

## FINAL REPORT SUMMARY

### PRAP

#### Performance Review and Assistance Program

#### 2009 Level II Review: North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District (St. Louis County)

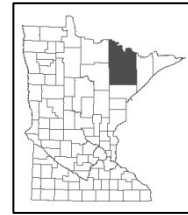
#### Why BWSR did this review

BWSR conducts Level II performance reviews to help local government water management entities to be the best they can be in plan implementation and overall operational effectiveness. In 2009 BWSR conducted Level II performance reviews of nine different local water management entities.

BWSR has conducted a routine Level II performance review of the **North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District** because they are near the midpoint in implementing their 5-year comprehensive plan.

This document includes findings and recommendations to enhance the overall operation and effectiveness of the district. The board of supervisors is responsible for taking any actions they deem necessary in response to this report.

### North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District Summary of Performance Review Results



#### What BWSR Found

The North St. Louis SWCD has an ambitious plan for providing conservation services considering the large area of the district and the small size of their staff. The relatively large number of plan action items that have yet to be addressed is one indication of the challenges this district faces. Personnel issues, particularly staff turnover, have affected the district's ability to satisfy basic requirements. The development of partnerships with other agencies and outreach coordination efforts to involve private property owners, specifically in riparian areas, will be keys to the district's ability to achieve the goals and objectives of their Comprehensive Plan.

The supervisors and staff appear to be united in wanting to work hard to address the needs of the district. But with budget limitations affecting district capacity, the board has not explicitly focused their own and staff time on district priorities for the remainder of the plan implementation cycle.

The district has action items to work on in three areas: annual financial reports, eLink reports, and reviewing technical approval authorities.

The district is commended for:

- ★ Having current operational guidelines
- ★ Obtaining stakeholder input within the past 5 years
- ★ Working in partnership with neighboring entities.

BWSR recommends that the North St. Louis SWCD take action to address: improving compliance with basic performance practices, updating technical approval authorities, developing staff capacity, cross-referencing long-range plans with annual plans and reports, maintaining their website, seeking more partnerships and plans for supervisor continuing education. BWSR and the district have entered into a Performance Improvement Agreement to address the action items and recommendations. The district has submitted comments on the draft of this report.