

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2008
Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN

Present: President Ken Pederson, Vice President Steve Sunderland, Area 1 Director Russ Severson, Area 2 Director Ross Aigner, Area 3 Director Merrill Loy, Area 4 Director Mark Zabel, Secretary Treasurer Area 5 Director Clark Lingbeek, Area 6 Director Kathryn Kelly, Area 7 Director Rudie Spitzer, Area 8 Director Tom Schulz; MASWCD staff LeAnn Buck and Sheila Vanney. Also in attendance: BWSR Northern Region Supervisor Ron Shelito, MACDE President Rick Reimer.

1. President Pederson called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Zabel, to approve today's agenda with additions. Motion carried. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Aigner, to approve November 7 meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Spitzer, seconded by Zabel, to approve December 2 meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Loy, seconded by Kelly, to approve December 4 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. President's Report – Ken Pederson
 - a. Pederson commented on the January NACD North Central Meeting held in Chicago last week. Pederson was elected as chair of the region, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. Along with Pederson, Minnesota's delegation included Sunderland, Buck, BWSR Assistant Director Steve Woods, and NRCS State Conservationist Bill Hunt. Minnesota Extension Educator Kim Boyce was in attendance to facilitate a discussion among the region states regarding future efforts and setting direction. The untimely death of NACD President Olin Simms was discussed and there will be elections at the February NACD Annual Convention in Reno to fill this vacancy and any other positions that become vacant from shifting of officers.
 - b. Eight of the resolutions passed at MASWCD's December, 2007 Annual Convention will be acted on at the NACD Annual Convention in Reno. These included resolution numbers 25, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 38. The NACD Annual Convention dates are February 10-13, 2008.
 - c. BWSR Board appointments were discussed. Final action on MASWCD's recommendations to the Governor will be taken at the February 25 meeting.
 - d. The annual calendar was reviewed. A 2008 board meeting schedule will be set-up at February's meeting.
4. Finance Report – Clark Lingbeek
 - a. Lingbeek presented the monthly financial report. Pederson accepted subject to annual review.
 - b. Auction proceeds. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Zabel to allocate the \$5,517 in auction proceeds as follows: \$3,000 to State Envirothon; \$1,839 to NACD Capitol Court Campaign; and \$678 to the MASWCD Education Committee. Motion carried.
5. DNR Roundtable Conference – Tom Schulz
Schulz reported on his participation in the January 4 DNR Fisheries, Wildlife, and Ecological Services Roundtable conference in St. Cloud. This year's theme was Bioenergy: Opportunities and Challenges for Minnesota's Natural Resources. Copies of the conference agenda were provided. Schulz also provided handouts on some of the highlights.

6. Performance Review and Assistance Program – Kathryn Kelly
Kelly reported on the advisory team that BWSR convened to gather input on the development of a Performance Review and Assistance Program for LGUs, including SWCDs. The group met over the course of last summer and fall. Kelly, along with Vanney was on the advisory team representing SWCDs, and Kevin Ostermann also participated, representing the employee's association. Kelly referenced a memo BWSR sent to districts in late December.
7. Legislative Platform – Judy Erickson and LeAnn Buck
Erickson gave an overview of the current political climate. The state is currently projecting a budget deficit. As a capital bonding year, high profile issues will be transportation, higher education, the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center and the Iron Range. Erickson and Buck then went through the Legislative Committee's recommended legislative platform for the 2008 legislative session. Motion by Zabel, seconded by Schulz, to approve the legislative platform as presented. Motion carried.
8. Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck
Buck reported on NRCS Computer System Allocation, Buffer MOU with Pheasants Forever, FSA, NRCS and MASWCD, Area meetings, and a wrap-up of the 2007 MASWCD annual convention.
9. MACDE Report – Rick Reimer
Reimer reported on activities of the employees' association.
10. The next board meeting will be held February 25th, in conjunction with the Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul. Motion by Spitzer to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Loy. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.