

Olmsted SWCD Supervisor candidates - Election 2018

To assist Olmsted County residents with selection of a candidate for the office of Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, Olmsted SWCD staff asked candidates to submit a bio to provide more information on each candidate.

We thank them for their submissions!

James Rentz:

Running for District 1 (Cascade and Rochester Townships)

My name is James Rentz and I am running for the Olmsted County Soil and Water Conservation District 1 (Rochester and Cascade Townships). I moved to Rochester in 2005 and am currently a retired head of Technical Services for the public library.

My exposure with commercial farming has been limited so it has been a learning experience visiting the Board meetings. What led me to start attending is my lifelong concern with conservation and quality of life issues. These tie in well with the SWCDs mission "to promote more sustainable resources utilization and protection of natural resources in the County".

While much of the Boards responsibilities are dealing with agricultural programs and issues I am hoping that the practices and principles being developed and used can be incorporated into educational, and practical, purposes in a more urban setting such as Rochester.

John Pries:

Running for District 3 (Dover, Eyota, Elmira, Quincy and Viola Townships)

I was born and raised in Viola township on a 4th generation family farm, where with my wife Norma, of 38 years, I operate the farm with our son Joshua. We raise nursery pigs, have a beef cattle herd, raise dairy heifers and produce an annual cash crop of corn and soybeans. I have farmed since 1974 on our farm, starting into agriculture with my father. I've learned a lot from my father about conservation, installing terraces and seeing the benefits of slowing the water moving off the landscape starting back in the early 1970's.

I have seen the value of implementing conservation practices over the years and have since constructed our own grassed waterways, terraces and maintained grass strips to protect the land from erosion while protecting our long-term productivity. I believe conservation is practical, sensible and necessary in today's agricultural operation. These values are what brought me to the decision to run for Olmsted SWCD Supervisor.

I am looking forward to representing the District 3 townships and using my experiences to assist others with implementing conservation on their farms.

Cheryl Winters:

Running for District 3 (Dover, Eyota, Elmira, Quincy and Viola Townships)

Name: Cheryl Winters

Residence: 12-acre hobby farm - chickens, ducks, goats, cats & dog

Education: Master of Science in Education Technology

Facebook: @cherylwintersconservation

Like most of you, I've been aware of and tried to practice good stewardship of our natural resources. When I lived in the city, I tried to keep waste from entering the street gutters and I didn't use lawn chemicals.

Now that I live out in the country, I'm even more aware of the water quality, and land use practices affecting the soil. When we drilled a new well (because the nitrate levels were too high) I became interested in the techniques and procedures used to assess groundwater contamination susceptibility.

I am running for an open seat in the SWCD because I would like to learn more about what is happening in our County regarding soil and water use, and because I'm committed to protecting the quality of these precious natural resources.

Get out and VOTE!