MASWCD Public Administration Training begins!

As part of our efforts to strengthen the capacity of our soil and water conservation districts, the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is hosting a public administration training this spring. This is the first time MASWCD has offered this comprehensive training which explores important topics for managing SWCDs like grant administration, human resources management and leading effective teams.

By the end of this in-depth, cohort-based program, the 23 professionals in the program will be better prepared to manage their SWCDs and will have built lasting connections with fellow district leaders.

South St. Louis SWCD shares lessons learned from 500-year flood

Duluth’s flood of 2012 was a 500-year flood event that caused more than $100 million in infrastructure damage. Flood waters washed out streets, massive sinkholes swallowed cars and animals escaped the Lake Superior Zoo during the record-breaking flood. In the aftermath of this unprecedented event, the South St. Louis SWCD gained experience improving soil and water health while managing disaster response. As flood potential grows throughout the state of Minnesota, Kate Kubiak, a South St. Louis SWCD conservation specialist, lends her expertise in flood zones to share a few tips for SWCDs. Read more.
Area III Director Paul Hoppe has a long history with the Kanabec SWCD and conservation in east central Minnesota. He was elected to serve on the MASWCD board of directors beginning this year. Learn more about Paul, who calls himself a “tree farmer,” in this month’s Q&A.

Click here to read a Q&A with Paul.

MASWCD convenes area meetings to spark locally led conservation

Over the last several weeks, the MASWCD board of directors have conducted regional area meetings across the state. These meetings provide an opportunity for SWCDs and their partners to gather and share ideas and information on programs and locally led conservation efforts. The agendas and topics are driven by local input and have included everything from soil health to tillage and erosion to water storage and more.

"MASWCD recognizes the value of providing a forum for SWCD supervisors, staff and partners to enhance the SWCD mission," said LeAnn Buck, MASWCD executive director. "We are proud to present these meetings and serve as a catalyst for locally led conservation."

If you have future area meeting topics and speaker ideas, please share them with your MASWCD area director or association staff members.

Sharing our story through video

Over the past several months, we created an educational video series to showcase the work of SWCDs across Minnesota. The projects highlighted in the video series feature best practices and techniques that may be beneficial in your community. We encourage you to use these videos to help educate legislators, landowners and others in your community about the value and expertise of SWCDs.

You can find all the videos on the [MASWCD YouTube channel]. Please use them as a resource to have conversations about conservation with landowners and policymakers in your district. Here is the video series by topic:

- SWCDs overview
- Shoreline stabilization
- Forest management
- Wetland restoration
- Stormwater management
- Utilizing cover crops

SWCDs in the news

Soil and water conservation districts from around the state are making headlines!

Check out these recent stories:

- [Crow Wing County SWCD recaps year with report](https://brainerddispatch.com/crow-wing-county-swcd-recaps-year-with-report/) | Brainerd Dispatch
- [Farms important in water quality question](https://pinejournal.com/farms-important-water-quality-question/) (Carlton SWCD) | Pine Journal
- **Family enrolls 75 acres for permanent restoration** (Mower County SWCD) | Austin Daily Herald
- **Koochiching SWCD officials meet with lawmakers** | International Falls Journal
- **Carlton SWCD meets with legislators** | Pine Journal
- **Mille Lacs SWCD supervisors go to Capitol** | Aitkin Independent Age
- **Yellow Medicine SWCD receives appointment to statewide legislative platform committee** | Granite Falls Advocate Tribune
- **Critical corridor: Mississippi River headwaters habitat, recreational resource gain protection** (Crow Wing SWCD) | Brainerd Dispatch

*If you know someone who might be interested in receiving our updates, share this [sign up link](#).*