

Speakers



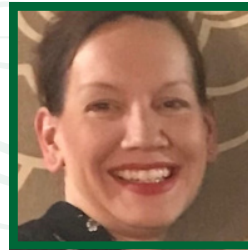
Terry Cosby
Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS Chief Terry Cosby leads a premier federal conservation agency known for its 3,000 field-office network that helps farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners nationwide plan and carry out voluntary conservation activities on their operations. During Cosby's more than 40-year career with NRCS, he has held numerous leadership and staff positions. He began his career as an NRCS intern in Iowa in 1979 and rose through the agency's ranks to become its 17th chief on May 24, 2021. Prior to his current position, Cosby served as NRCS's Acting Chief for several months. Prior to being named Acting Chief, Cosby served as NRCS State Conservationist in Ohio for 16 years. His other leadership positions include Deputy State Conservationist in Idaho, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Missouri, and Area Resource Conservationist in Iowa.



Troy Daniell
Minnesota State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Minnesota NRCS is led by State Conservationist Troy Daniell. Daniell began his career as a range conservationist in Louisiana in 1996. He later became a district conservationist in Oklahoma for six years followed by seven years as an assistant state conservationist in Illinois. Daniell has also served in the agency's national headquarters as a member of the Initiatives Team 2008-2010, State Administrative Officer for Texas in 2011, State Financial Assistance Programs Manager for Texas 2012-2016, acting Branch Deputy of the Environmental Programs Branch in 2016, and acting Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in East Texas in 2017. Daniell has served as the State Conservationist for Minnesota since 2018 and recently served on temporary assignment as the acting Projects Branch Chief at national headquarters in 2023. Daniell serves as a member of the Chiefs Advisory Committee, the National Technical Guide Committee, and as the Chair of the Soil Health Advisory Board.



Sharon Doucette
Easement Section Manager
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Sharon Doucette has been the Easement Section Manager with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) since 2019. She manages the section responsible for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program. Prior to BWSR, Doucette worked for the City of Woodbury for 16 years as the Environmental Resources Coordinator and served on the Clean Water Council. She started her career in natural resources with the Minneapolis Park Board after receiving her master's degree in Ecology and Natural Resources.



Jenny Gieseke
Organizational Effectiveness Manager
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Jenny Gieseke is the manager of BWSR's Organizational Effectiveness section. She provides leadership in the agency's training, communication, strategic planning, and compliance efforts. Gieseke's previous work experience includes training coordination, watershed management and wetland delineation. Gieseke holds a B.S. in Ecology and an M.S. in Communications.



Angela Hanson
Chief Agricultural Program Specialist
Farm Service Agency

Angela Hanson began her career with FSA in 1998 in New York State. Since returning to Minnesota 12 years ago, she has been working with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). She worked with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on the current Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Agreement.



Todd Holman
Mississippi Headwaters Program Director
The Nature Conservancy

Todd Holman is the Mississippi Headwaters Program Director for the MN-ND-SD Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. In 2016, Holman became the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape coordinator, but has been a lead partner with the installation since 2004. Holman has formerly served as the planning director for two counties and the Community Development Director for the city of Baxter. Holman also served on the Baxter city council for 13-years prior to moving to St. Cloud and currently serves on the Board of Water and Soil Resources.



John Jaschke
Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

John Jaschke is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). He was formerly the Dakota County Water Resources Manager and the Administrator of the Vermillion River Watershed. His prior positions were as Land and Water Section Administrator and Wetlands Program Manager at BWSR, and Area Hydrologist with the DNR in Duluth and New Ulm. He has B.S. degrees in Geology and Geophysics and a M.A. in Public Administration.



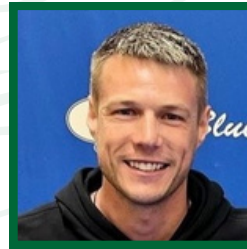
Carrie Thomason
Agricultural Program Specialist
Farm Service Agency

Carrie Thomason began her career with FSA in 2000. She has 18 years of experience working with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), including working with three Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREPs) partnered with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).



Roger J. Reinert
Mayor of Duluth, Minnesota

Roger Reinert was elected the 40th Mayor of the City of Duluth on November 7, 2023. He brings to the office relevant experience from the private, public, and military sectors. Reinert spent 18 years teaching undergraduate political science and legal courses, and graduate public policy classes. In addition to his Juris Doctorate, he also holds Bachelors and Masters in Science degrees. Prior to being elected Mayor, Reinert also served six years in the Minnesota Senate representing District 7, which covers nearly all of Duluth, and before that served two years in the Minnesota House of Representatives. He served five years on the Duluth City Council, where he was twice elected City Council President. Reinert is a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and is currently second-in-command of the Navy's largest Reserve Public Affairs unit.



Dusty Van Thuyne
Easement Programs Coordinator
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Dusty Van Thuyne is an Easement Programs Coordinator for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and serves as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Coordinator for the agency. He earned his B.S. in biology from Bemidji State University and M.S. degree in biology from the University of North Dakota. Van Thuyne coordinates the Minnesota CREP program in partnership with the Farm Service Agency as well as the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Riparian and Floodplain Restoration program.



Patrick Schultz
Regional Training Engineer
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Since 2020, Patrick Schultz has been with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) as a Regional Training Engineer where he provides engineering support and training to the local conservation field office staff. Prior to BWSR he worked for eight years in a similar role in Wisconsin as an Area Engineer with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).



Sheila Vanney
Assistant Director
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Sheila Vanney is assistant director for the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, where she has over 25 years of experience working on behalf of Minnesota's elected SWCD board members and their staff. Her focus is on policy development and legislative advocacy. Originally from the northwoods of Wisconsin, Vanney has a degree in forestry from UW-Madison, and a law degree from Mitchell Hamline College of Law in St. Paul.



Jon Sellnow
Technical Training and Certification Program Coordinator
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Jon Sellnow has been the coordinator for Minnesota's Technical Training and Certification Program since 2019. Prior to that he spent 17 years working for NRCS as a Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, and Area Resource Conservationist.



Jason Weinerman
Board Conservationist
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Jason Weinerman has worked with BWSR since 2006 as a Board Conservationist in which he serves as a liaison between the state and local government partners. His focus is on assisting local government staff and board members in working to achieve their natural resource and organizational goals. He holds a Master of Science degree in biology from the University of North Dakota.