



## For Immediate Release

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### **Martin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) administrator receives 2010 Outstanding SWCD Employee Award from BWSR**

St. Paul – The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) presented its annual Outstanding District Employee Award for 2010 to Kathy Smith, Martin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Administrator. The award was presented during the annual convention for the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) on Dec. 7.

"Kathy Smith has consistently shown outstanding leadership skills since she became the Martin SWCD Administrator in 2006," said John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director. "She is very deserving of this award for her role in the SWCD's accomplishments in getting conservation practices on the ground, and for her ability to collaborate with other organizations to maximize the benefits of state, local and federal dollars for conservation."

Smith's notable accomplishments for 2010 include:

- Serving as Technical Committee Chair for the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance
- Assisting with the development of the East Fork Des Moines River Alliance
- Participating in the Okamanpeedan Watershed Project with Jackson and Martin counties and the state of Iowa
- Initiated the urban stormwater program to provide more conservation outreach and education to urban residents and to build on the SWCD's traditional focus on agricultural conservation.

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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