

BIG STONE SWCD 2011 SERVICE GRANTS

BWSR Service Grants

Conservation Delivery—\$18,037
Easement Delivery—\$1,861
RIM/WRP Grant Services—\$
Farm Bill Assistance—\$31,500
WLI— \$241,546.31
WCA—\$4,315.00 via Big Stone County
WIA—\$4,210

Funds Returned to State

Type \$
Date Fund Returned:

Grant Period (incl. extensions)

From: 07/01/2010
To: 06/30/2012

Expenditures by Service Grant

Technical Assistance Funds

General Services Grant	\$18,037.00
RIM Services Grant	\$1,861.00
RIM/WRP Partnership Bond Grant & Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$
WLI	\$2,000.00
WCA	\$4,315.00
WIA	\$4,210.00

Implementation of Funds

Big Stone CWMA	\$2,140.00
WLI	\$239,546.31
Farm Bill Assistance Grant	\$31,500 BWSR \$6,750 SWCD \$6,750 local chpt
WCA	\$

PROJECT CONTACT

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2011 Service Grants: General Services, RIM Services, RIM/WRP Grant Services, Farm Bill Assistance, WLI, WCA

Big Stone Lake- Headwaters of the Minnesota River



Overall Project Descriptions

The General Services Grant is given to the SWCD for the general administration and operation of the District. These administrative and operational costs include paying for the cost of: employee wages and expenses, office space, transportation, insurance, postage, dues & fees, utilities, supervisors' compensation and expenses, and employee and supervisors' training.

The RIM Service Grant is given to the SWCD to help market the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and the Wetland Reserve Program/Reinvest in Minnesota (WRP/RIM) programs; attend training sessions; conduct screening committee meetings; process easements; perform on-site investigations and surveys; monitor easements and conduct spot-checks; and perform courthouse searches and finalize easements.

The RIM WRP Partnership/Outdoor Heritage Grant is given to the SWCD to provide local professional administrative and technical services necessary to secure state conservation easements with landowners. The SWCD, along with Natural Resources Conservation Service, approved and processed 7 applications/surveying/planning. Three applications were approved and processed for 318.7 acres in 2011.

The Farm Bill Assistance Grant is given to the SWCD to hire staff to increase landowner participation in the conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill which increase the amount of native grasses and wetlands on the landscape to enhance water quality, reduce soil erosion, and increase fish & wildlife habitat. The Farm Bill Assistance Grant also gives the SWCD the opportunity to partner with Pheasants Forever to provide assistance to landowners with conservation practices. This has proven to be a great partnership for the SWCD.

The Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative (WLI) intends to: "support agriculture and wildlife-based economies by fostering healthy communities in Minnesota's prairie pothole region through cooperative, integrated approaches that enhance coordination, target investments, and inspire new thinking." Through partnership funds from FSA and F & WS, the WLI funded 11 landowner agreements for payments of \$239,546.31, impacting 531.09 acres.

WCA—Wetland Conservation Act.

The Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act was passed in 1991. The intention of the law was to protect wetlands which were not covered by any other wetland protection laws and to obtain a no net loss in the quantity and quality of Minnesota's existing wetlands.

The WCA requires persons proposing to impact a wetland (draining, excavating or filling) to first, attempt to avoid the impact if at all possible; second, attempt to minimize the impact; and third, replace any impacted wetland area with a restored wetland of at least equal function and value.

The WCA is currently administered through the Big Stone County Environmental Office with oversight provided by the BWSR. The District Technician is an active member of the TEP.

WIA—Walk In Access Program

The District entered into a contract with the DNR to promote and implement the WIA Program. Big Stone County currently has one landowner entered into contract for 162.55 acres.

Contributing Partners

Partner	Description	Project Contribution	Leveraged Funds
Farm Services Agency/WLI	Provided funds for CRP management on 531.09 acres	cash	\$239,546.31
NRCS	Processed RIM/WRP contracts		
BWSR/PF Local Chapter	Provide funds for biologist to implement CRP/CCRP	cash	\$31,500 BWSR \$ 6,750 PF local

Project Informational/Educational Activities

Type of Activity	Newsletters, Brochures, Posters, Etc.	Work with Groups	Tours, Demos, Etc	Presentations Given	Presentations by guest speakers	Other
SWCD	E-Newsletter					Contains program information, etc.
SWCD	Big Stone County Fair	Local land owners				
SWCD	Sports & Leisure Show	Local land owners	Demos, information, publications		T Issendorf, Pheasants Forever	

Project Outcomes

WCA—District Technician has attended wetland delineator training, attended 4 TEP meetings, conducted on-site visits and is an ongoing technical assistant to the LGU.

The Farm Bill Assistance Grant is given to the SWCD to hire staff to increase landowner participation in the conservation provision of the Federal Farm Bill which increase the amount of native grasses and wetlands on the landscape to enhance water quality, reduce soil erosion, and increase fish & wildlife habitat. All funds were expended as of December 31, 2011. 744 landowner contacts were made. 72 contracts were signed by landowners enrolling 1535.7 acres into the following:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Contracts</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Acres</u>
CRP	2	CP5A	3.3
CRP	1	CP8A	2.5
CRP	1	CP17A	4.5
CRP	10	CP21	117.9
CRP wetlands	17	CP12A, CP27/CP28	443.9
CRP	3	CP30	212.4
CRP	9	CP38	239.8
General CRP	10		142.9
Mgmt Activities— (modifications/revision)	19		368.5

The SWCD, along with Natural Resources Conservation Service, approved and processed 7 **RIM/WRP** applications for 318.7 acres. The District site checked 14 **RIM & CREP** easement parcels.

WLI—The Working Lands Initiative was able to fund 11 landowner contracts impacting 531.09 acres, in cooperation with funds from FSA and FWS.

Project Photos, Additional Maps, or Conservation Practice Designs

