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

STEARNS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT RECEIVES HIGH HONOR AT MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION

St. Paul, Minn.—The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) has awarded Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District with the 2010 Conservation District of the Year Award. The award was presented at the 74th annual MASWCD convention, held Dec. 5-7 at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel.

Each year MASWCD honors a conservation district for standing out as a leader among the state’s 90 soil and water conservation districts. The award is based on a number of factors including conservation program delivery, training for staff and supervisors, communication with the public, media and other partners, and involvement in MASWCD and its committees.

“We’re honored to be recognized for this award,” said Chuck Uphoff, Chair of the Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Situated in central Minnesota, Stearns County continues to face significant urban development, with St. Cloud as its county seat, while it is also an extremely active agricultural area. These issues, together with lakeshore management and wetland issues pose a wide range of challenges to the soil and water quality of the county. Stearns SWCD has not only been tackling these challenges within the county, but they have also been working cooperatively with other units of local, state and federal government to collectively address these issues.

In accepting the award on behalf of the district, Dennis Fuchs, Stearns SWCD manager, credited the success of their district to their devoted board of supervisors and to their tremendously talented group of employees. Several of the SWCD’s board members and staff have graduated from MASWCD’s Leadership Institute, conducted in partnership with U of M Extension Service. The district’s employees have also earned valuable credentials including Minnesota Wetland Delineator Certification, Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control™, Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) inspector, and licensed Professional Soil Scientist.

MASWCD congratulates the Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors and employees for their hard work and leadership. For more information on Stearns SWCD, please visit www.stearnscountyswcd.net.

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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