

University of Minnesota Buffer Strip Meeting, April 1, 2008
PROPOSED NEXT STEPS AND IDEAS;

1. Need to develop a single point of information for growers to get information about buffer strips.
2. SWCD provide information on seed mixtures but what seed-mix is really appropriate; want a single seed-mix for anywhere in state for drainage ditch buffers.
3. Future meetings should include Minnesota grower organizations; new water quality person has been hired by a coalition of Minnesota commodity groups.
4. Buffer strip group should set up meeting to speak with producers soon.
5. Get growers involved in the rule-making process.
6. Plant mix should include legumes and warm season grasses, modify the 25 species rule.
7. Need to evaluate use of legumes in plant-mix because of NOX concerns.
8. Native seed supply issues: quantity and local ecotype issue
9. Native plant buffer strips could be used for native seed production.
10. Next step: formally identify issues, but need growers leading it.
11. In order to protect water quality, need to make it flexible enough for growers to adopt the type of buffer strip that fits their system and needs.
12. Possible to design buffer strips to achieve combination of water quality, habitat, and energy, carbon-sequestration
13. Develop group to define research needs.
14. Develop biofuel systems that can use plant materials from diverse buffer strip plantings.
15. Develop a system of buffer strip demonstration sites across the state of Minnesota.
16. In the design of buffer strips hydrology considerations are critical; we need to keep that in mind while attempting to rehabilitate streams.
17. Design wetlands and buffer strip systems that reduce nitrogen in surface water. Develop a better understanding of denitrification in wetland systems.

18. There is a need to design buffers around tile inlets.