

## SHERBURNE

Soil and Water Supervisor District 2      David Berg

### 1. What strengths would you bring to the SWCD Board?

I have a personal commitment to protect soil and water. Our water quality is very important, as every living thing depends on water. Innovative ideas are a strength of mine, as I always try to help residents to achieve resource conservation and in-turn it gets the job done and educates landowners. With my experience in wellhead protection, water conservation, budgeting, water quality and long range planning, I feel that I have a great deal to offer to the SWCD Board.

### 2. Tell us about your past experience with conservation issues that make you qualified to be an SWCD Supervisor.

Currently I am the water superintendent for Elk River Municipal Utilities. In my eleven years as a water supervisor I have seen what can negatively impact our aquifers and what changes our aquifers have gone through because of negligence and poor conservation practices. What we do on top of our soil will be the outcome of our ground water quality. There have been many projects where I have had the opportunity to work with our Soil and Water committee members. One big project was planting Eco-Grass for a resident that put down more than four inches of top soil. The Eco-Grass requires less irrigation and maintenance and has deeper root growth than typical grass selections. I understand the importance of conservation and the Soil and Water District's mission. With being elected to the SWCD Board I have a strong background in water, soils, agriculture and conserving our water for our future generations.

### 3. What is your motivation for being an SWCD Supervisor?

I enjoy working with people and being involved in soil and water. It is something I have a great deal of knowledge and experience in. The ability to pursue a project from start to finish with the planning and seeing it come to fruition with quality is motivation at its finest. Success after hard work and determination is my motivation.

### 4. What do you feel is the most effective approach to protecting our natural resources: voluntary adoption of best management practices by landowners, use of government regulation, education of the citizenry, or a combination of these approaches?

First and foremost I believe best management methods tied with education will ensure proper land use practices. Most landowners know that conservation pays off when they use best management practices efficiently. The government would be best utilized for implementing education to land users so they know how valuable our soil and water resources are and why we need to protect them.

### 5. What conservation ideas or changes would you implement to ensure the sustainability of agriculture and natural resources in your district?

I believe that coming in with an open mind and a desire to gain perspective on topics will allow for the best reception of knowledge. After being equipped with the proper knowledge of current events, the ability to see if and when changes are needed will come with ease. Items will then be addressed with insight and integrity and the overall goal of good land and water use will continually be obtained.

## SHERBURNE

Soil and Water Supervisor District 2      Leander Schlosser

**1. What strengths would you bring to the SWCD Board?**

The strengths that I would bring to the SWCD board are being a conservation person, past supervisor of Big Lake Township, a life long resident of this area, business owner for more than 35 years and the experience that has brought me. Probably the past 8 years on the board and current chairman in 2010 has been the many challenges I have faced which has created the strengths of this current position.

**2. Tell us about your past experience with conservation issues that make you qualified to be an SWCD Supervisor.**

My past experiences have been the Town Board member, but most of all the formation with other volunteers the creation of the Sherburne County Tree Board. This provided a source of trees and forestry person to answer all the tree questions that had arose of our residents in the county. Also, it provided the knowledge of how volunteers could get natural resources placed in our county. Currently our SWCD now handle that forestry work by our staff which is not available from our county anymore.

**3. What is your motivation for being an SWCD Supervisor?**

To provide the years of experience of business in all aspects to help the board be effective for funds provided by our county to us. Also to help current members become effective members with the time and information to be effective in the performance of their respective roles. This is very important because our positions change each year.

**4. What do you feel is the most effective approach to protecting our natural resources: voluntary adoption of best management practices by landowners, use of government regulation, education of the citizenry, or a combination of these approaches?**

I believe that the most effective way to protect our natural resources is to inform the public about who we are, what we can do for them, and how their tax dollars are being spent. We need to educate our residents about issues that are current and ways that we can help them resolve those issues. Regulations are needed only when there are not other ways to protect our citizens of our county.

**5. What conservation ideas or changes would you implement to ensure the sustainability of agriculture and natural resources in your district?**

I believe that new conservation ideas will surface; we need to work with many other SWCD's and be open to contact them. Our youth are the future of our sustainability of our natural resources, being and building green, planting trees, and protecting our waters for the future. Working with our manger to secure grants, currently at \$450,000 this year alone for many projects in our county.

## SHERBURNE

Soil and Water Supervisor District 4      Jason Selvog

**1. What strengths would you bring to the SWCD Board?**

I have a degree in Natural Resources from the University of Minnesota. I also have 15 years experience working with SWCD's as well as several Federal, State and Local agencies. I was employed by Benton SWCD for 8 years as a District Technician and currently I am employed as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist for Pheasants Forever Inc. I have a working knowledge of several different conservation programs and feel I would be a valuable asset the Sherburne SWCD Board.

**2. Tell us about your past experience with conservation issues that make you qualified to be an SWCD Supervisor.**

My past work experience has provided me with valuable knowledge on several Federal, State and local conservation programs. I have worked on everything from manure management to native prairie establishment. My focus has always been to improve wildlife habitat & water quality and delivering various programs with first-rate customer service. Working with these various programs allows me to work with landowners on a day to day basis and see things from a landowner perspective.

**3. What is your motivation for being an SWCD Supervisor?**

I have lived in Sherburne County since 1998 and have always followed what the SWCD has been working on. I have a strong conservation ethic and would like to be more involved with what goes on in my home county. I also feel that my education and work experience would be beneficial to Sherburne County's natural resources.

**4. What do you feel is the most effective approach to protecting our natural resources: voluntary adoption of best management practices by landowners, use of government regulation, education of the citizenry, or a combination of these approaches?**

I feel a combination of voluntary adoption of best management practices by landowners, education and government regulation are the most effective approach to protecting our natural resources. I feel education and voluntary adoption goes hand in hand. By explaining the basis for different conservation measures I feel many landowners will use the voluntary method. I believe government regulation should only be used as a last option and should only be used if there is sufficient information to justify a new regulation.

**5. What conservation ideas or changes would you implement to ensure the sustainability of agriculture and natural resources in your district?**

I would like to emphasize the idea of "Working Lands" and sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture and improved wildlife habitat can co-exist. By utilizing available programs and Best Management Practices (BMP's) landowners can have profitable operations and improved water quality and wildlife habitat. I also feel that Partnering with other agencies and groups is a great way to contact more landowners and implement more conservation at a reduced cost for all involved.