



Grant Progress Report

Projects and Practices 2021

Grant Title: Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up

Grant ID: C21-2364

Grantee: Kanabec SWCD

Fiscal Agent: Kanabec SWCD

Grant Day-to-Day Contact: Deanna Pomije

Grant Award (\$): \$70,000.00

Required Match (%): 25

Required Match (\$): \$17,500.00

Grant Execution Date: 03/10/2021

Grant End Date: 12/31/2023

	Total Budgeted	Total Spent	Balance Remaining*
Grant Funds	\$70,000.00	\$18,557.83	\$51,442.17
Match Funds	\$17,500.00	\$18,186.00	(\$686.00)
Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$87,500.00	\$36,743.83	\$50,756.17

*Grant balance remaining is the difference between the Awarded Amount and the Spent Amount. Other values compare budgeted and spent amounts.

Budget Details

Activity Name	Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining	Match Fund?
Project Administration & Reporting	Administration/Coordination	Current State Grant	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	\$3,100.00	\$1,253.55	\$1,846.45	N
Best Management Practices	Agricultural Practices	Current State Grant	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	\$34,500.00	\$855.96	\$33,644.04	N
Best Management	Agricultural Practices	Federal Funds	Fed. EQIP funds on BMPs	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00	Y

<i>Activity Name</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Source Type</i>	<i>Source Description</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Spent</i>	<i>Balance Remaining</i>	<i>Match Fund?</i>
Practices							
Best Management Practices	Agricultural Practices	Landowner Fund	Landowner 25% match on BMPs	\$8,625.00	\$18,186.00	(\$9,561.00)	Y
Citizen Engagment, Outreach & Education	Education/Information	Current State Grant	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	\$4,700.00	\$4,004.92	\$695.08	N
Project Development	Project Development	Local Fund	Donations_SWCD staff time	\$2,875.00		\$2,875.00	Y
Project Development	Project Development	Current State Grant	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	\$10,000.00	\$8,471.82	\$1,528.18	N
Technical / Engineering Assistance	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Current State Grant	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	\$17,700.00	\$3,971.58	\$13,728.42	N

Indicator Summary

<i>Indicator Category</i>	<i>Proposed Indicator</i>	<i>Total Value</i>	<i>Unit</i>
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Phosphorus (Est. Reduction)	40	Lbs/Yr
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Sediment (Tss)	8	Tons/Yr

<i>Indicator Category</i>	<i>Final Indicator</i>	<i>Total Value</i>	<i>Unit</i>
Pollution Prevention	Prevention	1	Count
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Nitrogen	1338.8	Lbs/Yr
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Phosphorus (Est. Reduction)	1338.8	Lbs/Yr

Grant Activities

Activity Name: Best Management Practices

Activity Category: Agricultural Practices

Staff time?: No

Description: Installation of BMP's to include primarily sedimentation reducing practices, such as pasture improvement practices (livestock exclusion fencing, alternative watering access and rotational grazing), other erosion control practices, buffer enhancement along surface waters and streambank protection practices. The plan is to install 4-6 BMP's on the Knife River resulting in 8 tons of soil saved per year and 40 pounds of Phosphorus per year.

Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	\$34,500.00	\$855.96	\$33,644.04	09/29/2022	N
Landowner Fund	Landowner 25% match on BMPs	\$8,625.00	\$18,186.00	(\$9,561.00)	12/20/2021	Y
Federal Funds	Fed. EQIP funds on BMPs	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00		Y

Actual Results

2021- An abandoned manure pit closure (NRCS Practice Code 360) was completed in Kanabec County. This project site falls within the Knife River Watershed, 1,160' from the lake. Total eligible project cost \$18,186.00. Funds from the Local Snake River Watershed Management Board was used to fund 75% of total eligible project cost (13,639.50). This project is being used for match for the Knife River Clean-Up Grant.

2022- Installed a Heavy Use Area Protection practice for two tire tank waterers in conjunction with other partner practices to allow for better use of rotational grazing and keeping cattle away from the river where nutrient runoff is a concern.

Final Indicators

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Total Value</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Prevention	1	Count
Phosphorus (Est. Reduction)	1338.8	Lbs/Yr
Nitrogen	1338.8	Lbs/Yr

Activity Action Name:	Barton Heitke Manure Pit Closure	Activity Count: 1
Practice Type:	327 - Conservation Cover	Size/Units: 46163 - Cfu/Yr
TA Provider/JAA:	TSA	Lifespan: 15 Years
Practice Description:	Abandoned manure pit closure (NRCS Practice Code 360) in Knife Lake Township in Kanabec County. Funds from the Local Snake River Watershed Management Board used to fund 75% of total eligible project cost.	Install Date: 12/07/2021
		Mapped: Yes

Indicator Name	Units	Value	Calculation Tool	Waterbody
Nitrogen	Lbs/Yr	1338.8	Other	Knife Lake
Phosphorus (Est. Reduction)	Lbs/Yr	1338.8	Other	Knife Lake

Activity Action Name:	Karen Felger- HUAP	Activity Count: 2
Practice Type:	561 - Heavy Use Area Protection	Size/Units: 1050 - Cfu/Yr
TA Provider/JAA:	NRCS	Lifespan: 10 Years
Practice Description:	Two HUAP were installed around tire tank waterers in conjunction with other partner practices at their farm.	Install Date: 08/18/2022
		Mapped: Yes

Indicator Name	Units	Value	Calculation Tool	Waterbody
Prevention	Count	1	Other	Knife River

Activity Name: Citizen Engagment, Outreach & Education

Activity Category: Education/Information

Staff time?: Yes

Description: This activity will include engaging the citizens and stakeholders in the planning, implementation and evaluation process of the overall project, as well as providing outreach and education to the public, about the project goals and objectives. through news releases, articles, fact sheets, field trips, presentations at Township Board & Lake Association meetings, and workshops.

Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	\$4,700.00	\$4,004.92	\$695.08	07/28/2023	N

Actual Results

In 2021, two targeted mailings to landowners within the Knife River Watershed were conducted. The first mailing which consisted of a postcard (uploaded Knife River Postcard 4-9-21) was sent to 22 landowners within the Knife River Watershed on 4-9-21. The second mailing consisted of a postcard and brochure (uploaded Postcard 6-29-21) was sent 6-29-21 to 43 landowners in the Knife River Watershed. SWCD staff presented at the Hillman Township Board meeting to generate interest in the grant. We also conducted numerous site visits for potential project interest, following the two outreach mailings. Staff also visited the Knife River watershed three times in a broad sense, knocking on doors and visiting with landowners to inform them of the grant opportunity and seek their interest level. Operations with livestock were targeted. The township meeting resulted in an interest for the development of a prescribed grazing plan with component practices. Another smaller streambank erosion / flood diversion site visit was conducted for a possible project. Other potential project contacts will continue from the initial door knocking in seeking out voluntary projects.

2022- Door knocking took place in fall 2022 with successful contacts with multiple potential projects. Landowners who were not home at the time had a door hanger (see attachments) placed in hopes they would reach back out to us (which was helpful!).

2023: The details on the past three door-knocking watershed visits in seeking out landowners interested in conservation projects resulted in; nine consisting of multiple contacts and five single visits. Great conversations were had in general, a few where harder sells. In 2023 we continued follow-up contacts with landowners. Through the door knocking attempts one evening session was tried but no weekend attempts. Things to consider for future outreach.

Activity Name: Project Administration & Reporting

Activity Category: Administration/Coordination

Staff time?: Yes

Description: Activities included time tracking, grant budget tracking and organization, grant reporting and land owner contract management.

Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	\$3,100.00	\$1,253.55	\$1,846.45	12/29/2023	N

Actual Results

2021-2023: SWCD staff time was spent on grant administration activities such as landowner contract management, grant budget tracking and management, reporting progress to our SWCD board and reporting progress in e-link.

Activity Name: Project Development

Activity Category: Project Development

Staff time?: Yes

Description: This activity includes SWCD staff time in lining up and coordinating projects with landowners, presenting project to boards, initial site visits, field work (surveys, construction), preliminary conservation planning, permitting coordination, designing (planting or erosion control plans) and calculating estimated pollution reduction numbers.

Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	\$10,000.00	\$8,471.82	\$1,528.18	12/29/2023	N
Local Fund	Donations_SWCD staff time	\$2,875.00		\$2,875.00		Y

2021a Results: Voluntary conservation planning for a prescribed grazing project and its component practices has begun. For new technical staff this is a time-consuming project to develop, but a great learning experience. We are partnering with NRCS in this work. Federal funds may also be sought. Part of this grazing operation is immediately adjacent to the Knife River. Our hope is to move some of the winter grazing further away from the river to provide a more adequate buffer. A Technical Service Area (TSA) site visit was conducted on a small streambank erosion / flood diversion site on a tributary to the Knife River. We await a preliminary plan and cost estimate from TSA on this site. Project development will continue as new voluntary landowners are identified.

2022- There was a lot of communication back and forth with landowners about potential projects in the fall of 2022. TSA site visits were completed on three sites. We look forward to the potential these projects hold.

2023: Overall, through this grant's project development within the Knife River we struggled with staff turn-over, which may have affected developing relationships with landowners and providing consistent follow-up.

The results from our landowner contacts and overall project development:

- Two completed livestock waterers were installed with a landowner just beginning a rotational grazing system. They agreed to move their winter-feeding station further away from the shores of Knife River.
- A landowner with a slightly failing retaining wall at the outlet of Knife River into Knife Lake was provided technical assistance for native planting. Due to the complexity of the retaining wall failure being beyond the capabilities of our TSA; they were advised to seek out a private engineer.
- A landowner with minor (small tributary to the Knife) streambank erosion was provided a TSA site assessment. Their larger concern beyond the streambank concerned flooding through their farmstead, not meeting the scope of this grant.
- A larger landowner with cattle in multiple locations was visited twice at their home. They could benefit from fencing exclusion, but were not interested.
- Another landowner with mostly hay land was visited twice. Their operation was not a big resource concern but a relationship was started with the SWCD.
- A landowner with a small lot with cattle near a stream was visited. They were irritated by regulation near the stream and was not interested.
- Another landowner further up in the watershed with a steep pasture who was also feeding cattle near the Knife River was visited twice and provided handouts. They were not interested.
- A grazing operation was potentially interest in rotational grazing; however, over the winter they sold off their cattle.
- A handful of other site visits were done within the Knife River Watershed with materials provided. Some of these did not seem to be large resource concerns for the watershed and did not result in interested landowners.
- A potential streambank erosion project on the lower Knife River includes three interested landowners. They may continue with the project so long as costs don't become excessive. This project has a potential high cost (~\$100,000), beyond this grant's capabilities. It was decided that more project development time was needed. In looking at the priority areas for our upcoming Snake River Watershed WBIF funding; it was determined that this project was not within the plan's initial priority areas. If this project is to continue other funding sources will need to be sought.

Activity Name: Technical / Engineering Assistance

Activity Category: Technical/Engineering Assistance

Staff time?: Yes

Description: SWCD staff time and Technical Service Area staff time in conducting site visits and surveys, preparing designs, overseeing the installation of practices, on-site construction management and as-built design completions for planned conservation practices. SWCD staff time assisting TSA in surveys, etc. and also completing the planting plan as part of their project plan. Job Approval Authority through the SWCD Dist. Mgr.

Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	\$17,700.00	\$3,971.58	\$13,728.42	10/17/2023	N

Actual Results

2022- District technician Paulsen worked with NRCS technical engineers to follow standards for designing two Heavy Use Area Protection (HUAP) to go with two tire tank waterers. NRCS engineers with appropriate Job Approval Authority signed off on the plans and construction/completion of the projects took place in August 2022.

2023: Our Technical Service Area 3 aided this fall in three completed site assessment field visits on potential projects. One in particular, a proposed streambank erosion protection project on the lower end of the Knife River, near the outlet into the Snake River is a proposed large project with three landowners. This site was visited multiple times as it has a unique hard surface erosion and drainage concerns.