

**Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel – Minneapolis South  
Bloomington, Minnesota**

**Monday, December 5, 2005 – Business Meeting**

President Carol Berg called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Berg welcomed everyone and then introduced the MASWCD Board members:

Vice President - Loyal Fisher	Area 1 - Ken Pederson
Area 2 – Mary Ann Scharf	Area 3 – Bill Saumer
Area 4 – Mary Wetter	Area 5 – Clark Lingbeek
Area 6 & Secretary/Treasurer - Greg Roiger	Area 7 – Ralph Breuer
Area 8 – Tom Schulz	

President Berg stated that the MASWCD Board members are the ambassadors of the Association, that they welcome all questions or comments and are available throughout this event. President Berg then introduced LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director. It was noted that Lana Rotty, Dakota County SWCD, was the Recording Secretary.

President Berg reported on the MASWCD activities and on expanding partnerships with the NRCS, BWSR, and the University of Minnesota Extension Service. She specifically highlighted opportunities including the Washington, DC Leadership Institute, Outreach for Success Workshop, and legislative activities. Priorities for 2006 include the Clean Water Legacy Act, Healthy Governments, and the Districts Mission. She further stated that being involved and a part of MASWCD was the highlight of the year for her and she encouraged others to get involved and become representatives.

President Berg recognized the following committee Chairs:

Awards Committee - Ken Pederson, East Polk SWCD and Area 1 Director  
Education Committee – Karen Halverson, Yellow Medicine SWCD  
Finance Committee – Greg Roiger, Brown SWCD, Area 6 Director, MASWCD Sec/Treasurer  
Legislative Committee – Marilyn Bernhardson, Redwood SWCD  
Resolutions/Policy Committee – Mary Ann Scharf, Stevens SWCD and Area 2 Director  
MN Representative, NACD Great Lakes Committee - Jerry Flaschberger, N. St. Louis SWCD

President Berg introduced Greg Roiger, Finance Committee Chair. Roiger welcomed everyone and introduced the other Finance Committee members as follows:

Area 1, West Polk SWCD Staff - Penny Doty  
Area 2, Douglas SWCD Supervisors – Glen Matejka  
Area 3, Chisago SWCD Staff – Craig Mell  
Area 4, Carver SWCD Supervisor – Mark Zabel  
Area 5, Cottonwood SWCD Supervisor – Tom Muller  
Area 6, Brown SWCD Supervisor – Greg Roiger  
Area 7, Rice SWCD Supervisor – Robert Borchert  
Area 8, Wadena SWCD Supervisor – Melvin Kinnuen

Roiger reported that with “tightening of the belt” and opportunities for contracted income, the association overcame a projected deficit and recorded a net income of \$33,528.45 for the year ended October 31, 2005. Roiger then reviewed the draft budget for 2006; which is a projected net loss of \$8,040.52. He noted that annual dues increased by \$50 per District. He also noted that professional services expense was increased to cover the cost of a financial audit. Roiger welcomed any inquiries on the 2005 or the 2006 financial information to any of the committee members or himself.

President Berg introduced Mary Ann Scharf, Chair of the Resolution Committee. Scharf presented the pre-balloting results with 382 to 390 Supervisors voting on any given resolution. Ten resolutions were approved by pre-balloting, leaving twenty resolutions up for vote. The resolutions to be debated at Tuesday's Business meeting are: 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, and 30. There were no emergency resolutions.

President Berg introduced Loyal Fisher, Vice President and Policy Committee member. Fisher encouraged the body to review the proposed changes to the bylaws in preparedness for Tuesday's Business meeting.

Berg then introduced Steve Woods, BWSR Assistant Director. Woods addressed a few pressing issues that face the MASWCD and BWSR partnership, the Clean Water Legacy Act, eLINK reporting system, and why SWCDs should avail themselves the opportunity to be front and center on the TMDL issues. Woods has been the BWSR representative to the G16 Group that is tackling the TMDL funding issue and shared some insights from this work. Woods expressed gratitude that SWCDs are using eLINK to report results. He stated that with 20,000 plus projects entered into eLINK, they are able to show the data to the legislature. They have been educated on what types of projects are being completed, the funding expended, what projects save soil, reduce phosphorous, and are the most cost-effective practices. The education efforts are successful. The Clean Water Legacy Act is real; and the legislators need to decide how we are going to clean up the impaired waters. He further stated that it is the time to continue this partnership and mobilize operations!

Berg then introduced Bill Hunt, the NRCS State Conservationist for Minnesota. Hunt congratulated all Minnesota Supervisors for hiring great District staff because they work well with the NRCS staff. He expressed that these Supervisors and employees are the most dedicated and caring group that he has ever been able to work with. EQIP in Minnesota has become a model for the nation and Hunt expressed gratitude toward this great partnership and continued success to work together to leverage federal, state, and local funds. He further stated that Minnesota is a leadership state and closed with another note of thanks!

President Berg recessed the meeting until 8:25 a.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2005.

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**Tuesday, December 6, 2005 – Business Meeting**

President Carol Berg resumed the meeting at 8:25 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Berg introduced Roger Reinert, the Parliamentary Consultant. Voting tellers and Sergeants at Arms were appointed. The timekeeper was Wally Bernhardson.

President Berg asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes from the 2004 (68<sup>th</sup>) Annual Meeting. There were no corrections to the draft minutes. A motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

President Berg asked for a motion to adopt the standing rules for the convention. A motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Marilyn Bernhardson, MASWCD Legislative Committee Chair, presented the legislative report. She expressed that the MASWCD focus would be on three issues this year: levy authority option, CREP II, and the Clean Water Legacy. She stated MASWCD's position on the following:

- MASWCD will work for passage of legislation to grant SWCDs voluntary levy authority to enhance and maintain SWCDs' technical and project capacity to meeting conservation needs of private landowners.
- MASWCD supports a bonding bill, which contains \$30.15 million for the Reinvest In Minnesota Program that will be the second installment of the state's share for CREP II. This includes funding for easements and technical and administrative funding for SWCDs and BWSR.
- MASWCD recognizes the effort put into the initiative as well as the opportunity for districts to play a major role in implementing the Clean Water Legacy. MASWCD endorses the Clean Water Legacy Initiative and will work for passage of policy and funding legislation to support this initiative to clean up Minnesota's impaired waters.

Bernhardson provided information on the "Adopt-a-Legislator" program and stated that detailed handouts of this program would be mailed to the Districts in early January. She stated that since the legislative session begins in March and will be a short session, this program will be very valuable. The MASWCD Day at the Capitol has not yet been scheduled.

Greg Roiger, MASWCD Finance Committee Chair presented the proposed 2006 budget. Copies of the budget had been distributed to all the delegates. Motion for adoption of the 2006 budget was made and seconded. Motion passed.

President Berg introduced Mary Ann Scharf, Resolutions Committee Chair to present resolutions. Scharf stated that Resolutions 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 18, and 26 were passed in the pre-balloting process. Motion was made and seconded to approve the resolutions that were approved through pre-balloting process. Motion passed. President Berg introduced the technical advisors, (MDA – Paul Burns, DNR – Larry Himanga, BWSR – Doug Thomas, NRCS – Tim Koehler) who were on hand to answer questions by the membership, if requested. The remaining resolutions were presented for debate and vote, with Scharf making the motions and President Berg asking for seconds from the floor. The following actions were taken:

Berg requested a motion to dispense with the readings of the "Whereases" and allow for reading of just the "Resolves." Motion made and seconded. Motion passed.

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Action</u>
4. Base Funding of SWCD from County	Failed
5. Natural Resources Block Grant Reduction to County	Failed
6. Exemption of Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) from Minn. Stat. 15.99	Passed
12. Creation of a Farmland and Natural Areas Fund	Passed
13. Minnesota Resource Conservation Commission	Passed
Discussion: Motion made and seconded to amend by changing the 4 <sup>th</sup> paragraph as listed: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD supports the creation of the Minnesota Resource Conservation Commission (MRCC) <del>which will</del> and recommends the following. It will consist of seven members and whose responsibility will include making decisions affecting funding of natural resource programs and projects; and	
	Amendment Passed
	Motion with Amendment Passed
14. Conservation Security Program Restructuring	Passed
15. Conservation Security Program Eligibility	
Discussion: Motion made and seconded to amend by changing the 5 <sup>th</sup> paragraph as listed: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) through National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) seek changes to CSP <del>that would allow producers into CSP once these stringent requirements are met</del> rules to allow for continuous open enrollment.	
	Amendment Passed
Votes in favor: 93      Votes not in favor: 79	Motion with Amendment Passed
16. EQIP Conservation Practice Payment Reduction for Residue Management	Passed
17. EQIP Cost-Share Rates	Failed
19. Riparian Grazing Lands Standards	Passed
20. Riparian Grazing Lands & CCRP	Passed
21. Protection of Sensitive Areas Lacking Crop History	Passed
22. Upland Buffers	Passed
23. Grass/Hay Rotation	Failed
24. Producers Not Following Farm Plan That Lowers Erosion to "T"	Failed
25. Biomass	
Discussion: Motion made and seconded to amend by deleting the 7 <sup>th</sup> paragraph as listed: <del>THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD oppose the use of crop residue from erosive crops, such as corn and soybeans, for biomass productivity.</del>	
	Amendment Passed
Votes in favor: 100      Votes not in favor: 76	Motion with Amendment Passed
27. Multi-Flora Rose	Passed
28. Voting At MASWCD Convention	Failed
29. Resolution Pre-Balloting Voting Change	Failed
30. New MASWCD Dues Formula Base on SWCD Revenues	Failed

After voting, President Berg asked if there was any other old business from the floor. None was offered.

President Berg then called Loyal Fisher, MASWCD Vice President, for the introduction of new business, the proposed changes to the bylaws. Fisher reviewed the proposed changes to the bylaws as listed. Fisher made a motion to adopt the proposed changes. Motion seconded.

Discussion: Motion to amend Article 3.5 Page 2 to include the words...

The Association will use the resolution pre-balloting procedures adopted by the Board of Directors.

Amendment Passed

Discussion: Motion to amend Article 11 Page 6 to replace the word "current" with 10<sup>th</sup>

Amendment Failed

Discussion: Motion to amend Article 10 Page 5 to remove the words "a member of"

Amendment Passed

Motion with Amendments Passed

President Berg then called for any other new business from the floor. There was none. President Berg then called on Ken Pederson. Pederson announced that Area 1 would be the host of the 2006 convention. It will be held in Bloomington, December 3-5, 2006 here at the Sheraton Hotel.

President Berg again thanked everyone for attending the convention! Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.