SILT Working Buffers

A voluntary, private sector solution to water quality - and a host of other issues.

And it’s permanent.
The Problem

- Conservation contracts last 15 years tops.
- The water quality issue is polarizing.
- Our waters are still impaired.
- No political will for regulation.
- Staff are on short-term funding cycles.
Current Solutions

- Grass waterways
- Saturated buffers
- Riparian buffers
- Filter strips
- Prairie STRIPS

Enlist Farmer. Farmer Retires. Start over.
Long-term problems require long-term solutions.
And these solutions take land out of production.
What IF...

we could

stack the

benefits of a buffer

and keep land

in production?
FIRST
Build it.

The following schematics are meant to illustrate a concept. Every farm is unique.
Farmville... style!

Two conventional farms on either side of a river. But this one has planted grasses along the riverbank.
Once established, he can harvest it for bio-fuel, seed or flowers. Wet years he may get nothing.
Then he plants fruit and nut trees and berry bushes. (upland)
Chestnuts = $6,000 /acre)
He lets some young farmers work this parcel and cash flow it with diverse annual food crops. (2016 rent avg $300-$350/ac) (We can help him find the farmers.)

But our corn/bean farmer doesn’t want to farm this.
This kind of farming requires attention.

Farmers need a home...

And natural fertilizer.
A multi-generational solution.

Value of land surrounding this farm rises when developers come calling.

(Developers experience 30% to 40% premium on houses sold in “agri-communities”)
This whole-system farm makes this land a job-creating, food-producing buffer that brings young people back to the community.
Then Protect It.
An ag conservation easement

1. Reduces farm value for estate planning.
2. Reduces land costs for future farmers.
3. Secures farmland for the future.
4. Retain ownership and control of property.
5. Tax incentives available.
A Comprehensive Solution

Retiring farmer land transfer w/diversified income
Affordable farmland
Diversified agricultural economy/fresh food
Third-party monitoring of land in perpetuity
Increases surrounding land values
Cleaner water, reduced soil erosion
The Challenge

This is labor-intensive work!

a. Identify interested farmers/landowners
b. Assist in the easement transaction
c. Manage the relationship
With your support

- Landowner referrals
- Program assistance
- Partnerships
- Donations

SILT can get this done.
Thank you!

Questions?

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