

2022 BROWN SWCD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Brown SWCD completed or participated in the following projects and activities throughout 2022.

EDUCATION & PROMOTION

- Co-hosted the New Ulm stop of the Highway 14 CLASIC Tour with area partners
- YES! Team Soil Health Presentation
- Observe annual NACD Stewardship Week: “Healthy Soil: Healthy Life”
- Classroom presentations on The Environment and ArcGIS mapping
- Booth at New Ulm Farm Show
- Booth at the ‘Family Night on the Dairy Farm’ event
- Booth at Farmfest in cooperation with Area 5 and 6 SWCDs
- Assist NUASF with their annual Kids Fishing Contest on the Minnesota River, New Ulm
- Assist The Journal with information and photos for articles in their Hometown 2022 insert – ‘The History of River Life! By the Cottonwood and Minnesota Rivers’
- Monthly KNUJ radio spot presentations on Aquatic Invasive Species Program, RIM/CREP Program, Tree Program, Cost Share Program, MAWQCP, Buffer Law Program, and other district activities
- News Releases/SWCD Website Posts/Facebook Posts about the Supervisor Elections, Local Work Group Meeting, Tree Program, MN CREP Program, Area 6 Scholarship, Annual Stewardship Week, and Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program

COST SHARE PROJECTS

- Performed 12 site visits to assess resource concerns and provide technical guidance
- Completed annual cost share project site inspections for 20 projects
- Project Completed – Leavenworth 8, Grassed Waterway
- Project Completed – Home 14, Grassed Waterway
- Project Encumbered – Mulligan 17, WASCOB
- Project Encumbered – Albin 14, WASCOB

MN CREP EASEMENT CONSTRUCTION

- Wetland Restoration Completed – Milford 16
- Wetland Restoration Completed – Linden 4
- Wetland Restoration Completed – North Eden 30
- Wetland Restoration Completed – Milford 19
- Wetland Restoration – Stately 22 (construction started, completion scheduled spring 2023)

MN CREP EASEMENT APPLICATIONS APPROVED FOR FUNDING

- Filter Strip – Mulligan 11, 16.27 acres
- Wetland Restoration – Mulligan 16, 74.89 acres

MN CREP EASEMENTS PROGRAM PROGRESS

- Completed application processing and easement recording of 7 projects
- Continued application processing of 4 projects
- Began application processing of 2 newly funded projects
- Monitored seeding establishment on 16 sites
- Completed seeding on 6 sites
- Posted boundaries on 6 sites

BUFFER PROGRAM

- Maintained records on BuffCAT, landowner files, and internal excel database
- Attended drainage authority sponsored ditch meetings
- Provided technical assistance to landowners to help them reach/maintain compliance
- Completed site visits for monitoring or technical assistance as requested
- Reached a 99.4% buffer compliance rate as of 12/31/2022 in Brown County

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

- Attended AIS workshops hosted by DNR and AIS Management 101 training
- Provided Outreach/Educational materials at local fishing contest events
- Attended local sportsman's club and/or lake association meetings to continue partnerships
- Assisted at the NUASF annual kids fishing contest in New Ulm
- Promoted AIS Prevention through radio, newspaper, Lindner Media/Angling Buzz 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 and carp surveys and water monitoring activities as scheduled

WATERSHED PLANNING

- Cottonwood WRAPS work group participation and final report review.
- Approved a Resolution to Support a Cottonwood-Middle MN One Watershed, One Plan Project
- Cottonwood-Middle MN Watershed One Watershed One plan planning grant was approved for funding, district staff and Supervisors began planning and orientation with project partners

OTHER PROGRAMS

- Tree Sales (41 Customers, 3416 Trees Sold)
- Well Monitoring Program
- Rain Gauge Program
- RIM Program Annual Site Checks (72)
- RIM Program Haying Agreements (22)
- MAWQCP Program – 4 certified landowners
- Walk-In Access Program – 11 active contracts
- RIM Program Ownership Changes (12)
- RIM Program Conservation Plan Changes (2)
- Wetlands Conservation Act – TEP Panel Member

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATION AND/OR SUPPORT

- Brown County
- USDA- 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
- USDA- 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