



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Washington Conservation District Receives Multiple Awards**

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's (MASWCD) 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting brought good news for the Washington Conservation District (WCD). The WCD, a special purpose local unit of government dedicated to protecting and managing water resources in Washington County, was selected out of 91 conservation districts in the State to receive two prestigious awards - **DNR Division of Waters Appreciation Award and MASWCD Outstanding Supervisor Award**

### **DNR Division of Waters Appreciation Award**

Sponsored by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Waters, this annual award honors a conservation district that implements innovative conservation activities, demonstrates leadership, and achieves significant results in the protection of Minnesota's water resources.

"This years recipient was nominated for their outstanding commitment to stormwater management particularly for their efforts in low impact design," noted Travis Germundson, the DNR Area Hydrologist for Washington County. "The District has done an outstanding job in promoting conservation activities through the expansion of programs and staff. [The WCD] demonstrates a real passion for groundwater and surface water protection throughout the county."

Travis concluded the award speech by saying, "Washington Conservation District has been cooperative partner in numerous statewide programs and well deserving of recognition."

### **MASWCD Outstanding Supervisor Award – Louise Smallidge**

Louise Smallidge, who Chairs the elected Board of Supervisors for the WCD, received the 2007 MASWCD Outstanding Supervisor Award. The MASWCD presents this award each year to a supervisor who has provided responsible leadership and demonstrated an outstanding concern for conserving Minnesota's soil and water resources.

As the Chair of the Washington Conservation District, Louise sets a positive and productive environment for both the board and staff. Because the County is rapidly developing, she leads efforts to broaden the WCD's programs and hire new staff to address urban conservation needs. As a farmer and landowner, Louise and her husband practice what they preach. Their farm is a model for conservation practices in Washington County.

In short, Louise is a committed conservationist who productively applies her skills on a daily basis. Without her, conservation efforts in Washington County would not be as effective.

The WCD staff and Louise are honored to receive these awards. We look forward to continuing our efforts to protect the County's valuable natural resources.

For more information about the WCD, contact:

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