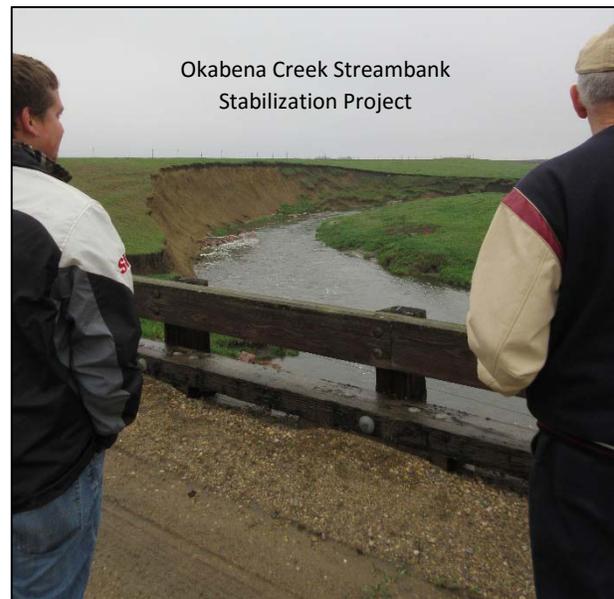


Heron Lake Sediment and Phosphorus Reduction Implementation Projects BMP Site-Seeing Event

In 2013, the Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) received funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources to install practices in Nobles, Jackson, and Murray Counties. Over the last three years, five projects were implemented. They included construction of a bioretention basin, multiple terrace projects, a bioretention basin, and a streambank stabilization. The purpose of these projects was to reduce sediment and nutrient loads into streams and lakes within the HLWD. All the projects combined affected more than 300 acres and have an estimated reduction rate of 500 pounds of phosphorus and 550 pounds of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) per year. The total grant award was for \$122,000. This covered 75 percent of the project costs, provided funding to continue water sampling at three watershed sites to monitor grant progress, and financed newsletter expenses to promote an education event.

The BMP Site-Seeing Event was held on April 21, 2016. Participants met in Brewster, Minnesota. Catherine Wegehaupt, HLWD Watershed Technician presented information about the grant, all the projects that were installed, the total cost of the projects, and the nutrient reduction achieved from installation. She explained the water sampling data that was contained in the brochure distributed to attendees. She explained the trends that were seen in the sampling data during the grant period. In attendance were eleven members of the general public, one Board of Water and Soil Resources staff, two news reporters, two HLWD board members, and three HLWD employees.

The first stop was the Okabena Creek Streambank Stabilization site in Section 30 of Alba Township in Jackson County. Information about why this site was chosen, surveying, designing, project installation, and cost was shared with the audience. Also provided were facts about how the project works, how the J-hook weirs were installed, and nutrient reductions attained. Questions and discussion followed.



The second stop was the Graham Lakes Bioretention Basin site in Section 17 of Graham Lakes Township in Murray County. Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area completed the engineering for the project. The project designs were shared with the group. Other data presented included: clean out process, structure installation, watershed size, final cost, and nutrient reductions.

The last stop was the Fulda Lakes Biodetention Basin. Ninety-five acres of farm ground drain through this area which outlet directly to Fulda Lake. Photos from before the project was installed were shown. Catherine Wegehaupt explained how the structure works, the reason for the project, and the many partners that contributed time and money to complete the project. Final cost and sediment reduction amounts were also shared with the group.

The tour ended with a question and answer period about the projects and the grant itself.



Fulda Lakes Biodetention Basin