

SERVE A ROLE IN PROTECTION OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Supervisor positions for Districts 3
and 4 are up for election in 2014.
District V is up for special election.

District Map



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
CALL THE
SWCD AT 218-634-1842**

Information courtesy of the Minnesota SWCD
Supervisor's Handbook

SUPERVISORS AND STAFF

Board of Supervisors

John Sonstegard	District I
Russel Hansen	District II
Frank Sindelir	District III
Roger Krause	District IV
Nancy Dunnell	District V

Staff

Josh Stromlund
LWPO/SWCD Director

Mike Hirst and Corryn Trask
Resource Technicians

Becky Buegler
Office Assistant

USDA-NRCS Staff

Kelly Voigt
District Conservationist

Jane Hafvenstein
Soil Conservation Technician

Sunny Dorow
Office Assistant

www.LakeoftheWoodsSWCD.org

**What to know about
running for Supervisor
of**

**LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(SWCD)**



Grassroots conservation starts here.

Roles of a Supervisor

SWCD supervisors are elected officials who have been entrusted with some of Minnesota's most precious assets: our natural resources. Your primary responsibility is to ensure that your community uses its natural resources wisely, with an eye toward the future. To do this, you must seek and achieve a delicate balance between people and the land we inhabit.

In order to be an effective board member and feel a sense of accomplishment for the people you serve, you must have a good working knowledge of your responsibilities as:

1. an SWCD board member,
2. an elected official,
3. a community leader.

1. Role of Supervisor as an SWCD Board Member

There are three key aspects to the role of a supervisor as an SWCD board member: policy development, planning, and working with the district staff.

A. Policy Development:

The SWCD board of supervisors is a policy board, meaning that its primary focus is not on running the day-to-day activities of the district, but on setting overall policy and long-term objectives. The staff then uses these policies and objectives to ensure that the district is proceeding in the general direction laid out by the board.

Typical policy development may include personnel management, charges for services, election of officers, training, and technical assistance.

B. Planning:

One of the most important parts of your job is developing your district's annual and comprehensive plans. Supervisors must be involved in all aspects of plan development and implementation, particularly in determining the long-term objectives of the district.

Main areas of planning include:

- Definition of purpose
- Prioritization of resource concerns
- Development of objectives
- Determination of actions

C. Working with Staff:

Policies and annual and long-range plans developed by the board will guide the district staff in everyday activities, but there are also a number of more specific items you should work on with the staff.

- Delegate responsibilities and set priorities.
- Develop annual and long-range budgets.
- Identify training needs.
- Develop an employee evaluation system.
- Provide adequate clerical and technical help to meet the needs of your district.
- Provide employee job descriptions.
- Attend monthly board meetings and serve on various committees as assigned.
- Look for ways to expand existing programs.
- Support local, state, & national associations to keep lines of communication open.

2. Role of Supervisor as an Elected Official

As an elected official, you're responsible for operating the district as a political subdivision of state government. In addition to establishing district conservation and legislative priorities, other duties include:

- Establishing policies to implement state grants programs.
- Maintaining a working relationship with other political bodies and state agencies.
- Entering into working agreements with other agencies to coordinate programs
- Pursuing funding options for district operation as opportunities arise.
- Cooperating with other districts and watersheds in resource activities.
- Monitoring your actions to comply with program rules and regulation.

3. Role of Supervisor as a Community Leader

As a community leader, you help guide your community in natural resource issues.

Specifically, you are responsible for:

- Acting as a local grassroots representative for soil and water conservation.
- Maintaining good conservation on the land you manage.
- Acting as a spokesperson on conservation and environmental issues.
- Utilizing existing and new innovative programs to promote conservation at the local level, such as:
 - Educational Programs
 - Tree Programs
 - Erosion Control
 - Tours
 - Exhibits, demonstrations, etc.
- Discussing the district's programs with businesses, civic and sporting clubs, professional groups, educators, and farm owners and operators.
- Joining various planning organizations and agencies and helping to guide these people in the use of good resource management practices.