



MASWCD

Report to MN SWCDs

Spring 2026

MASWCD provides leadership, educational opportunities and a common voice for Minnesota's Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Advancing SWCD Policy

MASWCD continues to keep SWCDs informed on district programs and MASWCD policies developed via the district resolution process.

The MASWCD Legislative Committee and Board adopted the **2026 MASWCD Legislative Platform** to guide this year's advocacy work.

To equip members with the latest conservation policy and funding initiatives, MASWCD prepares a legislative toolkit and hosts a legislative webinar each year at the beginning of the Minnesota Legislative session. In addition, the annual **MASWCD Legislative Briefing** is held in March. The following day is the **SWCD Day at the Capitol** where members from across the state meet with lawmakers to discuss soil and water conservation program priorities.

MASWCD leaders also head to Washington D.C. each year to meet with lawmakers for the **National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Spring Fly-in**. This event provides NACD members with the opportunity to build relationships and advocate for strong federal conservation policies.



Sheila Vanney, advocating for SWCD Aid



2026 SWCD Day at the Capitol
Rep. Steve Jacob, Goodhue & Wabasha



2025 NACD Fly-In, Washington D.C.
Darren Newville, EOT & Wadena, Amy Klobuchar,
Randy Schellack, MASWCD Board member

Investing in SWCD Professional Development

The **District Manager Professional Development (DMPD) Cohort** was launched for the first time in 2025. This cohort of District Managers will graduate in August of 2026 after completing seven courses specifically designed to strengthen the skills of SWCD District Managers.

Strengthening SWCD Capacity

MASWCD representatives attended the **National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)** regional and annual meetings.

This February, a group of SWCD Board members and staff attended the **80th NACD Annual Meeting** in San Antonio, TX to discuss the most relevant issues affecting natural resources and conservation districts.

At the NACD Annual meeting, Randy Smith, MASWCD Vice President, was part of the 2025 graduating class of the National Conservation Foundation's Next Generation Leadership Institute program.

Enhancing Partnerships

Pheasant Fest, held Feb. 21-22 had more than 28,800 attendees. MASWCD was in attendance along with NACD, BWSR and NRCS to represent conservation programs in Minnesota. Thank you to the SWCD staff who volunteered at the MASWCD/BWSR booth.



District Managers at MASWCD professional development training.



Randy Smith, MASWCD Vice President speaking at 2026 NACD Annual Meeting



2026 Pheasant Fest
Troy Daniell, Chuck Rau, LeAnn Buck



2026 Pheasant Fest
Troy Daniell, Sarah Strommen,
Bob Meier, Chuck Rau