

2021 Work Plan

Goal 1: Maintain and improve the integrity of Watershed Ditch Systems

1. Continue a proactive brush control program
Approximately one-third of ditch system will be inspected and maintained for brush control each year by the District.
2. Continue to weed control and associated reporting
The District will continue to encourage and educate landowners on the importance of weed control along ditch banks and buffers.
3. Survey the ditch buffers along the systems and report to the State
Ditch buffer inspection, compliance and survey for water quality enhancement opportunities will continue in 2021. Annual inspection and compliance reports will be submitted to BWSR.
4. Continue Beaver Bounty Program for efficient ditch management
The Beaver Bounty was changed to \$60.00 during the February 2019 Managers meeting.
5. Monitor tree removal at discretion of Managers

Goal 2: Buffer Strip Compliance Inventory and Conservation Needs on JD Systems

1. Inventory and document conservation needs as part of the compliance inventory procedure.
Ongoing inventory
2. Follow up with compliance measures to assure one rod buffer on all public systems
Letters will be sent out to each landowner out of compliance and follow up from engineer to assure corrective actions.
3. Coordinate a MN CREP education initiative in cooperation with Freeborn and Mower SWCD.
The New MN CREP program was rolled out by BWSR in 2018. Educational opportunities will be provided by the District. The coordinator for MN CREP in Freeborn County will be invited to monthly meetings to inform and update the Board.
4. The TCWD and Freeborn SWCD have developed in 2019 a MOA for co-administration of the Buffer Rule Chapter 103F.48 (Buffer Rule) on Minn. Statute Chapter 103E (Drainage Law) drainage systems. The TCWD has agreed to provide the following:
Updated maps identifying all 103E drainage systems administered by TCWD to the Freeborn SWCD

To carry out the provisions of 103E related inspections, corrective actions and enforcement of buffers on these systems which would otherwise be completed by the Freeborn SWCD

To send Corrective Action Notices to the Freeborn SWCD on these systems

Goal 3: Implement CREP and CRP Programs in Turtle Creek Watershed

1. Incentives are considered by the Managers on CREP easements with storage capacity for the benefit of downstream landowners.

Goal 4: Prioritize the Geneva Lake Watershed for water quality and flood control

1. Geneva Lake is upper portion of Turtle Creek watershed. Water Quality practices and education initiatives should be applied in that sub watershed when possible.
Mower and Freeborn SWCD technical staff will be providing preliminary survey and technical help to assess several critical areas above Geneva Lake in 2021. The District and SWCD staff will actively pursue water quality projects within the targeted areas as identified in the Cedar – Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Water Management Plan in 2021. District staff will develop a comprehensive list of landowner requests from SWCD, County, State and Federal partners within the targeted areas for projects that address water quality resource concerns and storage opportunities. The Board will be periodically informed of project opportunities including funding considerations, budgets, starting and completion dates.
2. Investigate funding opportunities to the fund the JD #8 project
Will continue to assist Freeborn SWCD and Freeborn County with engineering and application information for the Multi-Purpose Drainage Management Grant if this grant becomes available. Funding for a major gully adjacent to the ditch head will be considered. A detailed field survey of the gully and adjacent land was completed in 2017. The District staff and TSA will work with the Freeborn SWCD for grant funding opportunities in 2021, including potential targeted funding through the Comprehensive Water Management Plan.
3. Geneva Lake Advisory Committee
The District will provide support for DNR efforts in 2021 to encourage active participation of members of the Geneva Lake Advisory Committee. This committee was last organized for public input during the winter fish kill of 2014 and management of the fixed crest dam during this time. Due to damages resulting from the September 2016 flood event, public input and observations of lake conditions are imperative as the District continues to assess conditions within the shoreland as well as critical areas above the Lake.

Goal 5: Preserve existing flood levels of the district waters at or below the 100 year flood elevations

1. Promote wetland restorations to the public as a flood control tool, where effective and efficient.
The Managers have requested staff efforts in 2021 to establish funding sources for landowners.
2. Proactively work with State and Federal Partners to establish wetland restoration projects, which maximize flow reduction opportunities
A large CREP project along CD #30 near Geneva Lake is being proposed by the landowner and BWSR. District staff will be working closely with all partners involved to prioritize the temporary storage potential of this site to help reduce adjacent and downstream flooding.

Goal 6: TMDL Implementation/Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Plan for State and Local Water Quality Goals

1. Complete the WRAPS documentation and coordinate implementation methods with MPCA
Our commitments to the WRAPS plan (partner comments and priority tables) were completed in 2015. Targeting recommendations are now available through incorporation into the new Comprehensive Water Management Plan. The new comprehensive water management plan was approved for adaption by the TCWD in 2020. The targeting recommendations will be utilized to select appropriate water quality projects in 2021 and beyond.

Goal 7: Control Sediment Runoff into Water Bodies of the District

1. Promote and support sediment reduction projects in the District
On Going

Goal 8: Reduce Nitrate loading to Turtle Creek and its Tributary's

1. Offer education and outreach meeting on drainage and conservation drainage
On Going
2. Utilize state funding to promote, plan and implement conservation drainage practices
The Multi-purpose Drainage Water Management grant was approved for projects above CD#8 in 2015. Freeborn SWCD is the LGU for this grant. This project was completed in 2020. Additional projects sites along CD #8 and #30 will be assessed and application(s) submitted in 2021 if grant funding is available.
3. Prioritize efforts in Geneva Lake Watershed
The Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Water Management Plan provides numerous layers of modeling indicating the importance of targeting water quality projects within the head-slope and other areas adjacent to Geneva Lake to significantly reduce impairments to this water body and the outlet (Turtle Creek). The District will renew efforts in 2021 to promote both structural and non-structural practices in these areas and beyond. The District will support coordination efforts between SWCD, TSP, NRCS and County staff to promote, inventory and engineer appropriate projects.

Goal 9: Water quality monitoring to assess and implement future projects

1. Use baseline monitoring information to prioritize future monitoring efforts
Staff will quantify the existing data and provide a report to the District in 2021.
2. Continue monitoring the 41st Street
Staff will provide baseline monitoring data to the IWIP and evaluate the need for future sampling.

Goal 10: Communications – Residents Landowners, local, state and federal government

1. Submit annual report to BWSR
On going
2. Coordinate with Freeborn County, Shell Rock Watershed District and CRWD to provide timely and educational press releases
On going

Goal 11: Intergovernmental Cooperation

1. Invite local partners to meetings and request programmatic updates
Counties, SWCD, DNR, NRCS and WD partners will be requested to provide contacts with landowners who have requested technical assistance and(or) indicated resource concerns within the watershed with the goal of developing a comprehensive list of producers who may benefit from water quality/quantity practices.
2. Continue to be apprised of Cedar River Watershed District activities and potential partnership opportunities.
On Going through Mower SWCD staff
3. Attend meetings of the Mower and Freeborn County boards to appraise them of activities in the District

On Going

Goal 12: Cedar River Basin Watershed Update

1. Coordinate with stakeholders in the watershed to initiate the watershed planning process.
District has entered into a formal agreement with Cedar Watershed LGU partners on procedural processes that will be utilized to make decisions, handle contracts and foster coordination with stakeholders. The District will insure active participation on the Policy and Advisory Committees through implementation of the new comprehensive watershed plan.

Goal 13: Investigate Cover Crop Programs

1. Invite local partners to outreach opportunities and provide programmatic updates.
The Managers will be updated on outreach opportunities pertinent to agricultural systems in the District as well as updates on local research and information.

Goal 14: Facilitate the JCD J24 Petition for Re-Determination of Benefits

1. The District will provide oversight in the administration and facilitation of the JCD J24 Petition for the Re-determination of benefits.
The Managers will be actively involved in organizing and facilitating public meetings for the purpose of providing access to viewer information, procedures and recommendations in 2021.