

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2003

MASWCD Conference Room

St. Paul, MN

Attending: President Scott Hoese, Vice President Carol Berg, Area II Director Mary Ann Scharf, Area III Director Ted Lovdahl, Area IV Director Rick Hansen, Area V Director Steve Sunderland, Area VI Director Greg Roiger, Area VII Director Ralph Breuer, LeAnn Buck (MASWCD Staff), Stefanie Martinez (MASWCD Staff), Sheila Vanney (MASWCD Staff). Others in attendance: Rudy Spitzer, Winona SWCD Supervisor and Area VII Co-Director; Roland Cleveland, Chisago SWCD Supervisor & Area III Co-Director; Judy Erickson, MASWCD lobbyist; John Jaschke, Doug Thomas and Kevin Lines, BWSR; Roger Mussetter and Tim Koehler, NRCS; John Monson, FSA; Erik Wrede, Minnesota Conservation Corps; Bev Nordby, Mower SWCD Manager; Dwain Otte, Dakota SWCD Supervisor and BWSR Board Member.

1. **Call to Order** – President Hoese called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. 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 Lovdahl, seconded by Sunderland, to approve MASWCD March 25, 2003 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Scott Hoese**
 - a. Motion by Berg, seconded by Scharf, to accept the resignation of Jim Main, Area IV Director and MASWCD Secretary/Treasurer. Motion carried. Rick Hansen was welcomed to the board as the new Area IV Director.
 - b. Motion by Sunderland, seconded by Lovdahl, to nominate-to-elect Roiger as the new Secretary/Treasurer. Motion carried.
 - c. Hoese reported on the National Association of Conservation Districts budget. The board reviewed a letter from Owen Knutson, supervisor with the Goodhue SWCD. Knutson serves as the NACD North Central Region Representative to the NACD Executive Board.
4. **Finance Report – Greg Roiger**
 - a. Roiger presented the monthly finance report. Hoese accepted subject to annual review.
 - b. The Finance Committee will meet May 7, 2003 at the MASWCD office. Roiger noted that he met with MASWCD staff to review the duties of Treasurer.
 - c. The board reviewed the status of MASWCD dues payments.
 - 1) Motion by Hansen, seconded by Scharf, to send Beltrami SWCD a letter thanking them for being a member in the past but that they will no longer be a member in good-standing until the board receives either full payment of their dues or a request for hardship along with requested financial documents; financial documents will be reviewed by the finance committee and a recommendation will be made; a final decision will be made at the June board meeting. Motion carried.
 - 2) Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Hansen, to send Lake of the Woods SWCD a letter thanking them for being a member in the past but that they will no longer be a member in good-standing until the board receives either full payment of their dues or a request for hardship along with requested financial documents; financial documents will be reviewed by the finance committee and a recommendation will be made; a final decision will be made at the June board meeting. Motion carried.

4. Finance Report (continued)

- 3) Motion by Hansen, seconded by Lovdahl, to send Red Lake SWCD a letter thanking them for being a member in the past but that they will no longer be a member in good-standing until the board receives either full payment of their dues or a request for hardship along with requested financial documents; financial documents will be reviewed by the finance committee and a recommendation will be made; a final decision will be made at the June board meeting. Motion carried.
 - 4) Motion by Sunderland, seconded by Scharf, to send Aitkin SWCD a letter thanking them for being a member in the past but that they will no longer be a member in good-standing until the board receives either full payment of their dues or a request for hardship along with requested financial documents; financial documents will be reviewed by the finance committee and a recommendation will be made; a final decision will be made at the June board meeting. Motion carried.
 - 5) Motion by Roiger, seconded by Hansen, to send Renville SWCD a letter thanking them for being a member in the past but that they will no longer be a member in good-standing until the district pays dues in full. Motion carried.
 - 6) Motion by Roiger, seconded by Hansen, to send Morrison SWCD a letter thanking them for being a member in the past but that they will no longer be a member in good-standing until the district pays dues in full. Motion carried.
 - 7) Motion by Hansen, seconded by Scharf, to treat Kanabec SWCD as a member in good-standing because they have followed the guidelines in the by-laws for requesting hardship consideration; their request will be reviewed by the finance committee and a final decision will be made at the June board meeting. Motion carried.
 - 8) Motion by Hansen, seconded by Sunderland, to send a letter to Olmsted SWCD, acknowledging their letter, showing our appreciation of their past support and that we look forward to them becoming a member again in the future. Motion carried. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Lovdahl, to authorize MASWCD board members to meet with Olmsted SWCD regarding membership. Motion carried.
- d. Roiger reviewed an emergency resolution from Area VI relating to the MASWCD budget. The board discussed whether it was a true emergency resolution in relation to the MASWCD resolutions process. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Scharf to adopt the resolution. Motion failed.

5. 2004 Convention Site Selection – Sheila Vanney, MASWCD Assistant Director

Vanney reviewed with the board the seven proposals which were received from facilities across the state for hosting the 2004 MASWCD Annual Convention and Trade Show.

- a. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Sunderland, that Area III should host the 2004 convention. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Breuer, to accept the proposal to hold the 2004 convention in Duluth. Motion carried.
- c. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Roiger, to confirm the 2004 convention dates as December 4-7, 2004. Motion carried.

6. Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck

- a. Buck updated the board on legislative activities.
- b. Buck reported that Vanney had been working on compiling all the standing resolutions into a booklet/policy handbook. This was a follow-up to a resolution adopted by the membership. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Scharf to accept the policy handbook and encourage its distribution to the membership. Motion carried.

7. Conservation Title of the Farm Bill – Tim Koehler & Roger Mussetter, NRCS Assistant State Conservationists

Koehler and Mussetter reviewed what is known to-date regarding implementation of the programs included in the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill. Much of the focus of the discussion centered on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the local work group process. NRCS is working with MASWCD to provide information and education to districts at seven training sessions across the state. Information regarding these sessions will be posted on the MASWCD web site.

The board recessed for lunch at 12:25 p.m. and reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

8. Farm Service Agency – John Monson, State Executive Director

Monson updated the board on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). He also commented on the Conservation Reserve Enhance Program (CREP) and the potential for Minnesota to submit an application for another CREP to USDA in Washington DC. The southeast area of the state, in an effort headed by Bev Nordby, has been working diligently on a proposal. In addition, the northwest Red River Basin area has been working on a proposal. The southwest area of the state may or may not be working on something also. Monson noted that while each proposal has its merits, due to the political atmosphere, a single joint application may need to be submitted. There is still a question of what Governor Pawlenty's position is on another CREP for Minnesota. Monson and others will be meeting with the Governor to try to garner his support.

9. CREP Applications – Bev Nordby, Mower SWCD Manager

Nordby presented a power-point slide show of the southeast Minnesota CREP application.

Motion by Roiger, seconded by Lovdahl to support a second 100,000 acre CREP program for Minnesota. Motion carried.

10. Ad Hoc Technical Committee – John Jaschke, BWSR

Jaschke presented the board with the final report of the Ad Hoc Technical Assistance Committee. Discussion followed.

Motion by Scharf, seconded by Sunderland, to accept the report. Motion carried. The board will take action on how to proceed with this issue at the June meeting. Board members thanked Jaschke for all his work on this project.

11. Minnesota Conservation Corps – Erik Wrede, Metro Regional Coordinator

Wrede presented information on the Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) and possible partnerships with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The MCC, previously a part of the Department of Natural Resources, is becoming a non-profit organization as of July, 2003. They are celebrating their 70th anniversary this year. Hoese encouraged board members to include a representative of the MCC at their Area meetings.

12. Area Director's Reports – Board members reviewed their Area meeting dates. This information is posted on the MASWCD web site on the "Meetings and Events" page.

13. Future Meeting Dates & Adjourn

- a. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Scharf, to accept the invitation from Hoese for Carver SWCD to host the June 24th board meeting; activities may also take place late in the day on June 23rd. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Scharf, seconded by Lovdahl, to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.