

Our Water

Keeping it Clean

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

Project Spotlight

Stutsman County Soil Conservation District

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In the fall of 2022, the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District (SCD) submitted a proposal for a watershed implementation project addressing nonpoint source pollution in the Jamestown Reservoir and adjacent watersheds. Nonpoint pollution occurs when runoff from rain or snowmelt carries contaminants into nearby streams and lakes. Watershed projects address nonpoint source pollution by providing financial and technical assistance to landowners implementing conservation practices known as “Best Management Practices” (BMPs). The goal of the Jamestown Reservoir project is to reduce harmful algal blooms (HABs) and improve recreational opportunities at the reservoir. Jamestown Reservoir is identified as “threatened” (based on ND Water Quality Standards) due to high levels of nutrients in the waterbody.

Harmful algal blooms are an overgrowth of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) in surface water. When conditions are right (excess nutrients, warm water

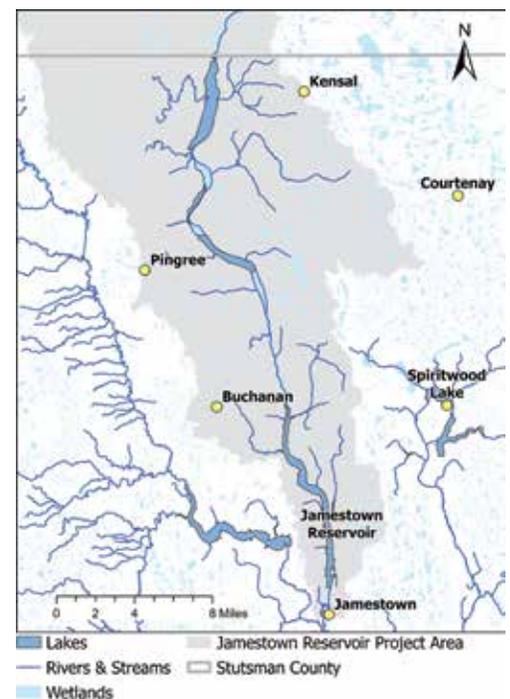


HAB on Jamestown Reservoir in September 2023.

and abundant sunlight), cyanobacteria multiply quickly and form a bloom. As the bloom dies off, the cells break down and can release toxins such as microcystin. Microcystin and other HAB toxins can cause harm to people, wildlife, livestock, pets and aquatic life. Jamestown Reservoir had warnings or advisories issued due to high levels of microcystin in 2020, 2021, 2023 and 2024.

To reduce nutrient inputs to the reservoir, Stutsman County SCD works with landowners on BMP placement throughout the watershed. Dustin Krueger, the SCD manager and watershed coordinator, says that for this project, “We have cost-shared two solar wells, pipelines, tanks and grass planting. We have planned 66.5 acres of conservation cover in non-productive land, 40 acres of hayland planting, fencing for rotational grazing, a well, pipeline and a tank.”

Stutsman County SCD has been a continual sponsor for watershed projects since 2002. The SCD is working on gully erosions, partial manure feeding operations, ag waste systems, cover crops,



Jamestown Reservoir project area in Stutsman County.



Conservation cover plantings (top) and solar wells (middle) are two of the BMPs Stutsman County SCD have completed in this watershed project.



Rain Barrel construction was an educational event the SCD hosted. All photos on this page courtesy of Stutsman County SCD.

conservation cover, septic systems and many other projects. Krueger says, “The goal is to try and improve water quality going into our lakes and streams and prevent them from getting worse. This is not only a farm operation issue we need to work together in cities also.”

Krueger said getting to meet producers is his favorite part of the job. He enjoys, “visiting with people about their operations and hearing their stories to see where he can help improve their operation.” One of the challenges he faces with watershed projects is getting producers to sign up for the program.

In addition to BMP assistance, the SCD also does educational events such as the rain barrel construction night pictured on the bottom left.

Krueger wants Stutsman County residents to know that the SCD is available to provide assistance, even if the operation is not in a current project area. The employees will help you find a program that fits your operation and work with you.

For more information on the Jamestown Reservoir Watershed Project, contact the Stutsman County Soil Conservation District at 701-252-2521 (ext. 3) or email Dustin.Krueger@nd.nacdnet.net.

For information on watershed projects throughout North Dakota, contact Environmental Quality Nonpoint Source Program Manager Emilee Novak at 701-328-5240 or email ejnovak@nd.gov.



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