

Annual Report

Clay SWCD

2012

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Supervisors for the Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) presents their Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 2012.

When reading this 2012 report, may it be kept in mind that the primary aim in the administration of this program is the conservation of soil and water, together with pollution abatement, improve water quality, improve wildlife habitat, promote recreation, and improve the quality of our environment for ALL the people in Clay County.

We appreciate the technical assistance, leadership and office space supplied our Soil and Water Conservation District by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). We have four full-time employees; a District Manager, a District Technician/County Feedlot Officer, a District Secretary and a Water Resources Management Technician in our office. Soil conservation personnel also help coordinate valuable assistance given our District by the Extension Service, Farm Service Agency (FSA), State of Minnesota, the County Board of Commissioners and the County Engineer. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the District Supervisors share office space with the NRCS in Moorhead. Both the SWCD and NRCS pay a portion of the rent. NRCS continues to play a role in getting conservation applied on the land.

Since organizing on June 21, 1945, the Clay SWCD continues their efforts in implementing the various local, state and federal programs to achieve their goal of promoting conservation. The District Supervisors would welcome suggestions and would like to be informed of your conservation concerns so they can better carryout their duties.

Clay Soil & Water Conservation District

Annual Operations 2012

The Clay Soil & Water Conservation District (Clay SWCD) Supervisors accept their responsibility of protecting the natural resources of Clay County.

The Clay SWCD Supervisors continue to supervise District activities by providing the best employees possible and by sound financial direction.

Open meetings are held at 4:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at the District office.

Landowners are invited to contact the District office, in regard to time, if they wish to meet with the Board to voice concerns.

Clay SWCD Mission Statement

“To Promote Natural Resource Stewardship through Technical, Educational and Financial Assistance”

CLAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

January 1, 2012 - - December 31, 2012

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

District I	Steve Dalen	Kragnes, Felton, Georgetown Areas
District II	Carol Schoff	Hawley, Ulen, Hitterdal Areas
District III	Kenneth Schellack	Glyndon, Barnesville Areas
District IV	Paul Krabbenhoft	Moorhead, Comstock, Sabin Areas
District V	Duane Janssen	Rollag, Barnesville, Hawley Areas

District Staff

Kevin Kassenborg
District Manager

Craig Halverson
District Technician/CFO

Karen Carlsrud
District Secretary

Lynn Foss
Water Resources Management Technician

NRCS Staff

Sharon Lean
District Conservationist

Nancy Alexander
Soil Conservation Technician

Housed in Clay County
Anthony Nelson, PF Biologist

Acronyms Used Throughout the Annual Report

SWCD – Soil & Water Conservation District

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service

FSA – Farm Service Agency

BMP – Best Management Practice

BWSR – Board of Water & Soil Resources

MASWCD – Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

RC&D – Resource Conservation & Development

JPB – Joint Powers Board

CCATO – Clay County Association of Township Officers

WMSTR – Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion

NACDE – Northwest Association of Conservation District Employees

SCD – Soil Conservation District – North Dakota

BRRWD – Buffalo-Red River Watershed District

CFO – County Feedlot Officer

MACDE – Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees

PWLC – Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

RRBC – Red River Basin Commission

CAI – County Ag Inspector

PF – Pheasants Forever

LiDAR – Light Detection And Radar

RIM – Reinvest-In-Minnesota

CWF – Clean Water Fund

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2012

District staff attended various meetings throughout the year associated with Water Plan projects, Wetland Challenge Grants, Ag BMP Low Interest Loan program, Envirothon, CAI quarterly meetings, BWSR and MASWCD related training sessions and SWCD board meetings.

JANUARY

Staff prepared the annual Tree Newsletter which was mailed the first days of January. The Red River Basin Commission Conference was held in Winnipeg, MB, and no one from the Clay SWCD attended. Staff was busy with eLINK reporting, working on the 2012 Annual Plan/Budget and 2012 Financial Reports. Effective January, Clay County transferred the duties of County Ag Inspector (CAI) to the SWCD office. Staff was busy with learning the new responsibilities. Early January we experienced record highs of 52 degrees on January 2, 51 degrees on January 9 and 50 degrees on January 10 – no snowstorms this month. Staff received a 2% merit increase the first of the year.

FEBRUARY

Staff was busy with completing necessary year-end reports. Training continued for the CAI duties and we began proctoring pesticide tests to individuals. No one from the Clay SWCD attended the MASWCD Legislative Day at the Capitol on Feb. 15-16. The month started out on the mild side and by the end of the month we received 5-8” of snow the last week of February.

MARCH

There was an Area I meeting at Ada with Karen and Supervisor Schoff attending. Staff made a presentation at the CCATO spring meeting held March 19. Anthony Nelson, Pheasants Forever (PF) Biologist started working out of our office on March 12. Karen attended the Administrative Session held March 29-30 at Chase on the Lake, Walker. The Financial Report, Annual Plan and Annual Report completed and forwarded on to BWSR and listed on our web page by March 15.

APRIL

Because of a mild winter/lack of snow, the Red River stayed within its bank and no flooding for spring 2012. Spring came early and the first trees arrived April 5. Staff started to package trees and we held tree pickup the week of April 16. We started planting trees on April 9 – tree season has started. The Senior Envirothon was held April 25 at the PWLC, Fergus Falls. Lynn attended a LiDAR training session in East Grand Forks. No-till drill season also starts early.

MAY

Staff completed tree planting this month. Karen assisted with the State Envirothon on May 21 at Savage Learning Center. We sold 16,969 trees, did 18 planting jobs and applied 29,185 feet of matting. Filing for District Supervisor opened from May 22 – June 5. We have openings in Area 1, II and V this year.

JUNE

The SWCD had a booth at the Breakfast on the Farm event held at Kasin Farms on June 2. It was a nice sunny day with a lot of people attending and another good breakfast served. The Area I meeting was held at Detroit Lakes with Kevin, Karen and Supervisors Schoff and Schellack attending. The JPB met in the afternoon. Staff kept busy making field visits, monitoring WRP contracts, and doing feedlot inspections along with taking weed calls/inspections.

July

The Clay County Fair was July 12-15 and staff worked various shifts at the booth. We conducted a Nitrate Testing clinic (31 samples) at the Fair on July 13. Work continued on various project activities. Kevin, Craig and Lynn attended the CAI Conference at Hibbing July 23-25. It was the start of a dry summer. However, on July 25 we received 1” of rain – very much needed.

August

The usual office and field work was ongoing. Bethany Barth, NRCS Soil Conservationist, transferred to Steele, ND, NRCS office. Due to drought conditions, BWSR allowed emergency haying/grazing on RIM acres.

September

A booth was shared with Cass SCD (ND) on Sept 11-13 for Big Iron held at the West Fargo Fairgrounds. The fall session of the River Keepers Water Festival was Sept. 18-21 and Karen assisted at the event one day. Karen attended the MASWCD/Awards Committee meeting September 18 at St. Paul. On-going field work/pesticide testing continues. Two streambarb projects completed this month. The office continues our no-till drill rental program with the drills being used less than in peak years. Total 1,394 acres were planted this past year.

October

The Area I/South Junior Envirothon was held October 3 at the PWLC. No one from the Clay SWCD attended the annual CFO Conference at Willmar from Oct. 16-18. Kevin and Lynn attended the BWSR/MACDE Academy at Cragun's Resort from Oct. 29-31. The Area 1 meeting was held at Calloway on October 25 followed by the JPB meeting in the afternoon.

November

Kevin made a presentation at the CCATO fall meeting November 19 at Glyndon. CWF and RIM training sessions held. Re-elected as Supervisors were Steve Dalen for Area I and Carol Schoff for Area II. Joel Hildebrandt was elected for Area V, replacing Supervisor Janssen.

December

The MASWCD Convention was Dec. 2-4 at the Double Tree Hotel, Bloomington. Supervisors Schoff and Schellack attended along with staff person Karen Carlsrud. The Outstanding Cooperators for 2012 were Lee and Noreen Thomas from Moorhead. They also attended the convention on Tuesday and enjoyed themselves. On December 13, we held an informational meeting for newly elected legislators, County Commissioners and District Supervisors. Attending was Senator Kent Eken, Representative Ben Lien, County Commissioner Frank Gross and District Supervisor Joel Hildebrandt.

WCA update: Projects involving wetland or potential wetland impacts continue on the rise. For the year, the following activities relating to the WCA were addressed by the District: Landowner contacts – 210; Acres impacted via approved replacement plans – 1.6:1.6; No-loss determinations – 24; Cease and Desist Orders and Restoration Order issued – 0; Replacement plans approved – 1; Exemption issued –34; and Potential violations investigated – 3.

All programs and services are available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.