

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts - 2009 Annual Award Program
NEWS RELEASE



NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE KENT EKEN NAMED MASWCD'S 2009 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA – State Representative Kent Eken (DFL-Twin Valley) has been named “Legislator of the Year” by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD).

The award will be presented to Rep. Eken on Monday, Dec. 7, at MASWCD’s 73rd annual meeting, taking place held Dec. 7-8 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center in Duluth.

Rep. Eken is in his fourth term as a state legislator. He has helped to develop and influence many of the major environment and conservation measures passed by the Legislature in the last two years, including the legislation for the Clean Water Legacy funding proposal, supported by a coalition of agencies and stakeholders known as the G-16. During the session he worked closely with stakeholders to ensure there was funding for nonpoint source pollution prevention efforts that were in a form that was beneficial to SWCDs, watershed districts and landowners.

Rep. Eken has also worked very hard to secure funding for flood prevention and recovery efforts in the Red River Valley. In 2009, that included \$53.8 million for flood mitigation grants and \$250,000 for ring dikes.

MASWCD Legislative Affairs Specialist Judy Erickson notes that “Rep. Eken is very supportive of providing incentives for farmers/landowners for conservation practices that provide multiple benefits. We’re pleased to recognize him with the MASWCD Legislator of the Year Award.”

Representative Eken grew up in Twin Valley, Minnesota, and lives on the family farm with his wife Lori and their four children. He attended Concordia College where he received a B.A. in political science and education and later went on to graduate school at the St. Cloud State University to receive a M.A. in history. Representative Eken was elected to the Minnesota House in 2002 from district 2A.

Each year MASWCD recognizes a legislator for his or her outstanding contributions to the conservation of our soil and water resources. MASWCD is a non-profit organization that represents the Soil and Water Conservation Districts across Minnesota. For more information about MASWCD and SWCDs, please visit www.maswcd.org

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