

## **What does it take to be a soil and water conservation district Supervisor?**

Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) are special purpose units of government that manage natural resource programs. Minnesota's 88 SWCDs cover the entire state; their boundaries usually coincide with the county lines. St. Louis County has two SWCD's separated by township line 54/55 near Cotton. Each SWCD is run by a board of five elected Supervisors.

To be a Supervisor, you need:

### **Knowledge**

Supervisors must have - or be willing to learn - some basic knowledge to effectively carry out their responsibilities. They must understand:

- some of the fundamentals about the environment and how it works;
- the relationship between land use decisions and the environment;
- the effect environmental decisions have on other aspects of our lives; and
- local concerns, attitudes and needs.

### **Concern**

Supervisors must be concerned about:

- our environment and natural resources;
- maintaining and improving water quality; and
- protecting our soil.

### **Leadership**

Supervisors must be willing to take an active leadership role in the community. This can involve:

- setting local conservation priorities;
- educating friends and neighbors about the environment;
- working with other local government units, state and federal agencies, and other elected officials;
- setting a positive example;
- taking unpopular stands;
- balancing economic needs with environmental concerns; and
- sacrificing short-term gains for long-term benefits.

Being a Supervisor involves one board meeting a month and many incidental responsibilities. Supervisors receive no salary, although they do get per diem, currently \$125, and expenses.

File for office with the St. Louis County Auditor between May 21, 2024 and June 4, 2024 at 5 p.m.