

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Conference Call Minutes

September 28, 2000

Attending: President Owen Knutson, Secretary/Treasurer & Area IV Director Scott Hoese, Area I Director Carol Berg, Area II Director Carl Annalora, Area III Director Bob Hoefert, Area VI Director Curt Russell, Area VII Director Clarence Anderson, LeAnn Buck (MASWCD Staff), Sheila Vanney (MASWCD Staff).

Absent: Vice President Richard Zupp.

1. **Call to Order** – President Knutson called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. He explained that Zupp would not be participating in the call because he is attending a local meeting on the conservation tillage campaign.

2. **Nonpoint Engineering Assistance Recommendation – Carl Annalora and Arland Moger (action item)**

Annalora and Moger reviewed the meeting that took place on September 13, with representatives from each of the Joint Powers Boards. Annalora presented the recommendations that the subcommittee developed. They are as follows and are sequentially ranked:

1. BWSR allow each of the JPBs to utilize the dollars they receive to provide the technical assistance they believe they need for their JPB. (Not necessarily one engineer/one technician).

2. Equally divide the CURRENT legislative appropriation between the eleven JPBs and allow each JPB to make up the difference between what is available and what they need to operate. (i.e.: contributions, charges for services, grants, etc.) Monies returned (left-overs) to be distributed as presently done by BWSR. This process to be reviewed in two years.

3. Ask the legislature to increase the NPEA appropriation to \$1.4 million with an inflationary index for the duration of the NPEA program.

4. Solicit funding from other programs that have allowed engineering costs in their program to offset additional workload priorities for JPBs. For instance, CREP has engineering costs built into the program and several JPBs are providing engineering.

5. Seek funding from other long-term programs that are administered by other agencies and where JPB engineers are providing services, i.e. EQIP, WHIP, etc. Statistics indicate that since the establishment of the JPB/NPEA program, NRCS Area Engineers are seldom called upon to work district programs and, even in many cases, are not working the federal programs for the district. The conclusion from these statistics is that NRCS, as well as the districts, has benefited from the program. Therefore, it is appropriate to ask NRCS to help defray the approximate \$365,000 shortfall. If this should happen, then it would not be necessary to ask the legislature for the \$1.4 million, but only ask for the inflationary projection to our present appropriation.

Annalora moved that MASWCD send these recommendations to the BWSR Board. Moger seconded with the comment that these recommendations address both short and long term concerns. Motion passed unanimously. MASWCD will draft a letter from Owen Knutson to BWSR Board Chair Kathy Roer outlining these recommendations and requesting that they be brought before the BWSR Board for consideration.

3. **Conservation Tillage Campaign – Contract with Monsanto**

The Board reviewed the draft contract with Monsanto regarding our cooperation on a conservation tillage campaign. Moger moved to adopt the contract with the addition of a hold harmless clause under contractor liability. Anderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Conservation Tillage Campaign – Contract with Jay Michels**

The Board reviewed the contract with Jay Michels, to coordinate at the state level the conservation tillage campaign with Monsanto. Moger moved and Anderson seconded to request proof of auto insurance from Michels. Motion passed unanimously. Hoese moved and Russell seconded approval of the contract with modifications in the payment schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 a.m.