

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
71st Annual Meeting
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, Minnesota

Monday, December 3, 2007-Business Meeting

President Ken Pederson called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m. with presentation of the colors and the pledge of allegiance. President Pederson thanked the local VFW for presenting the colors.

President Pederson welcomed everyone and introduced the MASWCD Board Members:

Steve Sunderland, Vice President
Russ Severson, Area I
Ross Aigner, Area 2
Merrill Loy, Area 3
Mark Zabel, Area 4

Clark Lingbeek, Secretary/Treasurer & Area 5
Kathryn Kelly, Area 6
Rudie Spitzer, Area 7
Tom Schulz, Area 8

President Pederson stated that the MASWCD Board members are the ambassadors of the Association and all are welcome to approach them with questions or comments during the event. Pederson also recognized the Association's Executive Director-LeAnn Buck, Assistant Director Sheila Vanney, and Administrative Assistant Stefanie Martinez.

This year, Holly Kovarik from Pope SWCD will be taking the minutes during the business meeting. Please note that all voting will be during Tuesday's Business Session.

President Pederson welcomed everyone to the convention and the beautiful Mayo Civic Center. He reported on his experiences this past year. Pederson noted the devastation that the area has had with the natural disasters and the great work the Districts are doing to help in that effort. He thanked the board for their efforts and hard work. Food, Fuel, and Conservation is the theme of this year's convention. He questioned how this affects Conservation Districts. If we turn the clock back to one year ago, we have seen many changes including record prices for crops. Input prices have increased to an all time high and energy costs have soared. Pederson stated that we have seen it all in our 71 year history. We have seen many changes in our District's. Over the year's District's have developed a great foundation for great expertise. We are very efficient and give a lot of bang for the buck. Things are changing and money for conservation is getting harder to get. We are really good at what we do. The Legislature is demanding more and we have great foundation of building blocks. In the past year President Pederson visited 35 District's. He has learned so much and seen so much. He enjoyed visiting them all and seeing their enthusiasm. Some Districts have some difficult situations while others are thriving. He participated in the Leadership Program this past year. Those in the program learned skills and tools to improve their Districts. President Pederson quoted the FFA Motto, "I believe in the Future of Farming..." He changed it to "I believe in the future of Soil and Water Conservation." We have the network to do the tasks; we have connections, and the knowledge. We are the best suited to do the job; having the connections to the land, passion and the love for our land to do the job. We will see many more changes in our world. Pederson believes Districts have a future and encouraged the audience to be proactive and a little creative. Times are more difficult, but Pederson called on the audience to accept the challenge. Pederson has been to conventions, to Washington D.C. and Chicago, and met many different people. But, he noted, his favorites are the people that are at the local level. He thanked the members for allowing him to serve them.

President Pederson recognized the following MASWCD Committee Chairs:
Awards Committee-Rudie Spitzer, Winona SWCD & Area 7 Director
Education Committee-Ian Cunningham, Pipestone SWCD
Finance Committee-Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood SWCD, Area 5 Director & MASWCD Sec. /Treas.
Legislative Committee-Marilyn Bernhardson, Redwood SWCD
Resolutions/Policy Committee-Steve Sunderland, Chippewa SWCD, Vice President

President Pederson thanked all the committee members for their outstanding work this year. He asked individuals on committees and those who participated in the Leadership Program to please stand to be recognized.

President Pederson introduced Clark Lingbeek, Finance Committee Chair. Lingbeek noted that copies of the budget were available in the back of the room. It will be acted on during the business meeting tomorrow. Lingbeek thanked the committee members of the finance committee for their hard work and recognized them as well as Stefanie Martinez and the MASWCD staff.

President Pederson introduced Steve Sunderland, Resolutions/Policy Committee Chair. Sunderland presented the pre-convention balloting results and emergency resolution. Copies are available in the back of the room. Twenty-three resolutions will be discussed tomorrow at the business meeting. There is an emergency resolution that has been brought forth by the board. This resolution related to resolutions 1, 2, and 3. Sunderland thanked everyone for participating in the resolution process.

President Pederson announced the business meeting will start at 8:20 a.m. tomorrow. Each voting delegate may pick up a pink voting card at the entrance of the business meeting. Please be sure to wear your delegate ribbon and get a voting card. Tuesday's business meeting will be here in the Presentation Hall.

President Pederson recessed the meeting at 8:55 a.m. until 8:20 on Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

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Tuesday, December 4, 2007-Business Meeting

President Pederson resumed the Business Meeting at 8:20 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Voting tellers and Sergeants at Arms were appointed. President Pederson introduced Roger Reinert serving as Parliamentary Consultant. Time keeper is Wally Bernhardson. President Pederson then introduced Holly Kovarik, Pope SWCD, as the recording secretary for the day.

President Pederson asked for approval of the draft minutes from the 2006 annual meeting. A motion to approve the minutes from the 70th Annual Meeting was made, seconded and carried.

President Pederson asked for approval of the standing rules. Motion was made, seconded, and carried.

MASWCD Finance Committee Chair, Clark Lingbeek, introduced the proposed 2007-2008 budget. Copies of the budget had been distributed to the delegates. A motion was made and seconded for adoption of the 2007-2008 budgets. Motion carried.

President Pederson introduced Steve Sunderland, Resolution & Policy Committee Chair, to introduce the resolutions. A motion to accept the pre-balloting results was made and seconded. Motion carried. It was noted that agency staff was on-hand to answer questions as needed in regards to the resolutions. Agency representatives in attendance that may be called on for clarification and questions are Minnesota Department of Agriculture-Paul Burn, Board of Water and Soil Resources-Jeff Nielsen, Natural Resources Conservation Service-Tim Koehler, Farm Services Agency-Greg Anderson.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the readings of the “Whereases” & allow reading of just the “Resolves.” Motion carried. The emergency resolution was put at the beginning of the resolutions order with no objection.

Sunderland read the emergency resolution and moved for its adoption. Motion seconded. Motion Passed. The remaining resolutions were presented for debate and voted upon with Sunderland making the motions and Pederson asking for seconds from the floor. The following actions were taken:

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>1. Align TSA's Areas & MASWCD Areas</u> Motion to postpone indefinitely was made and seconded. Motion carried	Postponed
<u>2. NPEA Staff as BWSR Employees</u> -a motion was made to postpone this resolution indefinitely was made and seconded. Motion carried.	Postponed
<u>3. NPEA Joint Powers Board Funding Support</u> -A motion was made was made to postpone this resolution indefinitely was made and seconded. Motion carried.	Postponed
<u>5. Levy Authority for Districts</u>	Passed
<u>6. Local Property Tax Valuations on Perpetual RIM Reserve & Perpetual CREP I & II Land</u>	Passed
<u>8. Requiring the Use of Native Species</u> -a suggestion to change the amendment title was made to requiring to encouraging?	Passed
<u>12. Beaver Damage Control</u>	Failed
<u>13. Irrigation Water Management State Cost Share</u>	Failed
<u>14. Soil Quality Improvement Practices State Cost Share</u>	Failed
<u>15. Livestock Watering on Pasture State Cost Share</u> (Vote 80 to 86)??	Failed
<u>17. Wetlands Preservation Areas Eligibility</u>	Failed

<u>18. Wetland Activity Permit Cards</u>	Passed
<u>19. Shoreland Wetland Areas Non-Buildable Classification</u>	Passed
<u>23. Perennial Grass as Alternative Fuel</u>	Passed
<u>24. Biomass for Ethanol Production-</u>	Passed
Discussion. A motion to amend the resolution by deleting the words northern and east central was made and seconded. Motion carried. The resolution passed as amended.	
<u>25. Cellulosic Ethanol Production utilizing CRP Prairie Grasses</u>	Passed
<u>28. CRP Eligibility</u>	Passed
<u>29. Additional CRP Practice for Grazing Lands</u>	Failed
<u>30. Managed Haying & Grazing Date for CRP</u>	Failed
<u>31. Emergency Haying & Grazing of CRP</u>	Passed
<u>33. HEL Soil Loss Compliance</u>	Passed
<u>36. Federal Field Windbreak Cost-Share Eligibility</u>	Passed
<u>40. MASWCD Officers Serving on NACD Committee-</u>	Passed
A motion was made to amend the resolution by deleting the word "current". The amendment was second. Motion carried on the amendment to the resolution. Voting on the resolution as amended.	

After the voting, President Pederson asked if there was any old business from the floor. None was offered. President Pederson moved on to new business and called on Steve Sunderland to explain the proposed bylaw changes. (Each Area Director shall have one vote in the transaction of business. The President, or the Vice President if acting in the capacity of President per paragraph 6.4(02), may cast one vote to make or break a tie. President Pederson asked for a second. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was recessed at 10:02 a.m. and reconvened at 10:46 a.m. President Pederson stated that \$5,662.00 was raised last evening during the silent and live auctions. President Pederson then asked if there as any other new business.

A question was asked seeking clarification on the USDA computer fee situation. President Pederson called on LeAnn Buck. The USDA in Washington D.C. used to cover all the technical support and licensing fees for districts utilizing USDA computers. This task has been designated to the states. Minnesota has 800 computers on the system and a little less than half are districts. To meet the budget shortfall, \$800,000 is needed. There will be a committee formed to look into this issue further.

LeAnn introduced Bill Hunt, NRCS to add to the discussion. Hunt expressed that we have a strong partnership in this state and many conservation accomplishments. A national bulletin was distributed to Districts about this issue. He assured districts that he will not reduce any more than he has to the number of computers available at no cost. They are looking at both sides of the equation. He is allowed 1.1 computers per permanent NRCS employee. The bottom line is that the National Headquarters will support \$2.5 million for computers. This includes 1.1 NRCS plus 1 SWCD computer. Hunt has commissioned a group to look at the issue and see how we can keep the costs down to a reasonable level. By December 31st, Hunt needs to tell Washington D.C. how many computers he will support. This will hit next year's fiscal budget starting October 1st, 2008. We have done about \$700,000 to \$800,000 in Contribution Agreement dollars. Hunt asked for district support and for districts to give him some suggested alternatives. Hunt encouraged the audience to look at NRCS accomplishments. He thanked everyone for helping getting a lot done. Funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in the amount of \$26 million dollars was put on the ground through cost-share assistance.

President Pederson thanked everyone for their support and reflected on this year and how important it is to have our presence at the National level. MASWCD Area 5 will be hosting the convention in 2008 in St. Paul, Minnesota, December 7-9, 2008. President Pederson thanked Area 6 for serving as hosts and for all their efforts to make the convention a success. A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.