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Contact: Sheila Vanney, MASWCD Assistant Director, 651-690-9028

CITY OF WINDOM HONORED AS COMMUNITY CONSERVATIONISTS

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) have named the City of Windom as their 2015 Community Conservationists. The award was announced at the 79th MASWCD Annual Meeting, held Dec. 6-8 at the Doubletree by Hilton Bloomington - Minneapolis South. The city was nominated for the award by Cottonwood SWCD.

Since 2004, the MPCA and MASWCD have partnered to offer the Community Conservationist Award. The award provides SWCD’s with the opportunity to nominate an individual, business, company, municipality, or organization for concern, cooperation, or implementation of conservation practices in a community environment.

The City of Windom, with Street Superintendent Bruce Caldwell, has been a leader in erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, and conservation planning over the past several years. Here are just a few of their accomplishments.

- Erosion and silt fencing is incorporated when needed for City street and property construction through the Street and Planning and Zoning Departments.
- Through the Flood Relief Funding of 2010, the City of Windom partnered with a local landowner to rebuild a pond. This structure will be instrumental in relieving pressure from large storm events and protect a subdivision of the City. During the 2010 flood, of the 25 homes in the subdivision, all but one home received extensive damage. Completion of this project was September 2013. In working with the City Council, Bruce Caldwell was able to acquire city funds to pay for the landowner’s portion of the project. The City Street Department also worked with the Soil and Water Conservation District to enhance a storm water pond by planting thirty large shade trees throughout the basin, which will increase infiltration and slow the water entering the Des Moines River.
- Starting in 2009, Cottonwood SWCD worked with the City and Bruce Caldwell to establish a Windom City Tree Commission. Work of the commission has led to increased diversification of tree species in the City, especially important to the large number of Ash trees in the City and the threat of the Emerald Ash Borer. Additional work has been completed at Island Park to complete a DNR Aquatic Habitat Grant to establish native vegetation and large shade trees in the riparian area of the Des Moines River.
- Other programs include the Windom Area School “Take Pride” Day where they help clean up City Parks and business district and assisting the “Finding Windom” organization to beautify and enhance the City of Windom.

The City of Windom has consistently demonstrated its ongoing commitment to protecting the soil and water resources within its jurisdiction. The City’s accomplishments are an outstanding example of how local government can put effective conservation on the ground. MASWCD and MPCA extend our thanks and congratulations to the City of Windom!

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