



Recognizing Excellence in Conservation

2014 Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Employee of the Year

December 2014

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to announce that Pam Tomevi, District Administrator for the Koochiching Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), has been honored as the 2014 Outstanding SWCD Employee of the Year.

As District Administrator, Pam wears a number of hats. Reporting directly to the Board of Supervisors, she is responsible for district operations. This includes supervising staff, managing programs, grant writing, and outreach.

2014 was a busy year for Pam. She coordinated the Rat Root River Restoration Project for the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club, producing a book to tell the story of the project's success. She was a major participant in both BWSR's White Cedar Project and the Forest Resource Council's Non Industrial Private Forestland project, worked across national boundaries to harmonize the sharing of technical data between the United States and Canada, and coordinated flood damage efforts after this summer's heavy rain events. She has developed successful partnerships with BWSR and other state agencies and nonprofits that have resulted in almost \$900,000 in grants this past year, supporting a tremendous amount of conservation work in Koochiching County and the Lake of the Woods Basin.

In addition to her duties at Koochiching, Pam stepped in at our agency's request to provide interim district administrative services to the transitioning North St. Louis SWCD. She developed a recovery plan for the district that addressed financial instability and improved relations between the district, elected officials, and the public.

Pam is recognized by her peers as an expert in district administration. She's led trainings for other local government staff and made presentations across the state about the work being done in the districts. She's also presented at the BWSR Academy, our agency's statewide training opportunity for conservation staff.

"Pam is an outstanding representative of and advocate for local conservation," BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke said. "Her enthusiasm for the work that SWCDs do is contagious, and her commitment to the mission benefits not only Koochiching County, but the entire state."

The Outstanding District Employee of the Year is awarded at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' convention, held annually in December.



Pam Tomevi, right, of Koochiching Soil and Water Conservation District, with BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke, left, after the award presentation at the 2014 Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts conference in December.