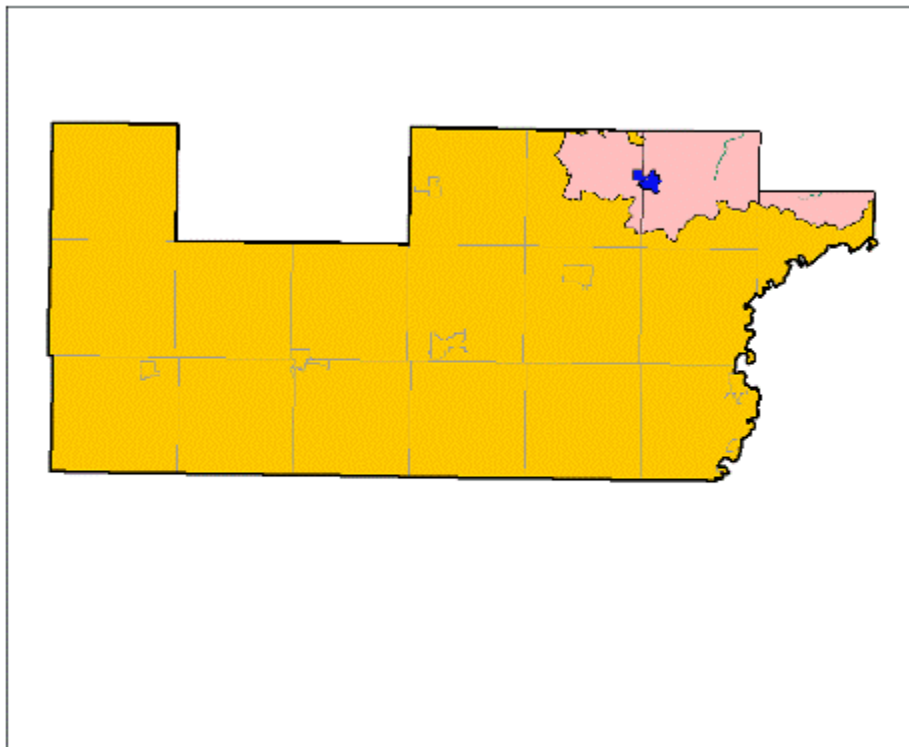


Bevens/Silver Creek Watershed SSTS Project Final Report



**Submitted by
Sibley SWCD
July 8, 2013**

Table of Contents

Grant Project Summary	1
Executive Summary	3
Section I: Workplan Review	4
Section II: Grant Results	4
Section III: Final Expenditures	6
Appendix A	7

Grant Project Summary

Project title:	Bevens/Silver Creek SSTS Project – Sibley County				
Organization (Grantee):	Sibley County				
Project start date:	March 29, 2010	Project end date:	June 30, 2013	Report submittal date:	July 8, 2013
Grantee contact name:	Ronald Otto		Title:	Sibley County Water Planner	
Address:	111 6 th St PO Box 161				
City:	Gaylord	State:	MN	Zip:	55307
Phone number:	(507) 237-5435	Fax:	(507) 237-5249	E-mail:	ron.otto@sibleyswcd.org
Basin (Red, Minnesota, St. Croix, etc.):	Minnesota			County:	Sibley

Project type (check one):

- Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Diagnostic
- CWP Implementation
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development
- 319 Implementation
- 319 Demonstration, Education, Research
- TMDL Implementation

Grant Funding

Final grant amount:	\$8,229.93	Final total project costs:	\$144,079.34		
Matching funds: Final cash:	\$0.00	Final in-kind:	\$14,483.43	Final Loan:	\$ 126,970.98
Contract number:	SWIFT PO - 1178		MPCA project manager:	Scott MacLean	

For TMDL Development or TMDL Implementation Projects only

Impaired reach name(s):					
AUID or DNR Lake ID(s):					
Listed pollutant(s):					
303(d) List scheduled start date:		Scheduled completion date:			

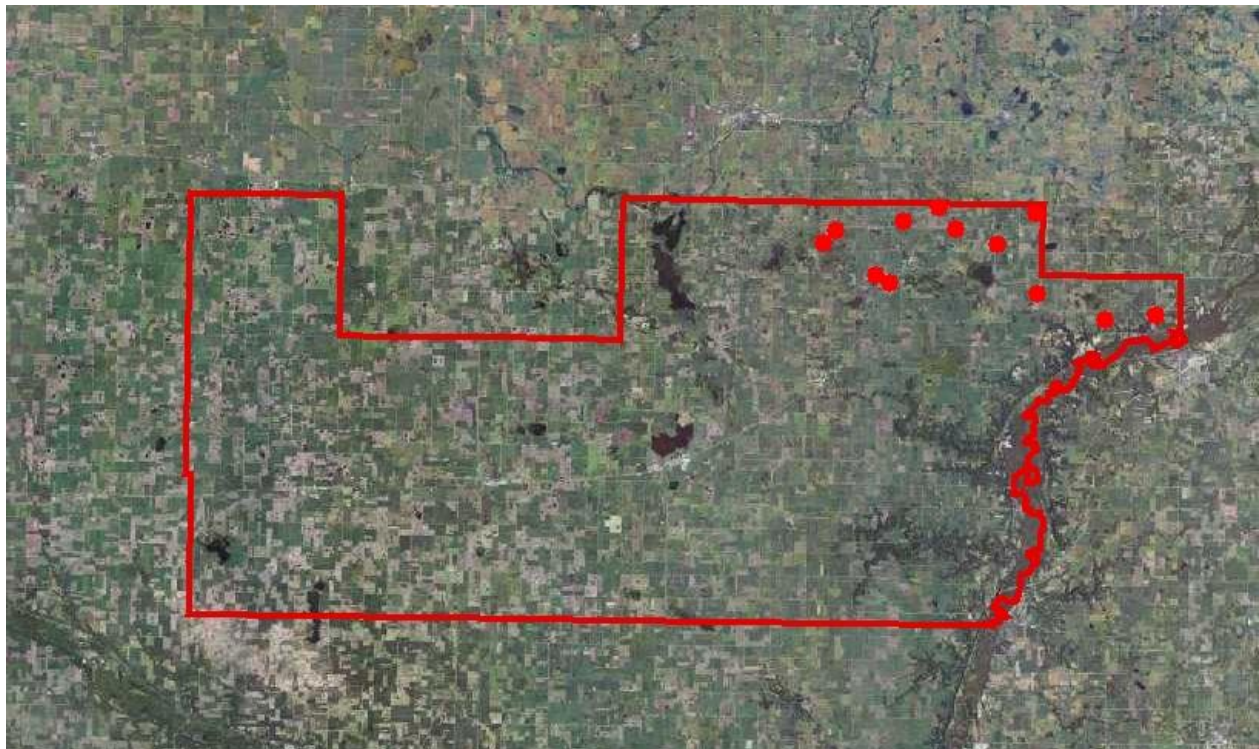
Goals

1st	Goal:	Secure bond to cover Bevens/Silver Creek SSTS Project.
2nd	Goal:	Develop and distribute educational materials to landowners in the Bevens and Silver Creek Watersheds.
3rd	Goal:	Upgrade twenty-one SSTS's in the Bevens and Silver Creek Watersheds.

Results that count (Include the results from your established goals.)

1st	Result:	Sibley County Auditor's office advertised and secured bond to cover loan amount.
2nd	Result:	There were three mailings to 173 home owners during the time of this grant. A poster was created and hung in the township hall and post office buildings. There were displays at the SWCD booth at the county fair and town festival annually.
3rd	Result:	At the time of this report, eleven SSTS upgrades have been completed and 12 more applications have been mailed. The loan agreement will continue until December 15, 2013. One additional SSTS upgrade was finished after the grant ended.

Map 1. Septic systems installed.



Acronyms

BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
CWP	Clean Water Partnership
MPN	Most Probable Number
SSTS	Subsurface Sewage Treatment System
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TSS	Total Suspended Solids

Executive Summary of Project

The Bevens and Silver Creek Watersheds are located in the Lower Minnesota River Watershed, in south central Minnesota. The watersheds are located in portions of Green Isle, Washington Lake and Faxon Townships in Sibley County. Bevens and Silver Creek watersheds cover 31,725 acres in Sibley County.

Work conducted by Carver County Environmental Services in Bevens and Silver Creeks indicated the potential for failing and imminent threat septic systems in the watershed. These systems can release large amounts of fecal coliform bacteria and phosphorus through improper treatment of sewage. The Bevens/Silver Creek SSTS Project – Sibley County was developed to reduce fecal coliform bacteria and phosphorus in Bevens and Silver Creeks. The goal of this project was to upgrade twenty-one septic systems in the Bevens and Silver Creek watersheds.

This final report represents the expiration of the grant contract, but the low interest loan agreements will continue until December 15, 2013. This report will be amended at the end of the loan agreement to update the final system upgrade numbers. Eleven systems have been upgraded with the loan program and efforts will be made to reach the goal of twenty-one systems before the end of the loan agreement. Weather played a role in the number of installed systems as two of the three years had very wet springs causing contractors to work in drier areas. From July 1, 2013 until the end of the loan period (December 15, 2013) one additional loan was made to a home owner.

Section I Workplan Review

Program Element 1 – Initial Activities.

1A.

Sibley County SWCD staff completed a detailed work plan and budget for the project that met the requirements set forth by the MPCA and Clean Water Partnership Program.

1B.

The Sibley County Auditor's office advertised and secured bonding for the project that covered the full amount of the low-interest loan.

Program Element 2 – Information & Education

Information was disseminated to watershed residents over the length of the grant. Posters were printed and placed in the township halls and post offices, 162 letters were mailed to homeowners and 308 postcards were printed and mailed. Homeowners that had questions, about septic systems, were informed via telephone, internet or face to face conversations. Sibley SWCD set up information booths and attended "Breakfast on the Farm" events and the Sibley County Fair.

Program Element 3 – Technical Assistance

Sibley SWCD staff provided technical assistance to eleven homeowners that received loans to upgrade their septic systems. An additional thirteen applications were given to homeowners with no word back when they were going to upgrade. Sibley County Environmental Services, through a private contractor, provided inspections and certificates of compliance for all septic system loans. All information about septic loans has been entered into eLink.

Program Element 4 – Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Upgrades

The plan for the project was to begin the process of updating all non-conforming septic systems in the Bevens and Silver Creek watersheds in Sibley County. The proposal for the project was to upgrade twenty-one non-conforming septic systems. Through the life of the grant only eleven septic system loans will be completed. As noted above, the loan agreement was extended to December 15, 2013 to gain an extra construction season. The project expects additional systems will be installed prior to the expiration of the loan agreement.

Section II Grant Results

Postcards, letters and posters were distributed to educate the homeowners about what the benefits of conforming septic systems would have to the Bevens and Silver Creek watersheds. Displays were also used to educate the public at civic celebrations. See Appendix A for a list of the products that were produced.

Eleven septic systems were installed during the grant and thirteen additional applications for loans have been mailed during the grant. The loan agreement runs through December 15, 2013 so additional systems could be installed by then.

The weather in the spring of 2012 and 2013 was a hindrance to contractors trying to build septic systems. It was very wet and conditions were not favorable for construction.

Septic systems that were installed reduced pollutants to the watersheds by the following estimates:

Fecal Coliform Bacteria	8.06 E+14 MPN/yr
Phosphorus	117 lbs/yr
BOD	4,724 lbs/yr
TSS	2,610 lbs/yr
Nitrogen	347 lbs/yr

Section III Final Expenditures*

	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Loan</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Program Element 1 – Initial Activities				
1A – Work Plan Development	\$ 600.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 600.00
1B – Bonding	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,750.00
Program Element 2 – Education & Information	\$ 2,579.93	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,579.93
Program Element 3 – Technical Assistance	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,300.00
In-kind	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,800.00
Program Element 4 – SSTS Upgrades Loans	\$ 0.00	\$126,970.98	\$ 0.00	\$121,365.98
In-kind	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,683.43	\$ 6,683.43
Total	\$ 8,229.93**	\$126,970.98	\$14,483.43	\$149,684.34

* See attachment for detailed expenditure sheet.

**Of the \$8,793.00 grant funds paid to the project, only \$8,229.93 was spent. The balance of \$563.07 was paid back to the State of Minnesota upon approval of this final report.

Appendix A

- I. Poster
- II. Postcards
- III. Letter

Notice

Bevens and Silver Creek

Watershed Residents

**Sibley SWCD has loan
money available to
upgrade non-compliant
septic systems.**

**For more information call
(507) 237-5435**

Septic System Information

Sibley County now has loan money available to replace noncompliant septic systems in the Bevens Silver Creek Watershed in which you live. Loans can be for up to 10 years at 3% interest. If you have questions or would like an application contact Ron Otto at Sibley SWCD. The loan program will end on June 30, 2013. Information is also available on the web at www.sibleyswcd.org.

Sibley SWCD

P. O. Box 161
111 6th St.
Gaylord, MN 55307

Phone (507) 237-5435 ext 105
Fax (507) 237-5259
Email ron.otto@sibleyswcd.org

Attention: BEVENS/SILVER CREEK WATERSHED Residents,

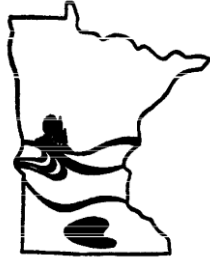
“Low Interest Loans for Upgrades of Non-compliant Septic Systems for residents in the Bevens/Silver Creek Watershed”

- Owners of Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) are eligible for a low interest loan at 3% to replace non-conforming septic systems.
- The length of the loan can be up to 10 years.
- To be eligible: must serve a residential, non-commercial property in the watershed.
- Applicant must be a property owner of a septic system that discharges to the surface, tiled to drainage or road ditch, discharges to a cesspool, seepage pit or dry well, less than 3 foot separation to seasonally saturated soil, lack of a system or does not meet the setback to an existing well.

Look for additional information on the web at www.sibleyswcd.org.

or

Contact the Sibley SWCD office at **(507) 237-5435 ext. 105**



**SIBLEY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

P O Box 161
111 6th St.
Gaylord, Minnesota 55334
Phone (507) 237 5435

**MINNESOTA SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Date

To: Bevens Silver Creek Watershed Septic System Owners

Starting in April, 2010 the Bevens Silver Creek Watershed Project has had loan money available to upgrade failing and imminent threat septic systems. This is the last construction season that this loan will be available. The program will be ending on December 15, 2013.

To receive a loan follow these rules:

- A loan application must be filed with Sibley SWCD.
- Septic System permit must be purchased (\$400.00) at Environmental Services.
- A plan and design must be approved by the Sibley County SSTS Inspector.
- The real estate taxes on the property must not be delinquent.
- Construction cannot begin before the loan is approved.

Loans can be up to 10 years in length and carry a 3% interest rate. Loan installments are made when your real estate taxes are due.

Sibley County also has a Septic System Grant Program for imminent threat systems. There are 3 grants available and each grant covers \$6,424. Bevens Silver Creek Watershed Project loan funds can be used to finance the balance of the cost to upgrade a system. To be eligible, applicants must have an imminent threat septic system and meet the minimum total adjusted gross income limits set by USDA for Sibley County.

Thank you,

Ronald Otto
ron.otto@sibleyswcd.org
Water Plan Coordinator

