

**Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
68th Annual Meeting
Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, Duluth, MN**

Monday, December 6, 2004 – Business Meeting

President Scott Hoes called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m. and led the audience in the 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 Art Norton, Itasca SWCD, as Recording Secretary.

Area III Director, Ted Lovdahl welcomed the audience to the convention on behalf of Area III, hosts of the 2004 convention.

President Hoes reported on MASWCD priorities for 2004, including funding for SWCDs, levy authority, CREP, Impaired Waters, full district membership in MASWCD and the statewide Conservation Technical Assistance Committee. He gave a summary of the MASWCD Board's self-assessment session, and closed with thanks and farewell to the organization.

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 Director & MASWCD Sec./Treasurer; Legislative Committee, Marilyn Bernhardson, Redwood SWCD; Personnel Committee, Carol Berg, Hubbard SWCD, Area I Director & MASWCD Vice President; Resolutions/Policy Committee, Carol Berg, Hubbard SWCD, Area I Director & MASWCD Vice President; Nominations Committee, Dwain Otte, Dakota SWCD; Auxiliary President, Yvonne Hoes; and Jerry Flaschberger, Minnesota representative on the NACD Great Lakes Committee. President Hoes thanked all the Committee Members for outstanding work this past year, stating they are the "backbone of the Association."

Carol Berg was introduced as candidate for MASWCD President and Loyal Fisher was introduced as candidate for Vice-President of MASWCD.

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 Mell, Chisago SWCD; Richard Zupp, Pipestone SWCD; Owen Knutson, Goodhue SWCD; LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director and Stefanie Martinez, MASWCD Administrative Assistant. Roiger noted the committee met several times during the year, and held detailed discussions on all budget items. Highlights of the 2004 budget included a higher income than projected, due primarily to monies received to offer the leadership program, and other contract income that MASWCD staff worked to receive. A new item is allowance for lost income from SWCDs that do not pay their full dues.

President Hoes introduced Carol Berg, Vice President. Berg presented the pre-balloting results with 377 to 379 Supervisors voting on any given resolution. Eight resolutions were approved by pre-balloting, leaving seven resolutions for discussion/debate. The resolutions to be debated at Tuesday's Business meeting are: 2, 3, 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15. There were no emergency resolutions.

LeAnn Buck then introduced Doug Thomas, assistant director of BWSR, to give an update on activities. He opened with a quote that he described as appropriate to his audience, from Will Rogers: “We need dirtier hands and cleaner minds.” His comments included recognition of Steve Sunderland and Rollie Cleveland for their CTAC work to stabilize the technical assistance engineering program. Thomas noted the 9th place finish of the Kandiyohi High School Envirothon team at the National competition. He discussed the success of the CREP II initiative and the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program partnership with NRCS. Minnesota’s WREP program is the second in the nation. Thomas also mentioned new programs, highlighting the Impaired Waters strategies, and the active involvement of MASWCD Executive Director, LeAnn Buck. The Governor’s Clean Water Cabinet, which includes the heads of the DNR, PCA, MDA, MDH, Metropolitan Council, and BWSR, was also described. BWSR is working on improvements on wetland management, specifically on innovative ways to control exotic species in restored or created wetlands. BWSR may also take on the MnDOT wetland mitigation program.

Buck then introduced Bill Hunt, the NRCS State Conservationist for Minnesota. Hunt introduced new NRCS staff. He commended the success of locally led conservation efforts through the Farm Bill and noted that 89 of 91 SWCDs in Minnesota have received EQIP contracts, and that a total of 1725 contracts were approved in 2004. Minnesota is third in the nation, behind California and Texas, in the level of Farm Bill funding received through the conservation title. Sixty-eight Minnesota SWCDs have signed contribution agreements with NRCS, totaling \$931, 825 in contracted services. NRCS has also committed to \$214,000 over three years for SWCD leadership training. Hunt stressed the value of the partnership between NRCS and SWCDs and thanked SWCDs for their work in implementing conservation practices on the ground.

President Hoese then gave announcements and recessed the meeting until 8:25 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7th, 2004.

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Tuesday, December 7, 2004 – Business Meeting

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

Voting tellers and Sergeant at Arms were appointed. President Hoesé introduced Roger Reinert, serving as Parliamentary Consultant.

President Hoesé asked for corrections to the draft minutes from the 2003 annual meeting. A correction from the floor was made to change “recessed” to “resumed” on the last line of page 4. A motion to approve the minutes from the 67th Annual Meeting as corrected was made, seconded and carried.

President Hoesé introduced Dwain Otte, Nominations Committee Chair, for the nominating committee report for President and Vice-President. Otte read the recommendations of the nominating committee: Carol Berg was nominated for President, and Loyal Fisher was nominated for Vice-President. Further nominations were called for. Hearing none, President Hoesé then closed the nominations.

Carol Berg, nominee for President, addressed the convention about her goals if elected president. She stressed the importance of maintaining positive working relationships between supervisors. Pursuing financial support for MASWCD and Districts, and building District Capacity were also emphasized. She closed by stating that with everyone’s help, we will all move forward.

Loyal Fisher, nominee for Vice-President, then addressed the convention. He used the idea of a conservation toolbox, with many different “tools” to get the job of conservation done, such as welders gloves, “to put out sparks”, and vice-grips “to stay out of trouble”.

After the nominees’ speeches, President Hoesé asked for the convention to approve the standing rules. Motion was made, seconded and carried. Tellers then distributed ballots for President and Vice-President. Ballots were then collected for counting.

Marilyn Bernhardson, MASWCD Legislative Chair, gave the legislative report. She stressed that it was important to narrow the legislative focus to three or four issues. The four top issues were: 1) Holding the line on any SWCD and BWSR program budget cuts. BWSR budget cuts have amounted to a 35% cumulative decrease over the past four years and BWSR services are critical to SWCDs. 2) MASWCD supports \$23 million in the bonding bill for the first installment of CREP II. No bonding bill was passed in 2004, the normal year for bonding, and there are perhaps many millions of dollars in federal matching funds that are at stake if the bill is not passed quickly. 3) Clean Water Legacy – a legislative initiative to raise over \$80 million dollars to fund projects to protect and restore Minnesota’s waters, especially those designated as impaired. The proposed spending plan has major roles for SWCDs. 4) Levy Authority option for SWCDs, to develop legislation for a voluntary levy at the county level. Bernhardson stressed the importance of a strong SWCD turnout at the February 22-23 SWCD Legislative Day at the Capitol.

President Hoesé introduced LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director, who gave presentation titled, “Clean Water Legacy – A Partnership to Restore Minnesota’s Waters.” Buck described the efforts to develop a funding and spending plan to restore impaired waters throughout the state. Many commercial businesses support the program, because permitting of new facilities may be affected if they impact waters that are already impaired. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has estimated as many as

10,000 impaired water bodies may be listed by 2014. Several organizations, including MASWCD, are partnering and developing recommendations to the governor and legislature. The current proposal is for \$80 million dollars per year to be raised for restoration and protection activities. A detailed multi-agency spending plan has been developed and agreed upon by the two groups.

President Hoese announced the results of the election. Carol Berg will be the new President, and Loyal Fisher will be Vice-President. The delegates congratulated the newly elected officers.

MASWCD Treasurer, Greg Roiger, introduced the 2005 budget. Copies of the budget had been distributed to all the delegates. Adoption of the 2005 budget was made and seconded. Motion passed; vote was by a show of voting cards. Rollie Cleveland thanked the budget committee for their work and for changing from cash to an accrual method of accounting.

President Hoese introduced Carol Berg, MASWCD Vice-President, Resolutions/Policy Committee Chair, who introduced resolutions. Berg stated Resolutions 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 passed in the pre-balloting process. Motion made by Berg to approve the resolutions that were approved through pre-balloting. Motion seconded and carried. President Hoese introduced the technical advisors, who are available to answer questions, if requested. The remaining resolutions were presented for debate and voted upon with Berg making the motions and Hoese asking for seconds from the floor. The following actions were taken:

Resolution	Action
2. <u>Preserve Our Outdoor Heritage Constitutional Amendment</u> Discussion. Motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution by deleting the word “current” before the words “sales tax” in the fifth paragraph. Motion and second to approve the resolution as amended	Amendment passed. Passed
3. <u>Allow Local Referenda Relating to Levy Authority</u> Discussion. Motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution by deleting the words “...even if county government is reluctant or opposed to it” Motion and second to approve the resolution as amended	Amendment passed. Passed
6. <u>Forest Stewardship Plans</u>	Passed
7. <u>Re-Determination of Ditch Buffer Area</u>	Passed
13. <u>Formation of 8th MASWCD Area</u> Discussion. Motion was made and seconded to amend the sixth paragraph of the Resolution to read: “THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD Board of Directors act to form this new Area by November 1, 2005 and have a director seated after the 2005 Convention, or to coincide with the MASWCD fiscal year”. (Note: A motion was made and seconded to require a paper ballot for the amendment. That motion was voted down by delegate card ballot) Motion made and seconded to require a paper ballot for the resolution Vote on the original Resolution (by delegate card vote)	Failed Failed Passed
14. <u>MASWCD Equitable Dues</u>	Failed
15. <u>MASWCD Participation Policy</u>	Failed

After the voting, President Hoese asked if there was any other old business from the floor. None was offered. He then asked if there was any new business. None was offered.

President Hoese thanked the Area III Planning Committee and host Area for all of their efforts to make the convention a success. He also thanked the MASWCD staff and other partner agencies and volunteers for their assistance. He encouraged the delegates to leave as one body, and to work together. President Hoese then called on Ralph Breuer who announced that Area VII will be the host of the 2005 Convention. It will be held in Bloomington, Minnesota, December 5 and 6, 2005 at the Sheraton Bloomington, formerly the Radisson South. Motion was made and carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.