

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

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

Attending: President Scott Hoese, Vice President Carol Berg, Secretary/Treasurer & Area IV Director Jim Main, Area II Co-Director Glenn Matejka, Area III Director Ted Lovdahl, Area V Director Steve Sunderland, Area VI Director Greg Roiger, Area VII Director Ralph Breuer, LeAnn Buck (MASWCD Staff), Stefanie Martinez (MASWCD Staff). Others in attendance: Roland Cleveland, Chisago SWCD Supervisor & Area III Co-Director; Rick Hansen, Dakota SWCD Supervisor & Area IV Co-Director; Loyal Fisher Renville SWCD Supervisor & Area VI Co-Director; Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD staff & MACDE President; Judy Erickson, MASWCD lobbyist; Ron Harnack, BWSR; Dave Wierens, AMC; Jim Birkholz, Facilitator.

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.
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 February 25, 2003 board meeting minutes with amendments. Seconded by Berg. Motion carried.
3. **Legislative Update – LeAnn Buck and Judy Erickson**
Buck and Erickson updated the board on the SWCD New Century Initiative, the amendments to the policy statement and comments from other organizations. The board reaffirmed approval of the New Century Initiative Legislation. The board stated the MASWCD Executive Director has authority to give direction to the lobbyist to pursue passage of the bill.
4. **Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck**
Buck reported on a meeting with Bill Hunt, NRCS State Conservationist, regarding the Conservation Title to the Farm Bill and implications for Minnesota. Buck reported those in attendance at the meeting were Owen Knutson (NACD Executive Board Member & Goodhue SWCD Supervisor), Tim Gieseke, (National Employees Association & Carver SWCD), Steve Pahs (MACDE & Goodhue SWCD), Scott Hoese and herself (MASWCD). Issues discussed at the meeting included: CRP, Technical Service Provider, Environmental Quality Incentive Program, contribution agreements vs. cooperative agreements. Currently, the Minnesota NRCS has not received a 2002/2003 budget for the various conservation programs. Also, allocations will not be made for several programs until the rule making process is complete.

The board recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

5. **Association of Minnesota Counties – Dave Wierens, AMC Policy Analyst**
 - a. Wierens stated AMC values relationship with SWCD's however; AMC opposes levy authority for districts. The AMC is not opposed to the other proposals of the New Century Initiative Legislation. Buck requested other funding alternative ideas. AMC has no suggestions at this time but would be willing to meet in the future.
 - b. Wierens discussed impact on the 20% budget cuts to counties.

6. President's Report – Scott Hoese

- a. Hoese recognized Jim Birkholz, former BWSR Assistant Director, and his retirement from BWSR. The board thanked Jim for his contribution with the New Century Initiative Bill. The board also thanked him for his many years of service with MASWCD and BWSR.
- b. Hoese announced Jim Main will be stepping down as the Area IV Director and MASWCD Secretary-Treasurer. Main will be leaving Minnesota to move to Oregon. The board, along with Buck, thanked him for his dedication and for the privilege to work with him. Replacements for his positions will be announced at the next board meeting.
- c. Hoese gave an update on the Ad-Hoc Technical Committee and MASWCD Boot Camp for Supervisors. Sunderland reported that the Ad Hoc Technical Committee will bring recommendations to the MASWCD Board and the BWSR Board after the final meeting April 7, 2003.
- d. Hoese confirmed MASWCD Convention dates - November 30-December 2.
- e. Matejka presented a resolution from Area II regarding the annual convention. The board thanked him for the information and will address it after it has been put through the resolution process.

7. Review of MASWCD 2002 Resolution

The board prioritized and reviewed 2002 resolutions with the help of attending co-directors. The process will help the MASWCD staff create a plan of action for each resolution.

8. Finance Report – Jim Man

- a. Main presented the finance report. Discussion followed. Hoese accepted the finance report subject to annual review.
- b. Main and Buck updated the board with regard to dues membership payments and the MASWCD By - Laws. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Berg, to send a letter to non-paying districts requesting dues payment. Motion carried.

9. Area Directors' Reports

- a. Board members commented on past and future area meetings. Dates will be posted on the MASWCD web site.
- b. Roiger presented information regarding a potential resolution. Roiger stated the resolution will be voted on at the next Area VI meeting.

10. MACDE Report – Bryan Malone

Malone reported the next MACDE meeting will be April 4, 2003.

11. Future MASWCD Board Meetings & Adjourn

The next MASWCD board of directors meetings will take place April 22, 2003.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.