

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2002

MASWCD Office, St. Paul MN

Attending: President Richard Zupp, Vice President Scott Hoese, Secretary/Treasurer & Area I Director Carol Berg, Area II Director Mary Ann Scharf, Area III Director Ted Lovdahl, Area IV Director Jim Main, Area V Director Steve Sunderland, Area VI Director Greg Roiger, Area VII Director Clarence Anderson, LeAnn Buck (MASWCD Staff), Sheila Vanney (MASWCD Staff). Others in attendance: Jim Birkholz, BWSR; Mary Kells, BWSR; Steve Woods, BWSR; Roger Mussetter, NRCS.

1. **Call to Order** – President Zupp called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Roiger, to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Berg, seconded by Lovdahl, to approve the March 27, 2002 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report - Richard Zupp**
 - a. Zupp participated in a conference call with the National Association of Conservation Districts committee chairs, regional chairs, and executive board. NACD will be sending out information about their accomplishments to each supervisor in the nation. The NACD Fall Board Meeting will take place October 5-7, 2002.
 - b. Zupp reported that he attended the Area 1 meeting.
4. **Finance Report - Carol Berg**
 - a. Berg presented the monthly finance report and made the motion, seconded by Main, that it be accepted subject to annual review. Motion carried.
 - b. Discussion was held on dues issues. One district did not pay their dues in full, and they did not notify the board prior to April 1 of any reason for why they did not pay in full. Main briefed the board on the details of the situation. Motion by Main, seconded by Scharf, to suspend the district's membership in accordance with the by-laws, and to send back their check. Motion carried. Further discussion was held on dues. Motion by Berg, seconded by Main, to send letters to the three districts who are delinquent in paying dues, to notify them they forfeit their membership benefits in the Association. Motion carried.
5. **Staff Report - LeAnn Buck**
 - a. Buck reported on legislative issues. Going into conference committee, the Minnesota House is at \$500,000 and the Senate is at \$7 million for Reinvest in Minnesota funding. The House has concerns about land retirement that puts the easement in the hands of government. Shoreland program started at \$2 million but is now at \$1 million. DNR is contending that the shoreland program which MASWCD is supporting is duplicative of their shoreland program. DNR's program, however, does not include easements. At the national level, the Farm Bill debate has not concluded yet. Congressman Colin Peterson has been vocal that he is not a fan of the Conservation Security Program and spoke of his interest to make it a pilot, versus nationwide. Buck reported to the board on the issue of third party vendors.
 - b. MASWCD is involved in a CREP celebration being held June 25th in Mankato. Staff are providing in-kind assistance, accepting registrations and serving as the fiscal agent. Board members felt this service was appropriate.
 - c. Buck revisited the board's strategic plan goals and resolutions.
 - d. Vanney provided the board with a copy of the education committee's action plan which was developed last summer.
 - e. Vanney is working with DNR Forestry on putting together a grant application to the Forest Service for a Clean Water Action Grant. The grant application is intended to provide funds to three or four SWCDs to use forest management as a means of addressing watershed health.

- f. Vanney reported on her efforts with pursuing the 2000 MASWCD resolution seeking SWCD involvement in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPES) Phase II. The NPDES program is administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- g. MASWCD Supervisor Training (“Re-Boot Camp”) was held April 2-3 in St. Cloud. Vanney reported on attendance and the success of the conference.

6. District Capacity Committee Update - Jim Main, Committee Chair & Jim Birkholz

Main and Birkholz presented the committee’s recommendation to the board related to how the committee should proceed with district capacity efforts. Motion by Main, seconded by Roiger, to accept the committee’s recommendation. The committee is asking for 30 minutes on the agendas for the upcoming Area meetings.

The board recessed for lunch at noon and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Before proceeding with the agenda, the board discussed the issues of nonpoint engineering assistance and BWSR’s coastal engineering position. The board will be addressing NPEA in the broader context of SWCD technical assistance at the June meeting.

7. Convention Site Selection for 2003

The board discussed who should host the 2003 convention. Area IV hosted longest ago - seven years ago. Motion by Main, seconded by Berg, that Area IV should host the 2003 convention. Motion carried. Vanney sent requests for proposals for the convention to all Minnesota convention and visitors bureaus. She compiled all proposals received for the board’s review and went through them with the board. Buck commented that the Association has two conflicting resolutions on the books with regard to the convention. There is a resolution which directs us to have the convention and lodging all in one facility, and there is a resolution which directs us to alternate between Metro and out-state. The only facilities in the state which can accommodate all of us in one location are in the Twin Cities. Motion by Main, seconded by Lovdahl, to use the Radisson Hotel South in Bloomington for the 2003 convention. Motion carried.

8. MN Alliance for Crop Residue Management - Mary Kells, BWSR

As a member of the MN Alliance for Crop Residue and Management, Mary Kells briefed the board on the history of MACRM and their current status.

9. Area Directors Reports

Area 1 - April 4 Area meeting went well. Next meeting is June 19 in Park Rapids.

Area 2 - Scharf reported on convention planning. Area 2 meeting will take place June 13.

Area 3 - Meeting will take place June 7 in Duluth.

Area 4 - Meeting and tour scheduled for June 17 in Waconia. Fall meeting will be November 18.

Area 5 - Meeting will take place June 20. Fall meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 4.

Area 6 - June 20 meeting changed to June 18. September meeting will be in Waseca. Spouses are invited.

Area 7 - Meeting will take place June 21 in Rochester. Fall meeting will be September 9.

10. NRCS - Roger Mussetter

Mussetter reported that NRCS is in the process of compiling comments from the April 15 meeting on third party vendors. There will be two week long courses in September open to anyone who would like to attend. There are some pre-requisites that can be filled on-line. Hopefully the Farm Bill will be decided by the end of the week. The issue of raising the Section 11 cap was tabled, and died on the vine.

11. Future Meeting Dates & Adjourn

There will be no May meeting. Next meeting will be held June 25 prior to the CREP celebration in Mankato. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.