



Celebrating Outstanding Contributions in Conservation

2013 Outstanding Watershed District Employee of the Year

December 2013

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to announce **Cliff Aichinger, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District** Administrator, as the 2013 Outstanding Watershed District Employee of the Year.

Cliff was selected for the award because of his exceptional performance as administrator for the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. His leadership has gained the district national recognition and has enabled the organization to be identified as Minnesota's Watershed District Program of the Year multiple times. Cliff has directed many successful, multi-million dollar projects, and two of them were honored as project of the year (2005 and 2009).

Cliff effectively coordinates and provides leadership in the development of district goals, plans, policies, and budgets, and he excels at administering the district budget and processes. Cliff represents the district by serving on several local and statewide committees where he leads and creates a visible presence to promote the district's interests.

An example of one of the outstanding projects Cliff has worked on in recent years is the Maplewood Mall Stormwater Volume Reduction Retrofit Project. Cliff prepared grant and loan applications which culminated in the District receiving a combined \$3.2 million in grants and loans from the Clean Water Fund, Section 319 Funds, SRF Green Project Reserve Program, and the TMDL grant program. In addition to providing overall leadership for the project, Cliff promoted the project's innovative education signage and worked with the district's artist in residence to incorporate public art into the project.

BWSR presented Cliff Aichinger with the award at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts annual convention in December 2013. John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director, commented, "Cliff continues the tradition of honoring exceptional employees working to protect and improve Minnesota's natural resources. His accomplishments represent important contributions to the watershed and the state." Congratulations Cliff!



Cliff Aichinger, Ramsey-Washington WD (left) and John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director