

# LYON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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## 2015 ANNUAL PLAN

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**Lyon Soil and Water Conservation District**

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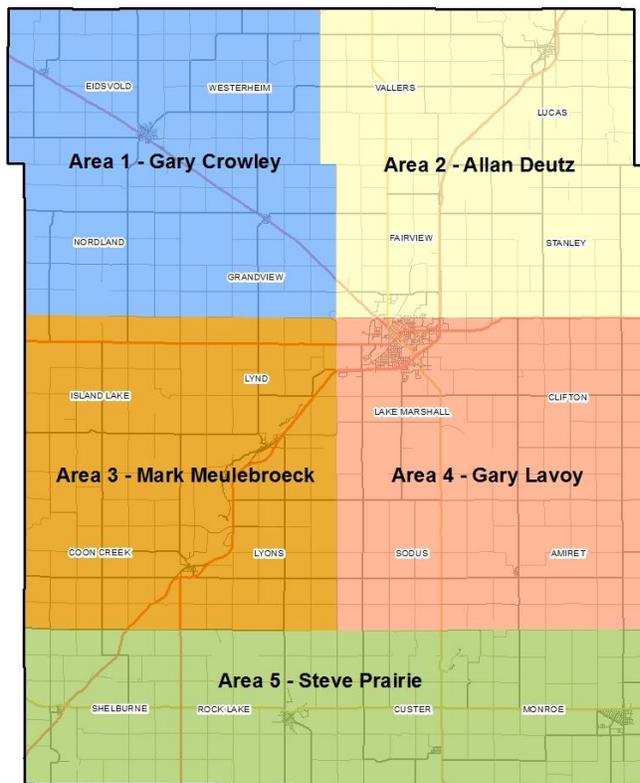
**Website: [www.lyonco.org](http://www.lyonco.org)**

All programs and services of Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) & Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

## I. SWCD ESTABLISHMENT, PURPOSE, AND ORGANIZATION

The Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a local unit of government that was established by Minnesota Statutes and local land managers of Lyon County. The SWCD by law is entitled to be fully involved in a number of resource management programs that include – but are not limited to – soil and water conservation and protection, flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat protection and restoration, and resource management.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts are subdivisions of local government and are organized along county boundary lines. SWCDs work closely with partner agencies to achieve resource protection throughout watersheds located in their area. The Lyon SWCD Board of Supervisors, and staff provide the necessary local guidance to help citizens, partner agencies, and landowners address resource concerns that are important to our area. A Board of five supervisors, elected county wide by general ballot, oversees and develops the policies of the SWCD.



### LYON SWCD AREA SUPERVISORS

Gary Crowley ~ Area 1  
Allan Deutz ~ Area 2  
Mark Meulebroeck ~ Area 3  
Gary Lavoy ~ Area 4  
Steve Prairie ~ Area 5

### LYON SWCD STAFF

The SWCD was established in 1945, as a result of the devastation to soil resources in the 1930's. The District works closely and cooperatively with the local staff from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement programs and activities. In the past 60+ years, beneficial partnerships have been established with watershed management organizations, and other local, state and federal agencies. The District has had many changes within the last few years. There were two major 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 continued to address conservation issues based on the fundamental guidelines presented in its mission.

**A. Purpose of Annual Plan:**

The Annual Plan is developed as a 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 of the Lyon SWCD**

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

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

These priorities are mirrored 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, amended in 2011 to include a revision of implementation priorities and extended to 2018.

The District has established guidelines by which to follow to ensure both efficient us 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 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 has, under staff recommendation, agreed up 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 measureable solutions to resource degradation issues. While promoting all practices that will remediate resources management issues on the ground, the SWCD will provide focus on the following practices: Grass Waterway, Livestock, Waste Management, Filter Strips, Sediment Basins, Streambanks/Shoreland and Roadside Protection, Terraces, Unused Well Sealing (upon SWCD board approval).

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 TDML, and 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 clear 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

intents to provide this through involvement in, but not limited to: The Environmental Fair, Envirothon competition, field days experiences provided by environmental educators, and staff visiting schools during the weeks approaching Arbor Day to discuss environmental issues.

**F. 2015 Cost Share Project Funding**

Water Planning	\$13,689
Conservation Delivery	\$19,224
Wetland Conservation Act	\$8,778
Shoreland	\$2,738
SSTS	\$18,600
Feedlots	\$28,443
Easements	\$7,411
State Cost Share	14,141