



MINNESOTA BOARD AND SOIL RESOURCES BOARD
Wetland Conservation Act 2010 Annual Reporting Form

Use the tab key to navigate between fields.

Local Government Unit (LGU): **LINCOLN** County (if different): **Lincoln SWCD**

Name of Person Completing Report: **Dale Sterzinger** Title: **WCA ADMINISTRATOR** Contact #: 507-694-1630

Does your LGU receive WCA funding from the Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG)?

- Yes, directly from BWSR. Yes, transferred from the County or SWCD.
 No, we do not receive any NRBG funding.

NOTE: Completion of this report is required for all of Minnesota's LGUs. It must be received by the BWSR St. Paul office on or before February 1, 2011. **See the accompanying instructions** for details on selected questions.

- Number of **landowner contacts** in which wetland related technical assistance was provided during the calendar year: **>100**
- Number of applications** that were:

Type of Application	# Approved	# Denied	# Withdrawn
A. Boundary or Type	3	0	0
B. No-Loss	5	0	0
C. Exemption	3	0	1
D. Sequencing	0	0	0
E. Replacement Plan *	0	0	0

*Do not include local road authority notifications for projects that qualify for replacement under the BWSR Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program (road program) according to MN Rule 8420-0544.

- Number of **exemptions approved** and acres of wetland impact (to nearest 0.01 acre) for each category from MN Rule 8420.0420 (provide best estimate for impacts that are not easily quantified):

Type of Exemption	Number of Approved Exemptions	Acres of Wetland Permanently Impacted *
Subp. 2. Agricultural activities.	0	0.00
Subp. 3. Drainage.	1	0.25
Subp. 4. Federal approvals.	0	0.00
Subp. 5. Restored wetlands.	1	0.50
Subp. 6. Utilities.	0	0.00
Subp. 7. Forestry.	0	0.00
Subp. 8. De minimis.	0	0.00
Subp. 9. Wildlife habitat.	1	0.01
Total:	3	0.76

*See WCA reporting instructions.

- Number of **replacement plans approved** that replace impacts by the following methods:
 - Wetland Banking: **0**
 - Project-Specific Replacement: **0**
 - Combination of Wetland Banking and Project-Specific Replacement: **0**

5. Acres of wetland to be **impacted** via an approved replacement plan (to nearest 0.01 acre): **0.00**
6. For approved replacement plans, list the **project-specific replacement*** acres (to nearest 0.01 acre) and corresponding credit amounts approved in the following categories from MN Rule 8420.0526:

Action Eligible for Credit	Acres	Repl. Credit
Subp. 2. Upland buffer areas.	0.00	0.00
Subp. 3. Restoration of completely drained or filled wetland areas.	0.00	0.00
Subp. 4. Restoration of partially drained or filled wetland areas.	0.00	0.00
Subp. 5. Vegetative restoration of farmed wetlands.	0.00	0.00
Subp. 6. Protection of wetlands previously restored via conservation easement.	0.00	0.00
Subp. 7. Wetland creations.	0.00	0.00
Subp. 8. Restoration and protection of exceptional natural resource value.	0.00	0.00
Subp. 9. Preservation of wetlands owned by the state or a local unit of government.	0.00	0.00
Total:	0.00	0.00

*Report project-specific replacement only. Replacement via banking is accounted for via BWSR's banking database.

7. For project-specific **replacement wetlands**, list the number of each completed or received:

A. Construction Site Inspected	B. Corrective Actions Ordered	C. Monitoring Reports Received	D. Findings of Satisfactory Replacement
0	0	1	1

8. Number of potential violation sites investigated: **52**
9. Number of **enforcement actions** that were taken **under local ordinances** and/or that did not result in DNR-issued cease and desist, restoration, or replacement orders (including informal resolution of violations): **14**
10. Number of **local appeals** heard: **0**
11. Does the LGU have a MN WDCP **certified delineator** available (excluding BWSR or SWCD)?
 On staff: On call (i.e. consultant): Not at all:
12. For LGU staff responsible for implementing WCA, please provide the following for **WCA/wetland training attended** this reporting year (attach additional if necessary):

Employee Name	Employee Title	Sponsoring Organization	Session Title	From Date	To Date	Total Number of Days
Dale Sterzinger	WCA Admin.	BWSR	Admin. Training	2/23/10	2/23/10	1.00
Dale	WCA Admin.	Lincoln CO.	Our water our choices	3/24/10	3/24/10	1.00
Dale	WCA Admin.	NRCS	GPS	6/29/10	6/29/10	1.00
Dale	WCA Admin.	BWSR	Hydric Soils	7/27/10	7/27/10	1.00
Dale	WCA Admin.	BWSR	Academy/ 4 WCA Classes	10/26/10	10/27/10	2.00
				1/1/10	12/31/10	0.00
				1/1/10	12/31/10	0.00

13. Optional: Please provide information regarding unusual circumstances, time spent on enforcement or major violations, banking application reviews, known exempt activity for which a formal decision was not made, additional detail or clarification of above data, or any other information or comments you would like to share (2,500 characters max).

PLEASE ADD ADDITIONAL COMMENTS HERE.

In Lincoln County we had 615 total WCA contacts of which 332 were reviewed in the field for 2010. By reviewing on site, we can help assure complete avoidance of wetland impacts. All non-drainage construction is checked on site. This would include all lake, windtower construction, road/bridge and other development .

Many hours are spent on WCA related issues prior to the application stage for many projects. 52 flood damage sites were reviewed in 2010. 47 road repair or reconstruction projects were reviewed in the field by the LGU in cooperation with the Lincoln County Highway Department and Townships. LGU assisted in all the DNR permit applications for these sites. A No Loss Determination could have been issued on 40 of the 47 sites, but was not deemed necessary.

All DNR and CORP of Engineers permits received are reviewed in the field with comments sent thereafter if needed. Work closely with Area 2 on all dam and downsizing projects (4 sites). LGU does the wetland Boundry and Type Determinations and review of each site. Also, LGU worked with the city of Hendricks on 2 storm water ponds that had a positive impact on the LacQuiParle River and a surrounding type 3 wetland.

LGU had 4 TEP reviews in 2010. Also had reviews with the DNR on 2 other sites. LGU also worked on 2 lake development sites.

DNR Conservation Officer issued 1 ICR in 2010 with the restoration order to be issued in 2011. LGU had 52 possible violations of which 14 needed action. They were handled locally without DNR assistance. Funding is always an issue. WCA funds were cut this year due to budgets. LGU's in rural areas that are effectively running the WCA program need more dollars for the program. \$15000 would be an adequate amount. Farm drainage in Southwest MN is a huge industry. Many landowners are now purchasing their own tile plows and backhoes. LGU's have to be operating an effective WCA program in order to protect wetlands for the State of Minnesota. In Lincoln County, our WCA program is effective in wetland protection. Over 110 acres of wetlands were avoided and protected by WCA in 2010. We don't only protect the wetland, we protect the immediate watershed flowing into the wetland. This avoids indirect impacts to the wetlands!

Let's keep WCA strong for the future of our wetlands!! WCA is number 1 in the line of defense for wetland protection in Minnesota.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
Wetland Conservation Act 2010 Annual Reporting - Instructions

Requirement

Beginning with calendar year 2010, annual reporting of Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) implementation activities is required for all of Minnesota's WCA local government units (LGUs) in accordance with MN Rule 8420.0200, Subp. 2, Item I. This reporting requirement applies regardless of whether or not the LGU obtains any WCA funding from BWSR. The form is nearly identical to the 2009 form, with a few minor modifications, and is now entirely consistent with the new WCA Rule. To submit the report:

- 1) Complete and save the form as a word document to your computer (do not convert to .pdf or other format). Retain the form for future reference or needed corrections.
- 2) E-mail the completed form to bwsr.grants@state.mn.us no later than February 1, 2011. Use your LGU name as the subject line of the e-mail. Note: Only send completed reporting forms to this address. Do not send questions or other correspondence.
- 3) The completed form must be received by BWSR no later than February 1, 2011. The "sent" date of the e-mail will be used to track the date of receipt.
- 4) Your [Wetland Specialist](#) will review the data and may contact you with questions or possible corrections.

Those without e-mail can mail or fax a paper copy of the completed form to:

[Michelle Lewis](#)
Attn: WCA Reporting
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Fax: 651-297-5615

Relationship to Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG)

Completion and submittal of this Annual Reporting Form is required of all LGUs regardless of whether or not NRBG funding is provided. However, for NRBG grantees that distribute funds to WCA LGUs, each of those LGUs must be listed when completing their NRBG eLINK reporting. The county must also ensure that each WCA LGU submits a separate WCA Annual Report according to the instructions above. The county will not receive NRBG funds until all reporting requirements are met.

Timeframe and Context

In general, the data provided should be based on WCA activities for which the LGU has issued a final decision, the application has been withdrawn, or the issue resolved during the 2010 calendar year (see question 1 guidance for exception). The approved activities need not have been implemented in order to be reported. Projects still under review but not approved by the LGU at the end of the calendar year should not be reported until the year in which a decision has been made or they are otherwise resolved. For those SWCDs or Counties who previously compiled and submitted summary data for multiple LGUs within their area, a separate form must be submitted for each individual LGU. LGU's who receive assistance in implementing WCA from a County, SWCD, or Watershed District need to coordinate with them to ensure accurate and complete information is submitted.

Question-Specific Guidance

The following guidance items are numbered to correspond to the numbered items in the reporting form:

1. The purpose of this question is to gather information on LGU workload. Landowner is a general term meant to include agents, consultants, and developers that are proposing or contemplating projects regardless of their legal ownership of the land. In addition to landowners for which WCA applications were processed during the calendar year, LGUs should report the number of landowner contacts for which they answered questions related to wetlands or WCA, provided preliminary review of projects potentially affecting wetlands, provided advice on wetland boundaries or exemption applicability, or other landowner consultation related to WCA. Meeting with one landowner four times on the same project would count as four landowner contacts for the purpose of answering this question. Newsletters or other such general correspondence do not constitute technical assistance provided to a landowner. Please provide your best estimate.
2. For purposes of this question, “# withdrawn” means that the applicant has submitted an application but withdrew it prior to the LGU making a formal decision.

Replacement plans (Item E) do not include local road authority notifications for projects that qualify for replacement under the BWSR Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program (road program) according to MN Rule 8420.0544. These notifications are reported separately and accounted for in BWSR’s road program tracking database. However, non-qualifying road projects completed under a replacement plan (or a combination of banking/project-specific and the BWSR road program) should be reported here.

3. The purpose of this question is to gather data on the amount of wetland lost due to approved exemptions and the frequency of exemption use. The exemptions are organized consistent with the WCA rule order. LGUs should only report exempt impacts for which a decision has been made to approve the exempt impacts. Known wetland impacts due to exemptions for which the LGU has not formally made a decision can be reported under question 13. Report impacts to the nearest .01 acre.

LGUs should only report the acres of wetland *permanently lost* due to exempt activity. For example, true drainage maintenance in accordance with MN Rule 8420.0420, Subpart 3, Item B generally does not require reporting. Reporting temporary impacts each time the ditch or tile is maintained can lead to multiple reporting of impacts to the same acres over time, which is misleading and skews the resulting data. However, exempt wetland impacts due to new ditches or tile lines, existing drainage that has been improved, or deposition of spoil in wetland areas beyond the existing areas of deposition must be reported. Wetlands drained under Item C of the drainage exemption will almost always require reporting.

Check your work to ensure it is correct – the total number of approved exemptions in #3 should equal the sum of approved exemptions in #2. The only exception is when a true drainage maintenance project is not reported in question #3 per the above paragraph.

4. Item A is NOT referring to wetland banking applications, but rather replacement plans that utilize bank credits for replacement. Check your work - the sum of A+B+C should equal the number of replacement plans approved under question #2.
5. The purpose of this question is to collect data on the quantity of wetland acres lost under approved replacement plans. LGUs should sum the number of acres of approved wetland impact (drainage, fill, or regulated excavation) that require replacement. Report total wetland impacts to the nearest .01 acre. *Do not* include acres of wetland impact that do not require replacement by WCA (such as exempt or no-loss activities).
6. For this question, report the total *acres* of replacement and the corresponding number of approved *credits* associated with each action eligible for credit in MN Rule 8420.0526 (the actions are organized consistent with the

WCA rule order). This item pertains to project specific replacement under approved replacement plans only – do not report credit approved under a banking plan or a replacement plan using banking credits.

Example: If an application was approved to restore a 10-acre partially drained wetland at 50% credit with an 8 acre buffer at 25% credit, the LGU would report the following:

- 1) 8 acres under the “acres” column and 2 credits under the “Repl. Credit” column for *upland buffer areas* (Subp.2), and
- 2) 10 acres under the “acres” column and 5 credits under the “Repl. Credit” column for *restoration of partially drained or filled wetland areas* (Subp.4).

7. The purpose of this question is to gather data on replacement monitoring compliance and track LGU oversight of replacement plan projects. Note that “construction sites inspected” and “corrective actions ordered” are specific to *replacement wetlands* only.

Note: LGUs should be tracking all approved replacement sites and comparing them with actual monitoring reports received in order to identify issues of non-compliance.

8. This question is related to LGU workload associated with enforcement activities that may or may not get reflected in formal actions or decisions. For this question, LGUs should report potential WCA violation site inspections regardless of what initiated the inspection (DNR enforcement flight, landowner complaint, found by LGU, etc.) or the end result (no violation, cease and desist, restoration order, resolved locally, etc.). This should include site inspections performed by the SWCD separately from the LGU, however, care should be taken not to duplicate numbers. Site investigations resulting from DNR-submitted “ICRs” should also be included in this item.
9. This question is intended to collect data on those instances where the LGU resolves violations informally, through local channels, or through an enforcement order issued by a non-DNR enforcement officer (i.e. a deputy sheriff). Violations that result in the issuance of an order by a DNR enforcement officer should not be reported because that information will be obtained directly from the DNR.
10. Do not include appeals to BWSR.
11. The exclusion of the SWCD in this question is not applicable if the SWCD is the delegated LGU responsible for making final WCA decisions.
12. LGUs should only report training related to WCA administration and relevant wetland science. For example, attending forums or seminars related to wetland delineation, wetland functional assessment, replacement wetland design, and WCA administration should be listed. Attending a seminar on designing wetlands to treat sanitary waste would generally not be applicable because it is not associated with aspects of WCA. Similarly, NRBG reporting in eLINK should not be listed as it is not directly relevant to WCA administration or wetland science.
13. This is your chance to report anything you feel is relevant or important that may not be captured in other questions. Please attempt to limit this information to the maximum 2,500 characters, however, if you have additional relevant information, provide it on a separate document and attach it to the e-mail.

Differences due to implementation of an approved Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plan should be reported on a separate document.

Contact your [BWSR Wetland Specialist](#) with any questions regarding completion of the reporting form.

Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District

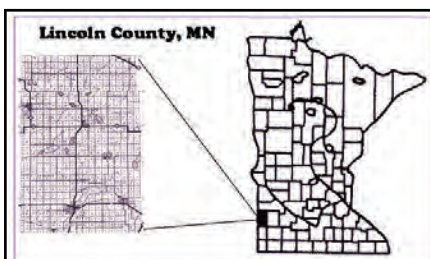
BWSR NRBG Grants

Local Water Mgmt - \$21,207
WCA - \$10,000

Funds Remaining to be spent: None

Grant Period

From: 7/1/2009
To: 6/30/2011



NRBG Grant Expenditures (by Category)

Technical/Administrative Assistance Funds	
Local Water Management (LWM)	\$7,956
LWM - Leveraged Funds-Lincoln Co.	\$2,091
Wetland Conservation Act	\$10,000
WCA Leveraged Fund: Lincoln SWCD	\$13,146
Implementation Funds	
Local Water Management	\$13,251
LWM - Leveraged Funds-Landowners	\$4,380

PROJECT CONTACT:

Pauline VanOverbeke
507.694.1630 x3
pauline.vanoverbeke@mn.nacdn.net

FY 2010 Natural Resources Block Grant: Local Water Management and Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

Overall Project Description: Local Water Management

The Lincoln County Local Water Management Plan is administered through the Lincoln SWCD. One Water Management Task Force meeting was held in 2010. FY2010 dollars used for administration as of December 31, 2010 was \$8,415 of which \$7,956 was state dollars and \$459 was local share. Local share remaining to be spent in 2011 is \$1,632. The following implementation programs were completed with the FY2010 funds:

Alternative Tile Intake Program:

Alternative Tile Intakes (Rock inlets) are an inexpensive way to maintain drainage while improving water quality and avoiding the headache of maintaining a conventional open intake. A properly constructed and maintained rock inlet will continue to provide adequate drainage when compared to an open intake. Rock inlets can be planted through and placed to avoid disturbance by deeper tillage equipment. These inlets not only provide environmental benefits, such as reducing phosphorous and sedimentation loading, they are easier to farm around and maintain than conventional open surface inlets. With FY2010 Local Water Management dollars 19 alternative intakes were installed utilizing \$4,336. Landowner share-\$1,328. Pollution reductions: Phosphorus-28.5 lbs/year; Sediment-19 tons/year.

Well Sealing Program:

The well sealing program was established to help owners seal their high priority abandoned wells. Wells sealed with FY2010 dollars was 18 wells with \$5,321. Landowner share-\$3,052.

Conserving Use Acres Program:

The Conserving Use Acres Program is designed for operators to plant small grain in order to install conservation practices during the summer months. This program helps the technical staff survey and design the project for tiling and construction work to be completed before the busy fall season. With the FY2010, \$3,594 help 6 operators with summer construction of 6-Water and Sediment Control Basin's (WSCB); 10.4 ac of Waterways.

Overall Project Description: Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

As of December, 2010, all FY 2010 dollars have been spent. The Lincoln SWCD matching funds have been spent also. In 2010, the following were accomplished: 615 landowner contacts (332 field checks), 3 exemption determinations, 5 No-loss determinations, 3 boundary or Type determinations, 1 wetland delineation reviewed for wind towers, 14 possible violations handled locally, 1 ICR by DNR officer, 6 days of WCA training, 4-TEP meetings and 2-meetings with DNR on wetland issues. Worked with 2 wind tower companies, Area II MN River Basin on 1-dam site and 3 other possible dam sites, 3-lake developments (2 private 1 county), 1-utility company and 3-county tile projects all with wetland issues. Approximately 110 acres of wetland were avoided by tile, ditching and construction because of the WCA program in Lincoln County. Avoidance is a number one concern of the Lincoln SWCD/LGU. Also, many hours were spent on County and Township road reviews for construction and flood damage with 47 sites being reviewed in 2010.

**Lincoln Soil and Water
Conservation District**

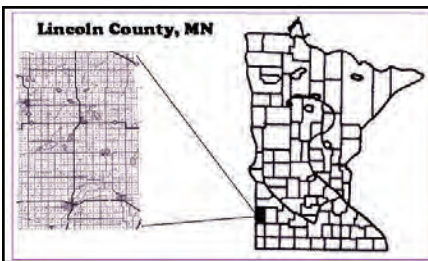
BWSR NRBG Grants

Local Water Mgmt - \$15,227
WCA - \$8,630

**Funds Remaining to be
spent: N/A**

Grant Period

From: 7/1/2010
To: 6/30/2012



**NRBG Grant
Expenditures
(by Category)**

Technical/Administrative Assistance Funds	
Local Water Management	\$5633
LWM - Leveraged Funds-Lincoln Co	\$2,599
Wetland Conservation Act	\$8,630
WCA - Leveraged Fund: Lincoln SWCD	\$8,630
Implementation Funds	
Local Water Management	\$9,594
LWM - Leveraged Funds-Landowners	To Be Determined

PROJECT CONTACT:

Pauline VanOverbeke
507.694.1630 x3
pauline.vanoverbeke@mn.nacdnet.net

FY 2011 Natural Resources Block Grant: Local Water Management and Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

Overall Project Description: Local Water Management

The Lincoln County Local Water Management Plan is administered through the Lincoln SWCD. FY2011 dollars left to be spent for administration is \$8,232 of which \$5,633 will be state dollars and \$2,599 will be local dollars. The following implementation programs will be completed with the FY2011 funds:

Well Sealing Program:

The well sealing program was established to help owners seal their high priority abandoned wells. With the FY2011 funds, we will seal approximately 20 wells for a total cost-share amount of \$6,000 at 75% cost-share not to exceed \$325 per well sealed. As of December 31, 2010, we have sealed 3 wells for a total cost-share payments of \$931. Landowner share-\$1,076.

Conserving Use Acres Program:

The Conserving Use Acres Program is designed for operators to plant small grain in order to install conservation practices during the summer months. This program helps the technical staff survey and design the project for tiling and construction work to be completed before the busy fall season. With the FY2011 funds, \$3,594 will be used to help 6 operators with summer construction of conservation practices.

Overall Project Description: Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

FY2011 WCA funds will be used to implement the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Program on a county-wide basis; replacement plans and exemptions as applicable; publish a news article in the local news papers and in the Joint Agency Newsletter. The state funds of \$8,630 and the local share in-kind of \$8,630 will all be used on administration of the WCA Program.