How do we look?
From all of us at MASWCD, we hope you had a joyous holiday season. You might notice that we’re kicking off the new year with a new look. We’re excited to unveil our new e-newsletter, which we will send out on the first Wednesday each month. This – paired with our recently-launched social media pages (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn) – is part of our renewed commitment to effectively communicate with our members, partners and supporters. If you know someone who might be interested in receiving our updates, share this sign up link. Thanks for paying attention!

East Otter Tail and Wadena SWCDs share insight on conducting a successful board retreat
Annual retreats important for relationship building and priority setting

The phrase “annual board retreat” might sound tedious and uninspiring, but if done right it can be extremely beneficial for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).

The East Otter Tail and Wadena Soil SWCDs, who share management and administrative staff, conduct retreats for their board and staff members each year. These daylong retreats focus on district operations, priority setting, planning, and relationship building to set the East Otter Tail and Wadena SWCDs up for success in the year ahead. Important partners like staff from the Natural Resources Conservation and local county commissioners are also invited to attend.

“Of the feedback I received, getting to know each other was what participants found most valuable,” said Darren Newville, district manager for East Otter Tail and Wadena SWCDs. “This relationship building is crucial to share what we do as district staff, and for board members to share with us why they chose to serve.”

Read more.

Save the Date: 2018 MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol
March 12-13, 2018

Thanks for joining us for our annual convention!
Mark your calendar for the 2018 MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol to learn how state policy and bonding proposals could affect you and how your story can positively impact state investment in SWCDs.

Held at the Embassy Suites in downtown Saint Paul, participate in an afternoon briefing and evening reception with legislators on March 12, and schedule meetings with your legislators on March 13 to discuss your local issues. Watch your email for more information.

Thank you to all who joined us at our annual convention and trade show last month! Dr. Richard Cruse from Iowa State University presented a memorable keynote address on why conserving Minnesota's soil and water resources is a global necessity, and we recognized the accomplishments of SWCD employees and partners from across the state at our awards luncheon. To view photos of the award recipients, click here. Congratulations to our award winners, and thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success!