

**Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
67th Annual Meeting
Radisson Hotel South
Bloomington, MN**

Monday, December 1, 2003 – Business Meeting

President Scott Hoes called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.

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

President Hoes introduced the MASWCD Board members, Carol Berg, Vice President, Area I; Mary Ann Scharf, Area II; Ted Lovdahl, Area III; Rick Hansen, Area IV; Steve Sunderland, Area V; Greg Roiger, Secretary-Treasurer, Area VI; Ralph Breuer, Area VII. President Hoes then introduced Audrey Kleespies, Douglas SWCD, as Recording Secretary.

President Hoes began his report talking about the “Conservation Equation”. He reviewed the Mission Statement with the group, spoke about board leadership and the work done by the Ad Hoc Technical Assistance Committee. He talked about the Governor’s unallotment, funding problems and challenges. He encouraged the group to set goals, short and long-term, making sure they are measurable and attainable. He challenged the group to work to become more visible along with using assessment tools to develop better relationships. He stressed the importance of communications between SWCDs and encouraged them to build new partnerships. He talked about the 2004 leadership programs and quoted an inspirational poem by Lao Tzu (shown on the screen). He ended his report with an encouraging statement of “We are the answer to our future”.

President Hoes recognized the following Committee Chairs: Awards Committee, Steve Sunderland, Chippewa SWCD & Area V Director; Education Committee, Karen Halverson, Yellow Medicine SWCD; Finance Committee, Greg Roiger, Brown SWCD, Area VI & MASWCD Sec./Treasurer; Legislative Committee, Marilyn Bernhardson, Redwood SWCD; Personnel Committee, Carol Berg, Hubbard SWCD, Area I & MASWCD VP; Resolutions/Policy Committee, Carol Berg, Hubbard SWCD, Area I & MASWCD VP, and Auxiliary President, Yvonne Hoes. President Hoes thanked all the Committee Members for outstanding work this past year, stating they are the “backbone of the Association”.

President Hoes then recognized Judy Erickson, MASWCD Legislative Affairs Specialist for her work during the legislative session.

President Hoes introduced Greg Roiger, Finance Committee Chair. Greg welcomed everyone and introduced the other Finance Committee members as follows: Glenn Matejka, Douglas SWCD; Penny Doty, West Polk SWCD; Craig Mel, Chisago SWCD; Richard Zupp, Pipestone SWCD; Owen Knutson, Goodhue SWCD; LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director and Staff. Greg reviewed the draft budget, noting that it has been a positive year with some severe budget cutting by the Board. He noted that payroll included only a cost-of-living increase. He talked about the proposed dues structure with a minimum of \$1800 and maximum of \$2700 and explained how they arrived at the proposal. Also discussed was Resolution #22 (dues equalization structure).

President Hoes introduced Carol Berg, Vice President. Carol presented the pre-balloting results with 383 to 388 Supervisors voting on a given resolution. Seven resolutions were approved with seventeen for discussion/debate. There were no emergency resolutions.

President Hoesel then called on Carol Berg, Vice President, to make the introduction of New Business which was the proposed Area Boundary Changes. Maps of the proposed changes were distributed. Carol talked about changing land uses and said the intent of the proposed boundary changes is to better group together SWCDs with similar resource issues and programs. Only 3 areas are proposed to change and they are Areas 2, 3, & 4. These proposed changes have been considered for a number of years, to group Districts with similar issues. Carol said that the potential NPEA areas may be structured to fit the MASWCD boundaries regardless of whether this proposal is adopted.

Carol then introduced Doug Thomas, BWSR, to give an update on the NPEA/Technical Assistance issues. Doug recognized the commitment and leadership of the Board decisions on SWCD shared technical services. He noted there are two issues, first that the separate boundary changes should not be influenced by NPEA, but by community resource needs and demographics. He said that the NPEA will conform to the Districts. The second is how BWSR can continue to provide technical assistance. He outlined where we are going with shared technical assistance and reviewed the past years trials. He said over the past two years, the current system wasn't the answer and led to the failure of statewide specialized service. He indicated we need to tear down and rebuild. He talked about the BWSR 2003 Ad Hoc Technical Assistance Committee Report. After January 1, the State Conservation Technical Committee will further define the structure. He finished up by asking the Supervisors to choose a path for direction.

President Hoesel then introduced Owen Knutson, North Central Regional Representative to the NACD Executive Committee. Owen introduced Christa Jones and said they were proud to have her on board. He said they are still re-organizing at the national level. He talked about the many legislation issues such as the CSP Program, Healthy Forests Program, EQIP Program etc. He said the bottom line was that they were short on soft money and made the decision to move forward with hard dollars. He encouraged those that haven't paid their 2003 quota, to please do so to help the organization.

President Hoesel then turned things over to LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director. LeAnn introduced the ushers and praised Area IV for all their hard work with the Convention planning. LeAnn then introduced Kim Boyce, University of MN Extension Service, who is an instructor with the MASWCD Leadership Program. He announced that a fourth round of the institute will be taking place with registration information going out soon. Due to a grant received by MASWCD from NRCS, the tuition for the program will be greatly reduced. He encouraged SWCD Staff and Board Members to participate. LeAnn Buck then asked people to talk to alumni, think about who should apply from your District and encourage them to do so. She thanked NRCS for the grant to provide the leadership packages.

LeAnn Buck regretfully announced that Governor Tim Pawlenty was unable to attend the session. She talked about the Governor's Clean Water Partnership and introduced the following representatives who will serve on a panel today: Gene Hugoson, Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Ron Harnack, Executive Director for the Board of Water and Soil Resources; Sheryl Corrigan, Commissioner for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; and Mark Holsten, Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Natural Resources. Ushers then collected question cards from the audience and brought them to LeAnn, who served as moderator for the panel.

President Hoesel thanked the panelists for their insight and information. He then gave announcements and recessed the meeting until 8:25 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 2nd, 2003.

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Tuesday, December 2, 2003 – Business Meeting

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

Voting tellers and the Sergeant of Arms were appointed. Chairman Hoese introduced Joe Atkins, serving as Parliamentary Consultant.

President Hoese then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 66th Annual Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried. He also asked for a motion to adopt the standing rules for the convention. Motion was made, seconded and carried.

President Hoese introduced Marilyn Bernhardson, MASWCD Legislative Committee Chair. Marilyn thanked Judy Erickson, MASWCD Lobbyist, for her outstanding work in the past. Marilyn said the Legislative Session will begin on Feb. 2nd and hopes the funding will come in as expected. 2004 will be a bonding year. She talked about the Impaired Waters Initiative. She encouraged SWCDs to learn everything about its impact. They need to define the scope and funding mechanism and look at developing plans and strategy on how to restore impaired waters. A meeting will be held in St. Cloud on Jan. 13th to lay out the proposed legislation. She also talked about the bonding package for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The Governor has pledged 23 million in 2004 and 23 million in 2006. The second part of the bonding package is the SLR Program, implemented by BWSR. Another item she mentioned is the levy authority for SWCDs. Legislative Day has been set for Feb. 17 & 18. She commented that, “we need everyone in the conservation boat rowing in the same direction.” Marilyn then introduced Bev Nordby, District Manager for the Mower SWCD who gave a report on CREP. She credited the MN River Staff & Supervisors for paving the way for the 2nd generation CREP. They have a 100,000 acre limit and have divided it into three areas; SE 42,500 ac., SW 15,000 acres and Red River Valley, 42,500 acres. She also talked about Governor Pawlenty’s priority which is to “keep working lands working.”

President Hoese introduced Wally Bernhardson as the timekeeper. He then introduced Greg Roiger, MASWCD Finance Committee Chairman, to introduce the 2004 Budget. The dues formula is an addendum to the budget. Greg moved to adopt the 2004 budget, motion was seconded and carried. Greg moved to adopt the dues structure proposed by the Board of Directors for 2004, motion was seconded and carried.

President Hoese introduced Wayne Edgerton, DNR; Doug Thomas, BWSR; Tim Koehler, NRCS; and Paul Burns, MDA who will be available for clarification during the resolution process.

President Hoese introduced Carol Berg, MASWCD Vice President, Area I Director and Resolutions/Policy Committee Chair, who introduced the resolutions. Carol reminded the group that Resolutions 3,5,6,8,12,15 & 17 have passed in the pre-balloting process. Motion made by Carol to adopt the Resolutions that were approved through preballoting. Motion seconded and carried. Carol moved to dispense with the readings of the “Whereases” and allow for the reading of just the “Resolves.” Motion was seconded and carried. The remaining resolutions were presented for debate and voted upon with Carol making the motions and President Hoese asking for seconds from the floor:

<u>Resolutions</u>	<u>Action</u>
1. Levy Authority for SWCDs	Passed
2. Conservation Fee	
Resolution was debated. Motion was made and seconded to amend the last line to “these fees be collected and divided equally among Soil & Water Conservation Districts”.	Amendment defeated
Motion and second to adopt Resolution.	Defeated
4. Natural Resource Block Grant	Defeated
7. Allow Cost-Sharing Payments for Engineering Services	Defeated
9. Joint Powers Board Organization	Motion to Table
10. Joint Powers Boards – Discussion. Motion made and seconded to adopt. Discussion. Motion and second to amend striking the last “Be It Further Resolved.” Motion carried. Motion and second for a second amendment to amend the first “Therefore, Be It Resolved” paragraph after Joint Powers Board and Districts to insert “within Joint Power Board Area.” Discussion. Motion carried.	
Resolution #10 including both Amendments	Defeated
9. Joint Powers Board Organization - Motion and second to remove from the table. Discussion. Motion and second to adopt. Motion carried.	Passed
11. Modification to Sequencing for WCA	Defeated
13. Soybean Commodity Payments	Passed
14. CRP Haying & Grazing Date	Defeated
16. Cross-Compliance for Filter Strips	Passed
18. President Elect – Discussion	Defeated
19. Expiring Resolutions	Defeated
20. Resolution Voting	Defeated
21. Earlier Legislative Preparation	Defeated
22. MASWCD Dues Equalization	Defeated
23. Notice of Minutes Posted on Web Site	Passed
24. Farmers as Protected Resource	Defeated

LeAnn Buck announced that the last four years of resolutions are posted on the web.

President Hoese called on Carol Berg for discussion and action on new business. Carol introduced the Proposed Area Boundary Changes. Maps were distributed to the group. Carol moved to adopt the proposed changes aligning the Area boundaries on the map for Areas 2,3 & 4, motion seconded. Discussion. Crow Wing SWCD made a motion to amend the Proposed Area Boundary Changes by adding an 8th Area to include Cass, Crow Wing, Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, Itasca, Hubbard, Koochiching, Wadena and Aitkin SWCDs, motion seconded. Discussion.

An amendment to the amendment was made and seconded to go back to the original boundaries and then carve out an 8th Area. Motion was tabled. Motion for 5 minute recess, seconded and passed.

Motion to take the motion from the table, seconded and passed. Discussion. Vote was taken to approve amendment to the amendment going back to the original boundaries and carving out an 8th Area. Motion defeated. President Hoese then went back to the original motion of the Proposed Area Boundary Changes. Motion was made and seconded to have a secret ballot.

President Hoese then clarified for the group, a yes vote means the Proposed Area Boundaries will pass, changing Areas 2,3 & 4; a no vote means the current Areas Boundaries will remain intact.

The secret ballots were tallied on the Proposed Area Boundary Changes as presented on the maps distributed. Motion defeated. The current areas will remain intact.

President Hoese recessed the meeting at 12:30 p.m. to allow for the group to attend the Outstanding Conservationist Luncheon.

President Hoese reconvened the meeting at 2:40 p.m. He called for any additional new business from the floor. None was presented.

President Hoese thanked the Area IV Planning Committee and host Area for all their efforts in making the convention a success. He also thanked the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Thanks were given to the Stearns SWCD, Douglas SWCD and Washington SWCD for their staff's assistance during the convention.

President Hoese then called on Ted Lovdahl. Ted announced that Area III will be the host of the 2004 convention to be held in Duluth on December 5, 6 & 7th, 2004.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.