



Media Advisory

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Conservation Project Tour Will Highlight Flood Recovery Status

What: The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), a 17-member board that serves as the state conservation agency, will spend a day touring conservation projects in Southeast Minnesota. BWSR board members and staff, along with representatives of other local, state and federal agencies, will travel to several project sites, including flood recovery projects, that were funded partly through BWSR programs.

When: August 26, 2009, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Tour will start at the Holiday Inn Express in Winona.

Itinerary:

- ❑ Winona County: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- ❑ Rushford / Fillmore County: 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- ❑ Houston County: 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Background Info: The BWSR Mission is to improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners. By providing financial, technical and administrative assistance to local government units, BWSR ensures that state conservation policy is implemented based on local priorities for water quality and wildlife habitat.

BWSR is currently administering state grants for flood recovery projects in SE Minnesota, which are being completed by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and other conservation partners. These state dollars include:

- ❑ More than \$5 million in grants to SWCDs for installing conservation projects to control soil erosion and improve water quality, and
- ❑ More than \$4 million for acquiring permanent conservation easements in flood-prone areas through the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program.

State dollars also are leveraging local and federal funds and are part of a larger flood recovery effort.

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