

RCRCA News

Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

Initial phase of new Stream Bank Project complete

RCRCA recently initiated a new project designed to look at erosion contributions from the banks of streams and rivers. It is suspected much of the sediment (TSS) present in the Cottonwood and Redwood Rivers comes from their own banks, during high-flow periods. Unfortunately, we do not have the data to either refute or back up this viewpoint.

That is why RCRCA has selected nine locations within both watersheds to study. RCRCA employees, Doug Goodrich & Shawn Wahnoutka, went out in the field to place 6 foot long sections of 1/2 inch thick steel rebar into stream banks. The rebar was driven five feet (+/-) into the side of an eroding stream bank. The exposed length of rebar was measured and the location was noted using GPS technology. The data is then downloaded into the computer and will be maintained in a GIS database. All locations were chosen due to their proximity to current flow-monitoring stations maintained by RCRCA or the USGS. This will allow us to collect data on the volume of water flowing through the section of river where the stream pin is located.

Next Fall, RCRCA staff will go back to the stream pins and measure the exposed length. This information will be coupled with the data on flow volume. This will allow us to correlate erosion rates with flow rates for different sections of the rivers. We are hoping this will tell us more about sediment pollution contributions from the banks of these rivers. This will help us better understand where sediment pollution is coming from and at what levels they are being introduced.

By using GPS technology, anyone locate these stream pins, allowing RCRCA staff to maintain these sites for many years, regardless of whether a staff member had ever been to that location before or not. The GIS database contains landowner contact information (name and phone number), as well as exact Latitude and Longitude coordinates.

This is just the first step in a long process to gather data. Due to the fact that data is collected once a year, it will be a few years before we are able to collect enough data to draw any conclusions. We may report yearly results, but these would only be a snapshot of the project as a whole, not the final results. Look for the first year's results next fall!

RCRCA Engineering Technicians Available to Assist You!

Kelly Oliver and William Moldestad, Engineering Technicians for the Cottonwood River watershed are available to assist local landowners, NRCS staff, and SWCD staff. Our current projects are waiting for Army Corps of Engineers approval giving us the ability to help with surveying, design, and construction of conservation practices. If you need help and have a waiting list, contact RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext 4 for assistance.

December 2004

RCRCA News



Inside This Issue:

<i>Stream Bank Project</i>	1
<i>Engineering Technicians</i>	1
<i>Web Site</i>	2
<i>Board Minutes</i>	2
<i>EQIP Sign Up</i>	3
<i>Erosion Control W/EQIP</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	4
<i>Board & Staff Members</i>	4

Web Site always changing!



There have been many changes and updates to the web site, but there are many more to come. The site is continuously under "construction" as we try to keep up on the latest news and events affecting residents of the Redwood and Cottonwood River Watersheds. Thanks for your patience!

If you have any ideas about what you'd like to see on the web site, call 507-637-2142, Ext. 4.

Suggestions can also be e-mailed to: shawn.wohnoutka@mn.nacdnet.net

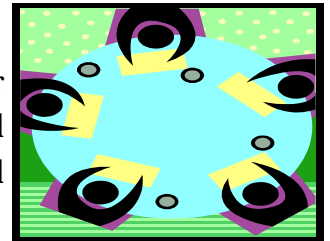
Remember, you can also view *RCRCA News* on the web at: www.rcrca.com and click on "Latest Newsletter" under Events/Activities:

RCRCA Board Minutes

The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday **October 18, 2004** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- The Board reviewed two grant applications for Cottonwood River (Lower Minnesota TMDL) Phosphorous Reduction Project and Emergency Stream Bank Stabilization Protection for Cottonwood Watershed.
- Approved payment of five Cottonwood CWP319 contracts
- Reviewed and approved four Cottonwood CWP319 and one Redwood CWP319 contracts.
- Reviewed and approved four Conserving Use Acres for cost share.



The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday **November 15, 2004** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- Approved payment of Cottonwood CWP319 contracts.
- ♦ Reviewed and approved one Cottonwood CWP319 contract for cost share.
- ♦ Approved payment of three Conserving Use Acres contracts.
- ♦ Reviewed and approved amendment to one Redwood CWP319 contract.
- ♦ Approved above amendment with original contract for check to be written and signed in redwood watershed.
- ♦ Discussed four cottonwood contracts approved at last meeting, where more cost share was requested. Motion from last board meeting to pay at 25% stands, RCRCA will not increase cost share amount.
- ♦ Netzke from Area II informed Board of Area II Legislative Breakfast Sat. Dec. 11 in Tracy.
- ♦ Redwood River watershed has been selected as one of six watersheds in Minnesota for the NRCS 2005 Conservation Security Program.
- ♦ RCRCA Annual meeting was discussed with Board keeping March board meeting as the date.

The Conservation Corner

EQIP SIGN UP NOW UNDERWAY

By: Marcia Heiling

As of December 13th, applications are now being accepted in Redwood County for the 2005 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to help landowners install or apply structural, vegetative and management practices called for in a conservation contract. Producers can receive up to 50 percent cost share to install conservation measures through EQIP. Incentive payments on management practices will be paid for up to three years.

Minnesota has been allocated \$22.8 million for EQIP in 2005, of which \$20.5 million will go out to counties. The portion of this amount that Redwood County will receive has not yet been released.

There is also \$500,000 available statewide to implement conservation practices on tribal lands.

In 2004, the Natural Resources Conservation Service/Soil and Water Conservation District office in Redwood County received applications from 94 landowners seeking a total of \$1.2 million in assistance. The county was allotted \$170,000 and received an additional \$149,102, providing \$319,102 to fund the top 14 contracts.

Landowners whose applications were not funded during 2004 are encouraged to reapply for 2005 funds. Existing applications have expired and interested landowners must fill out new applications to be considered for 2005 EQIP funding.

The EQIP Stakeholders/Local Work Group meeting was held recently to set the county's priorities and target areas for the 2005 sign up. Applications for practices which meet the priority concerns will take precedence.

EQIP Sign up Cont.

At the close of the EQIP sign up in March 2005, all applications in the county will be ranked on a point system.

"I've been to war. I've raised twins. If I had a choice, I'd rather go to war."

~President George W. Bush~ January 27, 2002

"You've been to war?"

~An American Citizen~ December 1, 2004

COST SHARE TO INSTALL EROSION CONTROL MEASURES AVAILABLE THROUGH EQIP

By: Redwood County SWCD

Redwood County landowners who see erosion from excessive rainfall this past spring and summer can receive assistance to address these problem areas through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Structural practices may be installed to combat the washing away of valuable topsoil on cropland. Cost share of up to 50 percent is available to assist producers in installing these practices which includes construction of conservation structures on erodible land or other problem areas.

Among the structural practices eligible under EQIP are the construction or installation of grassed waterways, terraces, diversions and water and sediment control basins. A complete list of structural practices eligible through EQIP is available at the NRCS/SWCD field office.

For further information, or to fill out an application, please contact the Redwood NRCS/SWCD office located in the Ag Service Center at 1241 East Bridge Street in Redwood Falls, or telephone 507-637-2427, Ext. 3.



1241 East Bridge Street
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Phone: 507-637-2142 Ext.4
Fax: 507-637-2134
Email: rcrca2day@yahoo.com



We're on the web!
www.rcrca.com



Christmas is a time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it. Deficits are when adults tell the government what they want and their kids pay for it.

~Richard Lamm

December 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2004

- 13th EQIP sign up begins
- 20th RCRCA Board Meeting
- 21st 1st Day of Winter
- 24th Christmas Eve
- 25th Christmas
- 31st New Year's Eve



RCRCA Executive Board of Directors

- Clark Lingbeek, Chairman
- Donald Wellner, Vice Chairman
- Ray Traen, Secretary
- Steve Johnson, Treasurer
- Glen Sorensen, Public Relations & Information
- Phil Nelson, Member at Large

RCRCA Full Board of Directors

County Commissioners

- Donald Wellner, Brown Co .
- Norman Holmen, Cottonwood Co .
- David Norgaard, Lincoln Co .
- Phil Nelson, Lyon Co .
- Steve Johnson, Murray Co.
- Jamie Dubbelde, Pipestone Co.
- John Schueller, Redwood Co.
- Jane Remiger, Yellow Medicine Co

SWCD Board Members

- Jack Vogel, Brown
- Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood
- Glen Sorensen, Lincoln
- Ray Traen, Lyon
- Paul Posthuma, Murray
- LeRoy Stensgaard, Pipestone
- Tom Daub, Redwood
- Burton Kuehn, Yellow Medicine

RCRCA Staff

- James Doering, Executive Director
- Kelly Oliver, Engineering Technician
- William Moldestad, Engineering Technician
- Shawn Wahnoutka, GIS/Outreach Technician
- Douglas A. Goodrich, Water Quality Technician
- Sharon Voeks, Administrative Officer