



# **Annual Plan**

## **2024**

## Acronym Page

1W1P – One Watershed One Plan  
ACEP – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program  
AgBMP - Agriculture Best Management Practices  
ALE – Agricultural Land Easements  
AIS – Aquatic Invasive Species  
BMP – Best Management Practices  
BWSR – Board of Water and Soil Resources  
CD – County Ditch  
CRP – Conservation Reserve Program  
CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program  
CWF – Clean Water Fund  
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area  
CWMP – Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan  
DNR – Department of Natural Resources  
EEO – Equal Employment Opportunity  
EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program  
HEL – Highly Erodible Land  
JD – Judicial Ditch  
LGU – Local Government Unit  
MACFO – Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers  
MACPZA – Minnesota Association of County Planning and Zoning Administrators  
MAWQCP – Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program  
MASWCD – Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
MPCA – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
NACDE – Northwest Association of Conservation District Employees  
NPS – Non-Point Source  
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
NW MN AgBMP – Northwest Minnesota Agriculture Best Management Practices  
RCPP - Regional Conservation Partnership Program  
RIM – Reinvest in Minnesota  
RLWD – Red Lake Watershed District  
RRVCSA – Red River Valley Conservation Service Area  
RRWMB – Red River Water Management Board  
SSTS – Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems  
SWAG – Surface Water Assessment Grant  
SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation District  
TSS – Total Suspended Solids  
WBIF – Watershed-Based Implementation Funding  
WC – Wetland Compliance  
WCA – Wetland Conservation Act  
WRAC – Water Resources Advisory Committee  
WRE - Wetland Reserve Easements

# ANNUAL PLAN – 2024

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Pennington Soil and Water Conservation District was organized in 1948 by farm committees assisted by the Agriculture Extension Service. Drainage, weed eradication, crop management, and pasture improvements were some of the reasons for the organization. The District worked cooperatively with local, state, and federal units of government to conserve soil and water. Landowners were assisted in the planning and application of needed soil and water conservation practices and the District provided guidance and counsel to local units of government in land-use decisions. Our programs have increased over the past 76 years, but our general mission remains the same:

*Provide landowners with technical assistance in identifying and improving resource issues.*

This Annual Plan is a joint plan between Pennington SWCD and NRCS. It will serve as a tool for implementation of the Red Lake River, Thief River, Clearwater River, and Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans identifying the goals, objectives, and actions for 2024. This is only a plan and may be revised throughout the year as needs and projects change.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**The goals for 2024 are:**

- Operate an Efficient District/Field Office
  - Conduct business responsibly and transparently
- Protect and Improve Surface Water Quality (priority to protect drinking water)
  - Work with landowners and entities (local, state, and federal) for protection of surface waters
  - Monitor surface water quality
- Reduce Water and Wind Erosion
  - Assist landowners and entities with the reduction of water and wind erosion
  - Work with the County to improve and identify problem drainage reaches
- Protect Groundwater Resources (priority to protect drinking water)
  - Promote the Well Sealing Program
  - Participate and support groundwater monitoring
  - Work with landowners and entities for the protection of groundwater
- Promote and Implement Practices that Utilize Principles of Soil Health
  - Assist landowners and entities with the implementation of soil health practices.
- Promote and Educate the Public about the SWCD and NRCS Conservation Programs
  - Youth Outreach and Education Program
  - Outreach and Education Program
- Conservation of Wetlands and Wildlife Areas
  - Wetland Conservation
  - Wildlife Habitat
- Flood Damage Reduction
  - Aid with planning the prevention of damage from flood events
- Participate in Decision Making
  - Actively participate in state and local decision making

## **II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **GOAL**

#### **OPERATE THE DISTRICT EFFICIENTLY**

#### **OBJECTIVE A:**

#### **CONDUCT BUSINESS RESPONSIBLY AND TRANSPARENTLY**

##### **Actions - The District and NRCS will:**

1. Hold regular Board meetings the third Thursday of each month.
2. Maintain full five-member Board and seek candidates to fill vacancies.
3. Develop an annual budget, work plan, and report.
4. Staff an SWCD District Manager, District Coordinator, Water Resource Specialist, Farm Bill Biologist, District Technician, Resource Technician, Outreach Coordinator, Engineer(s), and Engineering Technician(s). Host a Conservation Corps Apprentice. Also, staff an NRCS District Conservationist. Serve as the host District for the North Pod Districts of Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Red Lake, East Polk, West Polk, Mahanomen, and Norman.
5. Provide and seek training for all personnel to carry out SWCD and NRCS programs.
6. Conduct employee evaluations and update job descriptions if necessary.
7. Review policies and priorities and develop an operational handbook.
8. Update Employee Policy Handbook as needed.
9. Review and carry out any responsibilities identified in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NRCS and SWCD with employees and the SWCD Board.
10. Implement and revise as needed, an Operational Agreement between the SWCD and NRCS.
11. Enter into Contribution Agreements between SWCD and NRCS as available.
12. Include non-discrimination statement in all informational releases.
13. Respond to requests for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Civil Rights for all clientele.
14. Provide representation to various organizations including: Pennington County Water Resources Advisory Committee, One Watershed One Plan Committees, Red River Valley Conservation Service Area, North Pod Districts, MACFO, MACPZA, Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan Local Technical Teams, NW MN AgBMP Loan Area, Cooperative Weed Management Area, NACDE, and other committees as needed.

15. Utilize eLink, a web-based reporting system, to report Water Plan, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, Shoreland, SSTS, WCA, State Cost-Share, Conservation Delivery, Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), District Capacity, Buffer Implementation, Buffer Cost-Share, and Clean Water Fund Grant (CWF) activities.
16. Maintain the District website and all social media outlets with information on NRCS and SWCD programs.
17. Implement the Red Lake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, and Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.
18. Implement the AIS work plan for Pennington County.
19. Administer the Buffer, Shoreland, SSTS, Feedlot, Floodplain Ordinances, and the Wetland Conservation Act for Pennington County.
20. Complete yearly reports as required to show accountability.
21. Administer the AgBMP Loan Program for the NW MN AgBMP Loan Area.
22. Maintain equipment, assess needs, and update as necessary. Share equipment where practical.
23. Develop options that allow more space for SWCD employees. Develop Request for Proposal for SWCD space needs.
24. Provide seamless customer service to our NRCS/SWCD clientele.
25. Provide shared engineering services to the North Pod Districts per the Agreement for Engineering Services. Consider providing engineering services to neighboring Districts not within the north pod.
26. Utilize a shared soil health position employed by Red Lake County SWCD.
27. Hold an annual contractor meeting in cooperation with the North Pod Districts.
28. Pursue the option of credit card processing and online sales.

## **GOAL**

### **PROTECT AND IMPROVE SURFACE WATER QUALITY**

*Priority watershed: Thief River Falls Drinking Water Supply Management Area*

#### **OBJECTIVE A:**

#### **WORK WITH LANDOWNERS AND ENTITIES (LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL) FOR PROTECTION OF SURFACE WATER**

##### **Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Work with landowners and entities to apply Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect water quality.
2. Work with government entities to investigate possible sources of the sediment in the Thief River Falls reservoir.
3. Continue to develop implementation initiatives from Non-Point Source (NPS) problems ascertained by the Comprehensive River Basin Study.
4. Promote the development of resource management systems with producers. Offer financial assistance programs for implementation of plans.
5. Work with producers on new EQIP, RCPP and CSP applications and provide information to assist with signups.
6. Secure funds through the Red Lake Watershed District, Pennington County, the State of Minnesota, and the Federal Government for projects that improve water quality.
7. Administer the County Feedlot Program by updating feedlot registration, conducting inspections, and investigating complaints.
8. Utilize the WRAC, LiDAR analysis, Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI), and Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans to assist in identifying high priority water quality projects.
9. Survey, design, and install priority structural ag practices and streambank protection projects.
10. Work with the city of Thief River Falls to implement the Source Water Assessment Plan and the Thief River Falls Water Quality Study.
11. Utilize MPCA, BWSR, and WBIF Grant Funding to resolve septic system compliance issues. High priority areas are shoreland, and the Aaseby and Country Estates trailer parks.
12. Cooperate with landowners, the city of Thief River Falls, and the Red Lake Watershed District to improve water quality in the Chief's Coulee drainage area.
13. Coordinate with Pennington County and the Thief River 1W1P Planning Workgroup for implementation of water quality projects at the outlet of JD30.

14. Continue to work with Pennington County and the city of Thief River Falls on solutions to the Hartz Park streambank site.
15. Assist landowners with buffer compliance. Encourage haying of buffers to remove vegetation and reduce organic phosphorus loading.
16. Coordinate the maintenance of the Ralph Engelstad Arena Raingarden Project.

**OBJECTIVE B:**

**MONITOR SURFACE WATER QUALITY**

**Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Monitor nine sites as part of the Multi-County Monitoring Program during ice free months.
2. Assist Red Lake Watershed District with Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) monitoring in the Red Lake River Watershed.
3. Install and monitor sampling pipes for zebra mussels in the Red Lake River upstream of Thief River Falls.



## **GOAL**

### **REDUCE WATER AND WIND EROSION**

*Priority watershed: Thief River Falls Drinking Water Supply Management Area*

#### **OBJECTIVE A:**

#### **ASSIST LANDOWNERS AND ENTITIES WITH THE REDUCTION OF WATER AND WIND EROSION**

##### **Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. With assistance from the Farm Bill Biologist and Soil Health Specialist promote and implement water quality and erosion control practices through CRP, EQIP, CSP, RCPP, State Cost-Share, Soil Health Delivery Grant, CCRP Incentives, and general conservation technical assistance.
2. Promote critical area seeding and the responsible use of herbicide application on ditch slopes.
3. Provide information and assist with applications for ACEP and RIM Programs.
4. Meet with the city of Thief River Falls and Pennington County officials for inspection of erosion areas for possible repair.
5. Plant or renovate ten farmstead windbreaks and promote District tree program.
6. Develop guidance for renovating windbreaks damaged by windstorms.
7. Install 19,000 feet of weed barrier fabric in Pennington County and 19,700 feet in surrounding counties.
8. Complete Farm Program HEL/WC status reviews and assist landowners with conservation plan development.
9. Design tree plans for CSP, CRP, EQIP, RCPP, and Soil Health Delivery Grant. Other tree plans will be designed as requested.
10. Work with the County and township blade operators and/or township officials to identify and develop a map of high priority snow management areas along public transportation routes.
11. Recommend Forest Stewardship Plans to suitable landowners and promote financial assistance in the Thief River Watershed.
12. Promote and assist with general and continuous CRP signup.
13. Work with residential landowners and local businesses to promote and install raingardens, native plantings, and rain barrels.

14. Remind landowners with weed barrier fabric to make holes larger as trees grow or remove altogether and maintain trees with protector tubes.

**OBJECTIVE B:**

**WORK WITH THE COUNTY, WATERSHED DISTRICTS AND OTHER SWCDs TO IMPROVE AND IDENTIFY PROBLEM DRAINAGE REACHES**

**Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Continue communication with Pennington County, SWCDs, and the Red Lake Watershed District to discuss drainage system maintenance.
2. Work with the Drainage Authority, LGUs, and landowners to install buffers, side water inlets, and right-of-way seeding along drainages.
3. Review the Critical Area Erosion Control Policy with the Pennington County Highway Department.
4. Continue the partnership with Northland Community and Technical College Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Program.
5. Utilize the Drainage System Outlet Analysis Grant to inventory and prioritize stabilization projects where legal ditches outlet to natural drainage.
6. Utilize a drone(s) to identify buffer compliance and other erosion control needs. Contract with other agencies as needed.
7. Partner with Pennington County to complete the Drainage Record Modernization Project.
8. Maintain the culvert inventory in Pennington County.

**GOAL**

**PROTECT GROUNDWATER RESOURCES**

**OBJECTIVE A:**

**PROMOTE THE WELL SEALING PROGRAM**

**Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Seal abandoned wells utilizing cost-share provided by State Cost-Share Program, Conservation Contract, and EQIP.

## **OBJECTIVE B:**

### **PARTICIPATE AND SUPPORT GROUNDWATER MONITORING**

#### **Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Monitor water levels in seven DNR observation wells and submit monthly reports.
2. Maintain County well inventory of bored and sealed wells.
3. Maintain Rainfall Monitoring Program and submit reports to State Climatologist. We will strive to have one monitor per township.

## **OBJECTIVE: C**

### **WORK WITH LANDOWNERS AND ENTITIES (LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL) FOR PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER**

#### **Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Support the cities of Goodridge and St. Hilaire Wellhead Protection Plans.
2. Conduct water testing clinics for private well owners with the District providing at least 50 percent cost-share. A “Well Water Testing Brochure” will be distributed to participants.
3. Provide well water testing kits and track annual number of returned kits sent out for analysis.
4. Work with MPCA and pursue alternative treatment systems to resolve septic system compliance issues in Aaseby and Country Estates trailer parks.
5. Offer AgBMP Loans, WBIF, and MPCA Upgrade Grants to install new or replace septic systems.
6. Provide assistance to landowners who have concerns or problems with their septic systems.
7. Address failing and non-conforming septic system complaints.
8. Coordinate with the Minnesota Geologic Survey and DNR for updates on the Pennington County Geologic Atlas.
9. Provide assistance to landowners on proper closing procedures of feedlots.

**GOAL****PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT PRACTICES THAT UTILIZE THE PRINCIPLES OF SOIL HEALTH****OBJECTIVE A:****WORK WITH LANDOWNERS AND ENTITIES (LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOIL HEALTH PRACTICES****Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Update Non-Structural Land Management Policy.
2. Prioritize non-structural practices that provide perennial cover.
3. Implement rotational grazing plans and forage and biomass plantings for active and new RCPP and EQIP contracts.
4. Work with livestock producers to plan and implement watering systems including wells, pipelines, fountains, use exclusions, etc.
5. Pursue a no-till drill program and drone for cover crop seeding.

**GOAL****PROMOTE AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE SWCD AND NRCS CONSERVATION PROGRAMS****OBJECTIVE A:****YOUTH OUTREACH AND EDUCATION****Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Celebrate Arbor Day with kindergarten classes in Pennington County and provide each student with a tree.
2. Promote the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade poster contest entitled, “May the Forest Be with You Always,” and recognize poster contest winners at annual banquet.
3. Conduct Outdoor Education Day for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Pennington County and Grygla School.
4. Continue an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) station at Outdoor Education Day and the Northwest Minnesota Water Festival.
5. Make presentations to students as requested.

6. Participate in the organization and presentation of the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Envirothon for grades 9-12 at Lake Bronson State Park.
7. Assist other Districts with environmental education days as requested.
8. Participate in the organization and presentation of the Northwest Minnesota Water Festivals.
9. Sponsor two students to attend the Long Lake Conservation Camp.
10. Participate in science fair judging at Franklin Middle School.
11. Sponsor the Science Museum of Minnesota for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## **OBJECTIVE B:**

### **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

#### **Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Hold an annual banquet for local cooperators, Outstanding Conservationist, Rural Beautification winner, and rainfall monitors.
2. Select a Rural Beautification winner.
3. Select an Outstanding Conservationist and acknowledge them at the MASWCD Annual Convention.
4. Send two newsletters to rural landowners, townships, contractors, and legislators.
5. Develop more electronic delivery methods of providing County residents information and promotion of conservation practices and SWCD/NRCS programs.
6. Educate the public of AIS by pamphlets, news articles, social media, fair booth, TV advertisements, Lion's Fishing Derby, local radio, and the Home, Sport & Family Show.
7. Supply conservation news releases to the local newspaper and radio.
8. Update and order Pennington County Septic System Brochure and maintenance magnets to provide to landowners.
9. Make presentations to local service groups as requested.
10. Provide landowners an updated "Pennington County Property Owners' Land Use Guide."
11. Maintain the office display featuring trees available to purchase through the District tree program.
12. Promote the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP).
13. Set up a booth at the Pennington County Fair and the Home, Sport & Family Show to display information.

14. Incorporate the rainfall simulator and soil health tunnel into educational events.
15. Provide landowners with control options for invasive and noxious weeds.
16. Provide information regarding feedlot rules to livestock producers.
17. Promote water quality and erosion control through newsletters, news releases, direct mailings, social media, website, and the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program.
18. Host a rain barrel workshop.
19. Present to Northland Community and Technical College.
20. Promote WBIF financial assistance programs and project success.
21. Participate and/or host a soil health event.
22. Host a Tree Program Open House.

## **GOAL**

### **CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE AREAS**

#### **OBJECTIVE A:**

##### **WETLAND CONSERVATION**

##### **Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Administer the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) per agreement with Pennington County. Process applications for exemptions, banking, and replacements. Investigate violations.
2. Maintain log of certified wetland determinations.
3. Provide technical assistance to landowners.
4. Serve on the WCA Technical Evaluation Panel for Pennington County.
5. Implement Swampbuster provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act as amended.
6. Develop wetland banking sites with interested landowners.
7. Assist landowners with ag land mitigation/banking process.
8. Restore converted wetlands through RIM, ACEP, and CRP.
9. Formally accept WCA delegation from cities of Thief River Falls, Goodridge, and St. Hilaire.

## **OBJECTIVE B:**

### **WILDLIFE HABITAT**

#### **Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Design native habitat plans through CRP, CSP, EQIP, RCPP, RIM, and general conservation technical assistance.
2. Promote use of native vegetation and pollinator habitat through CRP, CSP, EQIP, RCPP, RIM, and general conservation technical assistance.
3. Promote prescribed burning for wildlife habitat management.
4. Promote DNR Prairie Bank and/or Prairie Tax Exemption to landowners with remnant grass lands.
5. Continue a Cooperative Weed Management Area Program and provide cost-share for priority species. Maintain GIS mapping of noxious and invasive weeds.
6. Enter into agreement with the Sportsmen's Club for the removal of buckthorn along JD30 and the Thief River.
7. Promote Forest Stewardship Plans.
8. Promote RIM Programs and assisted interested landowners with application process.
9. Promote USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

## **GOAL**

### **FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION**

## **OBJECTIVE A:**

### **AID WITH PLANNING THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE FROM FLOOD EVENTS**

#### **Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Encourage flood prone land to be entered into conservation easement programs, such as CRP, RIM, and Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE).
2. Assist landowners with technical and financial assistance to reduce flooding through the use of conservation practices.
3. Work with landowners and entities to encourage dikes, water diversions, impoundments, and other flood reduction projects.
4. Encourage coordination of water releases from impoundments throughout all watersheds.

5. Promote soil health practices as a means to increase infiltration of precipitation thereby reducing runoff.
6. Administer the Floodplain Ordinance and provide floodplain maps to landowners as requested.

<b>GOAL PARTICIPATE IN DECISION MAKING</b>
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**OBJECTIVE A:**

**ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN STATE AND LOCAL DECISION MAKING**

**Actions – The District and NRCS will:**

1. Coordinate and attend Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) meetings.
2. Attend County Board, City Council, Watershed, Ditch Authority, and Township meetings as needed.
3. Attend Annual Township Association meeting.
4. Maintain membership and attend NACDE meetings. Serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the NACDE.
5. At least one supervisor will attend the MASWCD Annual Convention.
6. Provide input to MACFO regarding feedlot rules. Serve as Northwest District Representative on the board.
7. Plan the 2025 MACFO Conference.
8. Assist the Watershed Districts, County, and other agencies with any wetland & drainage legislation affecting land and water resources.
9. Invite local legislators to a SWCD Board meeting and/or attend the MASWCD Legislative Day at the Capitol.
10. Host EQIP Local Work Group meetings and set priorities.
11. Promote and lobby for conservation policy through the MASWCD resolution process.
12. Conduct a winter planning session.
13. Participate in decision making on the RRVCSA and the NW MN AgBMP Loan Area Boards. Serve as Treasurer for the NW MN AgBMP Loan Area.
14. Coordinate North Pod meetings to obtain input from staff and supervisors.



15. Attend Policy and Advisory Committee meetings and participate in decision making for the Red Lake River, Thief River, and Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans for Pennington County. Serve as Plan Coordinator for the Red Lake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

### **III. STAFFING**

The above objectives can be accomplished with:

- 2,088 hours from the District Manager
- 2,088 hours from the Water Resource Specialist
- 2,088 hours from the District Coordinator
- 2,088 hours from the District Technician
- 1,566 hours from the Farm Bill Biologist
- 2,088 hours from the Resource Technician
- 1,566 hours the Outreach Coordinator
- 190 hours from the Soil Health Specialist
- 2,088 hours from the NRCS District Conservationist
- 40 hours of from SWCD staff overtime
- 1,700 hours from the Conservation Corps Apprentice
- 313 hours from the North Pod Engineer (15%)
- 313 hours from the North Pod Engineering Technician (15%)
- 209 hours from the North Pod Conservation Technician (20% of 1044 hours)

The Sentence to Serve (STS) Program and Earth Team Volunteers will be used when practical.

#### **IV. COST-SHARING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

##### **A. High Priority Areas:**

The Thief River Falls Drinking Water Management Supply Area will have priority over other areas of the District. The Lower Thief River subwatershed is also identified as a high priority in the Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. In the Red Lake River Watershed, priority subwatersheds included the Black River, CD96, and Red Lake River corridor area. Ninety-five percent of the land area in the District drains into the Red Lake River Watershed. The middle and lower reach of the Clearwater River is a priority in the Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

##### **B. High Priority Erosion Problems:**

Structural: Control of gully erosion remains the top priority of the Pennington SWCD.

Structural practices such as side water inlets, grade stabilization structures, critical area planting, ditch outlet protection, and streambank stabilization are the main treatment sought to control these problem sites. The “Critical Area Erosion Control Policy” will be maintained between the District and Pennington County. This mutual agreement between the County and the District is to prevent sediment from plugging the county ditches. This prolongs the effective life of drainage systems and has been in effect since 1992.

Non-Structural: Practices that reduce wind erosion including windbreak/shelterbelt establishment and practices that establish perennial cover are high priority. Cover crops, reduced tillage, and no-till practices will also be implemented to address erosion problems.

##### **C. High Priority Water Quality Problems:**

1. **Surface Water:** sedimentation, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen are water quality concerns related to gully erosion. The Thief River is impaired for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) from Agassiz Pool to the Red Lake River. Non-compliant septic systems may also pose a threat to the drainage area of the city of Thief River Falls Drinking Water Management Supply Area.
2. **Ground Water:** contamination of our groundwater is of high potential with the direct link of an unused well from above-ground spills. Most unused wells are not sealed because they are technically still “useable” if needed in an emergency situation. Landowners are more likely to seal wells if cost-sharing is available. Non-conforming septic systems may also pose a threat to our drinking water supply.

# PENNINGTON SWCD REVISED BUDGET - 2024

EXPENDITURES:	2024 (revised)	Proposed
PERSONNEL SERVICES:		To Co Bd 8/22/2023
Employee Salaries	\$ 536,672	\$ 533,002
Employee Insurance Allowance	\$ 84,150	\$ 91,800
Supervisor Compensation	\$ 12,500	
Employer Contribution FICA/Med.	\$ 48,449	\$ 48,754
Employer Contribution PERA	\$ 40,250	\$ 39,975
Contract Services Farm Bill Assis. (Cons. corps for '22&'23)	\$ 2,333	
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ 724,354</b>	
OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES:		
Advertising	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000
AIS Public Awareness Exp.	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000
Dues	\$ 7,500	
Education & Promotion	\$ 14,000	\$ 12,500
Equipment, Field (includes RRVCSA)	\$ 5,000	
Employee Training and Expenses (includes RRVCSA)	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,000
Equipment, Office (includes Internet/licensing)	\$ 21,000	
Auto Cad Subscription & Software (RRVCSA)	\$ -	\$ -
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 1,000	
Miscellaneous (Meetings, Bank Charges, Direct Dep Exp & Misc)	\$ 1,500	
Newsletter	\$ 8,000	
Phones/iPad (includes RRVCSA)	\$ 6,000	
Postage	\$ 1,200	
Professional Services	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,000
Rent	\$ 10,625	
Shared Services (TSA)	\$ 2,313	
Supervisor Expense	\$ 3,000	
Vehicle (includes RRVCSA)	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,000
WRAC Committee	\$ 800	
Garage Expense & Future Bldg Exp	\$ 500	
<b>TOTAL OTHER SERVICES &amp; CHARGES</b>	<b>\$ 124,438</b>	
<b>SUPPLIES (OFFICE &amp; FIELD includes RRVCSA)</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>	
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>\$ 190,356</b>	<b>\$ 139,119</b>
<b>PROJECT EXPENSE - DISTRICT</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	
PROJECT EXPENSE - STATE		
BWSR State Cost-share Projects	\$ 11,062	
BWSR Soil Health Cost-share Projects	\$ 11,500	
BWSR District Capacity (Projects)	\$ 22,750	
CWF 2018 Streambank Protection (Project & Engineering)	\$ -	\$ -
CWF 2019 TR Grade Stab/CC (Projects)	\$ -	\$ -
CWF 2021 CD96 Outlet Phase 2 (Eng '22)	\$ -	\$ -
Cooperative Weed Management Grant (2022)	\$ 5,500	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSE - STATE</b>	<b>\$ 50,812</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
PROJECT EXPENSE - LOCAL		
RLWD	\$ 12,500	
RLWD (Thief River)	\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000
RLWD (Red Lake River Plan Implementation)	\$ 387,589	\$ 400,000
RLWD (319 Grant Projects)	\$ -	\$ -
MAWQCP Landowner Incentive	\$ 1,000	
Clearwater SWCD (Clearwater River Implementation)	\$ 30,000	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSE - LOCAL</b>	<b>\$ 456,089</b>	
PROJECT EXPENSE - COUNTY		
Well Water Testing	\$ 1,400	\$ 700
Surface Water Monitoring	\$ 12,000	
BWSR District Capacity (Co. Match)	\$ -	\$ -
CWF SSTS Upgrade Grant Projects	\$ 60,000	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSE - COUNTY</b>	<b>\$ 73,400</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 1,653,449</b>	

**REVENUES:****INTERGOVERNMENTAL - COUNTY:**

	2024 Revised 3/21/2024	Proposed 8/22/2023
County Appropriation	\$ 130,365	
Water Plan (plus co. levy)	\$ 20,943	
Wetland Conservation Act (Grant + Match)	\$ 44,906	
Buffer Riparian Aid ('24 plus some carryover)	\$ 73,641	
Shoreland (Grant + Match)	\$ 7,736	
CWF SSTS Upgrade Grant Projects	\$ 60,000	
CWF SSTS Upgrade Grant Admin	\$ 4,000	
Feedlot	\$ 15,000	
Feedlot (Performance Award)	\$ 500	
SSTS	\$ 21,200	
AIS	\$ 20,394	
<b>TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL - COUNTY</b>	<b>\$ 398,685</b>	

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL - STATE:**

BWSR Conservation Delivery	\$ 18,710	
BWSR District Capacity ('22 & '23)	\$ 125,000	
BWSR District Aid	\$ 161,000	\$ 80,500
BWSR State Cost-share	\$ 11,062	
BWSR State Cost-share (Tech. & Adm.)	\$ 2,765	
BWSR Buffer Funds	\$ 20,000	
BWSR Buffer Cost-share (Tech. & Adm)	\$ -	\$ -
BWSR Soil Health Cost-share	\$ 11,500	
BWSR Soil Health Cost-share (Tech & Adm)	\$ 2,675	
BWSR RIM Easement Delivery/Implementation	\$ 450	
CWF 2018 Streambank Protection (Project & Engineering)	\$ -	\$ -
CWF 2018 Streambank Protection (Adm, Proj. Dev., T&E)	\$ -	\$ -
CWF 2019 TR Grade Stab/CC (Projects)	\$ -	\$ -
CWF 2019 TR Grade Stab/CC (Adm, Proj Dev, T&E)	\$ -	\$ -
CWF 2021 CD96 Outlet Phase 2 (Project)	\$ -	\$ -
CWF 2021 CD96 Outlet Phase 2 (Admin, Proj. Dev & Eng)	\$ -	\$ -
Cooperative Weed Management Area	\$ 5,500	
Cooperative Weed Management Area (Adm, Ed, Inv & PD)	\$ -	\$ -
MDA Noxious Weed Grant (Buckthorn)	\$ -	\$ -
Observation Wells	\$ 1,680	
<b>TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL - STATE</b>	<b>\$ 360,342</b>	

**CHARGES FOR SERVICES**

District Services	\$ 50,000	
North Pod (Billed to 8 Districts)	\$ 193,500	\$ 180,506
<b>TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ 243,500</b>	

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL - LOCAL:**

Farm Bill Assist. Local Match (Marshall & West Polk)	\$ 4,333	
Other - Area I Training	\$ -	\$ -
RLWD (Projects, Engineering, SWAG)	\$ 15,500	\$ 12,500
RLWD (TR Project Implementation)	\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000
RLWD (TR P.I. - Admin, T&E, Proj. Dev.)	\$ 2,000	
RLWD (RLR Plan Implementation)	\$ 387,589	\$ 400,000
RLWD (RLR P.I. - Admin, T&E, Proj. Dev.)	\$ 50,000	
RLWD (319 Grant Projects)	\$ -	\$ -
RLWD (319 Grant - Admin, T&E, Proj. Dev.)	\$ -	\$ -
Clearwater SWCD (1W1P Implementation)	\$ 30,000	
Clearwater SWCD (1W1P Adm, T&E, Proj Dev)	\$ 2,000	
RRVCSA (\$12,500 X 9 Districts) + \$40,000 for Equipment	\$ 112,500	\$ 152,500
RRVCSA (Other North Districts - General Adm over \$112,500)	\$ -	\$ -
RRVCSA (Reclassified as Charges for Services)	\$ -	\$ -
RRVCSA (Eng Reimb & Leave Balances)	\$ -	\$ -
MAWQCP (East Polk)	\$ 1,500	
<b>TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL - LOCAL</b>	<b>\$ 630,422</b>	

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Interest	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
Banquet Tickets/other	\$ 500	
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>\$ 20,500</b>	

**TOTAL REVENUES**

<b>\$ 1,653,449</b>
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