



# 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

THE PARK EVENT CENTER | ST. CLOUD, MN | JAN. 24-26, 2023



KRISTEN BROWN



LAURA SCHARA

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### Pre-Conference Workshops

Tuesday Jan. 24, 2023

- Site Manager Recertification
- MS4 Workshop
- Exploring Soils Workshop

### Annual Conference

Wednesday Jan. 25 & Thursday Jan. 26, 2023

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NPDES CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER PERMIT

Todd Smith | Registered Professional Engineer, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

MANKATO'S URBANIZED AREA MS4 PARTNERSHIP: A SUCCESS STORY

Rick Baird | Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, City of Mankato

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## MESSAGE FROM MECA BOARD MEMBER KERI AUFDENCAMP

Welcome Fall! Cooler weather is upon us and the leaves are changing colors. It's hard to believe we had a frost advisory/warning on September 28<sup>th</sup> and the driest September EVER on record.

In July, MECA partnered with Cass and Beltrami SWCDs for a bus tour of Shoreline and Watershed Best Practices. Those that attended had a full day of observing and learning about 8 different locations. My personal favorite was learning about the Knutson Dam Removal project. The dam was replaced by an innovative rock arch rapids and restored spawning habitats for a variety of fish species. The location is beautiful now.

MECA partnered with the North American Stormwater and Erosion Control Association (NASECA) of Wisconsin for a field event held at the American Excelsior Lab in Rice Lake in late September. Approximately 120 people attended. If you missed it, it was a lot of fun and very educational. We enjoyed hands on experiences with a number of best management practices (BMPs), socialized with others in our fields from Wisconsin, and asked the vendors a lot questions in the field. We also got to observe the progression of the BMPs. For example, the lab had BMPs that were installed in 2019 and were still there in 2022 so you can see how the BMP has held up for several years.

Things are really coming together for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in St. Cloud. In case you don't already have the dates on your calendar, the dates are January 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. [Registration is open.](#) We've got the conference packed with educational opportunities and events. We will see you there!

Warmest Regards,  
Keri Aufdencamp

## MECA BOARD MEMBERS



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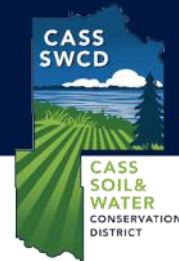
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# SHORELINE & WATERSHED PRACTICES TOUR



On July 28<sup>TH</sup>, MECA partnered with Cass and Beltrami Counties on a Shoreline and Watershed Practices Tour. The tour stopped at various sites within Walker, Pennington, and Bemidji, and featured a variety of products and practices.

Featured projects included shoreline restorations, rock arch rapids, a dam removal, a retrofit rain garden, native plantings, an iron-enhanced sand filtration system, stormwater catchments, and more.

Thank you so much to Kelly Condiff from (Cass County SWCD) & Zach Gutknecht (Beltrami County SWCD) for hosting and for all their help in preparing for the event!

Thank you so much to all of our attendees for your continued support of MECA - we appreciate it!



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# RICE LAKE FIELD EVENT

The 2022 Field Event was a huge success! We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to partner with the [North American Stormwater and Erosion Control Association of Wisconsin](#) (NASECA) on their well-established annual event at the 40-acre American Excelsior Company ErosionLab in Rice Lake Wisconsin. Events of this magnitude are no easy feat but the crew from NASECA runs like a well-oiled machine and have admirable camaraderie amongst the board members. Thank you so much for letting us join in and being so hospitable!

The day was filled with best management practices and product demonstrations for erosion control and stormwater management. Live demonstrations included: turf reinforcement mat (TRM), Hydro-seeder application and synergistic approaches (Live Demo), construction site BMPs – site location & proper installation. Demonstrations with live water flow included: using polymers for erosion control and clarification of storm water, channel BMPs, mobile dewatering devices and vegetated TRM high-flow channel.

Thank you to all the attendees (from near and far) who took time out of their busy schedules to learn, network, and have a little bit of fun, too!

Lastly, events like this are only made possible because of the generosity of supporters. Without sponsorships, in-kind donations, exhibitors, advertisers, demonstrators, a WHOLE lot of boots on the ground and muscle – events like this would be an impossible task for a non-profit organization to take on.

Event Host: [American Excelsior Company](#)  
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More photos on page 8







• THE PROS OF BEING A PRO •

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# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE MECA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The MECA Board of Directors has three positions up for election. Each position is for a three-year term (February 2023 - January 2026). Nominations will be accepted until December 1, 2022. Voting will occur via email and at the annual conference in January. Results will be announced on the final day of the conference.

## Responsibilities of the Board Include:

- Attend monthly board meetings
- Annual Conference planning
- Event/workshop planning
- Fulfilling the overall strategic goals and purpose of the organization
- Ensuring strong fiduciary oversight and financial management
- Approving and monitoring the organizations programs and services
- Enhancing the organizations public image

## Nominations should include:

- Name and company or organization
- Phone number, email and address
- Headshot
- Bio

**EMAIL  
NOMINATION BY 12.1.22**

Please submit MECA Board nominations to the MECA office at [meca@mnerosion.org](mailto:meca@mnerosion.org) by December 1st, 2022

## **MECA AWARDS NOMINATIONS**

Each year MECA recognizes outstanding individuals and projects. Awards will be presented at the MECA Annual Conference, January 25th, 2023, in St. Cloud, MN.

If you know of a person or a project that deserves recognition, we welcome you to submit this nomination form to the MECA office by **December 1st 2022**. The MECA Board of Directors will review nominations and determine which submissions will receive awards.

**AWARDS  
NOMINATION**

## **MECA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

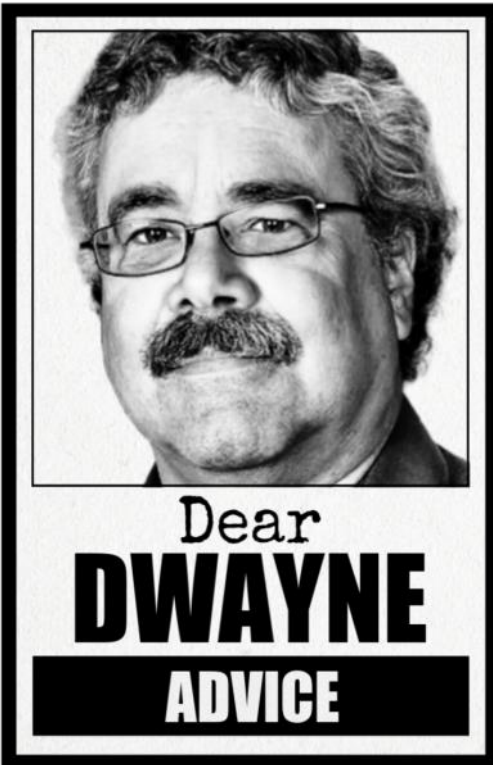
MECA 2023 Memorial Scholarship Applications are now being accepted!

The Minnesota Erosion Control Association Memorial Scholarship was established in 2007. Each year MECA awards a scholarship to an individual who is pursuing an undergraduate or graduate engineering or science degree with an emphasis on erosion/sediment control or stormwater management. This year's \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded at the annual meeting in January.

**VIEW  
APPLICATION**

Deadline is December 1, 2022

In this column, Dwayne Stenlund, MSc, CPESC, an Erosion Control Specialist with the Office of Environmental Stewardship at the Minnesota Department of Transportation, will answer readers' construction-related questions.



**DEAR DWAYNE:**

My contractor thinks the change in leaf color has no meaning and continues to push ahead on grading, paving and general construction. I think the leaf color change signals a change in season where sediment controls, soil bed preparations, and soil stabilization measures will need to also change, or at least anticipate something different. Who is right?

Signed, Shiver Mudski

**DEAR MR. MUDSKI:**

It is hard to know who is right, especially when the seasonal change you suggest by leaf color is now highly variable with construction impacts. Who want to believe in climate impacts when winters are now warmer, and the snow less frequent? Optimism suggests that a seasonal change based on leaf signals will not cause problems. Everything can continue as normal. As equipment and practices have changed, fall and winter are less of a problem for construction. However, we both know frozen soils and active seed biology with snow cover do change the way to process information. At least cold and snow seem to follow changes in leaf color. An even stronger suspicious indicator can be seen with bare tree limbs.

Communicate. It will be impossible to change the contractor's mindset so focus on the infeasible.

It will be infeasible to install traditional silt fence on frozen soils using typical machines. But for a few thousand dollars more you can rent a ditchwitch soil chainsaw to cut in a slot for the fabric. Ask how many feet will be needed. Sediment control logs are another option and can be placed directly on (smooth) bare or snow-covered soils. Use helical anchors to drill anchor the BMP. If the contractor failed to install flotation containment boom in areas with public waters permit, indicate that you can supply the curtain, but they will need to use ice saws or ice crushing excavators to place. Of course, it would be much simpler and less expensive to install or remove when no longer needed while the soils are still warm. But this requires planning and anticipating. At least you will be ready. Be sure to get this change in cost in writing.

It will be infeasible to properly till the soil and incorporate fertilizer and other soil amendments to ensure fantastic perennial plant establishment. State flatly there will be no permanent seeding unless the soils are prepared to receive the seed. No need to wreck your equipment doing the impossible. Ask how many sq ft will be needed for temporary frozen soil and snow-covered soil when it turns out that the leaf change actually meant winter was not far away. Be ready to have several recipes based on performance and cost during frozen soil conditions. Example 1. Any straw or hay mulch can be applied over snow. But it is best to time the application when snow might occur to sandwich the mulch in place. But let the contractor know that using water to freeze-in-place is not a problem for only \$2000 more per acre. One would sure hate to have the mulch blow away and have to perform replacement mulch installations every 7 days (assumes the project is inspected properly, and corrective actions occur within 24 hours, or the next business day) as nothing remained in place. Someone, somewhere is receiving free mulch, but usually downwind of the prevailing northwesterly direction. Example 2. You are ready to apply hydromulch. No problem. But indicate that you will need nearby heated facilities for the hydro machine, and snow free soil condition. I assume you should be able to find heated facility for a mere \$10,000 a month. I would also think that \$1200 per acre contractor cost should be enough to dozer move the snow off the exposed soil areas in anticipation for hydromulch stabilization. Use nothing but Fiber Reinforced Matrix as it has the best chance to cure and overwinter. Note that rolled erosion prevention products, plastic sheets, and geotextiles are at your fingertips, but due to cold fingertips the anchoring systems and BMPs costs more. Figure out what you need to make a profit and submit. I would expect the cost to double from summertime costs.

So yes, Shiver, the leaf color is a meaningful signal of change. You are ready.



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## STEARNS COUNTY POLLINATOR PROGRAM

Submitted by: Ryan Rothstein and Jason Selvog – Wildlife Habitat Specialists with the Stearns County SWCD

On a steamy day in July, Jason Selvog, Wildlife Habitat Specialist with Stearns County (Minn.) Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Director with Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever (SCPF), examines a 5-acre pollinator plot in central Minnesota with Elsa Gallagher, Habitat Program Coordinator for the Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund (BBHF). In only the middle of its second growing season, over a dozen forbs are already in bloom with more to come before season's end. The site is a shining example of quality pollinator habitat and partnerships at work.

In 2019, Selvog, along with his fellow Wildlife Habitat Specialist at Stearns County SWCD and SCPF Director, Ryan Rothstein, recognized the need for a new habitat option for landowners ineligible for USDA programs. Selvog and Rothstein were frustrated by the number of interested landowners looking to create habitat on their property that didn't qualify for existing programs. The two then began plotting the framework for a brand-new program that was a drastic departure from current private lands options.

The concept received unanimous support from the SWCD Board, setting the wheels in motion. Immediately, Selvog and Rothstein recognized there would be significant hurdles a new program would have to overcome – namely that quality pollinator habitat is expensive, and site preparation on non-cropland can double that cost. Both men knew a pollinator program would take a partnership to succeed.

After casting a wide net, they found a willing partner in BBHF. A non-profit organization dedicated to pollinator habitat, BBHF was excited to partner with a local conservation office. By providing free, high-quality pollinator seed for interested landowners, half of the financial hurdle was cleared thanks to BBHF. With costs of site preparation still in mind, Selvog and Rothstein had a hunch they knew a partner willing to contribute.

Selvog and Rothstein approached SCPF, explaining the layout of the new program and how it would benefit landowners with few other options. SCPF has a long history of enthusiastically supporting local habitat projects, and the Directors were more than willing to donate to the cause. By providing cost-share for site preparation and seeding, SCPF made it financially feasible for landowners to implement pollinator habitat on non-cropland.

Since 2020, BBHF and SCPF have made it possible for Stearns County SWCD to implement over 60 acres of high-quality pollinator habitat on 15 different properties scattered across the county, with more on tap in 2022. "This program has been really popular with landowners, and we haven't had to do any outreach," said Selvog. "This program wouldn't exist without partners like BBHF and SCPF, and the quality of habitat speaks for itself."

Walking the plot with Selvog, it's hard to disagree. The area is abuzz with numerous species of bees and butterflies, and the landowners report seeing deer and pheasants using it every day. This project is a prime example of utilizing partnerships and locally generated funds to create better habitat. With BBHF and SCPF's support, pollinators are in good hands in Stearns County.

