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[www.stevensswcd.org](http://www.stevensswcd.org)

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Putting conservation on the land

## **POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**

**POSITION TITLE:** Soil Health Specialist

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** May 31, 2024

**POSITION LOCATION:** Stevens Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Morris, MN

**POSITION CLASSIFICATION:** Regular Full-Time

**SALARY AND BENEFITS:** Starting salary is dependent on qualifications and experience. \$25.02 – \$33.64 per hour (\$52,041 - \$69,971 annually) plus benefit package (paid holidays, vacation, sick leave, insurance allowance, and retirement plan).

### **POSITION PURPOSE:**

This full-time role encompasses diverse coordination and marketing responsibilities to support the objectives of the Stevens SWCD Soil Health Program. This individual will oversee the promotion of sustainable land management practices, focusing on enhancing soil health, preserving natural resources, and boosting agricultural productivity. Their responsibilities will include working closely with farmers, landowners, and community stakeholders to introduce conservation strategies and conduct educational activities centered around soil health principles. Within the Stevens SWCD, they will offer specialized knowledge and assistance in planning and executing conservation practices with a focus on soil health. A significant aspect of the role will involve engaging with landowners to understand their objectives regarding soil and water conservation, including conducting on-site visits to explore conservation possibilities for their properties. This position operates under the general supervision of the District Administrator.

### **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- A minimum two-year degree in agronomy, agricultural systems management, agricultural science, precision agriculture, soil science, natural resources/environmental science, or other agriculture related field; or
- Any combination of education and experience that demonstrates the ability to perform the duties of the position.
- An understanding of basic agronomic and agricultural economic principles.
- An understanding of agricultural practices in our region.
- Ability to work independently or as part of a team with district staff and other government agencies and organizations. Self-motivated, able to learn quickly, follow instructions, handle multiple projects, and be willing to work with new and innovative projects and programs.
- Strong organizational, interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal. Must possess meticulous recordkeeping skills. Must be comfortable working with individuals of varied ages and social backgrounds.

- Knowledge and experience with computers (Microsoft Office, Outlook) and outreach related equipment and software. Experience interpreting soils maps & aerial photography.
- Must possess USDA Job Approval Authority for common soil health practices or the ability to obtain while working on the job.
- Must possess and maintain a valid MN driver's license.
- Must be physically able and willing to work in varied terrain and weather conditions, and capable of lifting 50 lbs.

### **PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Provide ongoing agronomic and conservation technical assistance to landowners with priority on cover crops, crop rotation, nutrient management, minimum tillage, no-till, and other soil health related practices.
- Build strong working relationships with other agronomy professionals in the area.
- Increase program awareness through networking and partnership coordination and leading outreach efforts at farmer-facing events and workshops including public speaking.
- Increase farmer enrollment in conservation programs offered through partners.
- Provide communication recommendations to partners for reaching new farmers and providing visibility for success stories.
- Become knowledgeable and provide referrals to other conservation programs and opportunities to support individual farmer-driven goals.
- Participate and receive additional training to stay on the leading-edge of soil health strategies and practices.
- Maintain records of all work and track the status of each project. Provide timely updates to District Manager.
- Work cooperatively with SWCD partners.
- Assist with training SWCD partner staff.
- Accept other duties as assigned by the District Manager.

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people in this position. They are not to be construed as an exhaustive list of all duties performed by personnel in this position.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**

Please send a **cover letter, completed application, and resume with three references** to the above address to be **received by 4:30 pm, Friday, May 31, 2024**. Completed application packets may also be submitted by email to [matt.solemsaas@stevensswcd.org](mailto:matt.solemsaas@stevensswcd.org). Additional information may be obtained by calling the District Administrator at (320)589-4886 or emailing [matt.solemsaas@stevensswcd.org](mailto:matt.solemsaas@stevensswcd.org)

### **CONDITIONS OF ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Stevens SWCD reserves the right to extend or make changes to the content of this position announcement without notification and may, at any time, withdraw the announcement. Stevens SWCD is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Candidates will be considered without discrimination for any non-merit reasons such as race, color, religion, sex, national origin, politics, marital status, physical handicap, age, or membership or non-membership in an employee organization.