



## News Release

For immediate release

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

### KELLY ELECTED TO SERVE AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR STATE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

Dr. Kathryn Kelly of Olivia, Minnesota, was recently elected as the Vice President of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD). The election took place during the Association's annual convention which was held December 7-9 at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront in St. Paul, MN. Approximately 750 people attended the three day event.

Kelly will also continue serving on the Board of Supervisors for the Renville Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), a position she has held since 2005.

"My conservation experience includes early exposure to SWCD work through the involvement by both my parents who instilled in me the necessity and benefits of conservation efforts," stated Kelly.

Kelly graduated from the MASWCD Leadership Institute, a program designed to build leadership skills of soil and water conservation district supervisors and employees. She also recently earned a Doctorate of Education in Leadership from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota where she was selected as a commencement speaker. Kelly is retired from the position of Special Assistant to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at St. Cloud State University.

"With her experience in conservation issues, her background with the university system and her experience as an administrator, Dr. Kelly brings a wealth of talents and strengths to the position of Vice President of the Association," said LeAnn Buck, Executive Director of the MASWCD. "With her leadership, I am confident that the Association will continue to make significant contributions in the area of local resource management," she said.

The MASWCD is a not-for-profit Association that represents Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) in Minnesota. SWCDs are local government units that started forming in the 1930s when congress responded to the large amounts of topsoil being lost to wind and water erosion. Today, SWCDs provide 100% coverage of the state and involve landowners as well as local and state officials in resource management protection. The Association is involved in helping to set policy for various conservation programs including: the state Erosion Control Cost-Share Program, Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program, the state Wetland Conservation Act, and the Conservation Reserve Program to name a few.

Expressing her enthusiasm and support for the organization, Kelly noted, "Working collaboratively with other board members and with the excellent MASWCD staff, I envision great continued success for the organization."

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