

NORTHLAND CONSERVATION NEWS

SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER

SWCD SUPERVISORS: CHAIRMAN SCOTT KLEIN, VICE CHAIRMAN GREG PETERSON, SECRETARY JUSTIN DAGEN, TREASURER JOE WILEBSKI, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS RON ANDERSON

SWCD STAFF: HOLLY ANDERSON - DISTRICT MANAGER; JOANNE QUINER - DISTRICT COORDINATOR; CHARLES DZIENGEL - DISTRICT CLERK; AND SHANE E. OLSON - PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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

TWO RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT: DAN MONEY, ADMINISTRATOR AND TOM EDGAR, DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

TWO RIVERS WATERSHED DIST. MGRS. PRESIDENT - ROGER ANDERSON; VICE PRESIDENT - JON VOLD; SEC. - JIM KUKOWSKI; TREASURER - JEROD HANSON; MIKE RATZLAFF, RICHARD NOVACEK AND O'NEIL LARSON

A Publication of the Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District, 410 S. 5th St., Suite 106, Hallock, MN 56728-4140, Phone 218-843-2619 or 2692 and the Two Rivers Watershed District, 410 S. 5th St., Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728-4140, Phone 218-843-3333

2009 NW Area I Envirothon Held At Lake Bronson State Park Kittson County Schools Place In Top 3 With Kittson Central Taking 1st Overall

By Shane Olson, Kittson SWCD Program Coordinator

It was a cool but great day at Lake Bronson State Park on Wednesday, April 29th for the 16th annual Northwest Area I Envirothon.

The numbers for this year's event decreased since last year as, 17 teams consisting of 82 students competed in the event. Representing Kittson County were 4 teams from Tri-County and 2 teams from Kittson Central. Also taking part were 2 teams from Stephen-Argyle, 1 team from Marshall County Central, 4 teams from Badger and 4 teams from Grygla.

At the end of the day, all of the team's points were tallied. Kittson County teams had a clean sweep as teams from Kittson Central placed 1st and 2nd; and a Tri-County team placed 3rd. Those winning teams received trophies, medallions, sweat-shirts and a trip to the State Envirothon competition, which was held on May 18th at Ironwood Springs Ranch in Stewartville. At the State Envirothon, Tri County placed 7th and Kittson Central placed 14th overall.

Due to state rules, each team has to have 5 participants to move on to

the state competition, so the 2nd place was ineligible to participate at Ironwood Springs Ranch, however were eligible as substitutes if one of the members of the 1st place team was unable to attend.

Thank you again for your help in making yet another successful event. Comments from both students and teachers reflect that this event is an excellent learning opportunity. Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District, speaking for the Northwest Area I Envirothon Committee, appreciates your support for this event.

(Continued on Page 2)



Kittson Central's team of Donovan Kasprowicz, James Hauert, Lindsay Klein, Nathan Younggren, Josh Pietruzewski and Instructor Kim Jones placed 1st overall at the 2009 NW Area I Envirothon. They placed 1st overall for the oral presentation problem, which scores heavily for the overall total and they are each pictured with individual trophies for their accomplishment.

Funding Available For Abandoned Or Unused Well Sealing

by Holly Anderson

Cost-share money is available through the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the sealing of abandoned or unused wells.

The Kittson SWCD reimburses landowners up to 75 percent of the cost of sealing abandoned or unused wells. This cost-share program is offered through the Kittson County Comprehensive Local Water Plan and state cost-share funds. Cost-share is available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Improperly sealed wells are potential sources of contamination to ground water, and can consequently affect nearby drinking water wells. Abandoned wells can act as channels for surface pollutants to enter ground water. Many abandoned wells also go uncovered, posing a physical threat to humans - mainly small children who could

potentially fall into the open wells.

For more information on well sealing, stop by our office in the Kittson County Courthouse or call 218-843-2619, ext. 3.

AgBMP Loan Program

by Shane Olson

The Agricultural Best Management Practice (AgBMP) loans are available from the Kittson SWCD. The interest rate for AgBMP loans is 3%. The money is available for the purchase of Ag waste management equipment, conservation tillage equipment, septic systems, and a few other conservation related items.

Landowners in Kittson County can apply for loans by initially visiting the Kittson SWCD office to fill out an application. The application will then be reviewed by the SWCD Board of Supervisors during its monthly board meeting. Upon approval the application is delivered to Farm Credit Services or American Federal Bank in Hallock, who is also a qualified lender.

2009 NW Area I Envirothon Held At Lake Bronson State Park

Kittson County Schools Place In Top 3 With Kittson Central Taking 1st Overall

(Continued From Page 1)

Special thanks goes out to the Lake Bronson State Park and their staff for hosting the event. This years area sponsors for the NW Area I Envirothon includes, Kittson SWCD, Two River Watershed District, Joe River Watershed District, Halma-Lake Bronson American Legion Post #315, Karlstad American Legion Post #445, Red River Chapter of the MN Deer Hunters Association, Johnson Oil Co., American Federal Bank of Warren and Hallock, Kennedy VFW, Karlstad Lions, Cenex-Farmers Union Oil of Lake Bronson, Kennedy Jaycees, Lake Bronson Lions, Hallock Lions, Prime Security Bank of Karlstad, Ag Country/Farm Credit Services-Hallock, Crop Insurance Associates of Hallock, Central Boiler of Greenbush and the Northern Plains Potato Growers Association.



Tri County's team of Becca Larson, Spencer Knutson, Josh Guillemette, Joe Englund and Tony Sang along with Instructor Gary Taylor placed 3rd at the 2009 NW Area I Envirothon and also placed 7th at this years State Envirothon competition on May 18th at Stewartville, MN.



The Kittson Central team of Lindsay Klein, Nathan Younggren, James Hauert, Josh Pietruzewski and Donovan Kasproicz "chill out" at the current events questions at the 2009 NW Area I Envirothon.



Kittson Central's team of Anna Christenson, Briana Nupdal and Dean Lipinski along with Instructor Kim Jones placed 2nd at the 2009 NW Area I Envirothon and were alternates for this year's State Envirothon on May 18th at Stewartville, MN.

SWCD Manager Holly Anderson Hired As Environmental Services Director

Holly Anderson recently announced that she will be leaving the Kittson SWCD after nine years of service. She was recently hired as the Kittson County Environmental Services Director. In her new position, Anderson will focus on Emergency Management, Solid Waste, and she will continue to run the County Zoning Program as she has for the past nine years.

"Working for the SWCD has been a great opportunity for me," Anderson said. "The SWCD administers so many useful programs. Anyone who's gotten cost-share from the District for well sealing or planting trees, or who has purchased conservation equipment through the District's low interest loan program, knows how helpful those programs can be. And the District also works as a great partner on bigger projects with NRCS and watershed districts. There are so many programs available through the District. It's really given

me an education in a variety of fields."

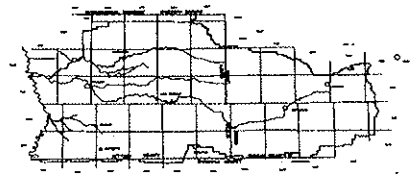
Anderson will start her new position with the county on August 3rd, but will continue to help the SWCD when possible until a new employee is hired.

"I am sad to be leaving the SWCD. The Board has been so good to me over the years. And I will really miss the SWCD/NRCS staff," she said. "But it makes it so much easier to leave when I know I will only be two doors down in my new position, and hopefully I'll continue to work with these folks on other programs that pertain to the county."

Side Water Inlets

By Jim Schwab

For those of you with erosion problems along big road ditches or drainage ditches, check out what Side Water Inlets with 90% cc share can do for you . . . for questions on any of these practices call your local FSA, or NRCS.



410 5th St. S., Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728 • Phone 218-843-3333 • Fax 218-843-2020 • Email: Daniel.money@mn.nacdn.net

Ross Impoundment Proves Its Worth In First Year Of Operation



By Dan Money

The Two Rivers Watershed District's 'Ross #7 Impoundment' project was utilized almost to its fullest in its first year of operation. This past spring runoff was another historic event, resulting in a Presidential disaster declaration. The Ross Project was put to the test, and proved that it is a valuable tool in flood damage reduction.

The project, located near Badger, Minnesota, was able to completely control all of the runoff from an 18 square mile drainage area, eliminating flows from "Skunk Creek". The gate was closed on Monday, March 23rd and was opened on Monday, May 4th. The impoundment was filled up to about 2 foot below the emergency spillway. At that level, the impoundment was storing approximately 3,200 acre feet of water (one acre-foot is equal to one acre of water one foot deep). The maximum amount of storage the impoundment can hold is about 3,600 acre feet.

This impoundment provided a significant reduction in flooding that occurs in Roseau County along lateral 1 of State Ditch #95. The Two Rivers Watershed District feels that a great benefit was achieved by protecting ag lands from flooding, and also reducing the damages to public roads, culverts, and other infrastructure.

With the water storage that the impoundment provided this past spring, the Two Rivers Watershed District felt that the downstream flooding was greatly reduced in both volume and duration. Once the downstream flooding subsided, the gate was opened and the impoundment was drained dry. The interior land is currently rented

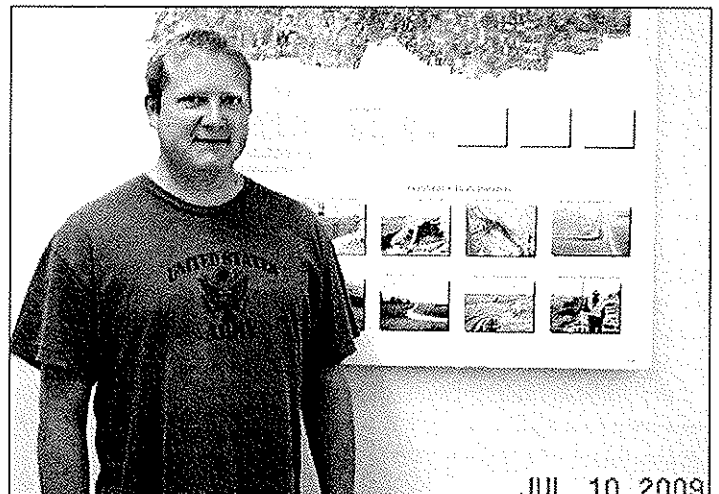
out to local farmers for hay land and some cash crops. This provides a win - win situation by providing flood control and at the same time allowing limited use of the land for agriculture.

The Two Rivers Watershed District Board of Managers is made up of 2 Managers from Roseau County and 5 Managers from Kittson County. Its offices are located in Hallock, MN. The District is committed to not only flood control projects, but also water supply and water quality programs. The District implements several monitoring and data collection programs, maintains over 80 miles of legal ditch systems, and is involved in 3 different impoundment projects.

Edgar Hired As District Technician

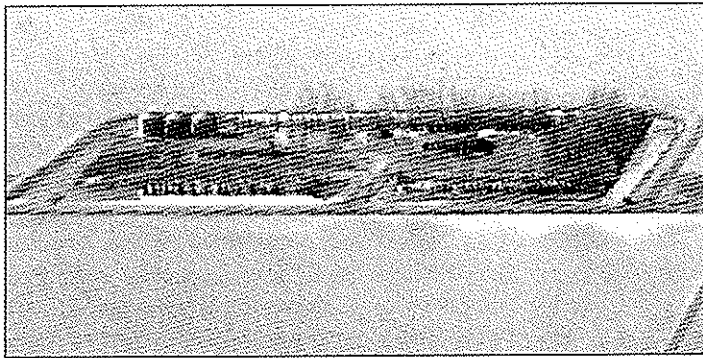
Tom Edgar joined the Two River Watershed team in March, replacing Boyd Johnson as District Technician. Tom is originally from Apple Valley, Minnesota and is a graduate of St. Cloud State University with a B.S. in Geology. Most of his career has been in the aggregate and road construction industries in the St. Cloud area with a brief stop in the oil patch of western North Dakota.

As the District Technician, Tom will be involved with ditch surveying, construction staking and inspection on projects, stream flow monitoring, culvert inventory, permit review, ditch inspection and project investigations.



Assistance Available To Construct Farmstead Ring Dikes Announced

As a result of this past spring's severe and historic flooding in the Red River Valley, funding has been appropriated to assist individuals in preventing future damages to farmsteads and rural residences. Two separate ring dike programs are available to qualified farmsteads, either through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, or through the Two Rivers Watershed District. Although the deadline for the USDA program has passed, the Two Rivers WD is still taking applications on an open enrollment basis. Details of the program are listed below.



Two River Watershed District Program

Under this program, cost share funding is utilized to construct ring dikes around eligible farmsteads for the purpose of flood protection. The landowner pays 12.5% of the cost of the dike, with the remainder of the cost split between the Two Rivers Watershed District, the Red River Watershed Management Board, and funding provided by the State of Minnesota. Currently there is funding of over \$500,000 available to construct ring dikes within the Red River Valley.

Utilizing this funding, the Two Rivers Watershed District will plan, survey, and design ring dike configurations around eligible farmsteads. The District will also hire a contractor to construct the dike and inspect the finished work.

Dikes built under the program must be 2 feet higher than the administrative 100 year floodplain elevation or the flood of record (whichever is higher), and be constructed with a minimum 6' wide top and three to one side slopes. In addition, the dikes must be seeded to grass upon completion. For the purposes of zoning and floodplain regulations, the construction of a dike under this program does not remove the property from the 100-year flood plain, if applicable. Once construction is completed, the long term maintenance of the dike is the responsibility of the landowner.

The Two Rivers Watershed District is currently reviewing its list of eligible sites for construction to possibly be completed this year. If you are in need of flood protection, now is the time to build a dike! If you have an active farmstead that has experienced flooding in the past and would like to receive more information about the cost share program, please call the District office at 218-843-3333, email daniel.money@mn.nacdn.net, or stop by the office located in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock. Signups are being taken continuously, however it is recommended to sign up as early as possible if you are interested.

LiDAR Forum Coming To Hallock

The Two Rivers Watershed District, Joe River Watershed District, Red River Watershed Management Board, and the International Water Institute will be hosting a public forum beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 30th at the Hallock City Hall. The purpose of the meeting will be to introduce and discuss LiDAR technology for interested farmers, local government agencies, scientists, public officials, agriculture consultants, and the general public.

LiDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is the latest state of the art mapping technology. It will bring new capabilities and tools to utilize in elevation mapping that have never before been available. It is an integration of airborne laser and global position system (GPS) technology. Laser pulses are directed at the earth's surface (early spring or late fall) from equipment aboard an aircraft flying a predetermined grid over an area of interest. The laser reflections are recorded and the range is calculated from the instrument's orientation in space and the time required for the laser's light reflection to travel back to the aircraft. These LiDAR measurements allow precise calculation of land surface elevation. In the past, the best available mapping information has been the old USGS contour maps. They were done in the 1970's and showed 5' contours. This new technology will provide 6" contours.

To date, information has been collected and is available for all of Kittson County. By early 2010 the entire U.S. portion of the Red River Valley will be available. The project cost is approximately \$5 million, and is being funded through several partner agencies, including but not limited to the Red River Watershed Management Board, State of Minnesota, State of North Dakota, US Geological Survey, US Army Corps of Engineers, and many others. For further information, the International Water Institute will post periodic project status updated online: www.internationalwaterinstitute.org

LiDAR is an extremely accurate way to measure the contours of the earth. At a minimum, all LiDAR data collected as a part of this initiative will meet specified 15cm RMSE(Z) - a measure of total error. Results of the first data delivery (Block A) indicated and overall RMSE(Z) of 9.6cm (3.84 inches). The project team estimates roughly 53 billion data points will be collected when completed comprising a total digital file space of (estimated) 8-10 terabytes. The International Water Institute will make data available to public entities for copying as they become available. Please contact the IWI to make arrangements.

The applications that this data can be used for are limitless. Public agencies will utilize it for flood control projects, flood forecasting, generating computer models for analyzing the flow of water, drainage projects, permitting, and planning projects. Agriculture will be able to use it for on farm drainage planning and ditching, topographic mapping of individual fields, planning, and various other applications. Many other uses will be available, whether in our schools, in the field, transportation planning, construction planning, or whatever else you can imagine.

Please plan on attending this forum if you want to learn more about this technology. For more information, contact Chuck Fritz with the International Water Institute, John Finney with the Joe River Watershed District, or Dan Money with the Two Rivers Watershed District.

KITTSON COUNTY LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

Applicant _____ Telephone _____

Mailing address _____

Legal description of project – township, section, range or street _____

Check all that apply: New construction _____ Demolition _____ Moving _____ Alteration _____ Septic _____
Change in use/conditional use _____ Variance _____

Proposed use (home, garage, etc.) _____ Dimensions (LxWxH) _____

List setbacks from property lines: Front (If outside city limits, no activity can take place within 130' of centerline of nearest road.) _____ Back _____ Side _____ Side _____

Builder _____ Estimated Cost _____

Septic plans (if applicable): No septic _____ Use current system (This may require an inspection.) _____
New system _____; Who will do the septic work: _____

This information is to the best of my knowledge true and accurate. It is understood and agreed that any error, misstatement or misrepresentation of fact, either with or without intention on my part, if known, may cause refusal of this application, or any alteration or change in plans made without the approval of the zoning administrator, subsequent to the issuance of the building permit, shall constitute sufficient grounds for the revocation of such permit.

Please diagram in the box the location of the work including space and dimensions of the property and buildings, locations of roads, rivers, streets and alleys, and distances from buildings to lot lines.

Signed (applicant) _____ Date _____

FEES: Regular application: \$20.00
Septic application: \$20.00
Floodplain application: \$50.00
Shoreland application: \$50.00

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS
PAYABLE TO
KITTSON COUNTY**

By signing this application, the applicant is also giving the zoning administrator permission to inspect the property in question.

If approved, this permit is valid 15 days after the date it is issued. Any work done before the 15 days of appeal is up, is at the risk of the permit holder.

This permit is for Kittson County only. Other federal, state, and local laws and ordinances may apply.

Permits expire one year after the date of issuance.

FOR ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S USE ONLY

Application number: _____

Is the project in the floodplain? Yes _____ No _____

Is the project in shoreland? Yes _____ No _____

Is a septic inspection required? Yes _____ No _____

Are the setbacks adequate? Yes _____ No _____

Is the application approved? Yes _____ No _____

The reason for disapproval _____

Other comments: _____

Building Permit Number _____

_____ Date issued _____

(Zoning Administrator)

It is the responsibility of the applicant to insure that all work is done in strict accordance with the zoning ordinances of Kittson County. It is the responsibility of the applicant to notify the zoning administrator that the job is ready for inspection concerning setbacks, etc. This permit is granted upon the express condition that the applicant and his agents, employees and all workmen shall conform in all respects to the ordinances of Kittson County

KITTSON COUNTY ZONING

410 So. 5th St., Suite 106

Hallock, MN 56728

218-843-2619, ext. 3

Holly Anderson, Zoning Administrator – holly.anderson@mn.nacdnet.net



Building Permits Required In Kittson County

by Holly Anderson, Zoning Administrator

In 2007, the Kittson County Commissioners approved an amended version of the Kittson County Zoning Regulations Ordinance. Several new regulations were added to the Ordinance, as well as changes in the fee schedule. 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 in - this includes signs and fences;
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 more bedroom space. An example of this may be when a den is changed into a bedroom; and
4. When dealing with demolition sites, disposal of contaminated soil, landfills, wetlands, underground tanks and digging or filling in a well.

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 administrator will check Kittson County floodplain maps 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, pond, or flowage, 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 a 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.

Are there any other new permits required in Kittson County? Yes. The amended Ordinance now also calls for a per-

mit to be obtained from the zoning administrator for Home Occupations inside city limits (This does not include the Cities of Hallock, Lake Bronson, Kennedy or Karlstad.). A home occupation is defined as a business or industry which provides home owners and residential renters with an opportunity to conduct a small scale commercial use within a home (or an accessory building on lands adjacent to the home) which they occupy. If you are thinking about starting a home-based business, contact the zoning administrator for more information about home occupation requirements. There is no fee for a home occupation permit.

I am a contractor; do I need to worry about getting permits for my customers? Yes. The amended regulations apply equally to all persons, including but not limited to, property owners, renters, builders or contractors, and volunteers. The amended 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 or renters will verify the existence of a permit if the same has been obtained by a builder or contractor.

What is the cost of a land use/building permit? The cost for a general permit or a septic permit is \$20. Permits for projects in shoreland or floodplain cost \$50. If you do not know if you are in the floodplain or shoreland, the zoning administrator can tell you.

What if I don't get a permit? While the cost of a building permit is minimal at only \$20-\$50, the cost of fines for building without a permit can be very high. Also as stated in the Kittson County Zoning Ordinance, the county attorney will prosecute all violations. Violations shall be punishable as a misdemeanor. A separate offense shall be deemed committed upon each day that the Kittson County Courthouse is normally open for business during or on which a violation occurs or continues.

The Ordinance also adds fees for "after-the-fact" permits. The policy states that any landowner who violates the Ordinance, and then seeks a land use permit after-the-fact, shall be charged \$100 if payment is made within the first seven working days of a written notice of violation. That fee goes to \$250 when the violation is paid after seven working days but within ninety calendar days of the notice of violation. After ninety calendar days, the fee for the violation goes up to \$500.

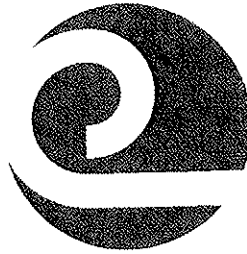
How do I apply for a permit? Contact Holly Anderson, Kittson County zoning administrator, at 218-843-2619, ext. 3 or visit the Kittson SWCD office in the basement of the Courthouse, Hallock. Anderson can also mail you an application form, if necessary.

Kittson County SWCD

410 So. 5th St., Suite 106
Hallock, Minnesota 56728-4140
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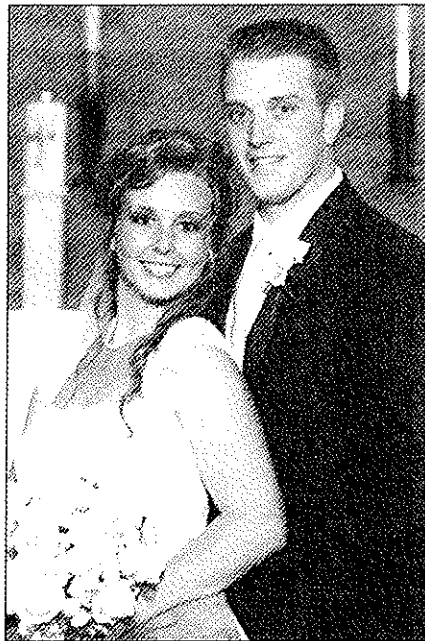
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Meet New Technician Mark Larson

My name is Mark Larson and I am the new guy at the Conservation office in Hallock. My parents are Mike Larson from Hallock and Marcia Larson (Carlson) from Lancaster. I was born in Thief River Falls, MN, and grew up in Warroad, MN with one sister, Carmela, and two brothers, Kent and Casey. I graduated from Warroad High School in 2002. I attended the University of Minnesota, Crookston and graduated with Bachelor of Science Degree in 2006. I have had a variety of job experiences ranging from factory work to research studies. This winter I started working for the Natural Resource Conservation Service as a Soil Conservation Technician. I enjoy my job and the people I work with. This spring I married the beautiful Nikki Younggren of Hallock. Nikki and I live on my grandparents' farmstead east of Lancaster (Harley & Doris



Carlson). I hunt and fish, play hockey, eat lefse, and like to spend my time in the great outdoors with family and friends.

Address Corrections Very Important

After several years with a new address, we are still receiving mail addressed to our old post office box address. The Kittson SWCD and the Two Rivers Watershed District have converted from post office box addresses to physical addresses in the Courthouse. The Kittson Soil & Water Conservation District's new address is 410 S. 5th St, Suite 106, Hallock, MN, 56728-4140. The Two Rivers Watershed District's new address is 410 S. 5th St, Suite 112, Hallock, MN, 56728-4140. If you have a new address to provide us contact: Shane.olson@mn.nacdn.net. We will share it with the Farm Service Agency office, if you request to do so.

Help Wanted: Full Time Technician/Manager

Full time Technician/Manager at the Kittson Soil and Water Conservation District, office in Hallock. Responsible for management duties and administration of state-funded programs such as County Water Plan, Shoreland, and Septic programs. Natural resources degree or related experience preferred. Good communication skills are a must. For a complete job description, stop by the SWCD office in the Kittson County Courthouse, call 218-843-2619, ext. 3, or go online at www.nwmnswcd.org. Send resume with three references to the Kittson SWCD, 410 So. 5th St., Suite 106, Hallock, MN 56728, Attn: Holly, by August 17, 2009.