

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2002

BWSR 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 Co-Director Loyal Fisher, Area VII Director Clarence Anderson, LeAnn Buck (MASWCD Staff), Stefanie Martinez (MASWCD Staff). Others in attendance: Ron Harnack, BWSR, Paul Flynn, NRCS; Merrill Loy, Carlton, Brian Nyborg Jackson SWCD, Darren Newville, Martin SWCD, R.C. Boheim, South St. Louis SWCD, Don Bajumpa, Wilkin SWCD, Robin Martinek, SWCS,

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 Sunderland to approve the MASWCD August Board meeting minutes with clarification of his motion on the budget at the August board meeting. Seconded by Lovdahl. Motion was adopted.
3. **President's Report - Richard Zupp**
 - a. Zupp reported that the nominating committee sent a call for nominations to the SWCDs and forwards the candidate names of Scott Hoese for MASWCD President and Carol Berg, Clark Lingbeek and Loyal Fisher for Vice President. Zupp reviewed the strategic plan and the need for 6 more people to be on a committee to look at the fund development for the Association. Roiger has already indicated that he will serve. Scharf volunteered to serve.
 - b. Zupp reported there is going to be an NACD Conference in St. Louis on November 13 & 14 pertaining to Conservation Title of the new Farm Bill. Motion by Fisher to authorize two people to go to NACD Conference. Seconded by Scharf. Board discussion. Motion was adopted with dissenting vote from Main.
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. Motion was adopted.
 - b. Berg requests that questions that arise during the fall area meetings regarding the MASWCD proposed budget should be forwarded to her.
5. **District Capacity Committee Update- Jim Main**

Main updated the board on progress with the district capacity effort. Main explained the committee is still planning to be disbanded by 2003.
6. **Staff Report - LeAnn Buck**
 - a. Buck updated the Board on events taking place for upcoming annual meeting. She thanked the Area II SWCD for all of their planning efforts.
 - b. Buck reviewed the status of the Hennepin CD. Main motioned for MASWCD to be listed as supporter of Friends of Hennepin Conservation District. Seconded by Lovdahl. Motion adopted. Motion by Main to authorize staff to help Hennepin CD from being eliminated. Seconded by Lovdahl. Motion was adopted.
 - c. Buck reported that the Star Tribune Voters Guide is not planning to cover metro SWCD elections as they have in previous years. Motion by Anderson to have staff write a letter to request Star Tribune to cover the election of SWCD Supervisors. Seconded by Main. Motion was adopted.

7. **Emergency Resolution - Clarence Anderson**
Motion by Anderson to declare State Cost Share Resolution from Root River SWCD as an emergency resolution. Seconded by Scharf. Motion was adopted. Anderson explained that the Root River SWCD is concerned that the Governor's recommendation may include cutting cost share to reduce the state's budget deficit
8. **State of Minnesota's Budget Deficit & Implications to SWCD Budgets - Ron Harnack**
Harnack review state budget cuts. Harnack also expressed the need to focus efforts on using the BWSR Board as a guide. In order to continue successfully with budget cuts BWSR needs to express the need for SWCDs to continue working with other local units of government. He is also in favor of taxing levy to give SWCDs greater opportunities.

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

9. **Area Directors Reports**
Area 1 - next meeting will be October 23, 2002 in Warroad hosted by Roseau SWCD.
Area 2 - next meeting will be November 14, 2002 in Long Prairie.
Area 3 - next meeting scheduled for 2003
Area 4 - next meeting will be November 18, 2002 at the Rockford Town Hall, Wright County.
Area 5 - meeting will be held November 21, 2002
Area 6 - next meeting will be scheduled in November
Area 7 - next meeting scheduled for 2003
10. **Tech Pro and Cooperative Agreements for SWCD and NRCS - Paul Flynn, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist**
Flynn discussed third party vendors, now referred to as tech pro, and cooperative agreements with MASWCD and MACDE representatives.
 - a. Motion by Lovdahl for the MASWCD Board of Directors to support the NACD position for the conservation title for program development and delivery including SWCDs providing technical assistance and other program support through grants and cooperative agreements with NRCS. Seconded by Anderson. Motion was adopted.
11. **Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting - Robin Martinek**
Martinek announced there will be a National Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting in St. Paul, July 24-28, 2004. She also discussed the chance to showcase all conservation efforts in Minnesota.
12. **Forestry Association of SWCDs - Ted Lovdahl and H. Merrill Loy**
 - a. Lovdahl and Loy gave update on SWCD Forestry Association. Loy requested that the MASWCD Board support a Tree Care Handbook that will be developed by the SWCD Forestry Association. Main asked for more information on what kind of support the Forestry Association was requesting. Loy went on to say, he just wanted to get the support of the board. Fisher moved to support the Forestry Association to aid in the distribution of the Tree Care publication. Seconded by Berg. Motion was adopted.
 - b. Scharf left the meeting.
 - c. After partnership was established, Loy ask the MASWCD Board to help with printing cost of \$2,000 for the Tree Care Handbook. Loy suggested the Board use the new initiative funds or miscellaneous expense components of the MASWCD budget. Main also suggested not to put money into the project until more information is provided. Loy did not have details for project such as total budget, sample product, or estimated time line. Motion by Berg to contribute \$500 from miscellaneous expense. Seconded by Lovdahl. Motion failed
 - d. Motion by Fisher to postpone consideration until after the resolutions are considered at the annual meeting. Motion failed. Motion by Fisher to postpone discussion indefinitely. Seconded by Main. Due to Scharf departure at 3:00 p.m., the tie vote was broken by the chair. Motion was adopted.

13. Future Meeting Dates & Adjourn

Next board meeting will take place November 7th. Future board meeting December 7th, 2:00 p.m. at the Radisson, St. Paul. Motion by Lovdahl to have January meeting in conjunction with board retreat. Seconded by Sunderland. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.