
Local Capacity Funding at Work

2016 SWCD Capacity Reporting



Table of Contents

Summary	5
Aitkin	7
Anoka	8
Becker	9
Benton.....	10
Big Stone	11
Blue Earth	12
Brown.....	13
Carlton.....	14
Carver	15
Cass	16
Chippewa.....	17
Chisago	18
Clay.....	19
Clearwater	20
Cook	21
Cottonwood.....	22
Crow Wing	23
Dakota	24
Dodge	25
Douglas.....	26
Faribault	27
Fillmore	28
Freeborn.....	29
Goodhue.....	30
Grant	31
Hennepin	32
Hubbard	33
Isanti.....	34
Itasca	35
Jackson	36
Kanabec.....	37

Kandiyohi.....	38
Kittson	39
Koochiching	40
Lac qui Parle	41
Lake of the Woods	42
Lake	43
Le Sueur.....	44
Lincoln	45
Lyon.....	46
Mahnomen.....	47
Marshall	48
Martin	49
McLeod.....	50
Meeker	51
Mille Lacs.....	52
Morrison.....	53
Mower.....	54
Murray	55
Nicollet/Sibley	56
Nobles	57
Norman	58
Olmstead	59
Ottertail East	60
Ottertail West.....	61
Pennington	62
Pine	63
Pipestone.....	64
Polk East	65
Polk West	66
Pope	67
Ramsey.....	68
Red Lake	69
Redwood	70

Renville.....	71
Rice.....	72
Rock.....	73
Root River.....	74
Roseau.....	75
Scott.....	76
Sherburne.....	77
St. Louis North.....	78
St. Louis South.....	79
Stearns.....	80
Steele.....	81
Stevens.....	82
Swift.....	83
Todd.....	84
Traverse.....	85
Wabasha.....	86
Wadena.....	87
Waseca.....	88
Washington.....	89
Watonwan.....	90
Wilkin.....	91
Winona.....	92
Wright.....	93
Yellow Medicine.....	94

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT LOCAL CAPACITY INITIATIVE & OUTCOMES

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) have prepared this handbook of individual Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) local capacity impact sheets to report out on the work and building of capacity that has been made with the Legislative appropriation of \$22 million (\$11 million annually) in its fiscal year 2016-2017 budget. The funding addresses the important role that our State's SWCDs play in assisting private landowners meet their requirements not only under the State's buffer law but meeting the growing expectation and demand of landowners to do more work to improve surface water quality, protect groundwater, and improve fish & wildlife habitat.

“Significant conservation achievements – and especially those that require reductions in non-point source pollution – can only be realized by engaging private landowners at the community center, at the front door, or at the kitchen table, and that role is best accomplished by those who are most connected to those citizens and landowners – and that role again falls to our local governments.”

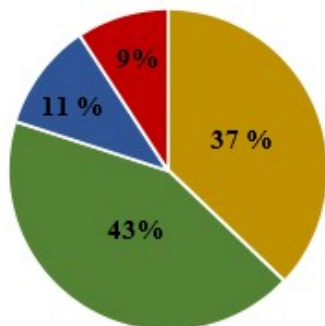
The individual SWCD impact sheets are provided to give a snapshot on:

- Soil and water resources being addressed and percent of the new funding going to each.
- Spending by activity.
- Short narrative on some activities that have been done and the importance of them to the residents of that SWCD.

Collectively the funding has helped SWCDs build the core technical services needed to help address locally-identified soil and water resources issues. The following chart and table identify the top four resource concerns that SWCDs have focused their capacity work on and the amount of the new funding allocated to each of them.

SWCD Local Capacity Funding Overview

Resource Area Addressed



Soil Erosion	\$	3,334,996
Riparian Zone Management	\$	3,857,176
Water Storage and Treatment	\$	975,596
Excess Nutrients	\$	832,232

■ Soil Erosion ■ Riparian Zone Management ■ Water Storage and Treatment ■ Excess Nutrients

MASWCD and BWSR define “local capacity” as the readiness of soil and water conservation districts to plan, identify, and successfully accomplish water quality solutions. Funding local capacity leads to SWCD’s that are able to execute priorities and commitments in their local plans.

SWCD SUMMARY

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are political subdivisions of the State established under Minnesota Statute 103C. Each SWCD is governed by a board of elected supervisors.

There are 89 SWCDs in Minnesota, which cover the entire state with the exception of Hennepin County. Our largest counties including St. Louis, Otter Tail and Polk each have two SWCDs to better serve landowners in those counties.

The first SWCD in Minnesota was created in 1938 to work under a new federal partnership to assist landowners address the ravages of drought and erosion on their land which threatened the nation’s agricultural economy. State-wide, 76% of Minnesota’s lands are in private ownership. In agricultural areas that number can exceed 95%. Without the support of private landowners we will never be able to achieve our goals for clean water, clean air and abundant fish & wildlife habitat.

SWCDs fill a crucial niche of providing land and water conservation services to owners and operators of private lands. Managing private lands in a way that promotes a sound economy and sustains and enhances natural resources is key to Minnesota’s environmental health. Private landowners trust SWCDs to provide needed technology, funding, and educational services because they are established in each community, governed by local leaders, and focused on conservation of local soil and water resources.

SWCDs work is critical to attaining the state's goals for clean water, clean air, and abundant fish and wildlife. Managed wisely, these working lands - Minnesota's farms, forests, and urban areas - contribute greatly to the production of environmental goods and benefits including cleaner air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, and preservation of open spaces.



“From One Watershed One Plan to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, SWCD team members across the state are putting infrastructure in place in their local communities to improve Minnesota’s remarkable natural resources,” said Kurt Beckstrom, president of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD). “They are the technical experts and the boots on the ground who understand their specific communities’ needs and help landowners navigate voluntary conservation programs from start to finish.”

Local Capacity Funding At Work Aitkin SWCD

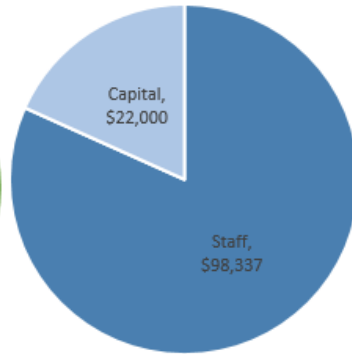


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN AITKIN COUNTY

Forestry is a vital component in Minnesota’s economy, and provides multiple benefits including water quality protection. Being able to work one on one with landowners is vital to protect and preserve the quality of life, recreational activities, and forest product opportunities in Minnesota.

Aitkin County SWCD has used part of its local capacity funding to support Northern Minnesota’s private forestland owners by hiring a Regional Clean Water Forester. Mitch Lundeen works with SWCD staff throughout northern Minnesota help landowners manage their forestlands for timber production, water quality, recreation, and wildlife habitat.

Originally funded through a BWSR Accelerated Implementation Grant, these capacity dollars provide stability and longevity to this important resource management position. Mitch’s position provides him – and the SWCDs he supports - the ability to carry the message of the connection between well-managed forests, wildlife habitat, tourism, and water quality across county boundaries. It’s a win for landowners, conservation staff, and water quality.



CONTACT: STEVE HUGHES
DISTRICT MANAGER
218-927-6565
HUGHES.AITKINSWCD@GMAIL.COM



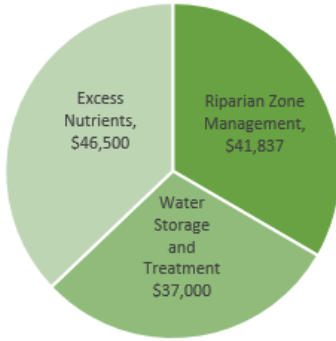
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Anoka SWCD

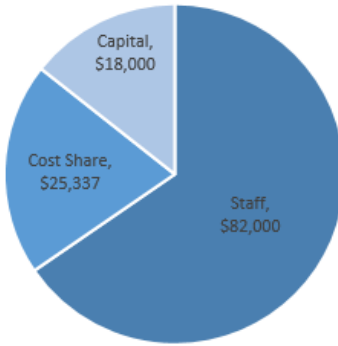


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Planning & Assessment		✓	✓	✓
Streambank & Shoreline Protection		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Equipment		✓	✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ANOKA COUNTY

Thanks to the \$100,000 in capacity funding, the Anoka CD was able to systematically implement a lake improvement initiative from the ground up. We trained staff on lakeshore restoration and stabilization design, purchased design software, and conducted outreach and education following development of a lakeshore restoration display and brochure. This outreach effort lead to the completion of project designs for seventeen sites. Ultimately we managed the installation of three lakeshore restorations, one stormwater treatment basin, three rain gardens, and three large rough fish barriers. Although these efforts drew upon a variety of funding sources, the infusion of capacity funds made all of the pieces seamlessly fall into place.



The 2016 capacity dollars, and the ensuing efforts by ACD to provide technical and financial assistance, has uncovered and created an interest and commitment on the part of many landowners to take action to improve natural resources. Converting this interest into action will require SWCD staff to be there every step of the way; providing design assistance, leveraging installation funds, and seeing to project management details. This valuable energy and momentum can be leveraged into long-lasting benefits on the landscape provided we have the financial resources to maintain the talent pool and programmatic infrastructure that we've been able to build.



CONTACT: CHRIS LORD
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 763-434-2030 x13
 CHRIS.LORD@ANOKASWCD.ORG

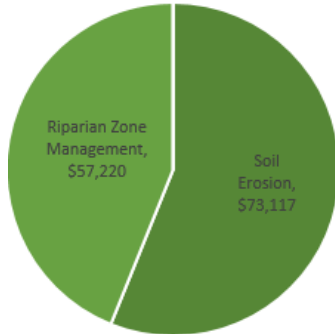


Local Capacity Funding At Work Becker SWCD



STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Planning & Assessment			✓	✓
Streambank & Shoreline Protection		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓	✓	✓

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN BECKER COUNTY

Becker SWCD utilized the \$100,000 in capacity funding to hire two new positions in our district - a full time dedicated Shoreland Technician and a part time Program Assistant. When the grant was amended and an additional \$30,000 was received, our district partnered with East Otter Tail and West Otter Tail SWCDs to also hire a full time shared District Engineer.

Capacity funds have enabled Becker Soil and Water Conservation District to take unprecedented steps to meet local demand for technical assistance with shoreland stabilization, protection, and restoration activities on priority public water bodies. Two new hires - a full time dedicated Shoreland Technician and a part time Program Assistant – and a shared District Engineer with East Otter Tail and West Otter Tail SWCDs, have allowed the district to more than double their project implementation rate and significantly decrease costs associated with surveying, engineering, and designing complex solutions to protect and improve surface water quality across the work area of three SWCDs.

This additional capacity has increased our visibility and accessibility to the public, established additional rapport with stakeholders, local officials, community groups and partner agencies, and enabled us to effectively target historically unaddressed local water quality goals and objectives.

CONTACT: PETER MEAD
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
PEMEAD@CO.BECKER.MN.US



Local Capacity Funding At Work Benton SWCD

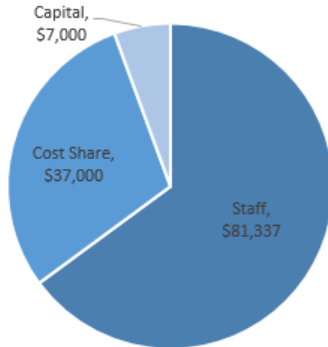


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Monitoring/Data Collection				✓
Water Quality Practices				✓
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		✓
Equipment		✓		✓

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN BENTON COUNTY

Because of Benton SWCD’s local capacity funding, they were able to increase their community engagement work, including a partnership with the Little Rock Lake Association (LRLA) to work on water quality projects in the Little Rock Lake Watershed. Little Rock Lake was listed as an impaired water by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in 2008. Thanks to increased staff, the district organized data on Best Management Practices within the watershed and assisted with stream monitoring and data collection on the lake.

The district’s expanded outreach capabilities included hosting free nitrate clinics, testing Benton County residents’ drinking water, promoting conservation practices at the Benton County Fair, and worked with Foley High School’s Environmental Science class to renovate previously unusable space into an Outdoor Classroom.

The capacity funding has provided opportunities for Benton SWCD to work with nonprofit organizations, schools, and the public to build conservation programs including education and outreach collectively. The organizations are now prepared to start new conservation activities. These long lasting relationships will result in a stronger conservation ethic for area youth and additional stewardship activities along their lakes and streams.



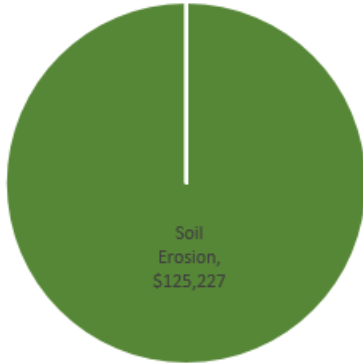
CONTACT: GERRY MACIEJ
DISTRICT MANAGER
320-968-5300 EXT. 137
GERRY@SOILANDWATER.ORG



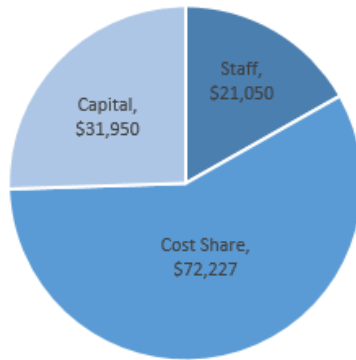
Local Capacity Funding At Work Big Stone SWCD

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending

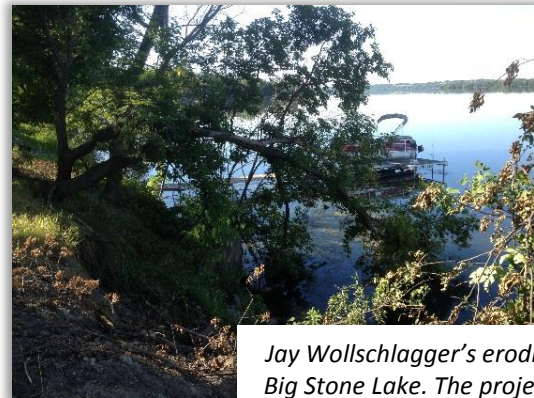


LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓			
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Streambank & Shoreline Protection	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN BIG STONE COUNTY

Big Stone SWCD has targeted the majority of their capacity funding to putting projects on the ground in high priority areas within the county. When landowners come in looking to implement practices on their land, the county can now move on many of those projects instead of waiting for a Clean Water Fund grant. Landowners have been incredibly happy at how fast the process has been from their initial meeting in the district office to getting practices in the ground.

These funds have been incredibly helpful because the district can help so many more landowners with smaller projects that many not necessarily meet the criteria for a larger Clean Water Fund grant but still have the ability to make a difference for local conservation goals. Being able to take on more local projects is a big deal. It shows the public the work being done to improve water quality in Big Stone County.



Jay Wollschlager's eroding shoreline on Big Stone Lake. The project was awarded funding in 2015.



The completed project strengthened the shoreline while adding beauty from native grasses and flowers helping anchor it.

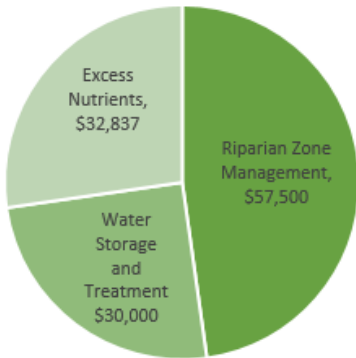
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Blue Earth SWCD

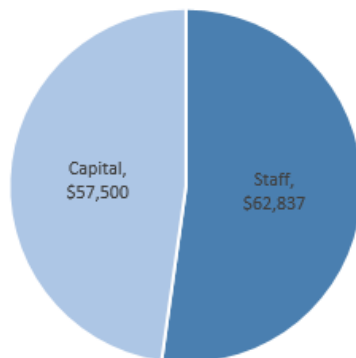


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project Development			✓	✓
Water Quality Practices				
Education/Information				✓
Equipment		✓		

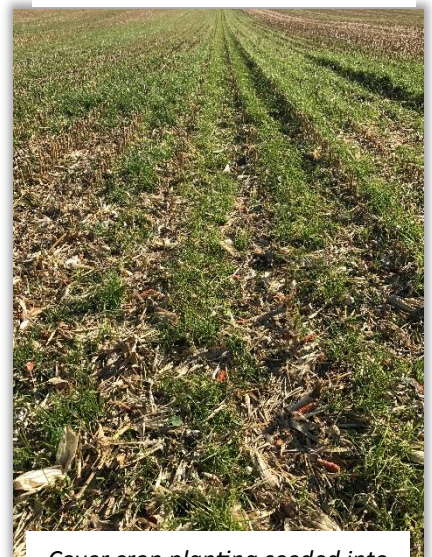
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN BLUE EARTH COUNTY

Thanks to the capacity funding, Blue Earth Soil and Water Conservation District was able to almost double the number of projects in the pipeline. Their new staff person was able to meet one on one with landowners while other staff were in the field and then were able to fast-track shovel ready projects and get them started sooner. This allowed for a targeted approach to conservation to occur while at the same time greatly increasing the number of landowners served in our county. Some of these projects included nutrient management plans, tillage reduction practices, adding cover crops, wetland restoration projects, and water retention basins.

With these added capacity funds our SWCD was able to hire a staff person to target and reach out to landowners on a one on one basis. Our existing staff were busy meeting existing program workloads and reporting requirements that they didn't have time to go out and meet with the landowners in the targeted areas where it was needed most. By adding the capacity with these funds we were able to target and meet with the landowners that needed to be met with rather than just dealing with whoever walked into our office. This approach has not only led to an increase in project outputs but also an increase in projects where they were needed the most. The end result has been a dramatic improvement to water quality in the local watersheds where these projects occurred.



Grassed waterway to treat eroding gully



Cover crop planting seeded into corn during growing season

CONTACT: JERAD BACH
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 507-345-4744
 JERAD.BACH@BLUEEARTHSWCD.ORG



Local Capacity Funding At Work Brown SWCD

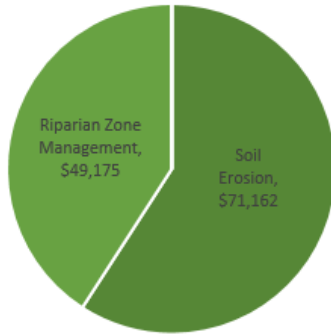


**Brown Soil and Water
Conservation District**

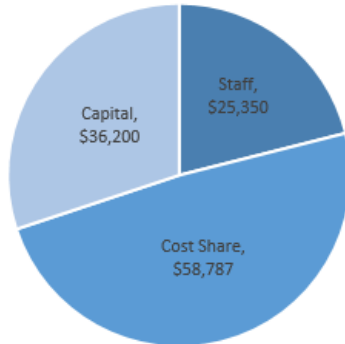


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices	✓	✓		
Admin/Coordination	✓	✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓		
Equipment	✓	✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN BROWN COUNTY

Before the local capacity state funding, the Brown SWCD was struggling to provide the technical services local landowners needed to get conservation on the ground. The SWCD invested the capacity funds in building their technical capacity, enhancing the services they provide to landowners for conservation implementation and buffer law implementation.

Investing in new equipment has paid off. The district is able to go out and accurately mark buffers for landowners, tracking buffer compliance more reliably, and conducting the survey work necessary to get landowner projects moving and conservation practices installed. They're not just doing more surveying, they're also able to fund more of these cost-share projects, better meeting landowner demand.

Brown SWCD is now able to provide more efficient and accurate technical services to our landowners when helping them to implement conservation practices. We're doing better because we are now more technologically current and are on the pathway to having a fully staffed and trained office of four employees with the technical expertise to provide assistance to our landowners. The additional state funding has allowed us to increase our capabilities on all ends of the spectrum, helping us to begin working with more and more landowners to accomplish conservation work in order to protect the soil and water resources in our area.



CONTACT: MELANIE KRUEGER
DISTRICT MANAGER
507-794-2553
MELANIE.KRUEGER@BROWNSWCDMN.ORG

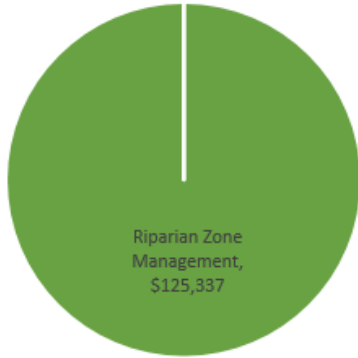


Local Capacity Funding At Work Carlton SWCD

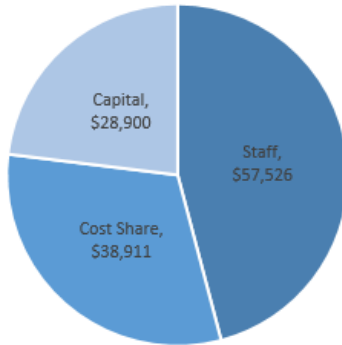


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information		✓		
Water Quality Practices		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Special Projects		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CARLTON COUNTY

For the past 12 years the Carlton SWCD has seen its workload grown and diversify and struggled to maintain the staff resources necessary to meet landowner needs. The county is rich in water resources, and protecting them has been a high priority in local, state, and regional plans. The county also has a mix of forest and agricultural land, so the projects the district is asked to handle are more than they've been able to handle. Thanks to capacity funding, that's changing.

Adding a new Ag Technician position has allowed Carlton SWCD to increase water quality improvement and soil erosion control practice implementation in the county. This new technician will run the county's Aq Water Quality Certification Program, soil health, and buffer law implementation program. Equally important, the district's Forestry and Water Resources Technicians now have the capacity to focus on their respective programs and increase the conservation practices they're able to get on the ground. Capacity funding has also allowed the Carlton SWCD to fund improvements to infrastructure to attract, support and hopefully retain the quality staff needed to provide high quality assistance to landowners of Carlton County.

Conservation implementation in today's technical world requires significant investment in tools and training to use them. Computers and programs like Arc GIS and Microsoft Data Bases are critical to prioritizing projects, developing plan maps, and communicating with local, state, and federal agency partners. This critical funding has allowed the SWCD to make some long needed equipment upgrades to get current with fast moving technologies.



CONTACT: BRAD MATLACK
DISTRICT MANAGER
507-794-2553
BRADMATLACK@CARLTONSWCD.ORG



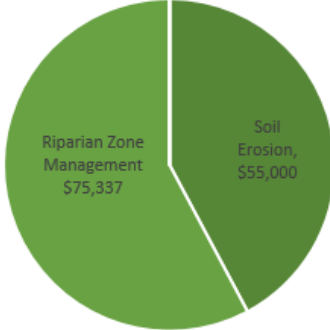
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Carver SWCD

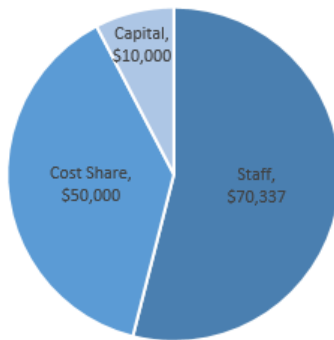


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓	✓		
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CARVER COUNTY

Thanks to increased capacity funding, the Carver SWCD has able to significantly increase its landowner contacts thanks to increased technical assistance and outreach abilities. A new district technician is helping ramp up the district’s riparian zone management program. More than 700 landowners have been contacted by the district with letters, and nearly 100 have responded with questions or requests for further assistance. Thanks to their new staff member, the SWCD is more responsive to landowner needs.

Carver SWCD is also developing a new soil health/cover crop program. This program will provide cost share funds for farmers willing to install cover crops that will keep the soil covered and protected in between growing seasons, thereby improving soil health and protecting water quality.

The increased outreach efforts, and the soil health program, would not have been possible without these capacity funds.



Buffer along drainage ditch after heavy rain

CONTACT: MIKE WANOUS
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 952-466-5235
MWANOUS@CO.CARVER.MN.US



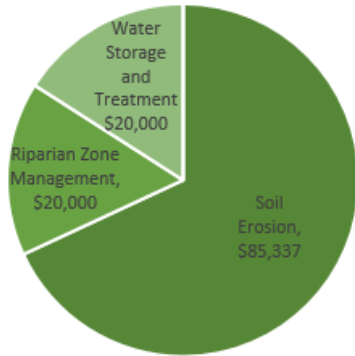
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Cass SWCD

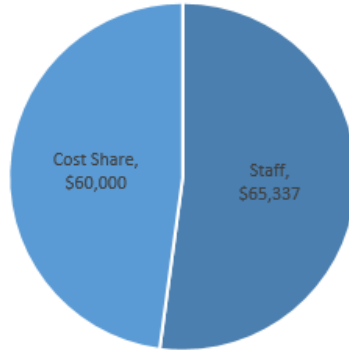


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending

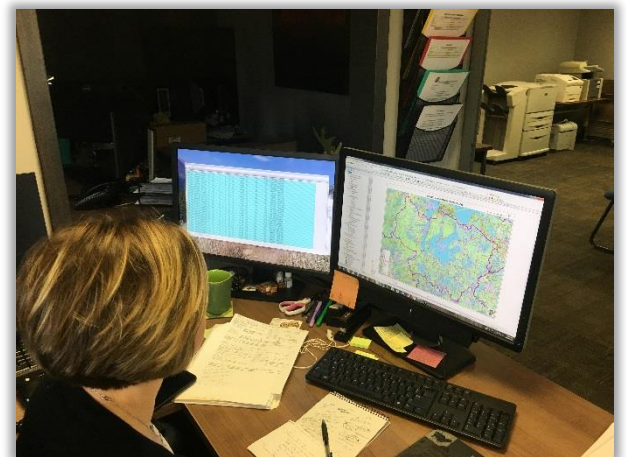


LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project Development		✓		
Streambank or Shoreline Protection	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Non-Structural Management Practices			✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CASS COUNTY

Increased capacity funding for Cass SWCD has been an extremely positive development for our district. Cass SWCD has a Shared Services Agreement with Cass County so a large portion of our increased capacity funding (45%) has been earmarked directly to help with cost-sharing landowner practices for on-the-ground conservation and development of Private Forest Management Plans. An additional 15% has been earmarked to increase public awareness of our district activities and public outreach, including a new logo design, and several Private Forest Management Plan related news articles.

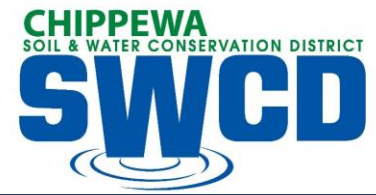
Our district highlight this year was being able to expand our district GIS capacity. To this end, we were able to map all wetland delineations on private land in Cass County (over 400 delineations by private Wetland Delineators since 2005) by digitizing and adding a layer to the county GIS map on our public access website. This is in addition to the National Wetland Inventory map layer also being publicly available. Using an intern from Bemidji State University and assistance from our County MIS Department, we also developed an impervious surface calculator for county lakes and adjacent public waters. This calculator is state-of-the-art and will go a long way toward determining target areas for surface water protection practices. Our hope is that by expanding our GIS capacity, we can use maps and mapping to bolster our County Water Plan, conduct better siting of conservation practices, and visualize impacts of SWCD projects. Without this increase in local capacity, we would not be able to as readily address the needs of our Cass District residents who desire our assistance in a variety of conservation areas.



CONTACT: JOHN P. RINGLE
 DIRECTOR
 218-547-7256
JOHN.RINGLE@CO.CASS.MN.US

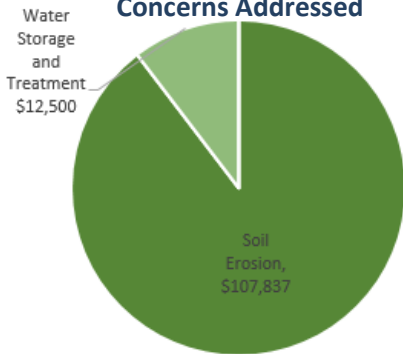


Local Capacity Funding At Work Chippewa SWCD

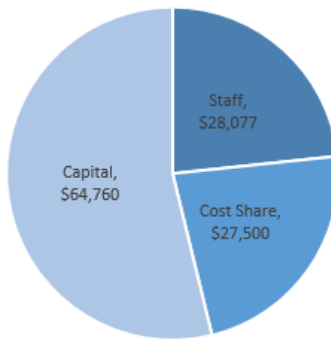


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices	✓		✓	
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Before this capacity money was made available, Chippewa SWCD had limited funds and staff time for promoting and installing conservation projects, many of which had to be put on the back burner until more funding could be obtained. The district also had old or outdated equipment and technology. With this funding, and the new staff person it helped provide, all district staff have become more specialized instead of being spread too thin with a wide variety of tasks (programs, services, outreach, grants, reporting, training, etc.) Updated equipment and technology, both for in the office and in the field, is resulting in increased efficiency in delivering conservation programs and services. The district is finding more projects and meeting with more landowners and discussing potential projects as a result of this funding.

We also allocated more funding for on the ground erosion control practices that are currently being surveyed and designed for future installation. Such projects include water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, terraces, earthen diversions, and grade stabilizations. We can take on more projects now that we have this additional funding for staff, cost share projects, equipment, and technology. There are more landowners being reached, and more projects coming in the door.



CONTACT: TOM WARNER
DISTRICT MANAGER
320-269-2139 EXT. 115
THOMAS.WARNER@MN.NACDNET.NET

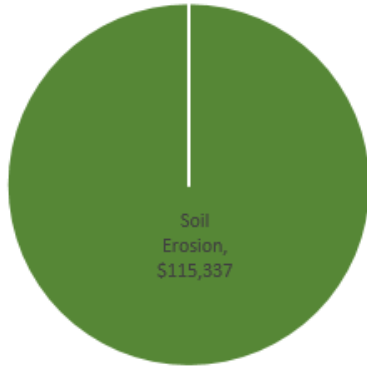


Local Capacity Funding At Work Chisago SWCD

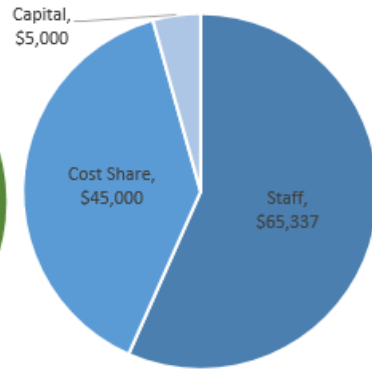


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project Development	✓			
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Administration/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CHISAGO COUNTY

The Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District relies heavily on state grant funds to implement practices, which makes conservation work challenging in areas not currently eligible for state funding. Chisago's local capacity grant dollars have allowed it to expand the scope of its work to landowners in high priority watersheds that haven't received any project funding.

The district has targeted these funds for implementation of agricultural best management practices in the Rush and Goose Creek watersheds, areas of concerns identified in WRAPS and subwatershed analysis. The work will benefit water quality in the watersheds, and engage more landowners in conservation.

The stable funding provided by these capacity dollars has helped Chisago SWCD to increase its capacity to implement programs as well as retain quality staff. That's making a difference in these high priority watersheds in northern Chisago County.



SWCD Technician Shane Hultman surveying a field in the Rush Creek watershed



SWCD Technician Shane Hultman meeting with a landowner

CONTACT: CRAIG MELL
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
651-674-2333
CRAIG.MELL@MN.NACDNET.NET



Local Capacity Funding At Work

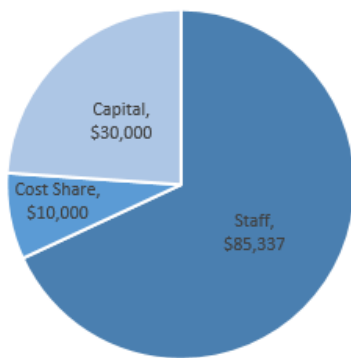
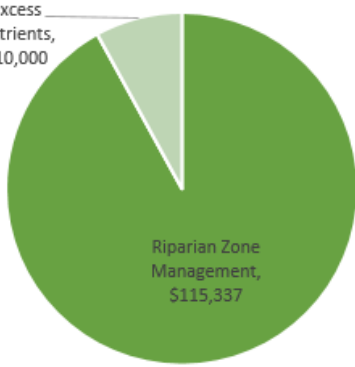
Clay SWCD



STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed

Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices		✓		✓
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Special Projects		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CLAY COUNTY

In Clay County, residents know that when they have a conservation question – or a conservation need – the Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is the place to go for answers. The Clay SWCD is often a landowner’s first call when they want to explore opportunities for getting projects in the ground.

Staff that were already stretched to capacity made meeting all those needs difficult. Thanks to these dollars, the SWCD was able to put more boots on the ground, increasing their ability to meet landowner demand.

Clay SWCD’s new position works in large part with the state’s new buffer program, contacting, sending out letters, and providing site visits and technical assistance to landowners to help them get started.

These dollars allow Clay SWCD to increase its conservation work and be more responsive to landowner needs.



CONTACT: KEVIN KASSENBERG
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 218-287-2255
KEVIN.KASSENBERG@MN.NACD.NET



Local Capacity Funding At Work Clearwater SWCD

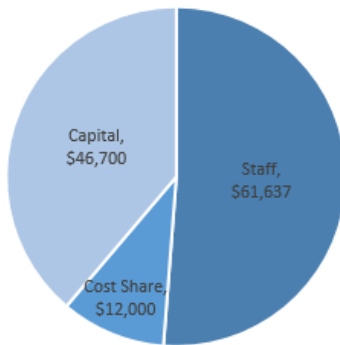
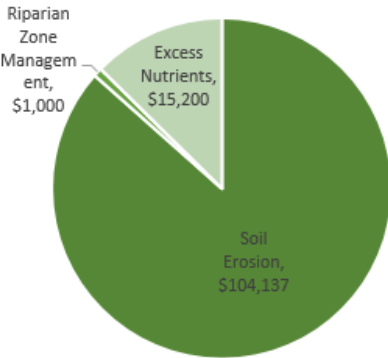


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed

Activity Spending

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓	✓		
Monitoring/Data Collection				✓
Water Quality Practices	✓			✓
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓			✓



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CLEARWATER COUNTY

Clearwater SWCD is in the beginning stages of developing a no-till/soil health program to assist county producers. This funding allowed us to purchase an aerator and truck to move this equipment. This equipment will provide benefits to landowners, soil health, and water resources for years to come.

The Clearwater SWCD has been able to provide additional services to its county residents because of this funding. It has allowed for greater partnership with county residents and the growth of programs that enhance and protect our county resources.

A consistent source of funding from the state of Minnesota provides the means to support the staff that implement the programs that benefit Clearwater County resources and residents. Having a noncompetitive source of funding allows us to assure residents we will be able to partner with and serve them over the long term.



CONTACT: NATHAN NORDLUND
DISTRICT MANAGER
218-694-6845 EXT. 4
NATHAN.NORDLUND@MN.NACDNET.NET



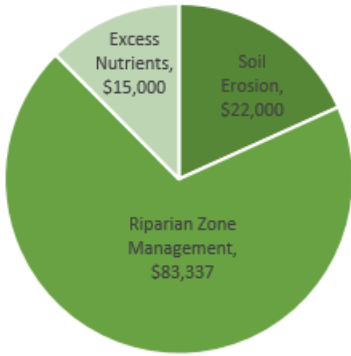
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Cook SWCD

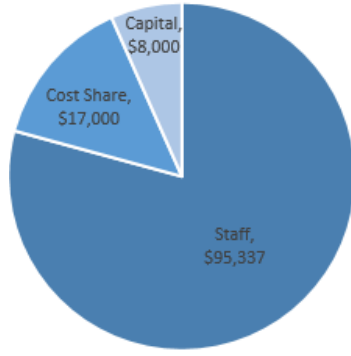


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information		✓		
Monitoring/Data Collection				✓
Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems				✓
Streambank or Shoreline Protection	✓			
Forestry Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COOK COUNTY

With the recent state funding provided by the Board of Water and Soil Resources, Cook SWCD has been able to establish an additional conservation technician position, which directly affects our mission by offering a broader workforce to implement conservation and outreach to the public. We have also been able to continue facilitating a sub-surface sewage treatment system program in cooperation with Cook County and maintain a robust water monitoring program that directly engages citizen volunteers in conservation.

The most important influence the local capacity funding has had on Cook SWCD is the opportunity to maintain and increase our district staff. We are now able to promote our current programs while also increasing our ability to reach out to larger numbers of landowners which creates the trickle effect among neighbors, friends, and co-workers promoting a greater awareness for conservation. Whether it is engaging a volunteer in water monitoring, conducting an educational stream workshop, or building a cost-share project, the Cook County residents are being engaged in our local conservation efforts. Many local residents feel a personal connection to the area resources, especially the water, which really gives purpose to our work and the mission we aim to achieve.



CONTACT: ILENA HANSEL
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 218-387-3647
ILENA.HANSEL@CO.COOK.MN.US

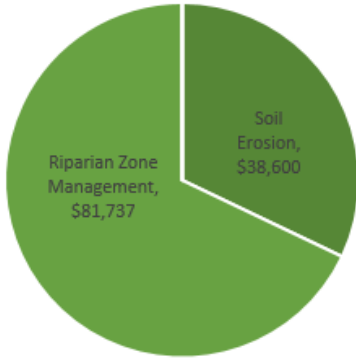


Local Capacity Funding At Work Cottonwood SWCD

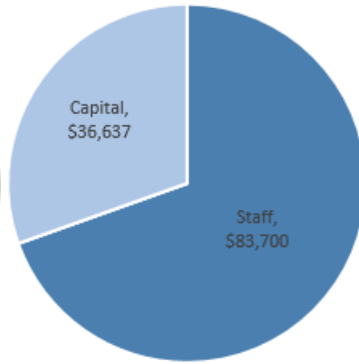


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COTTONWOOD COUNTY

With the increasing demand for technical and resource assistance through the SWCD, this funding helps bridge the gap in providing key services to our landowners and operators. The Cottonwood SWCD has hired a Resource Technician to help focus on the Buffer and Easement Programs and provide additional technical services as requested by our customers. This additional staff member will assist the current staff immensely with this high number of landowners (over 750) that may require technical assistance in regards to the Buffer Law.

Through this funding, our office has been able to update needed equipment for the office and supply our technicians with additional field equipment. The Buffer Law and other programs can be labor and time intensive. With the new equipment we can use our resources and staff time to better assist our landowners with their resource concerns. In combining these funds with our County Natural Resources Block Grant we have been able to assist both the Cottonwood SWCD and our co-located Cottonwood County Land Management Office.



CONTACT: KAY (CLARK) GROSS
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
507-831-1153 EXT. 3
KAY.CLARK@WINDOMNET.COM



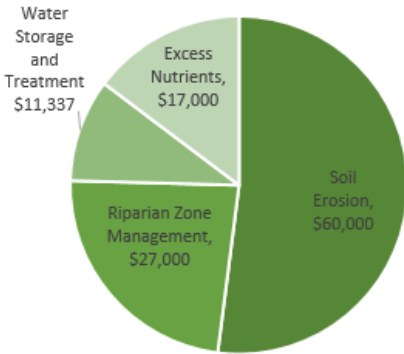
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Crow Wing SWCD

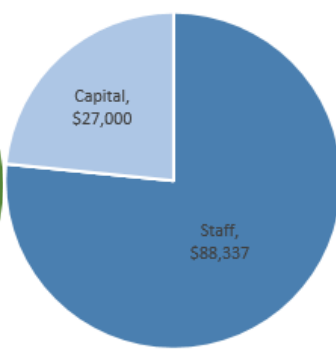


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information		✓		
Forestry Practices			✓	
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CROW WING COUNTY

Recent funding from the state has given the Crow Wing SWCD more flexibility to meet the needs of their constituents, address longstanding issues, and bring in young talent to learn about the industry.

The additional local capacity funding has also allowed the Crow Wing SWCD to fund a work study position, bringing in a student from Brainerd Central Lakes Community College. This student is getting valuable hands-on experience on what SWCDs do every day to help landowners, organizations, and public entities protect and restore their natural resources.

Crow Wing SWCD has the ability to adapt to meet the needs of the constituents. We now have funding to assist people that we do not have grant funding for. This can be anything from attending the County Development Review Team meetings, applying for additional grant funds (i.e. submitted two new grant applications), planning for future projects, more communication about the SWCD projects, improve communication with the county because the matching grant, and time to recognize community members for completing projects or practices.

Without the state's investment, we will not be able to retain staff, train staff, have equipment needed to do the job, deal with constant changing landscape, or have solutions to pollution problems that plague area waters. These dollars are making a difference.

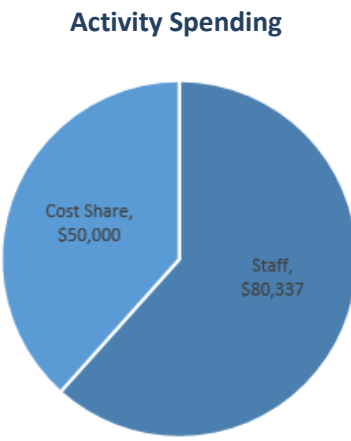
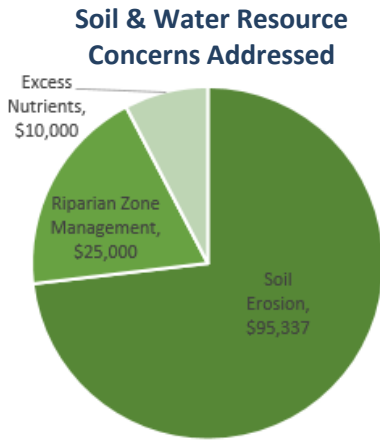


CONTACT: MELISSA BARRICK
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 (218) 828-6197
MELISSA.BARRICK@CROWWINGSWCD.ORG



Local Capacity Funding At Work Dakota SWCD

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information				✓
Inventory/Mapping		✓		
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Streambank or Shoreline Protection		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN DAKOTA COUNTY

The Dakota SWCD was able to inspect completed projects subject to 10-year contracts to document their condition, enter information into a newly developed database, and increase communication with landowners. Increasing our staff commitment to review projects and communicating with landowners not only assists with the obvious compliance question, but it assists with internal learning and cross-training and provides positive reinforcement to landowners when projects have been successful; not just communicating the ugly situations that require compliance actions. A new systematic approach and database has been developed to monitor the 200 plus landowner contracts we have executed over the past 10 years.

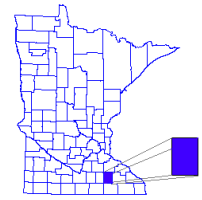
The additional funding has created more flexibility and enabled the district to be more efficient and effective. Prior to the \$100,000, SWCDs received approximately \$25,000 from the state. You are not able to get much accomplished with that level of commitment and your local partners will become stressed more over time. When there is uncertainty in funding there is uncertainty in the programs being implemented whether it is staffing levels, equipment costs or program development. In a nutshell, it allows us to better predict and implement our comprehensive plans.



CONTACT: BRIAN WATSON
DISTRICT MANAGER
651-480-7778
BRIAN.WATSON@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US

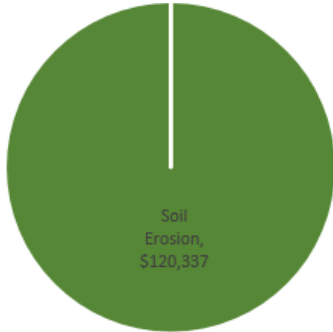
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Dodge SWCD

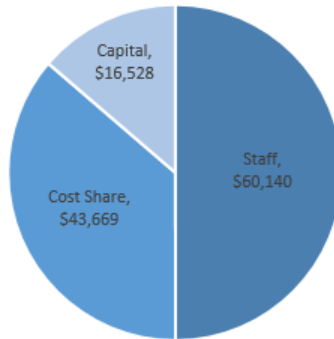


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

- Project Development
- Water Quality Practices
- Equipment

WATER QUALITY CONCERNS

	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project Development	✓			
Water Quality Practices				✓
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN DODGE COUNTY

Capacity funding has allowed the Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to step up its education and outreach with Dodge County landowners. Thanks to a dedicated position, educational events are planned and carried out throughout the year, including raingarden workshops and a saturated buffer field day. A Soil Health Committee for Dodge County has been formed, bringing together producers that are interested in saving our soils while increasing their yields.

The SWCD has also used the funds to meet landowner demand, increasing its ability to implement conservation cost-share projects from one to two a year to nine so far. The district has also invested in equipment that enables it to better serve local landowners.

The Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District is now in a position to provide technical AND financial assistance to landowners to install conservation projects that help protect Minnesota's waters, and improve Minnesota's soils. Our education/outreach position has helped us retain our staff, and helps us better provide information to the citizens of Dodge County.

CONTACT: ADAM KING
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 (507) 374-6364 EXT. 113
ADAM.KING@MN.NACDNET.NET

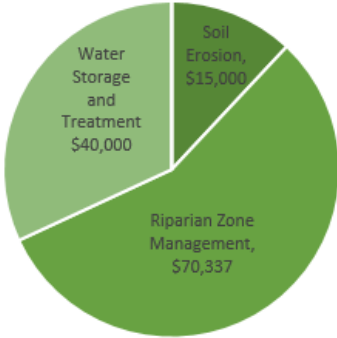


Local Capacity Funding At Work Douglas SWCD

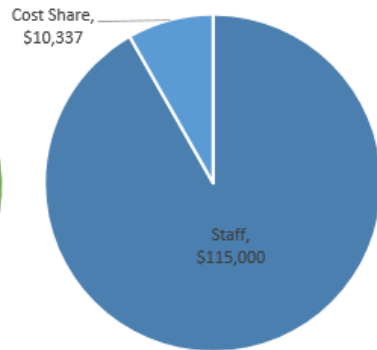


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Inventory/Mapping		✓		
Water Quality Practices		✓		
Planning & Assessment			✓	
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

Thanks to the capacity funds the Douglas SWCD has been able to increase its ability to effectively and efficiently serve the people of Douglas County. Investing in an additional staff person has allowed the district to reach 50-60 more landowners than it has previously, increasing the amount of conservation implemented in the area. Equipment investments have enabled staff to get out in the field and identify and provide support for addressing more resource concerns. There's increased capacity to design conservation projects thanks to these upgrades, too. The district has also increased the amount of cost-share assistance available to landowners to get projects on the ground.

With the additional funds available to Douglas SWCD staff can concentrate on promoting and implementing conservation in Douglas County instead of having to raise funds through services provided or grant writing to keep staff on board. Over the last 25 years the Douglas SWCD and other SWCDs have always had to come up with creative ways to raise funds to supplement County and State funds to make ends meet. By not having to concentrate on raising funds or chasing the dollars for certain programs, the SWCD can concentrate on working with landowners on implementing conservation in Douglas County.



CONTACT: JERRY HAGGENMILLER
DISTRICT COORDINATOR
320-763-3191 EXT. 3
JEROME.HAGGENMILLER@MN.NACDNET.NET

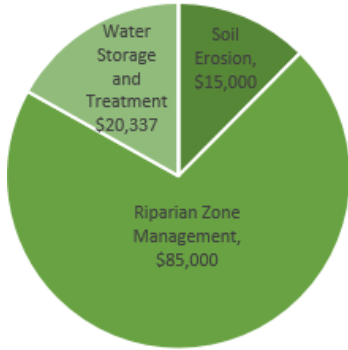


Local Capacity Funding At Work Faribault SWCD

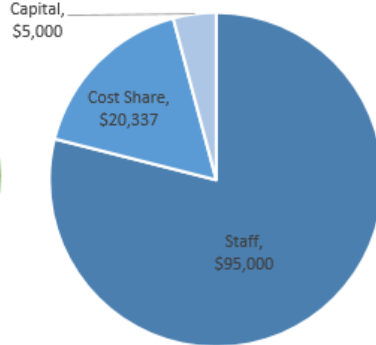


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project Development		✓		
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Conservation Drainage	✓			
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FARIBAULT COUNTY

The 2016 funding has helped increase staff capacity to deliver conservation to the people of Faribault County. In addition to a new technical position, the district's Program Administrator position is now fully funded so that staff can dedicate their time to land use/conservation planning and implementation.

The SWCD has struggled to secure adequate funding to support staff and get conservation on the ground. Because conservation based funding is limited, staff spend an excessive amount of time researching and applying for grants, sometimes simply because of the available administrative/technical funds. Thanks to the capacity funding, SWCD staff can focus on the implementation of best management practices and policies.

At the local level, SWCDs clearly understand the need for enhancing implementation of water quality and water quantity projects. We also know that when project opportunities present themselves, we need to be ready to react both with technical capacity and more importantly, an immediate source of project funding. Capacity funding means the district is more able to meet landowner needs.



CONTACT: MICHELE STINDTMAN
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
(507) 526-2388
MICHELE.STINDTMAN@CO.FARIBAULT.MN.US

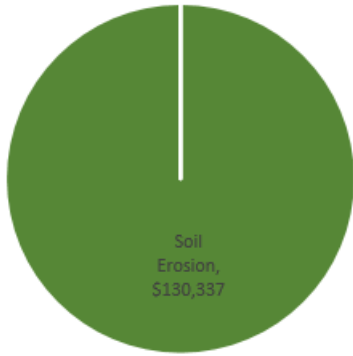


Local Capacity Funding At Work Fillmore SWCD

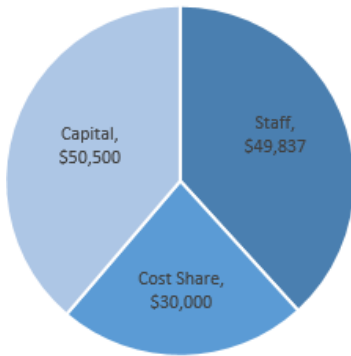


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project Development	✓			
Education/Information	✓			
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FILLMORE COUNTY

Thanks to the capacity funding, the Fillmore SWCD has been able to provide incentive payments for cover crop implementation. These funds are available to producers who haven't used cover crops before or for those increasing the number of species in their cover crop seeding mixture.

The Local Capacity Grant is allowing the SWCD to continue successful programs that had been funded in the past through competitive grants or other funding sources that are no longer available. The funds also provide a means of maintaining and building our capacity with vehicles and equipment for more efficient and effective implementation of conservation practices and use of tax dollars.



Rye beans after cover crop



Rye beans after corn silage

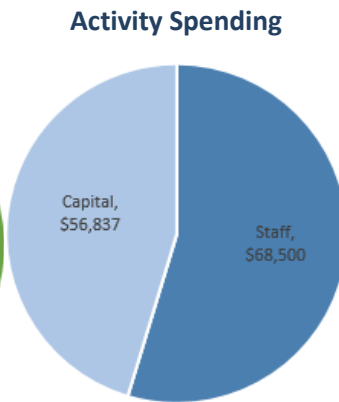
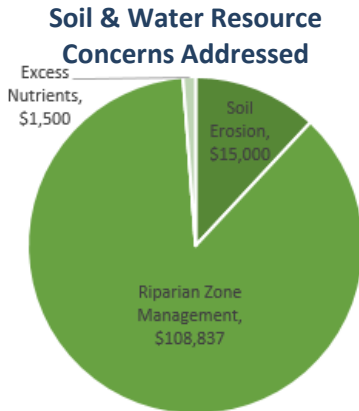
CONTACT: DONNA RASMUSSEN
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
507-765-3878 EXT. 3
DONNA.RASMUSSEN@FILLMORESWCD.ORG



Local Capacity Funding At Work Freeborn SWCD



STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

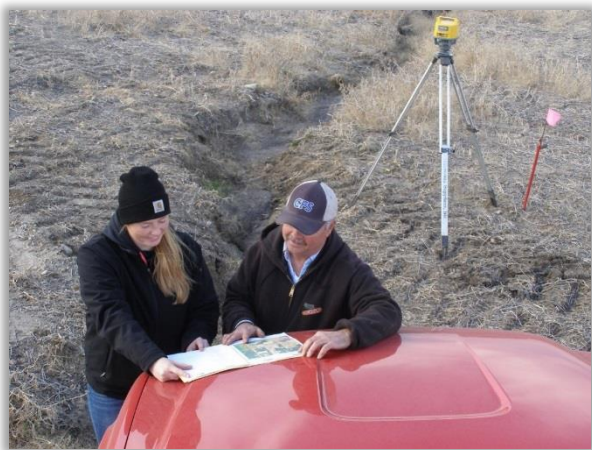


LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information				✓
Admin/Coordination				✓
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓		
Equipment		✓		✓

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FREEBORN COUNTY

The capacity funding is a huge positive step for Freeborn County SWCD to fill a local need for conservation assistance and to meet the expectations of the citizens of Freeborn County and Minnesota. Currently, landowners wanting to install conservation practices are asking our SWCD for assistance faster than we can keep up with them. This funding gave Freeborn County SWCD the ability to confidently hire a new full-time staff person. The additional staff initiated a grass drill rental program to assist landowners in effectively and economically planting perennial conservation cover, buffers, and critical area plantings.

Freeborn County SWCD is able to more effectively serve our customers and work to achieve water quality goals because of the capacity funding. Because of the capacity funding, 16 structural conservation practices have background engineering or preliminary designs completed, 15 CRP plans were completed, 40 or more new offers for CRP practices were taken, and 60 eligibility checks were completed for CRP filter strips. The following is from one of our conservation partners: *“The SWCD staff’s help was instrumental in helping USDA complete CRP enrollments and re-enrollments this past fall”*. The SWCD is able to devote more time to our local soil health team events and help educate and promote soil health principles.



CONTACT: MARK SCHAETZKE
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
507-373-5607
MARK.SCHAETZKE.MN.NACDNET.NET

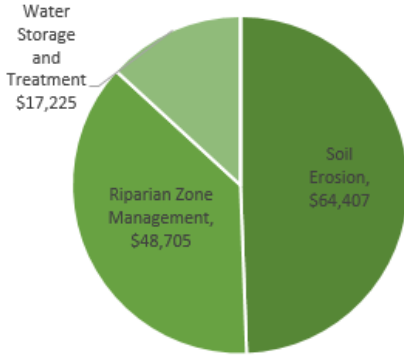


Local Capacity Funding At Work Goodhue SWCD

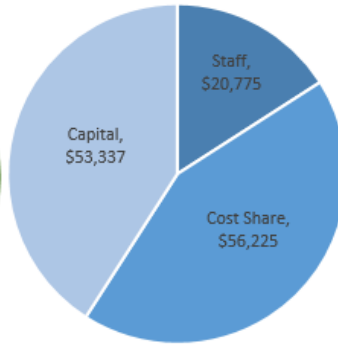


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓			
Water Quality Practices	✓	✓	✓	
Equipment	✓	✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN GOODHUE COUNTY

Goodhue SWCD Story

Erosion and sediment control issues aren't new to Goodhue County, but thanks to local capacity dollars, the Goodhue SWCD is able to efficiently and more nimbly provide landowner assistance thanks to a new local cost-share program. Landowner demand for conservation practices exceeded available funding and the funding increase resulted in six projects that resolved immediate pollution concerns. Environmental concerns are being met in a more timely fashion, providing benefits to soil and water, while meeting the needs of county residents.

The flexibility these funds bring has allowed the district to do more for the county and its residents, and those decisions are being made in the district, by its board, those who understand local concerns best. It's a situation where everyone benefits.



A water and sediment basin is installed on a local property.

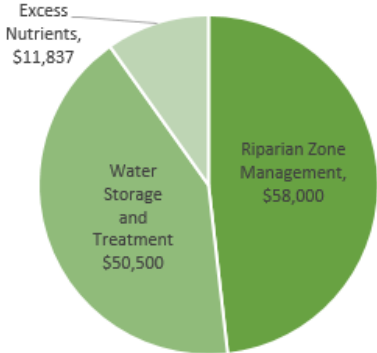
CONTACT: BEAU KENNEDY
GOODHUE SWCD
BKENNEDY@GOODHUESWCD.ORG



Local Capacity Funding At Work Grant SWCD

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project Development		✓	✓	✓
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓	✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN GRANT COUNTY

Grant SWCD used capacity funding to address contaminated runoff from both urban and agricultural land entering surface waters, which is a priority concern identified in the Grant County Comprehensive Local Water Plan. SWCD staff promoted and implemented filter strips, wetland restorations, rain gardens, shoreland restoration, no-till, and cover crop projects in each of the four watersheds in the country.

As a result of this increased funding, the SWCD to date has accomplished: 1045 acres of wetland restoration and associated buffer with 17 landowners, 1063 acres of filter strips with 75 landowners, 10 rain garden designs with 6 planned for establishment next year, and 2 shoreland restoration project designs with 1 planned for establishment in 2017. SWCD staff have worked with two producers to assist with field days at no-till and cover crop demonstration sites. These field days were attended by 75 producers interested in adopting no-till and cover crop practices.

With this funding the Grant SWCD has been able to hire an additional staff person to fill a Resource Conservationist position within the SWCD. This position will work on the buffer and soil erosion laws, promotion of no-till and cover crop practices, and implementation of urban storm water runoff control practices. This will greatly enhance Grant SWCD's ability to address priority concerns identified in the Local Water plan.



Jared House SWCD Resource Conservationist discusses cover crop strategies with NRCS District Conservationist Drew Mosburg



Steve Deal contracted SWCD rain garden specialist promotes rain gardens in interview with Prairie Public TV

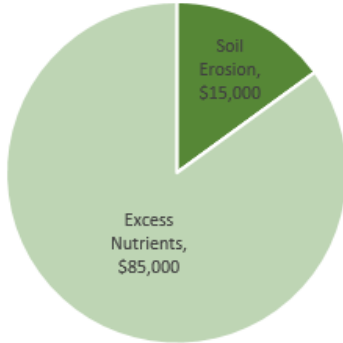
CONTACT: JOE MONTONYE
DISTRICT MANAGER
218-685-5395
JOE.MONTONYE@MN.NACDNET.NET

Local Capacity Funding At Work Hennepin SWCD



STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Planning and Assessment	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance				✓

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

The \$100,000 in capacity funding was used to hire an additional staff person to work with conservation practice implementation in the rural part of Hennepin County as well as buffer law implementation county-wide. Due to lack of staff time, the county SWCD had lost touch with the agricultural community, so this is a really valuable opportunity to connect with rural landowners. There are still a fair number of producers as well as a growing number of hobby farms in the western portion of the county. This position will work with the watershed districts and water management organizations in a technical capacity as well as with individuals and cities in cooperation with U MN Extension, MDA, and NRCS.

We are able to expand the capacity to work with landowners and watershed organizations to deliver more conservation services on the ground in the rural portion of the county. Hiring an additional staff person not only allows more time with rural landowners, but it frees up other staff who had previously been splitting their time to focus on getting additional stormwater and other urban practices on the ground, benefitting the entire county's water quality.

CONTACT: KIRSTEN BARTA
RURAL CONSERVATIONIST
(612) 543-3373
KIRSTEN.BARTA@HENNEPIN.US

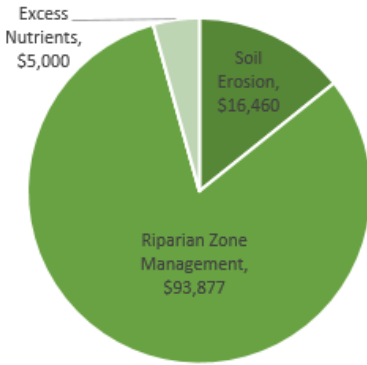


Local Capacity Funding At Work Hubbard SWCD

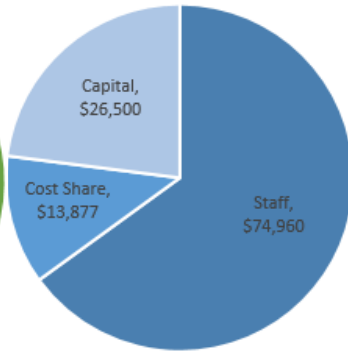


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Inventory/Mapping		✓		
Monitoring/Data Collection		✓		
Wind Erosion	✓			
Streambank or Shoreline Protection		✓		
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		✓
Supplies		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN HUBBARD COUNTY

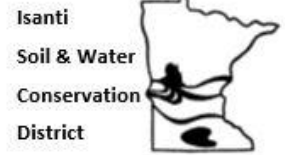
Before 2016, the Hubbard SWCD was a two person office. The SWCD was responsible for managing the County Wetland Conservation Act and the Local Water Management Plan, due for renewal in 2016. The SWCD had applied for BWSR grants, but were turned down in part because of the highly competitive nature of the grant process and manpower challenges. Without the additional grant funding the office was struggling to keep the doors open.

With the Local Capacity funding, the Hubbard SWCD was able to add a full time Water Quality Resource Specialist position. This position includes Cost Share projects, helping with implementing our Community Partner Grant, doing MN DNR observations, well monitoring, helping with Wetland Conservation Act questions, projects and violations, doing water quality monitoring on area lakes, implementing the Buffer Law and data entry using BuffCAT, Soil Erosion Loss law, and completing our county wide ditch inventory. With the additional money we were able to continue our core programs and offer more programs and provide better customer service for the people in our county.

CONTACT: JULIE KINGSLEY
DISTRICT MANAGER
(218) 732-0121
JULIE.KINGSLEY@MN.NACDNET.NET

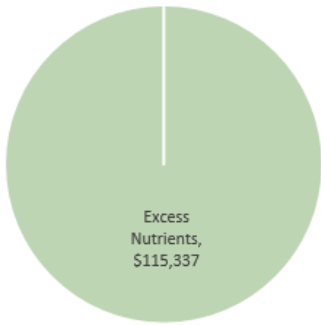


Local Capacity Funding At Work Isanti SWCD

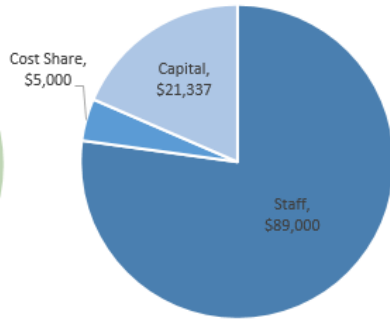


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information				✓
Project Development				✓
Streambank or Shoreline Protection				✓
Admin/Coordination				✓
Technical/Engineering Assistance				✓
Equipment				✓

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ISANTI COUNTY

Prior to 2013, the Isanti SWCD was struggling; the SWCD had given up its water planning duties and associated funding, received a substantial cut from its county allocation, had limited landowner connections and visibility and last but not least, lost its full time manager. The District struggled from 2013-2015, until capacity funding enabled the board to hire a full-time manager position. That investment has provided an immediate return as new partnerships have been made, increased funding has been secured, and new conservation practices are underway.

The Isanti SWCD has rebuilt its relationship with county zoning staff and commissioners, expanded its connections with lake groups, initiated outreach with townships, and secured state funding for work that will benefit the Rum River's water quality. Work is underway that simply would not have been possible without the state's investment in local capacity. Isanti County's natural resources, and the people who rely on them, are in a better place thanks to this funding.



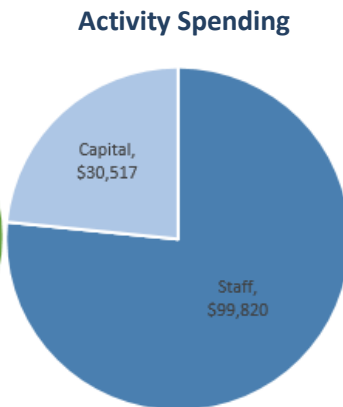
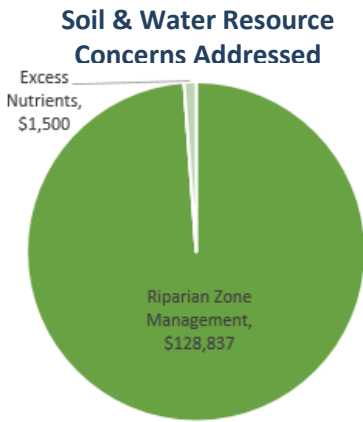
CONTACT: TIFFANY DETERMAN
DISTRICT MANAGER
763-689-3271
TIFFANY.DETERMAN@MN.NACDNET.NET





Local Capacity Funding At Work Itasca SWCD

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project Development		✓		
Admin/Coordination	✓	✓		✓
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ITASCA COUNTY

Thanks to capacity funding, Itasca SWCD avoided cuts to the district’s operations that would have impacted its ability to serve the people of Itasca County. In the months prior to receiving initial capacity funding, the district lost a staff member, and experienced a County funding decrease. With the new funds, the SWCD was able to re-hire our Forestry and Shoreland Technician and continue offering free and partially funded service programs to the public.

Without the Local Capacity funding we wouldn’t have re-hired a technician, and program impacts would have been felt in the following areas: spring native tree and plant sale offered to the public, perpetual RIM conservation easements protecting high priority rice lakes and the Mississippi River and major tributaries, DNR observation well (obwell) ground-water level monitoring, MN DNR/BWSR stewardship plans and water quality improvement cost share funding in high priority tullibee lakes, and our annual shoreland steward award which recognizes and encourages sustainable shoreland management county wide.

We also wouldn’t have had the staffing necessary to apply for and implement the Enbridge/MARC&D Eco-footprint grant we secured; by November 1, 2017 the following projects will be completed on two high value but slowly degrading Itasca County lakes: two years of spring through fall monitoring of needed lake water quality data, survey of sixteen priority minor watersheds contributing elevated levels of phosphorus, and approximately four remediation cost share projects. Additional remediation projects are expected in the future, via other grant funds, due to the results of this surveying.



CONTACT: ANDY ARENS
DISTRICT MANAGER
218-328-3090
ANDY.ARENS@ITASCASWCD.ORG

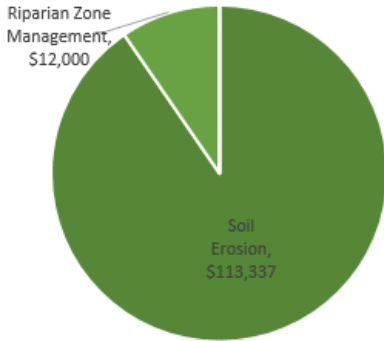


Local Capacity Funding At Work Jackson SWCD

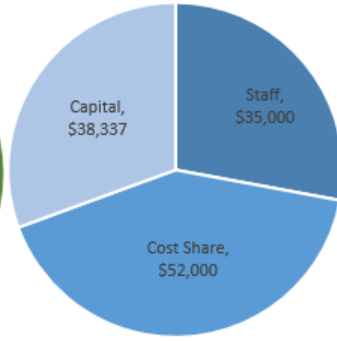


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Streambank or Shoreline Protection		✓		
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN JACKSON COUNTY

Thanks to capacity funding, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District has been able to invest in staff to increase outreach and get more conservation practices on the ground. The SWCD's new hire has developed a strong MDA Ag Certainty program within Jackson County. Thanks to their work, there are several certified participants and more interested landowners. Working with producers has also sparked new conservation practices that would not have been discussed without staff promoting our programs. The staff person is now working on engineering design, which will be an important component in getting producers certified.

The SWCD has developed a stronger relationship with local producers and looks forward to continuing that trend. As mentioned above, Jackson County has one of the state's strongest Ag Certainty programs and the capacity funding has made an impact with new projects.

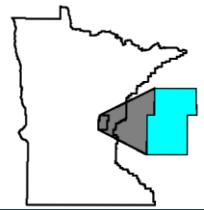


CONTACT: CHRIS BAUER
 JACKSON SWCD
 507-662-6682 EXT. 3
CHRIS.BAUER@MN.NACDNET.NET



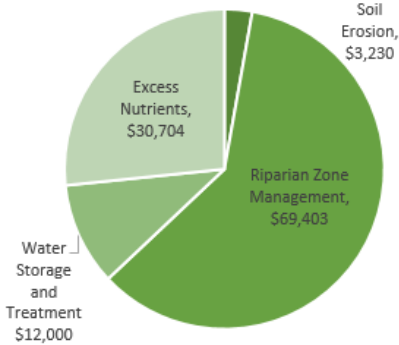
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Kanabec SWCD

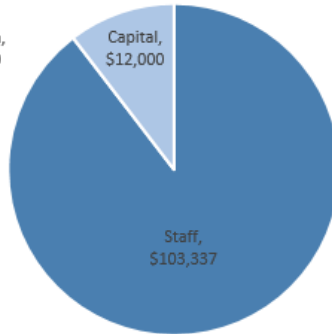


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Admin/Coordination				✓
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓		
Equipment			✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN KANABEC COUNTY

With the addition of the capacity funding, Kanabec SWCD hired a new technician and contracted for shared administrative assistance with a neighboring county. This has provided more staff time to focus on developing relationships with landowners and providing technical outreach. This relationship building is crucial to successful implementation of conservation practices. We developed a newsletter to raise awareness of our work with landowners, promoting who we are and what services we provide. Our efforts have been concentrated on promoting the installation of BMPs through our existing focused grants. We have coordinated and given three presentations on shore land restoration to area Lake Associations.

The added capacity funding has allowed us more financial security. Because of tight budgets, previously we had to be careful on paying out too much from our account on projects prior to getting the grant reimbursements back. Now we can focus more on getting conservation on the land instead of on our bottom line.



Native vegetation and rip-rap



New sediment testing study meeting

CONTACT: DEANNA POMIJE
 KANABEC SWCD
 320-679-3781 EXT. 113
DEANNA.POMIJE@MN.NACDNET.NET

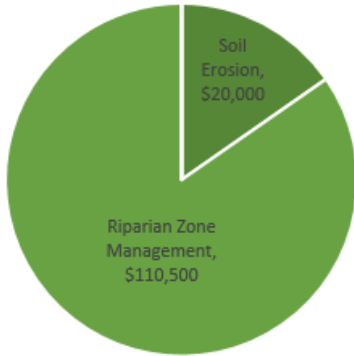


Local Capacity Funding At Work Kandiyohi SWCD

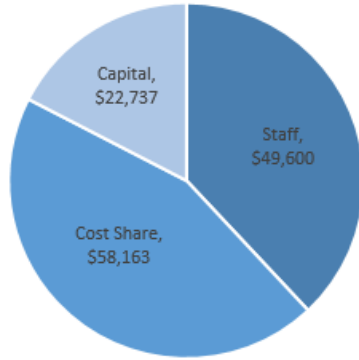


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Streambank or Shoreline Protection		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN KANDIYOHI COUNTY

The Kandiyohi SWCD used our capacity funding to expand our overall mission in the county. With predictable and stable funding we can set more long term goals and plan projects. The district expanded some existing cost share programs and created a new local cost share program to promote cover crops. Additionally, our new Conservation Technician hire will promote the state's buffer program and will be the lead person in promoting the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification.

These added conservation efforts in our county would not be possible without this stable, plannable funding. It provided us the means to hire our conservation technician and know that the position isn't dependent on getting a grant next year. We are also using this funding to provide additional cost share assistance for landowners.



Cover crop

CONTACT: RICK REIMER
DISTRICT MANAGER
RICK.REIMER@MN.NACDNET.NET

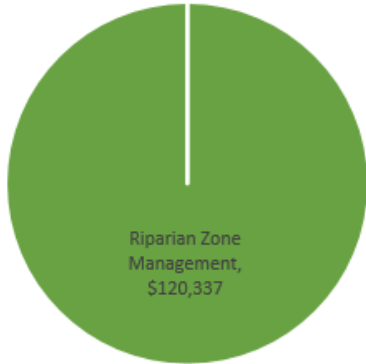


Local Capacity Funding At Work Kittson SWCD

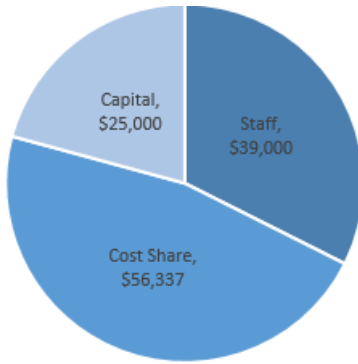


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information		✓		
Water Quality Practices		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN KITTSOON COUNTY

Before the Capacity money, Kittson SWCD struggled finding the funds to put toward staff benefits. For someone looking for employment, benefits are very important in the job search. Kittson SWCD found themselves in a revolving door of employment, with staff lasting between 2-9 months and current staff taking additional time to retrain new employees. With the capacity funds, the Kittson SWCD Board of Supervisors are able to offer health insurance benefits to their employees and work toward training and maintaining quality staff. With retaining quality staff, the producers of Kittson County will receive quality service and increase relationships and trust with the Kittson SWCD staff.



Kittson SWCD & NRCS Staff

It is important to the Kittson SWCD that the state of Minnesota continues to provide financial support to the SWCDs so the district can continue to grow and provide important services to Kittson County landowners.

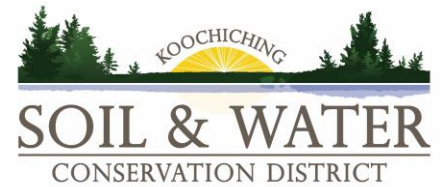


Kittson SWCD measuring buffers

CONTACT: JAMIE OSOWSKI
DISTRICT MANAGER
218-843-2619 EXT. 3
JAMIE.OSOWSKI@MN.NACDNET.NET



Local Capacity Funding At Work Koochiching SWCD

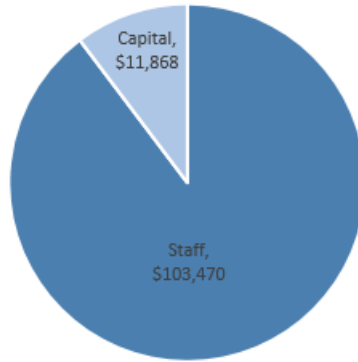


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN KOOCHICHING COUNTY

The largest impact to the Koochiching SWCD office was an increase in staff capacity by creating two new full-time permanent positions. We hired a Forest Resource Specialist and a Water Resource Specialist. With that came the purchase of new equipment to assist in data collection and field work including a Wi-Fi tablet, data services, and a used truck. In a county that spans over two million acres, data collection in the field helped reduce data entry time, improve GIS project mapping, and allowed staff more time to work one-on-one with landowners on conservation practice planning and implementation. Koochiching SWCD is now able to expand our services to more landowners within the county by providing assistance with forest stewardship plan writing, forest management education, buffer implementation, terrestrial invasive species, aquatic invasive management, and watershed education and monitoring.

Private forest management assistance has been an underserved resource in our county for many years. Koochiching County has only one private forester consultant to support landowner requests for new and updated forest stewardship plans and the Koochiching SWCD has been unable to provide assistance in this area since 2008 due to lack of staff capacity and funding. For the past several years, we have been made aware of the need for plan writing and forestry education and the capacity funding has allowed us to hire a new Forest Resource Specialist to help fill this large service gap in our county.

With capacity funding, the Koochiching SWCD was able to move our Water Resource Specialist from a temporary hire to a full-time permanent position and now has the capacity to coordinate water quantity and water quality education, monitoring, and implementation efforts. This position has enabled us to expand partnerships across multiple watersheds and coordinate efforts with other agencies, SWCD, and neighboring counties.



CONTACT: PAM TOMEVI
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
218-283-1174
PAM.TOMEVI@CO.KOOCHICHING.MN.US



Local Capacity Funding At Work

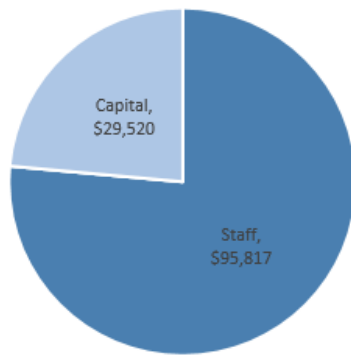
Lac qui Parle SWCD



STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed

Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY

Without the Capacity grant, the Lac qui Parle SWCD would not have had the funds to hire a second technician. Because of the grant, we could employ an individual with the skill to conduct field investigations and assist with plan and design of engineered erosion control practices. This addition to our staff has enabled the District to increase the number of conservation practices on the land (since joining us in March we have encumbered FY15, FY16, and have practices lined up for FY17 Erosion Control and Water Management Cost Share), helped us do a better job targeting, and allowed us to add new services that provide assistance to producers. Thanks to this funding, the Lac qui Parle Soil & Water Conservation District can employ the number of staff necessary to help our citizens take action to prevent erosion and protect water.

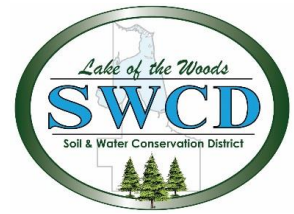


CONTACT: TERRY WITTEBEL
 DISTRICT MANAGER, WATER PLAN COORDINATOR
 320-598-7321 EXT. 3
TERRY.WITTEBEL@MN.NACDNET.NET



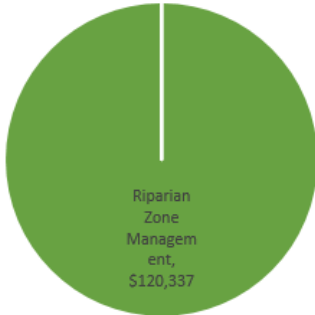
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Lake of the Woods SWCD

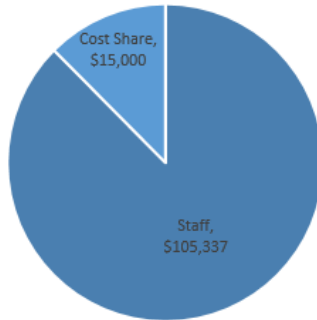


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Special Projects		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY

Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District has used a portion of the \$100,000 in state funding to increase our technical capacity by hiring a Water Resources Technician. The district has built upon existing and generated new partnerships, expanding programs that we offer, supporting the county's drainage management efforts, and also transitioning into the statewide One Watershed, One Plan initiative. Prior to the local capacity grants, the workloads of the current staff were above maximum levels but we didn't have the financial security to hire additional staff to relieve the workload. This funding gave us the solid base-funding source needed to support the current staff and hire a new technician position.

Our SWCD was successful in securing multiple Clean Water Fund grants and Flood Damage Recovery grants within the last four years just prior to receiving the local capacity funding. However, these funding sources were project specific and limited our office to working on specific programs that didn't fully address the resource needs in our county. These Clean Water Funding and Flood Damage Recovery grants provided a significant financial boost to on-the-ground projects but in order to fully capitalize on these and future grants and projects we must have the staff in place to plan, analyze future potential issues and react to new threats. This additional \$100,000 has provided us a solid base to fund staff time and will allow us to increase conservation assistance to local citizens who walk through the door on a daily basis. It also gives us the ability to seek additional grants and take on new projects.



CONTACT: CORRYN TRASK
 RESOURCE TECHNICIAN
 218-634-1842 EXT. 4
CORRYN.TRASK@MN.NACDNET.NET

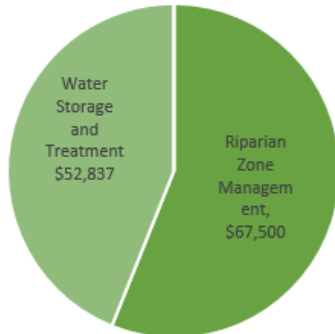


Local Capacity Funding At Work Lake SWCD

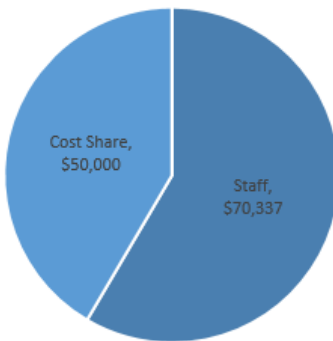


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Streambank or Shoreline Protection		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LAKE COUNTY

Lake County is heavily forested, and houses a large percentage of private land in priority watersheds identified through the Lake Superior North comprehensive watershed planning process. A large degree of the negative water quality effects that we see in our rivers and lakes are due to unhealthy forest conditions, riparian erosion, and land-use changes that alter forested land to developed areas. The development of a Forestry program provides a venue to educate and assist landowners on what activities they can carry out on their land to ensure forest and water quality are maintained and protected moving forward. To support this program, the District hired a full-time District Forester.

During 2016, Lake SWCD developed and implemented a fee-for-service schedule for practice plan and forest stewardship development, which helps fund a small percentage of our forestry staff and materials budget. Through this program, we have enrolled 21 Lake County landowners in the 2017 NRCS EQIP funding program, totaling over 200 acres of forest stand improvement plan development that will be ready for implementation in 2017. Once these projects are completed, the NRCS cost-share payment incentives to landowners totaling over \$150,000 will be delivered to those completing their planned activities. Our District has seen a significant increase in “drop in” traffic to discuss forestry options and we have partnered with the City of Two Harbors for municipal forest land improvements. Lake SWCD looks forward to leveraging our Forestry program into a position to accomplish both forest improvement activities, as well as forest protection through easement establishment with interested landowners.



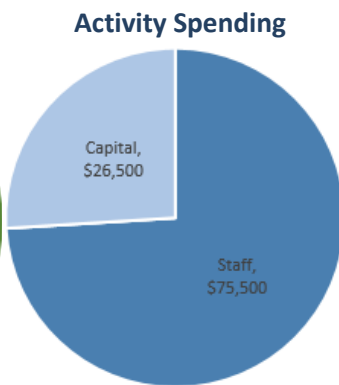
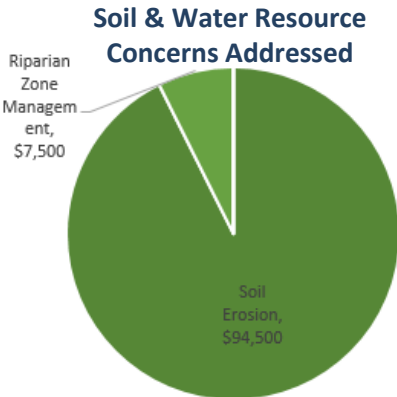
CONTACT: DAN SCHUTTE
DISTRICT MANAGER
218-834-8378
DAN.SCHUTTE@CO.LAKE.MN.US



Local Capacity Funding At Work Le Sueur SWCD



STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓	✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LE SUEUR COUNTY

The Le Sueur SWCD was able to increase its technical staff to accelerate the installation of conservation in Le Sueur County. The Capacity funds allowed the SWCD to double its efforts in conservation, which in turn allowed for additional landowner outreach, conservation projects and streamlined projects. The SWCD has been able to triple its project output for cost share projects since receiving Capacity Funding.

The SWCD is doing better because we are spending less time worry about budgets and funding and spending more time working with landowners and installing conservation.



CONTACT: MICHAEL SCHULTZ
DISTRICT MANAGER
507-357-4879 EXT. 3
MSCHULTZ@LE-SUEUR.MN.US



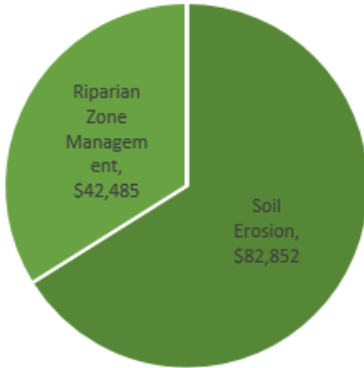
Local Capacity Funding At Work Lincoln SWCD



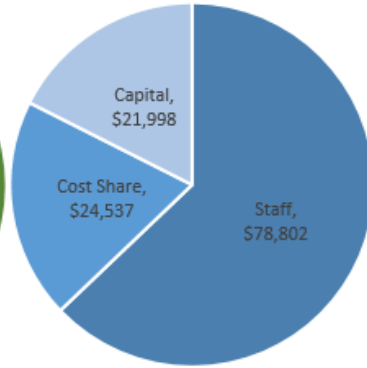
Lincoln
Soil and Water
Conservation District

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addresses



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Planning & Assessment	✓	✓		
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Supplies	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LINCOLN COUNTY

The Lincoln SWCD used capacity funding to increase staff capacity and handle increasing demands on the district's services. A new technician was hired to administer Buffer Law compliance by developing landowner contacts, doing parcel reviews, map revisions, field visits and reporting. Other programs the technician works with include: GIS, Soil Loss Law, Minnesota Ag Water Quality Program. Without the funding, the Lincoln SWCD would not have been able to accomplish the workload associated with the Buffer Law and other programs the district encounters.

The Lincoln SWCD is also using the dollars we received from the Local Capacity funding to put additional conservation practices on the land. They also increased their technical capacity by adding a joint server with other SWCDs through the South West/West Central Cooperative and purchasing GPS technology for field mapping.



District staff with local landowners



District staff

CONTACT: DALE STERZINGER
LINCOLN SWCD
DALE.STERZINGER@MN.NACDNET.NET

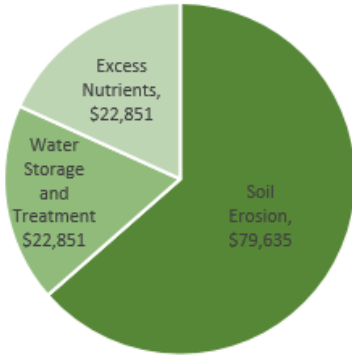


Local Capacity Funding At Work Lyon SWCD

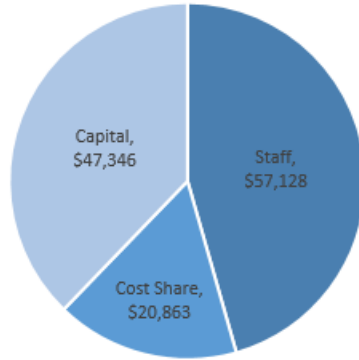


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Planning & Assessment	✓			
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance			✓	✓
Supplies	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LYON COUNTY

Lyon County SWCD had the opportunity to hire an additional staff member to provide both technical assistance and service to landowners on conservation projects. The additional staff has provided us the ability increase our efficiency and address projects in a timelier manner. The district is now more effectively providing additional support on a diverse range of projects.

Not only has our project turnaround increased but with the additional funding through the Local Capacity Grant, staff has explored a wider range of conservation practices. Staff are able to specialize, increasing the district's efficiency and ability to meet landowner needs.

The Local Capacity funding was the driver in bringing additional staff and has provided the financial support for both increased conservation practices and deliverable services through the Lyon County SWCD.

CONTACT: LUKE OLSON
LYON SWCD
LUKEOLSON@CO.LYON.MN.US

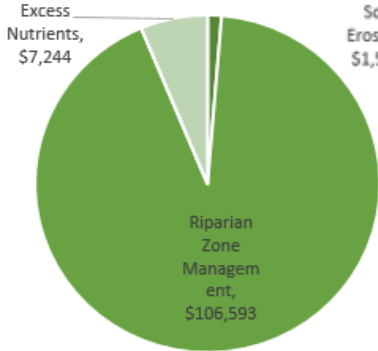


Local Capacity Funding At Work Mahnomen SWCD

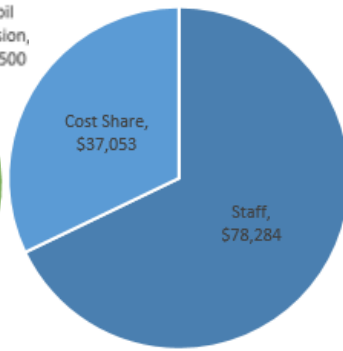


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Groundwater				✓
Wind Erosion	✓			
Water Quality Practices		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MAHNOMEN COUNTY

Mahnomen SWCD is primarily using capacity funding for a part-time Buffer Technician. This is the SWCD's first technician position, it will increase landowner contacts and get more conservation on the ground.

Capacity funding enabled Mahnomen SWCD to have a balanced budget for the first time in a decade and to concentrate on getting conservation on the ground instead of how to keep the doors open.



Buffer

CONTACT: AARON NEUBERT
 MAHNOMEN SWCD
 218-935-2987 EXT. 3
AARON.NEUBERT@MN.NACDNET.NET

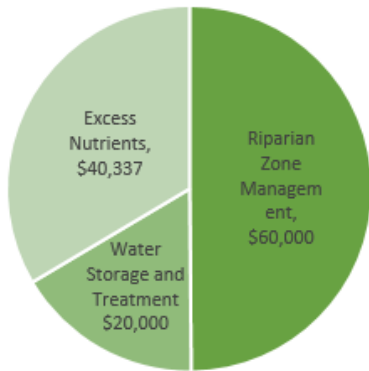


Local Capacity Funding At Work Marshall SWCD

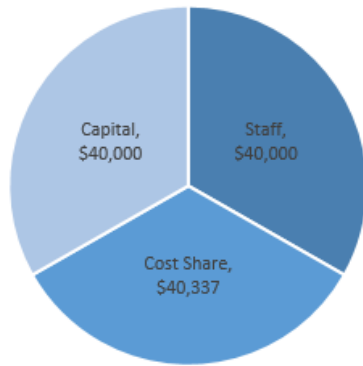


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Inventory/Mapping				✓
Education/Information		✓		
Groundwater			✓	
Water Quality Practices				✓
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MARSHALL COUNTY

Thanks to these state funds, the Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has been able to establish our own cost share program. Priority Ag Best Management Practices (BMPs) including Field Windbreaks, Buffer Strip Implementation, Side Water Inlets Installation (SWIs) and Well Sealings on abandoned wells are eligible for cost share assistance. Abandoned wells are a direct source to groundwater which means they can lead to pollutants easily contaminating the aquifer and affecting drinking water.

Thanks to these funds, so far 20 abandoned wells have/will be sealed and 4 SWIs will be implemented. The Marshall SWCD has developed a unique partnership with Marshall County Environmental Services. 90% cost share assistance (75% from Marshall SWCD and 15% from Marshall County Environmental Services) will be given to eligible Marshall County landowners to seal their abandoned wells.

The Marshall SWCD is doing better because these funds are readily available. If we are out of limited state cost share funds and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds are not available, we are able to use these funds instead of waiting for more to come available. The quicker a project is completed properly, the more likely the landowner is to do business with us in the future.



Abandoned well in Marshall County scheduled to be sealed with state funds



Side Water Inlet (SWI) installed with state funds

CONTACT: DARREN CARLSON
MARSHALL SWCD
218-745-5010
DARREN.CARLSON@MN.NACDNET.NET

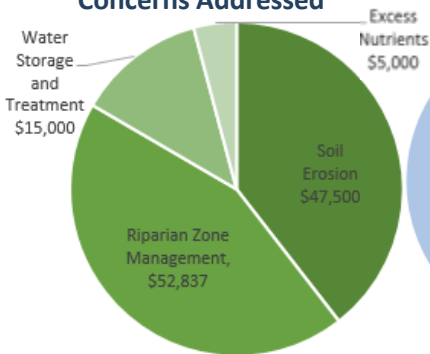


Local Capacity Funding At Work Martin SWCD

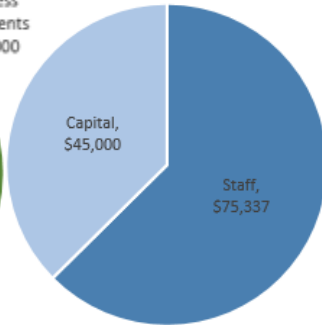


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project/Development	✓	✓		
Education/Information			✓	✓
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Equipment	✓	✓	✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MARTIN COUNTY

Martin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) used the additional state funding to increase our staff capacity. We hired an outreach coordinator to promote our existing programs and to be proactive with education and information regarding the buffer law, as well as other new programs.

The mission of Martin SWCD is to assist land users of Martin County in efficiently utilizing the soil and water resources in our county. With the additional funding, Martin SWCD's new outreach coordinator has been able to help more people and have more one-on-one conversations with Martin County residents about topics ranging from pollinators to soil health to buffers along waterways. This has helped us better achieve our mission statement and improved the natural resources in Martin County. These advances would not have been as possible without the additional staff capacity.



CONTACT: ASHLEY BRENKE
MARTIN SWCD
507-235-6680
ASHLEYBRENKE@FRONTIER.COM

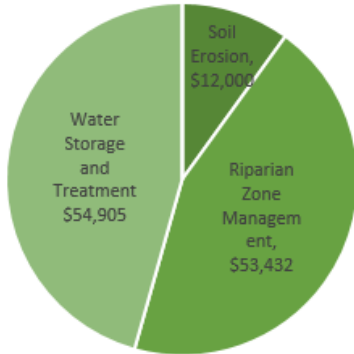


Local Capacity Funding At Work McLeod SWCD

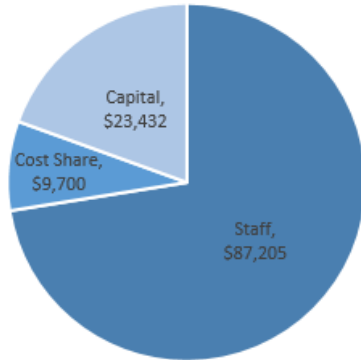


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information		✓		
Water Quality Practices			✓	
Admin/Coordination			✓	
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MCLEOD COUNTY

Additional funding has allowed the McLeod Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to focus on what the landowners in McLeod have been asking for. As the buffer law moves into effect, the district now has equipment at the ready to help landowners complete the seedings. The district's new seeder is also a valuable tool for a large number of landowners interested in completing pollinator seedings.

Even when it's not being used for seeding, it gets district staff to places in field locations they might not be able to reach by foot and makes surveying and staking large projects more efficient.

The district is fully capable, and locally led, and the increase in capacity funding means that the Board, and staff, can focus on priorities instead of switching direction based on where money is available. That's important for advancing local conservation.

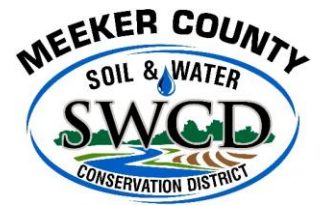


Kubota broadcast

CONTACT: RYAN FREITAG
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
320-864-5176
RYAN.FREITAG@MN.NACDNET.NET

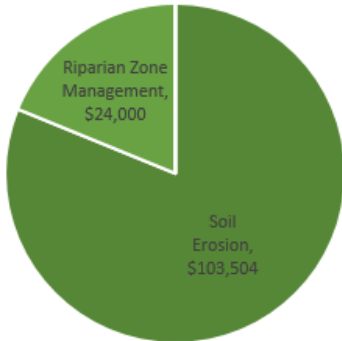


Local Capacity Funding At Work Meeker SWCD

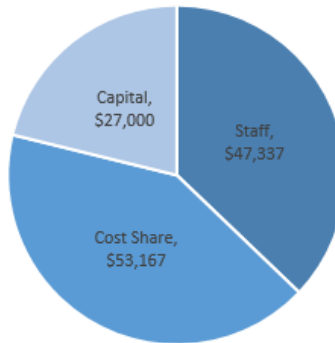


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Streambank or Shoreline Protection		✓		
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MEEKER COUNTY

The 2016 Local Capacity money has allowed Meeker SWCD to expand our ability to assist landowners. We purchased a native grass drill, rentable by landowners, that is heavily used. It is primarily used to plant CRP acres, but also for seeding a pollinator plot and other areas of native grasses. New survey equipment allows us to quickly and accurately assess landowner properties for erosion control issues and related water problems. Finally, we purchased a Polaris Ranger which is used for a variety of reasons; but most importantly it allows us to inspect properties with landowners to identify conservation activities that may be implemented on their property.

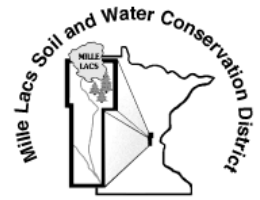
In addition to the expanded services that we are now able to offer due to new equipment, we were able to add staff time. This directly affects our ability to assist landowners, promote our District and programs, and properly report on work done and expenditures made. We now have a full time Farm Bill staff person in our county who spends the majority of his time working with landowners enrolling and maintaining CRP acres. In addition, he is assisting with other aspects of conservation in our District, including buffer implementation, rental of the drill, and work with our tree program. Meeker SWCD has also earmarked a substantial amount of Local Capacity funding for cost share projects. This will assist landowners in putting conservation practices into place.



CONTACT: DEB HOLTZ
MEEKER SWCD
320-693-7287
DEBHOLTZ.SWCD@GMAIL.COM

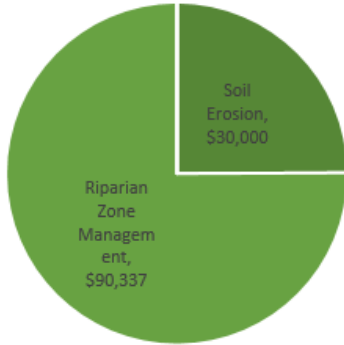


Local Capacity Funding At Work Mille Lacs SWCD

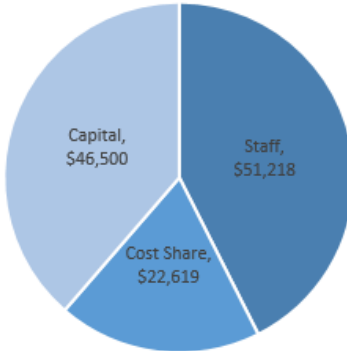


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project Development		✓		
Education/Information		✓		
Streambank or Shoreline Protection		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Equipment	✓	✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MILLE LACS COUNTY

Local Capacity Funding has allowed the Mille Lacs SWCD to expand outreach about Rum River water quality impairments and identify community priorities for Water Management Planning. Over the past several months, the District hosted three public meetings. Attendance has been high and we have received great feedback and a better understanding of citizen concerns. Prior to the funding, there was insufficient staff time to allow for any such activity.

Thanks to these funds, the District has increased staff availability to meet with landowners, implement improved citizen outreach, and coordinate with MDH and our County Public Health Department to identify groundwater concerns.



Public meeting at the Borgholm Town Hall

CONTACT: SUSAN SHAW
MILLE LACS SWCD
320-983-2160
SUSAN.SHAW@CO.MILLE-LACS.MN.US

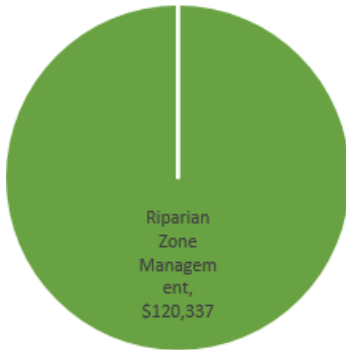


Local Capacity Funding At Work Morrison SWCD

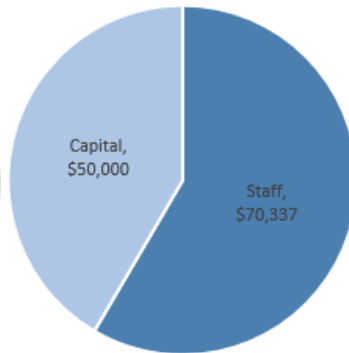


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MORRISON COUNTY

This funding has allowed us to meet the growing demand for our assistance by the county, the townships, and landowners. We are once again able to respond in quicker time frames than previously due to severe understaffing. With the additional expectations by the state we can further protect and/or enhance lakes, streams, ditches and/or other waterways by targeting buffers and providing technical assistance to achieve compliance with regulations. Funds will be used to hire a qualified field technician to implement the buffer law and work with partnering landowners and agencies to meet state law requirements. We are also once again able to assist the County and Townships with delineation needs for public works projects which we had denied in recent years. That in turn has allowed the county a savings which they are willing to increase our budget for the leverage dollars.

Also, the new technician has assisted in the coordination and re-writing of the Comprehensive Local Water Plan and Drainage Management Plan.

Funds were also used to purchase a second vehicle to enable us to reach more landowners. Additional funds were used to purchase computer and software systems and Arrow 200 GPS, to provide additional office space, and to upgrade other staff computers.

Water quality issues are not decreasing, only increasing. Lake Associations, climate changes, county land use decision making, landowner demands, new laws and ordinances are all requesting additional services by this office and that takes bodies and supporting needs like vehicles, space, and computers.



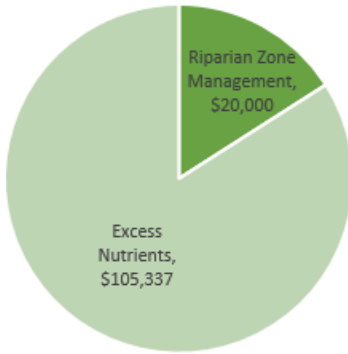
Funds used to purchase a second vehicle

CONTACT: HELEN MCLENNAN
MORRISON SWCD
320-616-2479
HELEN.MCLENNAN@MN.NACDNET.NET

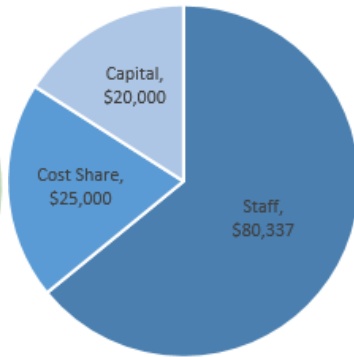


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



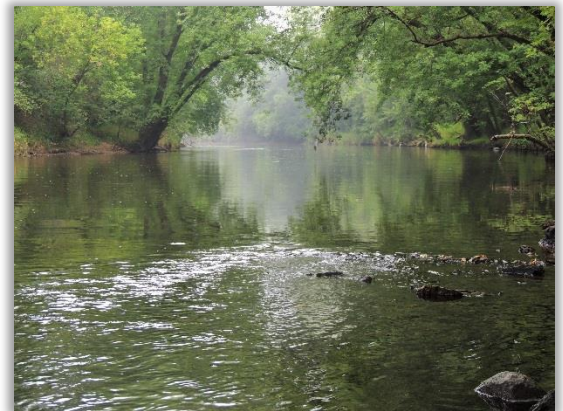
LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Inventory/Mapping		✓		
Education/Information				✓
Water Quality Practices				✓
Admin/Coordination	✓	✓	✓	✓

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MOWER COUNTY

Capacity funds enabled Mower SWCD to create an outreach coordinator/water planner position that has allowed us to more effectively and frequently communicate with the public on a variety of issues. The district believes that water resources goals cannot be achieved through project funding alone. Real change will come through cultural change and buy in on the best land use practices. The only way we will see cultural change is through education and local leadership, which keeps our community aware and encourages positive change. This is achieved primarily through a dedicated effort to keep the community informed and consistently educated on why clean water is important and what steps need to be taken to achieve the water resource goals.



With our coordinator, Mower SWCD has done more media releases and public events than ever before and constantly is communicating with the public via monthly newspaper columns, monthly radio interviews, contributing content to special newspaper publications; social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube); classroom visits; and more.



We've also offered our outreach coordinator's skills for use by other SWCDs and regional groups, such as for the state buffer initiative; One Watershed, One Plan for the Root River and Cedar River; Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board's Advisory Committee; and our new Fillmore-Mower Soil Health Team focused on cover cropping and conserving/improving soil quality.

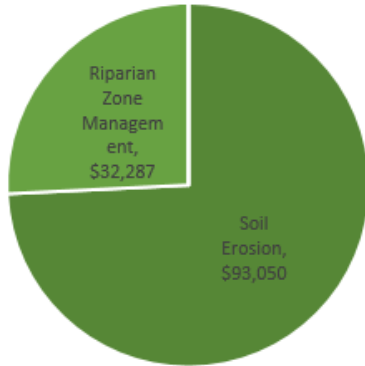
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Murray SWCD

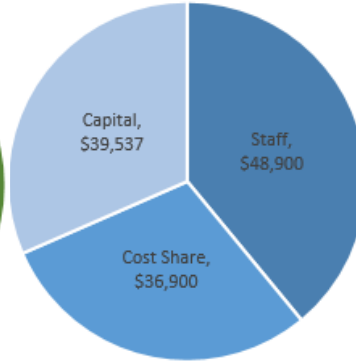


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending

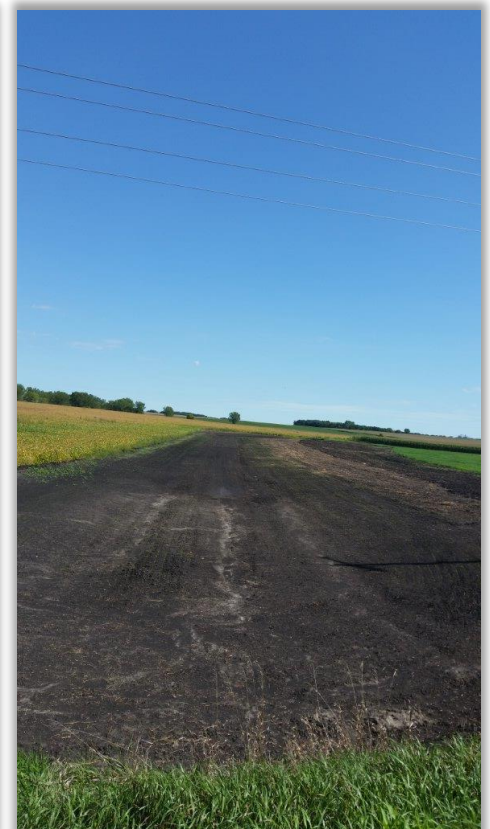


LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Streambank or Shoreline Protection		✓		
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓		
Supplies	✓	✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MURRAY COUNTY

The Capacity money enabled the Murray SWCD, with three other conservation districts, to hire a Technical Service Area Technician to provide technical and engineering services to landowners for implementing conservation practices on the lands that have soil and/or water erosion problems caused by the June 2014 floods.

Murray SWCD is working towards increasing our technical capacity and BMP workload. This position will assist landowners or operators with the installation or repairing of grass waterways, water and sediment control basins, and terraces to solve the resource concerns of the soil and/or water erosion.



33 Lowville Waterway repair

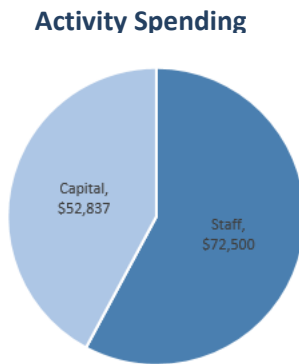
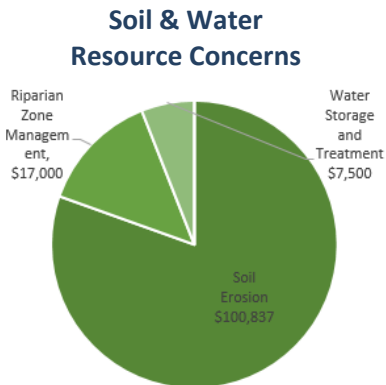
CONTACT: SHELLY LEWIS
 DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
 (507) 836-6990 EXT. 102
SLewis@co.murray.mn.us



Local Capacity Funding At Work

Nicollet and Sibley SWCDs

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information		✓		
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓	✓	
Supplies	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NICOLLET AND SIBLEY COUNTIES

The Nicollet/Sibley SWCD boards and staff worked together as a team on how to best use the State Capacity money, prioritizing what was needed most. The districts added a shared Administrative Assistant position, VRS survey equipment and office equipment.

- 1) The Administrative position was created to bring the Nicollet/Sibley District up to date with Quickbooks, update personnel policy, free up staff's time and provide clerical support to both the Nicollet/Sibley SWCDs.
- 2) The Districts purchased VRS survey equipment to aid in the survey, layout and design of conservation projects. This equipment also allows staff to complete surveys and send the information onto a licensed engineer for design if need be.
- 3) The Districts also purchased a computer server, updated computers, and updated GIS software so all staff between the two counties can work together on projects.
- 4) The Districts also upgraded one vehicle, which aided in implementing conservation on the ground.

Both the Nicollet and Sibley District are in better positions today than they were a year ago. With the addition of staff and the upgrades to equipment we can better serve the public with faster turnaround of project designs and better customer service. With the upgraded server and GIS software the staff are able to focus more efficiently on areas that need conservation practices implemented.

CONTACT: KEVIN OSTERMANN
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 (507) 931-2550
KEVIN.OSTERMANN@NICOLLETSWCD.ORG



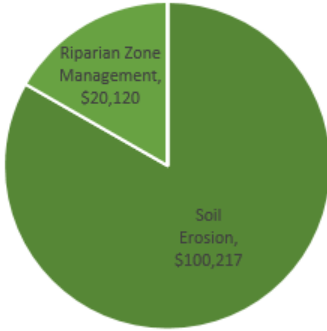
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Nobles SWCD

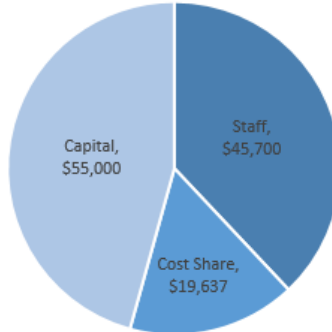


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓	✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NOBLES COUNTY

The Nobles SWCD used the local capacity funding to partner with two other counties (Murray & Pipestone) and hired a technician through our Southwest Prairie TSA. This position works on water quality practices such as water and sediment control basins, waterways, and feedlots. Having a staff member with this kind of specialization allows existing staff to focus on their own roles, and makes it possible for producers to get a faster response on potential projects on their property.

The Nobles SWCD also partnered with the Nobles County Pheasants Forever, Okabena Ocheda Watershed District, Heron Lake Watershed District and the Kanaranzi Little Rock Watershed District to purchase a second no till drill to rent to producers at a fair rate to help them get buffers. Thanks to the drill, producers have been able to get hundreds of acres of habitat and water quality projects planted – an opportunity that would not otherwise have been available to them.

The Nobles SWCD is able to get more projects on the ground and get water quality projects installed at a much more efficient rate thanks to the capacity funding.



CONTACT: JOHN SHEA
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 507-376-9150 EXT. 113
JOHN.SHEA@NOBLESSWCD.ORG

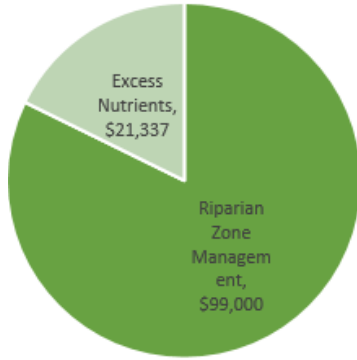


Local Capacity Funding At Work Norman SWCD

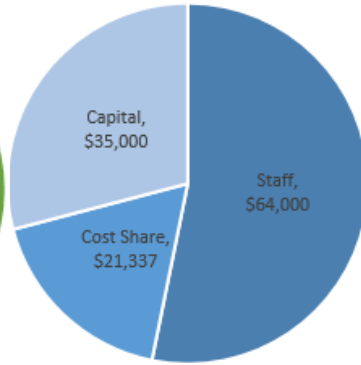


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addresses



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information		✓		
Livestock Waste Management				✓
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Supplies		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NORMAN COUNTY

The Norman County SWCD hired a technician to work with landowners one on one to provide technical assistance on the district’s conservation programs. This technician also administers the Buffer Program, MN Ag Certification Program, Feedlot Program, Aquatic Invasive Species Program, Discovery Farms Water Quality Monitoring Program, updates the local water plan, assists with the Wetland Conservation Program, assists other agencies with field work, and helps with educational days for youth and adults.

The funds were also used to advertise and promote the programs that the SWCD provides through radio ads, website, local newspapers and brochures.

The Norman County SWCD was understaffed and didn’t have the equipment and software to fully provide needed technical assistance to the landowners. This funding has helped our office to better promote and provide the technical assistance needed to implement the programs. The SWCD was able to improve its technology and invest in another vehicle to increase landowner outreach.

CONTACT: LORI THRONSON
DISTRICT MANAGER
(218) 584-5169
LORIT@ARVIG.NET



Local Capacity Funding At Work Olmstead SWCD

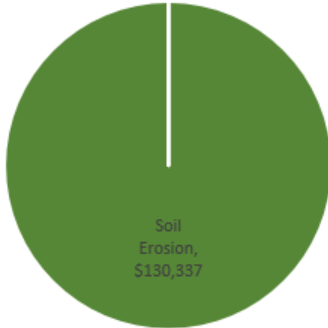


Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation District

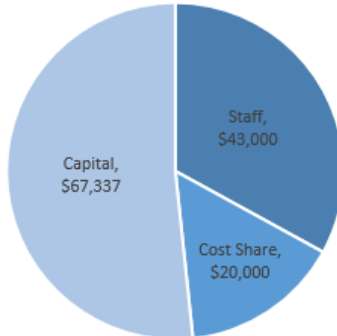
"Serving the People and the Resources of Olmsted Co."

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓			
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OLMSTEAD COUNTY

Capacity funding has enabled the Olmsted SWCD to stand on its own feet and continue to provide excellent technical assistance and services to landowners. The district invested some of the funds in a Trimble GPS survey grade equipment and Trimble rugged tablet PC. This new equipment allows the Olmsted SWCD staff to provide more effective and efficient service delivery to landowners in a timely manner. It improves the accuracy and precision of the surveys which in turn improves the efficiency of developing engineering plans, implementing Best Management Practices and providing competent assistance to contractors during construction. It allows staff to collect and manage data in the field for program delivery, reporting and record keeping, which improves our efficiency as well.

The Capacity funds take the burden off districts to competitively seek funding to keep the doors open. It's made it possible to staff up to cover many of the underfunded state mandated programs that we administer like WCA and RIM. The district can now adequately support many of its other programs, as well. Staff have had access to trainings that have increased their technical skills. The investment of these dollars has allowed our district to be more efficient and effective in conservation delivery and better serve our clientele.



CONTACT: SKIP LANGER
OLMSTEAD SWCD
SKIP.LANGER@MN.NACDNET.NET

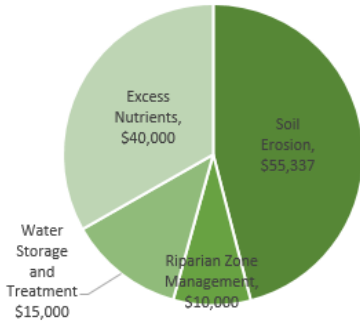


Local Capacity Funding At Work East Otter Tail SWCD

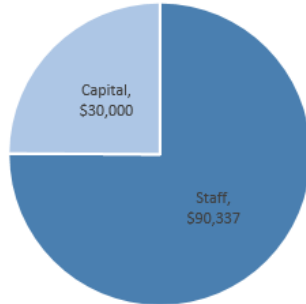


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Equipment	✓			✓

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN EAST OTTER TAIL COUNTY

The East Otter Tail SWCD used the Local Capacity funds to partner with two neighboring SWCDs to hire a licensed engineer. This position/partnership will allow the SWCD to improve landowner assistance and increase efficiency when designing and installing erosion control practices and other engineered practices. In addition, this position will provide on the job training for existing staff, resulting in increased technical capacity and job approval authority for all SWCD staff.

Without the additional Local Capacity Funding the three SWCDs would not have been able to afford a position of this nature, and would have had to rely on a third party engineer to survey, design, and oversee the installation of projects. This position has instantly increased the local technical capacity of the SWCDs involved in the partnership. In addition, existing staff have a greater opportunity to assist with the survey, design, and installation of projects, which will allow them the on the job training needed to obtain job approval authority. Having trained and knowledgeable staff is an invaluable resource when it comes to providing technical assistance to landowners.



Rain garden



Surveying

CONTACT: DARREN NEWVILLE
DISTRICT MANAGER
(218) 346-4260 EXT. 3
DARREN.NEWVILLE@EOTSWCD.ORG

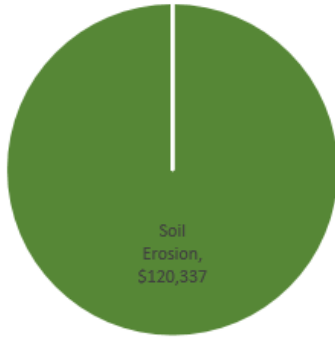


Local Capacity Funding At Work West Otter Tail SWCD

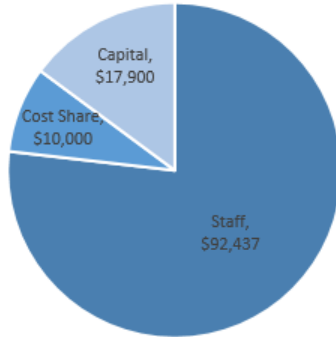


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WEST OTTER TAIL COUNTY

The West Otter Tail SWCD used the Local Capacity funds to partner with two neighboring SWCDs to hire a licensed engineer. This position/partnership will allow the SWCD to improve landowner assistance and increase efficiency when designing and installing erosion control practices and other engineered practices. In addition, this position will provide on the job training for existing staff, resulting in increased technical capacity and job approval authority for all SWCD staff.



Without the addition of Local Capacity Funds, the SWCD would not have been able to hire an engineer and would have to rely on a third party engineer to survey, design, and oversee all engineering projects. This position has increased the technical capacity and services provided by the SWCD. In addition, existing staff have a greater opportunity to assist with the survey, design, and installation of projects, which will allow them the on the job training needed to obtain job approval authority. Having trained and knowledgeable staff is an invaluable resource when it comes to providing technical assistance to landowners.



Surveying

CONTACT: AARON LARSEN
FARM BILL TECHNICIAN
(218) 739-4694 EXT. 115
AARON.LARSEN2@MN.NACDNET.NET

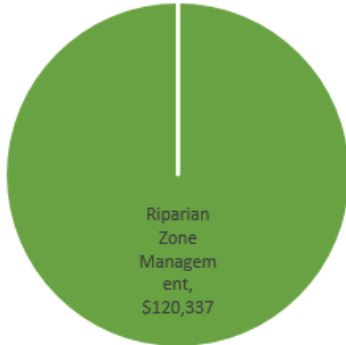


Local Capacity Funding At Work Pennington SWCD

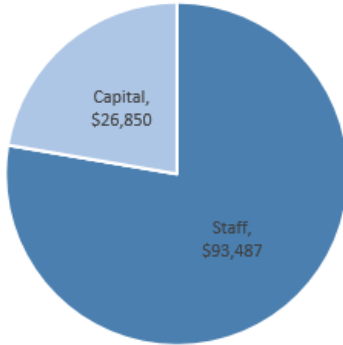


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Planning and Assessment		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PENNINGTON COUNTY

The Pennington SWCD use a portion of the \$100,000 Capacity funding to complete the Red Lake River One Watershed One Plan. Without this funding the draft plan had the possibility of insufficient review or not being completed, as the pilot project funding fell short of initial estimates. The Capacity funding allowed our staff to fully review the draft plan and submit comments. They also identified further Best Management Practices needed in the watershed along with cost estimates for installation. This provided a more substantial implementation schedule in the Red Lake River Drainage Area. We participated and presented at a number of meetings about the plan. This funding will also allow the District to be compensated for time spent on completing financial and elink reports. Without this funding more expense would have been a burden on Pennington County to complete their comprehensive local water plan as required by the state.



Staff installing weed barrier fabric for landowner

Our District is taking a more visionary outlook due to the \$100,000 funding increase. There are many things the Board of Supervisors would like to do, but first we must build a "firm foundation" for the increased capacity needed. Staff retention and recruitment is very important to the Board, as much time and efficiency is lost when we need to replace experienced staff that we have trained. Before we can hire staff to increase capacity, we need additional office space to coordinate planning and provide advice to landowners on their resource concerns.



Staff monitoring surface water quality in rivers

With the additional funding we are able to surpass the current level of conservation program delivery to landowners in Pennington County, especially with the 2015 Buffer Law implementation. We are able to afford a competitive wage and benefit package, and afford the possibility of acquiring office space to house additional staff. Experienced staff and efficient working conditions result in better customer service to the landowners looking to improve their water resources in Pennington County.

CONTACT: BRYAN MALONE
DISTRICT MANAGER
(218) 683-7075
BRYAN.MALONE@MN.NACDNET.NET

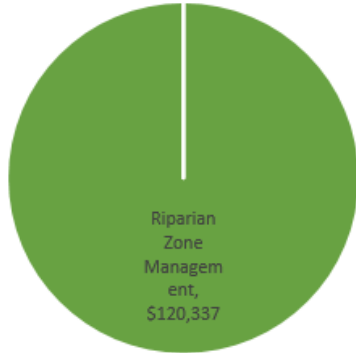


Local Capacity Funding At Work Pine SWCD

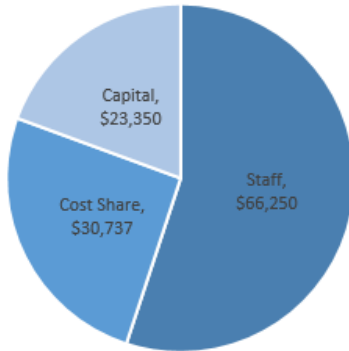


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addresses



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project Development		✓		
Streambank or Shoreline Protection		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Supplies		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PINE COUNTY

Before the capacity funding came, Pine SWCD employees worked three or four days/week, with no benefits. The office was only open four days a week. Staff used their own field supplies and cell phones when they went out in the field. Staff had to “make do” with what we had because the funds were not there to change it. Since the capacity funding came out, two of our four staff are now serving our landowners full time, and we are working at moving the other two staff to full-time status. The district has also created a benefit package that we are working on improving a little bit every year. The district feels there is more to a job than just salary; having a benefit package helps us retain good employees.

The district purchased field supplies to help staff work out in the field. We also purchased cell phones for all employees. Pine County is a large rural county with fair-to-poor coverage. Knowing the staff has a phone in case they have problems out in the field is a great thing in a county the size of Pine.

Having staff in the office five days a week means we are more available to the residents. They’re better-served and are happy that when they stop in that someone is available to talk with them. The capacity funds give us the freedom to branch out and start up new programs, like a forestry program, that we could not have managed before the funds were available.

CONTACT: JILL CARLIER
DISTRICT MANAGER
(320) 216-4241
JILL.CARLIER@CO.PINE.MN.US

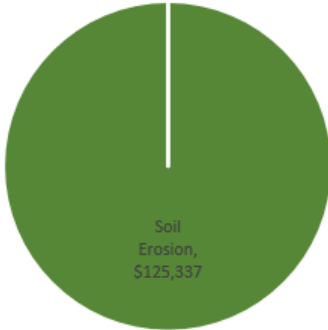


Local Capacity Funding At Work Pipestone SWCD

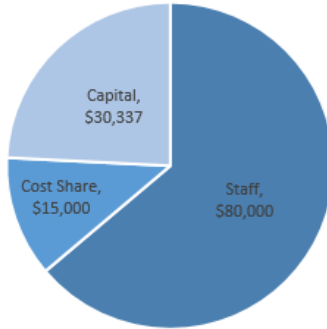


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PIPESTONE COUNTY

We used capacity funding to expand our ability to serve our landowners. We hired a full time Water Resource Specialist position to work specifically with public water suppliers and wellhead protection areas and now have a full time engineering technician, shared between three SWCDs, to provide engineering and design services.

The new funding has allowed our office to specialize in specific areas, apply for more clean water grants, hold workshops and field days, and work one on one with producers.



Meeting with stakeholders



Indian Lake dam replacement

CONTACT: KYLE KRIER
PIPESTONE SWCD
KYLE.KRIER@CO.PIPESTONE.MN.US

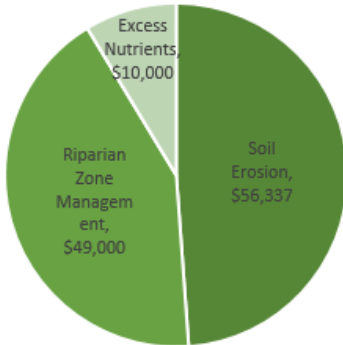


Local Capacity Funding At Work

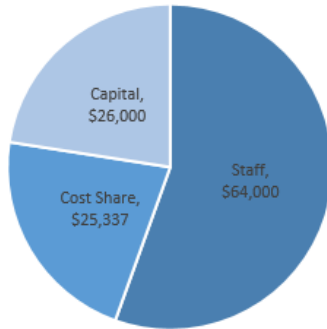
East Polk SWCD

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓	✓		
Groundwater				✓
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Supplies	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN EAST POLK COUNTY

The East Polk SWCD has used the capacity funds for multiple purposes. The capacity funds have allowed the district to offer well-sealing cost-share dollars to landowners to seal abandoned/unused wells. In the past, a well-sealing program did not exist in the district due to limited funding sources in the district. Through the well-sealing program, landowners are now sealing wells that may have otherwise been ignored. The program is helping protect the groundwater by sealing direct access points.

The funding has allowed the district to update office equipment, purchase an ATV to assist with field visits and expedite workload. There are now three full-time staff employed, with the prospect of a part-time employee to keep up with the increasing workload. The funding is also being used to install more water and sediment control basins in the Red Lake Watershed, as cost-share funds are not adequate to keep up with the need. This funding is helping to increase our capacity, which allows the district to provide greater outreach and assistance to landowners, such as to lake shore owners.

Without the capacity funding, we would not have a well-sealing program, there would be less outreach and assistance to landowners, fewer conservation practices being installed on the land that protect our natural resources, fewer educational opportunities to the public, and training opportunities to improve staff and board skills would be attended. All of this is needed to provide quality service to the public.

CONTACT: LISA NEWTON
 EAST POLK SWCD
 (218) 563-2777
LISA.NEWTON@MN.NACDNET.NET

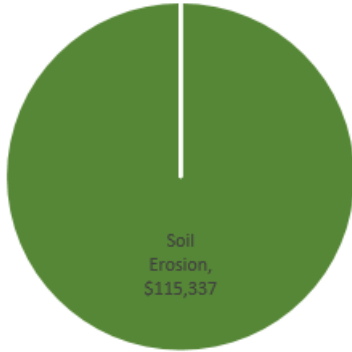


Local Capacity Funding At Work West Polk SWCD

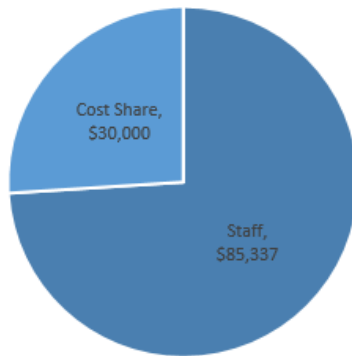


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water
Resource Concerns



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓			
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WEST POLK COUNTY

West Polk SWCD has targeted local capacity funding to address soil erosion resource concerns through project development, cost share/incentives, technical services and administration. 2016 capacity funding has offset pilot program budgeting insufficiencies, allowed for more administrative/technical time and supported efforts of the Water Planner to participate in the completion of the Red Lake River One Watershed One Plan Pilot. Funding remains essential to perpetuate, coordinate, administer and implement the programs and projects designated to the District by the Red Lake River One Watershed One Plan and Clean Water Legacy grant application process.

The district can now offer competitive compensation and benefits to our staff of technical experts that match their qualifications and duties. It has allowed expansion of technical assistance to provide more engineering services to landowners and other agencies for water quality and soil erosion conservation projects.



Surveying



Construction

CONTACT: NICOLE BERND
DISTRICT MANAGER
(218) 281-6070 EXT. 4
NICOLE.BERND@MN.NACDNET.NET

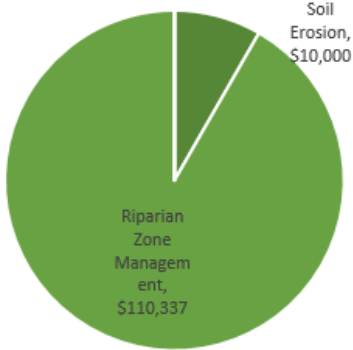




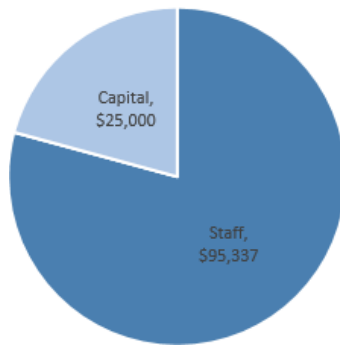
Local Capacity Funding At Work Pope SWCD

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Project Development		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN POPE COUNTY

Capacity funding was used to help Pope SWCD can grow programs to do more conservation but did not have enough staff to complete the work. We have waiting periods of up to five years to get engineering, design, and construction completed on projects. The district hired a new staff position that focuses on buffer implementation as well as other programs including easements, invasive weed programs, and shoreline restoration. The district’s goal is to move the needle of progress faster and get more projects implemented.

High workloads and the inability to pay adequate, competitive wages have made staff retention an issue. We have become a training ground for employees that go on to other federal and state agencies and the private sector. This funding has supported staff retention and the implementation of projects has been accelerated. In 2015 the SWCD in partnership with NRCS/West Central TSA completed: 82 structures, 1 well sealing, 1 shoreline restoration, 13 Irrigation Management pivots, 1 grassed waterway, 26 drill rentals, 22 grass practices planted, 12 tree practices planted, 3 terraces, 3 wetland projects, 110 CRP/CCRP contracts completed, 23 wells monitored, and much more. This was a year that we had one of the highest workloads completed in our history. It would not have been possible if we wouldn’t have had the extra help.



CONTACT: HOLLY KOVARIK
DISTRICT MANAGER
(320) 634-5327
HOLLY.KOVARIK@MN.NACDNET.NET

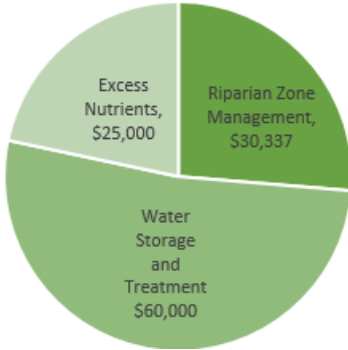


Local Capacity Funding At Work Ramsey Conservation District

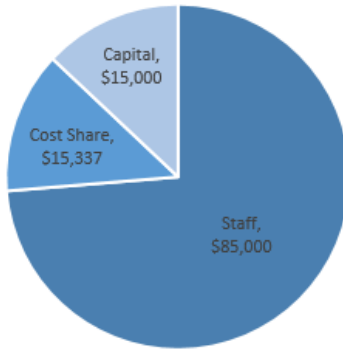


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Inventory/Mapping				✓
Education/Information			✓	
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓	✓	
Equipment			✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN RAMSEY COUNTY

The 2016 Capacity funds provided the Ramsey Conservation District with an opportunity to increase our local capacity by hiring two additional technical staff. The additional staff have helped us to complete more projects on our priority list, directly benefitting the residents of Ramsey County.

One of the new staff members is a landscape designer whose work focuses mainly on providing site visits to landowners to assist with storm water management and design of BMP projects, such as raingardens. Adding an extra staff member decreased the waiting list for this highly popular program.

The second staff member is a conservation technician, who has worked to organize and initiate a Conservation Forum that meets regularly and is open to the public. This has been an extremely successful endeavor with attendance between 50-75 people at each meeting. The topics have included: Urban Pollinators, Low Impact Landscaping, a Rain Garden Maintenance Workshop and a number of other outreach events, including providing leadership in the Metro Children's Water Festival.

The capacity funds were also used to complete a Septic Inventory for Ramsey County, a critical task because most of the drinking water for Ramsey County is pumped through a chain of lakes from the Mississippi River beginning in the city of North Oaks, which is has a high volume of private septic systems.



Ramsey Conservation District staff are working in a variety of ways to meet the conservation needs of urban, lakeshore and rural residents.

CONTACT: ANN WHITEEAGLE
DISTRICT MANAGER
(651) 266-7271
ANN.WHITEEAGLE@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US

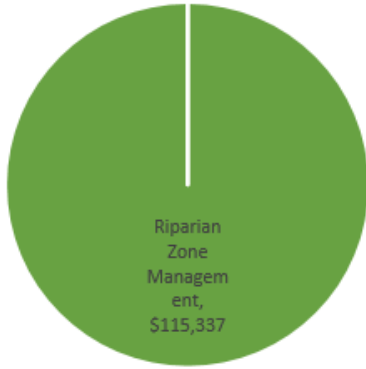


Local Capacity Funding At Work Red Lake SWCD

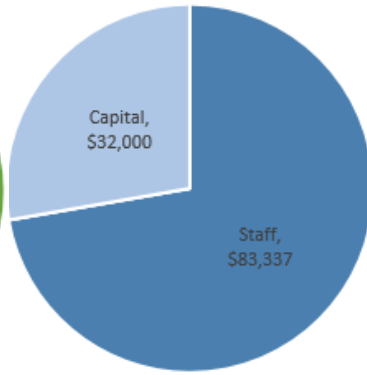


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Planning & Assessment		✓		
Project Development		✓		
Education/Information		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN RED LAKE COUNTY

The Red Lake SWCD used the 2016 Capacity funds to improve its capacity for implementing many of Minnesota's conservation initiatives. Using the funding, they were able to add a District Technician to their staff. This position focuses on implementing the MN Buffer Law, the MN Water Quality Certification Program, the Wetland Conservation Act, and works on the Drainage Ditch Inventory and Inspection Grant (SEDLCP). The new District Technician has allowed the District to be more visible to the public than before due to lack of staffing.

In 2016, the District Technician completed twenty two surveys for the Multi-purpose Drainage Management Grant, completed 176 miles of data collection for the 2015 Drainage Ditch Inventory and Inspection Grant, assisted the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Engineering with four construction projects and assisted with surveying eight new projects that will be constructed in 2017.

In addition, the District used some of the capacity funds for public education, conference planning, advertisement and promotion of existing and new conservation programs through newspaper articles, direct mailings, radio advertisements, and direct landowner contacts. A portion of the funds were used to purchase a Polaris Ranger, survey equipment, a computer, software, and other equipment needed for District staff to provide proficient technical and engineering assistance to landowners.



New equipment and new staff have helped increase the capacity of the Red Lake SWCD.

CONTACT: TANYA HANSON
RED LAKE SWCD
(218) 253-2593 EXT. 4
TANYA.HANSON@MN.NACDNET.NET

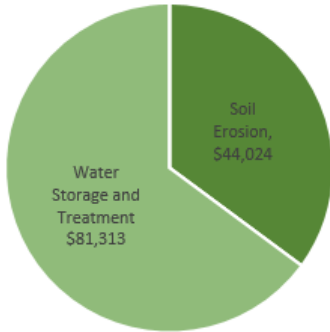


Local Capacity Funding At Work Redwood SWCD

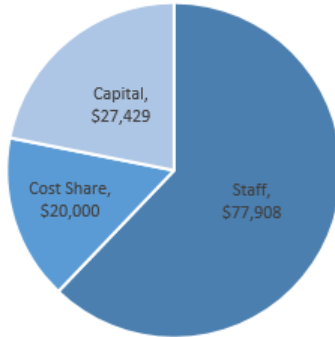


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices			✓	
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓		✓	
Equipment	✓		✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN REDWOOD COUNTY

The Redwood SWCD focused their 2016 Capacity dollars on expanding the implementation of conservation programs in Redwood County. In the past, the District has not had qualified staff to implement conservation programs across the county. With the funds, they were able to hire two highly specialized staff; a Water Quality Technician and a Resource Specialist.

The Water Quality Specialist focuses on Water Quality Certification, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS), One Watershed One Plan and assists the District in its role as the regional office for nitrate testing. The Resource Specialist with Job Approval Authority focuses on the marketing and installation of engineering and ecological conservation practices on the ground.

Thanks to these specialized staff, the district is able to leverage more federal and state resources. The staff are allowing the District to better serve landowners in Redwood County by targeting conservation practices to the most highly vulnerable areas of the county and providing the services necessary to protect and restore natural resources.



Brian Pfarr, Resource Specialist

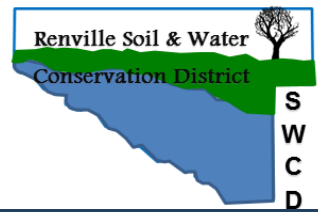


Kurt Mathiowetz, Resource Specialist

CONTACT: MARILYN BERNHARDSON
REDWOOD SWCD
(507) 637-2427 EXT. 3
MARILYN.BERNHARDSON@MNDISTRICT.ORG

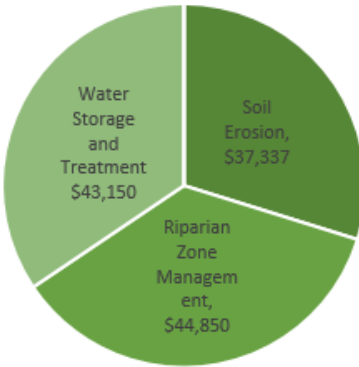


Local Capacity Funding At Work Renville SWCD

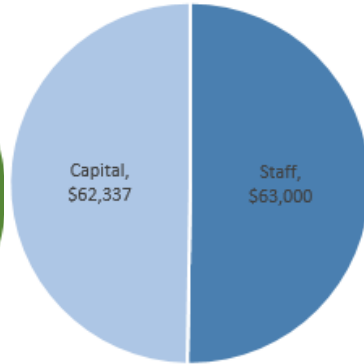


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



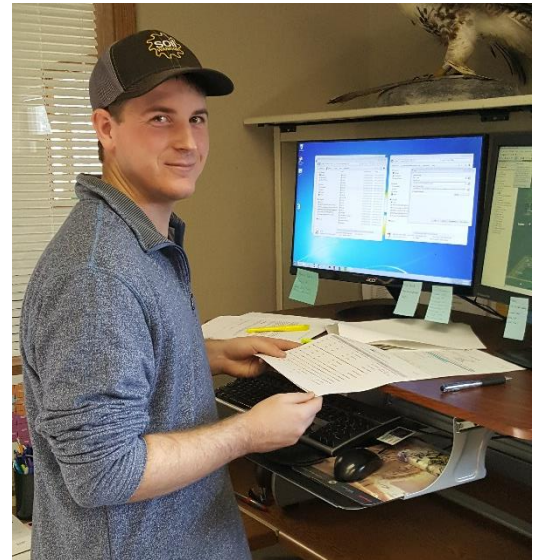
Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓	✓	
Equipment	✓	✓	✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN RENVILLE COUNTY

The 2016 Capacity funding provided the Renville Soil and Water Conservation District with greater financial stability, allowing them to focus their time and efforts on assisting landowners. The capacity funding enabled the District to hire a Technician/Outreach Coordinator to assist with buffers, CRP, and outreach to landowners.



Mike Sandager, Technician/Outreach Coordinator at Renville SWCD

CONTACT: HOLLY HATLEWICK
DISTRICT MANAGER
(320) 523-1550 EXT. 3
HOLLY.HATLEWICK@MN.NACDNET.NET



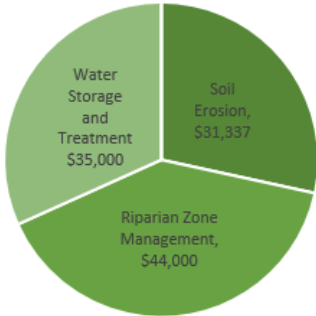
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Rice SWCD

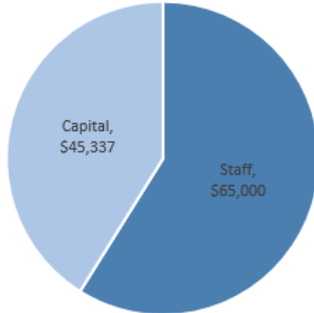


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓	✓	
Equipment	✓	✓	✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN RICE COUNTY

The 2016 Capacity funding provided the Rice Soil and Water Conservation District with greater financial stability, allowing them the ability to focus their time and efforts assisting landowners. The capacity funding enabled the district to hire a technician to work on buffer implementation efforts. The technician will work directly with landowners on staking buffers and conservation planning.

Additional investments of this funding include the purchase of a new Great Plains No-till Drill, purchase of a vehicle to implement conservation on the ground, and purchase of VRS Survey Equipment. The Survey equipment will allow quicker, more efficient work, and will reduce the need for two technicians on-site, so that one can be used to work on other projects.



CONTACT: STEVE PAHS
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 (507) 332-5408JE
STEVEN.PAHS@MN.NACDNET.NET

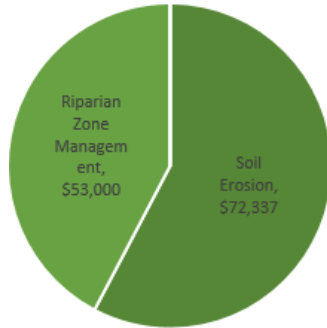


Local Capacity Funding At Work Rock SWCD

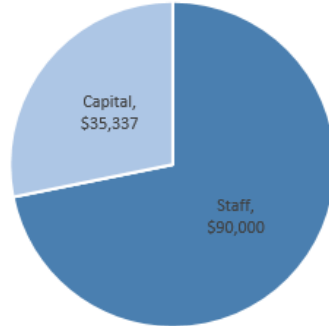


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓		
Supplies	✓	✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ROCK COUNTY

Recent extreme rain events in combination with the numerous impaired surface water resources in agricultural production areas and elevated nitrate levels in Rock County's groundwater resources have resulted in an increased demand for services in soil and water conservation assistance. Fortunately, in 2016 the Rock SWCD was able to use capacity funding to address this increasing demand for services.

The additional funding was used to partially fund the purchases of a side by side utility vehicle as well as cover a substantial investment in GPS total survey station equipment. We have also added an engineering technician to our staff.

With the added staff and equipment, we are providing critically needed technical services to our producers and landowners in the interest of placing more conservation practices on the ground. Our staff is growing in their expertise and ability to survey and design conservation projects in the interest of providing solutions to the erosion and other environmental problems we face today. With the additional staff and training we are able to provide more expertise in-house and deliver solutions to our clientele in a more timely and efficient manner.

As a result of this funding, the Rock SWCD is better positioned to educate and assist producers in the benefits of implementing current and emerging agronomic, cultural, and conservation practices.



Agricultural BMPs are just one of the many ways the SWCD assists landowners in Rock County.

CONTACT: ERIC HARTMAN
DIRECTOR
(507) 238-8862
ERIC.HARTMAN@CO.ROCK.MN.US



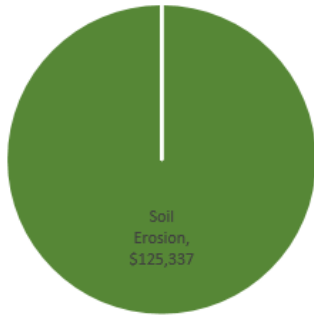
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Root River SWCD

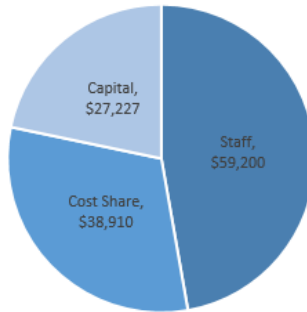


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN HOUSTON COUNTY

Because of the 2016 Capacity funding, the Root River SWCD has been able to provide better service to the landowners of Houston County in addressing their resource concerns, and put additional conservation projects on the ground. Our District has set aside ¼ of the Capacity funding for use as **cost share** by landowners to put additional practices on the ground that may not have otherwise been possible. The added incentive provided to landowners through Capacity dollars has been crucial to providing the financial means to install the BMP's. There is no doubt that some of these concerns would continue to go unaddressed without the use of Local Capacity money as cost share to aid in funding these important projects.

With the money, we were able to provide additional technical and engineering assistance through the hiring of an additional technician. This is technical assistance that would not have been offered to the public given the past budgetary constraints of the District. With this funding our District has been able to bring staff up to the capacity it once relied on to get projects on the ground in the most efficient manner possible. The additional staff has also increased the number of landowner contacts and increased the amount of time staff can spend developing BMP's and overseeing construction while ensuring efficient use of public dollars on cost-shared projects.



An aerial view of conservation in Houston County.

CONTACT: BOB SCANLAN
 ASSISTANT MANAGER
SCANLANCREW@GMAIL.COM



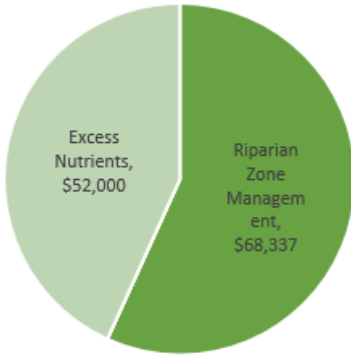
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Roseau SWCD

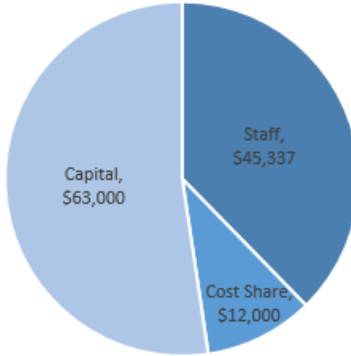


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices				✓
Admin/Coordination		✓		✓
Supplies		✓		✓

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ROSEAU COUNTY

The Roseau SWCD is using the 2016 Capacity funds to provide cost share assistance to Roseau County landowners interested in improving natural resources for future generations; as well as, furthering funds for other practices that they may have not even considered previously.

The District was able to hire additional staff and thereby increase landowner contacts, as well as purchase equipment to assist in putting conservation projects on the ground. The funds have allowed the District to build capacity and provide more conservation opportunities to landowners that would not have been possible without the funding.

We are able to run a balanced business, provide assistance to our land users in the County, and increase our use of available technology for technical work and public outreach.



A streambank stabilization project on the Roseau River.

CONTACT: SCOTT JOHNSON
 NRCS-CD
SCOTT.JOHNSON2@MN.NACDNET.NET



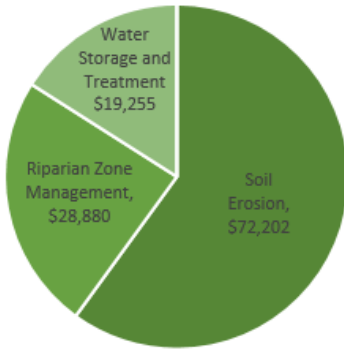
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Scott SWCD

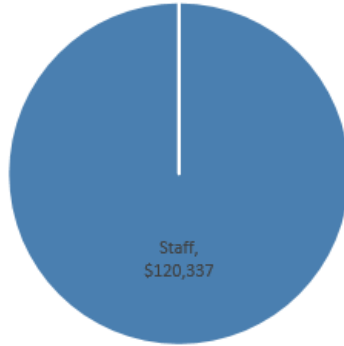


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓	✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SCOTT COUNTY

The State of Minnesota has truly renewed its dedication to protecting and improving our natural resources over the past few years. As a result, there has been a ground-swell of demand in Scott County by local residents seeking assistance to address conservation concerns on their lands and farms. Unfortunately this demand for assistance came at the same time the Scott SWCD had been noticing a troubling trend. Experienced staff were leaving the District to seek employment with agencies having more secure funding. We were facing hard times and were at serious risk of not being able to keep up with existing demand, let alone take on any additional workload associated with new initiatives.

Fortunately, the 2016 capacity funding allowed us to reverse this trend. Not only have we been able to retain existing staff, we were able create and fill a new full-time Resource Conservation Technician (RCT) position. Our new RCT provided critical support to our 2014 flood damage recovery efforts, including assisting with design and preparation of over 24 projects; providing technical assistance to another 25 landowners resulting in 10 new on-the-ground projects including raingardens and riparian improvement. In addition, the RCT taught over 1,200 5th grade students in Scott County about forestry at our Outdoor Education Day event; led local invasive weed management programs efforts; planned and supervised work on 7 water quality projects constructed by the Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa; inspected over 350 construction sites for erosion and sediment control; and helped distribute over 35,000 trees.



Live stakes are installed as part of a project with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa.



A shoreline restoration project in Scott County..

CONTACT: TROY KUPHAL
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 (952) 492-5425
TKUPHAL@CO.SCOTT.MN.US



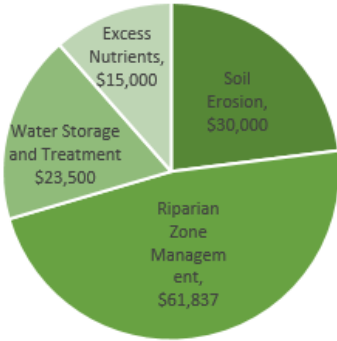
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Sherburne SWCD

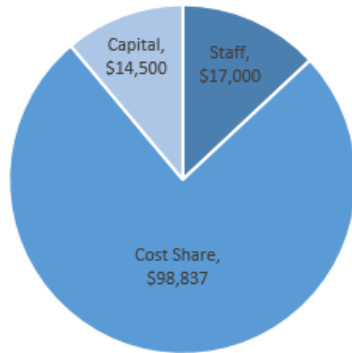


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓	✓	✓	✓
Forestry Practices			✓	
Streambank or Shoreline Protection		✓		
Water Quality Practices	✓			✓
Equipment	✓	✓	✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SHERBURNE COUNTY

Thanks to increased capacity funding, the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District was able to engage more individual landowners in conservation programs through the use of additional incentives.

The District found that these additional incentives have increased awareness of the SWCD's work in general, and have strengthened their partnerships with other local government units, landowners and lake associations.

Locally-driven conservation is a cost-effective way to protect Minnesota's natural resources. The capacity money allowed the District to target practices to where they are needed most, which has empowered and motivated the community, something that would not have happened without this additional support.



CONTACT: FRANCINE LARSON
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 (763) 567-5368
FRANCINE.LARSON@MN.NACDNET.NET

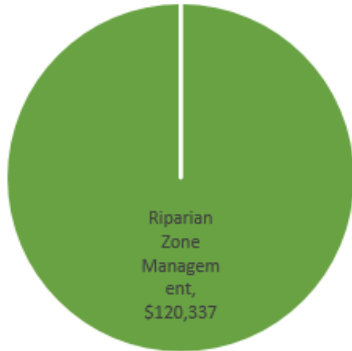


Local Capacity Funding At Work

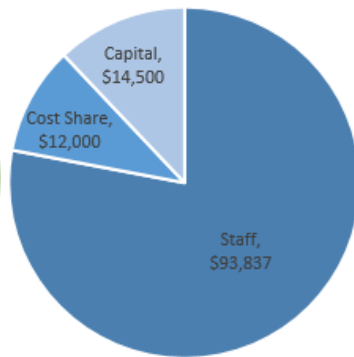
North St. Louis SWCD

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending

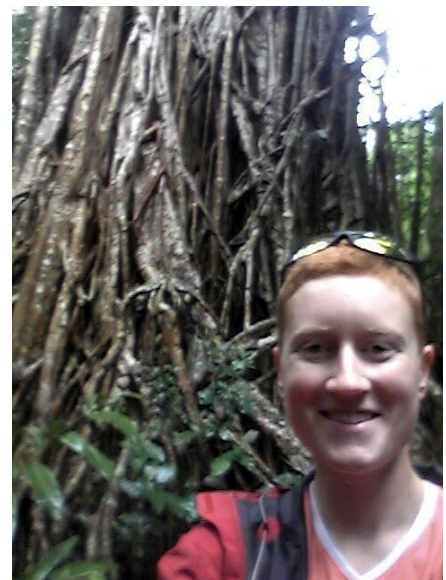


LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information		✓		
Streambank or Shoreline Protection		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Supplies		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NORTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY

In recent years, the journey of the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District has been bumpy to say the least. In 2014 the District closed its doors due to lack of funding. However, through careful planning, they were able to re-open in 2015 with a half-time administrator and a full-time resource conservationist focused on the Wetland Conservation Act and water sampling. In early 2016, the district was able to expand its capacity to 2.2 FTE. The 2016 Capacity funding further assisted this District in regaining its footing by allowing them to expand staff capacity by another .9 FTE.

This additional .9 FTE was spread out over three focus areas: Forestry Services, Water Resources and Administrative services. The additional Forestry services time has resulted in the creation of Forest Stewardship plans for 3 property owners, a tree health workshop, and targeted mailings regarding forested land. Additional water resources efforts have focused on AIS watercraft inspection and decontamination, as well as the development of an outreach and education component for schools and community groups. And, as the agency grows, so does the Administrative workload. Additional hours have gone toward creation of a website, as well as time spent securing grants from other sources.



St. Louis County District Forester
Beth Peterson

CONTACT: ANITA PROVINZINO
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
(218) 471-7284
ANITA@NSLSWCD.ORG



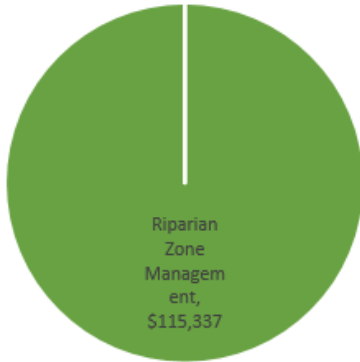
Local Capacity Funding At Work

South St. Louis SWCD

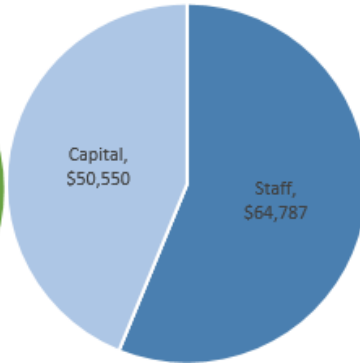


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SOUTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY

The South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District used its capacity funding to 1) support existing staff 2) purchase equipment necessary to implement high-quality conservation projects and 3) hire a forester. Our District has long recognized a need to provide services to landowners who own or manage forested land. Unfortunately, grant opportunities were sparse and other priorities took precedence for our limited staff. Bringing a forester on board has allowed us to expand our services to landowners and communities who are looking for advice and guidance on how to be good stewards of their forested lands. This is especially important to our District as we have a plethora of designated trout streams within our boundaries. The capacity funding has allowed us to really focus on the conservation goals we have set for our District, instead of always worrying about next year's budget.



Surveying of a stabilization project on Amity Creek.

The capacity money is allowing us to offer forestry services in a heavily forested District; to feel more secure when budgeting for staff and future projects; to offer competitive salaries that help us retain high-quality staff; and to get our field work, specifically, stream surveying, done more efficiently and with great accuracy.



District Forester Beth Peterson assisting a landowner in St. Louis County.

CONTACT: R. C BOHEIM
 SOUTH ST. LOUIS SWCD
R.C.BOHEIM@SOUTHSTLOUISSWCD.ORG



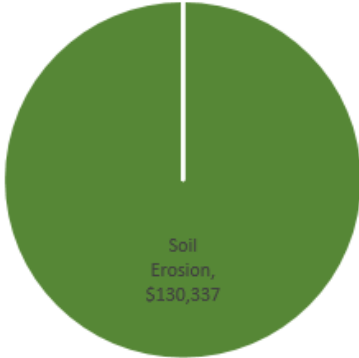
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Stearns SWCD



STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN STEARNS COUNTY

The Stearns SWCD used the 2016 Capacity funding to create a new, and much needed Grants and Program Specialist position. This position allows the SWCD to be more transparent with the use of government funding, and to begin writing formal operating procedures for all aspects of the SWCD, including data storage and retrieval.

The addition of this position means that the District does not have to use technical staff to conduct administrative duties. This has allowed the SWCD to free up technical staff to assist additional landowners with their natural resource concerns and resulted in approximately 20 more conservation projects being applied to the landscape.

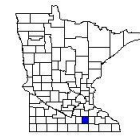
By using the local capacity funding to hire a Grants and Programs Specialist, the Stearns SWCD is able to manage the larger workload associated with landowner demands and program reporting requirements. This enables the SWCD to assist more landowners and implement conservation in the county and hopefully, boost the local economy.



Multiple BMPs installed on a site in Stearns County resulted in decreased erosion, and inspired a landowner to address additional erosion issues elsewhere on his land.

CONTACT: DENNIS FUCHS
 SWCD ADMINISTRATOR
 (320) 251-7800 EXT. 124
DENNIS.FUCHS@MN.NACDNET.NET



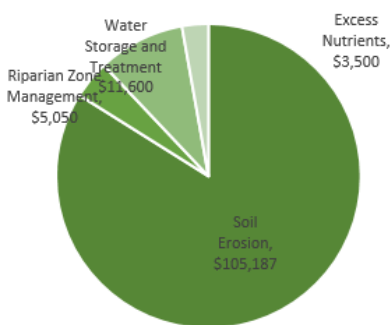


MINNESOTA
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

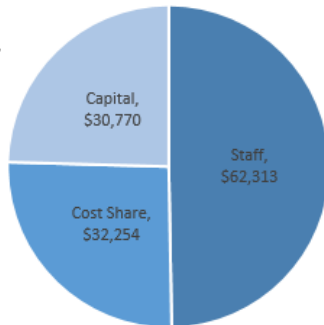
Local Capacity Funding At Work Steele SWCD

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓		✓	✓
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓	✓	✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN STEELE COUNTY

The Steele SWCD used their 2016 Capacity funds to build upon recent local and national emphasis on soil health and develop their own cover crop program. The funding allowed for 387 acres to be planted into cover crops, which have been proven to provide the biggest immediate impact on soil health and water quality. These acres are located within one of the most polluted watersheds in Minnesota.

These funds not only cover the costs of implementation, they also cover the promotion of new ideas and practices to landowners; something the District has found greatly increases the likelihood of adoption. In addition, the District was able to update some obsolete equipment, allowing them to be more efficient, and increase the number of projects they can complete.



A local cover crop program in Steele SWCD is helping to improve soil health and reduce runoff from fields.

CONTACT: ERIC GULBRANSEN
 DISTRICT MANAGER
 (507) 451-6730
ERIC.GULBRANSEN@MN.NACDNET.NET

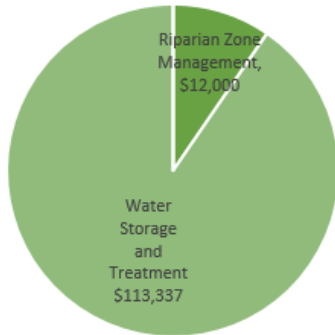


Local Capacity Funding At Work Stevens SWCD

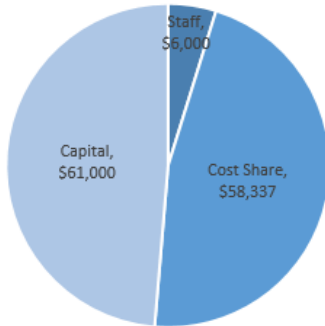


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Inventory/Mapping		✓		
Monitoring/Data Collection		✓		
Special Projects			✓	
Admin/Coordination			✓	
Equipment			✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN STEVENS COUNTY

The Stevens SWCD, like other Minnesota SWCDs, focus on a “boots on the ground” approach to conservation in Minnesota. They have a unique, trusting relationship with local landowners, and strive to get things done. In keeping with this approach, the Stevens SWCD used approximately half of their 2016 Capacity allocation as cost-share funds to help producers put projects on the ground.

The capacity funds allowed the District to implement practices such as rain gardens, water and sediment control dams and French drains in areas that don’t qualify under current grant programs in the Stevens County. The remaining funds were used for equipment repairs and other overhead costs that can’t be completed with grant funds.



A rain garden installed in Stevens County using Capacity dollars.



The Steven’s SWCD no-till drill being used to native grass in Stevens County.

CONTACT: MATT SOLEMSAAS
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
(320) 589-4886 EXT. 112
MATT.SOLEMSAAS@STEVENSOWCD.ORG

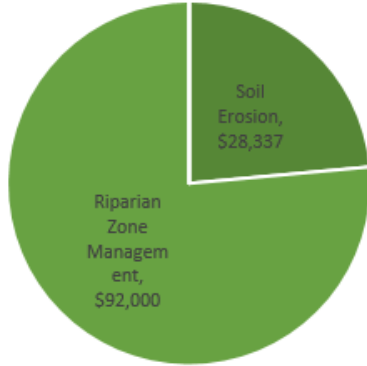




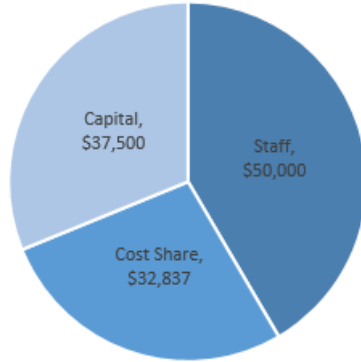
Local Capacity Funding At Work Swift SWCD

STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices	✓	✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SWIFT COUNTY

The 2016 Capacity funding provided the Swift SWCD with the resources to adequately address the needs of landowners in regard to Minnesota's new buffer initiative. The District used the funding to not only hire a new employee, but also to cover start-up costs for the employee including computer equipment, communication tools as well as a new vehicle. The new technician focused his efforts on working with landowners to become compliant with the new buffer law. He did so by meeting with landowners onsite, answering questions and performing preliminary buffer compliance checks on over 1300 parcels.

The District also held an open house to provide information to landowners in Swift County about the new buffer law. Landowners were able to view their land on the buffer map and ask questions about implementing and managing buffers. Over 70 people attended the open house.

The capacity funds allowed the Swift SWCD to deliver additional outreach related to the buffer law without decreasing their capacity to continue offering the conservation assistance the traditionally provided to landowners in Swift County.



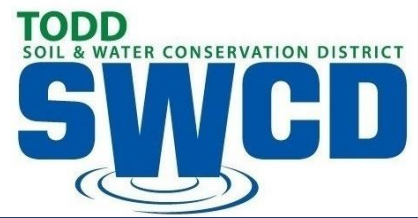
Landowners gathered at an open house hosted by Swift SWCD to learn more about the Buffer Initiative.



CONTACT: SHERI GADES
SWIFT SWCD
(320) 842-7201 EXT. 101
SHERI.GADES@MN.NACDNET.NET

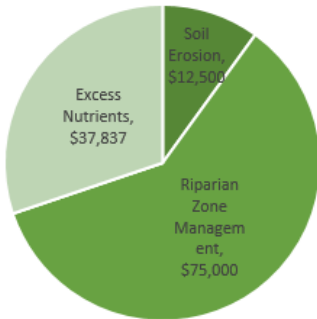


Local Capacity Funding At Work Todd SWCD

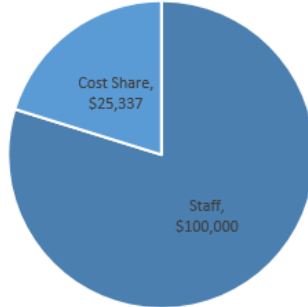


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Special Projects				✓
Water Quality Practices	✓	✓		✓
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN TODD COUNTY

Todd County’s abundance of lakes, streams and ditches mean that there are many miles of shoreline that could need protection under Minnesota’s new buffer initiative. In order to properly address this demand, the Todd SWCD used the 2016 Capacity Funds to hire a technician to implement a comprehensive campaign including outreach, technical assistance and administration. The technician implemented the buffer initiative county wide by contacting landowners, completing an inventory and conducting field site visits. This type of intensive implementation of the Buffer initiative would not have been possible without the Capacity Dollars.

Having an SWCD staff person dedicated to this effort means that landowners in Todd County received timely follow up to questions, and had more opportunities to be exposed to outreach and education efforts regarding soil erosion and excess nutrient loss from farmland. Both of these areas are identified in the local water management plan as priorities and were in need of additional emphasis beyond what could be completed without additional support.



Buffer strip in Todd County

CONTACT: TIM STIEBER
DIVISION DIRECTOR
(320) 732-4325
TIM.STIEBER@CO.TODD.MN.US

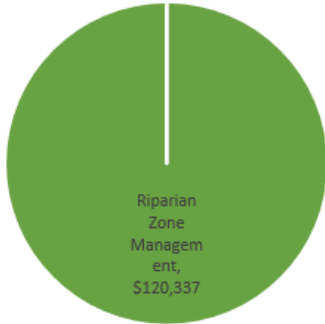


Local Capacity Funding At Work Traverse SWCD

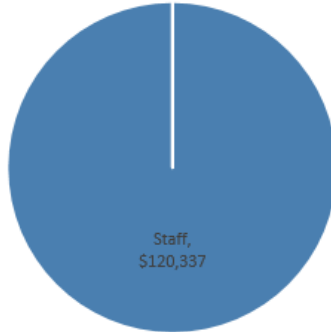


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Inventory Mapping		✓		
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN TRAVERSE COUNTY

The Traverse SWCD staff are proud to serve landowners by providing advice and service for successful installation and establishment of conservation practices on the ground. By using 2016 capacity funds to create a new position, they have been able to expand their service capabilities.

This new conservation technician made it possible for the District to manage the additional workload associated with buffer law implementation without reducing the standard services they normally provide landowners. The District staff regularly work directly with landowners to provide assistance in contract planning and development. Since the beginning of 2016, the Traverse SWCD has been involved with the development of 167 CRP contracts.

This funding allowed the District to improve their capacity to serve the landowners in Traverse county by expanding their capacity to provide quality service to Traverse County landowners and land operators, despite an already heavy workload.



SWCD's drill and truck used to seed CRP

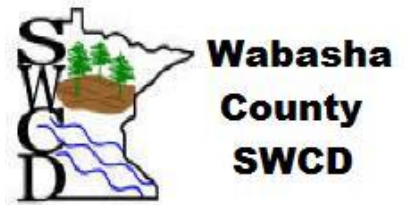


New Conservation Technician Taylor Hufford

CONTACT: SARA GRONFELD
DISTRICT MANAGER
(320) 563-8218 EXT. 108
SARA.GRONFELD@MN.NACDNET.NET

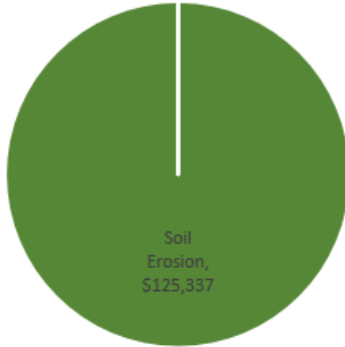


Local Capacity Funding At Work Wabasha SWCD

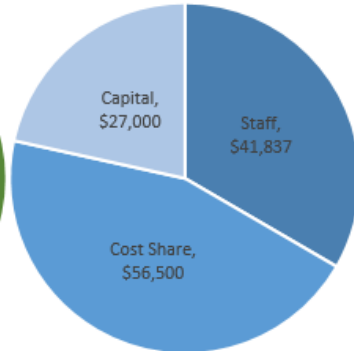


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓			
Streambank or Shoreline Protection	✓			
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WABASHA COUNTY

The steep and rolling topography of Southeast Minnesota makes soil erosion a top concern for the Wabasha SWCD. Therefore, it was only fitting that they focused their Capacity Fund allocation on reducing soil erosion in Wabasha County.

The Wabasha SWCD used the Capacity Funding to create cost share programs through the District. These local programs were especially beneficial for the District due to decreases in their State Cost Share allocation in recent years. The cost share projects funded with Capacity Funds included grassed waterways, cover crops, contour strip cropping, and vegetative planting to assist with implementing the Buffer Initiative as well as to address some vegetative establishment goals from the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.

By creating their own, locally driven cost share program, the District was able to utilize a streamlined process, and focus on the priorities identified in their local water management plan. In order to maximize the number of landowners who could participate in the program, the District chose to limit the payment/acres.



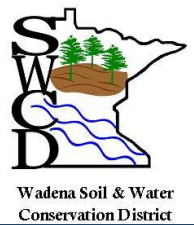
Cover crops in Wabasha County



CONTACT: TERRI PETERS
DISTRICT MANAGER
(651) 565-4673 EXT. 102
TERRI.PETERS@MN.NACDNET.NET

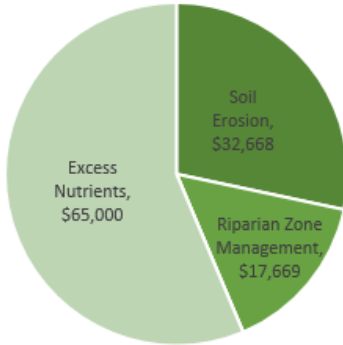


Local Capacity Funding At Work Wadena SWCD

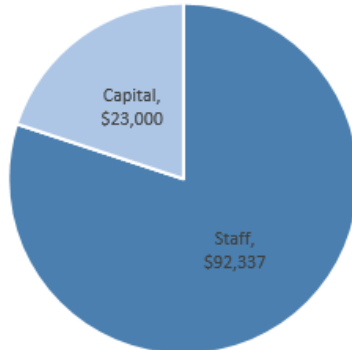


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓		✓
Equipment	✓			✓

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WADENA COUNTY

To the Wadena SWCD, the 2016 Capacity Funds were an opportunity for investment. The funds were used to invest in staff, staff training, and to provide benefits that will help retain staff in the future.

An irrigation technician was hired to target a new audience of irrigation producers, and to provide them with more resources and better technology tools for more efficient irrigation.

This investment has provided the Wadena SWCD with the local capacity and staff needed to build stable relationships with producers, and to focus on the implementation of local plans, including the local water plan.



Irrigation on fields in Wadena County



CONTACT: ANNE OLDAKOWSKI
WADENA SWCD
(218) 631-3195 EXT. 4
ANNE.OLDAKOWSKI@MN.NACDNET.NET



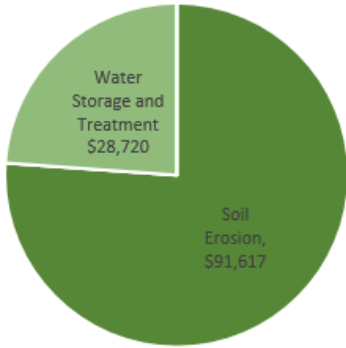
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Waseca SWCD

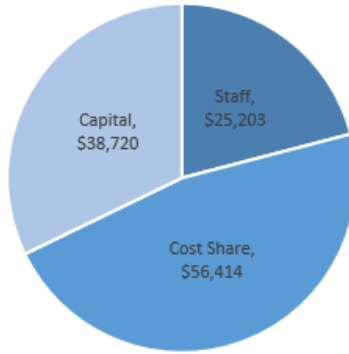


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓			
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination			✓	
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓		✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WASECA COUNTY

In recent years, local and federal efforts to improve soil health in Minnesota have been on the rise. Using the 2016 Local Capacity funds, the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District was able to build on this momentum, and create a cover crop program which resulted in 15 producers putting cover crops on 976 acres of cropland in one of the most polluted watershed of the state.

The capacity funding was especially important to the Waseca SWCD because it also enabled them to create and promote programs, acquire updated equipment and add a half time employee, a position that was much needed as the District builds back its capacity to full staff after nearly closing down a few years ago. The capacity funding provides for local conservation professionals who are engaged in the community and have the trust and respect of landowners and operators.



Cover crops in Waseca County are helping to improve soil health and reduce runoff.

CONTACT: ADRIENNE JUSTMAN
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 (507) 835-4800 EXT. 4
ADRIENNE.JUSTMAN@MN.USDA.GOV

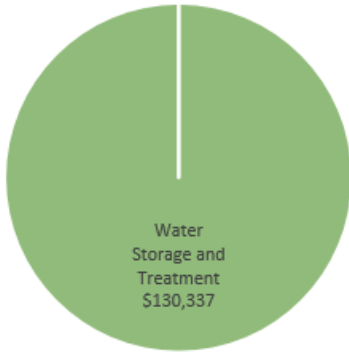


Local Capacity Funding At Work Washington SWCD

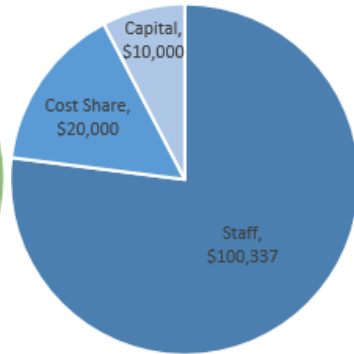


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Monitoring/Data Collection			✓	
Education/Information			✓	
Water Quality Practices			✓	
Admin/Coordination			✓	
Technical/Engineering Assistance			✓	
Equipment			✓	

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Providing technical assistance to landowners requires opportunities to stay connected with partner organizations, to continue to develop professionally, and to stay informed of changing regulations and opportunities. With this in mind, the Washington Conservation District is using their Capacity funding to promote a Sustainable Landscapes Program and facilitate the restoration of natural hydrology throughout the county. This work will include staff training, purchase of equipment, program development, technical services and Cost-Share.

To accomplish their goals, the WCD has used some of their Capacity Funds to provide training for staff. Topics have included training on hydrologic modeling, innovative stormwater management, as well as how to use software design programs such as pictometry and vectorworks. In addition, staff participated in training that will lead directly to better delivery of on the ground conservation. These sessions included construction safety and site inspections training as well as workshops on low impact design, chlorides and invasive species. This wealth of knowledge will not only streamline current conservation efforts at the district, but direct future partnership and programming. This level of technical training would not have been possible without the new capacity funding.



Washington Conservation District staff attend a water quality workshop.

CONTACT: JAY RIGGS
DISTRICT MANAGER
(651) 330-8220 EXT. 20
JRIGGS@MNWCD.ORG

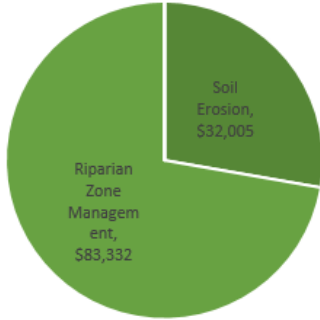


Local Capacity Funding At Work Watonwan SWCD

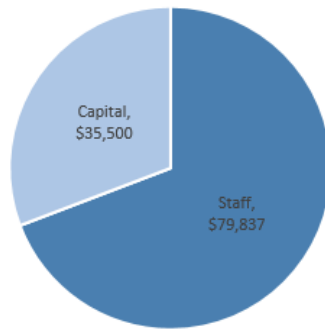


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Inventory/Mapping		✓		
Monitoring/Data Collection		✓		
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance		✓		
Equipment	✓	✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WATONWAN COUNTY

The Watonwan SWCD used the 2016 Capacity funds to increase assistance to landowners with conservation concerns and projects. The funds were used to hire a District Technician and a Technical Clerk. These extra staff allow the District to devote more time and effort to assisting landowners in developing conservation strategies to reduce soil erosion and address surface and groundwater issues.

This increase in capacity also allowed the District to participate in more one-on-one and group meetings with landowners and citizens. District Staff were able to participate in events such as the county fair, local sports group banquets, environmental educational events with local schools, watershed groups, and numerous additional local organizations. These additional outreach opportunities have resulted in greater public awareness of conservation concerns and of the District itself.

The 2016 Capacity Funds have allowed the District to have a more significant presence in the local conservation environment, and as a result, they have experienced a marked increase in the number of landowners contacting them with questions, concerns, and potential projects.



Land Management/SWCD staff

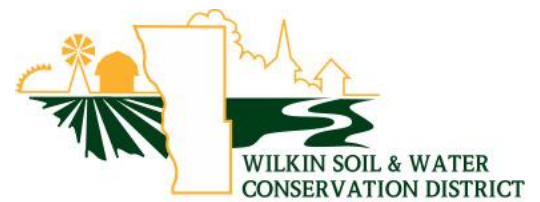


District Technician, Chad Hildebrand, assisting landowners with a native grass planting using the office's newly purchased Great Plains 1006NT seed drill

CONTACT: DAVID HALER
LAND MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR
(507) 375-2519
DAVID.HALER@CO.WATONWAN.MN.US

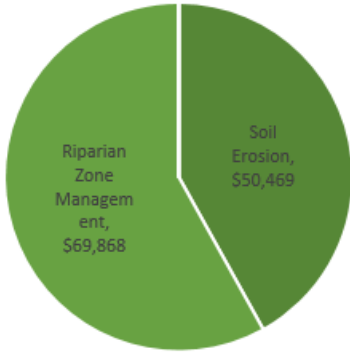


Local Capacity Funding At Work Wilkin SWCD

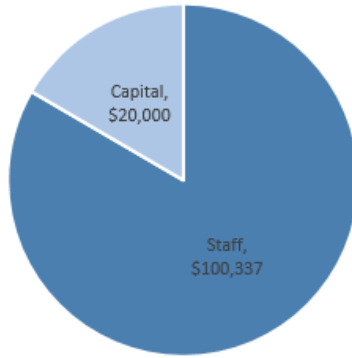


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Admin/Coordination		✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓		
Equipment	✓	✓		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WILKIN COUNTY

The Wilkin SWCD used the FY 16 Capacity Funding to do just as the title of the funds implies; build capacity.

The funds were used to not only increase staff capacity, they District was also able to purchase a grass drill and side-by-side to assist with the implementation of the buffer law. This increased capacity allowed Wilkin SWCD staff to produce 875 personalized maps for landowners to demonstrate where buffer strips are required. Staff were also able to conduct over 200 face to face meetings with landowners to explain buffer requirements and summarize program and cost share options, as well as conduct 75 field visits with landowners determine buffer compliance needs and respond to 30 requests to stake required buffer locations.



A newly planted buffer strip in Wilkin County

CONTACT: DON BAJUMPAA
WILKIN SWCD
(218) 643-2933
DBAJUMPAA@CO.WILKIN.MN.US

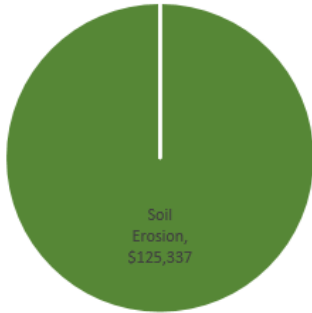


Local Capacity Funding At Work Winona SWCD

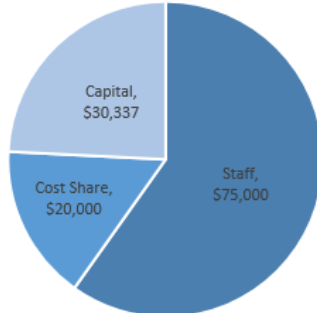


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Water Quality Practices	✓			
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓			
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WINONA COUNTY

As many SWCDs will attest, the key to getting conservation on the ground is forming relationships with landowners, and finding mutually agreeable priorities. Recognizing this, the Winona SWCD chose to utilize Capacity Funds to hire staff who could focus on building relationships with local landowners. These Capacity Funds not only enabled the District to hire new staff, they were able to offer competitive wages and benefits, allowing them to bring in applicants with training and experience.



The predominance of grant based funding for conservation implementation in Minnesota has caused many SWCD's to focus on the priorities of various grant programs and funding sources rather locally identified conservation needs and priorities. The 2016 Capacity Funding allowed the Winona SWCD to hire staff and focus once again on providing assistance to landowners based on locally identified needs.



Winona SWCD

CONTACT: DARYL BUCK
DISTRICT MANAGER
(507) 523-2171 EXT. 112
DARYL.BUCK@WINONASWCD.COM

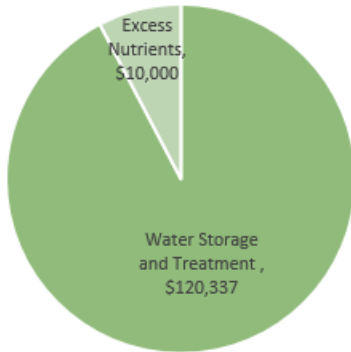


Local Capacity Funding At Work Wright SWCD

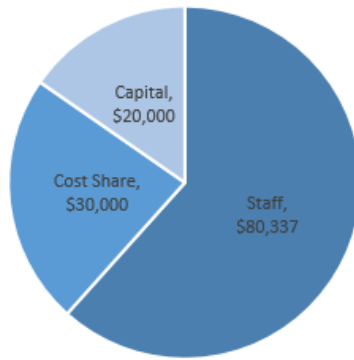


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES
Water Quality Practices
Technical/Engineering Assistance
Equipment

WATER QUALITY CONCERNS

Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
		✓	
		✓	
		✓	✓

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WRIGHT COUNTY

Changes in agricultural technology have resulted the need to change the way conservation professionals in Minnesota approach their work. Innovative techniques are needed to maintain cover crops, reduce sheet and rill erosion and target practices to where they are needed most.

The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District used their local capacity dollars to modernize both equipment and staff knowledge. District staff received accelerated training to help them institute new programs and design innovative projects, including training on how to use a GIS program called the PTM App. The App allows district staff to better target and prioritize field projects based on impact and cost effectiveness, and will be particularly useful when the District begins to implement the new One Watershed One Plan for the North Fork of the Crow River.

Field survey equipment was also updated, and video conference equipment was purchased to allow efficient communication between the Wright SWCD, partners and landowners. A pollinator planting project located around a Buffalo school was one of the first projects to be installed by the District using these funds.

District staff are on the front lines of conservation, working with landowners to improve the ways in which we produce food and fiber and develop our urban areas. To be successful, Districts need well trained staff and the ability to access new technology to work effectively and convincingly with across all demographics. These capacity funds make a difference in how the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District works cooperatively with partners and landowners to reduce the negative effectives of both urban and rural land use.



SWCD Engineering Technician surveying a stream in Wright County



District staff and landowners participate in a buffer meeting

CONTACT: KERRY SAXTON
DISTRICT MANAGER
(763) 682-1970 EXT. 116
KERRY.SAXTON@MN.NACDNET.NET



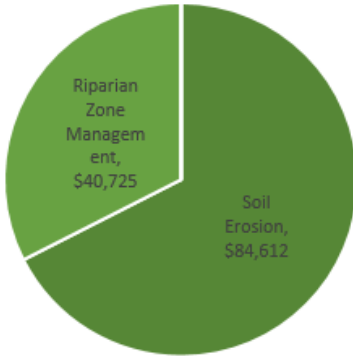
Local Capacity Funding At Work

Yellow Medicine SWCD

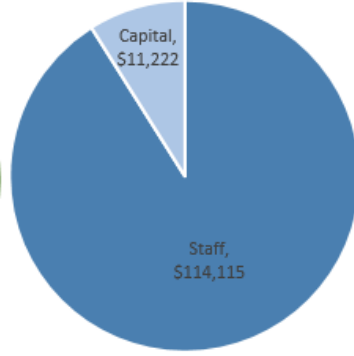


STATE FUNDING AT WORK FOR SOIL AND WATER

Soil & Water Resource Concerns Addressed



Activity Spending



LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	WATER QUALITY CONCERNS			
	Soil Erosion	Riparian Zone Mgmt	Water Storage & Treatment	Excess Nutrients
Education/Information	✓			
Admin/Coordination	✓	✓		
Technical/Engineering Assistance	✓	✓		
Equipment	✓			

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY

Implementing conservation practices takes team work. Not only do you need willing landowners, you also need knowledgeable technicians, flexible programs, and administrative proficiency. The Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District works hard to make sure all the right pieces fall into place when coordinating programs and activities.

To do so, the District used their local capacity grant dollars to augment their work force. A fulltime Conservation Technician was hired to assist in the implementation of the Farm Bill Assistance program, Reinvest in Minnesota, and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The new technician also provides technical assistance for the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy and One Watershed One Plan, as well as implements the new Buffer and Soil Loss Programs and provides GIS/Technology expertise.

The local capacity dollars were also used to increase the number of hours worked by the District's Administrative Assistant. This allowed the Administrative Assistant to focus in program administration, and provided the SWCD's technicians with more time to get projects on the ground and work one on one with landowners.

These capacity dollars have helped the Yellow Medicine Soil and Water Conservation District better serve landowners, and has improved their ability to implement conservation programs throughout the County.



CONTACT: LOU ANN NAGEL
 SWCD MANAGER
 (320) 669-4442 EXT. 3
LOUANN.NAGEL@MN.NACDNET.NET

