



MAWA ANNOUNCES OUTSTANDING WATERSHED ADMINISTRATOR

December 3, 2020

Congratulations to Jan Voit for receiving the honor of the **Outstanding Watershed Administrator** at the Minnesota Association of Watershed District's Annual Virtual Conference, December 1-4, 2020. Each year, the Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators provides this honor to one Administrator for their leadership in water resources management.

Jan Voit has been the Heron Lake Watershed District Administrator for 38 years starting in 1982! Jan is the longest standing watershed administrator in the State of Minnesota.

During her tenure as Administrator, Jan has served on just about every committee, work group, and task force that has existed. Jan currently is serving on the MAWD Annual Meeting, Awards, and Education Committees. Jan has been very active with the Education Committee advocating for greater educational opportunities for District Board members, Administrators, and staff as well as regularly attending BWSR Academy for her own professional growth and to learn about educational offerings provided by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Jan's involvement in the Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators has been instrumental in the long-term success of the organization.



Jan Voit (left), Julie Blackburn (right).

Recently, the Heron Lake Watershed District, in collaboration with landowners, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), BWSR, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District had been awarded a 319 Small Watershed Focus Grant for the South Heron Lake (SHL) Watershed Restoration Plan from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; administered by the MPCA. This long-term project has the commitment from all participants to collaborate and build upon past successes. Restoration and protection efforts will be focused on protecting South Heron Lake from further degradation using planning tools to determine cost effective, multi-benefit solutions to reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment entering the lake and reduce the impacts of flooding.

The Heron Lake Watershed District, through Jan's leadership, has brought forward new approaches now being used statewide.

Signed: Margaret Johnson, Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators