



# Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District

Stearns County SWCD  
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## RESOLUTION #2307-03

### RESOLUTION SETTING GUIDELINES FOR USE OF 2023 SWCD AID

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to MS § 477A.23 subd. 6 the State of Minnesota through the Department of Revenue will make annual payments to Soil and Water Conservation Districts beginning in calendar year 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, for 2023 the Board of Water and Soil Resources has certified the amount allocated for Stearns SWCD to be \$194,669.00; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to MS § 477A.23 subd. 4(b), “the board of each soil and water conservation district must establish, by resolution, annual guidelines for using payments received under this section”.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that State SWCD Aid payments will be used by the Stearns County SWCD Board and staff to carry out the following duties as outlined in MS § 103.332, subd. 1:

(1) respond to and provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to maintain and improve the quality, quantity, distribution, and sustainability of natural resources, including surface water, groundwater, soil, and ecological resources;

(2) provide technical assistance in implementing the soil erosion law under sections [103F.401](#) to [103F.48](#);

(3) arrange for employees to serve on technical evaluation panels to implement the wetland laws as required under section [103G.2242](#);

(4) locally administer the reinvest in Minnesota reserve program under section [103F.515](#) and rules adopted thereunder, using knowledge of local resources to manage each easement to maximize environmental benefits;

(5) participate in administering the Wetland Conservation Act as provided under sections [103G.221](#) to [103G.2375](#), either in an advisory capacity or as the designated local government unit administering the program;

(6) participate in the local water management program under chapter 103B, either in an advisory capacity or as the designated local government unit administering the program;

(7) participate, as appropriate, in the comprehensive watershed management planning program under section [103B.801](#);

(8) participate in disaster response efforts as provided in chapter 12A;

(9) provide technical recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources on general permit applications under section [103G.301](#);

(10) provide technical assistance and local administration of the agricultural water quality certification program under sections [17.9891](#) to [17.993](#);

(11) provide technical assistance for the agricultural land preservation program under chapter 40A, where applicable;

(12) maintain compliance with section [15.99](#) for deadlines for agency action;

(13) coordinate with appropriate county officials on matters related to electing soil and water conservation district supervisors; and

(14) cooperate to the extent possible with federal, state, and local agencies and with private organizations to avoid duplicating and to enhance implementing public and private conservation initiatives within the jurisdiction of the district.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in carrying out the above duties, the Stearns SWCD Board and staff will use state aid payments to deliver the following services as outlined in MS § 103.332, subd. 2:

(1) performing administrative services, including comprehensive and annual work planning, administering grants, leveraging outside funding, establishing fiscal accountability measures, reporting accomplishments, human resources management, and staff and supervisor development;

(2) entering into cooperative agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other United States Department of Agriculture agencies to leverage federal technical and financial assistance;

(3) providing technical expertise, including knowledge of local resources, performing technical evaluations and certifications, assessing concerns, and providing oversight in surveying, designing, and constructing conservation practices;

(4) providing information and education outreach, including increasing landowner awareness and knowledge of soil and water conservation program opportunities to protect soil and water resources and publicizing the benefits of soil and water conservation to the general public;

(5) facilitating regulatory processes for impacted landowners and providing technical review and comment on regulatory permits and development plans for regulations relating to soil and water conservation;

(6) administering projects and programs, including but not limited to the nonpoint source pollution abatement program; reinvest in Minnesota reserve conservation easements program; disaster response; local water management and comprehensive watershed management planning programs; and projects related to floodplains, lakes, streams and ditches, wetlands, upland resources, and groundwater resources, to maintain and improve the quality, quantity, distribution, and sustainability of natural resources, including surface water, groundwater, soil, and ecological resources;

(7) monitoring and inventorying to collect data that provide a baseline understanding of resource conditions and changes to the resources over time and analyzing and interpreting the data to support program implementation; and

(8) maintaining a modern technology infrastructure that facilitates planning and projects, including geographic information systems, modeling software, mobile workstations, survey and design equipment and software, and other technology for linking landowners with conservation plans.

Passed by the Stearns County SWCD Board of Supervisors this 11 day of July, 2023.



Matt Bruyette, Chair  
Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District

ATTEST: 

Ken Schefers, Secretary  
Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District