

## 2025 Outstanding Conservationist – The City of Cokato

From Wright County, we have the City of Cokato. Cokato is a smaller city and like most small cities, they accomplish a great deal with limited budget and staff. What's distinguishing about the City of Cokato is their ability to think above and beyond their own city limits and into their effects on downstream water resources. City Administrator Brad Potter started engaging with Wright SWCD in 2021, targeting and identifying several potential projects.



Above: Brad Potter – City Administrator, Carl Harju – Cokato Mayor, and Jeff DeGrote – Public Works Director stand next to the 3.65 acre wetland.

Right: aerial image of 3.65 acre wetland South of Cokato.

The city partnered with Wright SWCD to bring in \$1.4 million dollars in grant funds over the last four years. In turn, 660 feet of County Ditch 7 was stabilized, a 3.65-acre wetland was created, a 2-acre stormwater pond was created, 11.3 acres of native prairie established, and 22.63-acre feet of flood storage was created. Wright SWCD admires the City for their continued efforts towards conservation.

