



## MORRISON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

16776 Heron Road \* Little Falls, Minnesota 56345  
(320) 631-3553 - [www.morrisonswcd.org](http://www.morrisonswcd.org)

Melissa Barrick  
Crow Wing SWCD  
322 Laurel St. Suite 13  
Brainerd, MN 56401

March 26, 2020

Dear Ms. Barrick,

The Morrison SWCD is supportive of continuing the work your office started several years back to improve forest resilience in the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (a 10-mile radius of Camp Ripley) through stewardship plans and restoration projects. The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant application would not only assist landowners in your own county but in Morrison, Cass and Todd County and allow them to choose which programs they participate in and at varying levels of service.

Forest Stewardship Plans are the key to empowering landowners in managing their forests. This funding will bring capacity to these four counties to support a plan writer and provide the technical expertise needed in the forested portions of our county. The Morrison SWCD office would not be able to support a position like this by ourselves but it is a service we receive requests for.

Forest improvement projects and the funding support to get them implemented is something we also desperately need. Many of the forested private easements within our ACUB program are not actively being managed. It is another request from landowners which currently we are not able to assist with. Working with Great River Greening, a leading restoration expert will ensure projects are done right and will give landowners a partner to ensure the future success of their restoration efforts.

Finally, these dollars if awarded will leverage work being done by the Nature Conservancy in the area and give landowners access to expert fire crews and a burn boss who will work with them to deliver a safe and successful burn.

Forest resilience within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape is a priority multiple partners are committed to working on. With the Crow Wing SWCD as the fiscal agent and coordinator and partners from Great River Greening, The Nature Conservancy, Morrison, Crow Wing, Cass, and Todd SWCDs, and Camp Ripley this application and the work it allows will be a success.

Sincerely,

*Shannon Wettstein*

**Shannon Wettstein**  
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