

# 2021 BROWN SWCD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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The Brown SWCD completed or participated in the following projects and activities throughout 2021.

## **EDUCATION & PROMOTION**

- Outstanding Conservationist Recognition
- Conservation Update Newsletter Published
- Booth at Farmfest in cooperation with Area 5 and 6 SWCDs
- Soil Stewardship Week information provided to Brown County churches
- MAWQCP program outreach mailing to 30 Brown County landowners
- Developed the Highway 14 CLASIC Tour with area partners and will be hosting a 2022 workshop location in Brown County in cooperation with Nicollet SWCD
- 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 Outstanding Conservationist, Tree Program, MN CREP Program, Area 6 Scholarship, Soil and Water Stewardship Week, and Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

## **COST SHARE PROJECTS**

- Project Completed – Stately 23, WASCOB (4)
- Project Completed – Home 32, Alternative Tile Intakes (4)
- Project Completed – Home 32, Alternative Tile Intakes (4)
- Project Completed – North Star 17, Grassed Waterway
- Performed 16 site visits to assess resource concerns and provide technical guidance

## **MN CREP EASEMENT CONSTRUCTION**

- Wetland Restoration Completed – Albin 8
- Wetland Restoration Completed – Mulligan 9
- Wetland Restoration Completed – Stark 4
- Wetland Restoration Completed – Bashaw 23
- Wetland Restoration – Milford 16 (bid accepted, 2022 construction scheduled)

## **MN CREP EASEMENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED FOR FUNDING**

- Filter Strip – Mulligan 11, 9.61 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Milford 31/Sigel 6, 21.82 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Burnstown 23, 75.11 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Mulligan 3/10, 114.08 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Mulligan 2/11, 168.41 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Mulligan 29, 78.59 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Bashaw 24, 78.31 acres

## **MN CREP EASEMENTS PROGRAM PROGRESS**

- Completed application processing and easement recording of 4 projects
- Continued application processing of 4 projects
- Began application processing of 7 newly funded projects
- Monitored seeding establishment on 12 sites
- Completed seeding on 4 sites
- Posted boundaries on 5 sites

### **BUFFER PROGRAM**

- Maintained records on BuffCAT, landowner files, and internal excel database
- Attended drainage committee and ditch redetermination meetings
- Provided technical assistance to landowners to help them reach/maintain compliance
- Completed annual compliance monitoring on 1101 parcels
- Conducted site visits of 454 parcels during April-December to measure/flag buffer width, provide technical guidance, or complete an annual compliance monitoring check
- Reached a 98.9% buffer compliance rate as of 12/31/2021 in Brown County

### **AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION**

- Attended AIS workshops hosted by DNR and AIS Management 101 training
- Renewed AIS Ambassador Certification through DNR
- Provided Outreach/Educational material to local fishing contest events
- Attended local sportsman's club and lake association meetings to continue partnerships
- Promoted AIS Prevention through radio ads, newspaper inserts, newsletter articles, Lindner Media/Angling Buzz project, Lakeshore Resident Video project, Kare 11 Cabin Cast project, monthly radio spots on KNUJ, and the SWCD website and Facebook page
- Continued implementation of the Brown County Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan: 2019-2023 by conducting vegetation surveys and water monitoring activities as scheduled

### **WATERSHED PLANNING**

- Continued participation in the Cottonwood WRAPS local work group
- Adopted the Watonwan River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (WRCWMP) for the Watonwan River watershed area within Brown County

### **OTHER PROGRAMS**

- Tree Sales (51 Customers, 5288 Trees Sold)
- Well Monitoring Program
- Rain Gauge Program
- RIM Program Annual Site Checks (126)
- RIM Program Haying Agreements (17)
- State Cost Share Annual Site Checks (20)
- MAWQCP Program – 4 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