

2024 BWSR Spring Training

March 28, 2024

Track One: 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Concurrent Session Descriptions (may be modified)

What Do Landowners Want? District Managers Training Databases, Forestry Apps

There are over 200,000 private forest landowners in Minnesota. Each county has thousands of private landowners. Every workday, districts and DNR foresters are bombarded with questions and requests for service. So how do we track landowner interests to better serve them? How do we share knowledge and insights on landowners to efficiently serve them and avoid duplicating efforts or worse not serving them? Stearns SWCD has embarked on a multiyear major effort to track landowners and what they are interested in. Since 2008, DNR Forestry has been building their Private Forest Management Module (PFMM). This session will:

- Introduce to the landowner database developed by Stearns SWCDs and DNR Forestry's PFMM.
- Get you and your district on a path to consider database approaches to tracking landowner interests.
- Get you thinking on how to manage data for forestry applications.
- Better coordinate work with landowners, DNR and consultants

Trainers: John Carlson – DNR Forestry; Ben Ruley & Ryan Rothstein – Stearns SWCD

Planning for Environmental Review in Stream and Habitat Restoration Projects

This session will address how to determine if a project requires environmental review and how to incorporate that review into your planning process efficiently. Trainers will share case studies with examples of how certain project types require environmental review under state rules and connect you with resources and experts to help you through the review process.

Trainers: Kayla Walsh – Environmental Quality Board; Kate Fairman – MN DNR; Melissa King - BWSR

Private Wells: what to look for, drinking water testing, and use of available data to focus your efforts

During this time, we will discuss types of private well construction and testing recommendations from MDH. We will also showcase ways local government can work with private well owners in their area through use of available data and programs.

Trainers: Anne Nelson & Carrie Raber – MDH

Successful Outreach Strategies: Understanding Change

BWSR is piloting a new training initiative called Successful Outreach Strategies (SOS). This session "Understanding Change" will be the first in future online training offerings combined with occasional optional in-person events. Whether you call it conservation programming, natural resource programming or water quality programming, there is one thing they all have in common. This is the need for people to "buy into" the program to support its adoption/implementation. This often requires change in behavior. This session will introduce you to key concepts of change including individual preferences for change and reasons for resistance to change. Attendees of this session will learn key change concepts to inform future outreach efforts and more about the overall Successful Outreach Strategies training initiative.

Trainer: Barbara Radke – BWSR

2024 BWSR Spring Training

March 28, 2024

Track Two: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Concurrent Session Descriptions (may be modified)

Intro to Pollinator Conservation – Attracting and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants

Provide an overview of the pollination process, introduce the different types of pollinators present in our environment, and discuss the habitat requirements that support healthy pollinator communities.

Trainers: Erin Loeffler – BWSR; Lauren Agnew – University of MN; Brett Stolpestad – Washington Conservation District

Brome Conversion and Long-Term Grassland Management

Learn step-by-step strategies for the best-management practices needed when converting restored grassland that has been overtaken with smooth brome back into diverse, native grassland vegetation. We will also be covering goal-based long-term grassland management techniques using prescribed fire, managed haying/grazing, and mowing.

Trainers: Sara Reagan & Kevin Roth – BWSR

SWCDs and SFIA: Roles and Opportunities, The Sustainable Forest Initiative Act

Enrolling land into the Sustainable Forest Incentives Act (SFIA) Program is one of the key land protection strategies in 1W1Ps and landscape stewardship plans. SWCD staff are playing key roles in assisting landowners in the enrollment lands into this program. The MN DNR Forestry Private Forest Management Program (PFM) is committed to working closely with districts, consulting foresters, and local partners to increase the delivery of services to private landowners including SFIA. This session will provide you with an update on roles that SWCDs are taking in SFIA and opportunities to grow private forest management in your district including the following:

- SFIA program requirements.
- Timing and sequencing of program enrollment.
- Key aspects of program enrollment.
- Relationship of SFIA to forest stewardship plans.
- Coordinating work with consulting foresters on SFIA and stewardship plans

Trainers: Jen Teegarden – DNR Forestry; James Aasen – Koochiching SWCD; Molly Clyne – Mille Lacs SWCD

MN CREP Updates and Training

BWSR staff will provide an update of MN CREP accomplishments and provide training specific to MN CREP. New staff within the MN CREP project area should consider attending this session. It will also serve as a refresher for staff who have worked on MN CREP in prior batching periods. There will be plenty of time for questions!

Trainer: Dusty Van Thuyne – BWSR

Successful Outreach Strategies: Understanding Change (Repeat)

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Trainer: Barbara Radke – BWSR