November 15, 2012

To: Minnesota SWCD Board Chairs
From: Dr. Kathryn Kelly, MASWCD President
Loyal Fisher, MASWCD District Capacity Task Force Chair

Subj.: SWCD Leadership/Self Assessment Tool

“The key differentiating factor in the success of an organization is not just the products and services, not just its technology or market share, but the organization’s ability to elicit, harness, and focus the vast intellectual capital and goodwill in their members, employees, and stakeholders. When these get energized and focused, the organization becomes a powerful force for positive change in today’s business and societal environments.”

~ Michael Doyle

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has created a Soil and Water Conservation District Leadership/Self Assessment Tool. The assessment tool provides SWCDs an opportunity to step back from everyday business and address larger, more fundamental issues. In addition to allowing districts to reflect on how well they are meeting their responsibilities, the self-assessment will assist districts to focus on integral aspects of their work—including governance, collaboration and outreach.

Enclosed is a copy of the SWCD Leadership/Assessment Tool. The MASWCD encourages SWCDs to conduct an annual district self assessment and discuss the outcomes during a future SWCD board meeting and/or district strategic planning session. District self-assessments can lead to a more engaged board—and a higher performing district.

Background:
In 2010 the membership, via the resolution process, requested the MASWCD board to modify the district capacity score sheet. The board’s recommendation was to discontinue the use of the district capacity score sheet and develop a district leadership/self assessment tool as a replacement for our members to evaluate their activities and increase district capacity. A task force of SWCD representatives and a BWSR advisory member was formed and developed an assessment. Enclosed is a copy of the assessment tool that was adopted by the MASWCD Board of Directors. If you have any questions, please contact the MASWCD office at 651-690-9028 or your MASWCD Area Director.

Enclosure.

Cc: MASWCD Board of Directors
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