



Stearns Conservation District

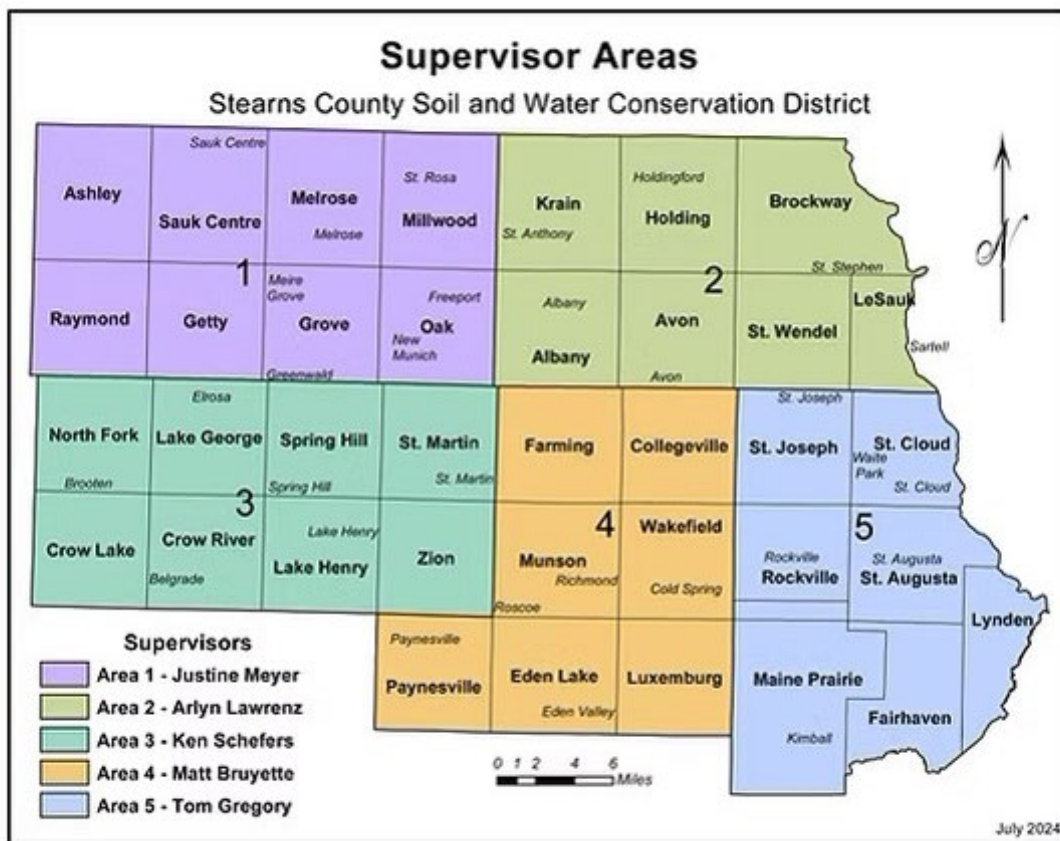
Stearns Conservation District
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Stearns Conservation District Supervisor Candidate Questionnaire

There is a vacancy on the Stearns Conservation District (SCD) Board of Supervisors due to a recent resignation. The vacancy is in Area 4, is the south-central section of Stearns County and includes the Townships of Farming, Collegeville, Munson, Wakefield, Paynesville, Eden Lake, and Luxemburg, and the Cities of Richmond, Cold Spring, Roscoe, Paynesville, and Eden Valley. Applicants must be a resident of Area 4 to be appointed. The appoint will fill the vacancy until December 31, 2026. A special election to complete the four-year term until December 31, 2028 will be held in November, 2026.

Selected finalists will be interviewed on Tuesday, March 11, during the regular Board meeting. We are planning to spend up to 30 minutes with each candidate. The successful individual will be appointed and sworn into office at the April 15, 2025 SCD Board meeting.



What does it take to be a SCD Supervisor?

Conservation Districts are special purpose units of local government that manage natural resource programs. Minnesota's 88 CDs cover the entire state; their boundaries usually coincide with the county lines. Each CD is run by a board of elected Supervisors. The Stearns

Conservation District Board meeting is typically the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The meetings usually begin at 9:00 a.m. in Waite Park. Supervisors should also anticipate one additional meeting per month to represent the SCD Board with partner organizations.

The Mission of the Stearns Conservation District is ***to support voluntary conservation actions to preserve and enhance Stearns County's natural resources.***

Knowledge

Supervisors must have - or be willing to learn - some basic knowledge to effectively carry out their responsibilities. They must understand:

- Some of the fundamentals about the environment and how it works;
- The relationship between land management decisions and the environment;
- The effect environmental decisions have on other aspects of our lives; and
- Local concerns, attitudes and needs.

Concern

Supervisors must be concerned about:

- Our environment and natural resources;
- Maintaining and improving water quality; and
- Protecting our soil.

Leadership

Supervisors must be willing to take an active leadership role in the community. This can involve:

- Setting local conservation priorities;
- Educating friends and neighbors about the environment;
- Working with other local government units, state and federal agencies, and other elected officials;
- Setting a positive example;
- Balancing economic needs with environmental concerns; and
- Sacrificing short-term gains for long-term benefits.

SCD Guiding Principles Include:

- We know that Minnesotans take great pride in the precious natural resources our state has to offer.
- We believe that people inherently want to help the environment for future generations and be good stewards of the land.
- We believe that healthy soil and clean water are key contributors to Minnesota's economic vitality.
- We strive to help Minnesota landowners care for the land in a collaborative way, approaching each project with an open mind.
- We believe that conservation services must be flexible and customized to achieve the best results.
- We believe that conservation work is best conducted locally by people who live, work and recreate in the communities they serve.

If you are interested in filling the Supervisor vacancy through December 31, 2026 please provide answers to the questions below:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

1) What is your motivation for being a SCD Supervisor?

2) Tell us about your experience with conservation issues.

3) What do you think are the greatest threats to Stearns County's natural resources? What are opportunities for restoration or protection?

4) What do you feel is the most effective approach to protecting our natural resources: voluntary adoption of best management practices, government regulation, education, or a combination of these approaches? Why?

5) What conservation ideas or changes would you like to implement to ensure the sustainability of our natural resources (soil, lakes, rivers, wetlands, etc.)?

6) What strengths would you bring to the SCD Board in terms of leadership, finance, marketing/communications, administration, human resources, or related expertise?

7) Is there anything else that you would like to share?

8) Can you adjust your schedule to make one to two meetings a month? Minnesota statute requires employers to allow you to fulfill the duties of an elected or appointed position (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/211B.10#stat.211B.10.2>)

Thank you for your willingness to complete the questions above. Please return the questions to

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