



MASWCD

Report to MN SWCDs

Summer 2026

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

Legislative Session Recap

MASWCD navigated the challenges of an evenly divided House and Senate with a one-seat DFL majority during the legislative session from February 17 to May 18. MASWCD's legislative committee and board identified two priorities for the 2026 session: 1) continuing to raise awareness of the need to increase SWCD Aid and 2) advocating for a bonding investment in the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve easement program.

MASWCD provided opportunities for SWCD engagement throughout the session, including a legislative webinar, email updates, and our annual Legislative Briefing & Reception, and the MASWCD Day at the Capitol. The MASWCD annual advocacy toolkit along with legislative handouts were provided to aid SWCDs in communicating with legislators and the public.

RIM Reserve. The RIM Reserve easement program received a \$2 million appropriation in the final capital investment bill. This important funding will allow continued leveraging of federal Conservation Reserve Program funds through the MN Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP).

SWCD Aid. An increase to SWCD Aid was included in the Senate omnibus tax bill, bringing it from \$12 million/year to \$14 million/year. However, the House didn't produce a tax bill this year, and end-of-session negotiations were extremely tense. Final agreed upon language did not include an increase to SWCD Aid.

MASWCD encourages all SWCD supervisors and staff to reach out to legislators and candidates during the coming months to continue communicating the importance of your work and the value you bring to your communities. MASWCD's inaugural Legislative Advocacy Cohort, a group of 11 SWCD supervisors and staff, will continue to hone advocacy and outreach skills in preparation for the 2027 legislative session and a proposal to increase SWCD Aid.



Legislative briefing with Rep. Liz Reyer and Senator Grant Hauschild



MASWCD Day at the Capitol



NEW MASWCD
Legislative Advocacy Cohort

MASWCD Investing in SWCD Leadership Development

Register now for the **16th Leadership Institute Cohort**. Since 1996, in partnership with the U of MN Extension, more than 360 participants have completed this training that builds leadership skills, confidence, and professional networks. SWCD Supervisors and staff of all backgrounds and experience are encouraged to register.

MASWCD Strengthening SWCD Capacity

June represents a momentous time for SWCDs when supervisors and staff come together from across the state at MASWCD Area Meetings to discuss local resolutions, share district perspectives, and stay informed on the latest conservation program updates. These gatherings remain a cornerstone of member-driven governance.

In response to a member-approved resolution, MASWCD developed an informational video to support SWCDs with local outreach and recruitment efforts in the supervisor role. View the new video on the MASWCD website and YouTube.

This year marks the **90th Anniversary of the MASWCD Annual Convention** held Nov. 30 to Dec. 2. Join us for inspiring speakers, educational seminars, engaging networking opportunities and special anniversary highlights honoring 90 years of conservation stewardship!

MASWCD Investing in Future Conservationists

The **MN Envirothon** was held May 18 at the Oliver Kelley Farm. More than 130 students and teachers participated. Team Hopkins won 1st place and is headed to the National Envirothon to compete with thousands of students for scholarships and prizes. Team Waubun placed 2nd and Team Sartell placed 3rd.



Registration is open for the next MASWCD Leadership Institute Cohort



Eight Area Meetings will be held across the state this June.



NEW MASWCD Supervisor Role video launched in April



Team Hopkins is heading to the National Envirothon to compete for scholarships!

