

Cooperative Agreement
between the
Winona County, Olmsted and
Wabasha Soil and Water
Conservation Districts

I. Purpose

This agreement describes the cooperative activities by the Winona County, Olmsted and Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) to improve land treatment in the Whitewater River Watershed through a Pilot Project to help reduce soil erosion and control sedimentation. The project will involve contacts with agricultural operators, demonstration projects and education programs.

II. Project Name

The name of this project is the Whitewater Conservation Project (WCP).

III. Whitewater Conservation Project/SWCD Activities

The SWCD activities for the project are those set forth in the work plan of the project agreement between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Winona County Soil and Water Conservation District of May 13, 1987.

The work plan activities include establishing a project steering committee, providing technical support for conservation planning, conducting workshops and town meetings for educators and farmers, conducting demonstrations, developing and maintaining a database for agricultural records, reproducing and disseminating information, and providing for cost-sharing and incentive payments to accelerate land treatment in the watershed.

IV. Responsibilities of the SWCD's

A. The Winona County SWCD will:

1. Provide WCP administration including:

- a. budgeting and accounting,
- b. technical support including hiring and supervising a project technician,
- c. implementation support,
- d. reports required by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Agreement
- e. contract with the University of Minnesota as appropriate for demonstration and education programs,
- f. periodic reports to Districts involved.

2. Help establish and chair a WCP Steering Committee,
3. Provide access to SWCD records including cooperator files and other information,
4. Accept referrals for conservation planning and practices,
5. Consider priority funding for cost-share assistance in the watershed,
6. Support meetings, workshops, demonstrations and education programs in the watershed, and
7. Assist in making operator contacts and publicizing project opportunities.

B. The Olmsted and Wabasha SWCD's will:

1. Participate in a WCP steering committee,
2. Provide access for the project technician to SWCD records including cooperator files and other information,
3. Accept referrals for conservation planning and practices,
4. Consider priority funding for cost-share assistance in the watershed,
5. Support meetings, workshops, demonstrations and education programs in the watershed, and
6. Assist in making operator contacts and publicizing project opportunities.

V. The WCP Steering Committee

A WCP Steering Committee will be established.

A. The Steering Committee will:

1. Provide general direction for the WCP,
2. Make recommendations to the SWCD's on WCP activities including:
 - a. assisting in prioritizing conservation planning and assistance in the watershed, and
 - b. establish goals and timetables for the WCP.
3. Establish contacts with farmers and promote project participation.

B. The Steering Committee will include:

1. One SWCD Supervisor from each participating district,
2. Agricultural operators from the watershed, and
3. Cooperating agencies including:
 - a. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - b. U.S. Soil Conservation Service
 - c. MN. Department of Natural Resources
 - d. Extension Service
 - e. MPCA

4. Other agencies that will be contacted for consultation include:
- a. ASCS
 - b. FmHA
 - c. Land Stewardship Project
 - d. Other clubs and organizations

VI. Changes in Agreement

Changes in this agreement shall be made by agreement and resolution of each of the SWCD boards.

VII. Completion of Agreement

Completion of this agreement shall be September 30, 1989. This agreement may be terminated by agreement and resolution of each of the SWCD boards or if U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding should cease.

VIII. This agreement is effective when agreed to and signed by each of the SWCD's.

WINONA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Eugene Kalmes
Chairman

8-12-87
Date

OLMSTED SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

William Oehlke
Chairman

7/27/87
Date

WABASHA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Delmar Holst
Chairman

7-20-87
Date