



## MONITORING PLAN FOR BUFFER COMPLIANCE TRACKING

### §103F.48 RIPARIAN PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY PRACTICES

---

#### 1. COMPLIANCE TRACKING OF ALL PARCELS SUBJECT TO THE BUFFER LAW

All parcels in the county are to be reviewed within a 3 year timeframe. East Polk SWCD will review 1/3 of all parcels subject to the Buffer Law annually. Attached is a map defining East Polk SWCD's monitoring regions. (Attachment A)

#### 2. RANDOM SPOT CHECKS

Random spot checks will be done in addition to the tracking of all parcels within a 3 year span. These checks may be conducted via aerial photo review or on-site review depending on availability of updated aerial photos and the practice that is being checked/access to farms. A combination of both aerial and on-site review may also be used. The East Polk SWCD will conduct 25-50 parcels on a random spot check each year outside of the scheduled area. Additionally, the SWCD will review parcels of emphasis more frequently. Parcels of emphasis may include:

- Previously non-compliant
- No-till/Conservation tillage or cover crop alternative practice plans
- Variable width buffers
- Other Alternative Practice Plans
- Cost-share funded projects (years 1,3,9 of contract)
- Parcels of further emphasis (indicators of potential violation)

#### 3. PROCESS TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS

Public complaints regarding non-compliant parcels with the Buffer Law, received by East Polk SWCD, will be addressed/investigated by all means available to SWCD technical staff, which may include aerial photo review, direct landowner contact, and on-site visit. The party initiating the complaint will be kept anonymous. In cases where the SWCD efforts to achieve parcel compliance by voluntary means prove exhausted, non-compliant parcel owners will be referred to Polk County Planning and Zoning for enforcement proceedings under provision MN §103B.101 and adopted Polk County Ordinances.

# East Polk SWCD Monitoring Plan for Buffer Compliance Tracking

