



February 17, 2004

For immediate release

Contact: LeAnn Buck, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 651-690-9028 St. Paul, MN

SENATOR STEVE MURPHY NAMED MASWCD LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

ST. PAUL - Senator. Steve Murphy (D-District 28) was named the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) Legislator of the Year during the Soil and Water Conservation District Legislative Briefing in St. Paul.

When presenting the award, LeAnn Buck, MASWCD executive director, recognized Murphy's work and his dedication as the chief author of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) New Century Initiative during the 2003 legislative session. This legislative initiative was a result of a two-year-long capacity and SWCD law modernization project undertaken by MASWCD. The legislation included changes to the current law dealing with the areas of soil conservation policy, the petition and referendum provision, delegation of authority, and funding.

Sen. Murphy provided leadership and assistance to address the diverse aspects of this legislation, Buck noted. "His work provides opportunities for Soil and Water Conservation Districts to continue to address changing conservation issues throughout the state. He recognizes the important work of locally led conservation efforts," she said.

MASWCD's legislative briefing and day at the capitol was held February 17 and 18 in St. Paul. Members of the state's SWCDs (including district staff and supervisors from Goodhue, Wabasha and Winona) attended the meeting and visited their local legislators on conservation issues.

###