



# Association of Minnesota Counties

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## **KANDIYOHI COUNTY'S GRASS LAKE PRAIRIE WETLAND RESTORATION RECEIVES 2018 COUNTY CONSERVATION AWARD**

(St. Paul, MN)— The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) have selected **Kandiyohi County's Grass Lake Prairie Wetland Restoration** to receive the 2018 AMC-BWSR County Conservation Award.

Kandiyohi County has long history of promoting soil and water conservation efforts in agricultural and urban settings. Kandiyohi County also provides technical and funding assistance to residents for wildlife and water quality focused projects through the Local Water Planning Task Force.

Kandiyohi County is committed to managing water resources with a strong water quality component. Drainage System management goes far beyond routine maintenance and repairs. Wetland restorations, impoundments, grade stabilization structures, stream barbs, bio-reactors, blind inlets, and riparian buffers have all become part of the county's management philosophy. Furthermore, Kandiyohi County has a long history of supporting legal abandonments and modifications of its public drainage systems in support of proposed wetland restoration efforts.

Kandiyohi County, in cooperation with the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and BWSR, has successfully managed a majority of the construction phases already completed for the project. With continued technical assistance from the SWCD and BWSR, the county is willing and quite capable of managing the remaining construction work needed. The Grass Lake Prairie Restoration Project exemplifies the meaning of perseverance for the benefit of our natural resources.

"Kandiyohi County leadership was instrumental in organizing the collective effort to restore this critical natural resource," said BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke. "Thanks to their diligent efforts, the restoration of this large shallow lake is well underway and moving towards completion."

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.**