

LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT . . .



Helping Bring YOU Clean Water

200 S Co Hwy 5, Ste 2  
Ivanhoe, MN 56142  
507.694.1630 x3



# LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## ANNUAL PLAN 2016

## **LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

The Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District was organized July 3, 1944. The district works with landowners in both rural and urban settings to carry out a program for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and related resources. The district is a political subdivision of the State and is governed by a five member Board of Supervisors. The board sets policy, hires employees, and is responsible to see that the operations of the district are run effectively and according to law and rule.

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The SWCD prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

## SUPERVISORS, STAFF, COOPERATING AGENCIES:

### Lincoln SWCD Supervisors:

Daniel Christianson ..... Chairperson  
Glen Sorensen ..... Vice Chairperson  
Conrad Schardin..... Secretary  
Joe Weber..... Treasurer  
John Boulton ..... PR&I

### Lincoln SWCD Staff:

Pauline VanOverbeke .... Dist.Manager/WP Coord  
Dale Sterzinger ..Conservation Tech/WCA Admin.  
Randy Kraus ..... District Technician  
Jeff Berens ..... District Technician #1  
New (May) ..... Administrative Assistant

### **COOPERATING AGENCIES:**

#### Board of Soil and Water Resources:

John Jaschke ..... Director, St. Paul  
David Sill ..... Board Conservationist, Marshall  
Kane Radel..... Wetland Specialist, Marshall

#### Lincoln County Commissioners:

Joan Jagt..... Tyler  
Joe Drietz ..... Ivanhoe  
Michael (Mic) VanDeVere ..... Tyler  
Donald Evers ..... Lake Benton  
Rick Hamer..... Hendricks

#### Natural Resources Conservation Service

Marshall Area Office  
Gary Watson ..... Area Conservationist  
Ivanhoe Field Office  
Dennis Johnson ..... District Conservationist  
Randy Sheik ..... Soil Conservation Technician  
Brandi Petersen ..... Office Clerk/Part-Time  
Levi Campion..... Soil Conservationist  
SW PRAIRIE TSA  
New ..... Civil Engineering Technician

### **OTHER AGENCIES:**

- Lincoln County Environmental Office
- Yellow Medicine River Watershed District (YMRWD)
- Rivers Control Area (RCRCA)
- Lac qui Parle River Watershed District (LqPWD)
- Southwest Prairies Technical Service Area (SWPTSA)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- MN Extension Service
- Pheasants Forever
- Shaokatan Sportsmen Club
- Farm Service Agency (FSA) – Ivanhoe
- Lincoln County Townships
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW)
- MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- MN Department of Health
- MN Department of Transportation
- MN Rural Water Association
- Tyler Rod and Gun Club

### **LINCOLN SWCD BOARD MEETINGS:**

Regular board meetings are held the Third Wednesday of each month as follows, unless otherwise published in the Ivanhoe Times or on the Lincoln SWCD web site:

- April to October: 7:00 a.m.
- November to March: 10:00 a.m.

### **PROGRAMS:**

#### District Programs:

- Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program
- Annual Plan/Year-End Reporting
- Conservationist Award Program
- Drill Program
- DNR Well Monitoring
- Conservation News Releases
- Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative
- Biannual Budget Request
- State C-S Program
- Animal Repellent Program
- County Fair Booth
- LGU and Administer WCA
- Process Water Permits
- Rain Gauge Program
- Clean Water Land and Legacy
- MN Ag Water Quality Cert.
- Tree Program
- Tree Mat Program
- Environmental Fair
- Riparian Buffers
- District Web Site
- Grant Writing
- Engineering Assist.
- Buffer Law

**Federal Programs (assisted by the Lincoln SWCD):** Water Quality Incentive Program, Conservation Plans, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Status Reviews and Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP).

**Administer the Local Water Management Plan:** Well Sealing and Ag BMP Loan Programs. Also work with the One Watershed One Plans for the watersheds in Lincoln County.

## INTRODUCTION:

Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Plan is developed from the long-range priority concerns and objectives in the Lincoln County Water Management Plan (WMP). This plan was adopted as the Comprehensive Plan of the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Specific actions, an annual budget, staffing and funding needs and State Cost-Share program requirements have been identified in order to implement the plan. There are other action items that address the goals of the SWCD but are not specifically outlined in the WMP.

The SWCD is the local unit of government that provides assistance to citizens who are interested in preserving, restoring and protecting soil and water resources in Lincoln County.

The Yellow Medicine Watershed-One Watershed One Plan" approach will be developed during 2015. It is hopeful that over the next several years, we will look at this approach for the Missouri, Redwood and Lac qui Parle Watersheds.

**The mission of the Lincoln SWCD** is to protect and improve the quality of our water, soil, and natural resources by providing programs and services to the citizens and owners of Lincoln County to implement conservation practices.

The purpose of the plan is to guide us in effectively providing maximum conservation to all the land in the county, with identified high priority areas.

The priority concerns identified in the Management Plan are:

- Ground Water Protection for the Verdi Well Field.
- Surface Water Quality Deterioration focusing on MPCAs list of TMDLs and Impaired waters. TMDL-South Branch, Yellow Medicine River for Fecal Coliform. Impaired waters include various river reaches and the following Lakes: Dead Coon, Benton, Perch, Shaokatan and Hendricks. TMDLs underway: Lac qui Parle River-Yellow Bank-Bacteria, Turbidity, and Low Dissolved Oxygen; Lake Shaokatan-Excess Nutrients; Redwood River-Fecal Coliform and Turbidity; and Minnesota River-Turbidity
- Erosion and Sediment Control on agricultural land primarily gully erosion and concentrated flow with several priority areas throughout Lincoln County including: TMDL-South Branch, Yellow Medicine River for Fecal Coliform. Impaired waters including various river reaches and lakes including: Dead Coon, Benton, Perch, Shaokatan and Hendricks. TMDLs underway: Lac qui Parle River-Yellow Bank-Bacteria, Turbidity and Low Dissolved Oxygen; Lake Shaokatan-Excess Nutrients; Redwood River-Fecal Coliform and Turbidity and Minnesota River-Turbidity
- Lake Management Improvement (water quality) and Recreational Opportunities targeting Lake Benton, Lake Shaokatan and Lake Hendricks
- Surface water runoff and Drainage addressing runoff volume and water quality through drainage management

The plan also addresses the following:

- Provide for an effective/efficient District Operation and provide assistance to landowners/operators.
- Increase public awareness through educational, promotional and informational activities.

## PRIORITY CONCERNS; GOALS; OBJECTIVES; ACTIONS

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**Priority Concern:** Groundwater Protection for the Verdi Well Field.

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**Goal:** Protect the public water supply from potential contaminant sources due to land use activities; and establish and maintain a Wellhead Protection Plan (WHP) continuing public education and information program.

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**Objective:** Protect the groundwater and the drinking water sources for the Verdi Well Field. Work with landowners in order of priority to address the project element: DWSMA Vulnerability area, Groundwater Capture Zone, Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA).

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**Action:** Provide cost-share assistance to landowners in the Verdi DWSMA and the entire Big Sioux Watershed to properly seal their abandoned wells as this is a high priority area.

**Action:** Utilize the Ag BMP loan program for upgrading conservation tillage equipment to reduce erosion and runoff by targeting one landowner per year or as loan funds permit.

**Action:** Contact property owners in the WHP area to encourage enrollment in easement programs, CRP options and adoption of buffer strips.

**Action:** Work with Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water on the LCCMR grant they obtained which will include land purchase with conservation cover to protect the wellhead areas; will assist with contacting landowners and implementation of the conservation practices.

**Action:** Work with the Pipestone SWCD Water Resources Technician on water quality related work with emphasis being Highly Vulnerable Wellhead Protection Areas within Lincoln County. This position will work with landowners and encourage the development and adoption of tillage, pesticide and nutrient management plans on cropland within the DWSMA.

**Action:** Water Resource Technician will cooperate with LPRW and SWCDs on workshops, demonstrations and field days regarding BMPs for application of commercial fertilizer and manure within the DWSMA.

**Action:** One staff and one supervisor will serve on the Water Resource Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations for projects to the Water Resource Technician.

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**Priority Concern:** Surface Water Quality Deterioration focusing on MPCAs list of TMDLs and Impaired waters. TMDL-South Branch, Yellow Medicine River for Fecal Coliform. Impaired waters include various river reaches and the following Lakes: Dead Coon, Benton, Perch, Shaokatan and Hendricks. TMDLs underway: Lac qui Parle River-Yellow Bank-Bacteria, Turbidity, and Low Dissolved Oxygen; Lake Shaokatan-Excess Nutrients; Redwood River-Fecal Coliform and Turbidity; and Minnesota River-Turbidity.

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**Goal:** To restore and protect the surface water quality entering Lincoln County's lakes, rivers and streams.

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**Objective:** Protect surface water quality from contamination caused by point and non-point source pollution and properly treat both human and animal waste.

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**Action:** Work with producers and the SWPTSA on high priority feedlots. Priority based on size of the operation and their proximity to water.

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**Priority Concern:** Erosion and Sediment Control on agricultural land primarily gully erosion and concentrated flow with several priority areas throughout Lincoln County: TMDL-South Branch, Yellow Medicine River for Fecal Coliform. Impaired waters including various river reaches and lakes including: Dead Coon, Benton, Perch, Shaokatan and Hendricks. TMDL/s underway: Lac qui Parle River-Yellow Bank-Bacteria, Turbidity and Low Dissolved Oxygen; Lake Shaokatan-Excess Nutrients; Redwood River-Fecal Coliform and Turbidity and Minnesota River-Turbidity.

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**Goal:** To protect and preserve Lincoln County's long-term valuable soil and water resources.

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**Objective:** Protect and improve existing surface and ground water quality by addressing and reducing soil erosion, sedimentation and potential attached pollutants.

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**Action:** Reduce water erosion to 5-ton or less soil loss per acre on cropland. Implement BMPs such as but not limited to providing funding is available:

- Water & Sediment Control Basin's (WSCB'S);
- Waterways;
- Conservation Tillage; and,
- Increase acres of buffers, filter strips and Critical Area Plantings through CCRP. Entire county is a concern w/priority given to areas deemed necessary by Technical Groups in each watershed.

**Action:** Reduce wind erosion to 5-ton or less soil loss/acre on cropland selling 6,000 trees; implement the following (approx.. footage-per year): .5 mile-Field Windbreaks/Living Snow Fences, 5 acres-Farmstead Shelterbelts, and 1 acre-Wildlife Tree Plantings, depending on available programs.

**Action:** Provide cost-share to approximately 5-landowners to seal their abandoned well(s) with cost-share of 75% not to exceed \$325 per well sealed.

**Action:** Provide Ag BMP loan dollars to owners/operators for conservation practices/equipment.

**Action:** Work with the soil loss ordinance by addressing local complaints of erosion by developing corrective plans for infringing parties.

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**Objective:** Reduce the volume of sedimentation reaching County lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands.

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**Action:** Encourage the use of the district's no-till drills for proper seeding of BMP's and increase in high residue acres. Seeding of CRP/CCRP/RIM acres under the Wildlife Habitat Objective.

**Action:** Pursue grant funding for implementation of conservation practices for watershed based activities through various grants. TMDLs/impaired waters in the following watersheds: Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, Redwood River and Big Sioux. Address pollutants/stressors in each of the affected water bodies and areas deemed as high priority.

**Action:** Assess non-public waters for buffer requirements and address them with the WMTF.

**Action:** Contact and inform landowners of the buffer law updates and requirements for their land.

**Action:** Establish perennial vegetation buffers of up to 50 feet along rivers, streams and ditches that will help filter out phosphorous, nitrogen and sediment.

**Action:** Promote the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program and inform landowners of the benefits of certification for their operation.

**Action:** Enroll at least 10 landowners into the MAWQCP by May 31, 2016.

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**Objective:** Implement Best Management Practices in the Yellow Medicine Watershed project area. Future projects will be implemented based on future funding.

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**Action:** Work with the project partners and participate in completing the One Watershed One Plan for the Yellow Medicine Watershed.

**Action:** Work with the project partners to look over the developed implementation plan and come up with a strategy to apply for funding in the near future.

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**Objective:** Implement Best Management Practices in the Redwood River Watershed project area. Future projects will be implemented based on future funding.

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**Action:** Participate in RCRCA technical team meetings if they have any.

**Action:** Implement BMP's in the Redwood River Watershed through funding provided through RCRCA and any CWFs.

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**Objective:** Implement Best Management Practices in the Lac qui Parle Watershed project area. Future projects will be implemented based on future funding.

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**Action:** Participate in the Lac qui Parle River Watershed technical team meetings, the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) and to develop implementation plans the team deems a priority in the watershed based on the TMDLs/impaired waters.

**Action:** Work with the Lac qui Parle Watershed District on Clean Water Funds applications for specific minor watershed areas in the Lac qui Parle Watershed if funded.

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**Objective:** Implement Best Management Practices in the Big Sioux Watershed project area. Future projects will be implemented based on future funding.

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**Action:** Participate in the Missouri River Basin team meetings to develop implementation plans the team deems a priority in the watershed based on the TMDLs/impaired waters and cooperate to start the “One Watershed One Plan” discussion and plan implementation over the next several years.

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**Objective:** Increase and protect wildlife habitat.

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**Action:** Implement the Working Lands Initiative (WLI) Program, designed to help enhance wildlife habitat through private land ownership for WLI Market adjustment incentives and cost-share of practices. Land must be in a priority area established by the working group.

**Action:** Promote and implement the RIM Buffer Program through BWSR.

**Action:** If funding becomes available promote and implement the Wetland Reserve Program/Reinvest in Minnesota (WRP-RIM) Program. Program depends on landowner interest.

**Action:** Help insure proper habitat cover of the CRP/CCRP/RIM land, by promoting the use of: a new Great Plains drill (purchase in spring 2016); one Great Plains native grass drill (2016-4<sup>th</sup> season) and one older Haybuster drill for seeding native grasses and forbs.

**Action:** Work with the Walk-in-Access Program to those interested in opening their CRP acres to public hunting if funding is available.

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**Objective:** Educate landowners/operators about erosion and sediment control, the importance of installing conservation practices and encourage conservation programs that help protect wildlife and recreational benefits in Lincoln County.

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**Action:** Provide BMP and cost-share information to land owners/operators to reduce sediment and nutrient loading of surface and ground water and to enhance wildlife and recreation opportunities. Outreach sources could include: newsletter, news releases, web site, and fair booth. BMP topics: a) Clean Water Fund projects; b) WSCB's, terraces, waterways, conservation tillage, restored wetlands, c) Feedlots, nutrient/pesticide management; d) Replacement of open tile intakes with alternative/blind intakes; e) Enhance and protect remnant native prairies, and wildlife habitat management areas; f) Buffer programs: CCRP, RIM/WRP, Working Lands Initiative, critical area plantings, filter strips; and g) Field windbreaks, living snow fences, farmstead shelterbelts, wildlife tree plantings.

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**Priority Concern:** Lake Management Improvement (water quality) and Recreational Opportunities targeting Lake Benton, Lake Shaokatan and Lake Hendricks.

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**Goal:** Increase recreational opportunities by improving the water quality and quantity of Lincoln County's lakes.

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**Objective:** Reduce the blue-green algae in Lake Shaokatan to improve the economic and recreational activities in the lake.

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**Action:** Implement BMP's deemed necessary through the Shaokatan Sportsmen Club dollars in the Lake Shaokatan Watershed.

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**Priority Concern:** Surface Water Runoff and Drainage addressing runoff volume and water quality through drainage management.

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**Goal:** Improve surface water management by decreasing runoff, flooding and erosion while maintaining the drainage systems already in place to sustain agricultural productivity.

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**Objective:** Apply watershed-based principles in properly managing drainage systems and wetlands and repair small dams in the county.

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**Action:** Reduce flooding potential by restoring 10-acres of wetlands.

**Action:** Repair existing grade stabilization structures located in the county.

**Action:** Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Administration will come from the Local Governmental Unit-SWCD. Technical panel consists of a representative from BWSR, NRCS, and SWCD.

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**Objective:** Educate landowners/operators in Lincoln County on the Drainage programs/issues.

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**Action:** Educate land users on Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) regulations, USDA Swampbuster and Army Corp. of Engineers wetland regulations through newsletters, SWCD web site.

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Provide for an effective/efficient District Operation.

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**Actions:**

- Hold regular board meetings on the third Wednesday of the month.
  - Send county commissioner representative the meeting notice and minutes.
  - Staff District Manager/WP Coordinator, Conservation Technician/WCA Administrator, District Technician, District Technician #1 and hire a part-time Administrative Assistant (May).
  - Hire a SWPTSA Civil Engineering Technician.
  - Provide appropriate training for all personnel in order to carry out the SWCD's Programs.
  - The Comprehensive Plan is the Lincoln County Local Water Management Plan.
  - Complete the Yellow Medicine "One Watershed One Plan" and look at continuing on with the Missouri and/or the Lac qui Parle or Redwood watersheds.
  - Conservation Technician will make comments on all DNR water permits.
  - Participate in the MASWCD, Area V Association and the NACD Programs.
  - District Manager is the Water Plan Coordinator for the Local Water Management Plan
  - WCA Administrator will work with the MASWCD 1026 agreement in completing 1026 work if one becomes available in 2016.
  - Provide representation to various organizations. Other than the ones listed previously, such as but not limited to: Lincoln County Water Plan, Yellow Medicine Watershed Advisory Board, Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area, Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water, EQIP Local Work Group.
  - Develop an Annual Plan of Work.
  - State C-S practices will be spot checked by the District Staff according to the State C-S Guidelines.
  - The District Technician's (Sterzinger - tree practices and Alternative Intakes, Kraus - Nutrient Management/Stabilizer practices) will be the designated Technical Representatives for the State C-S Program. Utilize the SWPTSA and the NRCS for other practices.
  - Monitor wells designated by the DNR.
  - Utilize BWSR web based reporting system to report progress and develop an Annual Report.
  - Work with multiple lenders on the Ag BMP Program.
  - Develop the BBRs as required.
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Increase public awareness through educational, promotional and informational activities.

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**Actions:**

- Select a Conservation Farmer and participate in the Conservationist Award Program.
- Help out at the SWMACDE Environmental Fair for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Publish news articles to address conservation issues and concerns.
- Develop a display for the Lincoln County Fair.
- Continue to develop, publish and maintain the SWCD web site.