

BWSR Spring Training

March 30, 2021

Track One: 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Concurrent Sessions Descriptions

Your Insect Allies: Meet the Beneficial Insects that Control Crop Pests and Promote Soil Health

Join Karin Jokela, Pollinator Conservation Specialist with the Xerces Society, to get to know some of the most common beneficial insects above and below ground. We will cover habitat planning to promote natural enemies and beneficial soil invertebrates, basic identification and ecology, as well as simple monitoring techniques to help farmers, land managers, and gardeners assess existing populations.

Trainer: Karin Jokela – Xerces Society

Implementing Landscape Stewardship Plans Through Collaboration

One Watershed, One Plan is focusing more and more on private forestland protection and management. Landscape stewardship plans are supporting this effort. Districts are playing key roles in coordinating the local implementation of forestland protection and forest management activities. The MN DNR Forestry Private Forest Management (PFM) Program is committed to working closely with districts, consulting foresters, and local partners to increase the delivery of services to private landowners. This session will provide you with an update on emerging resources to enhance your technical assistance to family forest landowners and your district's PFM capacity.

Trainers: Gary Michael – MN DNR, Lindberg Ekola – BWSR, Mitch Brinks – MASWCD Technical Services Area 8

Moving from Conservation Deficient to Stewardship Strength

Much of the conservation outreach and engagement works from the presumption that a landowner is doing something wrong that needs to be corrected. This conservation deficit mindset puts partners on the defensive and starts the conversation from a negative position. However, by adopting a stewardship strength mindset in which all landowners have strengths and the desired conservation work seeks to build on their strengths will bring more landowners to the table and establish a meaningful engagement moving toward a mutually agreeable end point.

Trainer: Jason Weirnerman – BWSR

Get that CAC (Citizen Advisory Committee) Back on Track!

Join Board Conservationist Melissa King, Capitol Region Watershed District Administrator Mark Doneux, and Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Administrator Mark Zabel in an exploratory look into advisory committees (citizen/public). Learn about the statutory requirements, the role of the advisory committee, recruitment/retention and communication strategies, and lessons learned. Hear from advisory committee members about their journey and experience. This training will focus on advisory committees (citizen/public) required for watershed districts and metro watershed management organizations.

Trainers: Melissa King – BWSR, Mark Doneux – Capitol Region WD, Mark Zabel – Vermillion River Watershed JPO

Groundwater Protection for Conservationists

In this interactive session, you will learn about:

- Groundwater basics (geology and hydrogeology) – TJ Farnum (MN Dept. of Health)
- Defining risks, target areas, identify actions using WHAF tool – Carrie Raber (MN Dept. of Health)
- Targeted implementation in the SW. A closer look at groundwater protection – Laura DeBeer (Pipestone SWCD)
- Funding options – from capacity building to implementation – Annie Felix-Gerth (BWSR)

Trainers: TJ Farnum & Carrie Raber – MDH, Laura DeBeer – Pipestone SWCD, Annie Felix-Gerth – BWSR

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March 30, 2021

Track Two: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions Descriptions

Reviewing the 2020 Farm Economics to Make 2021 Decisions on the Farm

This session will review the farm economics for Minnesota farms in 2020 including COVID impacts and opportunities. Additionally, we will review financial data from Minnesota Water Quality Certified Farms and compare it with noncertified farms. Finally, we will share a sneak-peak at 2021 as you work with farmers about various program decisions and potential technologies to consider when working with farmers.

Trainers: Keith Olander & Judy Barka – AgCentric & Ag Partnership, Cory Detloff – Ag & Energy Research Center

Utilizing PTMApp for Planning and Project Implementation

The Prioritize Target Measure Application (PTMApp) has evolved significantly in the last few years and this training will bring participants up to speed on the status of the PTMApp model and what the web application are. Recently, the PTMApp model has been updated to consider specific USDA-NRCS practice types and to be utilized in Arc GIS Pro. The web application has been updated with a number of new watershed datasets and the reporting functions through the Scenario Builder has been greatly improved. This training will also provide examples of how the data has been used in developing comprehensive watershed management plans in Minnesota. Participants will see examples of how this data is being used for on the ground implementation with BWSR funds which will also be demonstrated. Lastly, we will survey participants on ideas on how they would like to use the data and what additions to PTMApp would be helpful to support the work they are doing.

Trainers: Matt Drewitz & Henry Van Offelen – BWSR, Houston Engineering Staff

Productive Online Meetings

Facilitating a meeting is difficult. But facilitating an online meeting can be downright painful. This session will provide participants with tips and techniques for facilitating engaging and productive online meetings. We'll cover online meeting best practices, share ideas for adapting group processes to an online setting, and get tips for keeping your participants engaged. Facilitating online meetings takes planning, but once you know what to do, you can make sure your meetings produce results.

Trainer: Jenny Gieseke – BWSR

Cost Share: Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

Do you feel like you are often being tripped up in your administration of cost share contracts? Maybe everything's running smoothly, but you are looking for additional tips and tricks to streamline administration? Either way, this session is for you. This session will cover common pitfalls in the administration of BWSR cost share funds and provide suggestions for how to avoid these pitfalls. As a bonus, we will throw in some information on the upcoming Annual Grant Request for State Cost Share funds and updates to cost share forms.

Trainers: Matt Fischer, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Pete Waller, & Jason Weinerman – BWSR