

Becoming a Board Member of Pope Soil and Water Conservation District

Concerned citizens in Pope County can help conserve natural resources by serving as a Supervisor on the Pope Soil and Water Conservation District Board. If the issues and programs stated in this document interest you – please call the SWCD at 320-634-5327.

1. Mission: *The Mission of Pope Soil & Water Conservation District is to promote, guide, and provide high quality technical assistance for Pope County and for the enhancement and protection of land and water resources through implementation of projects that will lead toward effective conservation of soil and water.*

2. Vision: *The Vision of Pope Soil & Water Conservation District is to protect the soil, water, and air by delivering to clientele high quality conservation, through technical assistance and services, including promoting the development of wildlife habitat, encouraging the establishment of native plants, aiding the public in participation with government programs as well as developing educational programs, and creating public awareness of environmental concerns, emerging issues, and continuing to cooperate in research efforts.*

3. Goals and Objectives

- Establish soil and water conservation policy for the district
- Assess resource needs
- Develop strategies to address these needs
- Provide quality conservation education to county school children
- Provide land users with technical assistance
- Develop programs to address local natural resource problems
- Serve as focal point for addressing natural resource issues and coordinating various programs to help identified concerns

4. Legal Authority

- Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103C defines a soil and water conservation district as a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota.

5. Major Issues at this Time

- Water resources/water quality
- Failing septic systems
- Erosion from cropland
- Erosion from construction sites
- Land users needing technical assistance

6. Major Programs and Activities

- Agricultural cost-share program
- Wetland Conservation Act
- Tree seedling sales
- Publish quarterly newsletter
- Review and Implementation of Local Water Management Plan
- Educational programs for schools, youth, adult, and civic groups
- Review erosion and sediment control plans

7. Funding Sources

- Local governments (county board, city councils, townships...)
- State government (Board of Water and Soil Resources, Pollution Control Agency...)
- Grants (district funding raising activities)
- Federal grants, agreements...

8. Expectations of Supervisors

- Be involved & responsible for district program direction
- Develop policies and programs
- Promote soil & water conservation in the community
- Take advantage of training opportunities to develop abilities
- Attend board and committee meetings
- Participate in district programs and activities
- Serve as chair of one committee
- Represent district in public
- Help secure financial resources
- Promote district

9. Benefits of Being a Supervisor

- Being a voice for citizens of your county
- Self satisfaction of providing your time to improve the environment
- Being actively involved with assistance and educational programs for citizens
- Providing leadership in community resource conservation
- Development of leadership skills

Additional information is available by calling the district office at 320-364-5327 or by contacting a current district board member.



