The Benton SWCD is a local unit of government that manages and directs natural resource management programs at the local level. We work in both urban and rural settings, with landowners and with other units of government, to carry out a program for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and related resources. Benton SWCD is political subdivisions of the State, authorized under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103C. Our five supervisors serve four year staggered terms, elected during the general election in November. It is the mission of the Benton SWCD to protect and enhance Benton County's soil, water, and other natural resources; to nurture a conservation ethic by educating county residents on conservation and environmental issues.

The project manager will be Gerry Maciej. He holds an Associate in Applied Sciences degree in Natural Resources Technology from Brainerd Community College, Brainerd MN and Bachelor of Science degree in Watershed Management from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI.

Gerry has been employed with Benton SWCD since 1996 and has held the positions of District Technician and Water Plan Technician. He has been the District Manager since 2006.

Gerry's responsibilities include the financial management of the SWCD, with an annual budget of approximately $500,000. The SWCD has received several grants related to the adoption of related best management practices and he has been assigned the duties of principle project manager for all of them. One example is the 2011 BWSR Clean Water Legacy grant titled "Little Rock Impaired Waters Kickoff". This grant included a new watershed wide irrigation water management program. A second "Little Rock Creek Irrigation Management Continuation" will be administered starting in 2014.

Gerry served as the Benton SWCD manager for both the Little Rock Lake TMDL and Little Rock Creek TMDL. The studies included management of multiple contracts with the MPCA and sub-contracts with consultants William Walker, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Natural Resources Research Institute, Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories and Barr Engineering.