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WILKIN SWCD RECEIVES 2018 SWCD OF THE YEAR AWARD

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) named Wilkin SWCD as their 2019 SWCD of the Year Award winner. The award was announced at the 83rd MASWCD Annual Meeting, held Dec. 8-10 at the Doubletree by Hilton Bloomington - Minneapolis South.

The MASWCD SWCD of the Year Award recognizes and inspires leadership within the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to go above and beyond the base capacity.

Wilkin SWCD was recognized for having active engagement of board members at the local, Area, and state level. Their highly skilled staff members include graduates of the MASWCD leadership institute. In presenting Wilkin SWCD with the award, MASWCD Vice President Paul Krabbenhoft noted, “The SWCD is innovative, persistent, and unfaltering in tackling difficult issues, and gracious in sharing their experiences and educating peers.”

Most recently, Wilkin SWCD has demonstrated these attributes with their approach to addressing erosion concerns with multipurpose drainage management systems, and solving a decades old problem with a particular county ditch. The SWCD has also played a critical role, with other partners, in a $10.4 million creek restoration, coordinating with 45 landowners along the creek, with most entering into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. When fully completed, this project will reduce 6,500 tons of sediment. The project is currently two-thirds of the way to being accomplished.

In the past year the Wilkin SWCD

- Was selected to receive National Water Quality Incentive funds from EPA to do water quality projects in Whiskey Creek.
- Started a local cover crop program through the district with funding from county and watershed district.
- Applied for Cover Crop Funding through the Board of Water and Soil Resources.
- Working on a multicounty, multistate Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project to develop a Soil Health Program in the Red River Valley.

MASWCD extends our congratulations to the Wilkin SWCD board and staff!

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is the non-profit organization that represents Minnesota’s 88 conservation districts and the 440 men and women who serve on their governing boards. For 80 years, local conservation districts have worked with cooperating landowners of private working lands to help them plan and apply effective conservation practices.

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