



Association of Minnesota Counties

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ROCK COUNTY'S DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RECEIVES 2017 COUNTY CONSERVATION AWARD

(St. Paul, MN)— The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) have selected the Rock County Land Management Office's Disaster Recovery Assistance Program (DRAP) to receive the 2017 AMC-BWSR County Conservation Award.

Following the floods of 2014, the Rock County Land Management Office sought to operate a Disaster Recovery Assistance Program (DRAP) in response to the many documented erosion issues. The granted project funds for cost-sharing engineered conservation projects that impact surface water health and landscape resources was \$1.5 million over the course of the period 2015-into 2018. The funds were stretched, using local, private, and federal cost-share to accomplish nearly 200 separate conservation projects that address damaged conservation projects and correct eroded areas. Coordination and operation of the DRAP program tested the limits of the Rock County technical and administrative staff, their partners, and the Area 5 Technical Services Area, who were already administering programs under normal operating capacity including oversight of buffer activities. Projects accomplished through this program's effort helped with flooding, worked toward water quality goals, and promote public awareness of the importance of conservation. Rock County and the Land Management Office in particular should be commended for their success of this program given the very large scope of the project in conjunction with its efforts in other SWCD programs as well as the solutions to challenges faced through insufficient planning and engineering help at times.

AMC is a voluntary statewide organization that assists the state's 87 counties in providing effective county governance to the people of Minnesota. It is the mission of the Association to assist in the provision of effective county governance for the people of Minnesota. The association works closely with the legislative and administrative branches of government in seeing that legislation and policies favorable to counties are enacted. In addition, the Association provides educational programs, training, research and communications for county officials.

BWSR is the state soil and water conservation agency, and it administers programs that prevent sediment and nutrients from entering our lakes, rivers, and streams; enhance fish and wildlife habitat; and protect wetlands. The 20-member board consists of representatives of local and state government agencies and citizens.

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Editors: Photo attached.