

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2004

MASWCD Office, St. Paul, MN

Attending: President Scott Hoese, Vice President and Area I Director 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 and MASWCD Secretary/Treasurer Greg Roiger, Area VII Director Ralph Breuer; MASWCD staff LeAnn Buck, and Sheila Vanney; Doug Thomas, BWSR; Jim Fitzsimmons, Scott SWCD Supervisor; Rudie Spitzer, Winona SWCD Supervisor and Area VII Co-Director, Marilyn Bernhardson, Redwood SWCD Manager and MASWCD Legislative Committee Chair.

1. **Call to Order** – President Hoese called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Motion by Roiger, seconded by Scharf, to approve the agenda with changes. Motion carried. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Sunderland, to approve the MASWCD June 14, 2004 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Scott Hoese**
 - a. Hoese and other board members reported on the NACD North Central Region Meeting, held in Springfield, Illinois July 11-14.
 - b. Hoese discussed the board self-evaluation and thanked Berg and the other members of the Personnel Committee for developing it. The board will review their results prior to the next meeting.
 - c. Hoese and Buck reviewed the board's 2004 goals and progress made. Buck will send copies of the most up-to-date version of the document.
 - d. Board members reported on the Soil and Water Conservation Society annual conference that was held in St. Paul July 25-28.
 - e. Hoese and Buck discussed the signing ceremony they attended in Owatonna, Minnesota where Ducks Unlimited and NRCS signed a Memorandum of Understanding on conservation efforts.
 - f. Board members discussed a draft letter from FSA. FSA would like to send a joint letter between FSA, NRCS and MASWCD to local offices. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Sunderland, to approve Hoese signing it on behalf of MASWCD. Motion carried with no vote from Roiger.
 - g. Hoese updated the board on a request from a BWSR board member for endorsement on re-appointment. Karen Harder is seeking MASWCD support for re-appointment as a citizen representative on BWSR for the 2005 appointment process. In the past, MASWCD has not taken a position on appointments except with regard to SWCD representatives on the board. Discussion followed. Motion by Scharf, seconded by Sunderland to table the item until the December or January board meeting. Motion carried.
 - h. Hoese discussed NACD quota payments. The next NACD board meeting will be in October in Omaha, Nebraska.
 - i. Hoese noted a national Conservation Security Program (CSP) event that will take place August 26. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Berg to endorse Roiger to attend the event and represent MASWCD, covering his per diem and expenses. Motion carried.

4. Finance Report – Greg Roiger

- a. Roiger presented the monthly finance report and discussed issues relating to the budget. Hoese accepted the report subject to annual review.
- b. Roiger presented the proposed MASWCD 2004-2005 budget for review and action. He noted he has been impressed with the other members of the finance committee, their openness and forward thinking. Board members proceeded to evaluate the proposal.
Motion by Scharf, seconded by Breuer, to reduce staff travel expenses by \$1,000. Motion carried with no votes from Lovdahl, Roiger and Sunderland.
Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Berg, to amend the NACD Great Lakes Committee line item from \$1,000 to \$1,400. Motion failed.
Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Berg, to amend the New Initiatives Committee line item to add \$2,000. Motion carried.
Motion by Roiger, seconded by Lovdahl, to adopt the proposed budget as amended. Motion carried with all in favor.
Discussion followed regarding Association officer per diem. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Sunderland, to increase MASWCD board per diem from \$55 to \$75 starting November 1, 2004. Motion carried with four in favor, three against.
- c. The proposed budget will be presented at fall Area meetings, with Finance Committee members presenting, if possible.
- d. Roiger discussed the committee's efforts on fund development issues. Hoese commented and other board members concurred that the issue should be addressed by the new board in 2005.
- e. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Sunderland to conduct a raffle at the annual convention, coordinated by the finance committee. Hansen will donate a cedar chest to raffle off. Revenue would go into next year's budget under the donations fund. Motion carried.

5. Resolution/Policy Committee Report – Carol Berg

Berg reported that the Resolution/Policy Committee met on August 11 and reviewed the 16 resolutions that were submitted through the Area process. Motion by Berg, seconded by Scharf to accept the resolutions packet and approve its distribution to member SWCD for the pre-convention balloting process. Motion carried. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Sunderland to forward the committee recommendations with the packet, as a separate sheet. Motion carried.

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

6. Legislative Committee & Resolution/Policy Committee

Marilyn Bernhardson, MASWCD Legislative Committee chair, and Berg reported on their committees' discussions on next steps and strategies for SWCD funding initiatives. Board members discussed. Bernhardson and Hoese will meet with legislators to discuss the options.

7. Education Committee Report – Sheila Vanney

Vanney reported on the ongoing efforts of the Education Committee and presented the board with copies of their revised action plan.

8. Convention Planning Committee Report – Sheila Vanney

Vanney briefed the board on the status of convention planning and gathered their lodging requests.

9. Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck

Buck reported to the board on grants the Association is administering which includes training for SWCD members, the status of 2003 resolutions, the BWSR Initiatives Committee, Impaired Waters Stakeholder funding process, and supervisors' elections.

10. Draft MOU – MASWCD, DNR Forestry and BWSR

Buck discussed with the board a draft MOU between MASWCD, DNR Forestry and BWSR. Motion by Breuer, seconded by Berg, that the Association sign the MOU and coordinate with the SWCD Forestry Association which Lovdahl chairs. Motion carried.

11. BWSR Report – Doug Thomas

Thomas reported on BWSR activities. BWSR applied for and received a Conservation Innovation Grant through EQIP for invasive species control. They will be looking for 3-4 EQIP eligible landowners in west central Minnesota for eradicating reed canary grass and re-establishing native wetland vegetation.

12. Area Directors' Reports – Feedback from SWCDs & Area Meetings

Area Directors went around the table and discussed their Area Meetings and feedback from their SWCD constituents. Area meeting dates are posted on the MASWCD web site.

13. Future Meeting Dates and Adjourn

Future MASWCD board meetings will be held September 27 (location to be determined), November 4 (MASWCD office) and December 5 (2:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Duluth). Motion by Scharf, seconded by Lovdahl, to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.