



**ANOKA CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

2007 ANNUAL PLAN

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AN INVITATION FROM THE CHAIR

KIM KOVICH

It is a pleasure to invite you to review the 2007 Annual Plan of the Anoka Conservation District. Thank you very much for your interest in our activities. The Board of Supervisors and ACD staff are dedicated to providing the services necessary to complete the goals of the Annual Plan. We continue to strive to improve delivery of these services. We have actively promoted our programs, worked closely with other environmental and government agencies and sought training to assist us in doing a better job.

Anoka Conservation District adopted the following mission statement:

- ❖ **inform and assist county residents and landowners in natural resource management,**
- ❖ **conduct research and monitoring for soil and water conservation,**
- ❖ **promote practices for soil and water conservation,**
- ❖ **and serve as a guide to local units of government in land use planning.**

We have prioritized our activities to coincide with our mission statement and aligned District goals and objectives to fulfill that mission.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Anoka Conservation District Board of Supervisors would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the following agencies and individuals for their assistance throughout the year.

ANOKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. In 2006 the Commissioners were:

District 1	Dennis Berg
District 2	Dick Lang
District 3	Margaret Langfeld
District 4	Jim Kordiak
District 5	Scott Ledoux
District 6	Rhonda Sivarajah
District 7	Dan Erhart

It is the continued financial support of Anoka County that enables the District to manage and direct the programs protecting Anoka County's environmental assets.

ANOKA COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

Several Anoka County departments provide ACD with the benefit of their expertise in complex matters. Their professionalism and diligence is greatly appreciated.

PAYROLL

Jerry Hennek, Mary Anderson, Cassandra Bologna, Cheryl Peloquin, and Candace Handapangoda

PARKS

John VonDeLinde and Jeff Perry

RISK MANAGEMENT

John Sullivan, Bill Keller, Cheryl Alberts

ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Tom Haluska, Pam McCabe and Dan Klint

HUMAN RESOURCES

John Sprague and Melanie Ault

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Marina “Rina” McManus, Spencer “Spence” Pierce, Jon Christensen and Bart Biernat

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

The ACD appreciates the continued support, technical assistance and training provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Former and current District Conservationists Ed Musielewicz and George Montgomery, respectively deserve special thanks for assisting Anoka County’s agricultural producers. Our appreciation is extended to State Conservationists Bill Hunt for financial support from the USDA NRCS to fund the landscape restoration specialist positions currently serving the seven county metro area from our office.

INTRODUCTION

2007 begins the 62nd year of operation for the Anoka Conservation District (ACD). During this time the District has developed programs and applied technology to address natural resource issues. Originally, the main responsibility of soil and water conservation districts was to control soil and water erosion caused by runoff and wind. Changing land uses have expanded those responsibilities to encompass a broad spectrum of conservation and natural resource practices. The District strives to provide an overall program of well-rounded conservation services to Anoka County residents.

Each conservation district analyzes resource needs and issues to develop an inventory for planning purposes. Erosion, pollution, soil limitations, land capabilities, water supplies, forestry, development trends, wetlands and wildlife habitats are considered in the planning process. The annual plan outlines what measures need to be implemented to improve present conditions and address future needs.

The annual plan is the written directive for achieving the goals set forth in the Comprehensive Plan. It contains plans and procedures that will be followed in the upcoming year to attain the main objectives of the ACD. The document outlines a plan of work with respect to the natural resources of Anoka County and how legislative actions, funding, staffing, public interest and growth affect them.

For the most part ACD will focus on continuing the successful programs and services developed in prior years. There are, however, some noteworthy initiatives underway. ACD is ending a two year LCMR funded effort to engage four communities in natural resource based long term planning. We are also pursuing the installation of water quality improvement practices identified as worthwhile during the development of the Typo/Martin lake TMDL. The need for enhanced educational outreach efforts has been noted. Partnerships to fill this need will be pursued with LGUs that much address NPDES education mandates.

ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT MISSION

The mission of the Anoka Conservation District is to:

- ❖ inform and assist county residents and landowners in natural resource management,
- ❖ conduct research and monitoring for soil and water conservation,
- ❖ promote practices for soil and water conservation,
- ❖ and serve as a guide to local units of government in land use planning.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

Listed in descending order of priority as identified in the ACD's Comprehensive Plan

1. Natural Habitats
 - a. Natural Communities
 - b. Wildlife Connectivity
 - c. Wetlands
 - d. Preservation/Enhancement
2. Water Quality
 - a. Lake
 - b. Stream/River
 - c. Groundwater
 - d. Wetlands
3. Development
 - a. Guidance
 - b. Assistance
 - c. Education
 - d. Local Accountability
4. Private Land Stewardship
 - a. Conservation Easements
 - b. Lakeshore/Stream Restoration
 - c. Rain Gardens
5. Influence Public Policy
 - a. State Legislature
 - b. City Ordinances

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

District	Name	Office	Term Expiration
I	Sean Sullivan	Vice Chair	12/31/08
II	Kim Kovich	Chair	12/31/08
III	Sandra DeLaForest	Member	12/31/10
IV	Mary Jo Truchon	Member	12/31/10
V	Vici Nass	Treasurer	12/31/08

Regular board meetings of the ACD are generally held on the third Monday of each month. A yearly meeting schedule is posted in the office of the ACD. Regular board meetings and committee meetings are held at the District office in Ham Lake unless otherwise noted.

ACD COMMITTEES

ACD supervisors also serve on committees to analyze detailed information on issues requiring intensive review prior to full board action. Some committees are internal and others function on a metro or statewide level. Supervisors choose to participate in committee meetings to offer personal expertise in the area of discussion or to gain more knowledge of the subject matter. 2007 committee assignments include:

Finance	Operations	Personnel
Nass, Chair	DeLaForest, Chair	Sullivan, Chair
DeLaForest	Truchon	Truchon
Sullivan	Kovich	Kovich
Truchon *	Sullivan*	DeLaForest*

*Alternate Committee Member

Metro Association	Kovich/DeLaForest
CCWD Citizen Advisory Committee	DeLaForest
RCWD Citizen Advisory Committee	Truchon
Area IV Association	Nass/Truchon/DeLaForest
Plants Material/Anoka Sand Plain	Nass
Forestry Committee	Kovich

DISTRICT STAFF

Current staff has 1365 workdays in administrative and technical support to contribute to District goals and objectives. Approximately 25 workdays of technical assistance and training are routinely available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service with the potential to provide additional days of assistance from part time student workers during the summer of 2007.

District objectives, as described in the following section, will require approximately 1449 workdays to complete. This is 59 days more than current and proposed staff can provide. District Supervisors contribute significantly to the areas of planning and program promotion. Volunteers from area high schools and the University of MN may provide additional assistance. Seasonal help may also be recruited based on need and within budgetary constraints.

ACD	Position
Chris Lord	District Manager (full time)
Kathy Berkness	Administrative Assistant (.9 part time)
Jamie Schurbon	Water Resource Specialist (full time)
Dennis Rodacker	Wetland Specialist (full time)
Josh Williams	Natural Resources Planner (full time)
Beck Wozney	Conservation Technician (.10 part time)
Gregg Thompson	Landscape Restoration Specialist (.13 Anoka)
Shawn Tracy	Landscape Restoration Specialist (.12 Anoka)
Seasonal	Assistant District Technician (.3 temporary part time)

NRCS (office in Big Lake)	Position
George Montgomery	District Conservationist
Jerry Anderson	Soil Conservation Technician

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

Objective Addressed: Natural Habitats (NH) Water Quality (WQI) Development (D)
Private Land Stewardship (PLS) Public Policy (PP)

Program	Staff Days	Staff FTE	Objective Addressed
General Admin	350	1.346	NH, WQI, D, PLS, PP
Greenways/Cons. Easements	280	1.077	NH, WQI, D, PLS, PP
Wetlands (WCA)	195	.750	NH, WQI, D
Landscape Restoration	75	.288	HN, WQI, PLS
Web Site	75	.288	NH, WQI, PP
Education/Homeowners Guide	75	.288	NH, WQI, D, PLS, PP
Promotion	40	.169	NH, WQI, D, PLS, PP
Planning ¹	40	.154	NH, WQI, D, PLS, PP
Biomonitoring of Streams	35	.135	NH, WQI, D, PLS,
Staff Training	35	.135	NH, WQI, D, PLS, PP
Lake Water Quality Monitoring	35	.135	NH, WQI, D, PLS, PP
Trees	33	.127	NH, D, PLS
Cost Share	30	.115	NH, WQI, PLS
GIS Assistance	25	.096	NH, WQI, D, PLS, PP
Water Resource Assess & Investigation	25	.096	WQI, D, PLS, PP
Lake Level Monitoring	17	.065	WQI, PLS, PP
WMO Water Quality Monitoring	15	.058	WQI, D, PLS, PP
Stream Hydrology/Discharge	14	.054	WQI, D, PLS, PP
Rum River WOMP	13	.050	WQI, D, PLS, PP
Plat Reviews	12	.046	NH, WQI, D, PP
Reference Wetland Monitoring	10	.038	WQI, PP
Wetland Delineation	8	.031	NH, D, PLS, PP
Observation Well Monitoring	8	.031	WQI, PP
DNR/COE Permit Review	3	.012	NH, WQI, D, PLS, PP
Rain Gauge Network	1	.004	WQI, PP
Total	1449	5.588	

¹ Several ACD policies are advanced through the planning process. Establishment of greenways, cluster development, protection of natural communities, incorporation of buffer strips, and strict compliance with the wetland conservation act are some examples.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Many of the programs and activities listed are ongoing and would need only to be maintained whereas others would need to be initiated. Some programs are completed entirely such as inventories and are removed altogether.

The ACD Board of Supervisors has identified five major issues to address in Anoka County in the coming years: natural habitats, water quality, development impacts, private land stewardship, and public policy. There are several means of addressing a given issue. ACD has selected the following general mechanisms: educate, fund, research, monitor, inventory, train, review, and promote.

NATURAL HABITATS

- Educate the public by conducting presentations and developing educational materials such as brochures, newsletters, and displays to convey knowledge of and appreciation for natural resource topics dealing with this issue.
- Promote habitat creation and reforestation through distribution of tree and shrub seedlings at an annual sale.
- Promote the establishment of a greenway network and protection of natural communities by conducting greenways planning and educational programs.
- Promote utilization of upland buffers around wetlands to provide habitat as compensation for wetland fill beyond the 1:1 replacement minimum.
- Promote clustering where feasible to maintain larger contiguous habitats.
- Promote acquisition of heritage communities by the local, county and state parks.
- Promote utilization of degraded wetlands for vegetation community restoration.
- Promote conservation ethic to LGU's by attending council meetings to forward stewardship agenda.
- Review preliminary plats and make recommendations to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and forests including avoidance of forests and wetlands, incorporation of buffer strips, plantings and prairie restorations.

- Review WCA related permits and delineations and promote wetland avoidance/restoration/utilization for wildlife habitat and provide quality control for delineations and exemption determinations.
- Review DNR and COE permits and make recommendations for preserving and enhancing wildlife habitat such as avoidance of forests and wetlands, incorporation of buffer strips, plantings and prairie restorations.

WATER QUALITY

- Educate the public by conducting presentations and developing educational materials such as brochures, newsletters, and displays to convey knowledge of and appreciation for natural resource topics dealing with this issue.
- Fund conservation practices on high priority problems by supplying landowners with cost share funds and technical assistance.
- Monitor storm event water quality at the outlet of the Rum River as part of the Met Council's Water Quality Outlet Monitoring Program.
- Monitor lake water quality in the high priority lakes throughout Anoka County
- Monitor lake levels (currently twenty lakes).
- Monitor precipitation (currently thirty-two volunteer network).
- Monitor deep groundwater levels (currently 13 DNR Observation Wells).
- Monitor surficial groundwater levels to aid in analysis of wetland hydrology (currently 15 reference wetland continuously recording wells).
- Monitor stream water levels (currently six continuous monitoring wells in the Rum River, two in Coon Creek, four in Rum River tributaries and four in Sunrise River and its tributaries).
- Monitor groundwater in an additional two wells in the western part of the county.
- Promote storm water management to LGU's by attending council meetings to explain the rationale for recommendations supplied as part of the plat review process.
- Promote water quality awareness by making sample bottles available for drinking water analysis.

- Promote water quality awareness to LGU's by attending council meetings to explain the rationale for recommendations supplied as part of the plat review process.
- Promote utilization of degraded wetlands for water quality treatment.
- Promote water quality awareness to Lake Associations by undertaking cooperative programs to benefits lakes.
- Review WCA related permits and delineations and promote wetland avoidance/restoration/utilization for water quality treatment and provide quality control for delineations and exemption determinations.
- Review preliminary plats and make recommendations to preserve and enhance water quality including mulching, seeding, diversions, ponds, buffer strips and silt fences.
- Review DNR and COE permits and make recommendations to preserve and enhance water quality including mulching, seeding, diversions, ponds, buffer strips and silt fences.
- Review WCA related permits and delineations and promote wetland avoidance/restoration/utilization for flood water attenuation and provide quality control for delineations and exemption determinations.
- Review preliminary plats and make recommendations to preserve and enhance water retention on the land including diversions, ponds, and limiting impervious surface and grading.
- Review DNR and COE permits and make recommendations to preserve and enhance water retention on the land including diversions, ponds, and limiting impervious surface and grading.

DEVELOPMENT

- Educate the public by conducting presentations and developing educational materials such as brochures, newsletters, and displays to convey knowledge of and appreciation for natural resource topics dealing with this issue.
- Review preliminary plats, DNR and COE permits and make recommendations for erosion control, habitat enhancement and protection and water quality and quantity management.
- Promote wise natural resource utilization by expanding plat review service to municipalities not currently utilizing the service.

- Promote erosion control to LGU's by attending council meetings to explain the rationale for recommendations supplied as part of the plat review process.
- Review construction site erosion control and NPDES compliance by conducting site inspections during and after construction.

INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY

- Educate the public by developing and distributing materials that explain conservation issues in a manner that is clear and non-threatening.
- Promote legislative change that requires/enforces development and implementation of second generation local water plans.
- Promote more thorough unused well disclosure by supporting and pursuing efforts to require well contractors to inspect properties at the time of transfer.
- Promote legislation that requires the disclosure of the resource limitations of a property at the time sale (soils, wetlands, flood plain, etc.).
- Promote LGU and county funding mechanisms that are not based on property taxes thereby removing the incentive for full development without conservation.
- Promote stable funding for SWCD's by supporting the MASWCD in its efforts and by directly contacting legislators.
- Promote compliance with existing statutes, rules and guidance regarding conservation issues.
- Promote conservation by attending LGU council meetings to educate, motivate and ensure accountability by those in authority.
- Promote efforts to place the cost of environmental regulation on those responsible for its degradation (fees for discharge and grading).

COST-SHARE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Cost-share programs are divided into two general categories: agricultural and urban.

NATURE AND EXTENT OF HIGH PRIORITY AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS

High priority erosion problems are defined as: “Erosion from wind and/or water occurring on Class I-IV soil in excess of 2T tons/acre/year of any soil within 300 feet of a stream or 1,000 feet of a water basin designated as a protected water or wetland by the DNR, eroding in excess of 2T tons/acre/year”. Those areas in Anoka County are all located in the northwest part of the county. Wind erosion is also a problem that is accounted for in this analysis. Eighteen thousand acres of sandy out-wash soils have close to 2T erosion potential.

High priority sedimentation problems are defined as: “All areas within 300 feet of a stream or 1,000 feet of a lake where the erosion rate exceeds 3T tons/acre/year and where the Conservation District can show that sedimentation delivery for a watershed out-letting to these waters exceeds 2T tons/acre/year. The lake or stream must be classified by the DNR as a protected water.”

High priority feedlots are defined as: “Those feedlots where the pollution rating (from the Agricultural Waste Model) is greater than or equal to one and is discharging pollutants to DNR designated protected waters or wetlands; to shallow soils overlying fractured bedrock; or within 150 feet of a water well.” Feedlots, when improperly located with respect to water resources, and improperly managed to prevent runoff from entering a lake or a stream, can downgrade water quality. Feedlots have not been actively tracked in Anoka County. An inventory of feedlot location, size and regulatory compliance is needed before significant effort can be put into cost share in this area.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION MEASURES NEEDED

Practices being used to control water erosion are: conservation tillage, grassed waterways, contour farming, strip-cropping, diversions, terraces, water and sediment control basins, and critical area plantings.

Practices used to control wind erosion are; conservation tillage, field wind-breaks, wind strip-cropping and permanent vegetative cover.

Practices used to control feedlot pollution are: waste management systems,

waste storage ponds, waste storage structures, waste utilization plans and diversions.

NATURE AND EXTENT OF HIGH PRIORITY URBAN PROBLEMS

With a limited agricultural constituency, ACD has noted significant erosion problems associated with urban and urbanizing land uses. Streambank erosion has been accelerated by more dramatic bounces in stream elevations that last for a longer duration. Lakeshore erosion has been accelerated due to the practice of maintaining a manicured lawn to the waters edge and wind and water erosion have become a greater concern due to mass grading on construction sites.

Ultimately, these all have the potential to degrade surface water quality. Sedimentation is the largest contributor to water quality degradation. Storm sewers are conduits for fertilizers, pesticides, chemicals, solvents, road salt and other contaminants to open water resources. Any structural, grading or vegetative practice that has the potential to improve and protect water quality is a candidate for cost share.

URBAN CONSERVATION MEASURES NEEDED

The following conservation practices may be necessary to address high priority erosion, sedimentation, and water quality problems in Anoka County. Innovative methods are encouraged.

- Temporary construction site erosion and sediment control practices,
- Grade stabilization structures,
- Streambank and lakeshore protection (rock rip rap, bioengineering),
- Critical area/slope stabilization,
- Stormwater conveyance system management,
- Model ordinances addressing erosion control, stormwater management, wetland preservation, groundwater protection, and
- Reduction of sediment/chemical application to streets.

BUDGET PROJECTIONS

Year	Personnel	Operating	Capital	County Allotment	BWSR Allotment
1991*	\$67,586	\$57,164	\$2,098	\$62,500	\$9,547
1992*	\$97,023	\$25,943	\$443	\$65,500	\$9,061
1993*	\$106,925	\$34,448	\$2,241	\$70,000	\$9,537
1994*	\$133,325	\$24,915	\$2111	\$72,000	\$9,398
1995*	\$118,828	\$26,656	\$7,983	\$79,000	\$9,398
1996*	\$118,272	\$34,735	\$19,423	\$83,350	\$12,094
1997*	\$123,608	\$38,751	\$15,195	\$90,137	\$13,338
1998*	\$129,630	\$38,657	\$3,862	\$94,013	\$16,500
1999*	\$153,938	\$44,374	\$22,050	\$98,150	\$19,260
2000*	\$213,469	\$50,763	\$13,429	\$114,640	\$22,752
2001*	\$248,552	\$53,769	\$11,743	\$126,000	\$24,253
2002*	\$315,787	\$51,340	\$37,406	\$137,500	\$24,469
2003*	\$327,590	\$50,590	\$13,080	\$143,233	\$25,304
2004*	\$389,124	\$52,775	\$2,801	\$125,000	\$24,039
2005*	\$408,687	\$59,026	\$22,540	\$138,750	\$25,000
2006*	\$410,736	\$56,908	\$11,647	\$144,000	\$25,000
2007	\$462,674	\$62,782	\$26,863	\$145,610	\$25,000

* Actual

FUNDS NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION

REVENUE SUMMARY

Charges for Services	118,072
Interest	500
Withdrawal from Funds	19,271
Local /Regional Grants	79,141
County Grants	259,846
State Grants	212,115
Federal Grants	80,000
Total	\$768,945

PASS THROUGH SUMMARY **\$60,979**

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Personnel Services	462,674
District Operations	62,782
District Projects	197,777
Deposit to Funds	11,800
Capital Expenses	26,863
Total	\$761,896

REVENUE DETAIL

CHARGES FOR SERVICES

Plat Reviews	\$	3,500
WCA Administration	\$	2,000
Wetlands	\$	1,500
Equipment Rental	\$	250
Education	\$	320
Tree Program	\$	25,000
WMO/Local Contracts	\$	85,502
Interest	\$	500
Total		\$ 118,572

Grants

LOCAL/REGIONAL

Landscape Restoration (SWCDs)	\$	77,141
Met Council WOMP	\$	2,000
Total		\$ 79,141

COUNTY

Ag Preserves	\$	114,236
General Services	\$	145,610
Total		\$ 259,846

STATE

Well Monitoring	\$	1,320
LCMR: Avoiding Referenda	\$	46,089
DNR Cons. Partners - Beach Restoration	\$	19,000
DNR Cons. Partners - SCNA Buckthorn	\$	4,148
DNR Cons. Partners - Homeowner's Guide	\$	2,621
DNR Cons. Partners - GIS Modeling	\$	9,500
Shoreland (pass through)	\$	2,979
ISTS (pass through)	\$	1,500
State Cost Share (pass through)	\$	14,000
State Cost Share Admin	\$	2,800
WCA Block Grant Admin	\$	30,000
WCA Block Grant (pass through)	\$	42,500
NRBG Local Water Planning	\$	10,658
General Service	\$	25,000
Total		\$ 212,115

FEDERAL

NRCS Extended Landscape Specialist	\$	80,000
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EXPENSES DETAIL

Personnel Services

Permanent Salaries	\$	341,833
Temporary Salaries	\$	28,037
Benefits	\$	37,326
Social Security	\$	28,295
PERA	\$	23,117
Unemployment Comp	\$	2,500
LTD Insurance	\$	1,200
Total		\$ 462,308

Office Overhead

Supv Per Diem	\$	9,500
Supv Pera	\$	180
Supv Medicare	\$	150
Supv Mileage & Exp	\$	2,000
Employee Exp & Mile	\$	1,600
Volunteer Exp & Mile	\$	500
Vehicle Insurance, Gas, Maintenance	\$	3,500
Office Maintenance	\$	1,500
Office Supplies	\$	1,800
Fees/Dues	\$	4,000
Equipment Maintenance	\$	250
Training & Seminars	\$	4,500

Rent	\$	20,462
Monthly Bills	\$	6,200
Cleaning	\$	1,040
Computer Tech Support	\$	3,000
Misc. (includes insurance claim for WL40)	\$	100
Printing	\$	300
Postage	\$	700
Prof. Services (Audit, Ads etc...)	\$	1,500
Total		\$ 62,782

District Projects

Website	\$	2,500
Promotion/Volunteer Banquet	\$	600
Wetland Supplies	\$	250
Education and promotion	\$	500
Tree Program	\$	17,500
WMO Local Contracts	\$	10,681
Landscape Restoration	\$	4,850
AG Preserves	\$	50,453
State	\$	110,393
Met Council WOMP	\$	50
Total		\$ 197,777

CAPITAL

District Car	\$	5,000
WM40 Monitoring Well	\$	815
Computer	\$	1,300
GPS mapper	\$	750
Copier	\$	13,000
Car (Landscape Restoration)	\$	6,000
Total Capital Expense		\$ 26,865

PASS THROUGH DETAIL

Shoreland	\$	2,979
ISTS	\$	1,500
State Cost Share	\$	14,000
WCA Block Grant	\$	42,500
Total Pass Through	\$	60,979