

2010

Board of  
Water and  
Soil  
Resources

Academy

An annual training event for conservation based  
local government staff

Program Session Packet



# Tuesday, October 26

---

**9:00-10:00**

## **MACDE Annual Business Meeting**

Summary: *Agenda items to include presentment of 'Extraordinary Contribution Award' employee, as well as annual raffle ticket handout.*

**10:00-10:30**

## **Opening/Welcome/Orientation to the BWSR Academy**

Summary: *Academy attendees will learn about the goals of the 2010 BWSR Academy and logistical details of the next three days.*

**10:30-12:00**

## **Room 1: eLINK 101**

Presenter: Conor Donnelly, IT Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

Summary: *eLINK is a powerful tool for applying for grants and reporting accomplishments. Attendees will learn how to navigate through eLINK.*

## **Room 2: Renewing the Minnesota Landscape**

Presenter: Dan Shaw, Native Vegetation Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

Summary: *The process of restoring landscapes can often be a little overwhelming. Learn a thorough process outlined in the Minnesota Wetland Restoration Guide, Sections 5 and 6 for planning successful projects from beginning to end. As techniques can often be similar across landscapes, topics covered will relate to wetlands, buffers, drainageways, prairies and woodlands. Our most common invasive species problems will also be discussed along with techniques that have been effective for their control.*

### **Room 3: Discussion of Joint Exercise of Power**

Presenter: MN Counties Intergovernmental Trust

*Summary: Diminishing resources and increasing demands often require that public entities work together. Joint working arrangements are an efficient and effective service delivery model to address operational needs. Failure to organize, govern, and operate as required by law may have the affect of compounding your risk rather than limiting exposures. This session will focus on the statutory requirements of Minnesota Statute 471.59 and provide suggestions on how to manage the exposures that result from entities coming together in the joint exercise of power to provide services or deliver products.*

### **Room 4: Orientation to Conservation in Minnesota**

Presenters: Ron Shelito, North Region Supervisor, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Chris Hughes, Board Conservationist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: This session is targeted at the new or newer employees of SWCDs, WDs, and counties. The session takes a look at the diversity of the Minnesota landscape and provides some salient facts about Minnesota resources and how we use them.*

*The session gives an overview of the conservation delivery system in place to protect and utilize our resources. It will cover the conservation programs we use to address resource concerns, key partners in the conservation effort, key statutes that give local governments the authorities to act, and the role of BWSR with local governments.*

## **12:00-1:30 Lunch Keynote Speech: John Jaschke**

### **1:30-3:00**

#### **Room 1: Advanced Easements**

Presenters: Kevin Lines, Conservation Easement Program Administrator, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Tabor Hoek, Working Lands Initiative Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: This presentation will cover current program opportunities to get easements working in your county to help solve your natural resource problems. We will also cover implementation funding for SWCDs, easement monitoring, easement management opportunities and concerns, native vegetation requirements imposed by the legislature, and the current and future state of funding opportunities for RIM Reserve.*

## **Room 2: New State Seed Mixes, When, Where, and How to Use Them**

Presenter: Dan Shaw, Native Vegetation Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: Do you find the world of seed mixes confusing? BWSR, Mn/DOT and DNR seed mixes have recently been combined, and this is your opportunity to learn about the new mixes, and other restoration design tools such as new seed guidelines, the Minnesota Wetland Restoration Guide and a new guide on developing site specific seed mixes. Learn how to select the right mix for site conditions, and how to use mixes effectively to meet project goals. You will come away with expertise on effectively using seed mixes in Minnesota.*

## **Room 3: County Perspectives during Tight Fiscal Times; what you really want to know, but are afraid to ask!**

Presenter: Tim Houle, Crow Wing County Administrator

*Summary: In this interactive conversation, an experienced County Administrator will give an overview of county perspectives in the era of very tight financial resources on what value counties want out of their partnerships with SWCDs and watershed districts. Topics covered will include establishing and maintaining good communication with your county, understanding the breadth and scope of what you are competing against within county government for scarce resources, and how you can become a strategic partner in helping to solve problems for the county. The session is designed interactively in that attendees will get an opportunity to submit questions in advance of the session that the presenter will then make sure to cover in his presentation. In addition, ample time will be allowed for a dialogue with attendees and the presenter to make sure your areas of interest are covered.*

## **Room 4: Understanding and Administering the State Cost-Share Program and Its Use in Other Programs**

Presenter: Jeff Nielsen, South Region Supervisor, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Chris Hughes, Board Conservationist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: BWSR staff will lead this session designed to increase attendees understanding of this erosion and sediment control (water quality) program. Attendees will receive basic training on the current Cost-Share rule and the procedures and forms for properly administering the program. In addition, presenter(s) will provide information on proposed Cost-Share Program rule and policy changes and the relationship with Clean Water Fund program policy. This program is intended for LGU technical and administrative staff implementing land and water treatment projects through the State Cost-Share Program and Clean Water Fund program.*

## **Office Hours Topic: eLINK4WEB**

*Summary: Has the spark gone out of your relationship with eLINK? Do you need some on-on-one time with BWSR staff to get an issue resolved? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then the eLINK Office Hours is just what you're looking for. Stop in for an office visit, and we'll provide a laptop for you to connect with eLINK and help resolve anything that's troubling you.*

*Several laptops will be available for use. Feel free to bring your own laptop if possible.*

## **3:30-5:00**

### **Room 1: Financial and End-Of-Year Reporting**

Presenter: Wayne Zellmer, Grants Coordinator, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Bill Eisele, Administrative Services Director, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: Does annual reporting make you run and hide? Take the mystery out of this BWSR requirement and become informed on how to comply with annual reporting. Learn how to avoid the top ten mistakes grantees make with annual reporting! All who prepare annual reports should attend, but SWCD staff will also receive focused training on financial reporting.*

*This session is repeated on Wednesday at 1:30-3:00*

### **Room 2: WCA Financial Assurance, NEW WCA Guidance, and WCA Reporting**

(0.5 WDCP credit hours earned for attendance at all three talks)

#### **Ensuring Funds for Wetland Replacement: Financial Assurances and the Wetland Conservation Act**

Speaker: Chuck Holtman, Smith Partners PLLP

*Summary: Welcome to the exciting world of financial assurances! WCA rules require a landowner to maintain a financial assurance for project-specific wetland replacement not completed in advance. This session will help your LGU protect its wetlands and its funds by introducing you to the types of financial assurances, how to manage them, and how to use them when replacement or monitoring obligations are not being met.*

#### **Your Year-End WCA Reporting: A Review of Reporting Requirements**

Speaker: Les Lemm, WCA Coordinator, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: This short session will review the current WCA year-end reporting form and process that is mandatory for all LGUs starting this year. Important reporting guidance will be covered and your questions will be answered.*

## **Wetland Preservation and Exceptional Natural Resource Value Projects for Wetland Replacement Credit: A Review of the New Guidance**

Speaker: Les Lemm, WCA Coordinator, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: The new WCA rule now includes wetland preservation as an action eligible for wetland replacement credit. In addition, the new rule provides more specificity in regard to utilizing exceptional natural resource value (ENRV) projects for wetland replacement credit. BWSR has developed new guidance documents on both of these topics. This session will review the new guidance document and show qualifying project examples.*

## **Room 3: A Discussion of the Open Meeting Law & the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA)**

Presenter: MN Counties Intergovernmental Trust

*Summary: The responsibility of ensuring that meetings of the board comply with the Open Meeting Law often falls to staff. Failure to comply with the law can place board members and the organization at risk, particularly when dealing with personnel issues. Participants will learn when the governing body can legally close a meeting; how to properly notice, close and record meetings; and the legal penalties that can accompany violations of the Open Meeting Law.*

*Likewise, staff must recognize what personnel data is appropriate for discussion at a board meeting. As such, this session will examine the definition and classification of data, roles, procedural requirements that your organization must have in place in order to comply with the law, strategies to address the release and destruction of data, and penalties for violating the MGDPA.*

## **Room 4: Getting GIS data OUT of eLINK**

Presenter: Conor Donnelly, IT Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: Have you always wondered where all those points, lines and polygons go when you draw BMPs in eLINK? Have you pondered printing maps or doing GIS analysis on the data you've provided to eLINK? If so, then come to this session which will demonstrate some practical examples of printing simple maps and extracting GIS data from eLINK using WebQuery.*

## **Clean Water Fund Office Hours**

*Summary: Discuss the CWF program with BWSR Clean Water Specialists.*

# Wednesday, October 27

---

**8:30-10:00**

## **Room 1: Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve-Easements 101**

Presenter: Tim Fredbo, Easement Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: For newer staff and those who may have been away from the RIM Reserve Conservation Easement Program for a while, this presentation will provide a historical overview of the program plus the basic programmatic steps connected with acquiring easements and installing conservation practices.*

- *Program inception and history*
- *Funding history*
- *Program accomplishments*
- *What is an easement and how does it work*
- *Basic steps to acquire an easement and SWCD roles in the process*
- *Conservation Practice Plan development*
- *Terminating or changing boundaries of recorded easements*

## **Room 2: Basic WCA Administration (Part 1) - New and Improved!**

(0.5 WDCP credit hours earned for attendance)

Presenter: Dale Krystosek, Senior Wetland Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Kane Radel, Wetland Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Keith Grow, Wetland Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: Are you new to WCA or have you been around a while, but want to know more about WCA administration under the new rule? This session is the first in a two-part series and will cover basic administrative roles and responsibilities, application and notice procedures, various WCA timelines, and other WCA requirements that all WCA LGUs and SWCDs need to know. Even if you have attended a WCA 101 session in the past, this new and improved training session will refresh your knowledge of the basics and inform you of changes and new requirements resulting from the latest rule update.*

### **Room 3: It Just Ain't Easy-Managing for Success**

Presenter: Angie Becker Kudelka, Training Coordinator, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: "It just ain't easy" – were the Allman Brothers singing about supervision? Managing how the work gets done and building the skill sets of employees are crucial factors in determining your organizational effectiveness. Designed for current and future LGU leaders, in this session discuss how key supervision and performance management principles help you develop accountable, competent people who take ownership in their work. You'll take home activity materials that any member of your staff or board can use to determine and prioritize skill sets for their own position.*

### **Room 4: Association of District Administrators' Meeting**

#### **Office Hours Topic: eLINK4WEB**

*Summary: Has the spark gone out of your relationship with eLINK? Do you need some one-on-one time with BWSR staff to get an issue resolved? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then the eLINK Office Hours is just what you're looking for. Stop in for an office visit, and we'll provide a laptop for you to connect with eLINK and help resolve anything that's troubling you.*

*Several laptops will be available for use. Feel free to bring your own laptop if possible.*

## **10:30-12:00**

### **Room 1: Rural Preserves Property Tax Program-Year 2**

Presenter: Tabor Hoek, Working Lands Initiative Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: This session will focus on the evolution of the Rural Preserves Property Tax Program. We will provide a brief update on current status, review roles and responsibilities, program requirements and technical information. A panel of program leaders and implementers will be assembled to cover the bases. We'll leave plenty of time for questions.*

## **Room 2: Basic WCA Administration (Part 2) - New and Improved**

(0.5 WDCP credit hours earned for attendance at both talks)

### **WCA Enforcement**

Presenter: Traci Hanson, DNR Enforcement

Summary: *Review of WCA enforcement procedures, legal aspects of conducting wetland inspections (right to enter property, DNR enforcement assistance, etc.)*

### **Basic WCA Administration (Part 2) - New and Improved!**

Speakers: Jeremy Maul, Senior Wetland Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
John Overland, Wetland Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

Summary: *This is the second session in a two-part offering, but you are welcome even if you were unable to attend the Part 1. This course will cover specifics related to WCA exemption and no-loss decisions and replacement plan reviews and requirements. This session will be paired with a presentation on WCA enforcement by the DNR.*

## **Room 3: Fixing Your Local Feedlot - Progressive and Successful Strategies**

Presenter: Doug Bos, Rock SWCD Assistant Director  
Gerry Maciej, Benton SWCD Manager  
John Pokorney, MPCA Feedlot Staff

Summary: *Working with landowners to successfully treat feedlot runoff can be a challenging situation. The two SWCD representatives will share how they have aggressively addressed the issue from both the delegated and non-delegated county point of view. How did you make the initial contact with the landowners? What convinced the landowner to move forward? Who provided the technical assistance? Where did the money come from? What's next, nutrient management plan? This will be just some of the information provided on feedlot projects that vary from simple fixes to complex systems. MPCA staff will provide firsthand experience and perspectives on how they can assist through the process for both delegated and non-delegated counties.*

## **Room 4: Association of District Administrators' Meeting**

### **Office Hours Topic: eLINK4WEB**

Summary: *Has the spark gone out of your relationship with eLINK? Do you need some one-on-one time with BWSR staff to get an issue resolved? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then the eLINK Office Hours is just what you're looking for. Stop in for an office visit, and we'll provide a laptop for you to connect with eLINK and help resolve anything that's troubling you.*

*Several laptops will be available for use. Feel free to bring your own laptop if possible.*

## 12:00-1:30 Lunch

## 1:30-3:00

### Room 1: Estimating Outcomes-something old, something new

Speakers: Megan Lennon, Soil Scientist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Eric Mohring, Hydrologist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: Need a refresher on the Water Pollution Reduction Calculator? Want to learn about BWSR's fresh approach to tracking environmental outcomes? Interested in the new bioretention estimator? Do you strive to be more competitive in grant ranking processes? This interactive session will refresh your water pollution reduction estimator skills and introduce the newly unveiled bioretention estimator.*

*Session Requirements:*

- *Bring a laptop with Microsoft Excel*
- *Download the water erosion pollution reduction estimator and the bioretention estimator from the eLINK homepage.*

### Room 2: Wetland Delineator Refresher (Part 1-Definitions, Basic Methodology, and Vegetation)

(1.5 WDCP credit hours earned for attendance)

Speakers: Robert Maroney, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Steve Hofstad, Wetland Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: Whether you're preparing to take the delineator certification exam in the future or just brushing up on your wetland delineation knowledge, this is the session for you! The session will refresh your memories and highlight key components of wetland delineation methodologies as well as covering the vegetation criterion. Topics include appropriate delineation levels, various definitions, normal circumstances, sample point and transect locations, vegetation plot sizing, 50/20 rule, prevalence index calculations, and much more. Because this is a refresher session, it is assumed that attendees have a basic understanding of the delineation process and procedures and are familiar with the regional supplements in Minnesota.*

### **Room 3: How to put your best foot forward while putting your hand out**

Speakers: Don Hickman-Senior Program Manager with the Initiative Foundation  
Shelley Shreffler, Assistant Director, Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota's Resources,  
Jeff Hrubes, Northern Clean Water Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: It's no secret that organizational budgets are shrinking. Competitive grant applications to public and private institutions are becoming a larger piece of the budget picture of most conservation agencies. Unfortunately, there will never be enough funding for all the good ideas proposed at any one time. There are many private or non-profit funding organizations that have an interest in the environment. Learn project planning and grant writing skills that will help you position your project for funding from a variety of sources.*

### **Room 4: Financial and End-Of-Year Reporting**

Presenter: Wayne Zellmer, Grants Coordinator, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Bill Eisele, Administrative Services Director, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: Does annual reporting make you run and hide? Take the mystery out of this BWSR requirement and become informed on how to comply with annual reporting. Learn how to avoid the top ten mistakes grantees make with annual reporting! All who prepare annual reports should attend, but SWCD staff will also receive focused training on financial reporting.*

*This session is repeated on Tuesday at 3:30-5:00*

## **3:30-5:00**

### **Room 1: The job isn't over until the paperwork's done**

Presenters: Marcey Westrick, Metro Clean Water Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Matt Drewitz, Southern Clean Water Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Jeff Hrubes, Northern Clean Water Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: Clean Water Fund grant workplans and subsequent reporting requirements must meet a variety of expectations. There is the basic expectation that reports will show the results obtained for the dollars expended. eLINK4Web is the system that tracks these nuts and bolts of the process, but it is not necessarily user-friendly for communicating this information to average citizens. In this session you will learn how to integrate the required basics into the transparency and accountability expected and required by the citizens and legislators of Minnesota. Bring home some examples of using grant reporting as a communication tool in addition to fulfilling those pesky grant agreement requirements.*

## **Room 2: Wetland Delineator Refresher (Part 2-Soils and Hydrology)**

(1.5 WDCP credit hours earned for attendance)

Presenters: Dan Wheeler, Soils Instructor, University of Minnesota  
Jeremy Maul, Senior Wetland Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: This is the second session in a two-part offering, but you are welcome even if you were unable to attend Part 1. This session will hit the high points of the hydric soil and wetland hydrology criteria. Because this is a refresher session, it is assumed that attendees have a basic understanding of the delineation process and procedures and are familiar with the regional supplements in Minnesota.*

## **Room 3: Your Planning Doesn't End with the Plan**

Presenters: Brian Dwight, Board Conservationist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Brad Wozney, Board Conservationist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Jim Haertel, Metro Region Supervisor, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: The overall theme of this session is that your plan is only as good as what you do with it. The session will cover two topics that demonstrate how an effective plan can be used to develop and implement effective projects. This session will be divided into two related parts:*

- 1. Updating your watershed district long-range plan with a special emphasis on the benefits of using an open process to create the plan and to develop and implement projects. The session will provide an example of an open participatory process that has been successful with watershed districts in the Red River Valley.*
- 2. Several watershed districts have used the statutory authority to create water management districts to fund projects. The session will describe potential uses of water management districts, how to use the statutory authority to create them, and provide examples of watershed districts that have used this authority.*

## **Room 4: LiDAR in Real Life**

Presenters: Erik Jones and Zach Hermann, Houston Engineering  
Christiane Roy, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

*Summary: LiDAR will soon be available statewide. It's an exciting new technology that will help plan projects, identify precisely where conservation dollars should be spent, maximize the efficiency of the system, soften your skin and give you fresh breath. There are a lot of claims and expectations regarding this new digital technology. Learn some real life analytical uses for LiDAR from folks who already have it available and begin planning on how it can help you better protect and restore water quality in your area.*

*This session is repeated on Thursday at 10:30-12:00*

# Thursday, October 28

---

**8:30-10:00**

## **Room 1: Conservation Drainage-Strategies to Improve Water Quality in Artificially Drained Landscapes**

Presenter: Dr. Gary Sands, Biosystem Engineer, University of Minnesota

*Summary: Are you concerned about water quality in artificially-drained landscapes? Learn how water quality can be improved in artificially drained landscapes with an emphasis on hydrologic management. Practices ranging from the well-known buffer strip to cutting edge woodchip bioreactors and two-stage ditches will be covered. This session will provide an overview of conservation drainage practices so you can better understand the range of management practices available in drained areas.*

## **Room 2: Wetland Remote Sensing and Mapping, and WCA Restoration Engineering**

### **Wetland Remote Sensing and Mapping**

(0.75 WDCP credit hours earned for attendance)

Speaker: Brian Huberty, US FWS National Wetland Inventory

*Summary: Wetlands are the most dynamic landscape feature to map and monitor, thus, highlighting the need for new and current information. New technologies such as digital aerial cameras, radar, LiDAR and thermal cameras, has now made it possible to more accurately map wetlands at more frequent intervals. This talk will highlight many of the new approaches being used in Minnesota and around the region to help improve our National Wetland Inventory maps.*

## **WCA Restoration Engineering**

Presenter: Tom Wenzel, Senior Water Resources Engineer, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

(0.0 WDCP credit hours earned for attendance)

### ***Key Engineering Considerations in the Early Evaluation of Wetland Banking Projects***

*Summary: Do you often wonder if the next wetland restoration or creation project that is proposed for wetland banking, mitigation, or for that matter any wetland program, is really a worthwhile site to consider? Will the necessary or proposed engineering features and construction strategies really stand the test of time? What risks are involved with potential projects, will adjacent lands be affected by proposed activities, what amount of future maintenance will be needed for the project and who will be responsible for it?*

*If you are responsible for designing, implementing, reviewing or approving wetland restoration projects in wetland regulatory or other restoration programs, you will come away from this session with useful information that will help you be more successful in selecting and approving worthwhile projects for restoration and help empower you to know when to say no.*

### ***Tile Breaks and Ditch Plugs for Wetland Restoration***

*Summary: Tile blocks and ditch plugs are common implementation strategies often used when restoring tile and ditch drained wetlands. Should the same approach to these strategies be used for all wetland restoration projects, or are there site dependent variables that one needs to understand and consider to be successful?*

*This session discusses technical considerations associated with designing and constructing successful tile blocks and ditch plugs. Learn about these unique restoration strategies and see firsthand how they and many other restoration strategies will be made available in the revised Minnesota Wetland Restoration Guide, which is nearing completion. If you are responsible for designing and implementing wetland restoration projects or work with or administer wetland restoration programs, you will come away from this session with useful information that will improve the success of these projects.*

## **Room 3: Telling isn't selling-Conservation Marketing**

Presenter: Angie Becker Kudelka, Training Coordinator, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: Most of us in the conservation field didn't major in sales and marketing, and yet we find ourselves "selling conservation." Join this session to explore fundamental sales techniques of how people sell and why people buy. Leave with handy tips that you can use on your very next phone call or site visit to discuss conservation practices with potential "buyers."*

## **Room 4: Is your local water plan good or just good enuf?**

Speakers: Ron Shelito, North Region Supervisor, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Dan Steward, Board Conservationist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: Successful Clean water Funding applications must be rooted in local water management plans or TMDL work plans. Local water management plans have been with us for decades, but the general nature of many of these plans makes it difficult to identify outcomes that are competitive in today's funding environment. This session will provide tips for upgrading or amending local water management plans (either county or WD) to add the specificity needed for many of today's competitive grant funds. This session will cover the basic requirements of local water plans, the more recent requirements of the Clean Water Fund and provide some tips for bringing the two together. The session will also provide a couple of actual examples of local water plans that provide a level of detail generally considered adequate for today's competitive funding environment.*

**10:30-12:00**

## **Room 1: Streambank and Lakeshore Stabilization Using Bioengineering (Part 1)**

Presenters: Shawn Tracy, Landscape Restoration Specialist, Anoka Conservation District  
Greg Berg, Shoreland Specialist, Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District  
Jeff Weiss, Sr. Water Resources Engineer, Barr Engineering

*Summary: This first of a two-part session will provide technical information, based on case study experience, for selection and design of streambank and lakeshore stabilization practices using bioengineering. Whether you have no, little, or much experience with streambank and lakeshore stabilization, this session will advance your knowledge and capabilities. Gain insights to identify critical driving forces and site characteristics that are key to selecting and designing appropriate bioengineering solutions. Learn about the use and integration of both soft and hard armoring materials, vegetative plantings and associated construction techniques. Share your questions and experience, as well.*

## **Room 2: LiDAR in Real Life**

Presenters: Erik Jones and Zach Hermann, Houston Engineering  
Christiane Roy, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

*Summary: LiDAR will soon be available statewide. It's an exciting new technology that will help plan projects, identify precisely where conservation dollars should be spent, maximize the efficiency of the system, soften your skin and give you fresh breath. There are a lot of claims and expectations regarding this new digital technology. Learn some real life analytical uses for LiDAR from folks who already have it available and begin planning on how it can help you better protect and restore water quality in your area.*

*This session is repeated on Wednesday at 3:30-5:00*

## **Room 3: Governmental Accounting and Compliance: The Basics**

Presenter: Tom Karlsen, Office of the State Auditor

*Summary: Do you wonder about what the numbers mean in your district's financial statements? Are you wondering what the basic accounting requirements are for local governments? What about some of the basic laws, regulations, or rules local governments are subject to? This session will look at some of the basic accounting and compliance requirements that Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts are subject to, including how accounting and compliance requirements can relate to each other.*

*If there are specific questions, you would like this session to address, please email Tom Karlson at [tkarlson@osa.state.mn.us](mailto:tkarlson@osa.state.mn.us)*

## **Room 4: Sediment Source Fingerprinting Analysis: Implications for Program Delivery**

Presenter: Shawn Schottler, Senior Scientist, Science Museum of MN – St. Croix Watershed Research Station

*Summary: The Science Museum of Minnesota - St. Croix Watershed Research Station (SCWRS) has conducted sediment source fingerprinting in the Minnesota and Mississippi River Basins in relation to sedimentation in Lake Pepin. This research points to streambank, bluff, and ravine erosion as critical sources of sediment. Increases in these non-field sediment inputs over the last 150 years suggest that rivers have become erosive. Shawn Schottler, Senior Scientist at SCWRS will provide an overview of sediment source fingerprinting research and comparative changes of river hydrology in 21 agricultural tributaries. These findings provide new perspective on the linkages between changes in agricultural land use and changes in sediment loading and offer insight on defining future conservation practice priorities.*

## **WCA Office Hours**

Discuss your WCA questions with wetland specialists and other BWSR staff.

## **12:00-1:30 Lunch**

## **1:30-3:00**

### **Room 1: Streambank and Lakeshore Stabilization Using Bioengineering (Part 2)**

Presenters: Shawn Tracy, Landscape Restoration Specialist, Anoka Conservation District  
Greg Berg, Shoreland Specialist, Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District  
Jeff Weiss, Sr. Water Resources Engineer, Barr Engineering

*Summary: This second of a two-part session will provide technical information, based on case study experience, for selection and design of streambank and lakeshore stabilization practices using bioengineering. Whether you have no, little, or much experience with streambank and lakeshore stabilization, this session will advance your knowledge and capabilities. Gain insights to identify critical driving forces and site characteristics that are key to selecting and designing appropriate bioengineering solutions. Learn about the use and integration of both soft and hard armoring materials, vegetative plantings and associated construction techniques. Share your questions and experience, as well.*

### **Room 2: Plant Identification Primer**

(1.5 WDCP credit hours earned for attendance)

Speakers: Dan Shaw, Vegetation Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Carol Strojny, Lead Field Technician, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Karli Swenson, Field Technician, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: From wetland regulation to cost share programs, plant identification is an important skill to have in effectively implementing various conservation and regulatory programs. This session will cover the basics of plant identification, including ways to differentiate between major plant groupings, a review of plant parts and terminology used in identification, basic plant identification keys and guides, characteristics of some common species, and much more.*

### **Room 3: Have you achieved your goals? Best practices in measuring and communicating success**

Presenters: Julie Blackburn, Assistant Director, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Marcey Westrick, Metro Clean Water Specialist, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

*Summary: There is an increasing emphasis and demand by funders and citizens on accountability and evaluating organizational performance based on success in achieving goals. This session will help you define major categories to describe outcomes with messages that are easily understood, define how the outcomes are incorporated into overall organizational staff and resource planning, and how outcomes are measured in order to determine success. By attending this session you will be given real 'measures and outcome' examples that you can put to work in your organization along with tips on how best to communicate the impacts of the work you do.*