

## **NOTICE OF OPEN APPOINTMENT TO VACATED ELECTED SUPERVISOR POSITION**

HENNEPIN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
(Hereafter Hennepin Conservation District or HCD)

**Date:** November 18, 2009

**Vacancy:** Soil and Water District 2 Supervisor

**Purpose of this Appointment:** This is an appointment to fill the elected position of Soil and Water District Supervisor vacated by resignation.

**Appointed By:** HCD Board

**Application Opening Date:** November 18, 2009

**Application Closing Date:** December 18, 2009. Applications must be received no later than 4:30 PM on the closing date. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

**Supervisor's Responsibilities:** HCD is governed by a five member Board of Supervisors, who are elected to four year terms. The Supervisors represent their respective districts but are elected in a countywide vote. The Board's primary focus is not on running day-to-day activities, but on setting overall policy and long-term objectives. HCD operates from annual and comprehensive workplans reflecting conservation priorities. Members should be willing to contribute up to 20 hours per month on HCD related duties/meetings. Monthly meetings generally take place on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. Board members are compensated \$55.00 per meeting.

**How to Apply:** Application forms are available on the HCD web site at [http://hcd.hennepin.mn.us/open\\_app\\_form.pdf](http://hcd.hennepin.mn.us/open_app_form.pdf) and from the HCD office, 417 N. 5th Street, Suite 200 Minneapolis MN 55401. Phone 612-348-9938. Hearing impaired persons may call Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529

**Application Procedure:** Applications are reviewed by the current HCD Board Members. After review, selected qualified applicants will be interviewed by the Board.

**Role of the HCD:** The Hennepin Conservation District (HCD) was founded in 1949 as a Special Purpose Unit of Government under Section 103C of Minnesota Law. HCD is one of 91 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) throughout Minnesota, and is part of a national network of conservation districts.

The original charter of HCD was "to provide a local organization through which land owners and operators may obtain on-the-farm technical assistance" with a focus on productive agriculture. The role of HCD has evolved as the landscape of Hennepin County has changed.

Today, HCD is involved in a wide variety of land and water conservation issues. Our work extends from assisting landowners with sustainable land use to working with municipalities to develop growth management strategies. Our programs and expertise seek to strike the balance between natural resource conservation and responsible economic development.

HCD is a Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) with roles delegated by state statutes. Although conservation districts are legal subdivisions of the state, they operate at the county level. Since SWCDs do not have taxing authority, they must rely on county government to supplement their operating expenses.

**HCD Duties and Functions:** It is the duty of SWCDs assist in administration of the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act, which includes serving as technical experts in the determination of the presence of a wetland. These duties are specific to SWCDs regardless of what role counties or watershed management entities may play with wetland issues.

SWCDs are responsible for the administration and implementation of cost-share conservation programs which financially assist landowners with the protection of their land. Through the efforts of HCD, over the years hundreds of thousands of dollars have been passed on to landowners on a 50/50 match to improve our county's water and land resources.

SWCDs are responsible for the administration and implementation of the Reinvest in Minnesota and the Permanent Wetland Preserve conservation easement programs. A conservation easement is an agreement by which a landowner voluntarily transfers land use rights to a qualifying agency that will protect the land's natural resources. In Hennepin county, there are 27 easements over several hundred acres administered by HCD.

HCD receives grant funds from the state's Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) for program administration. BWSR is the state administrative agency for SWCDs and watershed districts, and is HCD's direct line to state government.

**Residency Requirement and Geographical Representation:** Applicants must be residents of Hennepin County. Since Supervisor Districts are the basis for democratic representation on the Hennepin Conservation District, whenever legal and practical, the Board shall attempt to fill the vacancy with an applicant from the vacated district. Exceptions may be made by the Board to include persons with exceptional qualifications.

**Nondiscrimination Policy:** It is the policy of Hennepin Conservation District to provide equal access to appointments made by the Hennepin Conservation District without regard to race, sex, creed, color, religion, age, disability, marital status, national origin, sexual preference, or public assistance status, subject to statute, rule or regulation and any qualifications established by the Hennepin Conservation District.

**Note:** Some appointments are regulated by state or federal law or administrative rule. When there is a difference between this Supervisor Appointment Policy and rule or statute with regard to an appointment, rule or statute will prevail.