



Turtle Creek Watershed District 2011 Summary

2011 was an active year for the District. There was a considerable amount of board focus on the development and ultimate approval of the Deer Creek ditch system. One of the few private ditches remaining in the watershed, the system was approved and construction began in mid 2011.

With the rising crop prices and loss of CRP acres, the board ramped up it's education efforts for CRP filter strips. Private ditch systems were targeted for education and outreach in hopes of maintaining existing contracts and promoting the development of new buffers. The board also reached out to agency partners and elected officials to encourage CRP program that would keep buffer strips on the landscape.

The following is a look back on the initiatives and accomplishments for 2011.



2011 State Project of the Year

Riceland Restoration Project



Project Partners: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Freeborn Soil and Water Conservation District, Board of Water and Soil Resources & Farm Service Agency.

2011 Accomplishments

- Continue to maintain Turtle Creek system.
- Develop comprehensive Hydrology and Hydraulic model for watershed.
- Continue water quality monitoring program.
- Identify landowners along Mud Creek Ditch system and provide information on programs that encourage the participation of vegetated buffers along sensitive waterways and ditches.
- Hosted Filter Strip tour for Senator Franken and Congressman Walz staff.
- Participated in Conservation Farm Bill tour for Congressman Walz, Senator Klobuchar staff and local stakeholders.
- Promoted farm bill conservation programs through Freeborn County Newsletter.
- Maintained Website with updated information.
- Fair Booth at the Freeborn and Mower County Fairs.



Monitoring continued along the 41st St. Bridge



Education and outreach tours were held with local stakeholders, Congressman Walz and staff from Senators Franken and Klobuchar's offices to discuss the importance of buffer strips and preserving expiring CRP contracts

Deer Creek Ditch System

- Facilitated the ditch development
- Hosted educational meetings for ditch stakeholders
- Conducted public hearings to take input on the ditch procedures
- Provide oversight of the design and construction of the project



Board of Supervisors

Turtle Creek WD

1408 21st Ave. NW
Austin, MN 55912
507-434-2603

Administrator-Justin Hanson
www.turtlecreekwd.org



Back Row (L to R): **Gerald Edwards**-Secretary,
Michelle Miller-President, **Peter Van Erkel**-Vice President
Front Row (L to R): **Arlen Schamber**-Treasurer
Tom Butler-Member