

# 2014 Annual Report

## Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District

### Mission Statement

“Protecting our Soil and Water Resources and Promoting their Wise Use”



### Introduction

The Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1954 as a legal subdivision of the state operating under a charter insured by the Secretary of State. The District is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors who is responsible for directing all District activities and establishing operational policies. Each supervisor is elected for a 4-year term. Each supervisor lives in a different geographic area of the District and represents that portion of the District. By utilizing a combination of available local, state and federal assistance, the District directs conservation programs to service the resource management needs of all those who live within Nobles County.

The District cooperates with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation District under a Memorandum of Understanding whereby full-time technical assistance on soil survey, engineering, agronomy, biology, woodland conservation and administration is furnished to the District by the Natural Resources conservation District’s field, area and state office staff. The Nobles SWCD share the Agriculture Service Center at 1567 McMillan St., Worthington Minnesota, with several USDA agencies.

### District Supervisors

Paul Langseth	Chairman	Lorain, Ransom, Bigelow, and Indian Lake Townships
Rick Nelsen	Vice-Chairman	Seward, Graham Lakes, Elk and Hersey Townships
Lynn Darling	Secretary	Bloom, Summit Lake Dewald and Worthington Townships
Ken Wolf	Treasurer	Westside, Olney, Grand Prairie and Little Rock Townships
Jim Knips	PR&I	Leota, Wilmont, Lismore and Larkin Townships

### District Staff

Ed Lenz.....District Manager	Jane Steffl.....Financial/Contracting Officer
John Shea.....District Technician	Chessa Frahm.....MOB Watershed Coordinator
Kevin Roth.....Farmbill Technician	Sabrina Raddle....Accountant/ Admin Assistant

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

Stephanie McLain.....District Conservationist	Dawn Madison.....Soil Conservation Tech.
Brad Harberts.....Civil Engineer	Jean Jansma.....Office Clerk
Karen Boysen.....Soil Conservationist	Joseph Sanchez.....Soil Conservationist

**Nobles SWCD Board Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m.**

## **2014 Nobles SWCD Programs Report**

### **Tree Program**



The NSWCD offered for sale different tree and shrubs species native to Minnesota. Producers purchased the trees to plant into windbreaks, urban and rural conservation, and wildlife food and habitat. Through the annual tree program the NSWCD is able to promote conservation practices and the value of forestry resources in preventing soil loss and improving water quality. The District sold over 18,265 trees, in 2014, and assisted 31 landowners with tree planting. More than 1000 tree mats were sold and over 7,200 feet of mating was installed in 2014.

### **State Cost-Share**



The State Cost-Share program is a viable source of funds that provides financial incentives to landowners that wish to install conservation practices on their land. In addition to the State Cost-Share program, landowners were given an opportunity to participate in various other cost-share or financial incentive programs, such as the Federal EQIP program and the State Revolving Loan Program. The SWCD and NRCS provide technical assistance for the survey design and installation of water quality practices. The SWCD received \$17,383.00 for FY 2014 allocations.

### **Environmental Education**



Environmental education is an important part of our SWCD office. Classes and materials are offered to schools and churches across Nobles County.

#### **2014 Activities Included**

- Prairie Elementary Earth Day Presentations
- Fifth Grade Adrian Environmental Learning Area Tours
- Fifth Grade Prairie Wetlands Environmental Learning Area Tours
- Ecology Bus presentations
- Fifth and Sixth Grade Environmental Fair – Slayton, MN

### **Wetland Conservation Act Program**



The NSWCD assists cities, townships, citizens, and County departments in the administration of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act. NSWCD staff provides technical and administrative assistance for wetland related activities throughout Nobles County. Common activities involved with the program include tile and drainage applications as well as wetland banking. The NSWCD has continued its commitment to ensure that staff is adequately trained and updated on current wetland rules and policy. In 2014, NSWCD worked on over 1,000 landowner drainage requests.

### **State Revolving Loan Program**



During 2014 the NSWCD in conjunction with the Nobles Co. Commissioners, Southwest State Bank Worthington, United Prairie, Fulda Credit Union and MinnWest Bank worked with local landowners to obtain MN Department of Agriculture AgBMP Loans. During 2014 multiple loans were dispersed related to conservation tillage, ISTS, and Ag waste management.

### **Water Monitoring Program**



The Nobles SWCD is participating in the Pollution Control Agency's Major Watershed Approach. For the past three years, Nobles SWCD has housed a watershed coordinator for the Missouri River Basin. Work continued this year towards completing the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies document and supporting reports. The Assessment Report can be viewed on the Minnesota PCA website.

### **Clean Water Assistance Funds**



The Nobles SWCD has applied and received funding from the Clean Water Funds for over the past 4 years to install erosion control practices. In 2014, multiple waterways and sediment basins were installed.

### **Clean Water Feedlot Funds**



The Nobles SWCD in partnership with the Southwest Prairie TSA Engineers and additional private engineers developed site evaluations and plans for the repair of two feedlot sites in Nobles County. One feedlot on Lake Ocheda received Clean Water Funds to reduce the phosphorus runoff into Lake Ocheda and the Worthington Wellhead Area. The second feedlot will reduce pollution potential to the City of Lismore wellhead area by reducing groundwater potential. Both projects began construction in 2014.

## Watershed Boards and Staff

### Heron Lake Watershed District Board

Dale Bartosh  
Jim Buschena  
Gary Ewert  
Roger Hartman  
Mike McCarvel

Jan Voit, HLWD Administration  
Catherine Sereg, HLWD Technician  
Amanda Schultz, HLWD Coordinator

### Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District

Jerry Brake  
Connie Frahm  
Coleen Gruis  
Layton Gruis  
Tim Taylor

Bruce Heitkamp, Exec. Secretary

### K-LR Watershed Project-Joint Powers Board

Lynn Darling  
Coleen Gruis  
Don Reker  
Connie Frahm  
Gene Metz

Jane Steffl, Contracting Officer

### Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District

Casey Ingenthron  
Lester Johnson  
Rolf Mahlberg  
Jay Milbrandt  
Jeff Rogers

Dan Livdahl, Administrator