

Watershed Community Meeting

March 25th at 10:00 AM

South McLean County
Soil Conservation District

24 2nd Avenue East

Turtle Lake, ND 58575

The purpose of our first Watershed Community Meeting is to discuss our water. From livestock sustenance to crop production and from fishing and even for drinking, we rely on water for everything we do. Depending on how we interact with this resource it can be our greatest asset or our biggest setback.

The meeting will be attended by Jim Collins, a member of the North Dakota Department of Health Division of Surface water. Mr. Collins has spent his career working with North Dakotans to help address this issue. The South McLean SCD appreciates his unique insights, and we are sure that you will too.

Turtle Creek Watershed Project
South McLean Soil Conservation District
PO Box 537
Turtle Lake, ND 58575



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Turtle Creek Watershed Project



**Working with producers
and land owners to
restore our streams and
lakes to their healthy
natural conditions.**

If you have received this mailer, then you are operating within the Turtle Creek Watershed. We are counting on your participation!

To Learn More:

- Read through this pamphlet.
- Visit our website.
- Call or visit our Watershed Coordinator at the South McLean Soil Conservation District.
- Come to our community meeting on March 25th.

**We cannot do it
without you!**

701-448-2474

<https://sites.google.com/site/turtlecreekwatershed>
TurtleCreekWatershed@gmail.com

How Can I Help?

Turtle Creek Is Polluted

A study conducted by the North Dakota Department of Health found that Turtle Creek is impaired due to high levels of E.coli. Phosphates, Nitrates, and sediment levels also exceed guidelines used by ND Health.

Despite the good practices adopted by many watershed producers, the sheer abundance of agriculture taking place in the watershed has led to the impairment of Turtle Creek. E.coli, Nitrates, and Phosphates are brought to the stream when livestock waste, fertilizer, and other field applicants make it to the stream without first seeping into the soil. Sediment input due to erosion has even destabilized the channel in some places.

We can do more!

Watershed Producers want to be good stewards of our land and water. Many have already implemented practices like rotational grazing and no-till agriculture that go a long way toward preserving water quality.

We can't do it alone, but we would like to make it easier for you.

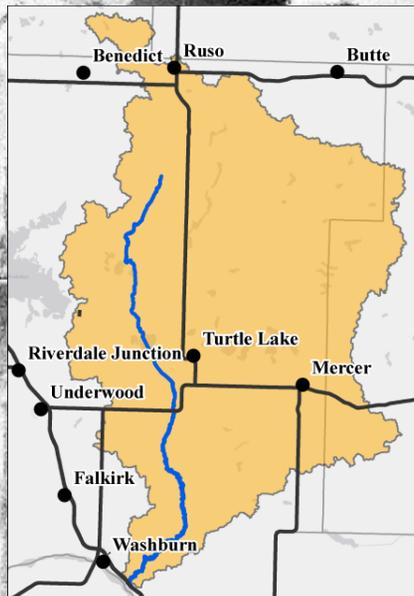
- If you've yet to start thinking about best management practices, we'd like to help you figure out where to start.
- If you've already started with some best management practices, we'll help you figure out the next steps.
- We even have a cost-share program where we can help producers pay for some of these practices.

What's a Watershed Anyway?

A watershed is a defined area which is drained by the same stream. Rainwater in the watershed will end up going to the same place.

The concept of the watershed is important for efforts to keep our waters clean. Imagine that your upstream neighbor is badly polluting the creek that runs through your property. You can try your best, but until your upstream neighbor stops polluting your creek will never be clean. Because water across the entire Turtle Creek Watershed will end up in Turtle Creek, we are all its upstream neighbors.

Most of us have heard the saying "it takes a village to raise a child". One could also say that it takes a watershed to clean a stream.



Location of the Turtle Creek Watershed.

Why's this important?

Perhaps no resource is as vital to us as water. Here in McLean County we rely on it to grow the crops that our nation depends on, to sustain the livestock Americans demand, to support our internationally famous fisheries, and to provide habitat that makes our cherished hunting tradition sustainable. The majority of county residents rely on water originating in the Turtle Creek Watershed for its most important use; human consumption. Anybody who gets service from McLean/Sheridan Rural Water relies on water sourced in the Turtle Creek Watershed. This means that what we do to our water has an immediate impact on our health and livelihood.

About Participation

I'd like to be clear about this: Nobody will be forced to participate in the Turtle Creek Watershed Project. We seek only to provide financial and technical resources that were previously unavailable to producers operating in the Turtle Creek Watershed.

The Turtle Creek Watershed Project offers technical guidance and cost-share opportunities for producers interested in implementing watershed management practices. Participation in the project is a win-win. You will always have the final say as to whether or not recommended practices are implemented. Most practices have the added benefits of increasing property value and/or increasing soil health, thereby leading to greater productivity for crop and livestock producers alike.