



BWSR Buffer Law Grant for FY 2017

Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District

BWSR Grant Awarded
\$ 30,000.00

Grant Period (incl. extensions)
From: December 19, 2016
To: December 31, 2018

Funds Returned to State
Type \$0
Date Fund Returned: N/A



**CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT**

The Laws of Minnesota 2015, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(e), appropriated Clean Water Fund (CWF) funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for grants to local units of government to enhance compliance with riparian buffer or alternative practice requirements.

The funds are being used by Fillmore SWCD to provide technical assistance to landowners to identify where buffers may be needed along public waters in Fillmore County. Aerial photo and site reviews utilizing GIS shapefiles created by a 2010 regional shoreland mapping project provide initial screening for areas that may need further investigation. Financial assistance information is also provided to landowners for those who wish to enroll eligible acres into the Conservation Reserve Program. (CRP) or other programs. Advice regarding appropriate seeding mixes, maintenance and other technical assistance will be provided as needed.

Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs:

2016: Aerial photo reviews have been completed on over 2800 parcels. There have been numerous landowner contacts. All data are being entered into Buff-CAT. Fillmore County parcels are currently 85% compliant. Staff time: 628 hrs. charged to FY2016 grant for two staff. Staff time: 40.5 hrs. charged to the FY17 grant from December 19 to December 31, 2016.

2017: Numerous landowner contacts (phone, office, email, field visits). Attended BWSR informational meetings. Worked with BWSR to develop some alternative practices. Conducted field reviews with DNR re: changes to the map. "Other Waters"; resolutions passed by SWCD and County boards. Meetings with County re: election of jurisdiction, buffer ordinance, and flow chart for enforcement action. Letters sent in January: 2400 parcels re: in compliance and >400 parcels re: additional buffer needed. Letter in August to over 100 parcels whose owners had had no contact with our office. Follow up compliance letters for 150 parcels verified throughout the year. About 200 parcels granted waivers into 2018. Field visits for compliance verification, staking buffers and alternative practices. Buffcat data updated. By Nov 1: 93% compliance; 6.5% waivers; working with 0.5% without a plan/waiver. Jan1-Oct 6 460 hrs@\$51.64 + 100hrs@\$43.92, plus Local Capacity grant hrs

Expenditures by Category

As of 12/31/2017

Administration/ Coordination	
Project Development	
Technical and Engineering	\$ 30,000.00
Construction	
Total Expenditures	\$ 30,000.00

PROJECT CONTACT

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*Prepared by Fillmore SWCD
for BWSR Website Reporting Requirements*



Stream buffers are an effective practice for protecting water quality, especially when combined with other upland practices. The 2015 buffer law establishes new perennial vegetation buffers of up to 50 feet along rivers, streams, and ditches that will help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment. The law provides flexibility and financial support for landowners to install and maintain buffers, and boost compliance with buffer laws across Minnesota.