

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes
June 29, 2001
Sawmill Inn
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Attending: President Richard Zupp, 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 Director Arland Moger, Area VI Director Curt Russell, Area VII Director Clarence Anderson, LeAnn Buck (MASWCD Staff), Sheila Vanney (MASWCD Staff). Others in attendance: Ron Shelito, BWSR; Carol Hauck and Brad Matlack, Carlton SWCD, Gene Larson and Pam Tomevi, Koochiching SWCD, Connie Olson and Mark Lindhorst, N. St. Louis SWCD, Art Norton and Don Simons, Itasca SWCD, Peter Makowski, Office of Congressman Oberstar.

1. **Call to Order** – President Zupp called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Lovdahl moved to approve the agenda with proposed amendments. Annalora seconded. Motion passed. Anderson suggested change to May, 2001 meeting minutes. Russell moved to approve May, 2001 minutes with change. Anderson seconded. Motion passed.
3. **President's Report - Richard Zupp**
As a continuation of the strategic planning process, Zupp led the board in a discussion of committee roles.
 - a. After some discussion, Main moved and Lovdahl seconded having the MASWCD Board of Directors serve as the MASWCD Awards Committee. Motion Passed.
 - b. The board was asked by staff to further clarify their direction for the MASWCD Education Committee. Annalora commented that one of our first priorities as an organization should be the education of our membership. Annalora and Anderson will attend the Education Committee meeting to provide board member input into the committee's facilitated discussion of how to proceed in the future.
 - c. Zupp presented his nominations for the Legislative Committee. Main suggested that the committee be entirely made up of supervisors, emphasizing that we are a supervisor led organization. Annalora and Moger commented that they feel it is important to have employee input. Annalora moved and Moger seconded to appoint Marilyn Bernhardson as chair. Motion passed with a nay vote from Anderson, who felt the committee should be chaired by a supervisor. Moger moved to give chair the option of appointing a co-chair. Motion died due to lack of second. Annalora moved to ratify the list of nominees for the Legislative Committee. Anderson seconded. Motion passed.
4. **MASWCD Board of Director's Annual Calendar - Scott Hoese**
The board held discussion on the draft annual calendar which outlines continuing work towards strategic planning. No action was taken.
5. **Finance Report - Carol Berg**
 - a. Berg moved to accept the finance report subject to audit. Lovdahl seconded. Motion passed.
 - b. Berg reported on the last Finance Committee meeting held on June 18. The committee reviewed financial records submitted by both Lake of the Woods and Kanabec SWCD in accordance with the MASWCD Board's request for further justification of their hardship requests.
 - (1) Based on Finance Committee recommendation, Berg moved to send a letter to Lake of the Woods SWCD stating that if they pay their dues in full, MASWCD will provide to them a one time \$400 scholarship to attend the annual convention. Lovdahl seconded. Motion passed.

- (2) Based on Finance Committee recommendation, Berg moved to send Kanabec SWCD a letter notifying them that the MASWCD Board accepts their good faith payment of \$500 as satisfying their membership in MASWCD. Lovdahl seconded. Motion passed.
- c. Berg reported further on the June 18 Finance Committee meeting. Based on Finance Committee recommendation, Berg moved that the MASWCD complete a financial review every year and an audit every five years or in the event of leadership changes. Annalora seconded. Motion to amend made by Lovdahl and seconded by Moger, from “leadership changes” to “staff changes.” Amendment failed. Motion to amend by Lovdahl, seconded by Main, from “in the event of leadership changes” to “whenever the board deems necessary.” Motion to amend passed. Amended motion passed. Berg moved that the finance work that Chuck Frankhauser has been doing for the board instead be done by staff with the exception of audits. Lovdahl seconded. Motion passed with a nay vote from Main. Main commented that this seems like the board telling the executive director how to manage her staff, a role the board should not be playing.

6. Executive Director’s Report - LeAnn Buck

- a. Buck updated the board on meetings she has attended on the issue of Pheasants Forever involvement in the continuous CRP program.
- b. Buck reported on the legislative session and referenced a memo from Ron Harnack regarding potential state government shut-down.
- c. Currently, statute allows for BWSR to remove SWCD supervisors from office if it is shown that the individual has performed malfeasance of office. BWSR staff are working on possibly changing this so that SWCD supervisors are included under the same rules that apply for County Commissioners.
- d. Minnesota will receive \$766,700 for the new Soil and Water Conservation Assistance Program. The program will be available to districts which are not in CRP, EQIP or WHIP priority areas.
- e. Buck discussed with the board the lobbyist contract.
- f. Buck is working with NRCS on finalizing the grant to MASWCD for workload analysis efforts.
- g. The NACD North Central Meeting will be held July 15-18 at the Radisson Hotel South in Bloomington.
- h. Vanney reported on fund raising activities she has been involved with.
- i. Convention planning with Area 5 is going extremely well. Vanney reported that she is excited about the agenda that is being put together.

7. SWCD Forestry Issues - Ted Lovdahl and Ron Shelito

Lovdahl briefed the board on efforts that are underway by a committee of northern districts which have been meeting to discuss forestry issues. Shelito explained that there is currently a large unmet opportunity to work with small woodlot owners and the potential for districts to take on that opportunity.

8. Federal Initiatives for the Forest Service and Private Land Management - Peter Makowski, Office of Congressman Oberstar

Makowski briefed the board on congressional activity relating to forestry. House and Senate bills can be viewed at www.thomas.loc.gov. Congressman Oberstar supports the Forest Legacy program and stewardship funding.

9. Area Directors Reports

Area I - next meeting October 24.

Area II - next meeting July 12 in Stevens County.

Area III - next meeting September 12-13 in Carlton County.

Area IV - next meeting will probably be November 5.

Area V - next meeting November 15.

Area VI - next meeting September 11 in Kandiyohi County.

Area VII - next meeting September 10.

- 10. Adjourn**
Zupp adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.