

## **JOHN JASCHKE**

John Jaschke is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) (see <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us>). He was formerly the Dakota County (MN) 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 the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and Area Hydrologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Duluth and New Ulm. He has B.S. degrees in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Minnesota and a M.A. in Public Administration from Minnesota State University - Mankato. He grew up on a dairy farm in central Minnesota (Morrison County) with 10 younger siblings and now lives in St. Paul (on a lot smaller than the dairy barn where he used to milk cows!).

### **Background**

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is charged with implementing conservation programs and policies via a unique statewide partnership that weds state, local and federal efforts to protect and restore the waters, wetlands, working lands, soils, prairies and related natural habitats of Minnesota. The mission of the BWSR board and staff is to improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.

Agency programs, primarily delivered through local units of government, have resulted in less sediment and nutrients entering our lakes, rivers, and streams; enhanced fish and wildlife and native plant habitats; protection of the state's wetlands and conservation practices on our working lands and public drainage systems. These outcomes are achieved in spite of the pressures from intensification of agriculture, land development pressures, and expanding populations and related infrastructure expansions in many parts of the state.

Sound management of our water resources is key to a healthy and thriving Minnesota – and that view is shared by a large and growing number of local communities and citizens. Because 78% of the state is held in private ownership, BWSR's focus on private lands is critical to the state attaining its goals for clean water and healthy landscapes. Managed wisely, our watersheds, our working lands and our groundwater resources will continue to be foundational components of the state's current and future environmental and economic quality of life.