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BWSR recognizes 61st Soil and Water Stewardship Week

St. Paul, Minn. – Minnesota’s abundant natural resources are more than just a source of pride for our citizens. They are recreational and economic drivers for our state. Their conservation and protection forms the foundation of the work of Minnesota’s eighty-nine Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). For over 70 years, SWCDs have worked hard for our soil, water and wildlife, managing programs that work toward the conservation and healthy use and development of our natural resources.

“From working with landowners to helping implement the new buffer law this fall, SWCDs are a key component of the local conservation delivery system,” BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke said. “They do outstanding work and, in partnership with other government units and landowners, have an invaluable role in helping our state move towards its natural resource goals.”

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) honors and celebrates that work as part of Soil and Water Stewardship Week, April 24 – May 1, 2016.

“Soil and Water Conservation Districts play a unique role because they provide soil and water conservation services to private landowners at a local level,” LeAnn Buck, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Executive Director, said. “Seventy-eight percent of Minnesota’s lands are private, and helping to increase conservation efforts on those lands is essential to keeping Minnesota’s natural resources healthy and strong.”

This is the 61st annual Soil and Water Stewardship Week, organized by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation. NACD represents the nation’s 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country. This year’s theme – *We all need trees* – highlights the many ways trees are vital in our daily lives.

For more information about Soil and Water Stewardship Week and how you can get involved in local conservation efforts, please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District.