



MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol

February 23-24, 2009

Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Paul

Be sure to register now to attend the 2008 MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol, Feb. 23-24.

If you and members of your district have never before participated in a legislative day, this is the year to do it!

2009 is being hailed as a year of historic challenges! The primary job of the 2009 Legislature is to adopt the state's biennial budget. The November revenue forecast showed a \$4.8 billion budget deficit for the next biennium, but financial experts believe that number will be even worse when the next forecast is issued at the end of February.

For Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 2009 is also a year of great opportunity! The passage of the Legacy amendment offers an exceptional opportunity to dramatically protect, restore, enhance and support the state's water and soil resources. Voters overwhelmingly supported long-term investments in Minnesota's lakes, rivers, streams and the great outdoors.

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts recognizes that the Legacy Amendment provides a chance for SWCDs to take a leadership role in delivery of conservation and non-point restoration and protection to private landowners.

Your participation at the MASWCD Day at the Capitol is an important component of protecting existing funding for soil and water conservation as well as securing a portion of the new Legacy funding and moving soil and water conservation into a whole new era.

Will you do your part and participate in this year's Day at the Capitol? It is an investment that could reap rewards for years to come.

Informational Program

The Association will hold a legislative briefing on Monday night, February 23, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The program will include:

- a panel discussion on the status of the budget deficit;
- proposals pending before the legislature; and
- an overview of MASWCD's 2009 legislative platform.

Budget experts as well as legislators will provide insider information at a critical stage of the legislative process.

Individual Meetings with Legislators

After a group breakfast, Tuesday, February 24 is open for participants to attend meetings with legislators at the Capitol. Please call your legislators at least one week in advance to schedule your appointments. For a legislative directory, visit: www.leg.state.mn.us.

Lodging: Lodging reservations for February 23 can be made with the Best Western Kelly Inn at the group rate of \$94 until February 15, 2008. Phone 651-227-8711. Mention "MN Association of Soil and Water" to get the group rate.


A \$30.00 fee will be charged to all cancellations made before February 15. **NO REFUNDS ON CANCELLATIONS MADE AFTER FEB. 15.**

Conference Registration: \$60.00, Payable to MASWCD

Name: _____

SWCD: _____ Supervisor Employee

Other Organization: _____



Registrations must be received in the MASWCD office by **Feb. 15, 2008:**

MASWCD
790 Cleveland Ave. So., #201
St. Paul, MN 55116
FAX: 651-690-9065