

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2003

MASWCD Office, St. Paul, MN

Attending: President Scott Hoese, Area I Secretary/Treasurer Ken Pederson, Area II Director Mary Ann Scharf, Area III Director Ted Lovdahl, Area IV Director Rick Hansen, Area V Director Steve Sunderland, Secretary/Treasurer and Area VI Director Greg Roiger, Area VII Director Ralph Breuer, Area VII Co-Director Rudie Spitzer, MASWCD staff LeAnn Buck, Sheila Vanney and Stefanie Martinez. Others in attendance: Brian Watson, MACDE; Doug Thomas, BWSR; Laurie Martinson, DNR; David Donnelly, Hennepin Conservation District.

Absent: Vice President and Area I Director Carol Berg.

1. **Call to Order** – President Hoese called the meeting to order at 10:15 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 Hansen, seconded by Scharf, to approve MASWCD June 24, 2003 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Scott Hoese**
 - a. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Sunderland, to accept the resignation of Merrill Loy as the Minnesota representative to the NACD Great Lakes Committee. Motion carried. Hoese will consider a possible replacement and bring before the board for review and approval. Hoese currently serves as the chair of that committee. He commented that NACD funds to reimburse members for involvement in that committee may not be there in the future or will be decreasing and members will need to be more self-sufficient in funding their attendance.
 - b. Hoese reported on the NACD Board Meeting held earlier in August. Strategic planning was conducted. NACD CEO Ernie Shea announced his plans to leave the association. NACD staff Christa Jones is now on an annual contract for NACD, serving the North Central Region.
 - c. Hoese and Buck reviewed a request from NACD President Gary Mast, in regard to implementation of conservation provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill. Board members directed Buck to draft letters to members of the Minnesota congressional delegation highlighting the following: the locally led process of implementing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was successful in Minnesota and funds have been effectively allocated; MASWCD supports the development of cooperative and contribution agreements between SWCDs and NRCS as a way of enhancing delivery of technical assistance; and MASWCD supports the Conservation Security Program.
 - d. Hoese encouraged individual SWCDs' payment of NACD dues and commented on the potential for more of the dues to come back to the North Central Region in the future.
4. **Finance Report – Greg Roiger**
 - a. Roiger presented the monthly finance report and balance sheet. Hoese accepted subject to annual review.
 - b. Roiger reviewed dues hardship requests and recommendations from the finance committee. Motion by Breuer, seconded by Scharf to deny the hardship designation request from Lake of the Woods SWCD. Motion carried. Further discussion was held. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Lovdahl, to reconsider this request. Motion failed on a split vote. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Breuer, to deny the hardship designation request from Red Lake SWCD. Motion carried.

4. Finance Report – Greg Roiger (continued)

- c. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Sunderland, to accept the finance committee’s recommendation relating to 2003-2004 dues calculations, and that it be presented to the membership at the convention for their approval. Motion carried. Motion by Breuer, seconded by Lovdahl, to accept the finance committee’s recommendation to change the Association’s finances from a cash method of accounting to an accrual method of accounting. Motion carried. Motion by Breuer, seconded by Sunderland, to authorize commitment of up to \$1200 for implementation of the accrual method. Motion carried.
- d. Roiger presented the finance committee’s recommendation for the 2003-2004 Association budget. He noted that it is an aggressive and streamlined budget, and that total dues to the membership were not recommended to increase. Motion by Sunderland, seconded by Lovdahl to accept the proposed budget. Motion carried. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Lovdahl, that a search committee made up of Hoese, Buck and Hansen, would be authorized to try to find a parliamentarian for the convention who would work “pro-bono.” Motion carried.
- e. Roiger stated that finance committee members will present the budget at upcoming Area meetings. Each Area meeting presentation is covered, except for Area IV. Because the Area IV representative to the committee hasn’t attended the meetings, the presentation of the budget at the Area IV meeting will be conducted by Roiger or Hoese.
- f. Roiger asked for clarification from the board on how the finance committee should approach the issue of fund development. Hoese responded that he would like the committee to explore outside funding opportunities to decrease the reliance on dues.

Board recessed for lunch at noon, and reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

5. Resolution Committee Report – LeAnn Buck

- a. Buck reviewed the MASWCD resolutions process and presented the draft 2003 Resolution Packet. The packet has been reviewed by the resolutions/policy committee, which is submitting to the board the recommendation for approval. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Breuer, to accept the packet and allow it to be distributed to members for the pre-balloting process. Motion carried.
- b. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Sunderland, to include the resolution committee recommendations as a separate page in the mailing. Motion carried.
- c. Buck reviewed action taken to date on 2002 resolutions.

6. MASWCD Governance – Scott Hoese

- a. Hoese and Buck led the board through a discussion of the purpose and role of the MASWCD Areas. The MASWCD Areas provide for a governance structure for the Association.
- b. The board reviewed several governance options that have been suggested. MASWCD bylaws state that a change in the MASWCD Areas needs to be reviewed and approved by the membership at the annual convention in order to take affect.
- c. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Roiger, to recommend map X as the option for the membership to vote on at the annual convention. Motion carried unanimously. Under this scenario, Chisago and Isanti SWCDs would move from Area 3 into Area 4; Benton and Stearns SWCDs would move from Area 4 into Area 2; and Crow Wing and Cass SWCDs would move from Area 2 into Area 3. This scenario would better group SWCDs with common geographical, land use, and conservation issues. The intent is that if the membership votes down map X, the MASWCD Areas will stay the same. Board members had some question as to when the new Area boundaries would go into effect if approved. Area Directors need to evaluate their bylaws. Area Directors who would be affected by the change were asked to contact the SWCDs which would switch areas.

7. Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck

- a. Buck updated the board on the three Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (CREPs) currently being developed. The CREPs would be located in southeast Minnesota, southwest Minnesota, and the Red River Basin. It is anticipated that they will be combined into one comprehensive CREP proposal which Governor Pawlenty will submit to USDA in Washington DC.

Remainder of Executive Director's Report was postponed until later in the meeting.

8. Governor Pawlenty's Water Cabinet and Implications for SWCD Programs – Doug Thomas, BWSR and Laurie Martinson, DNR Commissioner's Office

Doug and Laurie updated the board on these activities and handed out a schematic showing the Water Cabinet's progress to date.

Executive Director's Report was resumed.

- b. Buck reported on her work with the Impaired Waters Stakeholder Group (G16) and how it relates to the work of the Clean Water Cabinet.
- c. Notes and activities from the last legislative committee meeting were share with the board. The upcoming legislative session will be a bonding year.
- d. Vanney updated the board on convention planning activities. Convention registration information will be going out in the next couple weeks. The convention dates are November 30 – December 2, 2003. The convention will be held at the Radisson Hotel South in Bloomington, Minnesota.

9. MACDE Report – Brian Watson

Watson reported on the MACDE annual summer conference. Attendance was down due to SWCD budget cuts. This is the time of year when all SWCDs are working with their counties on budget issues. Watson encouraged SWCD board members to be active with their county boards.

10. Area Director's Reports

Board members reported on activities and meetings at the Area level. Area meeting dates can be viewed on the MASWCD web site at www.maswcd.org, under "Meetings and Events."

11. Adjourn

Future meetings will take place October 28 at the MASWCD Office and November 29 at the Radisson Hotel South. The November 29 meeting will be from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Board members are encouraged to have dinner prior to the meeting that day. Motion to adjourn by Breuer, seconded by Lovdahl. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.