



MASWCD

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

100 Empire Drive, Suite 205, St. Paul, MN 55103 | 651-690-9028 | www.maswcd.org

PRESIDENT
CHARLES RAU
Rice, MN
(320) 493-9503
chuck.rau@maswcd.org

VICE PRESIDENT &
SW AREA 5 DIRECTOR
CLARK LINGBEEK
Comfrey, MN
(507) 920-9884
clark.lingbeek@maswcd.org

SECRETARY/TREASURER &
SC AREA 6 DIRECTOR
MARK SCHNOBRICH
Hutchinson, MN
(320) 587-3760
mark.schnobrich@maswcd.org

NW AREA 1 DIRECTOR
RANDY SCHELLACK
Glyndon, MN
(701) 238-8121
randy.schellack@maswcd.org

WC AREA 2 DIRECTOR
TOM GREGORY
Kimball, MN
320-398-7312
tom.gregory@maswcd.org

NE AREA 3 DIRECTOR
JAKE JANSKI
Milaca, MN
(320) 241-0728
jake.janski@maswcd.org

METRO AREA 4 DIRECTOR
LAURA ZANMILLER
West St. Paul, MN
(651) 270-2856
laura.zanmiller@maswcd.org

SE AREA 7 DIRECTOR
RANDY SMITH
Adams, MN
(507) 438-4570
randy.smith@maswcd.org

NC AREA 8 DIRECTOR
KEN LAPORTE
Pillager, MN
(218) 746-3927
ken.laporte@maswcd.org

IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT
PAUL KRABBENHOFT
Moorhead, MN
(701) 799-0369
paul.krabbenhofs@maswcd.org

STAFF

Executive Director
LEANN BUCK

Assistant Director
SHEILA VANNEY

Conference & Events Manager
MICHELE ASMUSSEN

Office Manager
STEFANIE MARTINEZ

March 11, 2024

Rep. Rick Hansen
Chair
House Environment & Natural Resources
Finance & Policy Committee

Sen. Foug Hawj
Chair
Senate Environment, Climate & Legacy
Committee

RE: HF 3550/SF 3559

Chair Hansen and Chair Hawj,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), I want to share our support of the changes to Minn. Stat. 103C being carried in your bills, HF 3550 and SF 3559.

In addition to several technical and house-keeping changes to 103C, updates to SWCD comprehensive planning efforts will allow for a more public process, and clarity is provided for SWCD authority to obtain loans.

We appreciate your work on these bills as they move forward this year.

Sincerely,

Chuck Rau
President
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

March 12, 2024

Senator Foug Hawj
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3231
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Rick Hansen
407 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF3559/HF3550

Dear Senator Hawj and Representative Hansen,

On behalf of Minnesota Watersheds and the Red River Watershed Management Board, we write in support of SF3559/HF3550 and, in particular, Sections 20-57 which amend Minnesota Statutes chapter 103D, the Watershed Law.

First enacted in 1955, the Watershed Law gave Minnesota a unique approach to managing water resources through a special purpose unit of government created voluntarily within a hydrologic boundary. While there have been occasional amendments, overall, the Watershed Law remains largely unchanged nearly seventy years after enactment. Watershed districts play a growing role in designing and implementing Clean Water and flood mitigation projects, often in collaboration with other partners to achieve multiple goals through the One Watershed One Plan process. The 103D planning statutes need clarification to affirm the role of watershed districts' plans in this integrated process. Modernizing revisions to the statute will provide more procedural clarity as communities prepare local infrastructure for climate resiliency through integrated planning and will address longstanding ambiguities or anomalies.

The amendments presented in Sections 20-57 represent the extensive work of watershed district representatives dating back over a decade. In 2013, our watershed district members began a process of identifying important clarifications to the Watershed Law to resolve ambiguities and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our work in planning and implementing projects to protect, restore, and manage our precious water resources. Our members have worked intensely in the past six months in concert with the Board of Water and Soil Resources to review and refine these proposed changes. With the amendments in SF3559/HF3550, watershed districts in Minnesota are poised to continue this critical work and face the water resource challenges of the coming decades.

We would be pleased to provide any further information you may require.

Sincerely,

Jan Voit, Executive Director
Minnesota Watersheds

Rob Sip, Executive Director
Red River Watershed Management Board

