



October 2017



Buffers can be seeded to native grasses or other perennial vegetation.

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Assistance and Extension Waiver for Buffers!

As part of the state’s commitment to protecting clean water, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has released the map of public waters and public ditches requiring permanent vegetative buffers or alternative water quality practices. The deadlines for compliance are coming up soon and the East Polk Soil Water Conservation District wants to help landowners prepare for them.

In this newsletter is the waiver to extend the compliance deadline to November 1st of NEXT YEAR. If you are looking for an extension please have this waiver signed and back to our office by Nov. 1st 2017. Similarly, there is an additional contract to sign for financial aid that could not be added to the newsletter but is also due by November 1st, so please come in as soon as possible to fill one out to receive cost-share assistance!

Our office will be **CLOSED** starting Oct 31st at noon and for the rest of the week due to BWSR training that all staff are attending out of town. If you cannot come in by this time we will accept contracts by mail but they **MUST** have the postmark date of Nov. 1st 2017.

The buffer map shows landowners and local governments where protective vegetative buffers of 16.5 feet or an average of 50 feet are required and the updated buffer map can be accessed online at:

<http://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/gis/buffersviewer/>

or

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers>.

Office staff can assist landowners with locating buffers and determining whether or not they are already in compliance with the new law. Staff can also flag out the 50-foot buffer widths for landowners if necessary. Between the months of December and March if landowners think their land

has the suitable landscape for the approved alternative practices, staff can also give guidance for that as well. The website with the Common Alternative Practices Technical Guide that gives information on the practices is: http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/#alternative_practices.

Deadlines to be aware of:

Nov 1, 2017: 50-foot average width, 30-foot minimum width, buffers must be in place on lands adjacent to public waters and identified and mapped on the buffer map. *

March 1st, 2018: If alternative practices have been considered, the practice must be decided on by this date.

Nov. 1, 2018: 16.5-foot minimum width buffers must be in place on lands adjacent to public ditches as identified and mapped on the buffer map. All 50-foot buffers that were waived the previous year must now be in place.

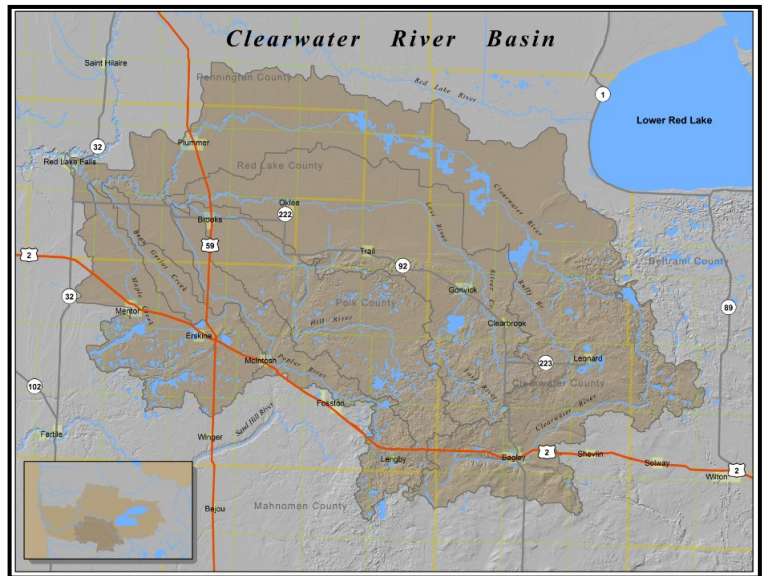
Minnesota’s landmark buffer law establishes new perennial vegetation buffers along rivers, streams, lakes, public ditches and some wetlands. Buffers protect water resources by helping filter out phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment. Studies by the MPCA show that buffers are critical to protecting and restoring water quality and aquatic habitat due to their immediate proximity to water.

Contact the East Polk SWCD for assistance at 218-563-2777.

*Please note our different office hours for that week as stated above.

Restoring and Protecting the Clearwater River Watershed

The Clearwater River is located in northwestern Minnesota. It begins in a series of lakes and wetlands near Bagley and flows downstream to Red Lake River in Red Lake Falls. The Clearwater River Watershed (all of the land that drains to the Clearwater River) is approximately 1,385 square miles in size. It is located largely in Red Lake, Polk and Clearwater Counties with small parts of Beltrami and Pennington Counties. Polk County contains the headwaters of several tributaries of the Clearwater River (Poplar River, Hill River, Beau Gerlot Creek, Terrebonne Creek, and Lower Badger Creek), Maple Lake, a portion of the Clearwater River, and a portion of the Lost River. The Clearwater River has an excellent fishery, including walleye, channel catfish, northern pike, bass, and even rainbow trout. The river offers enjoyable scenery, accesses, and even some mild rapids for kayaking and canoeing adventures. Municipalities located in the watershed include Plummer, Red Lake Falls, Mentor, Erskine, McIntosh, Bagley and Clearbrook.



The Clearwater River watershed has areas of exceptionally clean water, but some streams in the watershed are being investigated because they have too much sediment, too much E. coli bacteria, or too little dissolved oxygen. Reports also show there are other issues present in the watershed. Plans are currently being written to describe strategies for fixing these problems. Water quality "impairments" are situations in which rivers, streams, and lakes fail to meet water quality standards due to excess pollutants or deficiencies in qualities like dissolved oxygen concentrations and biological communities. In addition to restoring water quality, plans are being made to protect high quality waters in order to prevent future impairments and meet local water quality goals. The impairments were identified as part of a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) project. The WRAPS project is part of a statewide effort, led by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, to assess the health of every watershed and develop strategies to both restore degraded water bodies and protect good quality waters. Funding for this project has been made possible through the Clean Air, Land, and Legacy Amendment Act.



For more information about the Clearwater WRAPS visit <http://www.rlwdwatersheds.org/cw-watershed> or call Corey Hanson, Red Lake Watershed District Water Quality Coordinator, at 218-681-5800.

Conditional Compliance Waiver & Request

Waiver A is a "Technical or Financial Assistance" waiver

Waiver B is a "Parcel Specific Compliance Plan" waiver

2017 Minnesota Session Laws, Chapter 93, Sec. 150

June 26, 2017

I hereby request for the following;

Waiver A; I have applied for financial or technical assistance for implementation of a buffer or alternative practice and request a waiver from the Nov. 1, 2017 compliance date to no later than Nov. 1, 2018.

Waiver B; I have submitted documentation of a parcel specific compliance plan and request a waiver from the Nov. 1, 2017 compliance date to no later than July 1, 2018.

General Information about the Landowner/Authorized Agent:

Name:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

General Information about the Property:

Location:

Parcel ID, Property Identification Number PIN, or field tracts, legal description, map, etc.

Identify the water body:

Public Water/Public Ditch/Both

Land Owner/Authorized Agent Signature: _____ Date of Request: _____

*****For SWCD Staff Use Only*****

Status of Compliance: **Waiver A** granted until financial or technical assistance received or Nov. 1, 2018, whichever is sooner (attach evidence of eligibility and application for financial or technical assistance)

Waiver B Parcel Specific Compliance Plan granted until July 1, 2018

(Attach completed Parcel Specific Compliance Plan)

Waiver Not Applicable (explain in comments)

Comments (explain factors for waiver status):

SWCD Program Staff Signature: _____ Date: _____

CC List: SWCD, County, Watershed District (if one exists), BWSR Board Conservationist

Attachment A - Technical or Financial Assistance Waiver

Has a request/application for financial or technical assistance been made? YES NO

Has a determination of eligibility for financial or technical assistance been made? YES NO

(If yes, provide or attach evidence of application)

Fill out table if multiple parcels are identified in the request:

| Parcel(s) ID | Financial or Technical Assistance Description |
|--------------|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Note: Financial or technical assistance options or programs (Federal, State, Local, NGO, and Private) that provide financial/technical assistance to a landowner or authorized agent are eligible. The waiver is not eligible for programs or assistance that are not open for enrollment.

Attachment B Parcel Specific Compliance Plan Waiver

*****To Be Submitted by Landowner or Authorized Agent to the SWCD*****

SWCD may assist as requested by Landowner or Authorized Agent

1. Using the table below, describe proposed practices. Also provide a map/diagram identifying the location and approximate dimensions of proposed practices to be implemented. *(Multiple maps may be needed depending on area or # of parcels under consideration.*

| Parcel(s) ID | Describe Specific Buffer and Alternative Practices Proposed for each Parcel |
|--------------|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Add additional rows or attachments as needed.

2. Describe steps and schedule to ensure compliance by the July 1, 2018 deadline.

Landowner/Authorized Agent:

I certify that the above information is correct and will be implemented by July 1, 2018 to attain compliance with Minn. Stat. §103F.48 for the parcel(s)/property(s) described above.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water.

Through this program, certified producers receive:

✦ **Regulatory certainty:** certified producers are already considered in compliance with any new water quality rules or laws that are implemented during the ten year period of certification.

✦ **Recognition:** certified producers may use their status to promote their business as good stewards of water quality

Priority for technical assistance: producers seeking certification can obtain specially designated technical and financial assistance to implement practices that promote water quality.

Here's a quick summary of how the MAWQCP certification process works.

1. Farmers and landowners contact their local SWCD and begin the application process.
2. Working with the applicant, the certification specialist completes a field-by-field assessment. Items evaluated are- field characteristics, nutrient management practices, tillage management, pest management, irrigation and tile drainage, and existing conservation practices. The certification specialist then meets with the farmer to review current practices and recommend new ones for fields that need additional conservation practices to be eligible for certification.
3. A field review is done to verify that all risks to water quality are treated or a plan is in place to address the risk. In addition to SWCD and NRCS financial and technical assistance, grants up to \$5,000 are available from MDA to help pay 75% of conservation practice costs to help get certified.
4. After completing these steps producers and landowners can enter into a ten year certification contract that ensures regulatory certainty from the State of MN.
5. MAWQCP participation is voluntary, producers can decide to go through the complete certification process or stop at any point along the assessment process. All information is kept private and not shared with other agencies.

Farmers and landowners interested in the program can get started by contacting the East Polk SWCD office at (218) 563-2777.



Certified producers also receive 10 years of regulatory certainty.

240 Cleveland, Ave., P.O. Box 57, McIntosh, MN 56556

Name: _____ Ph: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

| <i>SPECIES</i> | <i>SIZE</i> | <i>PRICE PER BUNDLE (25)</i> | <i>AMOUNT ORDERED</i> | <i>COST</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| <i>Shrubs</i> | | | | |
| Redosier Dogwood | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Juneberry | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Common Lilac | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Nannyberry | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| American Hazelnut | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Highbush Cranberry | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Nanking Cherry | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Elderberry | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Common Chokecherry | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| <i>Medium Trees</i> | | | | |
| Red Splendor Crab | 18-24' | \$38.00 | | |
| Siberian Crab | 18-24' | \$38.00 | | |
| American Plum | 18-24' | \$38.00 | | |
| Flame Willow | 18-24' | \$38.00 | | |
| <i>Large Trees</i> | | | | |
| Red Maple | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Sugar Maple | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Silver Maple | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Bur Oak | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Red Oak | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| American Linden (Basswood) | 18-24" | \$40.00 | | |
| Hackberry | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Paper Birch | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Eastern Cottonwood | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| Golden Willow | 18-24" | \$38.00 | | |
| <i>Conifers</i> | | | | |
| White Spruce | 7-15" | \$40.00 | | |
| Black Hills Spruce | 7-15" | \$40.00 | | |
| Balsam Fir | 7-15" | \$40.00 | | |
| Eastern White Cedar | 12-18" | \$40.00 | | |
| Red Pine | 7-15" | \$40.00 | | |

All trees are sold in bundles of 25 only.

Terms:

The East Polk SWCD accepts no responsibility with regards to survival of planting stock and no provisions for replacements.

The East Polk SWCD reserves the right to substitute tree sizes.

Minimum orders are 25 trees per bundle.

Order deadline is **February 28, 2018**.

A nonrefundable down-payment of 50% of the cost of the trees is due upon order, the remainder is due when the trees are picked up.

The East Polk SWCD will notify you when your trees are available to pick up, which is around the first week in May.

TREE COST _____

Tax (6.875%) _____

TOTAL COST _____

50% DOWN _____

East Polk SWCD

240 Cleveland Ave.
P.O. Box 57
McIntosh, MN 56556

Ph: 218-563-2777
Fax: 218-563-2778

eastpolkswcd.org



Non-Profit

U.S. Postage

PAID

McIntosh, MN

Permit No. 8

New Staff at East Polk SWCD!

Sarah Mielke—*District Technician*, mielke.eastpolk@gmail.com

Sarah came on board in May to start up new programs for public education and lake shore erosion as well as taking over the water quality monitoring, county feedlot inspections and assisting with our buffer program. Sarah joins us from her hometown in Hastings, MN with her husband and is now living in Crookston. She has a degree in Conservation from University Wisconsin—River Falls and has interned at Dakota County SWCD and spent two seasons at the Prior Lake—Spring Lake Watershed District. She is looking forward to getting to know the area and working with lake landowners interested in restoring their shoreline. Keep an eye on our website for new information and projects as the year continues.

Glen Kajewski—*MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program Area Certification Specialist*, glen.kajewskieastpolk@gmail.com

This spring Glen Kajewski was hired as the Area Certification Specialist to assist NW MN farmers and landowners interested in getting certified for the MAWQCP. Glen lives in Thief River Falls and retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2013. He worked as the Area Conservationist/Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations providing supervision and direction to NRCS field staff in NW MN for 26 years prior to retiring. Before that he worked as a District Conservationist in McIntosh, Madison and Clarkfield, MN. He's looking forward to working with landowners and farmers in the region interested in getting certified in the MAWQCP.