

# Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2002

Midwest Wireless Civic Center, Mankato MN

Attending: President Richard Zupp, Vice President Scott Hoese, Secretary/Treasurer & Area I Director Carol Berg, Area II Director Mary Ann Scharf, Area II Co-Director Carl Annalora, 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: Doug Thomas and John Jaschke, BWSR; Dwain Otte, Dakota SWCD Supervisor and BWSR Board Member; Roger Mussetter, NRCS; Marilyn Bernhardson, Redwood SWCD District Manager and MASWCD Legislative Committee Chair; Doug Anderson, DNR Forestry; LaVonne Cunningham, Watonwan SWCD staff and the Watonwan CREP staff; Loyal Fisher, Renville SWCD Supervisor and Area VI Co-Director; Wayne Edgerton, DNR.

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 Berg, to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Scharf, seconded by Sunderland, to approve the April 24, 2002 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report - Richard Zupp**
  - a. Motion by Scharf, seconded by Anderson to give Zupp the authority to establish a “fund development committee.” Motion carried. Motion by Main, seconded by Lovdahl, to specify the goals of the committee would be to look at long and short range fund sources for the Association, to gather information and present recommendations to the board. Motion carried.
  - b. Zupp reviewed the list of standing committee which the board approved during strategic planning. There was discussion the resolution/policy committee. Motion by Main, seconded by Scharf to remove the resolutions review responsibilities from the resolutions/policy committee and have staff handle the clerical, typographical and clarifying responsibilities while having the board deal with policy issues with respect to the resolutions. Motion carried with dissenting votes from Anderson, Lovdahl and Sunderland. Motion by Main, seconded b Scharf to re-name the resolutions/policy committee the bylaws committee. Motion passed with dissenting votes from Sunderland and Anderson. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Berg to add policy back in to the title and workload of the committee and have the committee meet at the discretion of the board chair/president. Motion carried.
  - c. Zupp led discussion of “new business” during the business meeting at the annual convention. During the strategic planning discussion, the board loosely discussed Area boundaries and if changes in the boundaries might be beneficial. The question was raised on how the issue of Area boundaries should be brought before the membership as a new business discussion item or whether Area Directors take on the responsibility of having a discussion on this issue at their Area meetings. Board members decided to work on this issue.
  - d. The bylaws are the rules and limitations for running the organization. Currently they do not clarify what should be done at the annual meeting, only that one should take place. The board will work on developing proposed changes to the bylaws to take before the membership at the convention. The membership votes on any proposed changes.
  - e. This is an election year for the Association, which means that a nominations committee needs to be named. Zupp presented recommendations to the board to include three Area Co-Directors: Carl Annalora, Area II Co-Director, Roland Cleveland, Area II Co-Director and Loyal Fisher, Area VI Co-Director. Motion by Main, seconded by Sunderland to approve these appointments. Motion carried. [Later in the meeting it was learned that Fisher declined. Clark Lingbeek, Area V Co-Director, was appointed in his place.]. MASWCD will send nomination information to all the member SWCDs.

**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 Roiger. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Berg, seconded by Lovdahl to accept the partial Kanabec SWCD dues payment and request for hardship status. Motion carried.
- c. Berg reviewed the minutes of the last finance committee meeting with the board. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Sunderland to change MASWCD accounting to the accrual method. Motion failed. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Sunderland to establish the rule that if the Association serves as fiscal agent for a conference or event with multiple sponsors, that after two years any remaining conference/event income will be considered as MASWCD income. Motion carried.

**5. Staff Report - LeAnn Buck**

- a. With the board's approval, Buck signed a lease at our current office building for a suite down the hall. Official move date will be some time in the middle of August.
- b. Buck discussed with the board the potential for a fourth leadership institute. The third and current program will finish in November of this year. A fourth program would be much the same, but each of the eight two-day sessions would integrate a specific natural resource issue. Buck is interested in finding a way of subsidizing the tuition to lower the cost to the participants. The board felt that the program fits with their mission and gave Buck a verbal commitment of support for her to continue investigating the viability of a fourth leadership institute for SWCDs with Extension Service. Buck suggested that board members incorporate into their Area meetings testimonials from past and current leadership program participants.
- c. Buck reported on the NRCS State Technical Subcommittees and requested input from the board as to what kind of representation they want to officially have on them. Consensus from the board is that they would like to continue having Vern Wilker as our official representative to the State Technical Committee and continue to receive his meeting reports, while encouraging our members to be involved on the subcommittees.
- d. Buck has been meeting with several SWCDs and BWSR staff on the Wetland Conservation Act allocation formula. This relates to a resolution passed by our membership in December, 2000.
- e. Buck presented an update on feedlot resolutions.
- f. Vanney reported on wetland delineation training which MASWCD is helping to coordinate and serve as fiscal agent for.
- g. Vanney reported on the Living Snow Fence Memorandum of Understanding with MASWCD, MnDOT, NRCS, and FSA. A signing ceremony/living snow fence event will take place on July 16<sup>th</sup> in Gibbon, MN in Sibley County.

**6. MASWCD Legislative Committee - Marilyn Bernhardson**

As chair of the legislative committee, Bernhardson updated the board on the committee's activities and review of MASWCD resolutions. She requested direction from the board on how the committee should move forward in preparing for the next legislative session. Main commented, as chair of the district capacity committee, that the Association's number one priority needs to be changes to the district law - 103C. These changes will benefit the entire membership. Membership has had weigh-in and offered direction through resolutions that have passed at the annual convention, through surveys, through workshops and through Area meetings. As a result of this local input, the board adopted four goals of the district capacity committee effort in April and has approved the process. Doug Thomas commented that BWSR has great interest in making appropriate changes to 103C (election law and dissolution of a district), and that they actually put off proposing changes to the legislature last year at the recommendation of the Association, so the changes could be part of the larger effort.

*The board recessed for lunch at noon and reconvened at 12:45 p.m.*

**7. Future of SWCD Technical Assistance - LeAnn Buck, John Jaschke, Doug Thomas**

Buck, Jaschke and Thomas led a discussion of how SWCDs provide technical assistance in the future. Discussion items included: NPEA program, forestry, wetland workload, and federal technical service provider

issues Motion by Roiger, seconded by Sunderland to urge BWSR to develop a process to allow Joint Powers Boards to expand to meet technical needs. Motion carried.

**8. Summary of the Conservation Title for the Farm Bill - Roger Mussetter**

Mussetter walked the board through the changes to conservation programs with the 2002 Farm Bill.

**9. Area Directors Reports**

Area 1 - attendance at June 19 Area meeting was down due to flooding. Carl Annalora presented the district capacity report. There were not a lot of questions. Three resolutions passed.

Area 2 - good turn out at June 13 Area meeting. Carl Annalora did the district capacity report. Four resolutions passed. Convention planning was discussed. Next meeting is November 14.

Area 3 - meeting was held June 7. Zupp was in attendance. Jim Main gave the district capacity report. Five resolutions passed.

Area 4 - meeting was held June 17. Main thanked Steve Woods, BWSR, for his comments regarding the legislative issues and state funding. Main also noted his appreciation of Jim Birkholz's efforts toward the district capacity effort. Three resolutions passed.

Area 5 - meeting was held June 20. Jim Birkholz and John Biren presented district capacity report. Issue of third party vendors was discussed. Two resolutions passed.

Area 6 - at June 18 meeting Area approved change in bylaws to 2 year term with a maximum of two terms for Area Director. Discussed poor turn-out for Area Envirothon and rock-inlets.

Area 7 - June 21 meeting produced 5 passed resolutions. Issues discussed included the Farm Bill and stormwater. Jim Birkholz presented the district capacity report.

**10. Future Meeting Dates & Adjourn**

The board set future meeting dates for August 27<sup>th</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.