

2020 BROWN SWCD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Brown SWCD completed or participated in the following projects and activities throughout 2020.

EDUCATION & PROMOTION

- Conservation Update Annual Newsletter Published
- Booth at the New Ulm Farm Show
- Soil Stewardship Week information provided to Brown County churches
- Radio Presentations on Buffer Law Program, Tree Program, RIM Program, Cost Share Program, MAWQCP, MN CREP Program, and Aquatic Invasive Species Program
- News Releases sent to local newspapers and/or posted on the SWCD's Website and Facebook page about the Tree Program, MN CREP Program, Buffer Program, Cost Share Program, Area 6 Scholarship, Soil and Water Stewardship Week, and Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

COST SHARE PROJECTS

- Project Completed – Stately 9, Terrace
- Project Completed – Stark 4, Streambank Protection
- Project Completed – Lake Hanska 32, WASCOB
- Project Completed – Cottonwood 23, Grade Stabilization
- Project Completed – North Home 29, Grade Stabilization
- Project Completed – Stately 4, Grassed Waterway Rebuild
- Project Completed – Lake Hanska 32, WASCOB
- Contract Encumbered, 2021 Construction Planned – Stately 23, WASCOB (4)
- Performed 15 site visits to assess resource concerns and provide technical guidance

EASEMENT CONSTRUCTION

- Wetland Restoration Completed – North Home 8
- Wetland Repair Completed – Stately 25

MN CREP EASEMENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED FOR FUNDING

- Wetland Restoration – Linden 4, 72.51 acres
- Wetland Restoration – North Eden 30, 38.84 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Milford 19, 31.53 acres
- Filter Strip – Leavenworth 9, 18.10 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Stately 22, 103.02 acres
- Filter Strip/Wetland Restoration – Stark 9, 40.51 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Bashaw 24, 145.94 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Bashaw 25, 145.19 acres

MN CREP EASEMENTS RECORDED & SEEDING/CONSTRUCTION PLANNED FOR 2020/2021

- Wetland Restoration – Albin 8, 97.62 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Milford 16, 167.35 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Bashaw 23, 145.01 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Stark 4, 19.91 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Mulligan 9, 39.24 acres

BUFFER PROGRAM

- Maintained records on BuffCAT, landowner files, and internal excel database
- Attended drainage committee and ditch redetermination meetings
- Completed 4 alternative practice assessments
- Provided technical assistance to landowners to help them reach compliance
- Conducted 15 site visits to measure/flag buffer width, provide technical guidance, and verify compliance
- Assisted 7 non-compliant landowners to become compliant
- Reached 98.5% compliance rate as of 12/31/2020

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

- Continued implementation of the Brown County Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan: 2019-2023
- Foster partnerships with sportsman's clubs and lake associations
- Promoted AIS Prevention through radio ads, newspaper insert and flyer, newsletter articles, Linder Media Angling Buzz project, and SWCD website and Facebook posts
- Attended AIS workshops hosted by DNR
- Provided Outreach/Educational material to local ice fishing contests

WATERSHED PLANNING

- Adopted the Brown County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan as Brown SWCD's Comprehensive Plan through 2025
- Continued participation in the Cottonwood WRAPS local work group
- Continued participation in the Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership to assist in developing a comprehensive watershed plan for the Watonwan River Watershed

OTHER PROGRAMS

- Tree Sales (45 Customers, 4066 Trees Sold)
- Well Monitoring Program
- Rain Gauge Program
- RIM Program Annual Site Checks (37)
- State Cost Share Annual Site Checks (16)
- MAWQCP Program – 3 certified landowners
- Walk-In Access Program – 9 active contracts
- Middle MN WCPI Program
- RIM Program Ownership Changes
- RIM Program Conservation Plan Changes
- Wetlands Conservation Act – TEP Panel Member

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATION AND/OR SUPPORT

- Brown County
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
- Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance
- Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area
- Minnesota River Congress
- Minnesota DNR
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Farm Service Agency
- South Central Technical Service Area
- MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)
- MASWCD Area VI Association
- MN Soil Health Coalition
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Pheasants Forever
- MN Association of Conservation District Employees