

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
65th Annual State Convention  
Radisson South  
Bloomington MN

Monday, December 3, 2001

President Richard Zupp called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The flags were presented and Zupp lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Zupp introduced LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director and Karen Flom, Renville SWCD as Recording Secretary. He also introduced Bill Horvath from the NACD staff.

President Richard Zupp began his report by reading the MASWCD Mission Statement. He then commented on three areas that have been of particular importance this past year.

1. Zupp stated that it was his goal to expand the district education programs during his tenure. During the past year the District Capacity committee, headed by Carl Annalora, has been meeting. They have come to the conclusion that the law is too restricting and that districts must be adaptable. The committee developed a survey and mailed it to each supervisor and each office. The results will be presented during Annalora's report at the Tuesday meeting.
2. Zupp discussed legislative activities and the successes of the past year. Marilyn Bernhardson will review the accomplishments during her committee report on Tuesday. Richard also noted that the NACD legislative day in Washington DC was well attended this past spring.
3. Zupp discussed what is happening at the national level. He indicated that NACD has developed a relationship with the Bush administration; they have improved member communication; have concentrated efforts to increase technical assistance and have worked to promote the conservation portion of the farm bill. Zupp commented that districts have played a major role in influencing the conservation portions of the farm bill in both houses.

President Zupp introduced and recognized the MASWCD Committee Chairs, Vice President Scott Hoese and the Board of Directors.

Scott Hoese, Chair of the Resolution/Policy Committee gave the results of the pre-convention resolution balloting. He reported that 19 resolutions were presented for vote. Of those, eight were approved and eleven will be debated at the Tuesday Business meeting. There will be one emergency resolution presented at the Tuesday meeting. This resolution was submitted by Mower SWCD. The resolution was read.

President Zupp introduced Carol Berg, Finance Committee chair. Berg reported that the committee meets quarterly. She introduced the committee. She indicated that the proposed budget will be voted on at the Tuesday meeting.

President Zupp introduced Bill Horvath of the NACD Staff. Bill has been with NACD for 30 years. Minnesota Districts were thanked for their financial support. Minnesota was second in the nation in dues this past year. It was reported that NRCS can expect more stable funding in this budget. The goal is to double the funds available to districts through a number of agencies. Horvath reported that he is now back working on a regional basis.

President Zupp acknowledged NRCS State Conservationist Bill Hunt's presence at the meeting.

President Zupp also acknowledged the cooperation of BWSR Director, Ron Harnack who was at the AMC convention and would be at the MASWCD convention in time for the luncheon.

President Zupp also acknowledged the cooperation of Faye Sleeper of MPCA.

President Zupp turned the meeting over to LeAnn Buck who introduced the panel members who were present to discuss the Conservation Provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill. Present were Congressman Mark Kennedy, Mike Yost, past president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Assoc. & Craig Cox, from the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Panel members gave brief comments and then took questions from the floor.

LeAnn thanked the panel members.

President Zupp recessed the meeting until 8:25 on Tuesday.

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Tuesday, December 4, 2001 Business Meeting

President Richard Zupp resumed the meeting at 8:37 A.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tellers and Sergeant of Arms were announced and it was stated that Parliamentary Procedure books were available at the back of the room.

President Zupp asked for a motion to approve the 2000 minutes from the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved.

President Zupp called on Marilyn Bernhardson for a report from the Legislative Committee. Bernhardson stated it had been a successful year and she thanked Supervisors for their involvement. She outlines the successes:

1. Feedlot Cost-Share was increased.
2. General Services grants have more than doubled in the past six years.
3. The CREP funding approved in the legislature is the largest program funded to date. She reminded the group that this funding, while it doesn't directly benefit every area of the state, would set an important precedent for future funding for SWCD programs.
4. Proposed priorities for next year include:
  - a. Shoreland easement program. The legislative committee and the MASWCD staff and lobbyist will be seeking partners for this program.
  - b. Funding for the regular RIM program will be requested.
  - c. The Association will be supporting tax levy authority for water plan. They will also be monitoring several items of interest to districts.

President Zupp called on Carl Annalora to give a report from the District Capacity Committee. Annalora reported that the Board appointed a District Capacity Committee as a response to several past resolutions. The committee developed a survey and sent it to the home addresses of all the SWCD supervisors in the state and also sent a copy to each SWCD office. Annalora then reviewed the results of the survey and outlined the goals of the committee.

President Zupp called on Karen Halverson to give a report from the Education Committee. Halverson reported that the Education Committee held a strategy session in July. Out of this session came the following:

1. The Ed Committee is now comprised of one representative from each Area. Karen introduced the committee members.
2. The goal of the state committee is to have each member be on the agenda for their area meeting each time it meets.
3. They will be working on enhancing opportunities at the 2002 convention.
4. Boot camp is to be expanded and enhanced. There will now be a "Boot Camp" and a "Reboot Camp".
5. The PR&I position of the SWCD Board is to be enhanced. These positions are currently underutilized.
6. The traditional Ed committee is still strong and will not change.
7. The committee is considering the development of a survey.

President Zupp asked for a motion to adopt the standing rules. Motion made and seconded to adopt the standing rules. Carried.

Carol Berg, Finance Committee Chair was called upon to introduce the 2002 budget. Berg moved to accept the 2002 budget. Motion seconded. After several questions from the audience, acceptance was tabled while the committee recessed to meet and find answers to the questions.

President Zupp introduced Scott Hoese as the Resolutions Committee Chair and Roger Reinert as the Parliamentary Consultant. Wally Bernhardson was named timer. Hoese made a motion to dispense with reading the Whereas portion of each resolution. The motion was seconded and passed.

Hoese reported that Resolutions 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 & 15 passed in preballoting. The remaining resolutions were presented for debate and voted upon with these results:

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| 1. | Funding Resource Management Specialist | passed |
| 2. | Forrest Land Use Specialist Staff      | failed |
| 3. | Manure Storage Area Closure            | failed |
| 4. | Engineering Plans Waste Storage        | passed |
| 5. | Local Control Feedlot Cost-share       | passed |
| 6. | Support Funding for RC&D Councils      | passed |

Resolution #13 was debated. A motion was made to divide the resolution into 13A, which would include the first “Therefore be it resolved” and 13B, which would be the “Be it further resolved.” Motion seconded and carried.

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| 13A. | Strengthening the Resolution Process | failed |
| 13B. | Strengthening the Resolution process | failed |
| 16.  | Committee Appointments               | failed |
| 17.  | Timeliness Block Grants              | failed |

Resolution #18 Timeliness Service Grants was debated and a motion made to amend the resolution by striking the second “be it resolved.” Motion seconded and carried. Resolution passed

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| 19. | DNR permit application fee | failed |
|     | Emergency Resolution #1    | passed |

The meeting was turned over to Carol Berg to resume the budget discussion. 2002 budget was approved.

President Zupp thanked Arland Moger, Area V Director and the Area V Supervisors and staff for their work on the convention. Carl Annalora, Area II Director then introduced Mary Ann Scharf, new Area II Director, who invited everyone to the 2002 convention, December 8-10, at the Radisson Riverfront in St. Paul.

President Zupp asked for any New Business.

Paul Krabbenhoft, Clay SWCD Supervisor, rose to express concern over the tier system of dues. Krabbenhoft made the following motion “The MASWCD change its membership dues structure policy to say: Annual membership dues to the MASWCD shall be the same for all its SWCD members. This policy would become effective with the 2002 budget.” Motion was seconded. Discussion. Motion to table the Krabbenhoft motion was made and seconded. Carried.

President Zupp made several announcements.

Rick Hansen, Dakota SWCD, introduced State Auditor, Judy Dutcher who spoke briefly.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded and passed at 12:02 p.m.