



## Meet your Board Member – Jeff Gertgen

**Middle Fork Crow River WD**

**Region II / Term 2023**

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**How long have you been involved in the watershed world?** My first project with Middle Fork Crow River (MFCRWD) started in 2016 when we submitted a project for cattle exclusion as part of a major MFCRWD project. When completed our project was selected as the 2018 MFCRWD project of the year.

**How long have you served on your local watershed board?** I joined the MFCRWD Board on December 8, 2021.

**What inspires you to continue doing the work you do?** I grew up on the rivers and lakes in Kandiyohi County. When we moved to Texas I became a PADI Master Diver Trainer and spent many hours in lakes, rivers, and the ocean, teaching and doing projects. When we moved to Wisconsin I volunteered with a group that assisted in several flood recovery projects in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Now I am back in Minnesota and have worked with a watershed district. I have seen the attention given to water quality/usage and flood/erosion mitigation projects and legislation issues. Water is a limited resource and I want to be part of the team that is dedicated to passing on usable/safe rivers and lakes to future generations.

**What was your impetus for joining the Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors?** I felt that being on the Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors was a great opportunity to be exposed to watershed issues in Minnesota and surrounding States and Canada. Being able to see what other watershed districts are doing statewide and being able to help network and promote those ideas would be very rewarding.

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself.** Our working retirement is on a Campground we have on Diamond Lake in Kandiyohi County. When we moved back to Minnesota my wife understood that part of my re-training would be on again becoming proficient at kayaking, fishing, and hunting. She let me get the equipment, I am still working on getting good at it.

