

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2002

Ramada Inn Limited, St. Cloud, 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).

1. **Call to Order** – President Zupp called the meeting to order at noon and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Sunderland to approve the agenda.. Motion carried. Motion by Main, seconded by Scharf, to approve the December 1, 2001 meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Berg, to approve the December 4, 2001 meeting minutes with amendments. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report - Richard Zupp**
 - a. Zupp presented a summary of events which took place at the NACD North Central Region meeting in Chicago, January 2-4, 2002. Owen Knutson, former MASWCD President and Goodhue SWCD supervisor, was elected as the North Central Region's representative to the NACD Board Executive Council.
 - b. Resolutions which passed at the MASWCD convention relating to national issues were presented at the NACD North Central Region meeting. All but one received a recommendation for passage from the NACD North Central delegates. However, all of the resolutions Minnesota submitted will now go to the NACD annual convention in Reno, Nevada for consideration.
 - c. The Conservation Security Act (CSA) will become an item for the conference committee to discuss in Congress. Hoese will be participating in a case study to see how the CSA would apply to his land.
 - d. Zupp, Buck and some of the MASWCD Legislative Committee members attended a meeting with Rep. Colin Peterson in his St. Cloud office. Discussion items during the meeting included CSA, CRP and removing the cap on CCC dollars used for technical assistance.
 - e. Motion by Main, seconded by Sunderland to name Lovdahl as the MASWCD representative to the State Forest Stewardship Committee. Motion carried.
4. **Finance Report - Carol Berg**

Motion by Berg, seconded by Main to approve the finance report subject to audit. Motion carried.
5. **Executive Director's Report - LeAnn Buck**
 - a. Buck reviewed with the board the legislative agenda for this legislative session.
 - b. The state is facing a budget shortfall this year. Buck reviewed a handout with the board which was developed with the assistance of MASWCD lobbyist Judy Erickson. The handout explains MASWCD positions with regard to budget cuts.
 - c. Buck updated the board on the status of 2000 Resolution #20 which seeks to change the Wetland Conservation Act portion of the Natural Resources Block Grant formula to provide

adequate funding to high workload counties. Last year the legislative committee postponed introducing legislation to increase WCA administrative funding until BWSR did an assessment of the WCA workload by counties. This issue will continue to be addressed by the legislative committee and the board.

- d. Buck updated the board on the potential for moving the office to another location. She will be meeting with the Executive Committee prior to the February board meeting.
- e. Area Director's shared with staff their tentative Area Meeting dates for the coming year.
- f. Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol will be held February 25-26, 2002 at the Holiday Inn St. Paul East. Registration materials have already been sent to SWCD offices.
- g. Based on suggestions from the MASWCD Education Committee and the District Capacity Committee, a "refresher" conference will be held in late winter, early spring for current SWCD supervisors. The conference will present topics on the basics of SWCD governance as well as how to improve the effectiveness of a SWCD.
- h. Vanney updated the board on the outstanding efforts of Rick Reimer of Kandiyohi SWCD with establishing living snow fences in his district. Reimer was highlighted in a recent article published in the Agri-News. The article was also picked up by the Associated Press and published nationally.

6. District Capacity Committee - Jim Main

Main briefed the board on the committee's recent activities, their workplan for the year, grant requests which have gone out, workshops which will take place this spring and the district self-assessment tool.

7. Convention Review

Motion by Main, seconded by Lovdahl, to assign the Resolutions/Policy Committee with the task of developing necessary by-law revisions. Motion by Main, seconded by Berg, to give the committee a June 1st deadline for the changes to be submitted.

8. Upcoming Board Meetings

- a. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Scharf, to invite Co-Directors to the February 25th board meeting, starting at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Lovdahl to accept the Hyatt's invitation and hold the March board meeting on the 27th, arriving on the 26th. Motion carried.
- c. The June board meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 25, hosted by Jim Main and the Carver SWCD.

9. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.