



For Immediate Release

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Turtle Creek Watershed District Administrator honored for Outstanding Contribution by Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

St. Paul – Justin Hanson, Turtle Creek Watershed District Administrator, received the 2010 Outstanding Watershed District Employee award from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. This is the first year such an award has been given and employees in 46 watershed districts statewide were eligible. The award is to recognize exceptional dedication, leadership and passion for protecting water resources and it was presented to him at the Minnesota Association of Watershed District's annual conference on December 3, 2010.

"Projects that improve water quality or control flooding tend to be complicated, with many different people and organizations disagreeing about the best solutions, and Justin has a knack for working with landowners and agencies to resolve those concerns," said Julie Blackburn, BWSR Assistant Director.

Hanson's responsibilities include leading the Turtle Creek district's office operations, representing the district at partner meetings, implementing projects identified in the district's Watershed Management Plan, applying for grants, writing annual plans and reports, and many other duties. In 2010, Hanson's outstanding accomplishments include:

- Completing structural work on Riceland Wetland Restoration;
- Completing construction of Scheevel Wetland Restoration;
- Continuation of water quality and water quantity project development including acquisition of funding for flood reduction projects for conservation easements in targeted watersheds; and
- Providing information and education for project tour for legislators and others to highlight the ways that wetland restorations improve water quality, reduce peak flows, and provide jobs and other economic benefits.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources consists of 20 members, including local government representatives that deliver conservation programs, state agencies, and citizens. Board members are appointed by the governor to four-year terms. The board is the state's administrative agency for soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, metropolitan watershed management organizations, and county water managers.

The BWSR mission: Improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.

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