

NORTHLAND CONSERVATION NEWS

FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER

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NRCS STAFF: JAMES SCHWAB - DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST AND MARK LARSON - TECHNICIAN

TWO RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT: DAN MONEY, ADMINISTRATOR AND MATT THOMPSON, DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

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A Publication of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District, 410 S. 5th St., Suite 106, Hallock, MN 56728-4140, Phone 218-843-2619 and the Two Rivers Watershed District, 410 S. 5th St., Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728-4140, Phone 218-843-3333

Kittson SWCD Tree Program For 2015



Kittson SWCD Tree Planter at work.

By Darren Carlson

If you are looking at planting trees for 2015, now is the time to plan it. The Kittson SWCD can assist landowners in mapping out an area for your tree planting. Also the Kittson SWCD will advise on certain types of trees, number of trees and spacing needed for your specific site. The Kittson SWCD will sit down with interested landowners and an aerial map of their intended areas to plant trees and help create a plan for them. Remember the Kittson SWCD is here to give technical advice on tree plantings for windbreaks and shelterbelts upon request.

The tree program was started to promote conservation and help residents create a more beautiful, healthy and ecologically balanced environment. Many of the county's farmstead and field windbreaks and wildlife habitat plantings have been started as a result of this program. The Kittson SWCD purchases conservation trees which this year most will be 2 to 3 feet (potential bigger trees can be ordered if landowner is interested) in height and bare root. Shrub and tree species are sold in bundles of 25. Potted evergreens (1 gallon and new this year 2 gallons) are sold individually. Also the Kittson SWCD sells 3'X3' tree mats, 2 foot tall tree cones for protection and new this year Plantskydd, which helps to deter wildlife damage.

In the spring 2014 the Kittson SWCD distributed over 17,000 trees to area landowners. 20 landowners used the Kittson SWCD Tree Planter to help plant their Farmstead Shelterbelts, Field Windbreaks and other wildlife tree plantings. The Kittson SWCD Tree Planter only works in clean tilled fields so it is advised for landowners to work up their ground in the fall prior to spring planting.

The 2015 tree order form (located in this newsletter) is available for landowners to choose what types of trees they will like to plant next spring. Potential Cost Share assistance is available with a priority on field windbreaks and farmstead shelterbelts through various programs. Fill out a tree order form (orders are taken on a first come first serve basis), call or stop in to find out more about the Kittson SWCD Tree Program.

2014 Arbor Day Trees



Did you know Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday of each April in Minnesota? Kittson SWCD office staff visits Kittson County Schools to deliver Arbor Day Trees to students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades every year. The students at Karlstad Public School, Karlstad Heritage School, Lancaster, Kittson Central, and St. Vincent School received individually bagged seedlings of Black Hills Spruce trees to plant at their homes.

Pictured with the Lancaster Public School 4-6th Graders is Kittson SWCD staff Jamie Osowski

Kittson SWCD Tree Order Form 2015

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Home Phone:

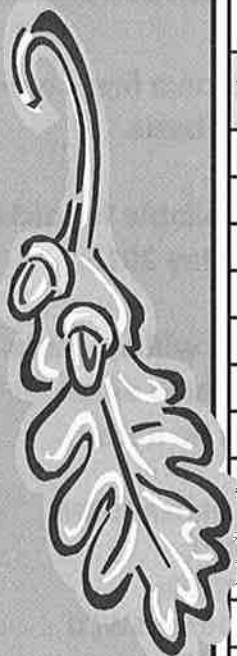
Cell Phone:

County:

E-Mail Address:

Majority of bundles contain 25 bareroot trees or shrubs except where noted! Prices and sizes subject to change due to Nursery availability.

Species	Approximate Size of tree stock	Price Per Pot	Number Needed (Sold Individually)	Total Amount
POTTED	CONIFERS			
Scotch Pine	1 Gallon	\$8.25		
Black Hills Spruce	1 Gallon	\$8.25		
Black Hills Spruce (NEW)	2 Gallon	\$13.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	1 Gallon	\$8.25		
White Spruce	1 Gallon	\$8.25		
White Spruce (NEW)	2 Gallon	\$13.00		
CONIFERS	TREES	Price Per 25 Trees	Number Needed ex. 25, 50, etc.	
Black Hills Spruce	8" - 15"	\$37.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	8" - 15"	\$37.00		
Scotch Pine	8" - 15"	\$37.00		
White Spruce	8" - 15"	\$37.00		
DECIDUOUS TREES	AND SHRUBS	Price Per 25 Trees	Number Needed ex. 25, 50, etc.	
Apricot (Hardy)	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Ash, Green	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Aspen, Quaking	2'-3'	\$45.00		
Cherry, Nanking	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Cherry, Pin	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Chokeberry, Black	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Cotoneaster	18" - 24"	\$28.00		
Cottonwood, Common	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Cottonwood, Siouxland	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Crabapple, Red Splendor	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Cranberry, Highbush	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Currant, Golden	2' -3'	\$32.00		

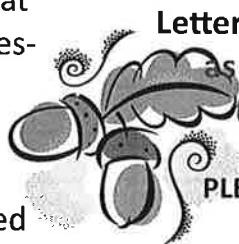


Species	Approximate Size of tree stock	Price Per 25 Trees	Number Needed ex. 25, 50, etc.	Total Amount
DECIDUOUS	TREES	AND	SHRUBS	CONTINUED
Dogwood, Redosier	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Juneberry (Serviceberry)	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Lilac, Common Purple	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Lilac, Villosa (New)	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Maple, Amur	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Maple, Silver	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Nannyberry	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Oak, Bur	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Paper Birch	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Plum, American	2'-3'	\$32.00		
Willow, Flame	2'-3'	\$32.00		
TREE	PROTECTION	AND	MARKING	MATERIALS
4 foot Tree Pro Protector	Individual	\$3.25		
2 foot Tree Growth Cone (New)	Individual	\$4.00		
3 X 3 Fabric Tree Mats	Individual	\$2.00		
Tree Guard/Plantskydd (NEW)	1 pound (\$25.00) or 2 pound (\$45.00) Soluble Powder Concentrate			
2 1/2 Feet Tall Flags	Bundle of 100	\$15.00		
4 Feet Tall Wooden Lath	Bundle of 50	\$25.00		
	Make Checks Payable to Kittson SWCD	TOTAL		\$

The Kittson SWCD has a tree planter (for trees under 3 feet in height) to rent for the upcoming tree planting season. Cost is \$0.35 per tree planted if the driver of the tractor is provided or \$1.00 per tree if the SWCD staff has to drive. A minimum fee of \$150.00 for all tree plantings. The Kittson SWCD will only plant properly prepared sites that are ready the first week of May. If you have questions regarding the preparation of your site or about the tree program, please contact Darren Carlson at the Kittson SWCD. Phone number is 218-843-2619 Ext. 3. Orders cannot be cancelled after March 1, 2015. **The Kittson SWCD accepts NO responsibility with regard to survival of planting stock and makes NO provisions for replacements.**

Orders are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tree orders will be available for pickup sometime in May 2015.



Letters/phone calls will be made as soon as we know when the trees will be here.

PLEASE RETURN ORDER FORM AND FULL PAYMENT TO:

**Tree Program-Kittson SWCD
410 South 5th Street
Suite 106
Hallock MN 56728**

Building And Septic Permits Required In Kittson County

In the spring of 2014, the Kittson County Commissioners approved the Kittson SWCD to work in conjunction with Kittson County to administer the Zoning Program. This will help Kittson County Residents with a "one place stop" for their building and septic system needs. Also in the spring of 2014, a new and revised zoning ordinance was approved by Kittson County. Below are a few of the most commonly asked questions about zoning regulations in Kittson County.

How do I know if I need a Land Use/Building Permit?

Kittson County enforces countywide zoning. This means permits are required for the following situations:

1. When any structure is built or moved into a lot.
2. When a structure's footprint is changed - this includes the addition of decks or steps.
3. When the layout of a residence is changed to add living or bedroom space.
4. When dealing with demolition sites.

What is the process for obtaining a permit?

The process of obtaining a building permit is very easy. After the application is completed, the zoning office will check FEMA floodplain maps for Kittson County to determine if the land is in the floodplain. Special building requirements do apply when building in floodplain areas. Special requirements also apply when activity is planned in a shoreland area. Shoreland is defined as land within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water level of a lake and 300 feet from a river or stream.

After floodplain and shoreland determinations are completed, setback rules will be addressed. The Kittson County Zoning Ordinance states that all buildings must have at least 130 foot setback from the centerline of any township, county or state road. Other setback requirements may also apply, depending on the situation in question.

Are there rules that apply to my septic system?

Yes. When building a home, adding on living space or changing the use of a room to a bedroom, septic system compliance comes into play. A licensed inspector must inspect all existing septic systems. New systems must also be inspected after installation. Inspection paperwork will be given to building permit applicants at the start of any project. After the inspections have been completed, the paperwork must be returned to the zoning office. The zoning office can supply you with contact information for licensed inspectors in the area.

I live in City Limits. Is a building permit required?

Yes. Permits need to be obtained from the zoning office for Home Occupations inside city limits; this does not include the Cities of Hallock, Lake Bronson, Kennedy or Karlstad. For these cities, please contact your local city clerk's office.

I am a contractor; do I need to worry about getting permits for my customer?

Yes. The Zoning Ordinance applies equally to all persons, includ-

ing but not limited to, property owners, renters and builders or contractors. The Zoning Ordinance specifically states that prior to any work, any builder or contractor must verify the existence of a permit obtained by an owner or renter, and that likewise, owners & renters will verify that existence of a permit if the same has been obtained by a builder or contractor.

What is the cost of a land use/building and septic permit?

The cost for a general land use permit is \$50. Permits for projects in shoreland or floodplain cost \$100. Septic permits are \$20. If you do not know if you are in the floodplain or shoreland, the zoning office can tell you.

What if I don't get a permit?

While the cost of a building permit is minimal at only \$50 to \$100, the cost of fines for building without a permit can be very high. Depending on the size of your structure, After-The-Fact Permit fines can range from \$250.00 to \$1,000.00. As stated in the Zoning Ordinance, the county attorney will prosecute all violations. Violations shall be punishable as a misdemeanor.

How do I apply for a permit?

The Kittson SWCD can help you get started at (218) 843-2619 Ext. 3 or visit our office in the basement of the Courthouse in Hallock.

Welcome, Justin Muller

Hello, Kittson County. I am Justin Muller. I started as the new District Technician the last week in August. Some of my duties will include: County Agriculture Inspector, Administering the Wetland Conservation Act, working with the districts tree program, County Feedlot Officer, and helping Darren and Jamie when needed.

I grew up near the small town of Raymond, Minnesota in the west central part of the state. After graduating high school I enrolled at Vermilion Community College in Ely, MN pursuing a degree in Fisheries and Natural Resource Management. After two years I transferred to the University of Minnesota, Crookston. In the spring of 2013 I graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Natural Resource Management. In my spare time I enjoy hunting, fishing, spending time outdoors, and motorsports. I look forward to meeting and helping Kittson County Citizens with their conservation questions and concerns.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. It supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, land owners/operators may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. EQIP provides technical assistance, cost share payments, and incentive payments to assist crop, livestock, and other agricultural producers with environmental and conservation improvements to their operations.

Please contact the NRCS office at 218-843-2619 ext. 3

USDA Farm Service Agency Announces Key Dates For New 2014 Farm Bill Safety Net Program

USDA announced key dates for farm owners and producers to keep in mind regarding the new 2014 Farm Bill established programs, Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). The new programs, designed to help producers better manage risk, usher in one of the most significant reforms to U.S. farm programs in decades.

Dates associated with ARC and PLC that farm owners and producers need to know:

- Sept. 29, 2014 to Feb. 27, 2015: Land owners may visit their local Farm Service Agency office to update yield history and/or reallocate base acres.
- Nov. 17, 2014 to March 31, 2015: Producers make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.
- Mid-April 2015 through summer 2015: Producers sign contracts for 2014 and 2015 crop years.
- October 2015: Payments for 2014 crop year, if needed.

USDA leaders will visit with producers across the country to share information and answer questions on the ARC and PLC programs. Here in Kittson County we will be conducting informational meetings for landowners and farm operators on the 2014 Farm Bill beginning in December.

USDA helped create online tools to assist in the decision process, allowing farm owners and producers to enter information about their operation and see projections that show what ARC and/or PLC will mean for them under possible future scenarios. The new tools are now available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc. Farm owners and producers can access the online resources from the convenience of their home computer or mobile device at any time.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

Farm Bill Allows Early Termination For Certain CRP Contracts

The Farm Service Agency reminds producers with acres under contract through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) that they can apply for early contract termination, as required by the 2014 Farm Bill. The deadline to request early CRP contract termination is Jan. 30, 2015. The CRP practices eligible for consideration for the "early out" option are CP-1, CP-2, CP-3, CP-10, and CP-11 which have been in effect for at least 5 years and meet all additional eligibility conditions. The 2014 Farm Bill identifies a list of 10 exceptions whereby land will not be eligible for the early termination provisions. For a complete list of these exceptions, please view the program fact sheet online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/crp_opt_out_fact_sht.pdf

This is a unique opportunity to request early termination afforded by the 2014 Farm Bill. The earliest effective date for this early termination was October 1, 2014. Once a CRP contract termination request is approved by the FSA County Committee, the decision may not be reversed and the terminated contract will not be reinstated. Once the land is no longer considered under the CRP contract all participants must meet HEL/WC and other conservation compliance provisions for all associated lands.

For more information or to verify eligibility for early termination (opt-out) for existing CRP contracts, please contact your local FSA office. For local FSA Service Center contact information, please visit: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

Reporting Of 2015 Forage And Fall Seeded Crops To FSA

All producers are reminded that the FSA acreage reporting date for all forage and fall seeded crops is coming up. The acreage reporting deadline of November 15, 2014 applies to all of the following categories:

- Fall seeded small grains (winter wheat, oats, barley, wild rice...)
- Forage Production - fall seeding (insured/no insurance)
- Forage for grazing including pasture
- Forage Production - prior year seeding (insured/no insurance).

We know how busy it gets during harvest season; therefore if a producer only needs to report forage that already exists, we encourage them to come into the local office now. If a producer still intends to plant a fall seeding; report those acres after planting but no later than November 15, 2014.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. CSP is available on all private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location.

Through CSP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary.

CSP encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land. The NRCS will make CSP available nationwide on a continuous application basis. Please contact the NRCS office at 218-843-2619 ext. 3

2014 Rain Monitoring Program

The Kittson SWCD continues to operate a rain gauge monitoring system throughout various locations in Kittson County. Currently 22 locations are monitored in different townships in the county. Rain amounts are recorded daily and reported to the SWCD at the end of the month. The SWCD then submits the reports to the Minnesota State Climatology Office. You can visit their website at <http://climate.umn.edu/> for history and other information about climate in Minnesota.

It was a soggy spring and beginning to the summer months in Kittson County. The county has received above average rain fall for the months of April through August averaging 3-6 inches each month. The chart below shows the rainfall totals submitted by volunteer recorders.

Kittson SWCD would like to say "Thank You" to the rain gauge monitors for their work in 2014. Our goal is to have one monitor for each township in Kittson County. We are looking for volunteers from South Red River, Clow, Hazelton, McKinley, Cannon, Percy, Caribou, Poppleton, Deerwood, Arveson and Pelan townships. We provide you with a rain gauge and forms. If you are interested in monitoring, please stop in the office or call 843-2619 ext 3 for further information.

Township & Section	April	May	June	July	August
Davis 3- J. Dziengel	1.66	3.65	8.27	4.47	2.83
Spring Brook 25 - J.Dagen	2.50	3.21	8.23	4.08	2.08
Norway 21- D. Olson	1.45	3.92	5.30	3.04	2.89
Teien 12 - C. Mortenson	1.81	3.41	5.35	2.82	NR
Teien 28 - T. Dahl	2.33	3.71	6.65	0.80	2.01
Pelan 34 - D. Johnson	0.60	2.70	6.51	NR	NR
Jupiter 18 - R. Peterson	1.71	4.31	6.56	3.83	NR
Tegner 31- City of Kennedy	2.06	4.39	4.30	5.07	2.30
Skane 5 - M. Such	1.59	3.75	6.27	4.26	2.54
Svea 23- K.Kraulik	2.15	3.67	6.32	2.22	2.18
Percy 14 - A. Johnson	NR	4.23	6.08	2.88	4.04
Thompson 12 - Markit	1.39	4.15	4.96	4.40	3.56
Thompson 35 - P. Gillie	2.18	4.79	4.80	NR	NR
Hallock 13 - TRW	1.94	3.61	5.82	4.84	1.03
North Red River 9 -					
B. Lindegard	1.55	3.50	5.65	4.03	2.22
Granville 13 - B. Laude	1.79	4.15	6.38	3.40	3.33
Hampden 13 -					
CW. Nyegaard	1.20	3.46	5.59	3.01	3.09
Hill 5 - B. Dykhuis	1.43	4.00	6.38	2.61	2.29
St. Joseph 4 - J. Wilebski	2.01	4.23	7.43	3.43	2.75
Richardville 10 - J.Peterson	1.62	3.69	7.60	3.28	3.23
St. Vincent 24 - N.Wiese	1.32	3.31	4.76	3.56	2.30
St Vincent 2 - A. Hughes	1.76	2.81	6.96	2.79	1.71
Avg Rainfall Monitors	1.72	3.76	6.19	3.55	3.02

ROTATIONAL GRAZING TIPS: Soil Testing Pastures

By: Mark Hayek NRCS Grazing Specialist

Soil testing is just as important for pasture as it is for cropland. To help maximize forage production on a given piece of ground a soils test can help gauge where the fertility levels are and to help identify where improvement is needed. Please consider the following:

- Soil tests should be taken at a 6" depth.
- Upland soils should be tested separate from lowland soils. For additional methods on soil sampling visit your local NRCS office or go to: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_022974.pdf
- Forage mixtures of >20% DM can provide most or all of the nitrogen to the system. Phosphorous and Potassium are valuable in keeping legumes in a stand.
- The most common strategies for adding fertility to pasture:
- Feed cattle on a given area (i.e. winter, drought, spring, etc...)
- Apply commercial fertilizer
- Apply manure
- It is strongly recommended to soil test expiring CRP, most times these lands are severely lacking in Phosphorous. Amending Phosphorous can improve forage health and vigor.
- Top dressing Phosphorous or Potassium based granular fertilizer may take a growing season to show results. Do not apply in sensitive areas, and buffer applications from surface water.
- Always apply fertilizer at the recommended rate(s), NRCS follows University of Minnesota guidelines. Call your local extension agent or visit: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/nutrientmanagement/nutrient-lime-guidelines/fertilizer-recommendations-for-agronomic-crops-in-minnesota/>
- If you need further assistance with managing nutrients on your pasture please visit your local NRCS office.

Note: If you wish to learn more about rotational grazing please contact your local NRCS office.

Mark Hayek
MN NRCS NW Regional Grazing Specialist
2038 State Hwy #1 NW
Thief River Falls, MN 56701 218-681-6600

Highly Erodible Land (HEL) Compliance And Conservation Plans

By Jim Schwab

Anyone wishing to participate in any USDA programs must meet Conservation Compliance provisions. Agricultural commodities cannot be produced on highly erodible land (HEL) unless soil erosion prevention measures are initiated or installed that maintain soil loss to USDA acceptable standards. Which means an ag producer must have a HEL conservation plan written and approved by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Soil and Water District. Any producer who purchases new land, will be operating new land or operating land that will be expiring from CRP should check with NRCS to find out if the land is HEL. If so we will work with you on your crop rotations and residue management to ensure we keep erosion down to acceptable levels. Therefore keeping you in Compliance with USDA's Conservation Provisions.

Two Rivers Watershed District News

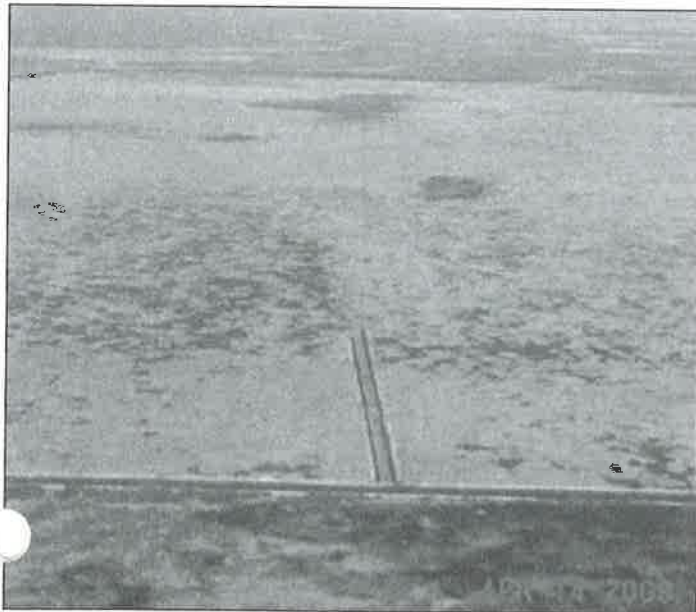
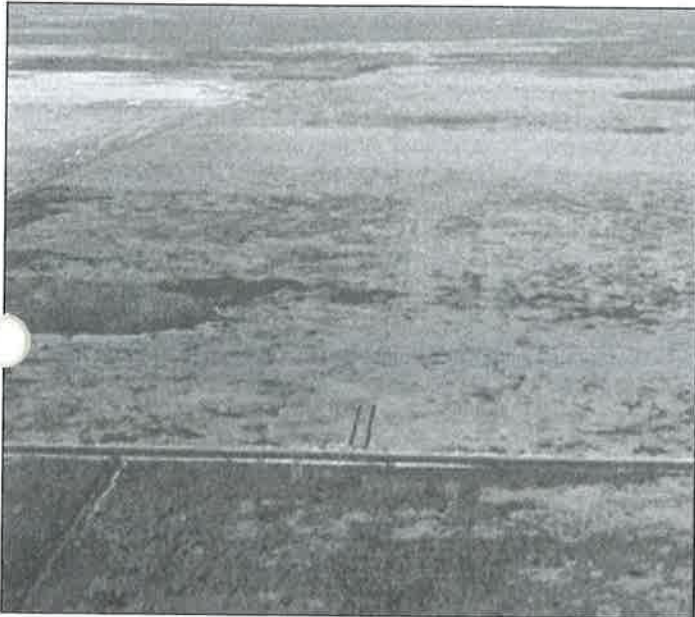
In Roseau, Kittson & Marshall Counties
Fall 2014



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Two Rivers WD Begins Next Impoundment Project "Klondike Clean Water Retention Project #11"

The Two Rivers Watershed District has begun work on its next impoundment project to help solve flooding problems. A "Preliminary Resolution Hearing" was held on September 12th, 2014, to hear and discuss a potential impoundment located near the Roseau & Kittson County line primarily in Klondike Township, Kittson County. The District formally initiated the "Klondike Clean Water Retention Project #11".



Potential Impoundment Area - Klondike Township, Kittson County

The project is a culmination of many years of planning, including problem identification, creation of a goal statement, implementation strategies, and selection of a preferred site. The project will have benefits for flood control in the State Ditch #95 watershed, Two Rivers, the Red River, water quality on Lake Bronson, improvement of drainage, prevention of crop damages, reduction of overland flooding, protection of public infrastructure, and protection of farmsteads. It is targeted to provide these benefits mainly for Lateral 1 of State Ditch #95, and will also benefit the North, Middle, and South branches of the Two Rivers, including Lake Bronson and the Red River of the North. The ditch systems currently in place do not have the capacity to carry the water that enters them, and consequently water breaks out of the ditches and creates large scale overland flooding. This results in crop losses, damage to roads, culverts, and bridges, causes erosion and sedimentation, and causes flooding in farmsteads.

Preliminary engineering and a feasibility study contemplates that the project will store about 30,500 acre feet of water (1 acre foot = 325,829 gallons = 1 acre of land covered with water 1 foot deep). A 5 mile long diked inlet channel will be constructed to funnel water from an upstream drainage area of 135 square miles, taking in Badger Creek, Lateral 1 of State Ditch #95, and parts of State Ditch #72. The footprint of the project is expected to cover over 11 square miles. This project concept will be entering the actual engineering and design stage over the coming year. It is anticipated that besides providing flood control this project will provide numerous environmental benefits. Among these include wildlife habitat, water quality improvements, and recreational opportunities for hunting and bird watching.



(Continued on next page)

Two Rivers Watershed District News

In Roseau, Kittson & Marshall Counties



Two Rivers WD Begins Next Impoundment Project "Klondike Clean Water Retention Project #11"

(Continued from previous page)

A project work team was convened from 2009 to 2011 to discuss the problems and potential solutions in the State Ditch #95 system, and come up with a range of solutions to address both flood damage reduction (FDR) and natural resources enhancement (NRE). The team was made up of watershed district managers, county com-

missioners, soil & water conservation districts, watershed district and county engineers, township officials, local landowners, state agencies (MN Pollution Control Agency, DNR, Board of Water & Soil Resources), federal agencies (US Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Army Corps Of Engineers), and conservation groups (Nature Conservancy, M. Center for Environmental Advocacy). Once that work was completed, the Watershed District began looking at various alternatives and site locations, and finally settled on the current location. The project work team will be meeting on a monthly basis over the next several months in order to refine the design and to discuss and come up with appropriate natural resource enhancements.

The Two Rivers Watershed District will be continuing to work on this project over the coming months. Anyone with questions regarding the project or any other activities of the District should contact the office at 218-843-3333.

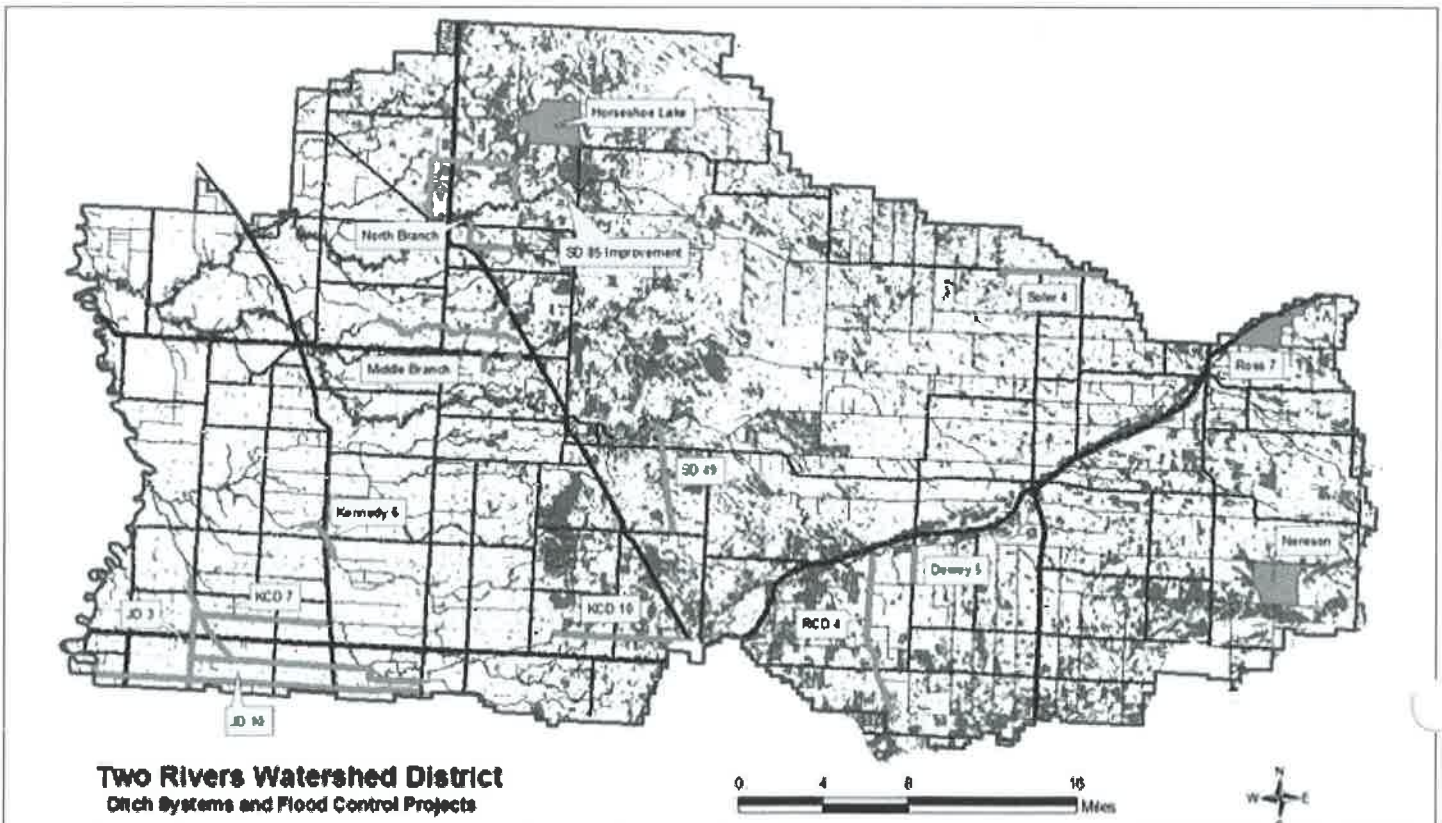
TRWD Sets Tax Levies For 2014

The Two Rivers Watershed District held its Budget Hearing on September 3, 2014 and set its tax and ditch levies for 2015. The District's proposed budget for the coming year shows estimated expenses of \$214,650. This includes all office, administrative, operational, and general expenses. The Board of Managers approved a tax levy in the amount of \$212,500 across the District, which is 85% of the maximum allowable under Minnesota law. The Red River Watershed Management Board previously had set their tax levy for the Two Rivers Watershed District for 2015 at \$443,255 (75% of the maximum), which is a reduction from 2014 in the amount of \$57,213. The RRWMB utilizes this levy to construct flood control projects on a regional basis within the Minnesota portion of the Red River of the North.

The Board of Managers also set tax levies for the various ditches under their jurisdiction as follows: Middle Branch Project -

\$10,000; North Branch Project - \$10,000; KCD 7 - \$15,000; KCD 10 - \$ 5,000; SD 49 - \$10,000; SD 85 Improvement - \$6,000; JD 3 - \$11,000; JD 10 - \$42,000; RCD 4 - \$15,000; Dewey 5 Improvement - \$ 4,000. These funds will be used to carry out ditch maintenance, beaver removal, cattail and brush management, and sediment removal on these various ditch systems. The TRWD has established a maintenance program for each ditch, and performs annual inspections and conducts surveys every 5 years.

Ditch maintenance in 2014 included projects on State Ditch #49, the Springbrook PL566 Project #10, Dewey 5 Improvement, and Branch B of Judicial Ditch #10. In addition, detailed surveys were completed on Kittson County Ditch #7 and the main branch Judicial Ditch #10. For detailed information on these activities please contact the District office.



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Grant

By: *Darren Carlson*

Kittson County received funds to administer the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Program. Kittson County has appropriated these funds to the Kittson SWCD.

What is it? Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are threatening Minnesota waters. These nonnative species harm fish populations, water quality, and water recreation. You can help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species by following both the required and recommended actions listed below.

REQUIRED ACTIONS:

- **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.
- **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, motor) and drain bilge, livewell, and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreland property. Keep drain plugs out and water draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your live bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

Violating these regulations may result in fines up to \$1,000. To report a violation, contact a DNR Conservation Officer. You can locate officers at mndnr.gov/officerpatrolareas

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **SPRAY, RINSE, DRY** - Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infested waters:
 - o Spray with high-pressure water
 - o Rinse with very hot water
 - o Dry for at least 5 days
 - o Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.
 - o Transport fish on ice - be prepared, bring a cooler.

KNOW THE LAW, YOU MAY NOT:

- Transport watercraft without drain plug removed.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species whether dead or alive.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached. Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release live bait into the water.

This grant/program is new and there will be more details to follow in upcoming newsletters or follow us at www.kittsonswcd.org.

Ag BMP Loan Program

The Agriculture Best Management Practices Loan Program (Ag BMP Loan) provides low interest loans to farmers and rural landowners. The purpose is to encourage Best Management Practices that prevent or reduce water quality water quality problems. Loans can be provided up to \$100,000 and interest rate of 3%. Money is available for the purchase of Ag waste management equipment, conservation tillage equipment, septic system upgrades and other conservation related practices.

Projects must be located in the rural areas of Kittson County to be eligible. Landowners can contact the Kittson SWCD for more information and to receive an application package. Applications will need to provide information about the proposed project to be funded and the desired loan amount. For more information, stop at our office at the Kittson County Courthouse or call (218) 843-2619 Ext 3.

Grant Money Available To Kittson County Landowners For Septic System Replacement

Does your septic system need to be replaced? The Kittson SWCD successfully acquired funds from the "Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment" to replace failing septic systems. Landowners may apply for a grant to replace septic systems that are identified to be an imminent threat to public health and safety or failing systems. This includes systems that: discharge sewage to the ground surface, backup into a dwelling or establishment, discharge sewage to surface waters or fail to protect groundwater. Qualified candidates must also meet low income guidelines. The money is limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis. To receive more information contact Darren Carlson at the Kittson SWCD.

Waterfest 2014

On September 23rd, area fourth graders attended the Northwest Minnesota Water Festival at the Marshall County Fairgrounds in Warren Minnesota. Students take part in interactive learning stations all about our water resources. The stations include water quality, ground water and spring water, flooding, wetlands and watersheds. Students also participated in a casting and fishing painting station. The event is hosted by area Soil and Water Conservation Districts and is held every September in Warren and Fertile.



Kittson Central 4th graders participate in hands-on events at the Groundwater station at the Warren Water Fest.

**Kittson County
SWCD**

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