

Nicollet Soil & Water is pleased to announce Susie Carlin has joined our staff through Great River Greening to lead the 7 Mile Creek Watershed Partnership, a longstanding coalition of 25+ agriculture, conservation, community, business, and government groups aimed at working with landowners to conserve and restore land and habitats, and to improve water quality.

Susie has been a resident of St. Peter for a decade and is currently an elected city council member. She brings an extensive portfolio of experience in land and water conservation, as well as community and organizational engagement.

Previously, Susie served as a Program Director for the Minnesota River Board (MRB), where she was the primary liaison between watershed professionals and county commissioners, communicating land management effects in the river basin, and opportunities for change. Also in that role, she helped establish the Upstream-Downstream Friendship Tours, which brought farmers and urban residents to one another's homes, fields, and businesses for honest discussions about the values of agriculture, environment, and economics.

Said Steve Hockett, Great River Greening Conservation Programs Director, "As MRB Program Director, Susie worked diligently to refute the notion that conservation efforts were at odds with the interests of the farming community. She is close to the people of St. Peter and comes to this position with an impressive skill set, which I believe will improve our 7 Mile Creek program and raise awareness of the good work that can be done throughout southern Minnesota."

Susie added, "My family enjoys visiting and playing in the natural areas of 7 Mile Creek Watershed. I'm proud to have the opportunity to help protect and restore these resources and support the landowners who manage the land."

Great River Greening joined Nicollet SWCD in leading the 7 Mile Creek Watershed Partnership in 2012. In that time, the group has elevated its activity and strengthened its conviction that modern farming methods, a vibrant farm economy, and excellent water quality are all dependent on one another. Susie will move that work forward and expand an already successful program.