



*Plan of Work -  
2026*

*Waseca Soil and Water  
Conservation District*

Adopted by Board March 12, 2026



March 12, 2026

# Introduction

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The SWCD is the local unit of government that provides assistance to citizens who are interested in preserving, restoring and protecting soil and water resources in Waseca County.

The District cooperates with all governmental units to determine, to educate, and to assist the implementation of District, State and Federal conservation practices, and to promote soil, water and environmental stewardship of the Waseca County natural resources.

Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District's 2026 Annual Plan of Work is developed from the Cannon River Watershed Comprehensive Water Management Plan (CRWCWMP) and Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Water Management Plan (LSRWCWMP). The Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board (CRWJPB) adopted the CRWCWMP on behalf of its members on October 7, 2020. Waseca SWCD will use the CRWCWMP for areas of the county within the Cannon River Watershed. Waseca SWCD adopted the LSRWCWMP on September 14, 2023. Specific action items that relate to goals of the SWCD are taken from the CRWCWMP and LSRWCWMP. There are other action items that address the goals of the SWCD that are not specifically outlined in the CRWCWMP or LSRWCWMP but do fall under more general goals such as "education".

The purpose of the plan is to guide us in effectively providing maximum conservation to all the land in the District, placing priorities on high priority areas as identified. This plan includes guidelines for employees and supervisors for the achievement of the District objectives.

# District Board of Supervisors

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The Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the SWCD Office, 300 North State Street, Door 4, Waseca MN 56093 (*date & time subject to change check website for current information*)

## **DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD AREA OF REPRESENTATION**

- Chairman- Wayne Cords - Janesville and Alton Townships (District 1)
- Vice Chairman - Gregg Rosenthal - St. Mary and Woodville Townships (District 4)
- Treasurer- Matt Sommers - Freedom, Wilton and Vivian Townships (District 2)
- Secretary– Dan Roemhildt - Iosco and Blooming Grove Townships (District 5)
- Member - Larry Muff - Otisco, Byron, and New Richland Townships (District 3)

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Personnel
- Budget and Planning
- GBERBA
- South Central Technical Service Area
- Waseca Lakes Association
- Clean River Partners
- Le Sueur River Watershed Network
- Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board
- Le Sueur One Watershed One Plan
- Lake Elysian Association

## **DISTRICT STAFF**

- Mark Schaetzke, District Manager
- Joe Edel, District Technician
- Cammi Nordmeyer, Resource Technician
- Vacant, Finance and Administrative Assistant

## **WEBSITE**

- Waseca SWCD – Website – [www.wasecaswcd.org](http://www.wasecaswcd.org)

## **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL NRCS STAFF**

- Jessica Beske, NRCS Team Lead
- Lee Nachreiner, NRCS Soil Conservationist
- Taylor Rasmussen, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

## **WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

- DeAnne Malterer, Chair (District 4)
- Brad Krause, Vice Chair (District 5)
- Douglas Christopherson (District 1)
- Brian Harguth (District 2)
- Brad Milbrath (District 3)

## **WASECA COUNTY LAND AND WATER RESOURCES**

- Chris Howard, Land & Water Resources Director
- Greg Huber, Watershed Coordinator
- Brian Zabel, Agriculture & Ditches Coordinator

## **WASECA COUNTY FARM SERVICES AGENCY BOARD:**

- Emily Johnson, County Executive Director
- Natalie Roecker, Chairman
- Nathan Groh, Vice Chairman
- Aaron Armstrong, Member
- Scott Hildebrandt, Member
- Kevin Klemmensen, Member

# PRIORITY CONCERNS

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## **Goal 1:**

*Protect and Improve the Quality of Water Resources Throughout the County.*

## **Objective**

*Reduce erosion, sediment and nutrient loading of surface water resources.*

## **Actions**

- Implement SWCD grant programs targeting practices on high priority erosion areas.
- Implement the following conservation practices: two grassed waterways; two water and sediment basins; one terrace system; two erosion control structures; one thousand acres of reduced tillage; 2,000 acres of cover crops; and one farmstead windbreak.
- Promote the principles of soil health and implement Soil Health Cost Share program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) targeting high priority areas.
- Continue to use GBERBA, Cannon River Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF), and Le Sueur River WBIF for conservation practice implementation.
- Promote NRCS programs and practices that control soil erosion and reduce sedimentation to downstream waters.
- Promote the application of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) buffer strips adjacent to drainage ditches, streams, and wetlands.
- Work with the County, BWSR, and landowners to implement the State Buffer and Soil Erosion Law.
- Assist with the implementation of the Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Water Management Plan and Cannon River Watershed Comprehensive Water Management Plan.
- Serve as the fiscal agent for the Le Sueur River Watershed Based Implementation Funds grant.
- Promote and assist producers in achieving certification through MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program through MN Dept of Agriculture.

## **Goal 2:**

*Maintain and Enhance the County's Wetland Resources.*

### **Objective**

*Preserve and restore wetlands.*

### **Actions**

- Serve as Local Governmental Unit (LGU) for MN Wetland Conservation Act for Waseca County and serve on the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) for City of Waseca.
- Promote enrollment of drained wetland basins in the RIM, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), CRP, and Wetland Banking programs.
- Promote implementation of controlled drainage systems and bioreactors to reduce nitrogen discharge into surface waters.
- Promote implementation of Comprehensive Drainage Management Plans on all public and private drainage systems.
- Assist the County, MSU-Water Resources Center, and the city of New Richland with reducing flooding within the city.

## **Goal 3:**

*Protect and Enhance the County's Shoreland and Natural Corridors*

### **Objective**

*Develop and implement reasonable strategies to protect and enhance natural corridors.*

### **Actions**

- Promote the implementation of CRP vegetative buffer strips on drainage ditches, streams, and wetlands throughout the County.
- Promote enrollment of riparian areas adjacent to streams, drainage ditches, and wetlands in RIM programs.
- Promote and provide technical assistance for Waseca County Riparian Funds program targeting public waters and public ditches.

## **Goal 4:**

*Increase Awareness on Key Water Planning Issues.*

### **Objective**

*Expand the public's knowledge and understanding of important soil and water resource issues and concerns.*

### **Actions**

- Work closely with the County Commissioners and County departments to solve soil and water resource problems.
- Participate in the MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol.
- Sponsor soil and water resource awareness programs for students.
- Consider sponsoring a tree planting day for students.
- Recognize an Outstanding Conservation Farmer in July.
- Providing yard signs to current outstanding conservation farmers.
- Publish a 2025 Annual Report in March.
- Publish a 2026 Plan of Work in March.
- Publish a 2026 Conservation Newsletter.
- Participate in soil health teams and sponsor area Soil Health Group Events.
- Support and coordinate soil health demonstration site and data collection.
- Sponsor a tree day open house in February.
- Observe Soil Stewardship Week by providing information to County churches and schools.
- Having an informational booth at the Waseca County Fair.
- Update and promote the SWCD website.
- Promote meetings, activities, field days and events on Facebook.
- Participate in the County Feedlot Site Inspection Team – Site Inspections.
- Work with NRCS on Conservation Plans.
- Participate in the MASWCD State Convention.

# Other Waseca SWCD Operational Actions

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- Sponsor a tree program and promote tree planting for windbreaks, wildlife habitat, and erosion control purposes.
- Meet with the County Commissioners in June to discuss the District's 2027 Budget and County Operational Allocation.
- Assist University of MN Extension Waseca and Waseca County Departments as needed.
- Assist MN DNR with Walk in Access Program enrollment.

All programs and services of the District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age marital status or handicap.