



Meet your Board Member – Wanda Holker

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How long have you been involved in the watershed world? I would say I have been involved in one way or another since 1990. I worked for the Big Stone Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for thirteen years, starting in 1990. At the time I worked for the SWCD, we were housed in the same office as the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District (UMRWD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service office. I feel being housed in the same office gave me a strong understanding of how the watershed world worked in regard to government agencies. In the early 90's, my husband and I started our own farming operation (we both came from farm backgrounds). That gave me a view of the watershed world from a different perspective.

How long have you served on your local watershed board? I have served on the UMRWD Board since 2016.

What inspires you to continue doing the work you do? Everyone has a stake in water. I have always enjoyed and/or preferred to be in the outdoors. There is always more to do and learn when it comes to our natural resources, and I very much enjoy when people are able to come together to improve their watershed environment.

What was your impetus for joining the Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors? I was encouraged by another board member. I felt it was an opportunity to get more involved, as well as to learn and share ideas and viewpoints.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself. As far as interests goes, second to my love of farming is woodworking. I started in my early teens by deciding I wanted a porch swing set on an A-frame since we didn't have a porch. I set about dragging dad's tools out and whatever wood I could find to build it. I can only imagine what he thought when he came home and saw me building. That swing (the first of many projects) lasted for a good 10 years. My husband has encouraged my hobby and I have a decent workshop that has turned out most of the furniture in my house.