

Stockton - Rollingstone - MN City Watershed District

Chairman: Jack Roberts (507)689-2546 jjroberts@hbc.com
Secretary: Duane Wirt (507)523-2860 duanewirt@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Keith Beach (507)689-2364 beachsaw@embarqmail.com



ANNUAL REPORT

Stockton-Rollingstone-Minnesota City Watershed District

2014

Organization

The Board of Managers:

Jack Roberts – President
Acting Treasurer

Duane Wirt – Secretary
V. Pres.

Advisory Committee:

Keith Beach

Lew Overhaug

P.O. Box 129
Stockton, MN 55988
25693 County Road 25
Lewiston, MN 55952

24664 Hwy 14
Winona, MN 55987
Winona Co. Planning Dept.
Winona, MN 55987

Meetings

Regular board meetings were held monthly at the Stockton Community Center, most always on the second Monday of each month. Notices for the meetings were printed in The Winona Post which is delivered free to all Winona County residents.

Professional Services

Services were used from the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District, the NCRS, both of Lewiston, MN. the Winona County Planning Dept. and Winona County District Attorney offices, Winona, MN. Pete Fryer, SRF engineer is the official engineer for the Watershed Board. Bill Huber, Area Hydrologist, Lake City was also consulted for input.

Projects and Work

1. Our Watershed Water Plan was approved by BWSR on 3/28/2012. Thanks to the BWSR board, the Winona County Planning Department, Mary Kells, Michelle Schaefer, Dave Peterson from BWSR and Duane Hebert and Lew Overhaug from Winona County.

2. The district is a member of the technical committee for the 110B local water plan for Winona County. This allows the board to relay problems or concerns from citizens of the watershed district to area agencies and other organizations. Lew Overhaug, Winona County Water Plan Coordinator, is now secretary of the advisory committee. Lew has volunteered to assist with the part of the new 10 year plan which requires information available from the Court House, Winona. Our website location can be found @www.winona.co.mn.us under Planning Dept. and at ci.stockton.mn.us under city services SRMCWD.
3. A cooperative agreement with the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District insures us technical assistance, project design, and educational material to citizens of the watershed district. This assistance is utilized by our watershed board.
4. DNR Hydrologist, Bill Huber (651-345-3331) has been consulted on projects in the past and continues to be a great advisor.
5. In the 23 years of the Garvin Brook rural Clean Water Project the watershed board has been a cooperative agency. This area has been of major concern as the flood mitigation meetings study what can be done to lessen the effects of future peak flows.
6. Meeting 3/21/2011 with FEMA on Flood mapping. We anxiously await new FEMA Flood mapping with hopes to receive in 2016. Currently in comments phase.
7. We have and will continue to work with Winona County Planning and Zoning. Board members have attended numerous meetings concerning planning.

Objectives for the coming year

1. A five (5) year plan is required by the state BWSR and is necessary to receive funding for any major projects. (Completed and sent to BWSR for approval in October 2011 – approved 3/28/2012.
2. Fulfill cooperative agreement with WN County Soil and Water Conservation District to consult on worthwhile projects within the watershed district. Contributed to Cover Crop Program thru the District in 2011 and 2012.
3. Considerable research has been done on a project at the LeRoy Scherbring farm. It is possible that members will be able to see a solution that is economically feasible. (Nothing done in 2014)
4. Stream bank erosion as a major contributor to sediment will be considered for projects. Major efforts are being made to restore streams that have moved their banks due to past flooding. Currently working on two (2) areas within the city of Stockton with the City, DNR and County one (1) at East end of 6th street remains in process and one (1) at South end of Old Co. Rd 23 South completed in 2013. Both could eventually wash out part of the streets.
5. Regular monthly meetings will continue.
6. On viable projects the watershed district will be offering a cost share incentive, especially on conservation practices not covered by established state and federal cost-share programs offered

by the soil and water conservation district. This provides a balance of regulations and incentives for a pollute-pays principle and is responsible to citizen needs.

7. We will continue to attend local hearings on rules and regulations of the local land use plan. Members have attended many flood mitigation meetings. The Watershed co-sponsored, attended and displayed at the Mississippi River/Winona Watershed Citizen's Summit on November 14, 2014 held in Winona.

8. We have started on district rules and hope to complete by end of 2016. This maybe coming as a result of the one (1) Watershed/One Plan project.

9. Have kept in contact with a list of twenty land owners interested in a pond cleanout program we developed in 2011 with the help of Winona County Planning and the Winona County Soil and Water District. This will be a cost share of 75% Watershed District and 25% landowner. The Watershed share coming out of current Watershed funds. We're hopeful this program becomes very popular, as we feel there is a great need, although, we realize our funds will quickly run out and will require additional levy to keep going. (Program developed and letters requesting applications sent out in April 2011.) One completed in 2011. Total pond cleanouts completed in 2012 were five (5). Total cost share \$18,038.28. Completed four (4) pond cleanouts in 2013, total cost share was \$16,143.50. Two completed in 2014 for \$6,045.88. We have changed this program to allow more than one pond per landowner and are now receiving more interest. Currently Winona County has some 1600 ponds and we're sure we'll run out of funds before we run out of ponds.

10. Activities for 2015 from Districts Water Plan:

- a. Adopt new SRMCWD Rules (One Watershed/One Plan)
- b. Hire a consultant to analyze where the watershed district should focus its resources to provide the greatest benefit utilizing a watershed approach at the minor watershed level (getting help through Winona County to finish this).
- c. Select an item from the implementation plan to accomplish with available funds in 2015 utilizing the consultant's recommendations.
- d. Promote farm practices in cooperation with SWCD that accomplish the water quality and soil erosion goals of the watershed district.
- e. Set SRMCWD levy for 2015. Raised levy to \$16,000.00
- f. Co-sponsor with Trout Unlimited and DNR fisheries a tour event of the stream restoration project completed on Garvin Brook.

11. Apply for grants thru Clean Water Legacy Fund to continue pond cleanout program and other programs to restore clean water resources and flood mitigation structures. Applied thru Winona Co. SWCD, received none.

12. Treasurer resigned in October 2011 but still is a member of our Advisory Committee. County searching for his replacement. Treasurer work is currently being done by President of the board.