



ISANTI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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Isanti Soil and Water Conservation Board Supervisor Elections!

This election year Isanti SWCD will have 4 board positions opening up for election in the following Districts:

District 1 (City of Braham, Dalbo Township, Maple Ridge Township, Springvale Township, Stanchfield Township)

District 3 (Spencer Brook Township, Stanford Township, Wyanett Township)

District 4 (City of Cambridge, Cambridge Township)

District 5 (North Branch & Isanti Township (position term ends in 2022))

SWCD Supervisors serve four-year terms except for District 5 which is filling a previously resigned position to the end of the term.

SWCD candidates appear on the ballot for the general election which will take place November 2020.

To be a candidate for supervisor election you must:

- File for candidacy with the **Isanti County auditor's office** from May 19 through June 2, 2020,
- Complete the Minnesota Affidavit of Candidacy and pay a filing fee,
- Live in the district you wish to be elected to.

Supervisors play an important role in how our community deals with a wide variety of resource management issues, including water quality, soil erosion, stormwater management, and agricultural conservation and land protection. Serving as a supervisor is a terrific opportunity for people who want a voice in how we manage our environment and place conservation on the land.

SWCDs are special purpose units of government that manage and direct local conservation programs. All programs are focused at assisting landowners with implementing voluntary conservation to protect the health of lakes, rivers and other natural resources in Isanti County. An elected Board of Supervisors governs each of Minnesota's 88 SWCDs.

More information on becoming a board supervisor can be found by reading the attached information or by calling Tiffany Determan, Isanti SWCD District Manager at: 763-689-3271

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 nearly the state; their boundaries usually coincide with the county lines. 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.

Do you have what it takes? Being a Supervisor involves one board meeting a month and many incidental responsibilities. Supervisors receive no salary, although they do get per diem and expenses. For more information, visit your SWCD's web site at: isantiswcd.org, or call their office at 763-689-3271.

Becoming a Board Member of the Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District

Concerned citizens in Isanti County can help conserve natural resources by serving as a Supervisor on the Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

Mission: To provide technical, financial and educational resources in order to implement practices and projects that preserve, protect and enhance water quality, soil and other natural resources.

Goals and Objectives:

- Establish soil and water conservation policy for the district
- Assess resource needs
- Develop strategies to address these needs
- Provide land users with technical assistance
- Develop programs to address local natural resource problems
- Serve as a focal point for addressing natural resource issues and coordinating various programs to help identified concerns.

Legal Authority:

- Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103C defines a soil and water conservation district as a political subdivision of the State of MN.

Major Issues at this Time:

- Surface water quality
- Groundwater quality/quantity
- Soil erosion
- Land users needing technical assistance

Major Programs and Activities:

- Financial and technical assistance to landowners: focused at the Rum River and lakes with completed management plans.
- Water quality monitoring and aquatic plant surveying.
- Tree seedling sales.
- Educational programs for existing groups.
- Agricultural cost share and forest health programs (currently under development)

Funding Sources:

- Local governments (county board, townships, lake improvement districts)
- State government (Board of Water and Soil Resources)
- Grants (Clean Water Fund, Outdoor Heritage Fund)

Expectations of Supervisors

- Be involved & responsible for district program direction
- Guide the development of policies and programs
- Promote soil & water conservation in the community
- Take advantage of training opportunities to develop abilities
- Attend board and committee meetings
- Participate in district programs and activities
- Serve as chair of a committee
- Represent district in public

Benefits of Being a Supervisor

- Being a voice for citizens of your county
- Self-satisfaction of providing your time to improve the environment
- Being actively involved with assistance and educational programs for citizens
- Providing leadership in community resource conservation
- Development of leadership skills.