

## PRAP

### Performance Review and Assistance Program

#### 2011 Level II Review: Le Sueur Soil and Water Conservation District (Le Sueur County)

#### Why BWSR did this review

BWSR conducts Level II performance reviews to help local government water management entities to be the best they can be in plan implementation and overall operational effectiveness. In 2011 BWSR is conducting Level II performance reviews of seven different local water management entities.

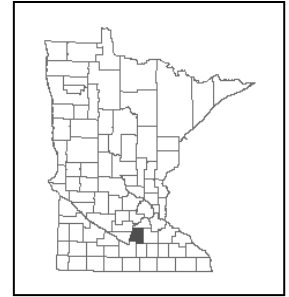
BWSR has conducted a routine Level II performance review of the Le Sueur SWCD in the context of their transition from their own comprehensive plan to adopting the county water management plan.

This document includes findings and recommendations to enhance the overall operation and effectiveness of the district. The supervisors are responsible for taking any actions they deem necessary in response to the findings and recommendations in this report.

## Le Sueur Soil and Water Conservation District Summary of Performance Review Results

### What BWSR Found

The Le Sueur SWCD does an adequate job at what they choose to work at, but their overall approach to conservation needs some updating and diversification. Some recent actions indicate that the board is moving in that direction: selection of an experienced district technician; recent Clean Water Fund grant application; and adoption of the Le Sueur County local water plan as the district comprehensive plan. But the pace of change could be accelerated.



While the district has some cooperative work with the county environmental services office through Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) programs, more could be done. County staff would like the district to expand their role with NRBG programs and provide more technical support. The Cannon River Watershed Project has expressed a similar desire to BWSR regarding the need for greater cooperation by the district.

The SWCD owns the building in which they and the USDA entities are located. BWSR is concerned that the issues related to building management are a significant distraction from the district's conservation work.

Overall, the SWCD still has room for improvement, and because of its geographic location in the critical Minnesota River sediment source area, is in a relatively favorable position to fund those improvements.

### Action Item (needs immediate attention)

- Data practices policy: consistent with MN Data Practices Act.

### Commendation (shows exemplary performance)

- ★ Website contains additional content beyond the minimum required.

In addition to the need to address the one Action Item, BWSR recommends that the Le Sueur SWCD conduct a staff workload analysis, reassess its mission and responsibilities based on their new long-range plan, expand cooperative partnerships, seek competitive funding, and assess building management alternatives.