

Unused Well Sealing at 24471 140th Ave, Milaca, MN

Landowner: Mary Dordan



Sealed well at 24471 140th Ave, Milaca

Project Summary

This project sealed a well at 24471 140th Ave in Page Township. This was a large hand dug well located in the remains of an old well house. The well was not covered and was filled with debris. The roof of the well house had fallen into the well. Because this well was large and uncovered, it was a safety hazard and an open conduit for pollutants.

An unused, unsealed well provides an open channel between the surface and groundwater, potentially allowing polluted surface water to reach an uncontaminated aquifer.



This well was located in the remains of an old well house. There was no longer a roof on this structure and the well was open to the elements.

Project Status:

Initiated: 5-11-18
Contract approved: 7-11-18
Completed: 7-17-18

Funding:

Total cost: \$1,770.00
Implementation assistance:
\$885.00 State Cost Share FY18
Landowner cost: \$885.00

Resource Concern:

Groundwater protection.

Cooperators:

Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Funder: Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

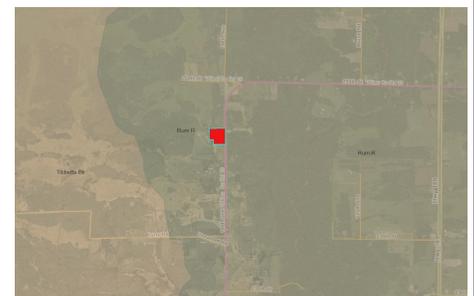
Landowner: Mary Dordan

Contractor:

Able Well Inc.
Elk River, MN

Location:

Rum River watershed



Envirothon 2018



The Envirothon is an annual outdoor environmental competition for high school students in grades 9-12 that was held on May 7, 2018. Teams of 5 students visited 5 stations (wildlife, forestry, water quality, soils, and a current events station), where they listened to a brief presentation by natural resource professionals, and then completed a short test. Teams also visited a 6th station where they give a 10 minute oral presentation on an assigned current events topic. Scores were tallied for the 6 stations and the top 4 teams moved onto the State Envirothon where they compete against teams from all over Minnesota.

Event Objective:

The Envirothon promotes a desire for students to learn more about Minnesota's natural resources and gives them skills to apply basic principles and practices of resource management and ecology. The program promotes stewardship of natural resources and helps students develop critical thinking skills, cooperative problem-solving skills, and decision-making skills. Schools and teachers benefit by providing a learning opportunity to students who excel in the sciences and ecology. The community and state benefit by having concerned and well-informed citizens who can make good decisions about the environment.

Outcomes:

The four teams moving on to the State Envirothon Competition are: two teams from Cook County, one team from Barnum and one team from Two Harbors.

Funding:

General Operational Funding

Attendance:

38 student teams from 10 area high schools, staff from the area SWCDs and resource conservation professionals teaching at 6 different stations.

Cooperators:

Coordinator: Lake SWCD

Area SWCDs, High Schools and volunteers from Natural Resources Conservation Agencies.

Ten Area Schools: Barnum, Cherry, Cook, Cromwell-Wright, Esko, MIB, Moose Lake, NE Range, Two Harbors and Wrenshall

Location:

U of MN Forestry Center
Cloquet, MN



USFW Wetland Restoration Repair, Co. Ditch 6, Milaca Township

Landowners: John Fransen and Aaron Plumski



Repaired dike and weir.

Project Summary

USFW and landowner John Fransen requested financial assistance to repair a dike and weir that had been created to impound water for a wetland restoration on county ditch #6 in 2016. When heavy rainfall caused water in the wetland to rise spring of 2017, it tore loose large cattail mats that bumped into the dike and rock weir. The floating cattail mats gouged out spots along the clay dike including an emergency spillway and pushed rock out of place on the weir. The rock had been placed to create a gentle slope for water to flow from one side of the dike to the other. The damage exposed the sheet pilings and created a waterfall effect that is eroding the dike.

In October 2017 repairs to the project began and included removing some of the cattail mats, repairing the clay dike and rebuilding the rock weir to the correct slope. Long rooted native grass was planted on the dike for stabilization.

The remainder of the cattail mats were removed in June 2018 when specialized equipment was available. All floating cattails that can be safely reached have been removed.



Marooka to haul floating cat tails



Removing floating cat tail mats

Project Status:

Initiated 6/9/2017
Contract approved 9/18/17
Partial payment approval 12/12/17
Final Payment approval 8/15/18

Funding:

2017 State Cost Share: \$4,713.77
2016 Capacity Funds: \$1,077.72
In-kind match from landowner and USFW: \$2,262.62
Final project cost: \$8,054.11

Resource Concern:

Erosion at the dike and rock weir is causing sediment to deposit into the wetland downstream from the impoundment.



Cooperators:

Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District, US Fish and Wildlife

Funder: Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

Landowner: John Fransen and Aaron Plumski



Weir before repairs

2018 Healthy Land Healthy Lake Event



Description of event

The 2018 Healthy Land Healthy Lake was a morning event with speakers from 9:00 to 12:00 pm. The event itself was named by a Mille Lacs Community Member. Speakers gave presentations on topics relevant to maintaining and improving the health of lakes in the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed. Topics included the stabilization of shoreline with native plants and other benefits of plantings, an update on preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species, and the Mille Lacs Compass Shoreland Stewardship Program. A Compass member gave a “show and tell” presentation of projects on both her home and cabin properties within the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed.

Event Objective:

This event was presented for those that live and work in the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed. The purpose of the event was to promote discussion and conversation about the watershed with a focus on water quality and protecting and improving the area around Mille Lacs Lake and the lake itself. Though the topics were focused on the benefit of native plants, preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species, and the protecting /improving water quality through stewardship, the objective was helping the Mille Lacs Community recognize their individual roles in water quality and protection of the lake through action and asking “what can I do?”

Outcomes:

Overall, evaluation comments and feedback were very positive from attendees. Most people attended by personal invitation and 72% of the audience were people living on shoreland in the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed. There was an expressed interest in MLLWVG and Compass Membership by 2 attendees.

Funding:

This event was funded with Mille Lacs County, the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group (MLLWVG), and BWSR CWF 17, state grant.



Attendance:

There were 27 attendees, 3 presenters, and 1 coordinator.

Cooperators:

The event was hosted by Mille Lacs County and the MLLWVG. Speakers included:

- Jessamyn Foley, MN DNR
- Harmony Maslowski, Coordinator
- Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD.
- Shelly Larson, Hayland Woods

Location:

The 2018 Healthy Land, Healthy Lake was held at McQuoid’s Inn and Event Center.



Marilyn and Jack Anderson, Silver Compass Members gave a “Show and Tell” presentation of their property projects.

MLC Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Nitrate Clinic

Description of event

The Mille Lacs SWCD offered free testing of well water for nitrates at the Mille Lacs County Household Hazardous Waste Collection event. This event also provided an opportunity to inform Mille Lacs residents about drinking water quality issues.

Outcomes:

We were able to reach out to citizens about safe drinking water and the importance of why to have your drinking water tested. It is not just an individual concern it is a public concern for all. Ten water samples were run at the Milaca location and twenty-eight water samples were run at the Wahkon location. One person had high levels of nitrates. This year we placed a Press Release in the Mille Lacs Messenger, which we believe helped with letting people now how to take their sample and the importance of having their water tested.



Funding:

Mille Lacs County hosts and organizes this event.

Cooperators:

Mille Lacs County
MN Department of Agriculture (MDA provides the nitrate testing equipment)

Locations:

Thursday, May 31 from 3-7 pm
at Mille Lacs County Public Works Garage in Milaca, MN

Thursday, June 7 from 3-7pm
at Mille Lacs County Public Works North Garage in Wahkon, MN



Claire Blake

Conservation Corp Apprentice

Shoreline Restoration, Lakeside Manor Condo Association, 46304 Gone Fishin, Garrison, MN, Mille Lacs Lake



Displaced rip-rap in an ice ridge at Lakeside Manor on Wigwam Bay, Mille Lacs Lake.

Project Summary

This 320 foot lakeshore is composed of rip-rap with turf grass that intersects the top of the rip rap. The rip-rap is pushed up due to ice action at the toe of the rock. A substantial ice ridge has developed behind the rip-rap. The shoreline is currently stable but has the potential to become unstable due to the over steepened rip-rap. In addition, a boat access has crumbling rock banks and bare, eroding soil leading into the water entrance.

The TSA recommendation is to remove and reinstall the rip-rap at a more stable angle. Above that elevation, the shoreline will be blanketed with a coir blanket. It is proposed that a 1 foot high ice push ridge remain in place for the capture of polluted runoff. Behind the ice ridge, a 15 foot wide, 320 foot long native plant buffer will be installed. In addition, the existing boat launching area will be stabilized using a geo-grid product or some other type of engineered stabilization method. 768 square feet of native vegetation will be planted into the swale that lies between the ice ridge and the slope leading towards the lake.

MN DNR hydrologist Mark Anderson has been on site and has discussed the planned project with staff, TSA engineers and the president of the Lakeside Manor Condo Association. Mr. Anderson approves of the proposed project.

Project Status:

Initiated 5/2/18

Contract approved :

Funding:

\$9,000 from ML Watershed Coordinator Grant (CWF)

\$8,698.48 from 2016 Local Capacity
\$10,464.04 from 2017 Local Capacity

\$4,542 from 2018 State Cost Share

Total Cost of Project \$43,606

Resource Concern:

This project will reduce sedimentation and phosphorus in Mille Lacs Lake. Phosphorus will be reduced by 32 pounds per year.



Proposed location of vegetated swale. This swale will capture additional runoff.



Eroded boat access

Mille Lacs Operation Community Connect Nitrate Clinic

Description of event

The Mille Lacs SWCD offered free testing of well water for nitrates at the Mille Lacs County Operation Community Connect event. This event also provided an opportunity to inform Mille Lacs residents about drinking water quality issues.



Outcomes:

We were able to reach out to citizens about safe drinking water and the importance of why to have your drinking water tested. It is not just an individual concern it is a public concern for all. Ten water samples were run. No high levels of nitrates were found. Staff spoke to over 50 people about safe drinking water issues including groundwater protection, well sealing, nitrates in well water and city water quality information. This year we placed our

own ad in the Union—Times, which we believe helped with letting people now how to take their sample and the importance of having their water tested.

We shared a booth with Mille Lacs County Environmental Resources this year. Stephanie Reynolds, Solid Waste Coordinator, spoke with people about the importance of recycling and where they can bring their items.



Funding:

Mille Lacs County hosts and organizes this event with support from the Milaca School District.

Attendance:

Mille Lacs SWCD staff joined over 40 other public resource organizations to offer free community resources and information to citizens of Mille Lacs County and neighboring counties.

Cooperators:

Mille Lacs County
MN Department of Agriculture (MDA provides the nitrate testing equipment)

Location:

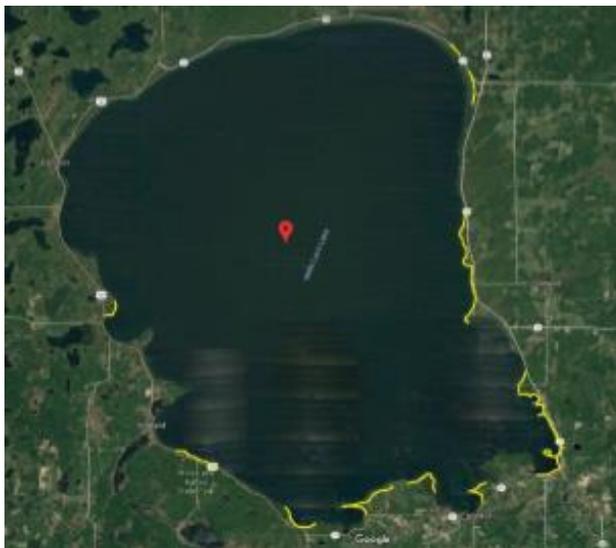
Operation Community Connect was held in the old gymnasium at Milaca High School on October 18.

Operation Community Connect:

“Our community coming together to meet residents and neighbors, learn their stories and help lighten the burden of their struggles by offering support, resources and information for a better future.”

Outreach 2018

What is Compass: Compass is a shoreland stewardship program created by the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group (MLLWMG). Compass members have the opportunity to be recognized for efforts in sustainable conservation and their role as community leaders. The program provides an opportunity for the Mille Lacs Community to work one-on-one with a natural resource professional to explore options for their property. Compass membership aligns the property owner's goals with water quality goals. There are three levels of Compass membership: Bronze, Silver, and Gold.



Outreach: 2018 Mille Lacs Lake outreach efforts included:

- Mailing of 500 postcards
- Facebook posts
- Newspaper notification of events
- Compass Open House meetings
- "Healthy Land, Healthy Lake" event
- Door-to-door Outreach

In-person meetings provided opportunity to discuss landowner concerns, get community input on water quality issues, promote the Compass Shoreland Stewardship Program, and personally invite landowners to upcoming events.

Locations and Times of Outreach: Door-to-Door efforts were aimed in the area of upcoming Compass Open Houses
May – September 2018
Wednesday and Thursday from 5-7pm.

Events: Compass open houses were held at three different locations around Mille Lacs Lake. These events provided an opportunity for the Mille Lacs community to get information on the Compass Shoreland Stewardship Program created by the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group. Participants could explore native planting options for their property and find out what role they could have in protecting and improving the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed. It also allowed for one-on-one time to ask specific questions about their property. Two of the events provided the opportunity to test well water for nitrates free of charge. The events were advertised in the paper and invitations were handed out during door-to-door outreach around Mille Lacs Lake.

Locations/Dates of Events:

McQuoid's Inn, June 7th
The Rolf Olsen Center, July 12th
Mille Lacs Trails Snowmobile Club House, Sept. 26th



Objective: The objective of the outreach was to help the Mille Lacs community recognize their individual roles effecting water quality and protection of the lake through action and asking “what can I do?” This included introducing the Mille Lacs Community to the Compass Shoreland Stewardship program, the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group, and provided a way to interact with others in the community with the common goal of protecting and improving Mille Lacs Lake and watershed.

People Met: 211
People Engaged in Conversation: 63
Expressed Interest: 29



Outcomes: Most people attended events by personal invitation through outreach. Five Mille Lacs Compass members have initiated stewardship plans and six more individuals are interested in site visits. One Compass Member volunteered to “Show and Tell” their projects at the Healthy Land, Healthy Lake event. Six Compass members have taken action within the community. This includes sharing invites to upcoming events, participation in tours, being featured on Facebook or featured in the MLLWMG Topic of the Month, and the willingness to communicate Compass information with their neighbors. A total of 29 individuals have expressed some level of interest in projects, conservation, or community.

Funding: Mille Lacs SWCD CWF 2017 Accelerated Implementation Grant, MLLWMG.



2018 Conservation Tree Sale



Project Summary:

- Total number of native trees and shrubs ordered: 9,100
- Over 55 new customers requested to be on the Tree Mailing List via the website.
- We had more than 100 customers this year and nearly 30 were new customers.
- The Facebook page continued to grow. The page received more than 30 Likes during Tree Season!
- Pick up date postcards were sent out asking customers to answer three questions:

Why are you planting trees/shrubs? The number one answer was wildlife; some other responses were wind breaks, privacy, shade, soak up water, and forest diversification.

What species did you choose and why?

What species would you like to see available in the future? Balsam Fir, Tamaracks, Crabapple, flowering shrubs and trees, Douglas Fir, Black Spruce, White Pine, Aspen, Poplar, Norway Spruce, Nut Trees, Fast Growing Trees

Species Sold:

Black Chokeberry
Highbush Cranberry
Redosier Dogwood
Hazelnut
Nanny Berry
Plum
Paper Birch
Sugar Maple
Red Maple
Bur Oak
Bitternut Hickory
Black Cherry
Jack Pine
White Cedar
Red Pine
White Pine
White Spruce
Black Spruce

Trees Vendors:

Schumachers Nursery
Wolcyn Tree Farm

Resource Concern:

Encouraging landowners to plant trees and shrubs for conservation.

Volunteers:

Mille Lacs Master Gardeners



Bare-root trees at 2018 Tree Barn at the Mille Lacs County Public Works Building.

Unused Well Sealing at 15978 70th Street, Milaca, MN

Landowner: Tim Klofstad



This well was loosely covered with broken concrete

Project Summary

This project sealed a well at 15978 70th Ave in Borgholm Township. This was a large hand dug well located in an old well house which was filled with debris. The well was loosely covered with broken pieces of concrete.

An unused, unsealed well provides an open channel between the surface and groundwater, potentially allowing polluted surface water to reach an uncontaminated aquifer.



Sealed well.

Project Status:

Initiated: 10-13-17

Contract approved: 12-13-17

Completed:

Funding:

Total cost of well abandonment:
\$1,000.00

Implementation assistance:
\$500.00 from State Cost Share
FY16 & FY17, as well as
SWCD Capacity Fund FY16

Landowner cost: \$500.00

Resource Concern:

Groundwater protection

Cooperators:

Mille Lacs Soil and Water
Conservation District

Funder: Minnesota Board of Water
and Soil Resources

Landowner: Tim Kofstad

Contractor:

Able Well Inc.

Elk River, MN

Location:

E. Tributary to Vondell Brook sub-
watershed

