



Watonwan County, Minnesota
Land Management / Soil and Water Conservation District
§103F.48 Riparian Protection and Water Quality Practices
Buffer Compliance Tracking Plan

1. Compliance Tracking of ALL PARCELS subject to the 103F.48 - Buffer Law

All parcels in the county are to be reviewed within a 3 year time frame.

- a. Review four townships each year on a three year cycle following the designated areas. (Attachment Map A)
 - i. Review One Township from **Area A** (Adrian, Butterfield, Odin)
 - ii. Review One Township from **Area B** (Nelson, Saint James, Long Lake)
 - iii. Review One Township from **Area C** (Riverdale, Rosendale, South Branch)
 - iv. Review One Township from **Area D** (Madelia, Fieldon, Antrim)

*NOTE: Each 3-Year cycle will rotate which township in each designated area identified on the map will be selected to ensure the change in pattern of compliance checks.

2. Random Spot Checks

Random spot checks will be done in addition to the tracking of all parcels within a 3 year span. These checks may be conducted via aerial photo review or on-site review depending on availability of updated aerial photos and the practice that is being checked/access to farms. A combination of both aerial and on-site review may also be used.

- a. The SWCD will conduct 5% of the remaining parcels in the townships not reviewed that tracking year on a random spot check.
- b. Additionally, the SWCD will review parcels of emphasis more frequently:
 - Previously cited “non-compliant” parcels.

*NOTE: On-site review does not happen without the permission from the landowner to have access.

3. Process to Handle Complaints

The SWCD will follow this process for complaints received from the public (*Different from Soil Loss Law – §103F.48 complaints, these may come from anyone in the public*)

- a. Upon received complaint, the SWCD will verify if the parcel is located on the developed MN DNR Buffer Map and reference any existing documentation.
- b. Compliant determination will be evaluated via aerial or GIS map and/or conduct a site visit with the landowner.
- c. If the parcel is found out of compliance, the SWCD will work with the landowner to come into compliance if requested. The SWCD will provide the landowner with technical assistance and/or help with financial assistance.
- d. If the landowner does not come into compliance by the timeline provided by the SWCD, a “Notification of Non-Compliance” will be sent to the enforcement body, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).
- e. If and when the parcel comes into compliance with the Buffer Law, the SWCD may issue a “Validation of Compliance” if requested by the landowner.