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## General Information:

SRRWD Staff have been attending meetings and conferences:  
PWCP Funding Workshop in St. Jean  
Peguis Water Conference in Winnipeg  
Lake Winnipeg Foundation Meeting  
Red River Basin Meetings  
Red River International Watershed Meeting

## Spring Newsletter



The 3rd Annual ReGen Ag Day took place on Feb 6th at the Friedensfeld Hall with about 60 people in attendance—Speakers were Garry Richards and Zach Grossart—lots of great information was shared among the producers



### Educational Highlights:

Staff members Alex and Dani participated in the Ag In the Classroom with reading in classrooms in participating schools—a total of 11 different classes were visited

Staff will be attending ESD Day at Shevchenko School in Vita on April 22nd

Four grade 4 classrooms from Southwood Elementary School in Steinbach attended Tourond Creek Discovery Centre for field trips focusing on habitats in March

More field trips are being booked for spring at TCDC—contact Alex if you know a class that might be interested in participating

Alex and Virginia will also be presenting on the 5 soil principles to Grade 10 students in Niverville in April

**SRRWD Manager & Board Members have been attending Municipal Council Meetings as a delegation: RM of Ste Anne, RM of Ritchot, Town of Niverville and in May it will be RM of Morris and RM of Springfield**

**PWCP** has been extended for 3 more years of funding - available for 2025 to 2028 this includes funding for cover crops, pasture improvement, rotational grazing and nutrient management. For more information reach out to Virginia or Dani

**2025 Tree Giveaway** this event has been a huge success. In one week we have given away approximately 8000 trees to over 290 applicants all over watershed with another 85 people on a waiting list for more tree as they become available.



## Roseau River - Sub District 2

**Strategic Systems Engineering will proceed with engineering for the Sundown Ridge Water Retention project– completion of this stage is expected early 2026**

Sub District Meeting is scheduled for April 8th in Vita

## Rat River & Joubert Creek - Sub District 3&4

Sub District Meeting was held on March 12th  
1 new ALUS project will be seeded in spring 2025  
Investigating a water retention project close to Pansy pastures  
Preliminary work on Rain Garden project at Carillon Park in partnership with Village of St. Pierre



## Marsh River - Sub District 5

### Highlights for Spring 2025:

**2 new ALUS projects will be seeded this spring**  
**2 new Shelterbelt projects will be planted this spring**

Sub District Meeting was held February 24th with all 9 sub district members in attendance



## Tourond Creek - Sub District 6



**2025 Envirothon—April 24th at  
Tourond Creek Discovery Centre**  
There are 7 teams registered to compete at  
the 1st annual Envirothon in SRRWD and  
29 volunteers have signed up  
to help with the event  
Watch our summer newsletter for  
highlights on this event



## Manning Canal - Sub District 7

A Sub District Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 7th  
Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Sub District will  
take place



## Upper Seine - Sub District 8

A Sub District Meeting was held on February 13th at  
the SRRWD Office in Steinbach

A Meeting was held on Feb 24th to discuss the new  
lease for Fire Guard Road 13

Need additional acres for Oak Preservation program

### Highlights from 2025:

**1 new ALUS project being seeded in  
spring 2025**

**1 new Shelterbelt being planted  
spring 2025**

## Lower Seine - Sub District 9

A Sub District Meeting will be held later in spring  
Final cleanup will be completed at Nolan Vermette's water  
retention project once weather allows



## Healthy Soils in SRRWD

Improving the health of our soils benefit the water quality of our rivers and streams in the watershed. Healthy soils have good aggregation where soil particles stick together. Soil is then less likely to move through wind and water erosion.

We can improve soil health in the Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District through many different practices. Shown in pictures from around the watershed, these are six ways of improving soil health.



### **Maintain a living root.**

This photo was taken at SRRWD office in **Steinbach**. We installed a rain garden with native plants. The native plants are perennial so they will survive each winter. They will grow long and extensive root systems into the soil. These roots will help infiltrate rain water deep into the soil profile. The plants in the garden include Big Bluestem and Meadow Blazingstar.

### **Keep the soil covered.**

This photo was taken in the **Grunthal** area in November. This is a cover crop that was seeded in the fall. Having a crop grown in the fall after harvest provides soil cover and living roots in the ground at a time when many neighbouring fields are bare. Soil cover helps capture snow in the winter and keeps soil in place during spring winds.



### **Integrate livestock.**

This photo was taken in the **Zhoda** area. Rotating cows through multiple paddocks for grazing allows time for plants in each paddock to grow back. Having healthy plants with good root systems in each paddock helps protect the soil, while providing food for cattle.



### **Minimize mechanical disturbance.**

This photo was taken in the ***Ste. Elizabeth*** area. A portion of the field near the river was prone to overland flooding and had poor crop establishment. This area of the field was taken out of crop production and seeded to perennial grasses. Now the soil will remain covered throughout the year, and be exposed to less mechanical traffic.



### **Maximize plant diversity.**

This photo was taken in the ***La Broquerie*** area. It is of a full season cover crop with various plant species, including sunflowers and hairy vetch. Different plant types will have different root systems, allowing the crop to access water and nutrients at different soil depths and at different times of the growing season.

### **Know your context.**

This photo is from a cover crop tour that SRRWD hosted in August in ***Ridgeville***. At watershed tours and events we learn from farmers that are implementing soil health practices and hearing about their success and challenges. These are great opportunities to learn about management practices that work in our watershed.

