

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

August 27, 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: Steve Woods, BWSR; Jim Birkholz, 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 Main, seconded by Berg, to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Main, to approve the June 25, 2002 meeting minutes. Scharf noted an error in her report - next Area II meeting is November 14. Sunderland also noted an error in vote tally for one of the motions. Motion carried with corrections.
3. **President's Report - Richard Zupp**
 - a. Zupp reported on the establishment of a technical assistance/non point engineering work group headed up by BWSR. At the June 25 meeting, MASWCD board members passed a motion in support of BWSR establishing such a work group. BWSR staff has requested MASWCD provide them with two supervisors from each Area to serve on this committee. Board discussed and provided Buck with names. MACDE will also have representation on the work group.
 - b. Zupp presented a handout of sample questions and issues to raise with candidates for legislature. This can be used at Area meetings and will be posted on the web.
4. **Finance Report - Carol Berg**
 - a. Berg presented monthly finance report and made the motion that it be approved subject to annual review. Seconded by Lovdahl. Discussion was held on pre-paid deposits, office lease deposit, convention insurance, and payroll itemizations. Motion carried.
 - b. Berg led the board through the 2002-2003 proposed budget item by item. Board members discussed that the budget is a guidance tool for the operation of the Association. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Sunderland to lower lobbyist expense in proposed budget. Those in favor: Roiger, Sunderland, Lovdahl, Anderson. Those opposed: Main, Scharf, Berg. Motion carried. Motion by Main, seconded by Lovdahl to increase interest income to \$3,000. Motion carried with dissenting vote from Berg. Suggestion by Main and Roiger to bid for insurance. Vote on the budget is postponed for later in the meeting.
5. **Personnel Committee Report - Scott Hoese**

Hoese presented revisions to the MASWCD Board of Directors Handbook. Motion by Main, seconded by Lovdahl, to adopt the handbook with edits. Motion carried. Hoese will be working on proposed bylaws changes. Board members are encouraged to submit any suggested changes to him.
6. **District Capacity Committee Update- Jim Main**

Main and Jim Birkholz updated the board on progress with the district capacity effort.

 - a. Levy authority for SWCDs, governance issues, better defined authorities, and SWCD land use connection are the main topics to be addressed in proposed statute revisions. Buck noted the eight resolutions passed by the membership which request these changes.
 - b. Outreach to SWCDs - Briefing materials are expected to be posted on the web site in September.
 - c. Meetings with DNR & AMC - Buck and Birkholz met with the DNR commissioner's office, division of forestry and division of wildlife. DNR will be in opposition to any efforts that they perceive as direct competition with them before the legislature. Buck and Birkholz also met with Association of Minnesota

Counties (AMC). AMC is looking at significant cuts in state aid to counties. Regarding taxing authority, the AMC staff position is that they would prefer a special levy for SWCDs by the counties. Further meetings will be conducted with both DNR and AMC.

- d. District Assessment Program - The need for increasing the rate at which district assessments are conducted was discussed. Buck presented a draft letter to Ron Harnack on the subject. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Berg, to approve the letter for Harnack.

The board recessed for lunch at noon and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

7. Staff Report - LeAnn Buck

- a. Buck reviewed the minutes of the August 13 Legislative Committee meeting. Topics discussed included state budget forecast, district capacity, CREP proposals, WCA formula, Non Point Engineering Assistance Program, BWSR legislation, and 3/16 of 1% dedicated sales tax.
- b. Vanney presented a recommendation from the Education Committee to revise the Public Relations & Information (PR&I) officer position description in the Supervisors Handbook. The board reviewed the revision, which has already been approved by the BWSR senior management team. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Berg to recommend BWSR complete these changes to the Supervisors Handbook. Motion carried. Vanney shared with the board the Education Committee's action plan. Revising the PR&I description was one of their goals.
- c. Vanney updated the board on activities to pursue the 2000 resolution relating to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Over the summer, MASWCD has conducted meetings with an ad hoc work group of districts. A meeting was held with MPCA staff, who were receptive to the idea of delegating some of the responsibilities for implementing Phase II of the program. A survey was sent to districts seeking their level of interest. Survey results and comments were shared with the board. MASWCD will continue to meet with MPCA staff on this issue. A mini-session on the topic will be presented at the convention. Training on the Minnesota NPDES Phase II rule and proper stormwater technical practices will also be offered at the convention.
- d. Buck updated the board on the Hennepin Conservation District referendum.
- e. Participants of the MASWCD/U of M Extension Leadership Institute are being asked to complete evaluations of the program. Extension holds the program high within their organization as one of their most successful programs.
- f. MASWCD has been asked to have representation on an MPCA Funding Options Work Group. Tim Gieseke, Carver SWCD and Dennis Fuchs, Stearns SWCD are attending these meetings on our behalf. The work group has diverse representation from private sector and government stakeholders. MPCA is seeking input on how to more effectively fund their programs.
- g. An NACD update was presented in a memo from Owen Knutson.

8. Minnesota Forestry Association of SWCDs - Frank Turnock and Brad Matlack

Motion by Scharf, seconded by Anderson, that MASWCD recognizes the Minnesota SWCD Forestry Association. Motion carried.

9. Review 2002 Resolution Packet - Scott Hoese

The board reviewed all the 2002 resolutions which have passed at Area meetings and have been submitted to MASWCD. Motion by Sunderland, seconded by Berg to accept the resolutions packet. Resolutions will be mailed to SWCDs with pre-balloting information in the next week.

Regarding 2002-2003 proposed MASWCD budget, motion by Main, seconded by Sunderland to accept the budget.

10. Area Directors Reports

Area 1 - next meeting will be October 23 in Warroad hosted by Roseau SWCD.

Area 2 - next meeting will be November 14 in Long Prairie.

Area 3 - meeting and tour will be held September 4-5 in North Branch.

Area 4 - next meeting will be November 18 at the Rockford Town Hall.

Area 5 - meeting will be held September 4.

Area 6 - next meeting will be September 19 at the Farm America Center in Waseca.

Area 7 - meeting will be September 9 in Rochester.

11. NRCS Report - Roger Mussetter

Mussetter discussed third party vendors, now referred to as tech pro. Final information may not be available until later winter or early spring.

12. Future Meeting Dates & Adjourn

The next board meeting will take place September 24th. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.