

# Grant Soil and Water Conservation District

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[www.grantswcd.org](http://www.grantswcd.org)

*SWCD Board Meeting: Fourth Thursday of  
Month at 9:00 am*

## Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Controlling Water and Wind Erosion
2. Reducing Sedimentation
3. Protecting and Improving Surface Water Quality
4. Protecting Ground Water
5. Improving Wildlife Habitat

## 2009 Revenue Categories

Intergovernmental Revenue	\$223,708
Charges for Services	\$ 12,911
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 19,573
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$256,192</b>

## Recent Projects:

### Grant County's Buffer Initiative



Grant SWCD has enrolled more than 18,000 acres in various buffer programs since 1998. Much of the success can be attributed to the willingness of Township Board members, County Commissioners, and SWCD Supervisors who actively participated in the buffer initiative and promoted the program to their constituents.

The cooperation of all the local agencies played a key role in the program's success. Local agencies, including the SWCD, FSA, NRCS, and County government, worked very well together to develop and implement the program. All of the SWCD supervisors and County Commissioners that owned agricultural land in the District implemented buffers. Almost all of the township level officials that owned agricultural land followed suit.

The example set by the local officials communicated to many landowners that the buffer program was a good idea and would prove beneficial for the protection and improvement of surface water quality in Grant County. The Grant SWCD continues to pursue and renew Buffer Strips through the Farm Bill Assistance Grant.

## Grant County Working Lands Initiative (WLI)



Grant SWCD acting as the Project team leader in a partnership of State, Federal, and Local agencies, to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and reduce downstream flooding by targeting two lakesheds for accelerated Best Management Practice implementation.

The Stony Lake/ Ash Lake lakeshed is located in Stonybrook and Lawrence Townships. These shallow lakes have a long history of waterfowl use and Ash Lake is a DNR designated waterfowl lake with a water level control structure in place.

Land use in the 14 square mile lake shed is predominantly cash grain agriculture.

The Kube/Swift lakeshed target area is located in Lawrence Township, and directly downstream of Upper Lightning Lake. DNR and Ducks Unlimited have developed plans for a water level control structure and lake management plans as part of the Upper Lightning lake project and on Denton slough. Land use in the 7.5 square mile lake shed is primarily cash grain agriculture. Many of the original wetlands have been drained for agricultural purposes within both of these lakeshed areas. Long-term goals for the target areas include

Improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and reduce flood damages by carrying out water level management activities on selected shallow lakes and implementing BMP's that reduce polluted runoff from agricultural land, acquiring long term easements that protect existing grassland habitat and agricultural lands from development pressures, and enrolling selected Ag land parcels into 10 to 15 year contracts to restore wetland and grassland habitats.

To date this project has resulted in converting over 1000 acres of cash grain cropland into grasslands and wetlands within the Kube/Swift, and Stony/Ash lake target areas.

## Future Projects:

### **Pomme de Terre River Turbidity TMDL Implementation Plan**

The Grant SWCD is working with other SWCD's and Counties within the Pomme de Terre River watershed area to develop and implement a protection and restoration strategy to reduce the turbidity in the Pomme de Terre River. When this plan is completed the Grant SWCD will be actively promoting and implementing the BMP's outlined within the TMDL implementation plan.