Cedar River Watershed Partnership
Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds Conference
November 8, 2018
Cedar River Watershed
• South Central Minnesota
• 435 Square Miles in our work area
• Makes up parts of Mower, Freeborn, Steele and Dodge County
• Land use is small communities and agriculture
Cedar River Watershed Partnership – Video

• https://vimeo.com/hormelstudioh/review/287117438/e2a9dc6a5b
Public-Private Partnerships: Local Values

• Connecting with landowners that don’t traditionally work with government programs

• Improved service model

• Programs are becoming more complicated and we need a new model for conservation delivery
Importance to Private Partners

• Help growers build and tell their stories
• Technology driven – utilize technology to understand sustainability
• Opportunities for new service offerings
• Consumer demand
  • Connect growers to food industry
Importance to Public Partners: Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

• Fundamental Partnership: Federal, State, Local and Private Industry
• Risk assessment and treatment process, every acre, entire operation
• Risks mitigated earns MAWQCP certification contract, 10 year term; contract provides regulatory ‘certainty’ (MN, USDA, EPA)
• MAWQCP directly and exclusively helps growers implement water quality improvements and protections on whole-farm basis, every day, across entire state......and as a premiere watershed strategy
Importance to Public Partners: Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

- Improving Water Quality and serving Growers is what we do
- Partnership is how we do it

Certification Status as of November 2, 2018:
- **668 certified farms**
- **428,935 certified acres**
- **1,289 new best management practices** that have yielded:
  - 122.5 million pounds of soil saved per year
  - 48 million pounds sediment reduced per year
  - 28,255 pounds of phosphorus prevented from entering our waters per year
  - As much as 49% estimated reduction in nitrogen loss
Importance to Public Partners: Mower SWCD

- We need to evolve our systems for improving water resources
- It’s not practical to “cost-share away” our issues
- We need to find cultural solutions and use methods that will outlast program payments
Cedar River Watershed Metrics

• Currently measuring:
  • # farmers certified
  • # acres certified

• Future Metrics
  • Plan to include impact metrics from Truterra
  • Aggregation of data from the partners’ programs
The Truterra™ Insights Engine

• Brings together the proven value of stewardship practices

• Leverages agronomic expertise and technological capabilities of agricultural retailers

• Provides farmers with field-customized insights for their business and natural resources
SUSTAINABILITY SUMMARY

ACRES ASSESSED
OF 150,000 ACRE GOAL

163K

ACRES BY CROP

CORN 85.34K
SOYBEANS 73.29K
OTHER 4.04K

ASSESSMENTS PER FIELD

Single Assessment Multiple Assessments
0.54K (28.9%) 1.32K (71.09%)

ACRES BY YEAR

2017 131K
2018 84K
Questions?

Thank you!
Cedar River Watershed Partnership Partners: