

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Executive Department



**Governor Tim Walz**

**RECEIVED**

MAR 29 2024

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT** President of the Senate

**Richard Biske**

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

**Environmental Organization Representative**  
**Clean Water Council**

Effective: April 3, 2024

Expires: January 3, 2028

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed March 29, 2024.

Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

**Tim Walz**  
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

**Steve Simon**  
Secretary of State



Filed March 29, 2024  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State  
Steve Simon

Reappointment

# Application for the position Environmental Organization Application Date: 12/5/2023 2:27:40 PM

Note: If your application needs to be amended, including updates to any uploaded documents, contact [open.appointments@state.mn.us](mailto:open.appointments@state.mn.us). Please provide your name, board, position you've applied to, and any other documentation you'd like included in your application along with a brief summary of your request.

## Part I: Position Sought

---

**Agency Name:** Clean Water Council  
**Position:** Environmental Organization

## Part II: Applicant Information

---

**Name:** Richard Biske  
**Phone:** (612) 331-0766  
**County:** Anoka  
**Recommended by the Appointing Authority:** False  
**Mn House District:** 38A  
**US House District:** 6

## Part III: Appending Documentation

---

### Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/pdf

### Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

## Part V: Signature

---

**Signature:** Richard L. Biske  
**Date:** 12/5/2023 2:27:40 PM

RECEIVED

MAR 29 2024

President of the Senate

# RICHARD BISKE

1559 Lamotte Circle, Lino Lakes, MN 55038 · (651) 564-0591  
rbiske@tnc.org

RECEIVED

MAR 29 2024

## EXPERIENCE

2022 - PRESENT

**DIRECTOR OF WATER AND LAND PROTECTION**

President of the Senate

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY MINNESOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA

- Lead Protection, Water and Sustainable Agriculture Programs.

2014 – 2022

**FRESHWATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY MINNESOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA

- Serve on Chapter Leadership Team to set chapter direction, priorities, policies, program development, strategic communication and organizational oversight.
- Oversee freshwater conservation and sustainable agriculture program planning and program development within MN, ND, SD.
- Supervise and provide leadership for program staff including scientists, program directors, conservation practitioners, support staff and indirect support. Develop staff work plans, annual objectives, conduct performance reviews, time management, employee recruitment and retention.
- Sponsor, direct and lead program and project teams including secure resources, aligning staff, delegating and coaching for professional growth and results. Projects including scientific studies, analysis, watershed plans, strategic plans, terrestrial and aquatic restoration plans and work plans.
- Establish and manage key internal and external relationships across multiple sectors of federal, state, local governments along with private sector relationships including conservation interest groups, advocacy groups, agriculture industry, ag interest groups and other stakeholders.
- Secure public and private funds necessary to achieve program goals. Develop and administer annual budget ensuring compliance with funding guidelines, requirements and expectations. Managing time and expenses throughout fiscal year across 30 different revenue sources to meet annual budget targets. Set multi-year financial plans to ensure program stability or growth.
- Ensure program and employees are compliant with organizational standard operating procedures, safety guidelines, code of conduct, competencies and represent organizational values.
- Initiate, lead and administer several complex landscape scale conservation programs and strategies including Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Program, Mississippi Headwaters Initiative, and Sustainable Agriculture Strategies and projects within.

- Serve as project lead or team member for North America Agriculture, Mississippi Basin (32 State), Central US Division and North America Region special assignments.
- Government Relations Team – Develop policy and government relations agenda, political strategy, drafting legislation, coalition building, advocacy direct lobbying and engagement with county and state elected officials along with state executive branch leadership. TNC lead for Clean Water Council and Water Policy.
- Report to board of trustees and executive leadership scientific information, activity summaries and proposals.

**2005 – 2014**

**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA CONSERVATION COORDINATOR**

**THE NATURE CONSERVANCY MINNESOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA**

- Conduct watershed analysis using multiple data including hydrology, County Biological Survey, LiDAR and more to develop watershed plans.
- Work collaboratively with resource agencies including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, county governments, DNR Divisions including Ecological and Water Resources, Fish and Wildlife and Forestry on local water plans, WRAPS, 1W1P, government grant programs, soil and water management demonstration projects and initiatives.
- Lead, manage and coordinate multiple site level projects including drainage water management (2-stage ditch, treatment wetlands, bioreactor), wetland restoration, streambank stabilization, prairie restoration and others.
- Develop and implement monitoring plans for edge of field practice evaluation, streambank improvement and watershed implementation.
- Lead land acquisition and conservation easement projects in coordination with state and local partners including landowner outreach, negotiation, real estate due diligence, county board, approval when applicable, and transfer to state agency.
- Create ecological restoration and management plans including budgeting, activity description and maintenance plan.
- Write and administer funding proposals to federal, state and private sources.

**2001-2005**

**NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNER, ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Accomplishments**

- Open Space/Greenway Plans for Local Governments
- Open Space Protection
- Private lands habitat restoration and soil and water conservation practices
- Landowner outreach, education and technical assistance
- Developed Easement Program
- Assisted with Local Water Planning
- Assist with monitoring activities including observation wells, lake and wetland water level, lake monitoring and stream gauge
- Inventory land cover using Minnesota Land Cover Classification System and conduct analysis for open space and watershed plans

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 29 2024**

## **EDUCATION**

2001

**BS NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Natural Resources Planning and Policy Major, Forestry minor

National Honor Society of Agriculture

## **TRAININGS**

- Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts Leadership Academy
- S130/190 Fire Fighter 2 Certification
- Conservation Easements
- Fee Land Acquisition
- MN DNR Fluvial Geomorphology/Rosgen Stream Classification
- Civic Engagement, MN Pollution Control Agency/U of M
- The Nature Conservancy Leadership Program
- The Nature Conservancy's Conservation Action Planning (e5S)
- Complex Systems Thinking and Planning
- Engaging Across Differences

## **TEAMS/COMMITTEES**

Current

- The Nature Conservancy's MN, ND, SD Leadership Team
- The Nature Conservancy's North America Agriculture Program
- Northern Great Plains Protection
- TNC Global Resilient Watersheds
- The Nature Conservancy's Mississippi Basin Whole System
- The Nature Conservancy's Provide Food and Water
- The Nature Conservancy's Tackle Climate Change
- The Nature Conservancy's Protect Land and Water
- Clean Water Council
- Clean Transportation Standard Work Group

Previous

- The Nature Conservancy's Great Plains Division Freshwater Resilience Planning, Co-Lead
- The Nature Conservancy's Mississippi River Basin Edge of Field Strategy, Co-Lead
- The Nature Conservancy's North America Region Freshwater Resilience Planning
- MN Forest Resource Council Southeast Landscape Committee (former co-chair)
- MN DNR Forest Stewardship Committee
- Root River Field to Stream Partnership with MN Dept of Ag and others
- Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan

**RECEIVED**

MAR 29 2024

President of the Senate

**REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**



The Nature Conservancy in  
Minnesota, North Dakota, South  
Dakota  
1101 West River Parkway, Suite  
200  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1291

tel (612) 331.0700  
fax (612) 331.0770  
nature.org

Richard L. Biske  
1559 LaMotte Circle  
Lino Lakes, MN 55038

December 5, 2023

RECEIVED

MAR 29 2024

President of the Senate

Re: Clean Water Council, Environmental Group Position

Dear Governor Walz,

I would like to continue serving on the Clean Water Council representing environmental organizations. I currently serve as vice-chair of the Council and chair of the Council's Policy Committee. It's been an honor to serve in this capacity and I'm proud of what the Council has accomplished.

I have spent over 20 years of my professional career protecting and restoring the lands and waters of Minnesota. Much of this work has been working with private landowners and building the capacity of partners in greater Minnesota. As The Nature Conservancy's Water and Land Protection Director, I work with Minnesota's private and public-sector leaders to find pragmatic solutions to today's most pressing conservation issues. I have partnered with academic institutions, agencies and the Conservancy's own scientists to apply scientific rigor to conservation practices and evaluation. I have and will continue to place an emphasis on outcome-based planning and program delivery informed by monitoring and evaluation.

Minnesota is fortunate in many ways. We are indeed a water rich state. Unfortunately, many of our waters are impaired. Many are at risk and climate change creates even more uncertainty for the health of our waters. Minnesotans place a high value on our state's water resources and overwhelmingly voted to invest in clean water via the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. The Clean Water Fund is a great opportunity to ensure clean water is an enduring legacy of Minnesota. This legacy can only be achieved with sound leadership and direction. As a member of the Clean Water Council I will continue to advocate for the Clean Water Fund to be used to its fullest potential and secures Minnesota's waters for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Biske  
Water and Land Protection Director  
The Nature Conservancy MN-ND-SD