



## Meet your Board Member – Gene Tiedemann

Red Lake River WD  
Region I / Term 2024  
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**How long have you been involved in the watershed world?** I

have been involved with the Red Lake Watershed District for about 24 years. The relationship began when watershed district projects were being started and I attended meetings to find out what was happening.

**How long have you served on your local watershed board?** Because of my interest in watershed district projects, I was approached by a county commissioner to apply to be on the board. That was 20 years ago. I also served on the BWSR Board as a representative for watershed districts for 12 and a half years.

**What inspires you to continue doing the work you do?** When I was first aware of the Red Lake Watershed District, it was dysfunctional. The public's perception was that the watershed district wanted to take people's land away. The watershed district wasn't trusted. When speaking with county commissioners, I let them know that the watershed district should provide solutions to problems, not cause them. Solving problems and being transparent is what I enjoy.

**What was your impetus for joining the Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors?** After I left the BWSR Board, Ray Bohn approached me about serving as a director. He told me it would be about two meetings a year, which at that time, was the case. I said that I was willing to try it. It would definitely have been difficult to quit being active on a state board cold turkey.

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself.** I have always told my grandchildren that I am old. Now, I have them trained to say, "You're not that old! You have some life left." We never know how long our life will be on this earth. Enjoy your life and cherish your family.