

Sherburne Conservation District (SSWCD)
2023 Guidelines on the use of SWCD Aid payments
Minn. Stat. §477A.23, subd. 4(b)

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Aid payments will be used by SSWCD to pursue its mission and goals as described in the 2018-2028 Sherburne County Local Water Management Plan, subsequent revisions and implementation plans.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are authorized under Minn. Stat. Chapter 103C known as the Soil and Water Conservation District Law, which enumerates the following authorities.

- resource surveys;
- soil and water conservation measures with landowner consent;
- provide conservation equipment and supplies;
- construct, install, improve, maintain, and operate conservation structures;
- comprehensive and annual planning;
- acquire land for conservation projects; and
- work in cooperation with the local, state, and federal government on conservation projects.

Soil and water conservation policy of the state (Minn. Stat. Chapter [103A.206](#)) is to encourage land occupiers to conserve soil, water, and the natural resources they support through the implementation of practices that:

- (1) control or prevent erosion and sedimentation;
- (2) ensure continued soil productivity;
- (3) protect water quality;
- (4) prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs;
- (5) reduce damages caused by floods;
- (6) enhance wildlife habitat;
- (7) protect the tax base; and
- (8) protect public lands and waters.

In addition to any other duty prescribed by law, soil and water conservation districts must:

- (1) provide technical and financial assistance to landowners;
- (2) provide technical assistance to implement the Soil Erosion Law ([103F.401](#) to [103F.48](#));
- (3) serve on technical evaluation panels to implement wetland laws ([103G.2242](#));
- (4) administer the Reinvest in Minnesota program ([103F.515](#));
- (5) administer elements of the Wetland Conservation Act ([103G.221](#) to [103G.2375](#));
- (6) administer elements of the Buffer Law ([103F.48](#));
- (7) participate in water planning and implementation ([103B](#));
- (8) participate in the comprehensive watershed management planning program ([103B.801](#));
- (9) participate in disaster response efforts ([12A](#));
- (10) provide technical recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources on general permit applications ([103G.301](#));
- (11) implement the agricultural water quality certification program ([17.9891](#) to [17.993](#));
- (12) provide technical assistance for the agricultural land preservation program under ([40A](#));
- (13) maintain compliance with section ([15.99](#)) of deadlines for agency action;

In carrying out the aforementioned duties, SSWCD will use SWCD Aid payments to deliver the following services as outlined in Minn. Stat. §103C.332, subd. 2. Including but not limited to:

- (1) performing administrative services, including comprehensive and annual work planning, administering grants, leveraging outside funding, establishing fiscal accountability measures, reporting accomplishments, human resources management, and staff and supervisor development;
- (2) entering into cooperative agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other United States Department of Agriculture agencies to leverage federal technical and financial assistance;
- (3) providing technical expertise, including knowledge of local resources, performing technical evaluations and certifications, assessing concerns, and providing oversight in surveying, designing, and constructing conservation practices;
- (4) providing information and education outreach, including increasing landowner awareness and knowledge of soil and water conservation program opportunities to protect soil and water resources and publicizing the benefits of soil and water conservation to the general public;
- (5) facilitating regulatory processes for impacted landowners and providing technical review and comment on regulatory permits and development plans for regulations relating to soil and water conservation;
- (6) administering projects and programs, including but not limited to the nonpoint source pollution abatement program; reinvest in Minnesota reserve conservation easements program; disaster response; local water management and comprehensive watershed management planning programs; and projects related to floodplains, lakes, streams and ditches, wetlands, upland resources, and groundwater resources, to maintain and improve the quality, quantity, distribution, and sustainability of natural resources, including surface water, groundwater, soil, and ecological resources;
- (7) monitoring and inventorying to collect data that provide a baseline understanding of resource conditions and changes to the resources over time and analyzing and interpreting the data to support program implementation; and
- (8) maintaining a modern technology infrastructure that facilitates planning and projects, including geographic information systems, modeling software, mobile workstations, survey and design equipment and software, and other technology for linking landowners with conservation plans.