

# Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2003  
BWSR Conference Room  
St. Paul, MN

Attending: President Scott Hoese, Vice President Carol Berg, Secretary/Treasurer & Area IV Director Jim Main, Area III Director Ted Lovdahl, Area V Director Steve Sunderland, Area VI Director Greg Roiger, Area VII Director Ralph Breuer, LeAnn Buck (MASWCD Staff), Sheila Vanney (MASWCD Staff). Others in attendance: Roland Cleveland, Chisago SWCD Supervisor and Area III Co-Director; Rudie Spitzer, Winona SWCD Supervisor and Area VII Co-Director; John Jaschke, Ron Shelito, and Jeff Nielsen, BWSR; Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD staff and MACDE President; Judy Erickson, MASWCD lobbyist.

Absent: Area II Director Mary Ann Scharf

1. **Call to Order** – President Hoese called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance. Buck noted that Scharf was absent due to the flu.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Motion by Main to approve the agenda with an amendment. Seconded by Lovdahl. Motion carried. Motion by Lovdahl to approve MASWCD January 29 Board meeting minutes with amendments. Seconded by Sunderland. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Scott Hoese**
  - a. Hoese reported on the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual conference which was held in Orlando, Florida. He noted there were about 20 individuals in attendance from Minnesota. NACD acted on some bylaws changes. Election of officers took place: Gary Mast is NACD President; Billy Wilson is 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Tim Reich is 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Marc Curtis is Secretary-Treasurer. Hoese commented that the address by outgoing President Reed Smith was very good and he encouraged people to take a look at the transcription of the speech now available on the NACD web site. The MASWCD resolution by the Anoka CD relating to invasive species was forwarded to the national level and was adopted.
  - b. Hoese reported on federal conservation funding.
  - c. Hoese led the board in a discussion of the NACD spring legislative conference and whether to send MASWCD representation. There was a consensus among the board members to communicate to our congressional representatives here at home in lieu of traveling to NACD conference in Washington DC.
  - d. Hoese remarked on the NACD dues quota. MASWCD has budgeted for this payment and will follow-through on it.
  - e. Several media pieces related to conservation were recently published. Hoese will respond with a letter of thanks to *The Farmer* magazine. Roiger and Lovdahl will respond to Ron Schara and Dennis Anderson for their articles in the Outdoors section of the *Star Tribune*.
4. **Finance Report – Jim Main**
  - a. Main presented the finance report. Discussion. Hoese accepted the finance report subject to annual review.
  - b. Main and Buck updated the board with regard to dues membership payments. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Sunderland, to request that detailed financial information be sent by Kanabec SWCD to the MASWCD Finance Committee prior to acting on their hardship request. Motion carried
5. **Ad Hoc Technical Assistance Committee Update – John Jaschke**

Jaschke updated the board on the activity of the workgroup. The workgroup was formed last year at the request of the MASWCD board of directors and has representation from each of the MASWCD Areas.

Jaschke went through the draft report of the workgroup and highlighted several issues. Motion by Sunderland, seconded by Lovdahl, that the MASWCD Board of Directors encourages the Ad Hoc Technical Assistance Committee to continue their discussions and refine their recommendations to bring before the MASWCD and BWSR boards by June 1st. Motion carried. Discussion included comments that the committee could focus on the 5 "Recommendations discussed but not yet resolved" on page 17 of the 23 page draft report (February 21, 2003 version), with the addition of an item #6 - Roles and Responsibilities.

*The board recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.*

**6. Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck**

Buck reported on issues including: the MASWCD leadership program, the MASWCD boot camp conference, resolution/policy positions, legislative briefing, and a meeting with MPCA Commissioner Sheryl Corrigan. Discussion with the MPCA commissioner included the SWCDs as a delivery system and our roles with NPDES and feedlots. She asked the board to take action on a proposal from the Radisson Hotel South to move our convention date from December 7-9 to either November 30 – December 2 or December 14-16. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Sunderland to move the convention to November 30 – December 2. Motion carried.

**7. Budget Unallotments, Governor's 04-05 Budget Recommendations – LeAnn Buck & Judy Erickson**

Buck and Erickson presented an overview. A survey of the districts was conducted to ascertain some of the impacts of unallotment.

**8. SWCD New Century Initiative – Scott Hoese and LeAnn Buck**

Hoese and Buck reviewed the legislative initiative and explained the status as the proposal moves forward in the legislative process.

**9. Area Directors' Reports**

Board members commented on past and future Area meetings. Dates will be posted on the MASWCD web site.

**10. MACDE Report – Bryan Malone**

Malone updated the board on the new MACDE officers and topics they plan to address in the coming months. They will be holding a summer session in Alexandria on June 25-27.

**11. Future MASWCD Board Meetings & Adjourn**

The next MASWCD board of directors meetings will take place March 25 and April 22. The March 25 meeting will include the co-directors and a prioritization of the 2003 resolutions. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.