



**DOUGLAS SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

900 Robert Street Suite 102  
Alexandria, Minnesota 56308  
Telephone (320) 763-3191

August 29, 2018

Re: Minnesota Buffer Law

Dear Douglas County Landowner,

The **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018** deadline for buffers to be established along Public Waters and Public Drainage Systems (county ditches) is only a couple of months away. The Minnesota Buffer Law requires a 50-foot buffer of perennial vegetation to be established along Public Waters. A 16.5-foot buffer of perennial vegetation is required to be established along Public Drainage Systems. **The deadline for buffers to be established along Public Waters and Public Drainage Systems listed on the DNR Buffer Maps is November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.** Sites that do not meet the buffer requirements will be receiving a corrective action notice of non-compliance from Douglas County Land and Resource Management.

By utilizing mapping tools and aerial imagery, Douglas SWCD completed an inventory of all parcels impacted by the Buffer Law to determine if landowners are already compliant. Based on this information, it appears that your property may **not** have the adequate buffer to meet the requirements. If this is the case, you would be required to establish the required buffer before November 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Buffer cost-share is still available through Douglas SWCD to help offset costs of seed and planting. This program will pay \$300/acre to establish native grasses or \$200/acre to establish introduced grasses. Landowners interested in the buffer cost-share need to let Douglas SWCD know before the buffer is seeded and before **October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

Douglas SWCD staff has been out flagging buffers and checking buffer widths throughout the year and will continue into the fall. To better track landowner compliance, the SWCD is asking that landowners who already meet the Minnesota Buffer Law requirements to stop into the office and self-certify their parcel by **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.**

Douglas SWCD is available to answer questions and provide technical assistance pertaining to the Minnesota Buffer Law. The SWCD is interested in working with each landowner to determine what conservation measures must be applied to the property to achieve compliance. If you have any questions on the buffer law, if you are wondering if your land is already compliant or what would be required to become compliant, please contact Andy Rice at Douglas SWCD at 320-763-3191 ext 3 to set up an appointment.

Sincerely,

*Douglas SWCD*

For additional information on the Minnesota Buffer Law please visit the Board of Water and Soil Resources website at: [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html).

The DNR Buffer Maps can be found at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html).



