

# Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2001  
Radisson Riverfront Hotel  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Attending: President Richard Zupp, Vice President Scott Hoese, Secretary/Treasurer & Area I Director Carol Berg, Area II Co-Director Paul Krabbenhoft, 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: Steve Hobbs, Karen Johnson and Joe Newberg, Hennepin Conservation District; Peder Otterson, Minnesota Planning, EQB; Tim Koehler, NRCS; Faye Sleeper, MPCA; Karen Harder, BWSR.

Absent: Area II Director Carl Annalora.

1. **Call to Order** –President Zupp called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Russell moved to approve the agenda with some modifications. Berg seconded. Motion passed. Anderson moved to approve August, 2001 minutes. Lovdahl seconded. Motion passed.
3. **President’s Report - Richard Zupp**
  - a. Zupp noted that the MASWCD Awards Committee had been appointed and Vanney listed the members.
  - b. Zupp testified at the Senate Ag Committee Hearing that was held in Worthington, Minnesota
  - c. Zupp was absent at the last MASWCD Board Meeting due to a meeting conflict. He serves as the chair of the NACD Urban and Coastal Development Committee which held a meeting in Portland, Oregon.
  - d. Hoese reported that the Personnel Committee met yesterday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Members are himself, Anderson and Berg. The committee discussed the merit plan and voted against it. They are halfway through updating the personnel handbook. They will meet one more time before the next board meeting and will also be reviewing the board member handbook.
4. **Finance Report - Carol Berg**

Berg went over the finance report and moved that it be approved subject to audit. Lovdahl seconded. Motion passed.
5. **Executive Director’s Report - LeAnn Buck**
  - a. Buck reviewed a letter from Root River SWCD. Last year they submitted a resolution dealing with conservation compliance. It passed at our state convention but failed at the national level. They passed it out of their Area again this year and the MASWCD Resolutions Committee reviewed it. The committee determined that because it passed at our state convention last year it is currently the policy of the MASWCD to support it and that another resolution is not necessary. The committee asked Root River to instead write a letter to MASWCD requesting that MASWCD forward it to the national level indicating that it is in support of its passage. The letter from Root River does state that and the resolution will be forwarded to NACD.
  - b. Buck update the board on the Farm Security Act, HR 2646 and other federal activity.
  - c. Governor Jesse Ventura held a tour of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) projects on September 6<sup>th</sup> and there was a photo highlighting the event on the cover of AgriNews. Several Soil and Water Conservation District staff and supervisors were in attendance.
  - d. Buck briefed the board on issues that have been addressed at Area meetings. Many Areas have been doing an outstanding job of getting legislators to attend.

- e. Buck has seen a good response to the district capacity surveys. Krabbenhoft commented that he feels the survey was well done and that a report on the issue of district capacity is appropriate as new business at the convention.
- f. Vanney reported on convention planning and activities.

**6. County Proposal for Dissolution of Conservation District - Steve Hobbs, Karen Johnson & Joe Newberg, Hennepin Conservation District**

Hennepin Conservation District representatives discussed an issue that has arisen in their county. There are a couple county commissioners who have indicated interest in de-funding the district, appointing supervisors and having district staff become county staff. The MASWCD Board went around the table and each board member provided comments on their reaction to the issue and what MASWCD involvement should be. Lovdahl moved that MASWCD support the continued existence of the Hennepin Conservation District in its current form, including programs administered by the district, and that MASWCD oppose any efforts to dissolve the district. Seconded by Krabbenhoft. Motion passed unanimously. A short letter will be typed up and sent to the Hennepin County Board outlining this motion.

*The Board recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.*

**7. Education Committee Update - Karen Halverson, MASWCD Education Committee Chair**

Karen Halverson attended the meeting via conference call. She updated the board on the activities of the Education Committee and outlined new priorities set by the committee which extend outside of youth education into the area of SWCD Supervisor education. The committee has also revisited its role in youth education and has been considering how to move forward given the fact that poster & essay contest orders and participation have been steadily declining. The committee has tabled the idea of discontinuing the contest and will be continuing to address it. Halverson said that she is excited about going forward with supervisor education and that she has appreciated the board's relationship with the committee.

**8. Agency Report - Tim Koehler NRCS**

Koehler reported on NRCS activities. The budget for 2002 appears uncertain at this point. It looks like they will meet their goal for acres enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

**9. Water Reorganization - Peder Otterson, Minnesota Planning, Environmental Quality Board**

Otterson outlined the directive given his agency from the state legislature to analyze the status of water management in the state and whether there are any inefficiencies or any duplication of efforts between the agencies (DNR, BWSR, MPCA, etc.).

**10. Agency Report - Faye Sleeper, MPCA**

Sleeper reported on the Clean Water Partnership Program and that applications are due October 16. In addition, she handed out a memo which explains the 2001-2005 Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan and noted that it needs to be referenced in grant applications for section 319 dollars. Sleeper also reviewed the status of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program. MPCA is going to need to go through rule-making procedures to identify how water bodies get listed on the 303D Impaired Waters List.

**11. Area Director Reports**

Board members went around the tables and highlighted events in their Areas.

**12. Adjourn**

Board members set the next meeting date as November 8th. Berg moved to adjourn at 3:50 p.m. Krabbenhoft seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.