

**MURRAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
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WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.MURRAYSWCD.ORG

## SWCD Supervisors



**Back:** Gary Brinks, Paul Posthuma, Karen Hurd  
**Front:** Shannon Cohrs, Mona Henkels

## SWCD and Partner Staff



**Back:** Craig Christensen, Ben Matthys, Aaron Crowley  
**Front:** Mike Skoglund, Allisa Wendland, Shelly Lewis, Cheryl Heard, Nancy Sauder

District I— Paul Posthuma (Ellsborough, Skandia, Cameron, and Lowville townships)  
District II-Gary Brinks (Lake Sarah, Mason, Slayton, and Iona townships)  
District III-Shannon Cohrs (Dovray, Holly, Murray, and Shetek townships)  
District IV-Mona Henkels (Belfast, Bondin, Des Moines River, and Lime lake townships)  
District V-Karen Hurd (Chanarambie, Fenton, Leeds and Moulton townships)



# MURRAY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 2020 NEWSLETTER

## BUFFER LAW



A buffer, also known as a riparian filter strip, is vegetated land adjacent to a stream, river, lake or wetland. Buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment, and are an important conservation practice for helping keep water clean. Studies by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency show that buffers are critical to protecting and restoring water quality and healthy aquatic life, natural stream functions and aquatic habitat due to their immediate proximity to the water.

[Minnesota's Buffer Law](#) requires perennial vegetative buffers of up to 50 feet along lakes, rivers, and streams and buffers of 16.5 feet along ditches. These buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment.

The SWCD's were given the task of implementing the Buffer Law for the State of Minnesota.

The Murray SWCD would like to thank all of the landowners in Murray County that were affected by the Buffer Law for being great to work with and making sure their buffers were planted.

Murray County is close to 100% compliance with the Buffer Law.

### Board of Supervisors

Gary Brinks, *Chair*

Shannon Cohrs, *Vice Chair*

Mona Henkels, *Secretary*

Karen Hurd, *Treasurer*

Paul Posthuma, *P.R.&I.*

### SWCD Employees

**Shelly Lewis**

*District Administrator*

**Craig Christensen**

*Program Manager*

**Aaron Crowley**

*District Technician*

### NRCS Employees

**Cheryl Heard**

*District Conservationist*

**Allisa Wendland**

*Soil Conservationist*

**Nancy Sauder**

*Aces Contractor*

### Southwest Prairie Technical

**Service Area**

**Mike Skoglund**

*Senior Civil Engineering*

*Technician*

**Ben Matthys**

*Civil Engineering Technician*

### Pheasants Forever

**Megan Howell**

*Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist*



Wetland Conservation Act

In 1991, reacting to public concern about Minnesota’s disappearing wetlands, the Minnesota Legislature passed the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and it was signed into law by Governor Arne Carlson. The purpose of the law is to retain the benefits of wetlands and reach the legislation’s goal of **no-net-loss of wetlands**, WCA requires anyone proposing to drain, fill or excavate a wetland to first try to avoid disturbing the wetland; second, to try to minimize any impact on the wetland; and finally to replace any lost wetland acres, functions and values.

The Murray Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is responsible for administering WCA for Murray County.

If you are planning on doing any tiling or placing fill in wet areas

**make sure you come into the SWCD and FSA office to request approval.** This includes any impacts to wet areas whether it’s farmland, city, or lake lots. WCA governs all land in Minnesota.

Wetland determinations done by NRCS only pertain to farm program benefits and don’t always satisfy WCA rules which can be more restrictive. In some cases WCA has required landowners to remove tile or fill placed in wetlands. You need to get permission from both the SWCD and NRCS by signing a tiling request in the FSA office.



State Cost-Share Funds Available

Every year the Murray SWCD receives funding through the State of Minnesota to administer our Cost-Share program. The purpose of this program is to help local landowners or land occupiers offset the costs of installing conservation practices that protect and improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and reducing sedimentation.

Cost-share is approved on a resource concern evaluation, and allocated based on the availability of funds. The Murray SWCD’s cost-share rate is up to 75% of the project cost. Practices eligible for funding include; diversions, grassed waterways, sediment basins, terraces, wastewater and feedlot runoff control, filter strips, stream bank protection, cover crops, and contour strip-cropping.

Please stop at the Murray SWCD office to discuss the project and fill out a cost-share application.



“The wars of the twenty-first century will be fought over WATER.”  
Ismail Serageldin



Order your trees for 2021!!

The Murray SWCD is currently taking orders and drawing up tree plans for the 2021 spring planting season. Landowners interested in tree planting projects for the spring of 2021 are encouraged to contact Aaron Crowley at the SWCD to begin the planning process. Aaron evaluates each proposed tree planting site to guarantee that the final plan is suitable for the particular landscape and surrounding land use.

Call Aaron at 507-836-6990 Ext 3 to order your trees for 2021.



Murray SWCD Equipment for Rent

Equipment	Rate
Vicon Spreader	\$3.00 per acre with a \$50.00 minimum
Great Plains Native Grass Drills	\$10.00 per acre with a \$100.00 minimum
Brillion Packer	\$2.50 per acre with a \$50.00 minimum
Landoll Packer	\$2.50 per acre with a \$50.00 minimum
Pull Type Tree Planter	\$50.00 per day
Straw Crimper	\$75.00 per day

\*Equipment rentals are subject to tax. Above prices do not reflect tax.



About The SWCD

SWCDs are local units of government that manage and direct natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work with landowners and with other units of government to carry out a program for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and related resources. SWCDs fill a crucial niche of providing soil and water conservation services to private land owners. Managing private lands, whether agriculture, forest, lakes, or urban, is key to Minnesota’s quality of life.

The first SWCD was created in 1938 in response to the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Intensive farming during a drought allowed intense erosion of the landscape, so in response SWCDs were created to encourage landowners to alter their farming techniques in order to protect our natural resources.

SWCDs are political subdivisions of the state. They are headed by a board of 5 locally elected supervisors. SWCD programs deal with land and water issues of geographical scope and because of this each board member resides in a different geographic region within the district.

SWCDs are funded through a variety of sources including: BWSR, counties, fees for service, and grants or partnership agreements with the federal government or other conservation organizations.