



CRWD gets two new district managers

Olson, Weis appointed by Mower County Board to serve three-year terms

AUSTIN, Minn. – Thursday, May 31 – Two new appointees have been selected to represent Mower County on the Cedar River Watershed District’s Board of Managers, replacing two original members who opted this spring not to seek re-appointment.

Susan Olson, an attorney from Red Rock Township, and Jason Weis, a Rose Creek resident who owns Weis Landscaping and Design, LLC, have been appointed by the Mower County Board to serve a three-year term on the CRWD board. Their first monthly CRWD board meeting is slated for June 20.

Olson and Weis will be two of four Mower County residents serving on the seven-member CRWD board; the other three managers represent Dodge, Freeborn and Steele counties. Mower County has four managers because, out of the district’s four counties, it contains a large majority of the land.

County boards from each of the CRWD’s four counties – Mower, Dodge, Freeborn and Steele – appoint district managers to the CRWD board.

In March, original CRWD managers Al Layman and Harlen Peck – who served since the CRWD was formed in 2007 – announced they would not seek re-appointment to another term. Layman had been the board’s president since the start of this year; Peck was a former board president.

Olson, 47, has lived in the Austin area since 1993 and resides in Red Rock, a township northeast of Austin that includes the city of Brownsdale. Since 2007, she has served as a governor-appointed member of the Minnesota Workers’ Compensation Advisory Council and president of the Mower County Habitat & Pheasants Forever chapter.

“Everyone has – or should have – an interest in clean water, but not everyone is interested in the conservation and preservation of habitat and wetlands – I am,” Olson said. “By adding filter strips, restoring wetlands, and creating habitat, we can slow down stormwater runoff, reduce flooding, and improve water quality.”

Last summer, Olson went kayaking for the first time ever, and it was on the Cedar River with a large group of people. She said she’d love to do it again, but wants the river’s water quality to improve.

“A lot of work can be done to make the water more enjoyable for everyone,” Olson said.

Weis, 36, is a life-long Mower County resident who has membership with the National Wild Turkey Federation as well as the Minnesota Nursery and Landscaping Association.

His goal as a CRWD manager is to improve the quality of the area’s waterways and surrounding habitats. Serving on the board, Weis said, will allow him to use his landscaping background and love for the outdoors to improve the community.

“Fishing, camping, and canoeing all have been long-time traditions in my family,” Weis said. “I have many memories of ice fishing behind the Old Mill Restaurant, canoeing down the Cedar River, and camping throughout the watershed.”

State and local officials formed the CRWD in response to the watershed’s worst-known floods occurring in 2000 and 2004. The CRWD’s top priorities are reducing flooding and improving water quality in the watershed.

Cedar River Watershed District

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Who: Cedar River Watershed District Board of Managers.

What: Getting two new board members – Susan Olson and Jason Weis – who were appointed by the Mower County Board.

When: First meeting set for June 20.

Where: Ruby Rupner Auditorium, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center, Austin.

Why: Two original CRWD board members – Al Layman and Harlen Peck – opted not to seek another three-year term.

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