



Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Stearns SWCD Board Member Retires After 40 Years of Service

The Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever (SCPF) presented Urban Spanier with a Service Award during the SWCD regular Board Meeting on December 11, 2007. The award recognizes Spanier for 40 years of service on the SWCD Board. Since 1967, Spanier has served on the SWCD Board to promote natural resource protection in Stearns County.

Dennis Fuchs, Stearns County SWCD administrator said, "For 40 years Urban has been providing excellent leadership on the Stearns County SWCD Board. These days it's hard to find a person to do anything for that long, much less serve your community for forty years. Urban's knowledge and experience is unmatched".

"Stearns County Pheasants Forever commends Urban's dedication and contributions to Stearns County conservation. He will be missed", said Ralph Feld, Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever President.

Replacing Spanier until his term expires will be David Weller. Weller, a realtor and a resident of Brooten, Minnesota will begin his term on the Board at the January meeting. Fuchs said, "Dave has the energy and conservation ethic needed to make a difference on the Stearns County SWCD Board. His passion and genuine interest in conservation, along with his leadership skills are required at this leadership level.

When asked about his retirement, Spanier replied, "It's been a good run, I'm going to miss working with the other board members and staff on implementing conservation policy in Stearns County and Minnesota. I know I am leaving this position in great hands. Dave will be a good addition to the Board".

Spanier was a baseball umpire for several years and was inducted into the Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame in 1979. Urban and his wife, Rosie are very active in St. Michael's Parish in Spring Hill. They have hosted the "Harvest for Hope" celebration for several years at their farm near Spring Hill.

Pheasants Forever is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant, quail, and other wildlife populations in North America through habitat improvement, land management, public awareness, and education. Such efforts benefit landowners and wildlife alike. Charity Navigator, America's charity watchdog, gives PF their highest rating of 4 stars and says that PF outperforms most non-profits in America.

All programs and services of the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.