

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2003

Conference Call

Attending: President Scott Hoese, Vice President and Area I Director Carol Berg, Secretary/Treasurer and Area VI Director Greg Roiger, Area II Director Mary Ann Scharf, Area V Director Steve Sunderland, Area VII Director Ralph Breuer, LeAnn Buck (MASWCD Staff), Sheila Vanney (MASWCD Staff); others in attendance: Owen Knutson, Goodhue SWCD Supervisor and NACD Executive Board Member.

Absent: Area III Director Ted Lovdahl, Area IV Director Rick Hansen.

1. **Call to Order**– President Hoese called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. **NACD Restructuring and Impacts on the NACD North Central Region – Scott Hoese & Owen Knutson**

Hoese and Knutson briefed board members on the current status of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) restructuring and why this is taking place. They have both been participating in several conference calls over the past couple weeks regarding these issues. Information was also sent out to MASWCD board members prior to the conference call. Because a significant amount of the NACD budget is based on soft money (grant dollars) which has not yet been received and may not be received at all this year, NACD will be downsizing their operations and staffing. The restructuring plan reduces spending and realigns NACD's operations with the priorities outlined in the strategic plan developed and approved by the full NACD Board in October 2001.

Included as part of the staff downsizing is the elimination of the four leadership offices currently located in Pullman WA, Lakewood CO, Edmond OK, and Franklin IN. Christa Jones is the NACD North Central Regional staff located in Franklin IN. While her position is scheduled to be eliminated effective July 1st, the NACD North Central Regional meeting will be held two weeks later on July 14-15. Some of the discussion of the conference calls Hoese and Knutson have participated in has been whether to try to secure dollars from the eight state associations in the North Central Region to keep Christa on staff until after the North Central Region meeting. By that time, she may also have been able to secure grant dollars to keep her position going.

Board members voiced their thoughts and opinions on the matter. No formal action was taken. Hoese will be participating in at least one more conference call prior to the next MASWCD board meeting. The issue will be raised again at the June 24th MASWCD board meeting in Chaska, MN.

3. **Adjourn**

Conference call adjourned at 8:45 a.m.