



BWSR Buffer Law Grant for FY 2016

Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District

BWSR Grant Awarded
\$ 30,000

Grant Period (incl. extensions)
From: November 17, 2015
To: December 31, 2017

Funds Returned to State
Type \$0
Date Fund Returned: N/A

Expenditures by Category

As of 12/31/2016

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Administration/ Coordination | |
| Project Development | |
| Technical and Engineering | \$ 30,000.00 |
| Construction | |
| Total Expenditures | \$ 30,000.00 |

PROJECT CONTACT

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*Prepared by Fillmore SWCD
for BWSR Website Reporting Requirements*



**CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT**

The Laws of Minnesota 2015, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(e), appropriated Clean Water Fund (CWF) funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for grants to local units of government to enhance compliance with riparian buffer or alternative practice requirements.

The funds are being used by Fillmore SWCD to provide technical assistance to landowners to identify where buffers may be needed along public waters in Fillmore County. Aerial photo and site reviews utilizing GIS shapefiles created by a 2010 regional shoreland mapping project provide initial screening for areas that may need further investigation. Financial assistance information is also provided to landowners for those who wish to enroll eligible acres into the Conservation Reserve Program. (CRP) or other programs. Advice regarding appropriate seeding mixes, maintenance and other technical assistance will be provided as needed.

Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs:

2015: One technician has begun preliminary aerial photo and site reviews utilizing GIS shapefiles created by a 2010 regional shoreland mapping project to identify areas that need further investigation. CRP practices have been discussed with several landowners who have made inquiries. Staff time: 5 hours x \$49.96/hour (including overhead).

2016: 2016: Two staff participated in two training webinars: Jan. 20th Buffer Mapping Initiative and August HEI Alternative Practices. Staff attended three buffer meetings: May 19 meeting for local SWCD and County staff, July 28 landowner meeting in Fountain, and August 1 Regional Buffer Workshop in Rochester. Staff assisted with planning and conducting the July 28 landowner meeting which was attended by 83 landowners. A general information letter was mailed in July to 1551 landowners with parcels adjacent to public waters. Aerial photo reviews have been completed on over 2800 parcels. There have been numerous landowner contacts. All data are being entered into BuffCAT. Fillmore County parcels are currently 85% compliant. Staff time: 628 hrs. charged to FY2016 grant for two staff.



Stream buffers are an effective practice for protecting water quality, especially when combined with other upland practices. The 2015 buffer law establishes new perennial vegetation buffers of up to 50 feet along rivers, streams, and ditches that will help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment. The new law provides flexibility and financial support for landowners to install and maintain buffers, and boost compliance with buffer laws across Minnesota.