

# Grant

## Soil & Water Conservation District




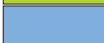
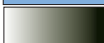


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SWCD board meetings:  
4th Thursday of month at 9 a.m.



### Grant County Land Cover

	Agricultural
	Forest
	Grass/Shrub/Wetland
	Water
	Impervious

### Recent Projects / Accomplishments



Grant County's Buffer Initiative 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.

### 2005 Expenditures by category

Monitoring / Research	\$2,000
Education / Outreach	\$20,219
Wetland Conservation Act	\$20,000
Cost Share / project construction, implementation and maintenance	\$58,695
Planning/ other local water management duties	\$63,434
Conservation easement funding / assistance	\$20,000
Programs and Operations	\$44,121
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$228,468</b>

### SWCD Board of Supervisors

Name	Position	Address	Phone	Elected
Randy Larson	Chair	27507 State Highway 27, Herman	320-677-2763	1996
Arley Ellingson	Vice-Chair	18193 100th Avenue South, Hoffman	320-986-2773	1992
Odell Christenson	Treasurer	24389 270th Avenue, Wendell	218-458-2267	1994
Theo Myron	Pers Director	32869 230th Avenue, Elbow Lake	218-589-8546	1993
Joel Hildebrandt	Pub Relations	13571 State Highway 27, Hoffman	320-986-2232	2007



A water quality monitoring project that began in the early 1990s has enabled the SWCD and other local agencies to develop a Trophic State Index for many of the local lakes. This data indicated that the lakes were all threatened or impaired. Local officials noted that implementing buffers through the CRP would be a good way to address the water quality problems. SWCD staff worked closely with staff from the Grant County Department of Land Management to develop a proposal and plan for implementing a buffer strip initiative. Grant County Commissioners, County Planning Commission, and the SWCD Board of Supervisors adopted the proposal in 1998 and work began in earnest.

Using a challenge grant from BWSR, the SWCD was able to provide a technician to identify potential buffer sites. By assuming a 100-foot buffer between cropland and each bank of a lake, river, or stream, the SWCD and the county developed a program goal of 12,000 acres of new riparian buffers and filter strips. This goal was based on the buffer acreage that would be needed directly along streams, rivers, and lakes to offer the greatest water quality improvement. A number of landowners with land along other sensitive areas also qualified for and participated in the buffer program. Therefore, although the SWCD has met its acreage goal, it plans to continue working with landowners to implement buffers along all primary waterways.

**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 conservation district 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.

## 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 quality
5. Improving wildlife habitat

## Future Projects

**Grant County Working Lands Initiative:** Grant SWCD is acting as the Project team leader in a partnership of State, Federal, Local agencies, and organizations to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and reduce flood damages. This effort will be achieved by carrying out water level management activities on selected shallow lakes and implementing BMPs 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 habitat within the lake shed.

This project will prioritize three shallow lakes (Big Lake, Kube/Swift, and Stoney/Ash) and their lake sheds; where completing a water level control project will improve fish and wildlife habitat. Data will be collected to determine the amount and types of land use, land management and lake management changes needed to provide improved waterfowl habitat, improved water quality and flood damage reduction. In cooperation with landowner and agency representatives, a lake management plan will be developed that is beneficial to water quality, wildlife and flood damage reduction.

When the previous items have been completed, SWCD staff will meet with all landowners within the lake shed to explain which conservation projects will be required, financial incentives available, and the extent these projects will need to be implemented before draw down can occur.