



Mission Statement

Improving the water quality/quantity issues in the watershed, while also promoting a healthy agricultural, industrial, and recreational based economy for the region.

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Profitability of Soil Health Meeting Set for February 9, RSVP today

Please join us for the Profitability of Soil Health Meeting on Wednesday, February 9 from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm (registration, coffee, and rolls from 8:30 - 9:00, free lunch at 12:30 for those who RSVP'd) at the Renville Community Center. Hosted by the HCWP and Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the meeting will feature Kari Olson of Robert Olson Farms Inc. from Hawley, MN discussing profitability and conservation on a 2,300 acre farm by integrating cover crops and reduced tillage. A carbon panel comprised of local carbon credit representatives from Bayer, Cargill, Indigo, Nutrien Ag Solutions, and Truterra will present on their carbon credit programs and join

Profitability Meeting February 9
Continued on Page 3

HCWP Annual Meeting is Back Celebrate 25 years of HCWP at March 9 Meeting

After a hiatus in 2021, the Annual HCWP Information and Appreciation Meeting is back and scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at the Renville Community Center. This year's presenters include Pete Boulay, Climatologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Climatology Office, who will discuss the weather and climate and their effects on farming, cities, and the landscape. Dr. Todd Peterson, Water Quality Partnership Specialist with the Sand County Foundation, will present on new practices that can be adopted by farmers to improve crop production, while also reducing the impacts of agriculture on the environment. Heidi Rauenhorst, HCWP Coordinator, will give the annual HCWP update, including recent Best Management Practices projects, water quality monitoring, aquatic invasive species, and other activities in the last two years.

Join us to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the start of the HCWP with a look down memory lane of

25th Anniversary
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Cost-Share Money Available for Best Management Practices

Do you have gullies, washouts, runoff problems, or erosion problems on your property? Are you interested in finding out what you can do to increase conservation practices on your property? HCWP has funding available for the design and installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to fix erosion and water quality issues on your property and to help reduce the amount of pollutants entering our streams and lakes. Cost-share funds are available up to 75% of total BMP project costs, depending on funding availability. Since 1999, HCWP has worked with over 1,000 landowners on over 1,700 projects aimed to reduce erosion and improve water quality. Let HCWP help find a solution to your erosion and water quality issues.

Some of the practices that may qualify for funding include, but are not limited to:

Ag Waste Upgrades	Feedlot and Water Diversions	Side/Drop Inlets
Alternative Intakes	Grassed Waterways	Streambank Erosion Control
Bank/Grade Stabilizations	Lakeshore Restorations	Terraces
Controlled Drainage	Rain Gardens	Water/Sediment Control Structures
Cover Crops	Reduced Tillage	Water Retention
Farmable Terraces	Runoff Reduction	Wetland Restorations

Contact HCWP at (320) 523-3666 or dean@hawkcreekwatershed.org
for assistance with your erosion or runoff problem.

The following offices are also available to assist with your potential project:

Chippewa County: SWCD (320) 269-2696 NRCS (320) 269-2139 Ag and Drainage (320) 269-2662
Kandiyohi County: SWCD (320) 235-3906 NRCS (320) 235-3906 Drainage (320) 235-3266
Renville County: SWCD (320) 523-1559 NRCS (320) 523-1553 Drainage (320) 523-3759

25th Anniversary: Continued from Page 1

Please join us for the 20th Annual

Hawk Creek Watershed Information and Appreciation Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Renville Community Center, 221 North Main Street

RSVP by March 2

to jordan@hawkcreekwatershed.org or (320) 523-3666 to reserve your seat and free lunch

Presentations:

- Crop Production: Can we keep doing business as usual? - Dr. Todd Peterson (Sand County Foundation)
- Weather, Climate, and Drought Outlook - Pete Boulay (MN Department of Natural Resources State Climatology Office)
- Celebrating 25 Years of Watershed Work: Hawk Creek Watershed Project Update - Heidi Rauenhorst (Hawk Creek Watershed Project)

Visit **www.hawkcreekwatershed.org** for the full agenda and updates in case of inclement weather

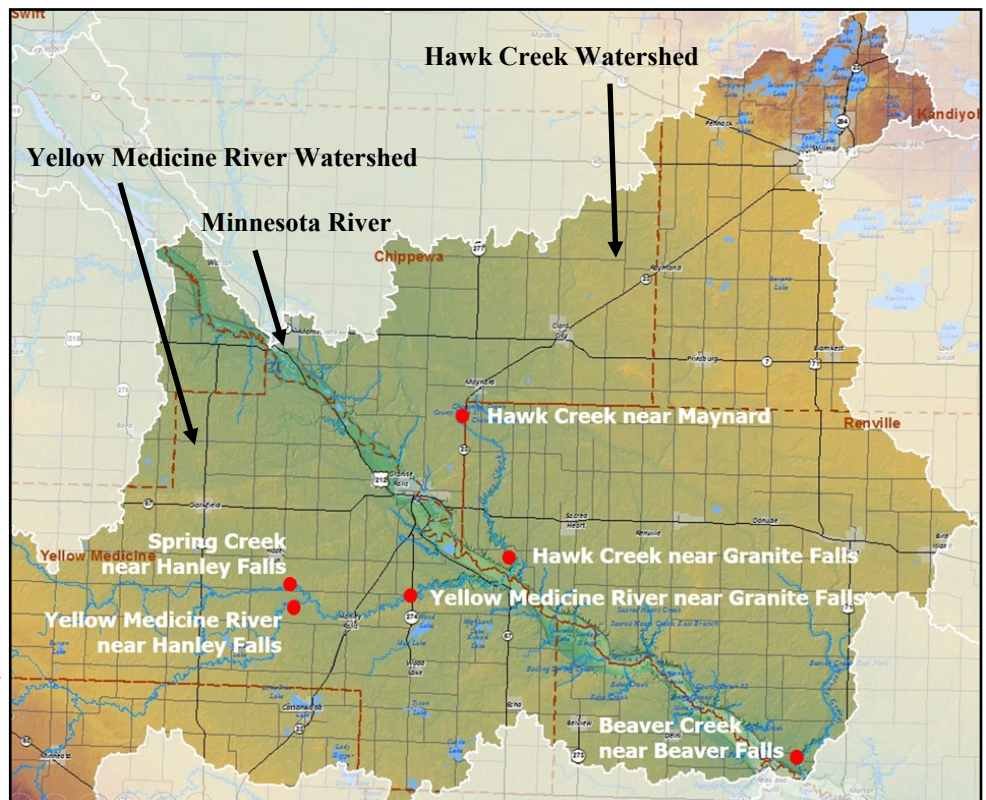
past HCWP projects, events, employees, and board members. A free lunch will follow the presentations for those who RSVP. The full agenda is posted on the HCWP website hawkcreekwatershed.org. If you would like to be on our mailing and/or email list to receive notifications of upcoming HCWP meetings like this

one, please contact HCWP to be added to the list(s). **If you would like to attend the HCWP Annual Meeting, please RSVP by March 2 by contacting the HCWP office at (320) 523-3666 or jordan@hawkcreekwatershed.org.**

HCWP Water Quality Monitoring

Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network

HCWP contracts with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to conduct water quality monitoring as part of the MPCA's Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network, which is a long-term program that collects water quality data from streams and rivers throughout Minnesota and tracks water quality trends. HCWP collects water quality samples at three sites in the Hawk Creek Watershed (Hawk Creek near Maynard, Hawk Creek near Granite Falls before it enters the Minnesota River, and Beaver Creek near Beaver Falls and Redwood Falls before it enters the Minnesota River) and at three sites in the Yellow Medicine River Watershed (Spring Creek near Hanley Falls, Yellow Medicine River near Hanley Falls, and Yellow Medicine River near Granite Falls before it enters the Minnesota River).



Monitoring

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Profitability Meeting February 9: Continued from Page 1

in a discussion and answer audience questions about carbon credits. Vendors from local cover crop seed suppliers, consultants, applicators, and equipment suppliers will also be on hand to answer questions and provide information. A free lunch will follow the meeting for those who RSVP. Find the full agenda at hawkcreekwatershed.org and renvilleswcd.org. **If you would like to attend the Profitability of Soil Health Meeting, please RSVP by February 2 by contacting Ethan at the Renville County SWCD office at (320) 523-3635 or ethand@renvilleswcd.org.**



Kari Olson of Robert Olson Farms Inc. will present at the Profitability of Soil Health meeting on February 9 on profitability and conservation by integrating cover crops and reduced tillage. Olson, alongside her dad, Rob, operate a 2,300 acre

grain farm near Hawley, MN. Over time, they have reduced tillage on their operation and have been exclusively no-till for the past six years. Integration of cover crops over the last seven years has helped them accelerate some of the soil health benefits of no-till.

Profitability of Soil Health Meeting Wednesday, February 9, 2022 @ Renville Community Center

RSVP by Wednesday, February 2

to Ethan at (320) 523-3635 or ethand@renvilleswcd.org

- 8:30 Registration, Coffee, and Rolls
- 9:00 Conservation on the Farm - Kari Olson (Robert Olson Farms Inc., Hawley, MN)
- 10:00 Break, Vendor Booths
- 10:30 Carbon Panel - Presentations and Q&A from Carbon Credit Program Representatives from Bayer, Cargill, Indigo, Nutrien Ag Solutions, and Truterra
- 12:30 Lunch (Remember to RSVP)

Become a Citizen Monitor!

Why should I become a Citizen Monitor?

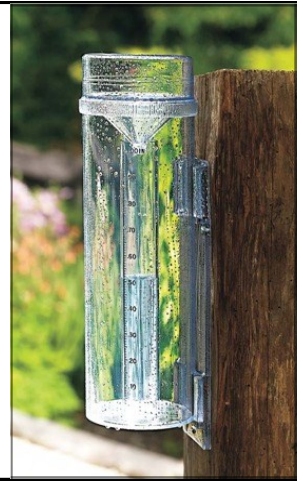
Becoming a member of the HCWP Citizen Monitoring Network is fun and exciting! It's an opportunity to be outdoors, learn more about your environment, and contribute valuable information to the Minnesota Climatological Network. Plus, you get to use some great equipment, like the rain gauge in the photo to the right.

What does a Citizen Monitor do?

A Citizen Monitor can monitor either rainfall, stream transparency with a Secchi tube, and/or lake transparency with a Secchi disc. Transparency measures the amount of sediment or particles in the water (the more particles in the water, the less clear the water).

How do I become a Citizen Monitor?

Contact HCWP at (320) 523-3666 or jordan@hawkcreekwatershed.org and tell us you would like to monitor rainfall and/or transparency. We will send you the monitoring equipment, provide more information, and help get you set up.

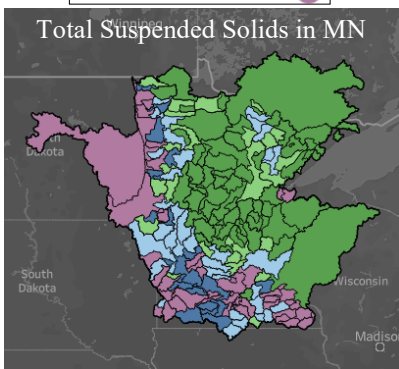
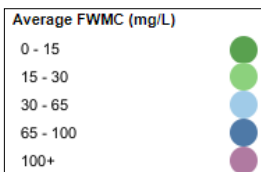


Monitoring: Continued from Page 3

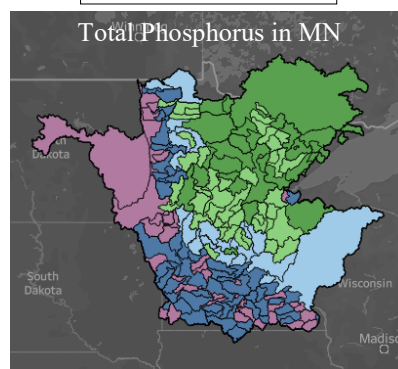
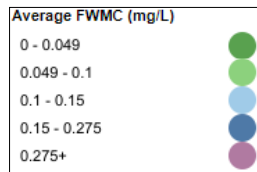
The maps below are from MPCA's Data Viewer and show the flow weighted mean concentrations of total suspended solids (TSS), total phosphorus, and total Kjeldahl nitrogen for Minnesota and for the Hawk Creek Watershed. The Hawk Creek Watershed has some of the highest concentrations of water pollutants (TSS, phosphorus, and nitrogen) in the State, with TSS and phosphorus levels over two times greater than water quality standards. The criteria for nitrogen is currently under review. To view water quality data, search for "MPCA Data Viewer" through an internet search engine or visit the MPCA's website <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/mpca.data.services/viz/WatershedPollutantLoadMonitoringNetworkWPLMNDDataViewer/WPLMNBrowser>.

Monitoring Continued on Page 5

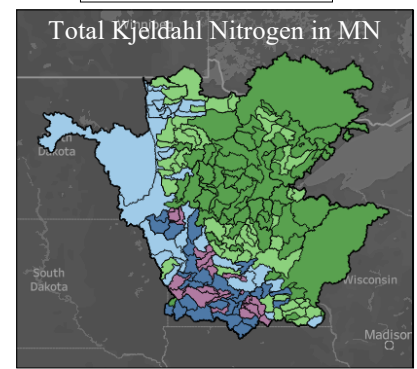
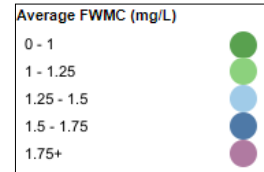
Total Suspended Solids



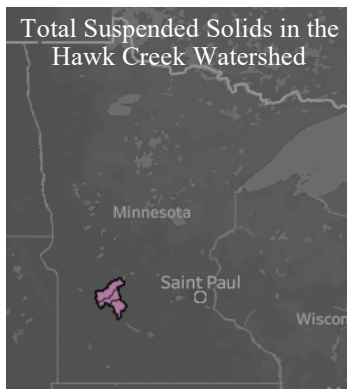
Total Phosphorus



Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen



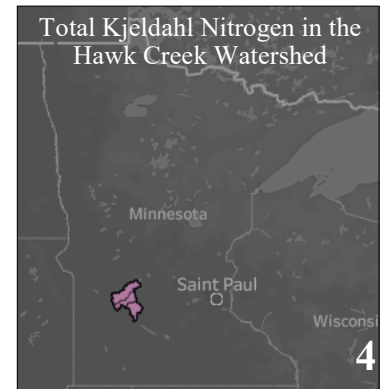
Total Suspended Solids in the Hawk Creek Watershed



Total Phosphorus in the Hawk Creek Watershed



Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen in the Hawk Creek Watershed



Discovery Farms Minnesota

HCWP also contracts with Discovery Farms Minnesota to gather field scale water quality information. Discovery Farms Minnesota is a farmer-led effort to gather water quality information from farming systems under real-world conditions and is funded by the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Center, Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council, Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. HCWP helps monitor and maintain an intensive in-field monitoring site year round near Brownton in McLeod County monitoring both sub-surface tile drainage and overland flow within a grassed waterway. Below are photos of the equipment set up for the sub-surface tile drain (left) and the grassed waterway (right). Real-time data is available on the Discovery Farms Minnesota website discoveryfarmsmn.org.



Looking down a sub-surface tile drain at the Discovery Farms monitoring site.



The overland flow of water in a grassed waterway passes through the flume pictured here at the Discovery Farms monitoring site near Brownton.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Pesticide Monitoring

HCWP also contracts with the MDA to collect agricultural chemical monitoring samples. MDA conducts comprehensive surface water monitoring for agricultural chemicals, including pesticides and fertilizers, each year in lakes, rivers, and streams throughout Minnesota as directed by the Minnesota Pesticide Control Law. HCWP collects water quality samples at three locations: Hawk Creek near Granite Falls before it enters the Minnesota River, Yellow Medicine River near Granite Falls before it enters the Minnesota River, and South



Fork Crow River near Cosmos. In 2020, 1,074 surface water samples were collected from 60 river, stream, and lake monitoring locations throughout Minnesota and analyzed for 178 pesticide compounds. Seventy-three pesticide compounds were detected, with 2,4-D, metolachlor, and atrazine the three most detected pesticide parent compounds. In addition to surface water monitoring, MDA also monitors groundwater and private wells. More information is available on the MDA's Agricultural Chemical Monitoring and Assessment page <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticide-fertilizer/agricultural-chemical-monitoring-assessment>.



Hawk Creek Watershed Project
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Profitability of Soil Health Meeting

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

**8:30 am - 12:30 pm (registration, coffee, and rolls
8:30 am - 9:00 am)**

Renville Community Center (221 Main St N),
followed by a free lunch to those who RSVP'd

RSVP by February 2

to Ethan at (320) 523-3635 or ethand@renvilleswcd.org

Agenda

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 8:30 | Registration, Coffee, and Rolls |
| 9:00 | Conservation on the Farm - Kari Olson (Robert Olson Farms Inc., Hawley, MN) |
| 10:00 | Break, Vendor Booths |
| 10:30 | Carbon Panel - Presentations and Q&A from Carbon Credit Program Representatives from Bayer, Cargill, Indigo, Nutrien Ag Solutions, and Truterra |
| 12:30 | Lunch |

For more information, contact:

Renville Co SWCD
renvilleswcd.com
(320) 523-1559

Hawk Creek Watershed Project
hawkcreekwatershed.org
(320) 523-3666

In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on February 11, visit
renvilleswcd.com or hawkcreekwatershed.org for updates

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