Programs

**Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**2012 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 10,000 trees, in 2012, and assisted 14 landowners with tree planting.

**Cost-Share Programs**

In 2012 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:

- Applied to the 2013 clean water funds for \$683,950 7-mile creek watershed riparian protection and enhancement.
- Received \$269,975 MPCA 319 Grant.
- Partnered with Great River Greening to hire a Watershed Technician to work on 319 Grant for Seven Mile Creek.
- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)/Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) Easements totaling 105.8 acres are enrolled and accepted totaling \$649,612.
- 36 Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) easements inspected in 2012
- Completed a \$21,000 wetland restoration project in Lake Prairie Township.
- Completed a \$62,000 water control structure in Belgrade Township.
- Completed a \$8,000 water and sediment control basin in Oshawa Township.
- Completed a \$30,000 rip rap project for Ridgely Township.
- 6.0 Acres of farmstead windbreaks installed using State Cost Share Dollars.
- 10,000 Trees and shrubs distributed to Nicollet County Residents.
- 35 County Ditch requests for wetland impacts have been reviewed.
- 25 MN Wetland Conservation Act Contractor Responsibility and Landowner Statements have been review for wetland impacts.

- Received \$28,000 from Fishers & Farmers for conservation practices installed in the Seven Mile Creek Riparian Area.

## **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. 2012 activities included:

- Presented at 2 Career Day events for local High School Students.
- Staff attended fall training for conservation at Brainerd, MN.
- 2 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 DoubleTree Hotel Bloomington.

## **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 2012, District Staff worked on 201 landowner drainage requests.