



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

CARLTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*Assisting landowners in protecting and
enhancing the natural resources of Carlton County*

Carlton SWCD

Office Personnel

Brad Matlack, Manager

Kelly Smith, Conservation Technician

Melanie Bomier, Water Resources Technician

Julie Radovich, Administrative Assistant

Ryan Clark, Area Ag Water Quality Specialist

Laura Christensen, Conservation Technician

Board of Supervisors

District 1 Barb Dahl

District 2 James Nynas

District 3 Joe Lambert

District 4 Kim Samuelson

District 5 Mark Thell

PERSONNEL NEWS

Retirement



H. Merrill Loy retired from the SWCD board in June after serving for over twenty years. Throughout his twenty years, Merrill served in all of the SWCD offices and standing committees at least once, and on many special committees as needed. Merrill plans to spend time at his lake home fishing and entertaining family.

Congratulations Merrill!



New Board Member



Joe Lambert was appointed to serve as the SWCD Supervisor for District 3 in October. Joe and his wife Amanda grew up in the Barnum area and currently live on their farm in Mahtowa with their two children. Joe is looking forward to learning more about the Carlton SWCD and is honored to serve on a board that has a strong history of conservation efforts.

Welcome aboard Joe!



2017 SWCD Revenues and Expenditures

Revenue

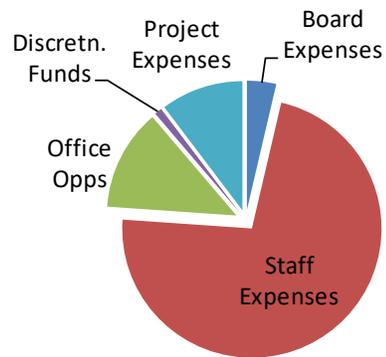
Charges for Services		\$3,229
County Allocation		\$152,715
State Contracts and Projects Funds		\$435,582
Miscellaneous Revenue		\$3,732
TOTAL		\$595,257

In 2017, the SWCD obtained just over \$3.00 in State funds for operations for each \$1 Carlton County invested in the SWCD.

Expenditures

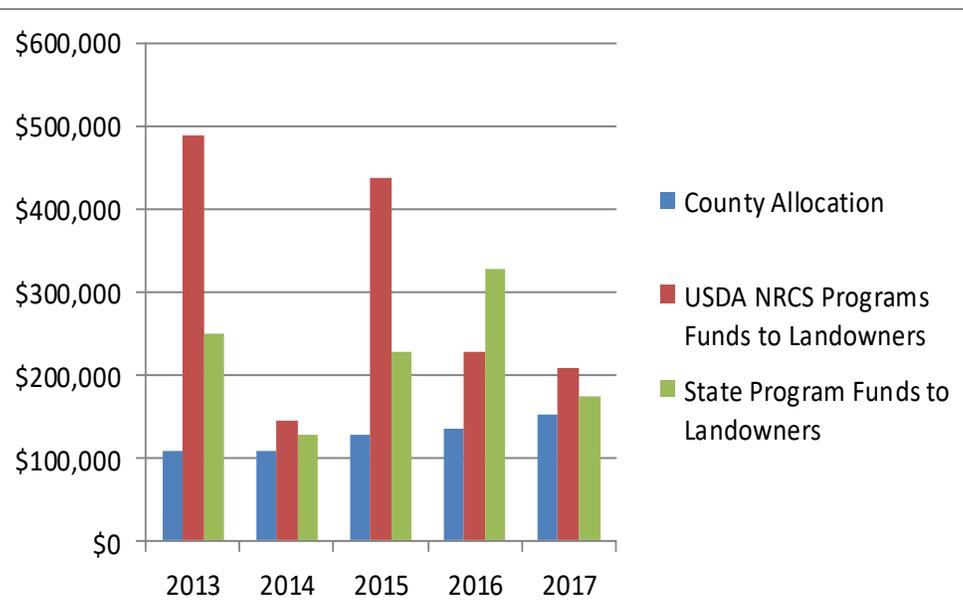
Board Expenses		\$20,403
Staff Expenses		\$406,024
Office Operations		\$71,089
Discretionary Funds		\$5,195
Project Expenditures		\$57,665
TOTAL		\$560,376

2017 SWCD Expenditures



The SWCD's Economic Impact - \$383,272

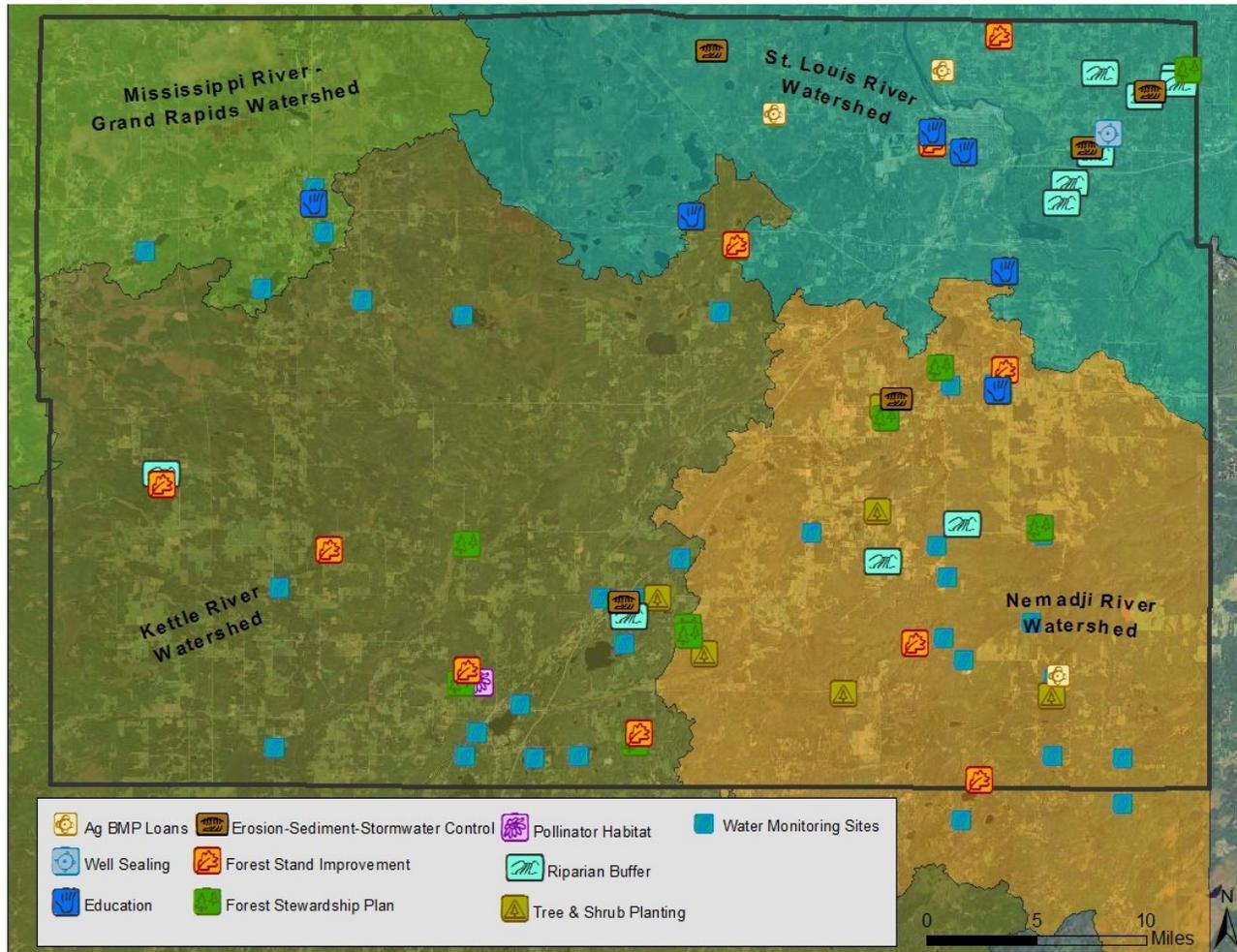
The mission of the Carlton SWCD is "Assist landowners in protecting and enhancing the natural resources of Carlton County". To accomplish this mission, the SWCD offers Technical and Financial assistance to landowners to help them design and pay for conservation practice implementation that benefits the natural resources we all enjoy in Carlton County. These are practices like: grazing management, forest stand improvement, stabilizing gully erosion, and stream restorations. In 2017 the SWCD directly funded \$174,137 (the green bar in the table below) in projects with Carlton County landowners. In addition, the SWCD's federal partners funded an additional \$209,135 (the red bar) in projects for a total of \$383,272 dollars in conservation implementation.



These are funds that buy fencing supplies, seed and fertilizer in local businesses, and pay local contractors for their time in constructing the conservation practices installed in the county.

SWCD Conservation Projects

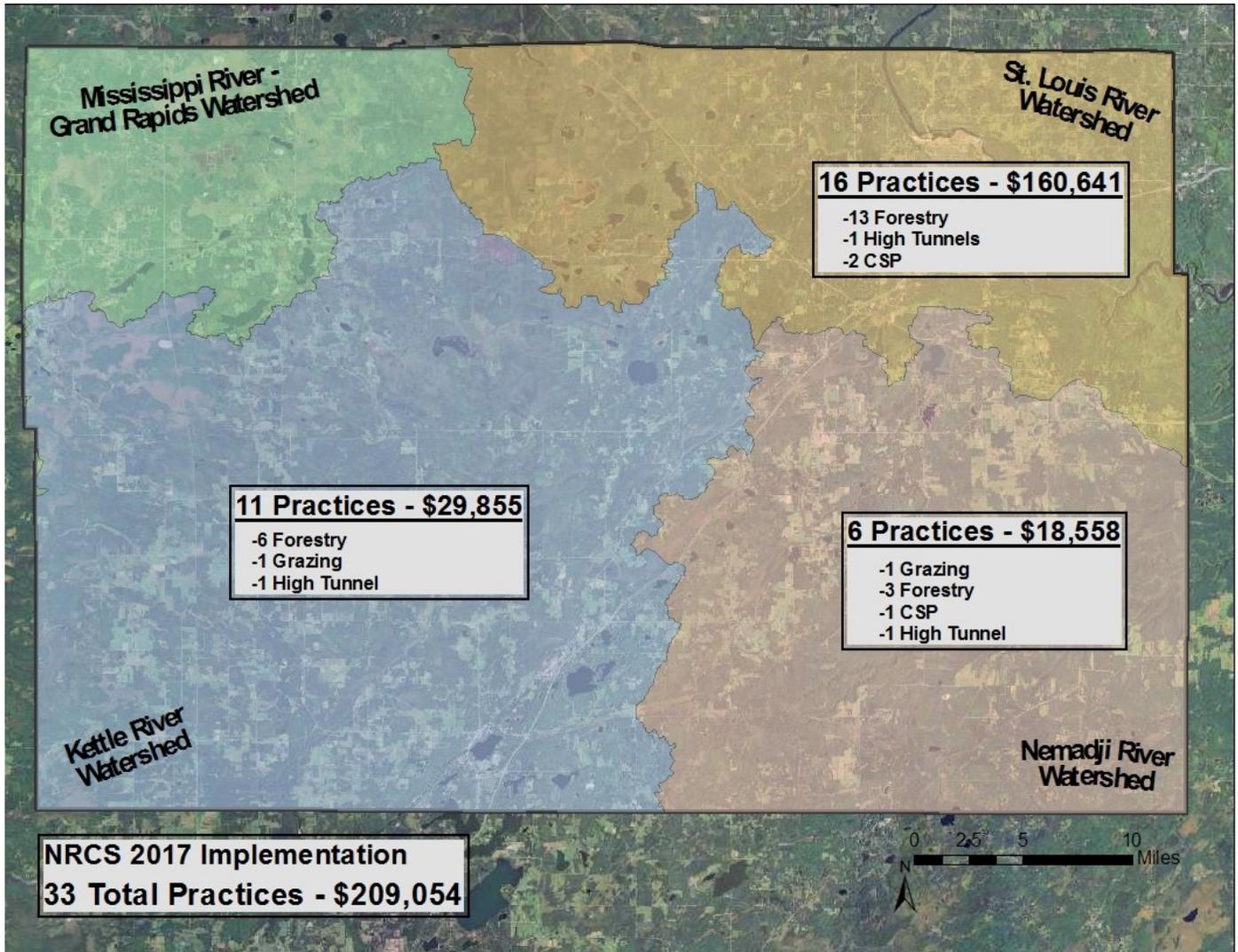
The Carlton SWCD provides technical and financial assistance to landowners for implementation of conservation practices. The map indicates types of conservation practices and where they were implemented in the county.



Projects	Value	Results	Impact	Waterbodies Affected
Forestry & Wildlife Habitat	Improve Timber Value Improve Forest Health Improve Wildlife Habitat Improve Water Quality	10 Project Plans Developed 2 Projects Implemented	100 acres of Projects Planned 80 acres of Projects Implemented 797 acres of Forest Stewardship Planned	Deer Creek, Bear Lake, Nemadji River, Moose Horn River, Hay Lake, Hanging Horn Lake, Midway River, Blackhoof River
Riparian Buffers	Protect Water Quality Improve Fish Habitat Protect Shorelines	11 Project Plans 6 Maintenance Implementations	17,740 feet of streambank Protection Planned 13,855 feet of Streambank Protection Maintained	Midway River Hay Creek Elim Creek W Branch Kettle River Blackhoof River Bear Lake
Wetland Conservation	Improve Water Quality Provide Flood Protection	8 Delineations Assisted in Numerous Violation Cases	Assisted Carlton County, City of Cloquet and Landowners with Technical Wetland Services	Waters throughout Carlton County
Erosion & Sediment Control	Improve and Protect Water Quality Improve Wildlife Habitat	4 Projects Implemented	1075 Linear Feet of Roadway or Waterway Stabilized. 2068 Tons of Soil kept out of Surface Waters	Stoney Brook Midway River Reynolds Lake Elim Creek
AgBMP Loans	Low Interest Loans to Install Conservation Projects	3 Loans Distributed	Protected Area Ground and Surface Water by Fixing and Installing New Septic Systems	Otter Creek St. Louis River Net River
Drinking Water Protection	Abandoned Well Sealing	1 Well Sealed	Protection of Area Drinking Water	Midway River
Agricultural Conservation Practices	Improve and Protect Water Quality and Soil Health	2 Filter strips 2 Field borders 1 Grassed waterway 1 Prescribed grazing 1 Phosphorous BMP	82.6 ton/yr TSS 3.4 ton/yr soil 138.21 lbs/yr phosphorous Reduction to surface waters	Carlton County

USDA Partners in Conservation

USDA Farm Bill Programs provide Carlton County residents with financial and project design resources to implement conservation practices through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The map indicates practices implemented in Carlton County in 2017.



Jon Sellnow, NRCS District Conservationist for Carlton County, holds office hours in the Carlton SWCD office most Monday's allowing him to serve Carlton County residents and

attend Carlton SWCD board meetings. Jon has been with NRCS since 2002 and has held the positions of Soil Conservationist Trainee, Soil Conservationist, Area Resource Conservationist and District Conservationist.



2012 Flood Response Wraps Up

It started out like many other June days after some rain the night before. But as rains redeveloped throughout the region soon catastrophic flood events would be occurring in Carlton, and surrounding counties.



Roads washed away, culverts were overwhelmed by the runoff, streams and rivers channels were reshaping from the flood event, trees were washing into flooded streams and rivers and flowing downstream to create massive log jams.



In the first weeks following the flood event, the response was swift. Various Carlton County departments helped residents in rebuilding roads, restoring access to towns, organizing flood debris removal, and addressing public health threats around the county. Much less human health critical work was being done through the SWCD too. Resource assessments were completed and damage estimates submitted to state agencies coordinating a disaster response. That state disaster response resulted in resources flowing through the SWCD to Carlton County residents to help them with longer term rebuilding of natural resources damaged in the June storms. 2017 saw the last of this longer term resource work completed.

The SWCD was initially awarded \$118,769 in private landowner funding to repair flood damage, then received a second grant for \$86,744 for a total of over \$205,000 in project funds for county residents.

These funds facilitated resolutions to natural resource issues caused by the 2012 flooding:

- Emergency spreading of 1,599,314 gallons of excess runoff water in manure storage facilities on 2 county dairy farms.
- 2 riparian forest buffers were replanted, protecting 4810 feet of streambank.
- 38,226 tons (3185 Carlton County dump trucks) of further soil loss prevented with installation of 6 projects.
- The SWCD facilitated state funds for private well de-contamination. 6 wells were sanitized with \$4,962.
- \$70,000 was awarded to the SWCD for log jam removal on the Blackhoof River. Work was coordinated and completed by Trout Unlimited and local landowners volunteers.

Over \$280,000 was passed through the SWCD, the sole entity eligible for these funds, for landowners projects.

The Buffer Law is Basic Management in Carlton County

The buzz word among the Minnesota farming community in recent years, especially in southern and western Minnesota, has unmistakably been the word “buffer.” In June of 2015, Governor Mark Dayton passed a law aiming to protect our state’s water resources from erosion and runoff pollution by establishing roughly 110,000 acres of buffer along public waters of Minnesota. Simply put, a buffer is an area of perennial vegetation, which among many other benefits, aids in filtering runoff before it reaches water courses or water bodies.

When it comes to buffers, Carlton County has them. Carlton Soil and Water Conservation District took the task of determining the status of current buffer compliance in stride this past year. After analyzing 6,079 parcels through web-based tools and on the ground field verification, we found every parcel to already be in compliance with the Buffer Law. Meaning each parcel of land adjacent to public waters already had a 50 foot average, 30 foot minimum, perennial buffer of trees, grasses or forbs established.

Carlton County was the first agricultural county in Minnesota to achieve 100% compliance

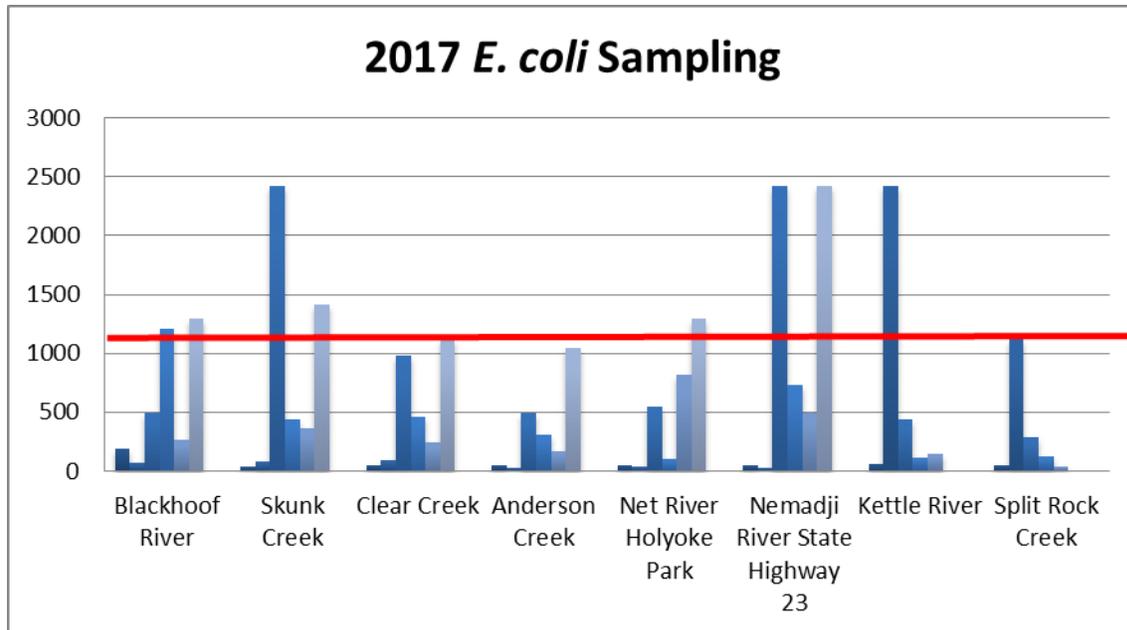
A big part of this widespread compliance is due to the type of agriculture our county supports. We have a variety of operations from dairies to vegetable farms. The majority of agricultural land area is beef based, however. This practice results in large areas of perennial grasses and forbs. Applications where row cropping exists, such as corn or soybeans, have proved to have adequate areas of buffer between the field and the water course or water body.

We’re very excited to have Carlton County obtain total initial compliance. That doesn’t mean our work with buffers is over, however. There are many instances where a farmer may choose to rotate or permanently convert his/her land into row crop agriculture. In these cases, the SWCD is fully prepared to work hand-in-hand with farmers to answer questions and give technical advice to ensure their farms remain in compliance. Carlton County is currently in the process to elect jurisdiction of the enforcement role of the buffer law in our county. In the situation where a landowner fails to meet compliance standards, they will be subject to the laws’ Administrative Penalty Order (APO). It is the SWCD’s hope and aim to work with landowners so this enforcement is not needed.

Congratulations to the landowners of Carlton County in achieving 100% initial buffer compliance. Let’s continue this trend for generations to come!



Water Monitoring



Eight streams in two watersheds (Nemadji and Kettle River) were tested for the bacteria (*E. coli*). Excessive *E. coli* in streams can be a health hazard for humans using the water for aquatic recreation. The bacteria can come from untreated human waste, run off from livestock facilities or when livestock or wildlife access a stream. High *E. coli* populations (over 1260 colony forming units) were found in the Blackhoof River, Skunk Creek, Net River (downstream of Holyoke Park) Nemadji River, and Kettle River. The Carlton SWCD has plans to work with multiple agencies to help determine potential sources of *E.coli* pollution and possible ways it can be reduced.



Conservation Corps Apprentice Declan Devine collecting stream data on Split Rock Creek.

Did You Know?
Carlton County has 3 remote rivers, 6 forested rivers and 108 tributary streams. Of these, 24 are designated DNR trout streams.

Measured values for Total Phosphorous (TP), Chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) and Secchi Transparency levels averaged over the 2016-2017 monitoring season (May through September).

Parameter	TP (ug/L)	Chl-a (ug/L)	Secchi (ft.)
Bear	35.8	9.6	6.25
Bob	16.4	8.2	7.7
Coffee	19.5	7.8	10.1
Echo	17.2	5.7	9.5
Hanging Horn	26.6	9.4	4.3
Kettle	30.1	2.9	2.0
Little Hanging Horn	19.7	4.0	9.5
Merwin (Swede)	42.5	15.75	5.6
Moose	23.8	10.4	8
Twentynine	55	11.5	2.8
Eco-Region Range	<30	<9	>6.56

Fall of 2017 marked the end of intensive water monitoring for the Kettle River Watershed. A total of 10 lakes were monitored by the Carlton SWCD and local volunteers over the past two years, adding valuable data to help us understand the health of these locally important lakes. Bear, Merwin and Twentynine lakes all had high levels of nutrients (Total Phosphorous) Chlorophyll a (an indicator of excessive algae) and low transparency readings. High levels of one or more indicators were also found in Hanging Horn, Moose and Kettle Lakes. These data will be further evaluated by MPCA staff and a group of technical experts, and some lakes may eventually be listed as impaired.



September photo of Bob Lake. This lake had low levels of nutrients and algae, and high transparency readings, suggesting it is a healthy lake.

Fun Fact

Carlton County has 40 natural environmental lakes, 18 recreational development lakes, 3 general development lakes and 16 unclassified lakes.

Culvert Inventory

In 2017, the Carlton SWCD was awarded an Enbridge Ecofootprint Grant to fund the creation of a county wide culvert inventory. The Carlton SWCD is working with the Carlton County Transportation Department to gather georeferenced data on every culvert on county maintained roads. This is important to the county for road maintenance and planning, and it is important to the Carlton SWCD because undersized culverts can create significant erosion and habitat fragmentation problems. Unlike past inventories, this database will be dynamic. Maintenance road crews are now able to add inventory data in the field using the latest mobile GIS technology as new culverts are installed or new problems are found. This data will be invaluable for future watershed planning efforts. A total of 890 culverts were inventoried in 2017 by Carlton County Transportation Department staff and their engineering student interns, Carlton SWCD staff, and Conservation Corps Apprentice. As a result of the inventory work, several erosion problems associated with culverts under county roads were addressed within weeks of being discovered.



Carlton SWCD staff measuring culvert diameter and comparing it to bank flow width.

Conservation Corp of Minnesota Apprentice Program

The Conservation Apprenticeship Academy is a program of Conservation Corps Minnesota, in partnership with BWSR, MASWCD and AmeriCorps. This opportunity is funded through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, to train and mentor future conservation professionals by providing apprenticeship service opportunities to Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Minnesota.

Conservation Corp Apprentice, Declan Devine joined the Carlton SWCD for the summer of 2017. Declan is an undergraduate engineering student at Tufts University in Boston Massachusetts with a strong interest in the outdoors and conservation. During the summer, Declan was a major resource for the Carlton County culvert inventory, in addition to collecting the basic inventory data required, he also collected detailed stream survey information to help properly size new culverts. Declan assisted Automba and Twin Lakes Townships and the City of Scanlon with survey data collection and initial hydraulic modeling for future culvert replacements. He also collected water quality monitoring data on Nemadji and Kettle River Watershed lakes and streams and was involved in an initial survey for a stream restoration project planned for 2018. He returned to Boston in August to start his junior year at Tufts and is looking forward to learning more about environmental engineering.



The AmeriCorps Conservation Apprentice Academy provides future resource professionals an opportunity to build technical experience while working side-by-side with mentors. Five apprentices have served in Carlton County since 2011, all bringing different skills and strengths and accomplishing a variety of projects. In addition to invaluable hands on experience, the apprentices also receive a stipend and a post-service AmeriCorps education award. The Carlton SWCD looks forward to working with this program again in 2018.



In 2017 the Governor announced a series of meetings around the state to seek input from citizens about water quality issues. The initiative was called 25 BY 25, or **25% improvement in the states water quality by 2025**.

Carlton County results: The Carlton SWCD asked 3 questions in an online survey. The survey was advertised in articles in local papers, through the SWCD's social media presence, and through resource professionals in the county. 12 responses were recorded.

Question 1. What are your 3 top water quality threats?

Out of all the responses several were noted multiple times.

- ⇒ Non compliant septic systems - 5 responses
- ⇒ Ag runoff and chemical control - 5 responses
- ⇒ Protecting rare, unique, and high quality resources (like wild rice and trout) - 4 responses
- ⇒ Better public education of water quality and threats - 3 responses

A few other topics identified include Livestock exclusion from waters, bad culverts, invasive plants and insects, Mercury in fish, lake issues, buffers and drinking water quality.

Question 2. What actions should be taken to improve these issues impact on water quality by 2025?

The top 3 actions repeated multiple times were:

- More enforcement of and compliance with zoning regulations
- More funding for landowners and local agencies
- Better communication to public and lawmakers of issues and strategies for improvement.

Other ideas were improving forest management on sensitive soils, and more citizen involvement in water quality solutions including volunteering, and civic engagement.

From a statewide perspective, The MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) summarized responses from the 10 roundtable meeting held around the state including one in Ely for the Northeastern Minnesota area. From the input give at these meetings by the public, MASWCD noted several common themes.

- ◇ Additional resources for soil health and erosion control on working Ag lands.
- ◇ Support for protection of high priority lands through conservation easement and covenant programs
- ◇ Accelerate programs for Minnesota's shoreland property owners to implement buffers and runoff control in those areas.
- ◇ Predictable and stable funding for conservation implementation identified in water plans.
- ◇ Stable funding for SWCD to ramp up this clean water implementation work on the private lands of Minnesota.

2017 Water Plan

Priority Concern #1: Water Quality in County Lakes, Rivers and Streams

Goal 1: Assess waters that do not have sufficient data for determination of impairment.

Goal 2: Improve water resources that are listed as impaired.

Goal 3: Maintain and improve water quality in County lakes, rivers and streams.

Priority Concern #2: Development Impacts and Land Use

Goal 1: Promote strengthening regulations and policies to maintain and improve the County's water resources.

Goal 2: Encourage low impact development in both current and proposed developments.

Goal 3: Continue to manage and protect wetlands.

Priority Concern #3: Promote and Educate the Public about the County's Water Resources

Goal 1: Promote programs currently in place to enhance our water resources.

Goal 2: Educate the public on how to be good stewards of the land and water.

There are nearly 70 specific action items identified in the 2014 Water Plan under these 8 goals. Below is a summary of 2016 primary accomplishments towards these goals and action items.

Accomplishment	Water Plan Reference
Total Awarded Grants Leveraged with Water Plan Dollars in 2017 alone: \$692,563	<u>Priority Concern #1, all 3 Goals</u> - Multiple Action Items.
Two Red Clay era projects were started in 2017: the Red Clay Phase II I Stream Restoration Project and the Skunk Creek Watershed Sediment Reduction Project . Construction is planned for 2018 (funded by BWSR CWF and the USFWS Fish Passage Program) (page 7)	<u>Priority Concern #1, Goal #3</u> - Collaborate with the SWCD and other agencies to remove Red Clay Dams and restore hydrological regime of streams.
Two Kettle River Water Monitoring grants funded by MPCA were completed in 2017, and a new monitoring project was started in the Nemadji Watershed (MPCA funded) (page 6)	<u>Priority Concern #1, Goal #1</u> - Seek funding in partnership with the MPCA and SWCD for surface water quality monitoring.
A culvert inventory for county maintained roads was started. In addition, we received funding to design 4 fish-passage barrier culverts (funded by the Enbridge Ecofootprint grant program).	<u>Priority Concern #1 Goal 3</u> – Identify fish passage barriers on protected waters in the County and seek funding to correct them.
Conservation Implementation (page 4 and 5)	<u>Priority Concern #3, Goal 1 and 2</u> - Multiple action Items.
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control (Carlton County)	<u>Priority Concern #1, Goal #3</u> - Implement measures for controlling the spread of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species, such as monitoring, education and enforcement.
Received Civic Engagement Grants to support education and outreach activities in the Kettle River and Nemadji Watersheds (funded by MPCA).	<u>Priority Concern #3, Goal 2</u> —Educate the public on how to be good stewards of the land and water.

Regional Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program Specialist

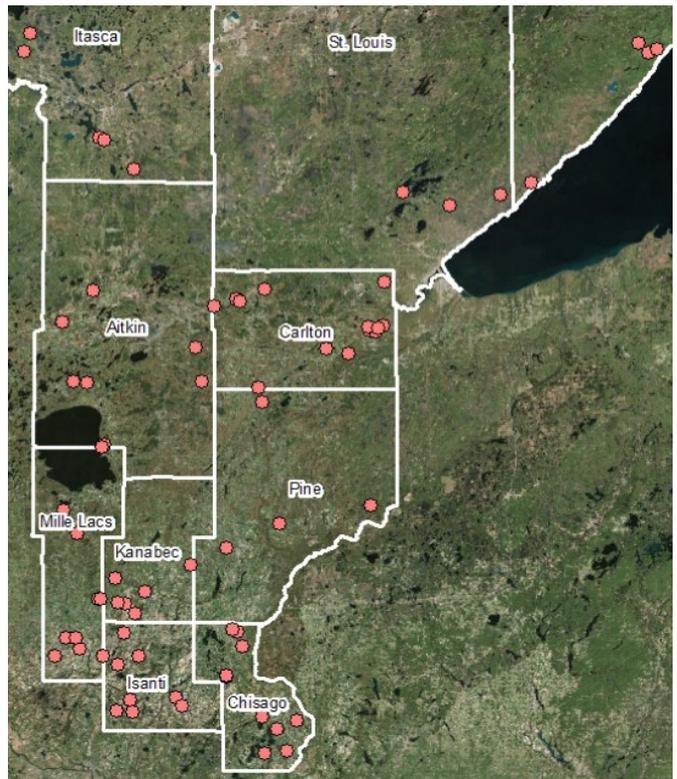
Carlton SWCD continues to oversee the NE Area for MAWQCP. This year 15 producers were added to the list of Certified Farms. This gives us a grand total of 40 Water Quality Certified Farms since the program began (2016) in our area. Local SWCD and MAWQCP staff continue to work with applicants on implementing conservation practices to reach MAWQCP criteria. Most applicants need to implement some level of new conservation efforts to become eligible for certification. Funding from NRCS through a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) for MAWQCP applicants along with state grants through MN Dept. of Agriculture continue to be a popular incentive for producers to participate in MAWQCP. Conservation practices range from nutrient management plans to water pipelines for livestock. Simple on-the-farm changes to common practices can often help an applicant reach state standards for water quality.



Deep bury livestock pipeline to facilitate outwintering/bale grazing on pasture year-round.



Grassed waterway in Carlton County. Existing practices receive credit towards water quality certification.



40 Water Quality Certified Farms in NE Area

Statewide:

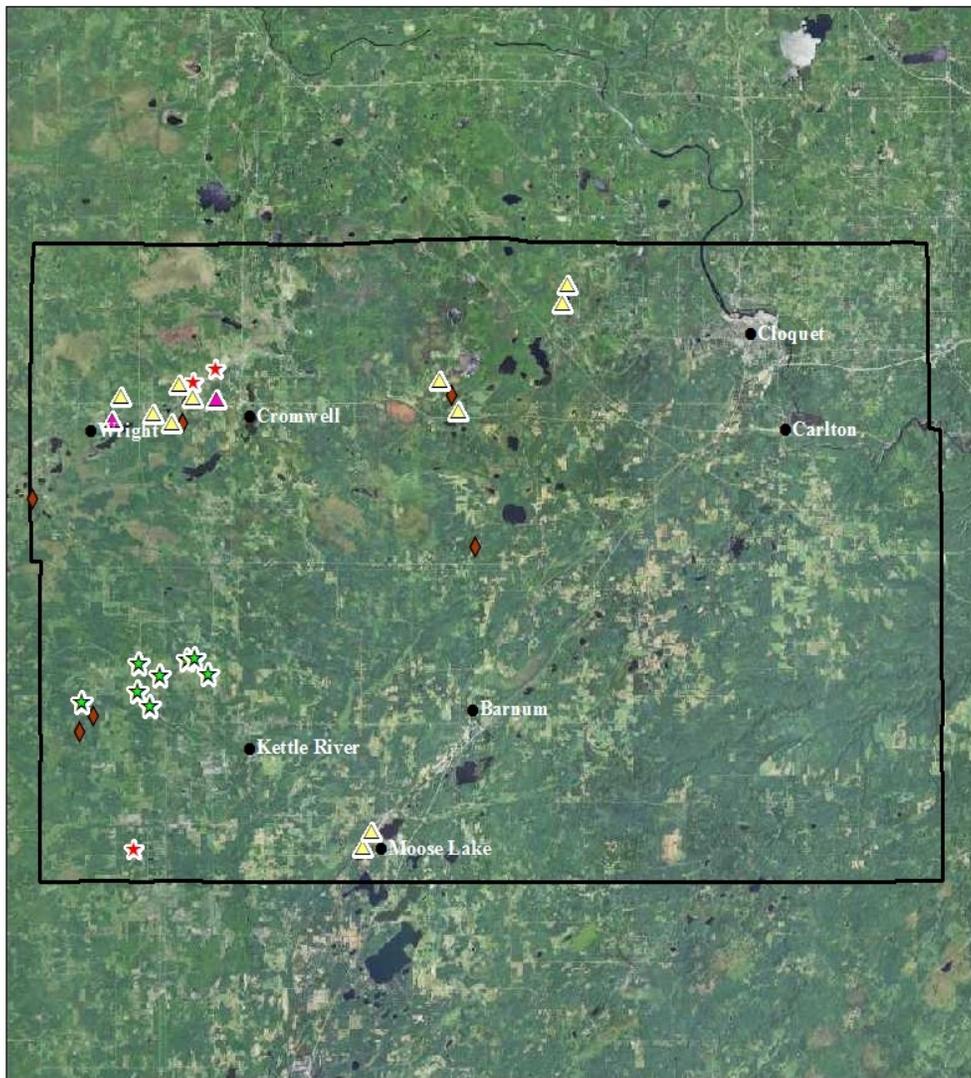
- 506 producers
- 298,902 acres
- 913 new practices
- 11,475 tons of sediment per year (22,949,603 lbs)
- 27,009 tons of soil per year (54,017,753 lbs)
- 13,653 lbs of P per year

Conservation Easements

Completed through Farm Bill Partnership

Through a joint venture with Pheasants Forever, and supported by various state and federal conservation agencies, established in 2014, Carlton and Aitkin SWCDs host a joint technician position that works on Wild Rice Conservation Easements and open land game bird species habitat projects. Jacob Granfors holds that position and is doing great work in both programs. Below is an accomplishment map that shows easements and game bird projects in the Carlton County portion of Jacob's work area.

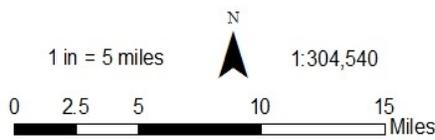
Farm Bill Assistance Partnership Projects Carlton County



Acres	Lake	Year
95	Jaskari	2013
94	Rice Portage	2013
12.1	Long	2014
21.7	Long	2014
11.7	Tamarack river	2015
49.5	Cedar	2015
31.6	Tamarack river	2015
21.75	Moosehorn	2016
15.2	Moosehorn	2016
81.8	Cedar	2017
24.3	Woodbury	2017
458.7	TOTAL	



- ▲ Completed Easements 11
- ▲ Easements in Progress 2
- ★ Sharptail Completed 8
- ★ Sharptail in Progress 3
- ◆ Woodcock Projects 6



Maps are for graphical purposes only. They do not represent a legal survey.



Outreach and Education

The Carlton SWCD coordinates various conservation educational events in Carlton County for both school age children and adults.

Envirothon—an outdoor learning event where high school students test their knowledge of the environment in the areas of forestry, wildlife, water quality, soils and a current events topic. Area natural resource professionals volunteer their time to educate students about their field and encourage them to pursue environmental careers. Students work together as a team to complete a test on each station's topic. The Area III Envirothon is held each May at the Cloquet Forestry Center and sponsored by the Area III SWCD's and local businesses.



Kettle River Woodland Council

SWCD staff serve as secretary and treasurer for this local chapter of the MN Forestry Association, a private forestland owner group working towards good stewardship of woodlands. This year we assisted with the annual Arbor Day Tree Planting event for 4th graders.

Arbor Day The SWCD, County Extension, County Land Department, and Kettle River Woodland Council helped 243 Carlton County 4th graders from 4 schools plant trees and learn about forests.



Media Releases

The SWCD provided several articles to local papers about conservation issues and happenings in the County. This outreach greatly increased citizen understanding of what they can do to improve natural resources.

Stream Table The SWCD provided a stream table to South Terrace Elementary for a month of hands on learning about watersheds, streams, erosion and sediment control, and conservation. Thanks to instructor Mrs. Waugh and the SWCD, young citizens enjoyed 3-D, real-time demonstrations on how their Earth works.



Events for Lakeshore owners

Lac La Belle Lakeshore residents were invited to attend an evening of discussion with researcher Mark Edlund from the University of Minnesota at the historic Scott House on Lake Lac La Belle. Residents that attended learned the results of monitoring as well as the results from the sediment core work that was completed by Mr. Edlund.

The Tamarack Watershed Tour took place in September with our neighboring Aitkin SWCD. Lakes visited were Eagle, Upper and Lower Island Lakes, Tamarack Lake and the Tamarack River. Discussion was on monitoring results, conservation projects, impairments and possible causes for the impairments.

Workshops

In 2017 the SWCD led two workshops for landowners. The workshops were held on Saturday mornings in August and September. They were done in cooperation with Minnesota Forestry Association, Kettle River Woodland Council, and Cloquet Community Education. About 12 participated each day. These were field visits and discussions. Landowners learned how to accomplish conservation practices via DIY or hired-out methods. They also learned about planning & funding assistance for their projects .



Pollinator Habitat: Planting for Bees & Butterflies

Native & domesticated bees pollinate 30% of US crops and 3/4ths of the flowering plants in MN. Populations of wild and tame bees, as well as pollinating beetles, flies, moths, and butterflies, have plummeted in the last few years, partly due to habitat loss. There are many ways landowners large & small can promote pollinators. We visited 3 sites, new and established, during this 2 hour class.

Red Pine Management for Small Sites

Red Pine plantations need to be thinned out for their health, to prevent wildfires, to improve wildlife habitat, and to produce timber. Many sites are too large for an arborist, and too small to attract a logger. We learned how to get your trees felled, forwarded, and marketed via DIY or hired-out methods. We visited 2 sites during this 2 hour class.



Breakfast on the Farm, held at a family dairy farm in Wrenshall, was a first year event sponsored by the Carlton County Dairy Association. The event aimed to educate the public on where the food we eat comes from, the work involved behind the food we eat and the dedication farmers have to their farms. Carlton SWCD's Ag Water Quality Specialist Ryan Clark attended the event to educate attendees on the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program.

**Breakfast
ON THE
FARM!**



2017 Conservation Awards

Carlton SWCD recognizes conservation efforts in Carlton County during annual awards banquet. Congratulations to all award winners!

Outstanding Conservationists, Wendell & Elizabeth Lund



Wendell and Elizabeth Lund have a strong commitment to protecting water quality on their Blackhoof farm. They use a rotational grazing system for their cattle and became a Minnesota Water Quality Certified Farm in 2016. They continuously work to make improvements, including working to restore the stream where a Red Clay Dam failed.

Pictured with Wendell and Elizabeth Lund is SWCD Supervisor Mark Thell.

Forest Steward Conservationist, Mark Behrends

Mark Behrends has worked with the SWCD since 2012 to develop a forest stewardship plan, plant wildlife habitat shrubs, and release oak, birch, and maple from aspen competition in his forest.

Pictured to the right is Mark Behrends is SWCD Supervisor Jim Nynas.



Stream Steward Conservationist, Troy Stone

Since 2014 Troy and Alicia Stone have worked with the Carlton SWCD to restore a 2500 foot reach of Elim Creek by stabilizing erosion, restoring fish passage, and establishing a forest riparian buffer to their trout stream.

Pictured to the left is Troy Stone and SWCD Supervisor Mark Thell.

2017 Conservation Awards

Wildlife Conservationist, Eileen Schantz-Hanson



Eileen Schantz-Hansen moved to Twin Lakes Township in July 1995. Avid outdoor enthusiasts, Eileen and her husband added many trails which benefited wildlife and cross country skiers. Eileen is an avid birder and has participated in the annual Carlton County Christmas bird count since 1997. In the late 1990s, one of the first flocks of wild turkeys in Carlton County moved in at the Schantz-Hansen tree farm. Eileen can be found just about any day of the year walking or skiing her trails with binoculars in hand.

Pictured to the left is Marna Butler-Fasteland, Eileen Schantz-Hanson and Carlton Supervisor Barb Dahl.

In 2014 and again in 2016, Superior Construction installed stream restorations where Red Clay Dams were causing major erosion. These innovative projects are not your typical earth work jobs, and present many challenges due to the remote locations of the projects and the challenging clay soil.

Pictured to the right is Max and Kelsey Kenner of Superior Construction and SWCD Supervisor Jim Nynas.

Contractor Conservationist, Superior Construction



Thank you to our sponsors for helping make the 2017 Conservation Awards banquet possible.

Cornerstone State Bank, Enbridge, Lake Country Power, Moose Lake Cooperative and Northwoods Credit Union.

Pictured to the left are Bruce Ahlgren & Julie Huber of Enbridge and Leona Carlson of Cornerstone State Bank.



Thank you!

Carlton SWCD Staff



Back Row: Jake Granfors, Kelly Smith, Brad Matlack, Ryan Clark

Front Row: Melanie Bomier, Julie Radovich, Laura Christensen