

**East Polk  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
2014  
Annual Plan of  
Operations**

# EAST POLK SWCD 2014 ANNUAL PLAN

Mission statement:

The purpose of the District as granted by Minnesota Statutes 103C:

The misuse of soil and water resources of the state and its effects on the health, safety, and general welfare of each citizen of the state, brought about the establishment of the 91 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Minnesota. The Districts, as originally organized, were to offer assistance in rural areas only. In 1972, the Minnesota Legislature recognized the valuable role Districts could play in urban areas and amended Chapter 40 to bring all land areas of the state under the authority of the Districts. The purpose of the Districts is to assist landowners in applying proper practices for the conservation of soil erosion, land resource planning and development, reduction of siltation, and flood prevention. Also included is the conservation development, utilization and management of the waters of the state, preserving natural areas and the fish and wildlife which inhabit them. The Districts also have the authority to guide and assist in the wise use of public lands.

The 2013 Annual Plan addresses the priority goals of the SWCD Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors adopted the County's Local Water Management Plan as the Comprehensive Plan for the District. The District has also adopted the Biennial Budget Request (BBR) submitted to BWSR as their Annual Plan.

The purpose of this plan is to protect water resources through the promotion and implementation of Best Management Practices throughout the County and associated Watersheds. The plan will focus on four priority areas of concern. For detailed discussion refer to the County's Local Water Management Plan. The plan also makes reference to Polk County's Feedlot Plan. Both plans are available in the District office.

## **Purpose of the Local Water Management Plan:**

The purpose of this updated Local Water Management Plan (LWMP) is to identify existing and potential problems and opportunities for protection, management and development of water resources and related land resources in Polk County. Pursuant to the requirements of Minn. Stat. 103B311 subd.4, the five requirements of this plan are as follows:

1. The plan must cover the entire county.
2. The plan must address problems in the context of watershed units and groundwater systems.
3. The plan must be based upon principals of sound hydrologic management of water, effective environmental protection, and efficient management.

4. The plan must be consistent with local water management plans prepared by counties and watershed management organizations wholly or partially within a single watershed unit or ground water system.
5. The plan will cover a ten year period (2012 – 2022) with an implementation plan that will cover a five year period (2012 – 2017) and will then be update for the remaining five years.

### **PRIORITY CONCERN I**

The Polk County Local Water Management Plan will focus on protection and enhancement of surface water quality. Specific areas of focus will be:

- Lake Region in the eastern part of the county, with specific focus on the human impacts.
  - Increases in development around smaller, non-recreational lakes and larger wetland complexes should be assessed to determine if adverse impacts have affected the water quality of these smaller bodies of water.
  - For nearly all of the lakes in this ecoregion phosphorus is the limiting factor. Major management efforts related to water quality are directed at limiting the amount of phosphorus loading into the lakes.
  - Sediment loading has also become a major concern to the water quality of the lakes. Proper land use management and implementation of Best Management Practices needs to be analyzed and addressed.
- Surface water and ground waters in the western part of the county.
  - The City of East Grand Forks receives its public water supply from the Red Lake River.
  - The Red Lake River is impaired for turbidity and management efforts should focus on sediment loading into the Red Lake River and its tributaries.
- In addition to the above mentions specific areas of concern for Polk County, The County Board, Watershed Districts and SWCD's will actively pursue efforts to address surface water quality concerns within the county.

Although surface water is of primary concern for Polk County we will be responsive to the need to monitor and protect our groundwater resources. We will participate to our fullest capacity but state and federal agencies such as Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and USGS will need to be the primary source for groundwater protection and management.

### **PRIORITY CONCERN II**

Due to the fluvial geomorphic characteristics of the Red River of the North Basin, Polk County is subject to frequent flooding. Some factors such as topography and increase precipitation are unmanageable, but other factors such as flood plain encroachment, channelization of waterways, land use practices and effective private drainage into public systems, are factors that can be assessed for *Best Management Practices*.

- Polk County Local Water Management Plan will focus on the quantity of water passing through the County and its associated watersheds by inventorying, assessing and evaluating the drainage infrastructure.

### **PRIORITY CONCERN III**

Polk County is concerned with the preservation and enhancement of its natural resources. The geology of Polk County is divided into 3 distinct areas; the glacial-lake plain, glacial lake washed till plain and glacial moraine region. These major areas, because of their size, unique geographical features, and wide diversity of natural resources are of significant benefit to the area and citizens.

- Polk County in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies will work to restore, enhance and protect these areas through programs and projects that accomplish this; cautious it is not done at the expense of the local economy.

### **PRIORITY CONCERN IV**

Polk County Local Water Management Plan will identify any new or yet to date undiscovered exotic and invasive species for prevention and management practices.

# Polk County Water Plan Goals and Objectives

## Priority Concern #1

The Polk County Local Water Management Plan will focus on protection and enhancement of surface water quality. Specific areas of focus will be:

- Lake Region in the eastern part of the county, with specific focus on the human impacts.
  - Increases in development around smaller, non-recreational lakes and larger wetland complexes should be assessed to determine if adverse impacts have affected the water quality of these smaller bodies of water.
  - For nearly all of the lakes in this ecoregion phosphorus is the limiting factor. Major management efforts related to water quality are directed at limiting the amount of phosphorus loading into the lakes.
  - Sediment loading has become a major concern to the water quality of the lakes. Proper land use management and implementation of Best Management Practices needs to be analyzed and addressed.
- Surface water and ground waters in the western part of the county.
  - The City of East Grand Forks receives its public water supply from the Red Lake River.
  - The Red Lake River is impaired for turbidity and management efforts should focus on sediment loading into the Red Lake River and its tributaries.
- In addition to the above mentions specific areas of concern for Polk County, The County Board, Watershed Districts and SWCD's will actively pursue efforts to address surface water quality concerns within the county.
- Although surface water is of primary concern for Polk County we will be responsive to the need to monitor and protect our groundwater resources. We will participate to our fullest capacity but state and federal agencies such as Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and USGS will need to be the primary source for groundwater protection and management.

**Goal:** Improve the water quality of rivers and streams from the point they enter Polk County. Our goal is to attain/maintain a fishable/swimmable status of all lakes in the county, with the overall goal for all waters in Polk County to meet or exceed state water quality standards.

To meet this goal Polk County will need to coordinate its efforts with those having authority/interest to attend to water quality concerns in the watersheds shared with Polk County.

Until additional targeting efforts are applied the following have been identified as the county's priority project areas based on a collaborative approach to water quality issues, readiness of projects, and willingness of project stakeholders. These and other future projects will be further defined and identified in the SWCD annual planning process.

Priority Areas: Projects identified in the Sand Hill River Watershed include the upper reaches of the Sand Hill Watershed, Fertile Airport site located west of Fertile, Carlson site located west of Winger, Environmental Learning Center stream bank erosion project, and ditch systems that

drain within 1 mile of a river or a county ditch system. Other potential projects include the Maple Lake Diversion Clean Water project, areas within 1 mile of a well head protection area, the sealing of unused and unsealed wells, educate, market and install Ag BMPs based with whole farm planning. Priorities around the lakes region include educating shoreland owners on lake-scaping, working with new developments on natural environmental lakes, and lake shed assessments on Union, Sarah and Maple Lake and wetland retention to improve water quality entering Lake Sarah.

**1) Objective:** Identify areas of agricultural land use, especially in those areas with sensitive ground water and surface water resources for the installation of erosion and sediment control practices to reduce sedimentation into rivers, lakes, and wetlands with priority given to land with a Land Management Plan. Pursue funds to do Land Management Plans to accelerate implementation on needed areas with priority to source water protection.

- Action: Install BMP's to address the resource needs such as grassed waterways, sediment control basins, side inlet pipes, minimum tillage or no-till.
- Action: Develop a cost share program, which may supplement existing programs.
- Action: Provide technical assistance.
- Action: Provide financial support by seeking grant, Ag BMP loans, or working with agency/ special group partners (example such as NRCS, Deer Hunters Assoc, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and Turkey Federation).
- Action: Target areas for land retirement programs into RIM, CRP, WRP, walk-in- lands, wetland banking, or other programs available.
- Action: Apply targeting tool to acres of the county.

**2) Objective:** Maintain and where practical improve the water quality of rivers, lakes, and groundwater resources.

- Action: Utilize monitoring data to establish an attainable range for water quality.
- Action: Continue to support the Red River Basin River Watch Program.
- Action: Continue participation in the Citizen Stream Monitoring Program.
- Action: Continue taking water elevation readings on designated lakes.
- Action: Continue MNDNR observation well readings.
- Action: Continue citizens' rainfall monitoring program.
- Action: Set up lake monitoring programs.
- Action: Implement the Lake Improvement Districts lake plans.
- Action: Implement the Watershed District plans.

**3) Objective:** Assist in the development of Major Watershed Restoration and Protection Project (MWRPP) including TMDL's for waters listed as impaired and Protection Plans for surface waters not impaired.

- Action: Use resources to assist with and confirm listed waters on the TMDL impaired list.
- Action: Develop a water quality monitoring program.
- Action: Pursue grants and funding opportunities that will support the county's surface water protection and improvement efforts.
- Action: Once TMDL Implementation Plans are developed, high prioritize their implementation.

**4) Objective:** Promote and educate the citizens of Polk County about the wise use of our natural resources as it pertains to water quality.

- Action: Participate at the Polk County fair with educational displays.
- Action: Participate in presentations to schools, River Watch, agency meetings, and other educational events.
- Action: Put out timely news releases and newsletters.
- Action: Conduct tours and demonstrations.

**5) Objective:** Polk County has 82 feedlots that are registered, with an additional 35 smaller operations that are not required to be registered. Many of these feedlots are located next to rivers, lakes or wetlands that may have the potential to impact water quality. Polk County has an approved Animal Feedlot and Manure Management Plan.

- Action: Conduct site visits and inspection as required in the County Feedlot Plan.
- Action: Provide landowners information on feedlot registration, permitting, regulations, and rule requirements.
- Action: Provide educational and technical information.
- Action: Seek grants or cost share for financial assistance to correct issue with priority given to riparian lots, and high priority to those on impaired waters.

### **Priority Concern #2**

Due to the fluvial geomorphic characteristics of the Red River of the North Basin, Polk County is subject to frequent flooding. Some factors such as topography and increase precipitation are unmanageable, but other factors such as flood plain encroachment, channelization of waterways, land use practices and effective private drainage into public systems, are factors that can be assessed for *Best Management Practices*.

- Polk County Local Water Management Plan will focus on the quantity of water passing through the County and its associated watersheds by inventorying, assessing and evaluating the drainage infrastructure.

**Goal:** Manage waters in Polk County in a manner that reduces flood damages within the County as well as the Red River Basin. Goals that have been established and will be recognized by Polk County are:

1) The Red River Basin Commission 20% Flow Reduction Strategy which indicate a 35% peak flow reduction on the Sand Hill River at Climax and a 35% peak flow reduction on the Red Lake River at Crookston. To meet these goals Polk County will need to coordinate its efforts with other counties and watershed districts to attain these peak flow reduction in the watersheds shared with Polk County. (May want to include the document as an appendix)

2) The Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Mediation Agreement which include but not limited to:

Prevent damage to farm structures, homes, and communities.

- a. Promote the construction of farmstead ring dikes built to a minimum of 2 feet of freeboard over the flood of record, or 1 foot above the administrative 100-year flood, whichever is greater.
- b. Promote the construction of community setback levees and floodwalls built to the flood of record plus uncertainty (3 feet) or the 100-year flood plus uncertainty, whichever is greater.
- c. Promote the acquisition and permanent removal of flood-prone structures and establishment of greenways within the 100-year flood plain.
- d. Accelerate flood insurance studies, flood plain remapping and hydraulic/hydrologic studies in poorly defined or unmapped areas.
- e. Accelerate comprehensive watershed and systems approaches to basin management.
- f. Discourage the development of structures within the 100-year flood plain, with the exception of those approved in a community's flood plain ordinances.

3. Reduce damage to farmland by:

- a. Providing protection against a ten-year summer storm event for intensively farmed agricultural land;
- b. Maintaining existing levels of flood protection when consistent with a comprehensive watershed management plan; and
- c. Providing a higher level of protection, e.g., 25-year event, when feasible at a minimal incremental cost.

Until additional targeting efforts are applied the following have been identified as the county's priority project areas based on a collaborative approach to water quality issues, readiness of projects, and willingness of project stakeholders. These and other future projects will be further defined and identified in the Annual Planning process.

Priority Areas: validate that all ditch systems are functioning properly with the right culvert size, and proper BMP's associated with that ditch system, be it a private, county or watershed ditch. Making sure that absentee landowners are maintaining the natural water courses so water movement isn't impeded. Address water impoundments or any wetland improvements or dikes

that hold water back so it does not alter the drainage system or change the water table so it will have an adverse affect on neighboring property, multi-purpose drainage Assessments, and wetland restoration through the state banking program to hold back water.

**1) Objective:** Ensure that county, township, watershed and private ditch systems adequately address the drainage needed to support agriculture without negatively impacting water quality and other natural resources, as well as economic impacts to the infrastructure of Polk County.

- Action: Establish design standards for the repair, maintenance, improvement, and establishment of agricultural drainage systems.
- Action: Determine if ditch systems are of adequate size.
- Action: Identify needed BMP's such as buffer strips and side inlet pipes.
- Action: Assess and modify, if needed, Polk County ditch rules and ordinances.
- Action: Assess and modify, if needed Polk County ditch and culvert permitting.
- Action: Assess adequacy of the drainage infrastructure.
- Action: Conduct a culvert inventory.
- Action: Identify and map private ditch systems to better understand water movement within the ditch system and county.
- Action: Assess need to record tiling activity that is presently unregulated.
- Action: Work with Watershed Districts on proper permitting for tiling on private land.
- Action: Address the need for beaver control in public and private ditch systems.

**2) Objective:** Identify key areas within the County that are prone to flooding and implement proper actions to address flood prevention.

- Action: Use targeting tools to prioritize.
- Action: Establishment of BMP's that will reduce and/or slow down water movement through the County.
  
- Action: Identify site for water retention through land retirement programs such as the RIM/WRP or Agricultural Wetland Banking programs.
- Action: Carry out goals and objectives in Watershed District 10 year plans.
- Action: Seek funding to assist landowners in flooded areas of the County; this could include MN Recover funds, emergency funding and FEMA funding.

### **Priority Concern #3**

Polk County is concerned with the preservation and enhancement of its natural resources. The geology of Polk County is divided into 3 distinct areas; the glacial-lake plain, glacial lake washed till plain and glacial moraine region. These major areas, because of their size, unique geographical features, and wide diversity of natural resources are of significant benefit to the area and citizens.

- Polk County in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies will work to restore, enhance and protect these areas through programs and projects that accomplish this; cautious it is not done at the expense of the local economy.

Goal: Participate in the restoration, conservation, and protection of key areas providing unique ecological values and recreational opportunities.

Until additional targeting efforts are applied the following have been identified as the county's priority project areas based on a collaborative approach to water quality issues, readiness of projects, and willingness of project stakeholders. These and other future projects will be further defined and identified in the Annual Planning process.

Priority Areas: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres that will be expiring in upcoming years which are located in the "high conservation potential" areas identified on the EBI map. Areas that protect or restore rare natural features as identified in the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS). Priority will also be given to those areas or which a land management plan has been developed to ensure proper conservation and habitat goals are met.

**1) Objective:** Identify, restore, and protect grassland, wetland, and woodland habitats and key natural areas with multiple benefits to Polk County and its Citizens.

- Action: Seek funding opportunities with existing or future land retirement or easement programs, with cooperating partners.
- Action: Minimize land use impacts of potential land use changes by the installation of BMP's.

**2) Objective:** Recognize terrestrial areas that are unique to the County such as native prairie sites in the glacial beach ridge areas, and wetland areas of the lake region.

- Action: Seek funding opportunities with existing or future land retirement or easement programs, with cooperating partners.
- Action: Minimize land use impacts of potential land use changes by the installation of BMP's.

**3) Objective:** Protect and identify areas of threatened or endangered species

- Action: Promote education of species are threatened or endangered.
- Action: Minimize land use impacts of potential land use changes by the installation of BMP's.

**4) Objective:** Preserve high quality wetlands within Polk County for their best functional values.

- Action: Identify wetlands that are of high value for banking credits, easements, flood storage, and wildlife.
- Action: Offer cost share and other incentives to landowners to participate in restoration of wetlands.
- Action: Assist with development of Agricultural Wetland Banking program.

#### **Priority Concern #4**

Polk County Local Water Management Plan will identify any new or yet to date undiscovered exotic and invasive plant and invasive species for prevention and management practices.

<b>Goal:</b> Reduce invasive species impacts within Polk County.
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Until additional targeting efforts are applied the following have been identified as the county's priority project areas based on a collaborative approach to water quality issues, readiness of projects, and willingness of project stakeholders. These and other future projects will be further defined and identified in the Annual Planning process.

Priority Areas: Address invasive species along road right-of-ways, absentee landowner's property, and local state and federal lands, aiming to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

**1) Objective:** Control invasive species by prevention, reduction and elimination.

- Action: Map know sites and species occurrence.
- Action: Conduct public education on the invasive species by public meeting, mailings, news releases and newsletters
- Action: Seek funding though cooperating partners and grants.

**2) Objective:** Continue support of the Polk County Cooperative Weed Management Area

- Action: Have a central clearinghouse to compile all data collected.
- Action: Continue to have meetings to keep the PCCWM group active.
- Action: Keep the public informed of the PCCWM group activities.

## District Annual Plan Action Items

**Goal #1: Improve the water quality of rivers and streams from the point they enter Polk County. Our goal is to attain/maintain a fishable/swimmable status of all lakes in the county, with the overall goal for all waters in Polk County to meet or exceed state water quality standards.**

A: Objective: Continue to be the designated county feedlot officer in charge of the Polk County Feedlot Program as required by state rule requirements 7020. The SWCD has been delegated this program by the Polk County Commissioners.

Action: Carry out the 2014-2015 County Feedlot Program Delegation Agreement and Work Plan. This work plan is available in the SWCD office or can be viewed on the District WEB page.

Lead/Role: EP SWCD - carry out plan duties  
Partners/Role: MPCA - program overview, guidance, funding  
Polk County Environmental Service - technical assistance  
Polk County - financial

Priority: High

B: Objective: Be partners within the Joint Power Board (6 Counties) to offer AgBMP's to assist landowners to obtain low interest loans from local lending institutes. These loans are for conservation practices that improve water quality.

Action: Contact local lending institutions on program categories/requirement.

Action: Assist with landowner sign-up and program guidance.

Lead/Role: EP SWCD - technical  
Partners/Role: JPB - technical/administrative  
Dept. of Ag. - funding

Priority: Medium

C: Objective: Coordinate activities to make sure the County meets the requirements of the Wetland Conservation Act.

Action: Act as the LGU for Polk County.

Action: Work with local, state, and federal agencies to identify wetland jurisdiction on proposed projects.

Action: Assist with replacement plans, bank deposits/withdrawals, and related paper work.

Action: Provide timely technical assistance to landowner.

Action: Be the official repository of the National Wetland Inventory Maps.

Action: Administer all program activities.  
Action: Work with producers on Ag Banking/wetland restoration sites.  
Action: Assist landowners for potential enrollment into the Ag Banking Program.

Lead/Role: EP SWCD - administer/technical  
Partners/Role: BWSR - technical/financial  
Polk County - financial  
Army Corp Engineers - technical  
MNDNR - technical  
NRCS/FSA - technical/financial

Priority: High

D. Objective: Enroll marginal lands into retirement programs (local, state, or federal). This includes RIM, WRP, WRP/RIM, CRP, or Walk-in-Lands, Wetland Restoration, Wetland Banking or Impoundments.

Action: Conduct survey/meetings to gather landowner interest of programs.  
Action: Explain program.  
Action: Contact landowners for enrollment into retirement programs.

Lead/Role: EP SWCD - technical  
Partner/Role: NRCS/FSA - technical/financial  
BWSR - technical/financial  
Watershed District - technical/financial

Priority: Medium

E. Objective: Education activities to inform the public on District activities, programs and events.

Action: Host invasive species (zebra mussels) talks to area high school students.  
This program will be presented by the MNDNR.  
Action: Host meetings on invasive species (zebra mussels/milfoil) to lakeshore property owners.  
Action: Newspaper articles, newsletters, tours, demonstrations and fair booth.  
Action: Coordinate nutrient management informational meetings.  
Action: Coordinate soil quality, health, and benefits of cover crop meetings.  
Action: Coordinate the proper spraying of ditch banks by meetings/newsletters.  
Action: Coordinate meetings/new releases of the importance of pollination issues.

Lead/Role: EP SWCD - technical/financial  
Partners/Role: Area SWCD's - technical/financial  
U MN - technical  
Polk County Environmental Service - technical  
NRCS - technical  
MNDNR/USFWS - technical

Watershed District - technical/financial  
Dept. of Ag - technical/financial

Priority: High

F. Objective: Administer the Priority Concerns and action items as identified in the Polk County Water Plan. Plan period from 2012 thru 2022.

Action: Implement the actions items identified to address the objectives to reach the Polk County Water Plan goals. (complete plan can be viewed on the District Web page).

Lead/Role: EP SWCD - technical/financial  
Partners/Role: WP SWCD technical/financial  
Polk County - technical/financial  
Polk County Water Plan Task Force - technical

Priority: High

G. Objective: The Sand Hill River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) is being done to assess the state of the waters in the Sand Hill River.

Action: Assist the Sand Hill Watershed District in identifying land use activities.  
Action: Assist the Sand Hill Watershed District with public meetings.

Lead/Role: MPCA - technical  
Partners/Role: Sand Hill Watershed District - technical/financial  
EP SWCD - technical  
Houston Engineering - technical

Priority: High

**Goal #2: Manage waters in Polk County in a manner that reduces flood damages within the County as well as the Red River Basin. Goals that have been established and will be recognized by Polk County are:**

A. Objective: Ensure that county, township, watershed and private ditch systems adequately address the drainage needs to support agriculture without negatively impacting water quality and other natural resources, as well as economic impacts to the infrastructure of Polk County.

Action: Determine if ditch systems are of adequate design.  
Action: Identify needed BMP's and buffer strips.  
Action: Assess the need to record tiling activities.  
Action: Promote to landowners better drainage water management.

Action: Promote correct drainage by utilizing drainage grade breaks.  
Action: Address the need for beaver control in all ditch systems.

Lead/Role: Watershed Districts - technical  
Partners/Role: EP SWCD - technical  
Ag Consultants - technical

Priority: High

B. Objective: Identify key areas within the County that are prone to flooding and implement proper actions to address flood prevention.

Action: Establish BMP's that will reduce and/or slow down water movement.  
Action: Identify water retention sites through existing conservation programs.  
Action: Work with local watershed work groups to identify potential impoundment sites.

Lead/Role: Watershed District - technical/financial  
Partners/Role: EP SWCD - technical  
NRCS - technical/financial

Priority: High

**Goal #3: Participate in the restoration, conservation, and protection of key areas providing unique ecological values and recreational opportunities.**

A. Objective: The SWCD will continue to provide services to BWSR in connection with the coordinating the management of the Vesedahl Mitigation site.

Action: Assist BWSR to implement the goals and objectives of the site.  
Action: Advise BWSR of local management concerns from landowners and township officials.

Lead/Role: BWSR/MNDOT/MNDNR - technical/financial  
Partner/Role: EP SWCD - technical  
Sand Hill Watershed District - technical

Priority: High

B. The District is concerned with the number and acreage of expiring CRP acres in the future. In 2014, Polk County will see 26,238 acres expire and in 2015, 19,027 acres. The District will work with landowners to assist them to enroll fragile lands into existing easement programs.

Action: Work with landowners to do total farm planning.  
Action: Pursue grants to do total farm planning.  
Action: Target area of special concern, along rivers, ditches and wetlands.

Action: Because of aggressive land change, the following townships are of special concern, Badger, Lessor, Hill River, Godfrey and Grove Park.

Lead/Role: EP SWCD - technical  
Partner/Role: NRCS/FSA - technical/financial  
Watershed Districts - technical/financial

Priority: High

**Goal #4: Identify any new or yet to date undiscovered exotic and invasive species for prevention and management practices.**

A. Objective: Curb the spread and minimize harmful effects on non-native species and their impacts within the District.

Action: Coordinate efforts with local, county and state authorities to establish prevention and management activities.  
Action: Continue to seek funding source to assist townships with noxious weed control.  
Action: Participate in Polk Counties Cooperative Weed Management Task Force.  
Action: Host invasive species information meetings.

Lead/Role: EP SWCD - technical  
Partner/Role: BWSR - technical/financial  
Polk County Cooperative Weed Mgmt. Task Force - technical  
NRCS/FSA - technical  
Chemical Companies - technical/financial  
Townships - technical/financial  
MNDNR/USFWS/Dept. of Ag - technical/financial

Priority: High

**Conservation Service Delivery**

A. Tax Forfeit Lands: Review for Polk County any lands that the County requests the SWCD to conduct site visits on to determine if there are any wetlands, unused wells, or is considered highly erodible.

B. Tree Program: The District will have trees available for planting field windbreaks, shelterbelts, reforestation and wildlife. Assistance will be available for species selection, planning, planting and maintenance.

C. ReInvest in Minnesota: The District conducts site inspections on easements as required by BWSR.

D. Data Collection and Monitoring: The SWCD has rainfall monitors in 11 townships which send in monthly reports (April - November). These reports are then sent to the State

Climatologist. The District also monitors 1 MNDNR observation well in Hill River Township 9 times per year. Also thru the MNDNR the District takes lake level reading on 11 lake within the Polk County from spring ice break-up thru November. For the MPCA, the District monitors the Lost River, Sand Hill River, Clearwater River, the Poplar River and Hill River for appearance, recreation suitability, transparency, rainfall event, and water temperature. This monitoring is monthly from April thru November.

E. Reporting District Activities: The District need to be accountable for all money received and spent. Considerable time is spent reporting activities in the BWSR program Elink or the MPCA Delta program.

## **Partnership Projects**

The following projects are in various stages of development.

A. Red Lake Watershed District: Has identified within their legal ditches draining into the Lost River the potential need to install 41 side inlet pipes and 3-7 erosion control structures. On the Clearwater River, within their legal ditch systems entering into the river they identified the need for 15-20 side inlet pipes. The Red Lake Watershed District is looking for potential impoundment site.

B. Sand Hill River Watershed District: They have partner with the SWCD on CWA sediment basin grants. Aside from the grants being applied for, their concerns are land use changes, the need for total farm planning, and finding site for impoundment projects.

C. Contribution agreement with NRCS to review 1026's thru in house office reviews or field checks. There is also the possibility of continuing the site review of WRP lands.

D. 2014 MASWCD State Convention Planning: Area 1 is hosting the state convention in December in Bloomington. The SWCD will need to assist in the planning of speakers, mini session topics and meals.

E. Co-Host Red River Valley Conservation Service Area 1: East Polk SWCD is a co-host with Becker County SWCD that is the host district to administer the technical service provider in Area 1. The East Polk SWCD duties are to work with the Becker SWCD staff to assist Area 1 in meeting program responsibilities.

## **Grants**

On November 4, 2008 Minnesota voters approved the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment to the constitution to:

- protect drinking water sources;
- protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests and fish, game, and wildlife habitat;
- preserve arts and cultural heritage;
- protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

The Amendment increases the sales and use tax by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales starting July 1, 2009 continuing through 2034. Those dollars are dedicated to four funds: Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund, Parks and Trails Fund, and Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

A. CWF Phase 1 Sediment Basins in the Sand Hill River Watershed (FY 2011)

Grant	\$281,083.00	
Inkind	<u>\$116,000.00</u>	
Total	\$397,083	Actual spent \$418,463.89

\*\* The actual spent came from Sand Hill Watershed dollars and more landowner inkind. 68 water and sediment basins were installed.

B. CWF Phase 2 Sediment Basins in the Sand Hill River Watershed. (FY2012)

Grant	\$251,680.00
Inkind	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
Total	\$351,680.00

The District has spent \$205,621.88 installing 31 water and sediment basins and has encumbered \$181,760.36 to install and additional 44 water and sediment basins.

C. CWF Phase 3 Sediment Basins in the Sand Hill River Watershed (FY2014)

Grant	\$364,880.00
Inkind	<u>\$175,000.00</u>
Total	\$539,880.00

There are 18 landowners that are waiting for survey/designs with an estimate of 80-100 basins to be installed. All the money will be encumbered once surveys completed.

D. CWF Targeted Watershed Grant Status: Presenting to Selection Committee 2/10/14

Agassiz Learning Center	\$150,292.50
Carlson Project	\$410,000.00
Sediment Basins	\$364,800.00
Inkind Sand Hill WTSH	<u>\$231,273.12</u>
Total	\$1,156,365.62

E. Cooperative Weed Management Grant \$15,000  
Not fund but BWSR is looking at ways to possibly fund.

F. Red Lake Watershed SWAG Grant

The EP SWCD would assist the Red Lake WTSH District take water samples at 3 sites within their watershed boundaries. Samples would be taken 13 times per year for 2 years. Grant recipients have not been selected yet.

#### G. One Watershed One Plan

This BWSR grant RFP has not been released to date. Grant will be applied for with the Sand Hill River Watershed District once the grant has been announced.

#### H. Community Partners Grant

When the Clean Water Grants are announced the SWCD will look into applying for a Community Partners Grant to assist the Lake Associations with outreach activities. This could include newsletters, public awareness of invasive species and lakeshore development and BMP's.

### **State Cost - Share Program**

East Polk County has approximately 293,000 acres of cropland. 97% has the potential to erode at a rate greater than "T", the allowable rate.

Priority area 1: A high percent of the land in Critical Area 1 is susceptible to water erosion due to steep slopes or severe wind erosion caused by open, unprotected sandy soils. Soil loss is estimated to be anywhere from 7-18 tons per year. Erosion is a serious problem in areas along the Clearwater River, Lost River and the Sand Hill River where private and county ditches and tile enter.

Priority Area 2: Wind and water erosion is not as critical due to moderate slopes and sandy soils protected to some degree by wooded areas. Soil loss will range from 6-12 tons per acre per year.

Priority Area 3: Soils composed of peat or till. The soil topography is on nearly level ground. Scattered areas have critical soil loss. Soil loss will usually be less than 5 ton per acre per year.

### **Priority ranking for state cost - share projects**

1. shoreland restoration
2. storm water runoff
3. land application of BMP's
4. Feedlots
4. well sealing

The SWCD has \$10,293 available for FY14 cost-share projects. In the fall of 2013 the District and JPB engineer reviewed/ surveyed a project site for potential water and sediment basins. The state cost share dollars will be encumbered on this site pending engineer design and landowners agreement.

The Red Lake Watershed has committed \$12,500 to the SWCD to assist in cost-sharing conservation practices within their boundaries.

The Sand Hill River Watershed District has committed \$50,000 a year to the SWCD for conservation practices within their boundaries. This money is committed as in-kind on Clean Water Grants.

## **Biennial Budget Request**

In 2012, BWSR implemented the initial Biennial Budget Request to collect information on local government conservation and water management resource needs for FY2014-15 BWSR grant programs.

### East Polk 's Competitive Request FY2014-15

1. Conservation planning in the Sand Hill River Watershed
  - 30 Conservation plans
  - 18,000 acres
  - \$180,000
  
2. Sediment Basins in the Sand Hill River Watershed
  - 75 basins
  - \$612,000
  
3. Sand Hill Watershed Lakeshore Restoration
  - \$150,000
  
4. Conservation planning in the Red Lake Watershed
  - 30 conservation plans
  - 18,000 acres
  - \$180,000
5. Red Lake Watershed Side Inlet Pipes
  - \$100,000
6. Red Lake Watershed Lakeshore Restoration
  - \$150,000
  
7. Well Sealing
  - \$30,000
  
8. Ditch System/Tiling/Management
  - \$25,000
  
9. Invasive Species Cost Share
  - 18,750

\*\*\* Biennial Budget Request for FY2016-17 will be due into BWSR summer 2014.

### **District Funding Sources**

County Appropriations	\$41,160
BWSR Conservation Delivery	\$18,828
BWSR Easement Delivery	\$ 158
RRVCSA 1	\$ 2,000
MNDNR Well Readings	\$ 160
NRBG WCA	\$21,641
Feedlots	\$ 3,750
Water Plan	\$11,958
NRCS Contribution Agreement - 1026's	\$ ????
Grant Administration	\$ ????

### **County Programs delegated to EP SWCD**

MPCA Feedlot Program \$3,750 with SWCD inkind match of \$2,625  
Polk County Water Plan \$6,734 with County levy of \$5,224 Total \$11,958  
WCA \$10,820.50 with County cash match \$10,820.50 Total \$21,641  
Tax Forfeit - Money spent to carry site reviews from County appropriation.

To assist in carrying out the Districts work plan objectives; assistance is received from supporting staff/agencies:

-Sand Hill River Watershed District	Neighboring SWCD's
-Red Lake Watershed District	BWSR
-Polk County	MN Dept. of Natural Resources
-NRCS/FSA	MN Pollution Control Agency
-University of MN, Extension	US Corps of Engineers
-Lake Improvement Districts	US Fish and Wildlife Service
-Townships	Dept. of Ag
- MASWCD	

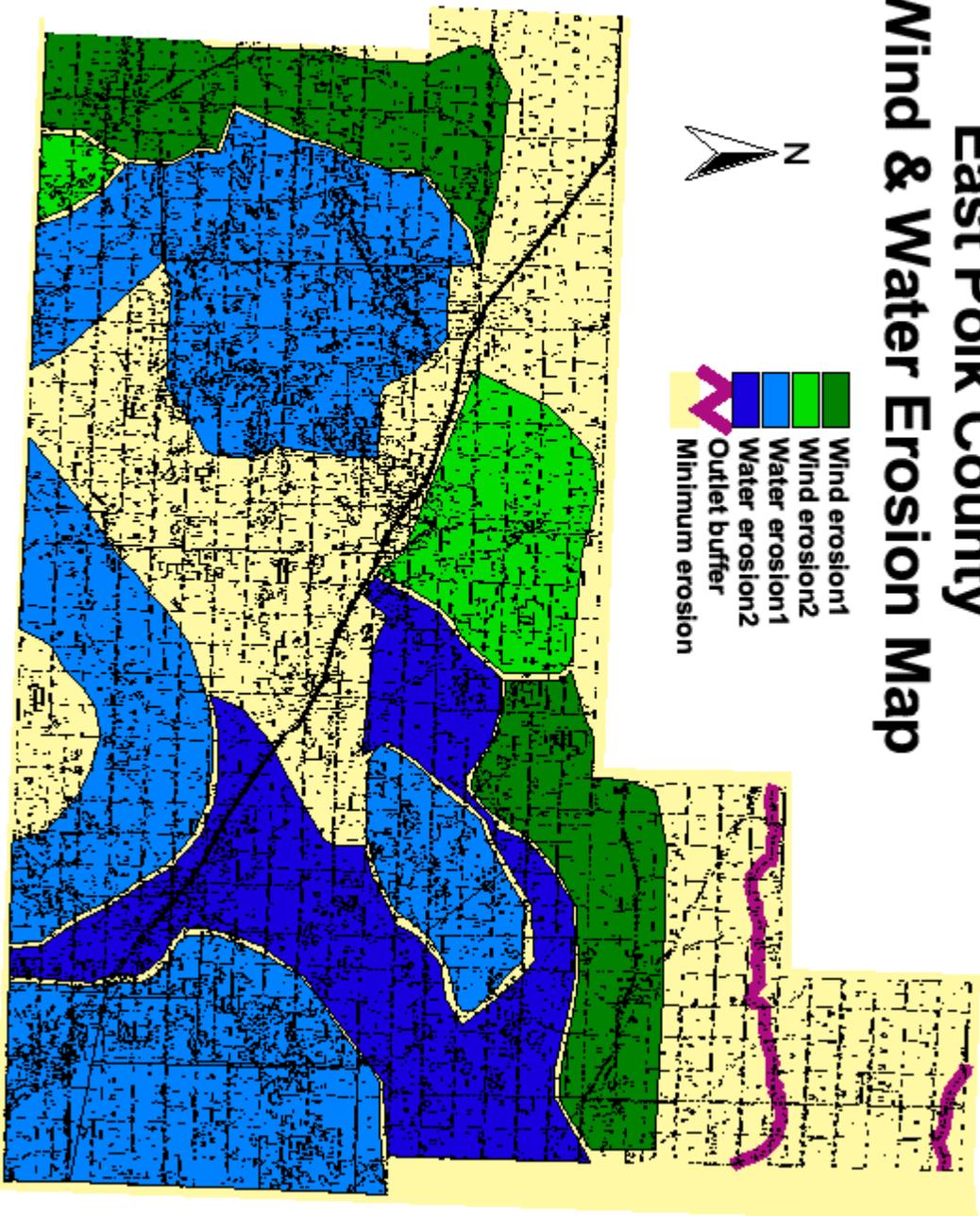
### **East Polk SWCD Staff Analysis for 2014**

Staff: Full time District manager 260 days/year  
Full time District technician 260days/year  
Part time District secretary as needed  
RRVCSA 1 Engineer as needed  
5 District Supervisors (elected Board Members)

The RRVCSA 1 engineer is to assist the SWCD with survey, design, construction and construction as built on projects he is involved with. The SWCD contacts the engineer when assistance is needed.

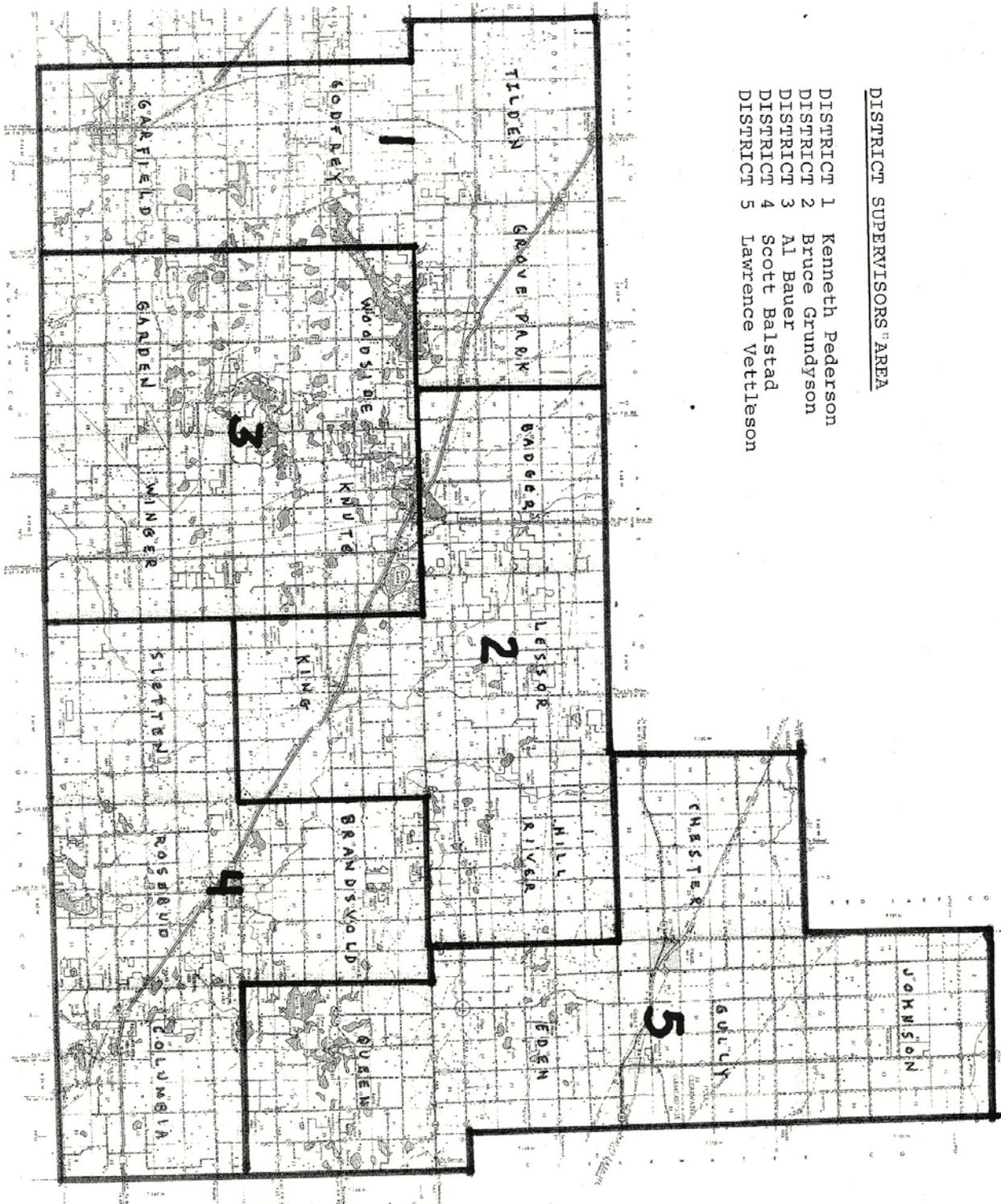
\*\*\*\* The East Polk SWCD identifies the Sand Hill River Watershed District and the Red Lake Watershed Districts 10 year plan as supplements to our Annual Plan.

# East Polk County Wind & Water Erosion Map

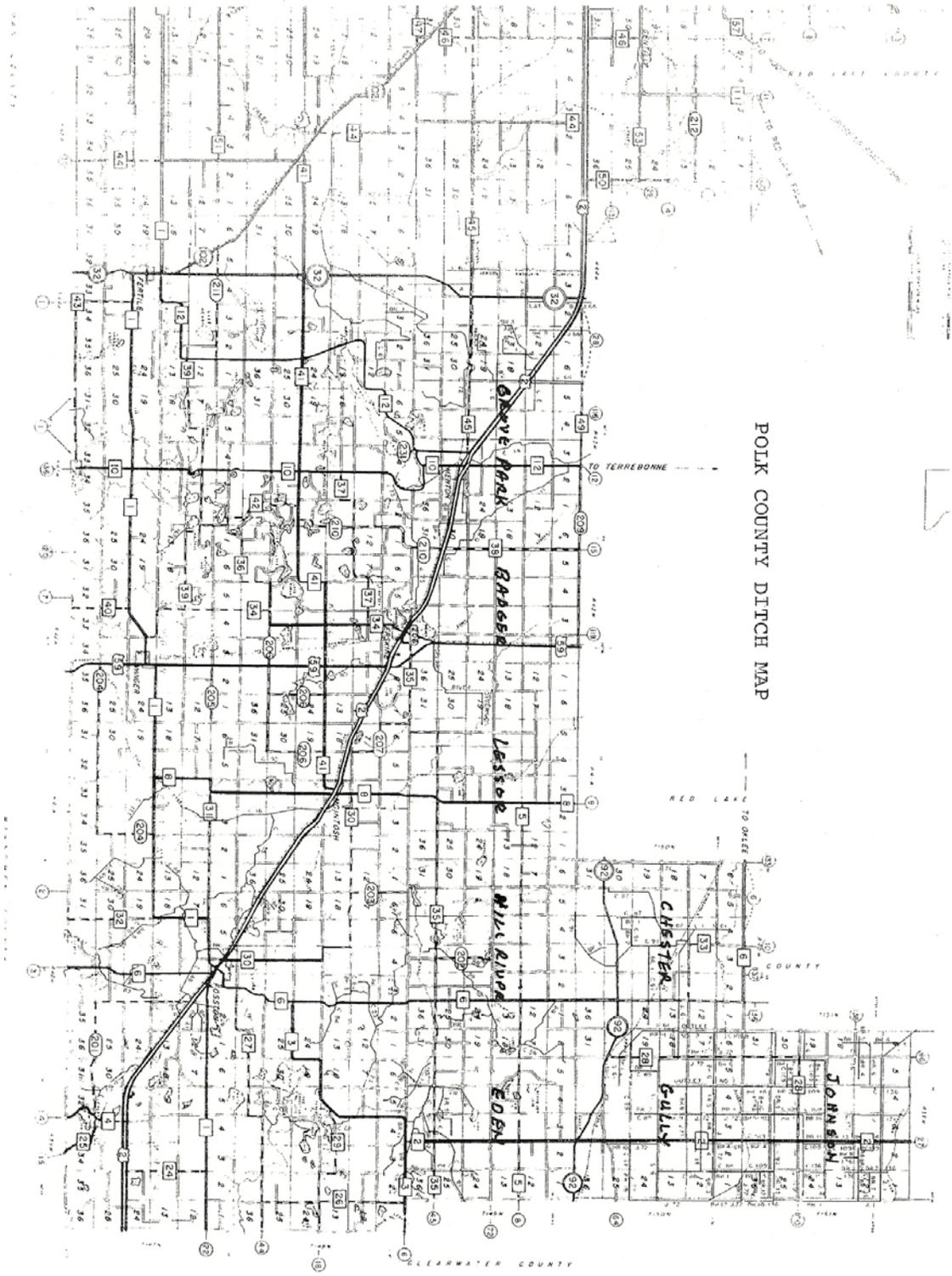


DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' AREA

- DISTRICT 1 Kenneth Pederson
- DISTRICT 2 Bruce Grundysson
- DISTRICT 3 Al Bauer
- DISTRICT 4 Scott Balstad
- DISTRICT 5 Lawrence Vettleson







POLK COUNTY DITCH MAP