
RCRCA NEWS

Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

Volume 3, Issue 3 March 2003

A Message from the Director . . .

(Taken from the 2002 RCRCA Annual Report. The full report is available on-line at www.rcrca.com)

The 2002 annual report is published to document the organization and partner watershed activities in 2002 and to again refocus on the goals and objectives of RCRCA. Over the last nineteen years, the purpose of the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) has been to develop and implement plans to protect and enhance the Redwood and Cottonwood Rivers. In 2002 we have continued that important task and remain committed to providing watershed residents and our local government members and partners the support to help accelerate conservation adoption in both watersheds.

It is understood that it will take time to accomplish the goals and objectives set by RCRCA in their entirety. We also understand it will take the combined efforts of many of our conservation partners and local watershed citizens. These facts are illustrated in the six-year Redwood River report "Evolution of Watershed Restoration" published by RCRCA in 2002. This unprecedented account of watershed wide management and conservation efforts has received many accolades and serves as a model for other watersheds to follow. Through combined conservation efforts, substantial water quality improvements have been realized on the Redwood River.

Watershed planning will continue to be an important function of RCRCA. Addressing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements set in the Clean Water Act will be a new role RCRCA will fill in the near future. With the Cottonwood River Restoration Project finishing the third year of a six-year implementation plan and the Redwood River Clean Water Project finishing the eighth year, RCRCA is poised to be instrumental in TMDL planning and implementation. Support by RCRCA, it's partners and voluntary adoption of best management practices are the only way Total Maximum Daily Load limits can be set and achieved with out regulation. State and Federal agencies recognize that fact and look to our leadership and experience in watershed management to again set the standard.

Looking ahead to 2003, I have clouded optimism. In 2002, headlines have touted recession, war on terrorism and in the last few months deficit and the possibility of going to war a second time in Iraq. What significance does conservation; watershed management and improved water quality have in times like these? The answer is "substantial significance"! Conservation of land and water ensures a better quality of life. A concept that is demanded as one of the freedoms watershed residents (Americans) expect on a daily basis. Threats such as terrorism and the instability of other countries infringe on this freedom. Conservation of land and water insures stable economic growth and development into the future. Land and water are the raw materials that support our food production, industry and community development. Conservation of land and water will bring us out of recession and enable us to conquer seemingly insurmountable state deficits. Will conservation adoption decrease in the short term? Probably, yes. The economy will require watershed residents, local, state, federal organizations and governments to tighten their belts. The quest for more efficient ways to live, offer programs and services will temper the rapid adoption of conservation programs and practices we have enjoyed over the last few years.

Currently we have one of the most conservation weighted Federal Farm Bills I have ever seen. The Federal Farm Bill drives all conservation efforts. With that fact and favorable fund allocations, there has not been a more opportune time to implement conservation in the Cottonwood and Redwood River Watersheds. Conservation adoption will continue despite the headlines. RCRCA will be there in 2003 to accelerate this adoption and support our conservation partners!

James Doering



RCRCA Board Minutes

The RCRCA Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting at the Springfield Community Center, in Springfield, MN. The following is the unofficial version of the Monday, **March 17th** regular monthly meeting minutes:

- The Board of Directors meet after the dinner following the Annual Meeting at the Springfield Community Center in Springfield, MN.
- Doering informed the board on new budget developments concerning grants and TMDL work plans.
- The board approved new contract using 319 funds for a Sediment Control Basin. The board also reviewed Redwood and Cottonwood BWSR Special Minnesota BMP reports.
- RCRCA Board passed a resolution for the Cottonwood River Watershed authorizing the acceptance of Loan Agreements for member counties to help with septic systems. Board discussed the need and utilization of loan funds in member counties.
- Doering and Lingbeek will be going to the State Capitol on Thursday to discuss budget concerns.
- The next regular RCRCA board Meeting is April 21, 2003 at 7:30 pm at the Commissioners Room at the Redwood County Courthouse.
- There will be an Executive Board meeting on March 31, 2003 in Sanborn.

Cost Share Available



MN Special Project Funds

(approximate dollars available as of March 17, 2003)

Cottonwood River Watershed: (all funds have been encumbered)
Redwood River Watershed: (all funds have been encumbered)

Cottonwood River Watershed 319 Grant

(approximate available
as of March 17, 2003)

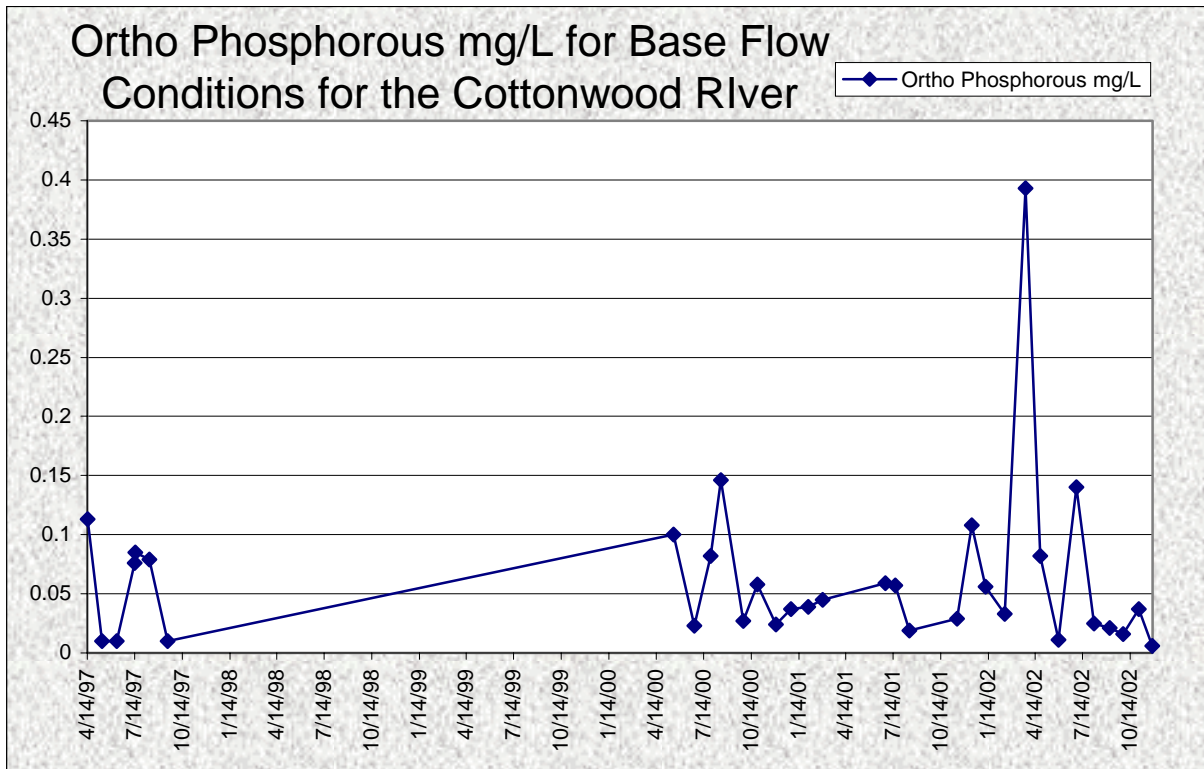
Streambank Restorations	\$ 8,312.00
Sediment Control Basins	\$ 38,945.56
Alternative Tile Intakes	\$ 6,939.58
Total:	\$ 54,197.14

Septic Loan Program

The following are the Cottonwood River Restoration Project septic system low interest loan program dollars by county.

County	Dollar Appropriations	Approximate Dollars Encumbered to date	Approximate Dollars left
Brown	\$77,700	\$77,700	\$0
Cottonwood	\$70,300	\$70,300	\$0
Lyon	\$62,900	\$54,401	\$8,499
Murray	\$29,600	\$29,600	\$0
Redwood	\$129,500	\$36,400	\$93,100

Scenes from the RCRCA Annual Meeting . . .






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

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Happy Spring!!!
Happy Easter!!!



Calendar of Events

April

- 18 Good Friday –office closed at 12 noon
- 20 Happy Easter!
- 21 RCRCA Board Meeting, 7:30 pm
Redwood County Courthouse, Redwood Falls

May

- 26 Memorial Day—office closed



RCRCA Board of Directors

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

County Commissioners

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

SWCD Board Members

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

RCRCA Staff

- James Doering, Executive Director
- Kari Howey, Watershed Technician
- Roseanne Kaseforth, Watershed Educator
- Bill Moldestad, Engineering Technician
- Kelly Oliver, Engineering Technician
- Sharon Voeks, Office Manager