SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (SWCDS)

Legislative Water Commission March 16, 2015

LeAnn Buck, Executive Director Kurt Beckstrom, Vice President

Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)

- SWCDs are a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota
- Established under MN Statute 103 C
- Private Lands Conservation



SWCDs



Conservation Districts Proposed

 Idea for local special-purpose districts to bridge the gap between federal government & private landowners



Origin of SWCDs

"The local conservation program would be not just an experiment in conserving natural resources: it would be an experiment in the application of government to natural resources problems in democracy"

From For the Love of the Land by R. Neil Sampson.

 May carry out soil & water conservation measures on any lands in the district with the consent of the landowner



Powers and duties (MN State Statute 103C)

- Plan & Execute Erosion Control Projects
- Conduct Demonstration Projects



- Implement/Construct practices
- Share in the Cost of Projects with Landowner
- Conduct Demonstration Projects
- Funding to be from County, State, Federal
- May Charge for Services
- Present Budget to the County

Powers and duties (MN State Statute 103C)

· Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring



Powers and duties (MN State Statute 103C)

 May develop comprehensive plans * These plans are required to receive state grant funds



SWCDs Have Resource Professionals



Governed by Elected Supervisors



National Level

- 3,000 conservation districts
- 17,000 men & women who serve on District governing boards nationwide
- Districts work with 2.3 million cooperators nationwide encompassing more that 778 million acres of private land

Working at the local level with landowners

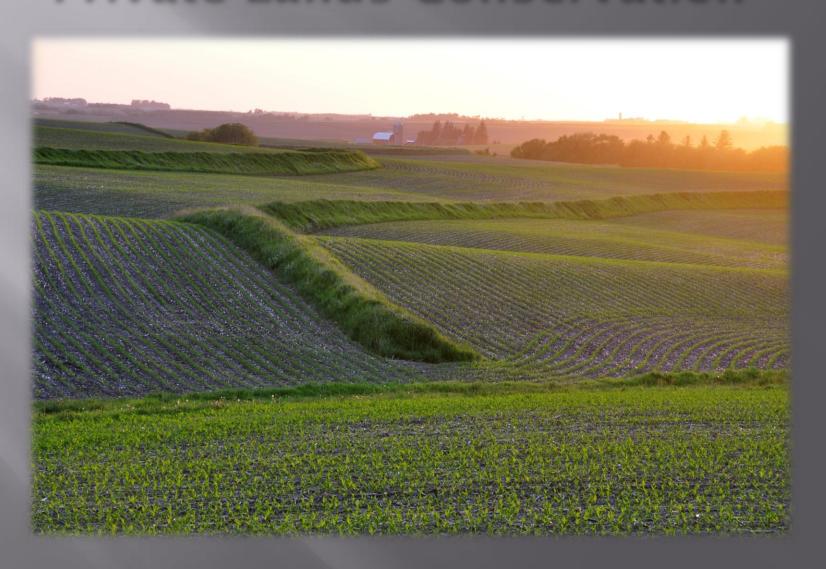


SWCD Recognize Landowners

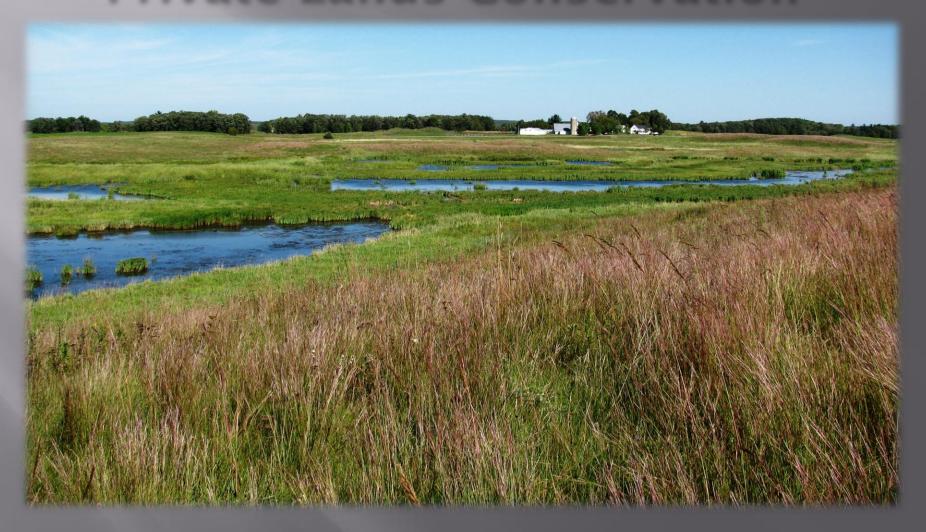












SWCDs Partner



SWCDs & Programs

- State Cost Share
- RIM Reserve
- Wetland Conservation Act
- Feed Lot Programs
- Clean Water Funds
- Comprehensive Water Management
- One Watershed One Plan
- DNR Groundwater Monitoring

In a nutshell...

- Private Lands Conservation
- Voluntary Incentive Programs
- Conservation Education
- Local Governance
- Accountable



THANK
YOU