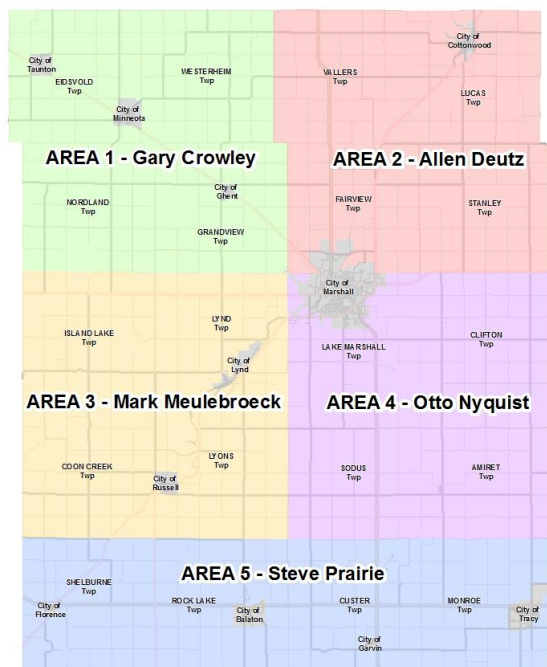


Lyon Soil and Water Conservation District

2013 Annual Plan

The Lyon Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a local unit of government defined by Minnesota Statute whose primary purpose is to protect the natural resource features within the county from human degradation. It is the responsibility of the SWCD to provide technical assistance and outreach in resource management programs along with ensuring wise stewardship by users of these resources. The District works closely and cooperatively with the local staff from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement programs and activities.

Lyon SWCD Area Supervisors



The Lyon SWCD Board of Supervisors provides professional insight and sound judgment in pursuing policies that will most effectively solve resource issues within the county. Through frequent meetings and straightforward direction to staff, the Board is able to maintain a clear understanding of the progress of the District as a whole. The Board is comprised of five supervisors who are elected county wide by general ballot.

LYON SWCD AREA SUPERVISORS

Gary Crowley ~ Area 1

Allen Deutz ~ Area 2

Mark Meulebroeck ~ Area 3

Otto Nyquist ~ Area 4

Steve Prairie ~ Area 5

The District has undergone drastic changes within the past year. These changes have transitioned into a distinct vision, not all that different from previous years, which the SWCD will follow to address conservation issues. There were two major fueling factors that contributed to the current structure and direction of the SWCD: the abrupt shift in staff and the District

becoming a department of the county rather than a separate public entity. Through these changes, the District has never backed away from addressing conservation issues based on the fundamental guidelines presented in its mission.

A. Purpose of Annual Plan

The Annual Plan is developed as an outline for the District as an entity to stay organized and progress forward with a distinct set of goals and objectives in mind. To effectively manage the resources within the county, it is beneficial for staff, the board, and participating stakeholders and agencies to have a mutual understanding of the direction the SWCD intends to travel to satisfy its management objectives.

B. Mission Statement

The mission of the Lyon SWCD is to:

1. Establish programs that assist in the protection of the public health, safety and welfare through Soil & Water Conservation and Protection.
2. Encourage land occupiers to conserve and protect our water and soil resources, implement erosion, sediment control and water quality practices.
3. Promote conservation through education, trained personnel and supervisors.
4. Seek and implement conservation practices and programs that will benefit the landowner, the county, local watersheds, and the nation.

C. Priorities

The Lyon SWCD has established that the priority concerns of the SWCD are as follows:

1. Prevent Wind, Water, and Soil Erosion
2. Improve Water Quality and Promote Water Conservation
3. Promote Conservation and Resource Programs
4. Promote Energy Conservation
5. Improve Wildlife Habitat

These priorities reflect the priorities described in the Lyon County Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan that serves as the Lyon SWCD Comprehensive 5 year work plan. The local water plan was updated in 2008 and amended in 2011 to include a revision of implementation priorities.

The District has established guidelines by which to follow to ensure both efficient use of staff but also available funding. Providing concise and detailed objectives as a framework for action is key for both staff, the board, and outside parties to understand the current status of the District and also where they are headed.

D. Objectives

1. Maintain efficient SWCD operations
2. Provide assistance to land users in high priority wind, soil and water erosion areas of the county and watershed areas.
3. Provide assistance to land users in the high priority areas of the county and watersheds to improve the quality of water in areas that have been identified as impaired.
4. Provide information and education to the public on the benefits and need to protect and reduce use of our resources.
5. Implement EEO and Civil Rights Responsibilities.

The Lyon SWCD Board of Supervisors have, under staff recommendation, agreed upon a focused set of conservation practices to ensure that objectives of the SWCD are met. These practices largely correlate to available funding for projects that will provide measurable solutions to resource degradation issues. While promoting all practices that will remediate resource management issues on the ground, the SWCD will provide focus on the following practices: Critical Area Plantings, Diversions, Field Windbreaks, Shelterbelt, Grass Waterway, Livestock Waste Management, Filter strips, Sediment Basins, Streambanks/Shoreland and Roadside Protection, Strip-cropping, Terraces, Unused Well Sealing.

Cost share priority will still be broken down based on the program requirements previously established in the work plan:

E. Cost Share Program Requirements

1. High Priority Erosion Problems
2. High Priority Sedimentation Problems
3. High Priority Feedlots
4. High Priority Water Quality Problems

Projects and studies will also gravitate towards priority areas within the county that need concentrated focus to see results. These areas have been identified also in the District's State Cost Share Policy: Lower Yellow Medicine River Watershed, Yellow Medicine River Watershed (Lower MN dissolved oxygen TMDL), Redwood River/Cottonwood River TMDL, Des Moines Watershed TMDL. TMDL refers to 'Total Maximum Daily Load' and reflects the amount of inputs entering a watershed from the surrounding landscape while still maintaining clean water standards.

The SWCD will also be taking a proactive approach in providing outreach to youth, stakeholder, participating agencies, and other parties with an interest in conserving the county's resources. Similar to past years, funding and man-hours will be delegated to

ensuring that the youth of the county are exposed to wise stewardship and the aspect of resource management. The District intends to provide this through involvement in/but not limited to: the Environmental Fair, Envirothon competition, field days experiences provided by environmental educators, staff visiting schools during the weeks approaching Arbor Day to discuss environmental issues. The District, in collaboration with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), will be drafting and sending out newsletter to producers and landowners within the county overviewing conservation goals, showcasing projects from previous years, and highlight important program details.

F. 2013 Cost Share Project Funding

Water Planning	\$13689
Conservation Delivery	\$19224
Cost Share	\$18383
Wetland Conservation Act	\$8778
Shoreland	\$2758
SSTS	\$18941
Feedlots	\$30099
Easements	\$7721