

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Executive Department



**Governor Tim Walz**

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT**

**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: May 5, 2021

Expires: January 1, 2024

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it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.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 April 30, 2021.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Walz  
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Simon  
Secretary of State

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MAY 4 2021

Senate Engrossing

Replacing: Rylee Hince

Filed on April 30, 2021  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State,  
Steve Simon

# Application for the position Environmental Organization

## Part I: Position Sought

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Agency Name: Clean Water Council  
Position: Environmental Organization

## Part II: Applicant Information

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

## Part III: Appending Documentation

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### 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.	

Veteran: No Answer

## Part V: Signature

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Signature: Richard L. Biske  
Date: 11/21/2020 8:29:41 AM

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November 19, 2020

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

Re: Clean Water Council, Environmental Group Position

Dear Governor Walz,

I would like to join the Clean Water Council as a representative for environmental organizations. The past 20 years of my professional career have been focused on protecting and restoring the lands and waters of Minnesota. In my current capacity as The Nature Conservancy's Freshwater Conservation Program Director, I work closely with Minnesota's non-government conservation and agriculture leaders as well as state and local governments to find pragmatic solutions to today's most pressing water issues by working with federal, state and local governments to assist private landowners manage their lands for the benefit of all Minnesotans.

Stewardship of our water resources should be guided by science for the benefit of all Minnesotans. I have been an active participant in the Clean Water Council's stakeholder process and a regular attendee to council and budget and oversight committee meetings, and work to offer The Nature Conservancy's science from an external stakeholder perspective. I welcome the opportunity to apply this experience directly as a member of the Clean Water Council and serve as a steward of Minnesota's Clean Water Fund.

Minnesota is a water rich state. Unfortunately, many of our waters are impaired. Many more are at risk of becoming impaired. Our citizenry places 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. As a member of the Clean Water Council I would ensure the Clean Water Fund is used to its fullest potential and secures Minnesota's waters for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Biske".

Richard L. Biske

The Nature Conservancy  
1101 West River Parkway, Suite 200  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

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# RICHARD BISKE

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

## EXPERIENCE

2014 – PRESENT

### FRESHWATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY MINNESOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA

- Supervise and provide leadership for freshwater scientists, program director and conservation practitioners in 3-state freshwater program overseeing external relations with federal, state and local governments and private sector.
- Serve as lead for statewide and major initiatives.
- Serve on Chapter Leadership Team to set chapter direction and oversight.
- Oversee freshwater conservation planning and program development for freshwater priority areas within MN, ND, SD.
- Developed, supervise and provide leadership to 3 State Agriculture Program working with private and public sector stakeholders.
- Initiated, leads and administers the Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Program.
- Lead and manage the Conservancy's Minnesota Headwaters Fund that includes several complex land and water protection and restoration projects.
- Project lead for North America Agriculture, Mississippi Basin (32 State) and North America Region.
- Secures necessary funds and manages budget for operations and capital expenses of program including 7 Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations, US Dept. of Agriculture Grants, Environmental, Natural Resources Trust Fund and others.
- Government Relations Team – State and Local Policy development and advocacy.
- Corporate engagement for water and climate sustainability.

2005 – 2014

### SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY MINNESOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA

- Corporate, foundation and government funding and management for innovative conservation programs and practices for soil and water management.
- Outdoor Heritage Funded Southeast MN Protection and Restoration Program
  - Program Administration/Grant Management

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- Partner Coordination (State, Federal, Private, NGO)
- Fee Land Acquisition
- County and Local Government Coordination
- Restoration and Enhancement planning and implementation
- 2- Stage Ditch
- Bioreactors
- Controlled Drainage
- Constructed treatment wetlands
- Working floodplain easements
- Root River Field to Stream Partnership
- Rush Creek Farmer Led Council
- Public/Private Cover Crop Program
- LiDAR conservation practice targeting
- Whole farm planning
- Working buffers program
- Watershed protection plans for each major watershed

**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
- Developed Easement Program
- Assisted with Local Water Planning and Monitoring
- Minnesota Land Cover Classification System Inventory and Analysis

**EDUCATION**

**2001**  
**BS NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

Natural Resources Planning and Policy, Forestry  
National Honor Society of Agriculture

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## **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

## **TEAMS/COMMITTEES**

- MN Sentinel Watersheds Work Group
- MN Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan Task Force
- MN Ag Leadership Dialogue
- Environmental Initiative/MN Dept. of Health Source Water Protection Steering Committee
- Field to Stream Partnership with MN Dept of Ag and others
- The Nature Conservancy's North America Agriculture Program
- The Nature Conservancy's Mississippi Basin Whole System
- The Nature Conservancy's MN, ND, SD Leadership Team
- The Nature Conservancy's Great Plains Division Freshwater Resilience Planning Co-Lead
- The Nature Conservancy's North America Region Freshwater Resilience Planning
- MN Forest Resource Council Southeast Landscape Committee (former co-chair)

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