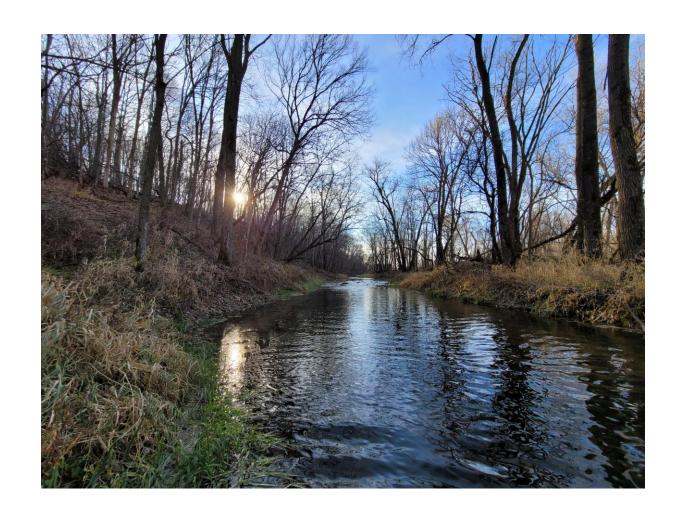
Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District



2022 ANNUAL PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote natural resource stewardship by providing educational, technical and financial assistance.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Fillmore SWCD Annual Plan is to provide direction to and set goals for District staff and supervisors for the year. It serves as a tool to prioritize the workload of the district so those goals can be achieved.

The annual plan is used in conjunction with the Root River One Watershed One Plan to help determine needs for staffing, funding and program priorities to best ensure that the district is able to implement the Root River One Watershed One Plan.

Development of the annual plan is accomplished through an annual planning meeting conducted by staff, supervisors and other partners where all participants provide input so that the best plan with common goals can be developed.

All programs and activities are subject to funding.

	SWCD Partners	Cooperative Projects and Programs	
Federal	NRCS	EQIP (RCPP), CSP, Local Work Group, Farm Bill Assistance	
	FSA	CRP, CCRP	
State	BWSR	Grant funds (State Cost Share, Easement Delivery, Conservation Delivery, Local Capacity, Buffer, Clean Water Fund), WCA Technical Evaluation Panel, RIM/CREP, Root River One Watershed, One Plan	
	MPCA	Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network (WPLMN), Surface Water Assessment Grant, Citizen Stream Monitoring Program (CSMP), Root River One Watershed, One Plan	
	MDA	Ag BMP Loan Program, Root River Field to Stream Partnership monitoring grant, BWSR Targeted Watershed grant, SE MN Nitrogen BMP Outreach, Township Nitrate Testing, Root River One Watershed, One Plan	
	DNR	Springshed mapping, Observation Well Network, water permit review, Root River Landscape Stewardship Plan, SE Landscape Committee, Minnesota State Climatology Office Precipitation Monitoring Program, SWCD Forestry Committee and Field Day partner Root River One Watershed, One Plan	
	MDH	Wellhead Protection Area Plans, Root River One Watershed, One Plan	
	MASWCD	Envirothon; Outstanding Conservationist awards	
	Grazing Lands Conservation Association	, e	
	U of M Extension	Grazing Gazette (online version), Ag in the Classroom, nutrient management/NBMP outreach, noxious weed programs, Fillmore County Integrated Roadside Management	
	Conservation Corps MN	Crew projects	
	MN Forestry Association	Root River Woodland Council membership	
Regional	SE SWCD Technical JPB	NRCS Conservation Collaboration Grant for Soil Health, engineering assistance, RCPP/BWSR Feedlot Grant, NRCS Cooperative Agreement for Grazing	
	BALMM	Network for sharing information and regional think tank	
	Hiawatha Valley RC&D	Soil health, civic engagement support, Root River One Watershed, One Plan	
Local	Fillmore County	Root River One Watershed, One Plan, Local Water Management delegation, Wetland Conservation Act delegation, Feedlot Program technical support, Soil loss Ordinance, Sinkhole Ordinance, Decorah Shale Overlay District, Frac Sand Technical Evaluation Panel, Household Hazardous Waste collections, East Willow Creek flood control structures, Buffer compliance	
	Watershed projects	Root River One Watershed, One Plan coordination, Rush-Pine Farmer Led Council, Upper Iowa River Watershed: Water quality monitoring; Root River	

		Cycle 2 monitoring	
Land Stewardship P	roject (LSP):	Soil health, women landowner workshops	
National Trout Cent	<mark>er</mark>	Nitrate clinic, education	
4-H		Sponsor County Fair awards	
Eagle Bluff Environ	mental Learning	Education and outreach	
Center			
Bluff Country Hikin	g Club	Lost Creek Hiking Trail interpretive signs and brochure	
Friends of the Root 1	River	Citizen group education and outreach	

Lead Staff Legend

AA	Administrative Assistant
SHT	Soil Health Technician
CT	Conservation Technician
DA	District Administrator
ET	Engineering Technician
RCS	Resource Conservation Specialist
WMC	Water Management Coordinator

2022 Annual Plan Outline

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Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation District: 2022 Annual Plan

Soil Resources

Goal: Control Soil Erosion and Sustain Soil Productivity

Objective #1: Provide funding and technical resources for soil erosion BMPs

Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
 Assist landowners and operators with practices identified for implementation of resource concerns. Refer to Root River Conservation Planner for plan updates as requested. Results: No one was referred to Dan W. 	Ongoing	SHT, ET, RCS, CT / NRCS
2. Assist landowners with establishment of practices through the State Cost Program, Local Capacity Cost Share and NRCS EQIP. 2021 Results: 7,695' Grassed Waterway; 10 Grade Stabilization structures; 791' Terraces; 324' Underground Outlet, 5 of these practi dollars, while 3 were implemented using straight federal dollars.	Ongoing ces were impler	RCS, ET, CT / NRCS mented pairing state and federal
3. Assist Fillmore County with enforcement of the county's Soil Loss Control Ordinance. 2021 Results: No activity.	Ongoing	RCS, ET, CT / Fillmore County
4. Continue to use results from LiDAR and Stream Power Index and farm walkovers for implementing programs and practices in FSP watersheds. 2021 Results: grant completed and closed out	Ongoing	RCS, ET, CT / MDA
5. Assist landowners with implementing cover crops, managed grazing and other soil health practices. 2021 Results: Certified 3,976 acres of Cover Crop for CSP & EQIP payments for 28 producers in 4 counties. Also certified prescribe gra on 1500 acres. ASHS assistance to Wabasha SWCD: 15 cover crop plans developed and certified for payments; 675 acres.	Ongoing azing payments	SHT, NRCS, Extension for EQIP & CSP for 5 producers
6. Provide SWCD funds for set aside acres for summer construction of grassed waterways and other practices 2021 Results: no activity	Annually	RCS, ET, CT
7. Assist with establishing and maintaining vegetative buffers in sensitive areas such as shoreland, sinkholes and HEL, utilizing		
existing conservation programs including RIM; provide technical assistance for state buffer law compliance	Ongoing	RCS, ET, CT
2021 Results: Buffer law conduct status reviews according to monitoring plan, investigate any complaints/concerns, update intern	al database and	I BuffCAT
8. In cooperation with Root River 1W1P partners, identify priority areas for BMP implementation in the 1W1P planning area		WMC, Admin, RCS, ET, CT,
using PTMApp and other tools and provide technical and financial assistance for implementation of practices and programs. 2021 Results: 2 Grassed Waterway implemented using RR1W1P Funding	Ongoing	SHT, NMS / RR1W1P partners

9. Prepare resolution(s) to MASWCD Admin, Board

2021 Results: 2 new resolutions presented from Fillmore – supported Area resolutions presented

Objective #2: Conduct education and outreach activities about soil resources

Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
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1. Assist with soil health (including grazing and minimum/no till) field days, workshops, studies and soil health information programs with NRCS and Extension; share soil temperature research results.

Summer/Fall 2022 SHT / NRCS, GDAA, Extension

2021 Results: Grazing training for pasture score sheet training in the whole state for NRCS and Partners; training included fence/pipeline/water tanks/stream crossing/HUAP

2. Conduct side-by-side comparisons of various tillage practices and N practices (DWP in SEMN Grant)

Spring-Fall 2022 NMS

2021 Results: Coordinated 5 plots for Nitrogen Rate Trials and 1 Nitrogen timing Trial. Completed pre-plant soil samples, field scouting for pre-side dressing N testing (PSNT), collected PSNT samples, took SPAD readings, collected samples for basal stalk nitrate testing and whole plant samples. Collected harvest data. Collected residual soil nitrate samples to a 4 ft depth. All in season and harvest data is reviewed with farmers to help form future nitrogen decisions. Information was also submitted into the lowa State Nitrogen Fertilizer Calculator. 15 producers participate in N BMP incentive program to lower N rates or try split application. Reached maximum participants for N BMP side dress incentives.

3. Partner with Tour de Forage event with Midwest Forage Association.

Summer 2022 SHT, Board

2021 Results: No activity (didn't attend)

Water Resources

Goal: Maintain and Improve Surface and Ground Water Quality

Objective #1: Reduce agricultural sources of water pollution

Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
1. Provide financial and technical assistance to feedlot operators for feedlot run-off control and ag waste storage facilities.	Ongoing	ET, CFO
2021 Results: Delegation of County Feedlot Officer duties by County – Administer MPCA Feedlot program		
2. Provide technical assistance to develop new and update existing nutrient and manure management plans focusing on		
vulnerable wellhead protection areas and nitrate impaired watersheds.	Ongoing	NMS
2021 Results: 20 updated plans covering 15591 acres as well as 9 new plans that include 4036 additional acres in 6 different counties. Also completed 3 spreader calibrations and		
assisted 4 producers with intermittent paperwork required for NPDES permitting until new online system is available.		

Objective #2: Reduce urban sources of water pollution

Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
1. Administer the SWCD rain barrel program and promote at the county fair and other events.	Ongoing	WMC, CT
2021 Results: 11 rain barrels sold. Held booth at the County Fair and at Dairy Night on the Farm		

2. Pursue funding for community assessments, outreach and demonstrations for reducing volume of and contaminants in urban stormwater, including designs by the Center for Changing Landscapes. Follow up: Community Partners Grant recipients.

Ongoing

CT

2021 Results: Coordinate with Preston residents for pollinator habitat locations.

Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
1. Assist with the semi-annual Fillmore County Household Hazardous Waste Collections.	May/Oct 2022	Staff
2021 Results: Staff helped at events in May & October		

Objective #4: Reduce ground water contamination risks due to karst topography

Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
1. Assist Fillmore County with enforcement of the county's sinkhole ordinance.	Ongoing	RCS, CT
2021 Results: No activity.		
2. Assist Fillmore County with investigating sites for development in the Decorah Shale Overlay District; review ordinance with Zoning staff.	Ongoing	WMC, CT
2021 Results: No activity.		
3. Provide cost share for sealing abandoned wells; review eligibility criteria for use of state cost share funds. 2021 Results: 9 wells sealed with Drinking Water Protection in SE MN grant funds	Ongoing	RCS, WMC, CT, ET
4. Assist with dye trace studies and ground water research.	Ongoing	WMC, CT, intern/ DNR, U of N
2021 Results: Assisted MDA and DNR with maintaining continuous nitrate monitoring equipment in springs in Fillmore County; assi with flow measurements of springs in Fillmore County. Dy tracing completed in 7 sinkholes and 1 sinking stream, delineated 4 know shed.		urther and identify new spring-
5. Participate in the Technical Evaluation Panel for frac sand mining permit application reviews.	As needed	Admin, WMC, CT / DNR, BWS

Objective #5: Participate in watershed management planning and implementation

Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
1. Continue partnership with MDA in the Field to Stream Partnership with monitoring and the BMP in Headwaters, Bridge and Crystal Creek watersheds in cooperation with Root River and Mower SWCDs 2021 Results: Water quality monitoring continues. Additional spring monitoring equipment provides		Admin, WMC, CT, RCS, ET / MDA
2. Continue partnership with MPCA to monitor Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network (WPLI	MN) sites. Ongoing	Admin, WMC, CT / MPCA

2021 Results: No permit applications in 2021.

2021 Results: WPLMN completed for the sampling season. Two-year contract was renewed in 2020.		
3. Support civic engagement efforts in the Root River watershed (Friends of the Root River, Rush-Pine Farmer Led Council, MDA	Ongoing	WMC, Extension, MPCA,
FSP, etc.)		Winona Co.
2021 Results: Work with Root River 1W1P Planning Workgroup to develop engagement strategies.		
4. Assist with water quality monitoring in the Upper Iowa Watershed.	April -Oct 2022	WMC, CT
2021 Results: Completed Upper Iowa sampling once per month (April-October) in cooperation with IA DNR.		
5. Continue to oversee maintenance of the East Willow Creek flood control structures with Fillmore County and NRCS.	Ongoing	CT, WG / Fillmore Co./ NRCS
2021 Results: Inspection performed for 2021 and performed additional inspection after rain event as requested by NRCS		
6. Coordinate implementation of the Root River One Watershed, One Plan; facilitate Advisory Committee meetings (1-2/year),	Ongoing	WMC, Admin
quarterly Policy Committee and Planning Work Group meetings; grant tracking and reporting and other admin/coordination.		

2021 Results: Admin coordinated meetings of the Planning Work Group, Advisory Committee, and Policy Committee. Grant tracking completed by DA. Reporting completed by

Objective #6: Protect drinking water supplies

staff.

Objective not 1 locost difficulty valor supplies		
Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
 Maintain operation of the SWCD Bacteria Testing Lab and provide nitrate screening as requested. Results: Internal audit completed in October. Ongoing lab services maintained; 108 total samples analyzed (as of 11/22/21 sample acceptance procedure with staff. External audit scheduled for January 2022. 	Ongoing .). Ongoing nitrate so	WMC, CT, Admin, AA reening provided. Reviewed
2. Continue to coordinate Fillmore County's participation in the SE MN Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network. 2021 Results: Participation list updated; new consent forms were sent out and are being filed as returned.	Ongoing	WMC / Olmsted SWCD
3. Conduct at least two nitrate testing clinics.	Spring/Summer 2022	WMC, CT / Public Health
2021 Results: One nitrate clinic was completed during the County Fair; no nitrate clinics were held at the National Trout Center. of 11/22/21)	47 nitrate samples a	nalyzed in Fillmore SWCD lab (
4. Provide information on water treatment systems as requested.	As needed	WMC, CT
2021 Results: Information provided as needed.		
5. Review Wellhead Protection Plans and provide assistance as needed.	As needed	WMC, NMS, Public Water Suppliers
2021 Results: No activity.		

Healthy Natural Communities

Goal: Promote land stewardship to preserve and improve natural areas

Objective #1: Promote practices that enhance high quality permanent vegetative cover

Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
Administer the District Tree Program.	Ongoing	AA, ET
2021 Results: 13,215 trees sold, \$13,506.56 profit, Tree mats and fertilizer packets still purchased and growing interest in Bee La	wn seed mix and Tre	e tubes
2. Administer District Windbreak Program.	Ongoing	ET, CT
2021 Results: 5 cost-share contracts completed - cost-share paid \$2,478.00.		
3. Sponsor annual Forestry Field Day on July 27, 2022.	<mark>July 27, 2022</mark>	CT, Intern, Forestry
2021 Results: Field day held July 28 at Maynard Underbakke State Forest Unit outside of Preston. 30 people attended		Committee
4. Sponsor annual Prairie Walk.	Summer/Fall 2022	CT, Forestry Committee-Board
2021 Results: Event held at the F-C Elementary School. Began a plant ID list, discussed management practices and brainstormed		members
educational ideas that the school can use the site for.		
5. Promote invasive species control with funding and assistance from DNR, MDA and Conservation Corps Minnesota for	Ongoing	CT, intern, Forestry
treatment of Japanese hops and poison hemlock along the Root River; also conduct wild parsnip roadside integrated		Committee, Extension, County
management project with Fillmore County Highway Department, Extension, Prairie Smoke, and a summer intern.		Highway, MDA
2021 Results: Roadside test plot inspected		
6. Monitor Decorah Shale outcrop on Timm property on County Road 5 following planting of deep-rooted natives to stabilize	Ongoing	Gossman, ET, CT, County
slumping area that periodically fills the road ditch.		Highway, Timm family
2021 Results: no activity – monitoring project completed		

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Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
1. Administer the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act and associated activities (wetland banking, restorations, etc.); begin shared staffing for WCA.	Ongoing	CT, Admin, WMC
2021 Results: See WCA annual report to BWSR; Mathison served on TEP; monthly meetings held either in person or by phone.		
2. Identify areas lacking a vegetative buffer in the shoreland impact zone and promote establishment of buffers. Educate	Ongoing	ET, CT, Fillmore County
landowners about the buffer law and work with them to achieve compliance.		

Objective #3: Conduct education and outreach activities that promote land and water stewardship

Objective #5. Conduct education and oddreach activities that promote land and water stewardship		
Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
1. Update and maintain the SWCD website and Facebook page. Redesign the website to better reflect SWCD programs.	Ongoing	AA, Admin, Staff
2021 Results: A new website on WIX is being created with the grant monies from MACDE, Facebook and the current website are	updated regularly by	/ staff.
2. Submit periodic news releases or commentaries from the Board and staff to the local newspapers about SWCD priorities	Ongoing	Admin, Board
2021 Results: Articles and advertisements placed in Journal throughout year as needed		
3. Publish annual newspaper insert and at least two online newsletters.	Annually	Admin, AA, Staff
2021 Results: Newspaper insert published in February in the Fillmore County Journal; 2 online newsletters and one interview we	re published and con	npleted in 2021.
4. Select and promote a county Outstanding Conservationist (from District 4 in 2022) and other award candidates. Hold annual recognition event.	Annually	Staff, Board
2021 Results: No recognition luncheon held due to COVID – look to invite 2020 winners along with 2021 winners to luncheon in 2	2022. 2021 winners	selected: Lynn & Roxie Tienter
5. Sponsor the annual 6th Grade Conservation Day.	Annually	CT, Staff
2021 Results: Held in person with 2 schools attending (Fillmore Central & Rushford Peterson) with 120 students. Provided curricular outbreak.	ulum for those schoo	ls unable to attend due to
6. Assist with annual Farm Safety Day Camp.	Annually	ASHS, Staff
2021 Results: No activity.		
7. Support and assist with the Area 7 Envirothon.	Annually	СТ
2021 Results: Aaren attended planning meetings, moved event to online for 2021, plan on in person event for 2022		
8. Promote and provide two \$500 scholarships, one to a graduating senior and one to a returning college student.	Annually	AA, Admin, Board
2021 Results: One scholarship was awarded. High School: Kaylor Soiney from Mabel-Canton HS; College: No applicants		
9. Provide information on natural resources conservation at the county fair.	Annually	AA, ET, Staff, Board
2021 Results: Standard booth set-up and kids' activities. Nitrate clinic and demonstrations – not much participation, need to find	other demonstration	ns/activities.
10. Participate in Ag in the Classroom, Earth Day and other activities in the schools and communities. Contact the schools to		
encourage them to utilize SWCD staff as presenters and plan other activities.	Annually	WMC, CT, Admin, NMS, Staff
2021 Results: Provided sessions to Fillmore Central 4 th Grade class, Rushford-Peterson Fish & Water Class, Kingsland class		
11. Promote the MPCA Citizen Stream Monitoring Program.	Annually	WMC
2021 Results: Information was available during the County Fair		
12. Coordinate the Volunteer Precipitation Monitoring Network.	Annually	RCS
2021 Results: Volunteer data collected and submitted to the state.		
13. Work with the FFA and 4H organizations to promote soil conservation and to provide information about BMPs, careers,	Spring/Fall 2022	Staff
forestry, water testing, etc. Demonstrate the rain simulator at the FFA soils competition. Invite students to job shadow with		
staff.		
2021 Results: Reached out to local FFA's with a learning plot to see if can help them. Rushford FFA only respondent. DT is working	g with them on cove	r crops with MW coordinating
14. Provide opportunities for Board members to visit or tour sites where conservation practices are being implemented.	Spring-Fall 2022	Staff

2021:	No activi	ty.
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15. Communicate with state and federal legislators about conservation programs and their effectiveness. 2021 Results: MASWCD Day at the Capitol held virtually.	Spring 2022	Admin, Staff, Board
16. Continue sponsoring the awards for forestry and other conservation practices through 4H and work with the leaders to encourage better participation in these programs among their members.	July 2022	Board
2021 Results: Sponsored 4H awards at the 2021 County Fair.		
17. Coordinate efforts with the Bluff Country Hiking Club to maintain interpretive information for the Lost Creek Hiking Trail.	Summer 2022	CT, Intern, Forestry Committee
2021 Results: no activity		
18. Coordinate activities with other conservation organizations that help meet the goals of the SWCD (e.g., Eagle Bluff, Project	·	
Get Outdoors, National Trout Center, The Nature Conservancy, etc.)	As needed	Staff, Board
2021 Results: no activities held		
	As needed	Staff, Board
19. Provide scholarships or incentives to attend local or regional educational events that are consistent with the SWCD's mission. 2021 Results: No activity		
20. Assist MDA with Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP).	As needed	Staff, ET
2021 Results: Provide information to landowners about program; news articles, Facebook		
21. Provide information about resources that assist in making good land use decisions (ex: Geologic Atlas, Root River Landscape Plan, Root River WRAPS and 1W1P, etc.) to local officials, homeowners, realtors, lenders, etc. 2021 Results: Information available at SWCD office.	Ongoing	Staff / Zoning
22. Create Root River 1W1P education/outreach program and/or templates in cooperation with 1W1P Planning Work Group. 2021 results: Completion of civic engagement plan with assistance from Extension and U of M.	Ongoing	WMC, Admin

SWCD Capacity

Goal: Maintain the efficient use of District resources and staff

Objective #1: Support staff and Board activities that increase the District's capacity

Objective #1. Support Stair and Board activities that increase the District's capacity		
Actions	Timeline	Lead staff/Partners
1. Provide funding for employee and supervisor training and development as budgeted.	Ongoing	Staff, Board
2021 Results: BWSR Tool Talk Webinars, BWSR Academy, Other online training courses		
2. Conduct annual performance evaluations and review staff work plans.	Ongoing	Admin
2021 Results: Annual evaluations completed with all staff. Individual Development Plans updated in eLink for technical staff.		
3. Support staff and supervisor attendance at meetings of regional organizations that help achieve SWCD goals (SE Technical Support JPB, BALMM).	Ongoing	Staff, Board
2021 Results: The SWCD was represented by staff and board members at several regional meetings of the Technical JPB, Hiawatha V Committee, District Managers' meetings, and BALMM.	alley RC&D, Wat	er Resources Advisory
4. Administer the Ag BMP Loan Program.	Ongoing	ET, Admin
2021 Results: 5 loans completed for \$255,509.75: 2 manure equipment, 3 septic systems		
5. Annually review and approve the District By-Laws.	Annually	Board
2021 Results: Completed in February.		
6. Financially support the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) including SE Area 7, the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE), including the SE Area 7, the SE MN SWCD Technical Support Joint Powers Board, Hiawatha Valley RC&D Council, and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).	Annually	Board
2021 Results: Dues were paid to all organizations.		
7. Continue participation in the DNR Observation Well Network.	March-Nov 2022	RCS
2021 Results: Two wells were monitored by staff.		
8. Participate in Local Work Group for federal programs (EQIP, CRP, etc.)	Spring 2022	Staff, Board / NRCS
2021 Results: LWG meeting was held virtually.		
9. Pursue funding to hire a summer intern to assist with SWCD projects and programs.	Nov. 2021	Admin, Personnel Committee
2021 Results: No intern hired		
10. Provide technology/devices for increasing efficiency of field work and data collection and continuing education	Ongoing	Staff
for use; investigate time tracking options that can better summarize information for grant applications and reporting.		
2021 Results: Continue to look into technology needs		
11. Develop work plan for use of 2021 Local Capacity Grant Funds.	July 2021	Staff and Board
2020 Results: 2020 Grant Allocation - \$115,669 total; \$20,000 for staff Education/Outreach efforts; \$95,669 for Technical Assistance		
12. Distribute customer satisfaction surveys and compile results for an annual report to the SWCD staff and Board.	Ongoing	AA and staff
2021 Results: Surveys distributed; results to be compiled and will be presented at January 2022 board meeting.		
13. Vehicle Replacement Schedule: Budget to replace a District vehicle every 2 years on a rotating basis. 2021: Sold 2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee by sealed bid, take action to replace the 2013 Chevy Impala with a full size SUV in 2022 through	2022, 2024 gh state contract	Board, Admin