

## Excellence in conservation: 2017 MASWCD Outstanding Employee

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is excited to announce that Peter Mead, Administrator for Becker Soil and Water Conservation District, has been named the 2017 Outstanding District Employee of the year.

Peter joined Becker SWCD in 2013. Under his leadership Becker SWCD has continued to excel through innovative programs and demonstrated conservation leadership.

Peter's dedication to cultivating the next generation of conservation professionals is one of his strengths as a leader. He has built a lasting relationship with Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa to bring together labor crews and college apprentices to assist SWCD staff with critical stabilization projects throughout the county.

He has also welcomed Detroit Lakes High School interns with a School-to-Work program to instill the importance of conservation in young adults, while also serving as a member of the Detroit Lakes School-to-Work advisory board. Each year, apprentices and interns spend over 1,200 hours with staff members learning and assisting with all facets of conservation delivery in Becker County.

Peter's leadership extends to project planning and development as well. His team developed the newly updated Local Water Management Plan for Becker County. They initiated the South Branch Wild Rice Sediment Reduction Project, which targets prioritized areas with perennial vegetative buffers, filter strips, and waterways to provide the greatest benefit to public waters.

Finally, Peter and his team developed a county-wide lake prioritization tool with Becker County Planning & Zoning, which led to new protections for Natural Environment lakes and spawned the Becker County Targeted Phosphorus Reduction and Lake Protection Project. This project led to various presentations to

the Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA), as well as individual lake association meetings explaining phosphorus sensitivity significance, lake-friendly BMPs and stormwater mitigation techniques used for nutrient reduction and lake protection.

"Peter and the team at Becker SWCD are at the forefront of conservation efforts in their community and in the state," BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke said. "They are going above and beyond to meet the needs of their citizens and landowners and that's something they should be very proud of."



*BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke with Peter Mead of Becker SWCD. Peter was named the 2017 District Employee of the Year.*