

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
72nd Annual Meeting
Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota

Monday, December 8th, 2008-Business Meeting

President Ken Pederson called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m. and led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pederson welcomed everyone and introduced the MASWCD Board members:

Steve Sunderland, Vice President	Clark Lingbeek, Secretary/Treasurer & Area 5
Russ Severson, Area 1	Kathryn Kelly, Area 6
Ross Aigner, Area 2	Rudie Spitzer, Area 7
Merrill Loy, Area 3	Tom Schulz, Area 8
Mark Zabel, Area 4	

President Pederson stated that the MASWCD Board members are the ambassadors of the Association and welcomed all to approach the Board members with questions or comments throughout this event. President Pederson recognized the Association's Executive Director, LeAnn Buck.

President Pederson introduced Margeurite Pettus, from Hennepin CD, who will be taking minutes during the business meeting.

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, MASWCD Sec./Treasurer, Area 5 Director
Legislative Committee-Marilyn Bernhardson, Redwood SWCD
Nominating Committee-Carol Berg, Hubbard SWCD

President Pederson gave his report. He stated that the convention is a good time to meet old friends, renew acquaintances, and meet new friends as well. He said we have a common thread of conservation for resources in our state and noted that the respect and expertise that this organization has in the community, state and nation is exceptional. Pederson stated that he took on the challenge of serving as President to make sure MASWCD continues to maintain that reputation. The professionalism that is shown on the local, state and national level needs to continue, he noted, if we are to maintain a strong and reputable organization. Pederson thanked fellow board members and MASWCD staff for working hard. He especially thanked the staff and supervisors of each and every district for their contributions to MASWCD. He stated that the time he spent with districts on their turf was valuable to him as State President; listening to the successes of districts, listening to concerns that and sharing accomplishments was part of that experience. "Leadership needs to listen and learn," he said.

Pederson reminded attendees that this past year we had an election in our nation. He noted that the main theme of many of those campaigning was change. He said we live in a changing world; change is inevitable. "If you are like me, I approach change cautiously," he said. Pederson commented that in the past year a few of the changes we saw in this world made many of us meet these challenges. The theme that the convention committee chose is Meeting the Challenge. Pederson said we need to meet the challenge of change not only in our personal and family life, but in the leadership that we have in the field of soil and water conservation. He stated that we not only need to make changes to keep up

with the times and technology, but also need to accept the challenges of policy makers for federal, state and local government.

Pederson stated that he believes we truly are leaders of conservation in our state: “Not only are we leaders at home, but we are known and respected as one of the top states in the nation. Not only are Minnesota districts progressive, lots of the programs we deliver and our accomplishments are the envy of many.” In assisting NACD, Pederson noted that he serves on the nominating committee, awards committee and communication committee. Pederson stated that being able to serve our state in this capacity enabled him to learn from other states and territories so we can do better in Minnesota.

Pederson stated that we have had many challenges in the past. “Being pro-active and being one step ahead is important,” said Peterson. “But we need to meet many challenges in the coming year. Today we are in charge of our own destiny.” Pederson posed the question to attendees, “What are we going to do?” He believes we have the tools and governance to face these challenges in 2009, and that today, as in the past, we will be leaders in the field of conservation. Pederson urged attendees not to give up, whine or complain about the small battles. He said, “We need to cowboy up; we need to think outside the box and show Minnesota and the nation what we can do.”

President Pederson then announced the candidates for President and Vice President. Running for President is Loyal Fisher and Steve Sunderland. Running for Vice President is Kathryn Kelly.

President Pederson introduced Finance Committee Chair Clark Lingbeek to report on the budget. Copies of the budget are available in the back of the room. The budget will be acted on during tomorrow’s business meeting. Lingbeek thanked finance committee members and MASWCD staff for their hard work.

President Pederson informed voting delegates that they will be able to pick up the pink voting cards at the entrance of the business meeting tomorrow which will start at 8:30 a.m. and is being held across the hall.

Resolution/Policy Chair, Steve Sunderland, briefly summarized the pre-balloting results. He noted that 11 passed, 15 will be discussed, and that there is one emergency resolution.

President Pederson recessed the meeting at 9:04 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9th, 2008.

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Tuesday, December 9th, 2008-Business Meeting

President Pederson resumed the Business Meeting at 8:38 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pederson introduced Roger Reinert, who is serving as Parliamentary Consultant. Voting tellers and Sergeants at Arms were appointed.

President Pederson asked for a motion to accept the draft minutes from the 2007 MASWCD annual meeting. A motion was made, seconded and carried.

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

MASWCD Nominations Committee Chair, Carol Berg, submitted the nominating committee report. The nominations were as follows: Steve Sunderland and Loyal Fisher were nominated for President; and Kathryn Kelly was nominated for Vice President. President Pederson called for any further nominations of MASWCD President. There were none.

President Pederson called for a motion for nominations to cease. A motion for nominations to cease was made, seconded, and carried.

Steve Sunderland, nominee for President, addressed the convention body about his goals if elected. Loyal Fisher, nominee for President, addressed the convention body about his goals if elected.

President Pederson asked for any further nominations of MASWCD Vice President. There were none.

President Pederson called for a motion for nominations to cease. A motion for nominations to cease was made, seconded, and carried.

Kathryn Kelly, nominee for Vice President, addressed the convention body about her goals if elected.

Tellers distributed ballots for President and Vice President. A motion was made to elect the Vice President by acclamation. The motion was seconded and carried.

President Pederson announced that taking the minutes for today is Margeurite Pettus of Hennepin CD.

MASWCD Finance Committee Chair, Clark Lingbeek, introduced the proposed 2008-2009 budget. A motion to adopt the 2008-2009 was made, seconded, and carried.

President Pederson announced the results of the election. Steve Sunderland will be President and Kathryn Kelly will be Vice President.

A motion to destroy the ballots was made, seconded, and carried.

Steve Sunderland introduced the resolutions. Sunderland presented the pre-balloting results: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14, 19, 24, and 26 were approved. There were 15 resolutions and 1 emergency resolution remaining to be debated. Sunderland introduced agency staff from BWSR, NRCS, FSA, and the Employee’s Association available to answer any questions or clarifications on resolutions.

A motion was made to dispense with the readings of the “Whereases” and allow just the readings of the “Therefore be it Resolveds.” The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution

Action

3. Technical & Administrative Allocation for BWSR Grants

Passed

7. Stormwater Infiltration Cost-Share

Passed

8. Stormwater Re-Use Cost-Share

Passed

9. Soil Quality Improvement, Water Mngt. & Practices Cost-Share

Passed

11. Conservation Easements for Drinking Water Supply Management Areas

Amendment Passed

There was a friendly amendment to insert the word “public” between “protect” and “drinking water supply.” There was another friendly amendment to change the language “especially suppliers approaching or exceeding health standards” to “especially suppliers failing to meet health standards.” President Pederson asked Stearns District if they accept the friendly amendments; a representative from Stearns replied yes. There was an objection to the 2nd friendly amendment regarding the change of “failing to meet.” A motion was made to restore the language of the amendment back to the original wording of “especially suppliers approaching or exceeding health standards.” The motion was seconded, and carried.

The meeting was recessed at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:32 a.m.

13. Income Tax Credit for Runoff Control

Amendment Failed

There was a motion to amend the resolution by inserting the words “an income tax credit” and “establishing ground control practices.” Motion was seconded, and carried.

15. Forest Stewardship Plans

Passed

16. Forest Management Education

Failed

17. Education on Benefits of Cattle for Erosion Control

Amendment Failed

There was a friendly amendment to change the word “cattle” to the word “livestock.” President Pederson asked Root River District if they accept the friendly amendment; a representative from Root River replied yes. The tellers were called to count the votes: 52 in favor, 108 in opposition.

18. Extension of Feedlot Compliance Deadline for Disaster Counties

Failed

20. Technical Service Provider

Failed

21. EQIP Cost-Share Rate

Passed

22. Managed Haying and Grazing for CRP

Passed

23. Conditional Haying/Grazing on CRP Restored Wetland Upland Acres

Failed

President Pederson called the tellers to count the votes: 81 in favor, 82 in opposition.

25. Area Poster, Mural, Video Contests

Passed

The tellers were called to count the votes: 85 in favor, 65 in opposition.

Sunderland read the emergency resolution #1: Green Acres Programs & Conservation Easements and moved for its adoption. Motion seconded and passed.

Judy Erickson, MASWCD Legislative Affairs, addressed the convention about the importance of this legislative year. Erickson outlined the following priorities: Restoration and Protection conservation projects should be funded, Green job creation, Local delivery, and Ownership & Accountability. The committee is looking at two sources of funding, the clean water fund and the outdoor heritage fund.

Judy Erickson introduced Marilyn Bernhardson who represents SWCDs on the Clean Water Council. Bernhardson spoke about the council itself and the difficulties of educating the council since many of them have never heard of SWCDs. The educational method has been presentations from the PCA, DNR, and BWSR on what has been done and what needs to be done in the way of clean water. Bernhardson emphasized that any help from SWCD supervisors and staff in educating the council would be appreciated. Bernhardson spoke of the clean water funds and the need to take these funds and put conservation on the land to prove that we are the local unit of government that can make conservation happen at the local level.

Julie Klocker of BWSR gave a brief update of the BWSR budget. As far as the biennial budget requests, we have taken the initiative to look at some of those requests that we put in before we recognized the 5.3 billion deficit. We are suggesting to the governor which of our recommended additions or program changes could be funded on either the clean water fund or the habitat fund.

President Pederson thanked everyone for their cooperation this morning. A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.