

# **ROOT RIVER SWCD MONITORING PLAN FOR BUFFER COMPLIANCE TRACKING**

§103F.48 RIPARIAN PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY PRACTICES

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## **1. COMPLIANCE TRACKING OF ALL PARCELS SUBJECT TO THE BUFFER LAW**

All parcels in the county are to be reviewed within a 3 year timeframe. The Root River SWCD will review 1/3 of the parcels in Houston County each year. See attached map for areas. (Attachment A)

## **2. RANDOM SPOT CHECKS**

Random spot checks will be done in addition to the tracking of all parcels within a 3 year span. These checks may be conducted via aerial photo review or on-site review depending on availability of updated aerial photos and the practice that is being checked/access to farms. A combination of both aerial and on-site review may also be used.

- a. The Root River SWCD will review 25-50 parcels on a random spot check each year outside of the scheduled area.
- b. Additionally, the Root River SWCD may review parcels of emphasis more frequently. These include:
  - Previously non-compliant
  - No-till/Conservation tillage or cover crop alternative practice plans
  - Variable width buffers (i.e. Land O' Lakes buffer tool, Decision Support Tool)
  - Other Alternative Practice Plans
  - Cost-share funded projects (years 1, 3, 6, and 9 of contract)
  - Parcels of further emphasis (potential violators)

## **3. PROCESS TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS**

When a complaint from a private individual or entity, or from another public agency is received. The Root River SWCD will communicate with the landowner to do an inspection of their buffer. If the parcel is found to be non-compliant the Root River SWCD will issue a Notice of Non-compliance to the County and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. If the parcel is found to be compliant the Root River SWCD will issue a Validation of Compliance if applicable and requested by the landowner.



**ROOT RIVER SWCD  
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**Attachment A**

