
Sponsor: Parks & Recreation

Meeting Date: 12/17/2024

Title: 2025 Utilization Guidelines for Soil and Water Conservation District Aid

File Number: 2024-651

Background and Rationale:

The 2024 Minnesota State Statute 477A.23 regarding Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Aid was established as a standing, statutory, general fund appropriation through the Minnesota Department of Revenue to SWCDs. The board of each SWCD must establish, by resolution, annual guidelines for using payments.

The legislature originally appropriated \$15 million per year for the first two years (for all SWCDs in Minnesota) and then \$12 million thereafter. The \$12 million is for aid payable in 2025, of which Ramsey County will receive approximately \$100,000. Following the state fiscal year, disbursements will be made to each SWCD in two payments --July and December.

The aid amount for each SWCD is calculated based on three factors:

1. 80% of the appropriation would be split evenly between all SWCDs.
2. 10% of the appropriation based on a SWCD's share of nonpublic lands.
3. 10% of the appropriation based on a SWCD's share of adjusted state population.

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners is the governing body for the Ramsey County SWCD. The Ramsey County SWCD preforms all SWCD duties and authorities (Minnesota Statutes 383B.761; Ramsey County Resolution B2018-169) through the Soil and Water Conservation division of the Parks & Recreation department.

SWCD Aid can be used toward but is not limited to: participating on technical evaluation panels to implement the wetland laws, assisting with education and outreach efforts, providing technical and financial assistance to residents to improve the quality, quantity and sustainability of natural resources including surface water, groundwater, soil and ecological resources along with other duties outlined in the 2025 SWCD Aid Utilization Guidelines.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve utilization guidelines for Soil and Water Conservation District Aid for Ramsey County.
2. Direct Parks & Recreation department to post the utilization guidelines on the county's public website.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ortega, seconded by Commissioner Xiong.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Frethem, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By: Jason Yang
Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County Board