



Conserving Our Land Today For Tomorrow

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For Immediate Release

To: All Media

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Consider getting involved in Locally Led Conservation

The Winnebago County SWCD is currently looking for candidates to serve as District Directors. We have three spots up for election this winter and will have an opening as one of our current Directors is stepping down. Concerned residents in Winnebago County can help conserve natural resources by serving on the District Board. The District provides land users with technical assistance, develop programs to address local natural resource problems, and provide quality conservation education to children and adults.

Board members are responsible for establishing and supervising district policies and programs, including assessing resource needs, and providing guidance and developing strategies to address these needs. Some of the major programs and activities involving board input currently include:

- ✓ Input in preparing an annual plan of work to address resource management needs within district boundaries
- ✓ Programs that will encourage landowners and operators to address soil erosion, residue management and nutrient management on cropland acres as it relates to the State's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs)
- ✓ Promotion of USDA programs - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) & Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- ✓ The Illinois Dept. of Ag Conservation Practices Cost-Share Programs (CPP) and the State Association "Saving Tomorrows Agricultural Resources" (STAR) program
- ✓ Provide the clearest and most comprehensive resource management information to planners, developers and public officials for sound land-use management decisions, and future land use planning, with Natural Resource Information (NRI) reports
- ✓ Collaborate with other local organizations in promoting natural resource awareness and protection
- ✓ Make sure the District has the resources to fulfill agreements, including:
 - Soil Boring Program - Winnebago County Health Dept & Planning Department
 - Construction Site Inspection Program - Winnebago County Highway Dept & Illinois IEPA
 - Administrative Assistance for the EQIP & CSP programs; Technical Assistance for the CRP program

Elected board members serve a two-year term. The election of directors will take place in January 2022, with the term starting in March. If elected, board members are expected to attend monthly board meetings which are currently held the last Tuesday of every month (subject to change). Board members are paid a \$20 stipend for each board meeting they attend.

If these issues and programs interest you, and you would like to consider running as a director candidate, contact one of our current directors, or the district office at 965-2392, x3. If you are not interested in becoming a director, but would still like to be involved, we also have "Associate Directors" that come to meetings regularly and offer input and guidance.

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