

**Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
66<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention  
Radisson Riverfront Hotel  
St. Paul, MN**

**Monday, December 9, 2002 – Business Meeting**

President Richard Zupp called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

Presentation of the flags took place. President Zupp introduced LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Zupp introduced Tom Getzke, President of the St. Paul Convention & Visitors Bureau and Steve Harper, General Manager for the Radisson Riverfront, both of whom gave a brief welcome.

President Zupp introduced the MASWCD Board Members: Scott Hoese, Vice President; Carol Berg, Area I; Mary Ann Scharf, Area II; Ted Lovdahl, Area III; Jim Main, Area IV; Steve Sunderland, Area V; Greg Roiger, Area VI; and Clarence Anderson, Area VII. President Zupp then introduced Audrey Kleespies, Douglas SWCD, as Recording Secretary.

President Zupp began his report reviewing the vision of Soil and Water Districts from the beginning to the present. He said we are now in a constant state of change and challenged us to get our name out to the public, encouraging us to compete, work together and share responsibility. He asked that we be on the lookout for new ideas, leaders and prospectives. President Zupp talked about the importance of diversity and commitment, stating that District and State employees are the “glue that holds everything together”. He encouraged us to be well informed, strive for solutions, and not emphasize problems. Because of the work done on the Farm Bill, President Zupp noted that Legislators now know who we are and have richly rewarded us. He then asked that nothing be taken for granted and encouraged us to develop a strategic plan for the future.

President Zupp recognized the following Committee Chairs: Awards Committee, Danny Potter, Redwood SWCD; District Capacity Committee, Jim Main, Carver SWCD; Education Committee, Karen Halverson, Yellow Medicine SWCD; Finance Committee, Carol Berg, Hubbard SWCD; Legislative Committee, Marilyn Bernhardson, Redwood SWCD; Policy/Bylaws Committee, Scott Hoese, Carver SWCD; Auxiliary President, Yvonne Hoese and the NACD Great Lakes Committee, Chair, Joe Newberg, Hennepin Conservation District and Minnesota Representative, Merrill Loy, Carlton SWCD. A thank you was given to all the Committee Members for their hard work this year.

President Zupp introduced Scott Hoese, Vice President and Chairman of the Policy/Bylaws Committee. Hoese gave the pre-balloting results announcing that 4 Resolutions were approved and 16 will be up for debate. He also presented Emergency Resolution #1, submitted by Root River SWCD, and the proposed By-Law changes.

Carol Berg, Finance Committee Chairman, was the next person to be introduced by President Zupp. Carol gave the Finance Committee Report reviewing the 2002 Income and Expenses. A draft of the budget was prepared, mailed to everyone for review and will be voted on at the Tuesday Business Meeting.

At this time, President Zupp turned the podium over to LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director. LeAnn, serving as Moderator, introduced a panel of experienced and knowledgeable individuals brought together to lead a discussion on how State and Federal initiatives are working to assist Minnesota SWCDs throughout the budget deficit. Included on the panel were: Rick Hansen, Dakota SWCD Supervisor and MASWCD Legislative Committee Member; Minnesota Representative Dennis Ozment; Billy Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD); and Lt. Governor Elect, Carol Molnau.

Billy Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of NACD, reminded us to keep a watch over our shoulders making sure that we are all going in the right direction. He thanked Bill Hunt, NRCS State Conservationist and Owen Knutson for their work and involvement. He said the 2002 Farm Bill gave us the tools – not program driven, but a locally led process. Each District will need to take the initiative in using the correct tools for their needs. He is hopeful about District Capacity, emphasized that urban Districts be included and stated that all land, including private, affects what we do. Billy talked about the Budgets and the Farmland Protection Program, noting that we need to compensate for the difference between development and farmland, so land can remain in production.

Rick Hanson, Dakota SWCD Supervisor, spoke about “Accountability”, emphasizing that looking at challenges is the key to the future. He talked about avoiding “Duplication of Services”, “Electibility”, being active with County Commissioners, State and Federal levels, “Engagement”, working with groups and agencies and finally about “Innovation”, challenging us to seek out new ideas and opportunities for constant improvement.

Lt. Governor Elect, Carol Molnau, spoke about her activities since the election. She stressed that she plans to bring in excellent support for SWCDs through appointments. Since one-third of the people in the Legislature this year are new, she encouraged us to get the word out that we are not part of the BWSR Budget, but that they serve as our Fiscal Agent. She emphasized that with the Budget deficit, we will be partnering more and will need to avoid duplication.

Minnesota Representative, Dennis Ozment spoke about accountability, stating that our agency has the best track record. He stressed that people become more aware of what we do through our grassroots efforts. He suggested we look at the budget for what can be merged or combined, and to look at what we can gain, not lose. He said we should work together to prioritize and see what can be accomplished.

At this point in the Panel Discussion, various questions were brought up from the audience regarding projects, tax changes – state and county, 2002 Farm Bill, grants, taxing authority, and SWCD reimbursement. These questions were answered by those directly related to the questions.

Final comments were given by each of the panel group asking us to prioritize and learn from each other about efficiency and effectiveness. They noted there is more in the new Farm Bill than ever before and with the right resources, we can be successful in getting “conservation on the land”.

President Zupp then took over the podium, thanking the panel members for their insight and information. He then recessed the meeting until 8:25 a.m. on Tuesday.

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**Tuesday, December 10, 2002 – Business Meeting**

President Zupp resumed the Business Meeting at 8:25 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voting Tellers and the Sergeant of Arms were appointed. Parliamentary Procedure books were available at the back of the room. Roger Reinert is the Parliamentary Consultant.

President Zupp asked for a motion to approve the 2001 Minutes from the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Motion was made, seconded, and carried. Also, President Zupp asked for a motion to adopt the standing rules for the convention. Motion was made, seconded and carried.

President Zupp then called on Carl Annalora, Nominations Committee Chair, for his report. Carl introduced the Committee and gave the report nominating Scott Hoese for MASWCD President and Carol Berg and Loyal Fisher for Vice President. President Zupp then asked for further nominations for President from the floor. Being none, nominations were closed.

Scott Hoese, Carver SWCD, then approached the podium and thanked everyone for his nomination for President

President Zupp asked for further nominations for Vice President from the floor. Rick Hansen from Dakota SWCD was nominated from the floor, along with the Committee nominations of Carol Berg and Loyal Fisher. Each of the nominees approached the podium giving comments about their experience and desire to serve. Ballots were then distributed.

President Zupp then requested Committee Reports from:

Marilyn Bernhardson, MASWCD Legislative Committee: Marilyn introduced Committee Members, and spoke about change. She reviewed the agenda for the year and talked about the large budget cuts, the Bonding Bill, CREP, and encouraged everyone to get to know their legislators.

Jim Main, MASWCD District Capacity Committee: Jim introduced the committee for District Capacity and stated their goal is to help Districts with resources and the ability to carry out the job. He praised Jim Birkholz's efforts throughout the process and then introduced Jim Birkholz. Jim talked about the survey results submitted by the Districts. He said there is a great deal of work to do and asked for the Districts' help in addition to encouraging training for Staff and Supervisors. Discussion took place regarding a levy for Districts. He encouraged everyone to talk to his or her commissioners regarding a cooperative effort.

Results of the voting ballots were presented. Scott Hoese was elected President and Carol Berg was elected Vice President. The newly elected President and Vice President thanked everyone for their support.

President Zupp called on Carol Berg, Finance Committee Chair, to introduce the 2003 Budget, which included a dues increase of \$50.00 per District. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Draft Budget. Discussion followed. Motion was made to amend the budget by omitting the \$50.00 dues increase. No second. Motion failed. Motion carried to approve the budget as presented. Carol Berg also introduced the 2004 Budget.

President Zupp introduced Scott Hoese, Chairman of the Policy/Bylaws Committee and Roger Reinert as the Parliamentary Consultant. Wally Bernhardson was named timer. Hoese made a motion to dispense with the readings of the resolutions. Motion seconded and carried.

Scott Hoese, Chair of the Policy/Bylaws Committee reported that Resolutions 2, 3, 8, & 14 passed in preballoting. The remaining resolutions were presented for debate and voted upon with Scott Hoese making the motions, and President Zupp asking for seconds from the floor:

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Action</u>
1. Conservation Program Administration	Passed
4. NPEA Representation on MASWCD & BWSR Board & Committees - Resolution was debated. Motion made and seconded to amend in the “Therefore Be it Resolved” section, to strike (ex officio member) and to replace with (advisory position), also in the last “Be It Further Resolved” section, to strike (continued funding to maintain) and add (maintaining funding for).	Amended and Passed
5. Maintain BWSR Lakeshore Engineer	Passed
6. Recognition of MN SWCD Forestry Association	Motion and Second to Withdraw by District
7. Recognition of and Legislative Coordination with MN SWCD Forestry Association	Passed
9. Seedling Production	Passed
10. Non-Invasive Plants	Passed
11. Modification to Ag BMP & ISTS Loan Program	Failed
12. Conservation Practice Payments	Passed
13. Rock Tile Inlet Cost Share Practice - Resolution was debated. Motion made and seconded to amend in the “Therefore, Be it Resolved’ section, to strike (Rock) and insert (Alternative) Motion Carried.	Amended & Passed
15. Manure Storage Area Closure	Failed
16. SWCD Supervisor Compensation	Failed
17. Workers Comp for Elected Officials	Passed
18. Sister SWCD Program	Failed
19. Policy to Sunset Resolutions	Passed
20. MASWCD Dues	Failed
Emergency Resolution #1	Passed

President Zupp again called on Scott Hoese, regarding the proposed changes to the By-Laws. Hoese made a motion to adopt the proposed By-Law changes. Motion was seconded and carried.

President Zupp asked for any other new business from the floor. Hearing none, he then thanked the Area II Planning Committee and Host Area for all of their efforts in making the convention a success. Also he thanked the Board of Water & Soil Resources, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Stearns SWCD, Douglas SWCD and Washington SWCD for their staff assistance during the convention.

President Zupp then called Jim Main to the podium. Jim invited everyone to the 2003 Convention to be held at the Radisson South in Bloomington, next Dec. 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 2003. He thanked Area II for their efforts and announced that Area IV will be the host of the 2003 Convention.

President Zupp then made several announcements.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.