

# Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2001

Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust

St. Paul, Minnesota

Attending: Vice President Scott Hoese, Secretary/Treasurer & Area I Director Carol Berg, Area II Director Carl Annalora, Area III Director Ted Lovdahl, Area IV Director Jim Main, Area V Co-Director Steve Sunderland, Area VI Director Curt Russell, Area VII Director Clarence Anderson, LeAnn Buck (MASWCD Staff), Sheila Vanney (MASWCD Staff). Others in attendance: Kevin Scheidecker, Fillmore SWCD; Owen Knutson, Goodhue SWCD and MASWCD Finance Committee Member; Tim Gieseke, MACDE; Gary Wertish, Office of Senator Dayton; Mike Carroll, DNR State Forester; Larry Himanga, DNR; Wayne Edgerton, DNR.

Absent: President Richard Zupp, Area V Director Arland Moger.

1. **Call to Order** – Vice President Hoese called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. and noted that President Richard Zupp was unable to attend the meeting today because he is at an NACD Urban and Coastal Development meeting in Portland, Oregon.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Lovdahl moved to approve the agenda. Annalora seconded. Motion passed. Annalora moved to approve June, 2001 minutes. Lovdahl seconded. Motion passed.
3. **Vice-President's Report - Scott Hoese**
  - a. As a continuation of the strategic planning process, Hoese led the board in a discussion of the board's annual calendar of events. Lovdahl moved and Anderson seconded to accept the MASWCD Board of Directors Calendar as a guideline for events at upcoming board meetings. Motion passed.
  - b. Hoese gave a NACD Board of Directors Update. He thanked MASWCD staff for their work with the NACD North Central Meeting. NACD President Reed Smith had made himself very available for discussion all during the event and had dinner with several MASWCD board members one evening during the conference. Hoese spoke briefly about quota payments, and made note of the next NACD Board Meeting to take place in Salt Lake City in October.
  - c. Hoese reported that after further consideration by himself and President Richard Zupp, he would like the board to revisit their decision made at the last board meeting to have the board serve as the Awards Committee. He said that due to the work involved with reviewing the applications that perhaps it would be wise to go ahead and appoint a committee to serve this purpose. Russell moved to have Zupp appoint a committee with one representative from each Area. Lovdahl seconded. Annalora noted the importance of committee members being supervisors. Berg commented that this would now need to be added to the budget.
4. **Finance Report - Carol Berg**
  - a. Berg moved and Annalora seconded to approve the monthly finance report subject to audit. Motion passed. Main commented that he would like to see the annual budget added to the reports in the future, to compare with year to date figures.
  - b. Buck presented an update on MCIT rental space. She provided the board with cost estimates, which supplemented the information board members gathered during their tour of

the building prior to the meeting. Annalora noted that it should be a five year lease because of the cost commitment involved. The technology capabilities of the facility were reviewed. Annalora commented that along these lines, the efficiency of some of the technological opportunities are not just dollars and cents. The board directed Buck to work toward a target date of December 1<sup>st</sup> for getting all necessary information and that she should work through the Executive Committee to prepare something for the board for that date. Annalora said that he was in favor of hiring a real estate attorney or advisor to act as a negotiator. A motion from a previous meeting provides Buck with the funding to do that if needed.

- c. The board reviewed the 2001-2002 budget line by line. Annalora suggested having two budgets - an operating budget and a capitol budget, with the capitol budget outlining potential moving expenses. Annalora moved to adopt the proposed budget for presentation at Area meetings. Lovdahl seconded. Main made a motion to amend, to add a line item for annual contributions to accrued employee benefits with the amount to be determined by the Finance Committee, and to have a separate capitol budget. Annalora seconded the motion to amend. Motion passed. Amended motion passed.

**5. Executive Director's Report - LeAnn Buck**

- a. Buck updated the board on the partnership with Pheasants Forever and SWCDs with regard to the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.
- b. Buck received a letter from Hennepin SWCD inviting MASWCD to participate in an organized group meeting to discuss supervisor governance for their district. Main moved to send a letter to Hennepin SWCD stating that our board will not be sending a representative to their meeting. Annalora seconded. Motion passed with a nay vote from Anderson who supported MASWCD participation in the meeting.
- c. The Board of Water and Soil Resources will be providing funds for the work of the District Capacity committee and the work they will soon be undertaking with a survey to district offices and supervisors.
- d. Vanney presented to the board a letter from Wabasha SWCD, which requested that MASWCD perform a survey of district staff salaries. Annalora commented that districts complete pay equity reports every two years and that this information (salaries based on duties) is available to all districts. Annalora moved and Main seconded to deny Wabasha SWCD's request. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. District Capacity Committee Update - Carl Annalora**

Annalora provided information to the rest of the board with regard to the survey that the committee developed. The survey will be going out to each supervisor in the state and each SWCD office. The intent of the survey is to assess the opinions out there on how to move forward on improving district capacity. Annalora also noted the importance of district self-evaluation and that the committee will be working on this as well.

**7. Legislative Committee Update - LeAnn Buck**

- a. Buck reviewed the 2001 legislative session.

*The board recessed for lunch from noon to 12:40 p.m.*

- b. The legislative committee has been meeting and will bring a proposed legislative agenda before the board at the November board meeting.
- c. Buck discussed the upcoming Farm Bill and presented to the board for formal action, the statement that Richard Zupp put on record at the August Congressional hearing. Main

moved and Lovdahl seconded endorsing the statement of MASWCD President Richard Zupp. Motion passed.

- d. Kevin Scheidecker of Fillmore SWCD requested MASWCD support of a BALMM (Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota) initiative to allow hay as a program crop in the 2002 Farm Bill on a pilot basis within the basin. Russell so moved and Anderson seconded. Motion passed with a nay vote from Main.

**8. Private Land Forestry & Forest Service Funding - Mike Carroll, DNR State Forester**

Carroll discussed the many opportunities for DNR and SWCDs to work together on forestry efforts. He mentioned there have been many success stories. He also commented that DNR is the lead agency with regard to private forest management. He added that with regard to the resolution for additional foresters, he would take the position that they be DNR foresters, perhaps working in SWCD offices.

**9. Conservation and Forestry Title to Farm Bill - Gary Wertish, Office of Senator Mark Dayton**

The board held a discussion with Wertish, the Agricultural Policy Advisor to Senator Mark Dayton, on the current status of proposed Farm Bill provisions in the U.S. House and Senate. Wertish also expressed interest in continuing dialogue with SWCDs on such issues and encouraged Area Directors to invite him to their Area meetings.

**10. Education Committee Update - Sheila Vanney**

Vanney updated the board on activity with the Education Committee and thanked both Anderson and Annalora for being involved in parts of the facilitated discussion that the committee was undergoing. She said the committee was in the process of reviewing its priorities and that Karen Halverson, Education Committee chair and Yellow Medicine SWCD Supervisor, would be updating the board on the results of those discussions at the next board meeting.

**11. Resolutions Committee Update**

- a. The board reviewed the 2001 Resolution Packet. Lovdahl moved and Berg seconded to adopt the resolutions for mailing to the SWCDs. Motion passed.
- b. Buck reviewed the status of 2000 resolutions.

**12. MACDE Report - Tim Gieseke**

Gieseke reported on MACDE activity. Their next board meeting will be held October 12<sup>th</sup>. Gieseke has been involved in discussions of the Water Unification Plan, being conducted by the Environmental Quality Board.

- 13. Adjourn** - Board members reviewed upcoming Area meeting dates. Lovdahl moved and Main seconded scheduling the next MASWCD board meeting for September 18<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed. Lovdahl moved to adjourn at 3:30 p.m. Russell seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.