

What Does a SWCD Supervisor Do?
Cannon Connections – October 2018
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On November 6th, most of us will be voting for the people who will represent us at the local, state, and federal level. Amid all the noise and commercials, you might not be familiar with one group of office-holders who can have a big impact on keeping our rivers, lakes, and drinking water cleaner and safer: Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Supervisors.

SWCD Supervisors sit on your county Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. They oversee the county's Soil and Water Conservation District staff and make sure that taxpayer funds from the county and state are used as efficiently as possible to reduce soil erosion, improve soil health, and keep our water cleaner. In some counties, the SWCD enforces the state Wetland Conservation act as well as act as ditch inspectors. They also provide technical assistance to farmers and other rural landowners to help landowners install more conservation practices on their land. The SWCD has cost-share programs and other services to encourage landowners to use voluntary conservation practices like no-till farming and cover crop planting on their land. The SWCD also has a key role in helping rural landowners install buffers to protect public waters from erosion and farm field runoff.

With elections approaching this is a time to think about questions you might have with regard to water quality in the area and other conservation issues. Find out who is running for what where you live and ask them their stance on these topics. Contact your county SWCD office to see who is on the ballot and review their candidate summaries. While the SWCDs don't regulate water they can be a strong advocate for getting more clean water conservation practices on the landscape. If you want to learn more about clean water issues in the area, visit the CRWP website at www.crwp.net.