



BWSR Buffer Law Grant for FY 2018

Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District

BWSR Grant Awarded
\$ 30,000.00

Grant Period (incl. extensions)
From: October 5, 2017
To: December 31, 2020

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



**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:

2017: Numerous landowner contacts (phone, office, email, field visits). Attended BWSR informational meetings. Worked with BWSR to develop some alternative practices. Conducted field reviews with DNR re: changes to the map. "Other Waters"; resolutions passed by SWCD and County boards. Meetings with County re: election of jurisdiction, buffer ordinance, and flow chart for enforcement action. Letters sent in January: 2400 parcels re: in compliance and >400 parcels re: additional buffer needed. Letter in August to over 100 parcels whose owners had had no contact with our office. Follow up compliance letters for 150 parcels verified throughout the year. About 200 parcels granted waivers into 2018. Field visits for compliance verification, staking buffers and alternative practices. Buffcat data updated. By Nov 1: 93% compliance; 6.5% waivers; working with 0.5% without a plan/waiver. Oct 6 - Dec 31 2017 155 hrs @\$51.64, 79.5hrs @\$43.92

2018: Continued contact with numerous landowners, reminder letter sent in spring, stake out buffer areas, work on alternative practices, verify compliance, update database and BuffCAT, write news articles, correspondence with DNR Fisheries on parcels, follow up on citizen concerns, complete notification process for 'Other Waters', work with Zoning on non-compliant parcels, for enforcements (2 parcels), work with 1 non-compliant landowner to come into compliance, work with DNR Area Hydrologist on changes to buffer map, Develop options for a monitoring plan and have SWCD Board adopt plan. 2018 hours were 52 hrs @ \$47.85 and 266.7 hrs @ \$ 60.06.

Expenditures by Category

As of 12/31/2018

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*



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.