



Meet your Board Member – Linda Vavra

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Region I / Term 2023
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How long have you been involved in the watershed world? I have been involved in the watershed world for 13 years as a manager and president of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD). I also serve on the RRWMB.

How long have you served on your local watershed board? The Stevens County Commissioners appointed me to the BdSWD Board in 2010 to make a difference. I believe that I have, and I can certainly see that there is still work to do.

What inspires you to continue doing the work you do? When I was three years old my father awoke in the middle of the night to flood waters covering the bedroom floor. It was early March and when he returned to our rural home from work the previous evening, he had left the car parked on the gravel road. Because the spring thaw had started, and he felt our lane would be too muddy to drive on the next day. So, he walked the quarter mile home. When he discovered the water on the floor that night, he quickly woke my mother and us children. We were shaken from our beds, quickly dressed, and started the walk through the cold spring flood waters. It was the darkest night of my life. My dad carried me, and he had my siblings hold on to his back pockets. We started the long walk through the cold flood waters while my mother followed us carrying the flashlight. Even now I sometimes wake in the night dreaming of that terribly scary night. It haunts me! I still hear my sisters sobbing and crying, "Daddy, it's so cold. I can't stand it." My dad told them not to let go, it's just a little bit further. Well, we made it to the car, but it took many months before we saw home again. I guess that is what inspires me to continue doing the work I do. No child should ever have to be awakened from their warm bed in the middle of the night and forced to walk through freezing cold flood waters to safety.

What was your impetus for joining the Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors? I was elected by Region 1 members to serve them and the good people of the Red River Valley watershed districts. The people of the Red River Valley are survivors, like me. They have worked together for over 150 years fighting floods and managing water. I promised to make a difference, I guess you could say that is my driving force.



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Tell us a fun fact about yourself. I have a red, long-haired Dachshund named Augie, a Koi pond, and a water garden in my back yard. I enjoy camping, kayaking, and gardening - both flowers and vegetables. I plant at least ten trees a year. I live on my farm. I enjoy mowing my huge lawn. I also enjoy making mittens from recycled wool sweaters. I don't like to shovel snow, but I do. After all this is Minnesota!

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