

# Watershed Districts In Action



## 2014 MAWD PROJECT OF THE YEAR

### Capitol Region Watershed District awarded Project of the Year for Green Line Green Infrastructure

The Green Line Green Infrastructure Project, an effort between Metropolitan Council, Capitol Region Watershed District, Saint Paul and Ramsey County, successfully manages stormwater runoff along the light rail corridor in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The project implemented four types of green infrastructure practices, including an innovative, integrated tree trench system along five miles of University Avenue and rain gardens, stormwater planters and infiltration trenches on eleven side street locations that achieve significant, measurable reductions in stormwater volumes and pollutant loads to the Mississippi River. The project provides other environmental and social benefits including enhancement of the City's tree canopy with over 1000 trees, creation of wildlife habitat, and improved aesthetics.

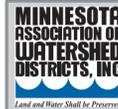
With anticipated light rail ridership of 40,000 per weekday, CRWD is using the project to raise the awareness of stormwater to a large, diverse audience. "Greening" the Green Line serves as a regional and national model for sustainable stormwater management in a transit corridor.



[www.capitolregionwd.org](http://www.capitolregionwd.org)



Managers and staff of Capitol Region Watershed District accept the 2014 Project of the Year award at the MAWD Annual Meeting banquet.



## 2014 MAWD PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

### Clearwater River Watershed District awarded Program of the Year for Targeted Fertilizer Application Reduction Program

Agricultural runoff is a significant source of polluting nutrients to waters of the CRWD. This project seeks to lessen this source of pollution by assisting farmers with changing the fertilizer application rates for their fields.

Many farmers apply fertilizers to their fields at standard rates, even though field fertilizer requirements vary significantly. By testing the soil throughout a given field to determine fertilizer requirements, the farmer can apply the fertilizer at variable rates throughout a field. This results in excess fertilizer (which previously could runoff the field into the District's water) not being applied, a significant monetary benefit to the farmer, and a benefit to the District's waters.



MAWD Awards Committee Co-chair Ruth Schaefer (right) presents the Program of the Year award to Rebecca Kluckhohn, district engineer from Wenck Associates, administrator Cole Loewen and manager Kathy Jonsrud at the MAWD Annual Meeting banquet in 2014.

### Clear Water River Targeted Fertilizer Application Reduction Program



After a successful pilot phase (known as the Fertilizer Field Trial), this project received a grant in the amount of \$300,000 for the enrollment of 16,000 acres into this systematic soil testing program.

The result of this project is estimated to be about 17% of the required load reduction for Clear Lake from agricultural sources. This project will have a trickle-down effect for all waters downstream of Clear Lake.

[www.crwd.org](http://www.crwd.org)



## 2014 MAWD EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

### Buffalo Red River Watershed District administrator awarded BWSRWD Employee of the year

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to announce that Bruce Albright, District Administrator for the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (WD), has been honored as the 2014 Outstanding Watershed District Employee of the Year.

Bruce has served more than thirty years as the WD's administrator, a role that requires that he be not just the primary staff for the district, but its public face. He supports the Board of Managers, manages the district's daily operations, budget, outreach efforts, and partnerships with other government agencies, nonprofits, consultants and the public.

In 2014, Bruce managed the successful completion of the multi-year Manston Slough project. This 1,500-plus acre wetland restoration that spanned six square miles brings significant benefits to the district. Better flood control, habitat restoration, increased water clarity to the downstream river, and other associated benefits from a wetland restoration are expected thanks to the project. Albright worked closely with the Department of Natural Resources and US Fish and Wildlife Service, who have significant land ownership within the project's boundaries, as well as 32 private landowners, to make sure the project was a success. His ability to work with both government agencies and these landowners was key.

Buffalo-Red River Watershed District Administrator Bruce Albright speaks at the Manston Slough groundbreaking ceremony in September, 2013. Bruce's commitment to conservation and bringing everyone to the table has been a hallmark of his career. He's worked with hundreds of landowners, negotiating all kinds of easements and buyouts and managing water problems. A good number of the district's projects center around flood control or flood damage, which can be especially challenging. Bruce's honesty and fairness have earned him the respect of landowners, government staff at every level, and other conservation professionals.

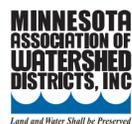


Bruce Albright, Administrator of Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, was awarded the Outstanding Watershed District Employee of the Year by the Board of Water and Soil Resources Executive Director John Jaschke.

"Bruce's leadership is evident in the work of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District," BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke said. "His careful stewardship of the Manston Slough project is just one example of the great work he's done in the watershed, work that benefits not just local citizens, but the whole state."

The Outstanding Watershed District Employee of the Year is awarded at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts' convention, held annually in December

MAWD provides educational opportunities, information and training for watershed district managers and staff through yearly tours and meetings.



## 2014 MAWD DISTRICT OF THE YEAR

### Roseau Watershed District awarded DNR Watershed District of the Year 2014

The Roseau Watershed District was awarded the DNR Watershed District of the Year 2014 award based on their effective partnership with DNR and other agencies and organizations on the following projects in 2014.

- 1) Roseau River Wildlife Management Area Enhancement Project. The Roseau River Watershed District has demonstrated effective partnership with DNR to move this project from the concept phase to final engineering by taking a lead role in project design and engineering and a collaborative role in environmental review and permitting. Their efforts to move this project forward and secure funding will ensure successful completion of this project which will have extensive flood damage reduction benefits and will greatly improve the capacity of the WMA to provide important wildlife habitat.
- 2) Beltrami Island State Forest project development. The Roseau River Watershed District has taken a leadership role in developing and evaluating a series of options for development of projects in the Beltrami Island State Forest which will provide flood damage reduction benefits. Their dedication to working through a comprehensive process to carefully examine the costs, benefits, and environmental issues associated with various project sites will ensure that final projects will have local support, adequate funding, and meet flood damage reduction and natural resource goals.



Managers and staff of Roseau River Watershed District accept the DNR Watershed District of the Year award from Deputy Director of DNR Ecological and Water Resources Steve Colvin. From left - District technician, Torin McCormack, manager Carter Diesen, Colvin, and manager LeRoy Carriere.