



# Celebrating Outstanding Contributions in Conservation

## 2013 Outstanding District Employee of the Year

December 2013

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to announce **Jerad Bach**, Blue Earth Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Manager, as the 2013 Outstanding SWCD Employee of the Year.

As the Chief Administrative Officer, Jerad's work is diverse. Jerad is directly responsible to the Blue Earth SWCD Board of Supervisors for the guidance and direction of the everyday functions of the District. He is responsible for administrative, financial, and technical components – all working together toward the successful implementation of local and state conservation programs.

Jerad serves the Blue Earth SWCD by taking on multiple roles in conservation efforts across southern Minnesota. He is the host District Manager of South Central Technical Service Area; is chairman of the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Technical Committee; serves as chairman of South Central Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees; provides wetland guidance by participating as a Wetland Conservation Act Technical Evaluation Panel member for the city and county; and is an active participant in the Madison Lake Association.

Jerad's leadership has guided the Blue Earth SWCD toward innovative ways of getting conservation done. For example, the SWCD set up an Aquatic Habitat Tech position with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), focusing on joint water quality/habitat projects. The SWCD also set up a Clean Water Fund special nutrient management program to be used by farmers in the Lake Crystal Watershed. In another leading-edge project, the Blue Earth SWCD used Toe-Wood Sod mats to stabilize streambank erosion. And finally, the District has hosted a Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota position to setup water quality credit trading. These inventive projects are just some of the ways Jerad, his board, and staff, regularly develop new program concepts and nurture strong partnerships to get common sense conservation on the ground.

BWSR awards the Outstanding District Employee of the Year at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual convention in December 2013. John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director, commented, "Jerad brings great skills and service to the citizens of Minnesota. We want to acknowledge and celebrate his outstanding contributions to soil and water conservation." Congratulations Jerad!



*Jerad Bach, Blue Earth SWCD*