

PRAP**Performance Review and Assistance Program****2010 Level II Review:****Martin SWCD** (*Martin 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 2010 BWSR is conducting Level II performance reviews of eight different local water management entities.

BWSR has conducted a routine Level II performance review of the **Martin SWCD** in concert with the Martin County local water management program. Both entities use the same long-range plan.

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

**Martin Soil and Water Conservation District
Summary of Performance Review Results****What BWSR Found**

Martin SWCD does a good job overall in accomplishing the goals and objectives of its long-range plan and maintaining high standards of operational efficiency and effectiveness. The district board and staff are engaged and working to keep up with changes resulting from economic limitations and conservation priorities. The district has benefitted from a good relationship with the county board and, likewise, the county has benefitted from having a strong partner in the SWCD. Having a multi-staff organization has resulted in work on conventional SWCD programs as well as making progress with the relatively new "Native Buffer" and "Cooperative Weed Management" programs. The SWCD has embraced the new Clean Water Fund opportunities by applying for grants for improving water quality in Fairmont City lakes and tributaries and has expanded into working with urban BMPs as well as the more traditional agricultural BMPs.

Martin SWCD can improve in the area of Technical Approval Authority and technology. Staff should be given the opportunity to improve skills in the areas of grant writing, grant reporting, BMP design/construction and project signoff.

The Martin SWCD is commended for meeting these high performance standards.

- ★ Operational guidelines
- ★ Board training: orientation & cont. ed. plan
- ★ Staff training: orientation and cont. ed. plan
- ★ Annual plan priorities based on natural resource quality trends
- ★ Comparison of planned with actual program expenditures
- ★ Non-state \$ leveraged with all state funds
- ★ Certified wetland delineator: on staff
- ★ Outcome trends monitored and reported for key resources
- ★ Website contains additional content beyond minimum required
- ★ Obtain stakeholder input: within last 5 yrs
- ★ Annual report communicates progress on plan goals
- ★ Partnerships: cooperative projects/tasks done with others
- ★ Coordination with County Board by supervisors or staff

BWSR recommends that the board review staff training and technical approval authority needs and update skills as needed.