



May 7, 2015

A Word about Effective Communication

As valued SWCD partners, you are our front line and play a critical role in acquiring RIM Conservation Easements. We appreciate everything you do, especially your very important role of effectively communicating with landowners on BWSR's behalf.

With that in mind, please be careful when using written communications (e.g., email, letters, etc). Much of the communications between BWSR and SWCD staff are meant for internal use only. Landowners may be unnecessarily confused or alarmed if they are copied on every piece of communication between SWCDs and BWSR. To reduce confusion please only copy landowners on correspondence that is relevant to their role in the process.

With many thanks,
Bill Penning

Announcements

2015 Sign-ups

New funding for wellhead, ACUB and wild rice components of the RIM program will be available on July 1. At this point, new buffer signups are on hold pending the outcomes of the Governor's Buffer Initiative and a possible CREP opportunity.

CREP

BWSR has been working with FSA's state and Washington, D.C. staff to finalize a proposal we expect to send to USDA this month. A 100,000 acre CREP totaling more than \$800 million in state and federal funds is a large undertaking and we are still working through various funding scenarios.

Funding

Currently making their way through the Legislature are bills that provide funding for RIM Clean Water Buffers, Wildlife Buffers, Wellhead Protection, Wild Rice, ACUB, and support for a federal partnership like CREP. Stay tuned for an update on the status of these bills and funding allocations after the end of Session.

Corporate Mortgage Consent

There is a new Corporate Mortgage Consent form, titled “Corporate Mortgage Consent, Mortgage Modification or Assignment,” listed under the easements tab of our website under Handbook and Forms: Consents. It is the last Mortgage Consent listed in the “Consents” section.

The new mortgage consent is to be used in cases where a landowner has a mortgage that has been modified or assigned for a specific reason. In these cases it is important to capture, within one consent, the original mortgage documentation and each subsequent modification or assignment as to capture every change since the original mortgage.

RIM Site Inspections

The lists of RIM easements due for site inspections in 2015 were mailed out Friday, May 1 and should be received in SWCD offices shortly. Site inspection reports are due in the BWSR St. Paul office by Friday, September 25.

Incoming Documents

Please make sure that all documents sent to the BWSR Easement Section are appropriately labeled with the easement number, including those sent through postal mail and email. Including the easement number reduces confusion and saves time when trying to file the document with its easement file.

Seeking Photography

This year, BWSR staff are seeking photographs of RIM easements for potential use in articles and communications pieces that share the work we do. During site inspections, we are asking SWCDs to capture any notable aspects of the RIM sites they are viewing. These could include landscape shots, photos of established native vegetation, wildlife, wetland restorations, or anything else district staff deem notable while on site.

Photographs can be sent via e-mail to karli.tyma@state.mn.us
