

**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

72nd ANNUAL MEETING AND 18th ANNUAL TRADE SHOW

SWCDs – MEETING THE CHALLENGE



featuring

*Dr. Peter Nowak
Professor, Nelson Institute for
Environmental Studies
University of Wisconsin -
Madison*

*Sue Liden
Motivational Speaker
Portage Presentations*

**December 7-9, 2008
CROWNE PLAZA ST. PAUL RIVERFRONT HOTEL
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**



Hosted By:
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Area 5
(Southwest) Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs),
Clark Lingbeek, Area 5 Director

MASWCD 72nd ANNUAL MEETING & 18th ANNUAL TRADE SHOW

SWCDs – MEETING THE CHALLENGE

DECEMBER 7-9, 2008

CROWNE PLAZA ST. PAUL RIVERFRONT HOTEL, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

MASWCD Annual Convention At A Glance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008

5:00 p.m. Registration Open – Lower Level
7:00 p.m. Welcome Reception – Windows on the River, 22nd Floor

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008

6:30 – 8:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast/Hospitality Area Open – Cabanas 122, 123
7:00 a.m. Registration Opens – Lower Level
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Trade Show Open – Minnesota Ballroom
8:25 – 8:55 a.m. Business Meeting – Governor’s Hall
8:55 – 9:15 a.m. Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan – Governor’s Hall
9:15 – 10:00 a.m. Keynote Address: Dr. Peter Nowak – Governor’s Hall
10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break – Minnesota Ballroom
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Working Across SWCD Boundaries – Governor’s Hall
11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. Awards Luncheon – Great River Ballroom
2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions – Various Meeting Rooms (see program)
3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Refreshment Break – Minnesota Ballroom
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Silent Auction for Conservation – Great River Ballroom
7:30 – ??? p.m. Live Auction for Conservation – Great River Ballroom

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008

6:30 – 8:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast/Hospitality Area Open – Cabanas 122, 123
7:30 a.m. Registration Opens – Lower Level
8:30 – 11:45 a.m. Business Meeting – Minnesota Ballroom
8:30 – 11:45 a.m. Employee Sessions – Various Meeting Rooms (see program)
8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Outstanding Conservationist Program/Speaker Presentation – Kellogg I
9:30 – 11:45 a.m. Photos of Outstanding Conservationists – Garden Court East
10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break – Lower Level
Noon – 2:00 p.m. Outstanding Conservationist Luncheon – Great River Ballroom
2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Refreshment Break – Lower Level
2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Sue Liden, Paddle Your Own Canoe! – Capital Ballroom
5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Reception – Garden Court East
6:00 – 8:15 p.m. Banquet – Great River Ballroom
Entertainment: Emily Weidauer

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Registration Open – Lower Level

7:00 p.m.

Reception – Windows on the River, 22nd Floor

- Join the MASWCD Board Members and the SWCDs from Area 5 for a welcome reception
-

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008

6:30 – 8:15 a.m.

Continental Breakfast/Hospitality Area – Rooms 122, 123

- Open to all convention attendees
- Courtesy of Area 5 SWCDs

7:00 a.m.

Registration Opens – Lower Level

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Trade Show Open – Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level

8:25 – 9:00 a.m.



Ken Pederson

Business Meeting – Governor’s Hall, Lower Level

Monday business meeting will have reports only - all voting will take place during the Tuesday business meeting

- MASWCD President’s Report - Ken Pederson
- Introduction of MASWCD Committee Chairs
- Introduction of Candidates for President, Vice President
- Finance Committee Report - Clark Lingbeek, Sec./Treas.
- Introduction of MASWCD Resolutions - Steve Sunderland, Vice President, Resolution Committee Chair

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.



Deborah Swackhamer

Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan – Governor’s Hall, Lower Level

Produced by the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment, the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan is an integrated inventory and assessment of Minnesota’s environment and natural resources. This session will provide an overview of the plan, including its final recommendations for guiding expenditures from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Speaker: Deborah Swackhamer, Ph.D., University of MN

9:15 – 10:00 a.m.



Peter Nowak

Keynote Address – Governor’s Hall, Lower Level

The rules of the game are changing, and Minnesota’s SWCD Supervisors are uniquely positioned to take advantage of these changes. Dr. Nowak will explain how understanding and representing local land users in the process of addressing local resource concerns is a responsibility best assumed by Supervisors. Nowak will discuss why Supervisors, and not the many agencies operating at the county, state or federal levels, should take on this responsibility. He will also delve into the need for the many nonprofit environmental and production groups to recognize that it is the local Supervisor who needs to guide their involvement.

Speaker: Peter Nowak, Ph.D., University of WI – Madison

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008 (continued)

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Refreshment Break – Minnesota Ballroom

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Working Across SWCD Boundaries to Achieve Water Quality Improvements – Governor’s Hall, Lower Level

Attend this session for insight into the future of water management issues facing the state of Minnesota. Hear information and recommendations for ways SWCDs might more effectively work across district boundaries related to water management activities. Panelists will include:

- Don Bajumpaa, Manager, Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District
- Gaylen Reetz, Regional Division Director, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- John Jaschke, Executive Director, Board of Water and Soil Resources
- State Representative Rick Hansen, House Watersheds, Wetlands and Buffers Subcommittee
- Peter Nowak, Ph.D., University of WI – Madison

11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Awards Luncheon – Great River Ballroom, First Floor (one floor above lobby level)

- MASWCD/MPCA Community Conservationist Award
- MASWCD/MnDOT Living Snow Fence Award
- MASWCD/DNR Outstanding Forest Steward Award
- Minnesota DNR Division of Waters Appreciation Award
- MASWCD Friends of Conservation Award
- MASWCD Legislator of the Year Award
- MASWCD Media Award
- MASWCD Teacher Award
- MASWCD Environmental Education Award
- Outstanding District Employee Award, sponsored by the Board of Water & Soil Resources
- MASWCD Outstanding Supervisor Award

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT-SESSIONS

SETTING PRIORITIES FOR THE BUSINESS OF CONSERVING OUR RESOURCES – Governor’s 1 & 5

Your SWCD faces numerous challenges, changes and opportunities. It is important to continue to examine and re-examine what the SWCD is doing and what you plan to do, getting a picture of your priorities and desired future. Now is the time to start thinking about your SWCD’s priorities and begin the necessary changes that help you align with your desired future. This session will help you discover how to set priorities for your SWCD.

Presenter: Kim Boyce, Extension Educator
Leadership and Civic Engagement
University of Minnesota Extension

Moderator: Lynn Darling, Nobles SWCD

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007 (continued)

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT-SESSIONS (continued)

STUCK IN THE MUCK (WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT MANAGEMENT) – Governor’s 4 & 3W

Ever wonder what your district would do if faced with a lawsuit related to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)? Would you like to know how to avoid one? This session will focus on what every entity should know about administering WCA including the 60 day rule, conducting hearings and building the record.

Presenter: Scott T. Anderson, Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney, P.A.

Moderator: John Rebehn, Lac qui Parle SWCD

PUBLIC VALUE OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS: HELPING SWCDs ARTICULATE THEIR WORK – Governor’s 2 & 3E

In an age of tight budgets, organizations need to fully explain why they deserve public funds and communicate that message to both decision makers and the general public. If you’re a little lost on how to best “pitch” your work to others, these two working sessions are for you.

- In this first session (2-3 p.m.) you will learn the basis to justify your public funding to others and identify which would best explain your work.
- In the second session (3:30-4:30 p.m.) we will work on crafting your message, including “Why your organization?”

Presenters: Ryan Pesch, Regional Extension Educator
University of Minnesota Extension

Moderator: Ian Cunningham, Pipestone SWCD

WHAT IS WATER QUALITY TRADING AND HOW CAN SWCDs BE INVOLVED? – Capitol Ballroom, Lower Level

Many agricultural producers already know the benefits of implementing conservation practices. Better soil, cleaner water and greater profits are just some of the advantages. What if producers could earn even more for those same conservation practices? It’s possible with water quality trading. This session will discuss water quality trading, recent developments in Minnesota, and how SWCDs could play an important role in the program.

Presenters: James Klang, Professional Engineer, Kieser & Associates, LLC
Dennis Fuchs, Stearns Soil and Water
Conservation District Manager

Moderator: Kay Clark, Cottonwood SWCD

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Refreshment Break – Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008 (continued)

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

CONCURRENT-SESSIONS

PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND ASSISTANCE (PRAP) & WHAT IT MEANS FOR SWCDs – Governor’s 1 & 5

This workshop will provide a brief overview of the components of this new program being administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources, a review of what has been learned about assessing SWCD performance during the 2008 pilot phase, and an update on where BWSR intends to take the program next year. Hear from BWSR’s PRAP Coordinator and managers from the districts that were part of the pilot reviews this past year.

Presenters Don Buckhout, Board of Water and Soil Resources PRAP Coordinator
 Brian Nyborg, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District Manager
 Keith Pohl, Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District Manager

Moderator: David Sill, Board of Water and Soil Resources Board Conservationist

PUBLIC VALUE OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS – Gov’s 2 & 3E part 2 (you do not need to attend part 1 to attend part 2)

THE CHALLENGE OF KEEPING CONSERVATION ON THE LANDSCAPE – Governor’s 4 & 3W

In today’s markets, it takes a strong conservation ethic to compete with the current commodity prices. But, does it always have to be about money?! CRP is about leaving a legacy!! It is about establishing and maintaining grass cover to protect soil and water resources on land retired from agricultural production. Attend this workshop and explore the economics of making those decisions.

Presenters: Greg Anderson, USDA Farm Services Agency
 Matt Holland, Pheasants Forever
 Paul Flynn, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Moderator: Mark Weimerskirch, Swift SWCD

WATER-SMART LANDSCAPING – Capitol Ballroom

Water-Smart Landscaping is a comprehensive landscape education program to promote both water-quality & water-conservation practices in the landscapes of homes and businesses. The program was developed by a former landscape contractor (and former farmer) who is now an urban conservation specialist. Learn about what has worked well in engaging citizens to take action on their properties.

Presenters: Gregg Thompson, Urban Conservation Specialist, Metropolitan Assoc. of SWCDs

Moderator: Ed Lenz, Nobles SWCD

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008 (continued)

7:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Auctions for Conservation Education – Great River Ballroom, First Floor (one floor above Lobby Level)

- Silent Auction: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
 - Live Auction: 7:30 p.m. until all items are auctioned off
 - Proceeds support conservation education
 - Auctioneers Donna Gravley and former Steele SWCD Supervisor and MASWCD President Vern Wilker
-

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008

6:30 – 8:15 a.m.

Continental Breakfast/Hospitality Area – Rooms 122, 123

- Open to all convention attendees
- Courtesy of Area 5 SWCDs

7:30 a.m.

Registration Opens – Lower Level

8:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Business Meeting – Minnesota Ballroom

- Presiding: Ken Pederson, MASWCD President
- Approval of Standing Rules; Approval of 2007 Minutes
- Candidate Presentations and Elections
- Action on Proposed 2008-2009 Budget
- Action on Proposed Resolutions
- Legislative Committee Report
 - MASWCD 2009 Legislative Platform and the 2009 Legislative session - Judy Erickson, MASWCD Legislative Affairs
 - Clean Water Council and Budget Recommendations – Marilyn Bernhardson, SWCD Representative to the Clean Water Council
 - BWSR Initiatives – Julie Klocker, Board of Water and Soil Resources Assistant Director

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

EMPLOYEE SESSIONS

"BUGS, BUCKTHORN & BUFFERS" ~ ISSUES AND INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO THE SWCD TREE PROGRAMS AND OUR LANDOWNERS – Gov's 1 & 5

In this session you will learn the very latest information on the Emerald Ash Borer and what the State of Minnesota is doing in anticipation of its arrival. We will also hear about some local efforts to mitigate the EAB and Buckthorn issues. To round out the session we will hear the latest information on Riparian Buffers from a statewide prospective.

Presenters: Mark Abrahamson, MN Dept. of Agriculture
David Bucklin, Cottonwood SWCD Technician
Gary Wyatt, Univ. of Minnesota Extension

Moderator: Laura DeBeer, Lyon SWCD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008 (continued)

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

EMPLOYEE SESSIONS (continued)

THE CHALLENGE OF WORKING WITH SALES TAX – Governor's 2 & 3E

It is always a challenge for local government to figure out if sales tax should or should not be charged. This session provides participants with a basic understanding of the goods and services subject to sales tax. Other topics include situations when use tax is due, exemption-certificate use, record-keeping and filing information.

Presenters: Phil Pederson, MN Department of Revenue
Reiko Masterson, MN Department of Revenue

Moderator: Jean Diggins, Chippewa SWCD

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Outstanding Conservationist Program/ Presentation:
Sue Liden, *Paddle Your Own Canoe!* – Kellogg I**

9:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Outstanding Conservationist Photo Area – Garden Court E

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Refreshment Break – Lower Level

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

EMPLOYEE SESSION

PREPARING FOR RETIREMENT: WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW – Governor's 1 & 5

The Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) is just one piece of the puzzle as you prepare financially for retirement. Social Security, your own individual savings and, perhaps, work are also important elements in making your future plans a reality. Equally important in planning for the future are the expenses you will face as a retiree. This session will put PERA in perspective as you consider your own financial future.

Presenter: John Paulson, Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association

Moderator: Jean Diggins, Chippewa SWCD

WHAT A TMDL CAN DO FOR YOUR SWCD – Gov's 2-3E

This session will detail the involvement of the public, agency personnel, and consultants resulting in the EPA approval of a TMDL Assessment. Information will be shared regarding the Rock River TMDL assessment and implementation, and how local stakeholder buy-in has been crucial for the project's success. Learn how Rock County Land Management Office organized, educated and guided stakeholders toward devising an implementation plan. The presenters will also provide great tips for SWCDs to be connected to the TMDL process.

Presenter: Doug Bos, Rock Soil and Water Conservation District/Rock County Land Mngt. Office
Kelli Daberkow, Pollution Control Agency

Moderator: Kyle Krier, Pipestone SWCD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008 (continued)

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

*Randy
Koenen*



*Rep. Margaret
Anderson
Kelliher*



MASWCD Outstanding Conservationists Luncheon
– *Great River Ballroom*

(with support from *The Farmer Magazine*)

- Master of Ceremonies – Randy Koenen, Radio Broadcaster, Red River Farm Network
- Special Guest – Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives Margaret Anderson Kelliher
- Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards to SWCDs
- Presentation of the SWCD of the Year Award
- Slide Show of Minnesota’s Outstanding Conservationists – selected by local SWCDs
- Presentation of Minnesota Outstanding Conservationist Award – Area Finalists & State Winner

2:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Refreshment Break – *Lower Level*

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Paddle Your Own Canoe! – *Capitol Ballroom*

With a gift for humor and storytelling, Sue share’s her life story. An award winning teacher and now a professional speaker, she motivates, entertains and challenges people to find the adventure in life. Even with all of life’s challenges, it is still a great ride! Don’t miss this presentation, sure to have you leaving the convention energized!

Speaker: Sue Liden, Portage Presentations



Sue Liden

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Reception – *Garden Court East*

6:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Closing Banquet – *Great River Ballroom*

- Recognition of retiring and deceased SWCD supervisors and staff
- Time to relax, network and reflect on two days of conservation information and policy setting
- Entertainment – vocalist Emily Weidauer



Emily Weidauer



**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

2008 Officers

Ken Pederson	President
Steve Sunderland	Vice President
Clark Lingbeek	Secretary/Treasurer
LeAnn Buck	Executive Director

Directors

Russ Severson	Area 1
Ross Aigner	Area 2
H. Merrill Loy.....	Area 3
Mark Zabel	Area 4
Clark Lingbeek	Area 5
Kathryn K. Kelly.....	Area 6
Rudie Spitzer	Area 7
Tom Schulz.....	Area 8

Staff

Sheila Vanney	Assistant Director
Stefanie Martinez.....	Administrative Assistant
Judy Erickson	Legislative Affairs

Past Presidents

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Carol Berg	Hubbard SWCD 2005-2006
Scott Hoese	Carver SWCD 2003-2004
Richard Zupp	Pipestone SWCD 2001-2002
Owen Knutson	Goodhue SWCD 1999-2000
Vern Wilker	Steele SWCD 1997-1998
Jim Schafer	Renville SWCD 1995-1996
Allan Oehlke.....	Mower SWCD 1993-1994
Danny Potter	Redwood SWCD 1991-1992
Dwain Otte.....	Dakota SWCD 1989-1990



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS 2008 Committee Membership

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair – Rudie Spitzer, Winona SWCD Supervisor,
Area 7

Tanya Hanson, Red Lake SWCD Staff, Area 1
Karen Carlsrud, Clay SWCD Staff, Area 2
Marcia Stromgren, S St. Louis Supervisor, Area 3
Vici Nass, Anoka CD Supervisor, Area 4
Tom Muller, Cottonwood SWCD Supervisor, Area 5
Dorothy Raney, Watonwan SWCD Staff, Area 6
Don Sells, Hubbard SWCD Supervisor, Area 8
Advisor: Sheila Vanney, MASWCD Asst. Director

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair – Ian Cunningham, Pipestone SWCD
Supervisor, Area 5
Russ Severson, West Polk SWCD Supervisor, Area 1
Holly Kovarik, Pope SWCD Staff, Area 2
Sue Humble, Chisago SWCD Staff, Area 3
Felicia Brockoff, Carver SWCD Staff, Area 4
Loyal Fisher, Renville SWCD Supervisor, Area 6
Christine Wagner, Goodhue SWCD Staff, Area 7
Kathleen Loucks, Itasca SWCD Staff, Area 8
Advisor: Sheila Vanney, MASWCD Asst. Director

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair – Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood SWCD
Supervisor, MASWCD Sec./Treasurer, Area 5
Gary Lee, East Polk SWCD Staff, Area 1
Glenn Matejka, Douglas SWCD Supervisor, Area 2
Merrill Loy, Carlton SWCD Supervisor, Area 3
Felicia Brockoff, Carver SWCD Staff, Area 4
Duane Petroviak, Martin SWCD Supervisor, Area 6
Robert Borchert, Rice SWCD Supervisor, Area 7
Melvin Kinnunen, Wadena SWCD Supervisor, Area 8
Advisors: LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Exec. Director
Stefanie Martinez, MASWCD Administrative Assistant

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chair - Marilyn Bernhardson, Redwood SWCD Staff,
Area 5
Paige Guetter, West Polk SWCD Staff, Area 1
Don Bajumpaa, Wilkin SWCD Staff, Area 2
Rollie Cleveland, Chisago SWCD Supervisor, Area 3
Michael Wyatt, Hennepin CD Supervisor, Area 4
Scott Tracy, Scott SWCD Supervisor, Area 4
Doug Hanson, Kandiyohi SWCD Supervisor, Area 6
Jim Gebhardt, Mower SWCD Supervisor, Area 7
Marshall Nelson, Lake of the Woods Supervisor, Area 8
Advisors: LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Exec Director
Judy Erickson, MASWCD Legislative Affairs
John Jaschke, Board of Water and Soil Resources

RESOLUTION/POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair – Steve Sunderland, Chippewa SWCD
Supervisor, Area 5, MASWCD Vice President
Terry McCollum, Mahnomens SWCD Supervisor, Area 1
Jerome Flottesch, Becker SWCD Supervisor, Area 2
Deb Taylor, S St. Louis SWCD Supervisor, Area 3
Mark Zabel, Carver SWCD Supervisor, Area 4
Greg Roiger, Brown SWCD Supervisor, Area 6
Bob Duban, Rice SWCD Supervisor, Area 7
Tom Schulz, Wadena SWCD Supervisor, Area 8
Advisors: LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Exec. Director
Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD Staff, Area 1
Kerry Saxton, Wright SWCD Staff, Area 4
Steve Woods, Board of Water and Soil Resources

MASWCD REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES

NACD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Pederson, MASWCD President
Steve Sunderland, (Alternate), MASWCD Vice
President

DNR FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

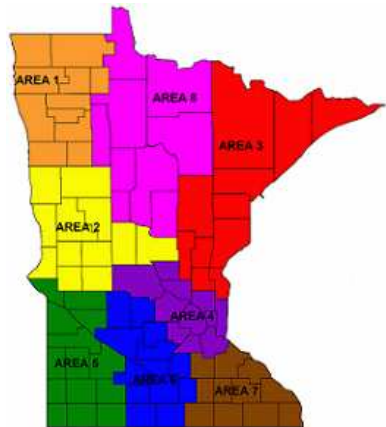
Ted Lovdahl, Itasca SWCD Supervisor

DNR DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE ROUNDTABLE

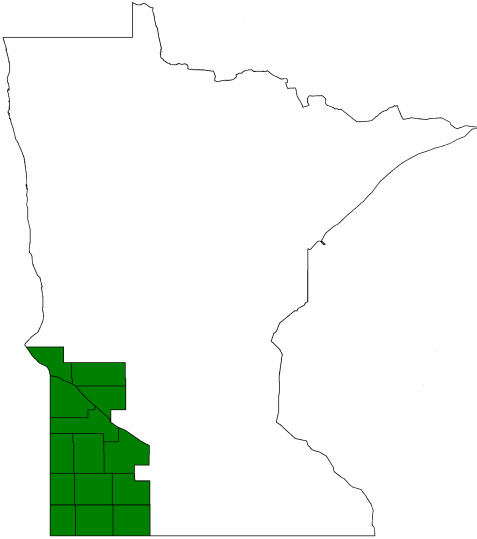
Tom Schulz, Area VIII Director

BWSR PUBLIC DRAINAGE DITCH BUFFER STAKEHOLDER PROCESS

Greg Roiger, Brown SWCD Supervisor



**2008 CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE
AREA 5 HOST SWCDs**



Big Stone SWCD
Chippewa SWCD
Cottonwood SWCD
Jackson SWCD
Lac qui Parle SWCD
Lincoln SWCD
Lyon SWCD
Murray SWCD
Nobles SWCD
Pipestone SWCD
Redwood SWCD
Rock SWCD
Swift SWCD
Yellow Medicine SWCD

2008 CONVENTION SPONSORED BY:

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)

WITH SUPPORT FROM:

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
MN Natural Resource Conservation Service

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Minnesota Soybean
Research & Promotion Council

FOR CONVENTION INFORMATION CONTACT:

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LeAnn Buck, Executive Director

Sheila Vanney, Assistant Director & Convention Coordinator

Stefanie Martinez, Administrative Assistant & Trade Show Coordinator



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