

2015 Annual Report

Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council
3936 E Frontage Road, Suite 114, Rochester, Minnesota 55901



Hiawatha Valley RC&D Appreciates the Support of our Sponsors

The Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council appreciates the support and leadership of the County Commissioners and Soil and Water Conservation Districts of the Area. We offer you all our sincere **Thank You**.

These sponsors provide excellent leadership through the members assigned to our RC&D Council. They also help to recruit and appoint our members at large. And most importantly, they provide the leadership and local insight to our strategic plan and operations.

We commit to our sponsors that we will continue a strong relationship, and seek opportunities to connect more closely - to be a valued partner.

RC&D COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dodge County: Don Heser
Rodney Peterson

Fillmore County: Tom Kaase
Leonard Leutink, Jr.
Pamela Mensink

Freeborn County: No Member

Goodhue County: Brad Anderson
Jason Majerus:
Larry Thomforde

Houston County: Glenn Kinneberg
Roger Stenhoff

Mower County: No Member

Olmsted County: **George Poch (Pres.)**
Matt Flynn
Louis Ohly

Rice County: Jake Gillen
Richard Langeslag
Jim Purfeerst

Steele County: **Mark Ihlenfeld (Officer)**
Bruce Kubicek (Vice)

Wabasha County: Rich Hall
Terry Helbig
Roland Wood (Sec/Treas)

Winona County: Leo Speltz
Arlene Nelson (alt)
Lonny Dietz

Focus on our Mission and Priorities

By George Poch, President

The 2015 Bi-monthly meetings began with an Annual meeting in early February during which we confirmed our priorities, approved the Annual work plan, and established an audit committee. Our touchstone in this process was our vision of: *“a productive economy and good standard of living in balance with a quality environment”*.

Our **Mission:** “to empower people to balance environmental and economic needs through leadership, collaboration and project development” remained unchanged. As did our priority areas of concern:

- ❖ Water Quality
- ❖ Value Added Businesses
- ❖ Renewable Energy
- ❖ Natural Resource Education and Information
- ❖ Nonprofit Organization Management Improvements

Financial Report

Income and Expenses

Income	
Donations	619.75
Sponsor Support	2,700.00
State Grants (ENRTF)	15,715.72
Interest	153.90
TOTAL INCOME	19,189.37
Expenses	
Insurance	460.00
Membership Dues	1,075.00
Postage, Shipping	149.60
Contracted Services	13,744.25
Accounting Fees	334.00
Executive Director	5,016.00
Meeting Registration	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	20,878.85
NET DIFFERENCE	(1,689.48)

Total Assets

Assets	
Checking	13,115.94
Savings	5,164.33
Investment (CD)	6,979.09
TOTAL ASSETS	25,259.36

Key Projects & Priorities

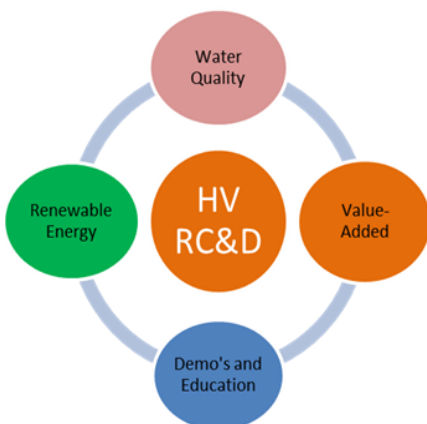
2015 marked the continuation of projects including the ENRTF funded grazing to control invasive plants; improvements to the Fugle’s Mill forest demonstration site; and partnering to complete the SE Minnesota Forest Landscape Plan. These projects will carry on in 2016, with plans to expand projects in each of these program areas.

The RC&D Council has also established a priority for engaging in projects related to energy conservation and alternative energy. They are particularly interested in projects that are local and either on-farm or otherwise smaller in scope. We welcome input from partners and individuals with ideas in this area to share them and become a part of our efforts.

Other areas of interest will include demonstrating habitat improvements for pollinators, seeking nonprofit roles that can improve watershed improvement projects, and working to develop a business model template for individuals interested in starting or expanding a livestock enterprise for the purpose of grazing invasive or otherwise undesirable plants.



Field tour at River Bend Nature Center, grazing garlic mustard.



WATER QUALITY

Working with others involved in water quality improvement, Hiawatha Valley will collaborate with local leaders, groups to seek new and innovative solutions to assist with project type management.

VALUE ADDED BUSINESSES

Identifying the diversity of resources in our service area presents business opportunities. Local foods; forest products; under-utilized vegetation and alternative ag products are viewed as potential opportunities.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Identification of and promotion of renewable energy sources is a priority for Hiawatha Valley, as well as encouraging energy conservation practices throughout the area.

EDUCATION & MANAGEMENT

Hiawatha Valley has been involved with a variety of projects involving local leaders, state and federal agencies, businesses, and not for profit groups to address the three listed elements in the way of organization, business development and demonstration. Management of is needed to assists the sponsoring members.