

# Crow Wing County Soil & Water Conservation District Board Member Highlight

By Bethany Chaplin, MN GreenCorps Member Serving with Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are political subdivisions of the State MN Statutes Chapter 103c. Supervisors are elected by the citizens of their county as part of the general elections. Supervisors help to form policy and long-term objectives for their district and work with the SWCD staff to see that policies and plans are implemented. In 1956, Crow Wing SWCD was formed to provide local leadership and implement voluntary soil and water conservation projects through programs and partnerships to Crow Wing County (CWC) and adjacent areas.

## Who is your elected Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor?

The Supervisors include Leonard Koering, Diane Jacobson, Roger Waytashek, JoAnn Weaver, and Jim Chamberlin.

Bethany Chaplin interviewed Jim Chamberlin from District 5 to learn about his involvement on the SWCD Board.

### Interview Questions:

#### 1. Why were you interested in being on the SWCD Board?

Jim was a previous employee of the SWCD for over a decade. He really believes in the mission of the SWCD.

#### 2. What are your top three items of focus?

His top three items of focus include the Wetland Conservation Act, shoreline ordinances, and stormwater inspections. The SWCD is all about volunteer conservation, we have no regulatory authority.

#### 3. Please explain your background and past experiences that have influenced your work for the Soil and Water.

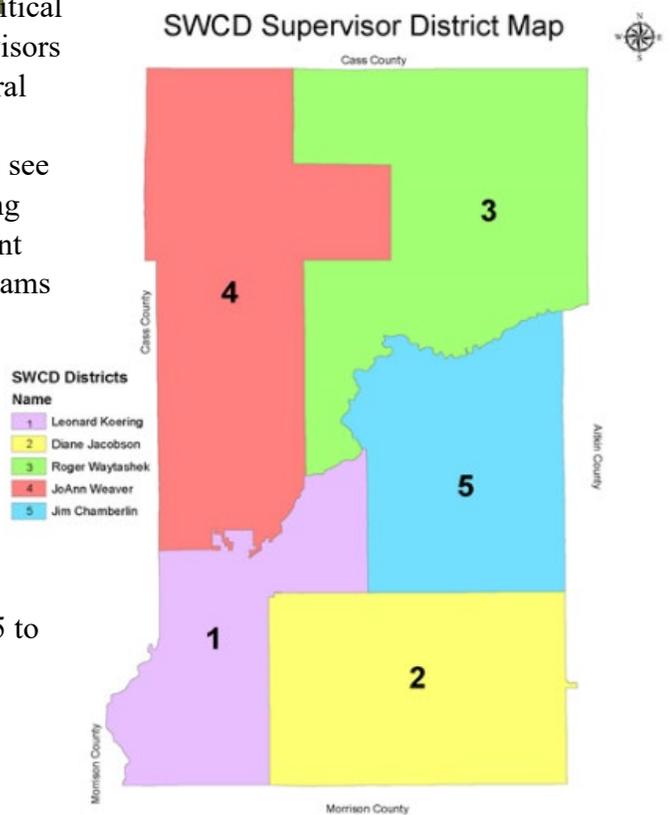
Growing up Jim spent a lot of time out in nature. Summer trips included trips to the Boundary Waters.

#### 4. What are the top issues facing your district in terms of land management and conservation?

The top issues facing District 5 are road salt. There is no real answer or solution to this permanent pollutant. Another concern is developmental pressure.

#### 5. What is your favorite project implemented in your district?

His favorite project implemented was the Crosby City Hall raingardens installed by Serpent Lake. This project helps improve stormwater runoff into Serpent Lake.



**6. What impresses you most about the job the current board is doing and what do you think needs improving?**

He is impressed with the wonderful staff and supervisor we have working for the SWCD.

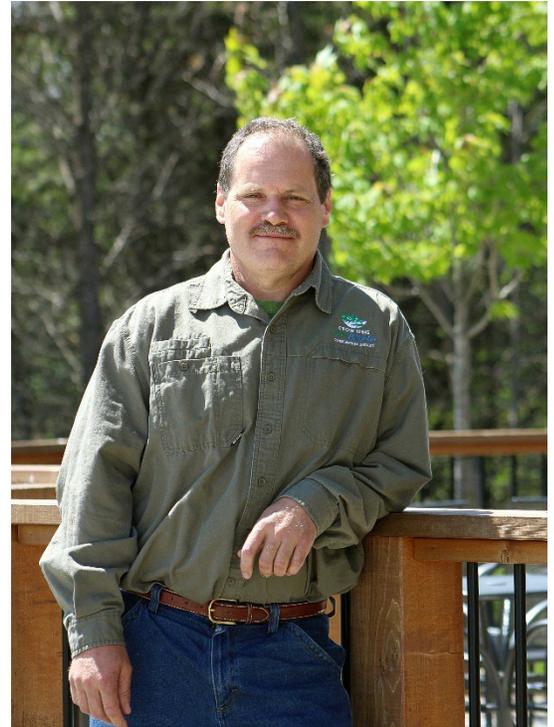
**7. How long have you been a board member at CW SWCD?**

Jim has been serving on the SWCD Board for 3 years!

**8. What does CW SWCD do for the community?**

The SWCD at its core is the go-to source for people who want to learn more about conservation efforts.

We are very lucky to have Jim on our SWCD Board. He brings lots of knowledge and experiences to our discussions and future projects. Thank you, Jim, for all your years of service!



**Link:**

Please share, watch, subscribe, and comment on Crow Wing SWCD YouTube channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5RYE8QHngWrIkJpa1fMSg>

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