

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

March 23, 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; Kim Boyce, University of Minnesota Extension Service; Judy Erickson, MASWCD Legislative Affairs Specialist; Bryan Malone, MACDE President; Stacey Puranen, Hennepin Conservation District; Ann English, NRCS.

1. **Call to Order** – President Hoese called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Motion by Sunderland, seconded by Breuer, to approve the revised agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Lovdahl, to approve MASWCD February 17, 2004 board meeting minutes. Motion carried. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Scharf, to approve the minutes for the afternoon meeting on February 17. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Scott Hoese**
 - a. Hoese and others reported on the NACD Spring Legislative Conference held in Washington DC March 15-17, and their subsequent visits with the Minnesota Congressional delegation. They also met with Governor Pawlenty's federal liaison staff. Topics covered during their meetings with congressmen included EQIP, technical assistance and FLEP.
 - b. Hoese and Buck reviewed the committee "job descriptions" that the board had been working on. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Scharf, to approve the committee descriptions. Motion carried.
 - c. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Scharf, to accept the Education Committee's recommendation to discontinue the essay contest portion of youth education efforts. Motion carried.
 - d. Hoese submitted Robert Borchert, Supervisor of the Rice SWCD, to fill the Area VII vacancy on the Finance Committee. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Roiger, to confirm Hoese's appointment. Motion carried. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Roiger, that Hoese and Hansen be authorized to find another Area IV representative for the Finance Committee, due to the current member's non-participation. Motion carried. The next MASWCD Finance Committee meeting will be April 7th.
4. **Finance Report – Greg Roiger**
 - a. Roiger presented the finance report and Hoese accepted subject to annual review.
 - b. Roiger presented the Finance Committee's recommendations to the board concerning non-payment of dues. The committee's recommendations were developed during a March 22nd conference call. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Berg, to table the dues issues for Beltrami, McLeod and Meeker SWCDs. Motion carried. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Breuer, to accept Mahmonmen's hardship request and establish their 2004 dues payment at \$1,000. Motion carried. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Breuer, to accept Marshall-Beltrami's hardship request and establish their 2004 dues payment at \$900. Motion carried with nay vote from Berg. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Scharf to allow quarterly dues payments from Carlton, Kanabec and Mille Lacs SWCDs for this year only; the MASWCD FY quarterly payments due dates include February 1 (now), May 1, August 1 and October 15. Motion carried with nay vote

from Hansen. Motion by Scharf, seconded by Roiger, that due to local action, Grant, Morrison, Olmsted and Aitkin SWCDs will not be members this year. Motion carried.

- c. Roiger reported that the Finance Committee will address fund development issues at the committee's April 7th meeting.

5. Area Directors' Reports

Area Directors shared events and issues being addressed in their Areas. Sunderland reported on the Conservation Technical Assistance Committee; he serves as the MASWCD representative.

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

6. Forestry Association of SWCDs Update – Ted Lovdahl

Lovdahl updated the board on the activities of the Forestry Association of SWCDs.

7. MASWCD Leadership Program Evaluation – Kim Boyce, U of M Extension Service

Boyce provided an explanation and outlined the benefits of the cohort learning process being utilized by the MASWCD Leadership Program. He also reviewed with the board the survey results from the third round of the training.

8. Legislative Update – Judy Erickson

Erickson reported to the board on the current legislative session and related issues of interest to MASWCD.

9. Levy Strategy – Scott Hoese

Hoese discussed strategy pertaining to levy options for districts. Discussion included: how to secure passage during the 2005 Legislative Session of Levy Authority for SWCDs; communicate SWCD fiscal issues to AMC and the Legislature and to lay groundwork for support of funding SWCDs through the state's general fund during the 2006-07 budget process in the 2005 Legislature.

10. Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck

- a. Buck presented a document outlining the Association's 2004 goals and what is being done to achieve them.
- b. MASWCD standing resolutions relating to cost-share have been submitted to BWSR for their Cost-Share Committee's review and action.
- c. Buck and Vanney briefed the board on upcoming changes to SWCD e-mail addresses for those who are currently using the USDA e-mail system.
- d. Buck reported on MASWCD support for an LCMR proposal from the Minnesota Science Museum. The proposal's focus is on groundwater education for youth and has the potential for SWCD involvement. The MASWCD Education Committee will have an opportunity to meet with the Science Museum staff.
- e. Buck reported on the implementation of NRCS grants received by the Association.
- f. Buck and Vanney updated the board on the upcoming MASWCD Refresher Course being held March 24-25.
- g. The MASWCD leadership program will be starting in a couple weeks. Due to flexibility with the NRCS grant, MASWCD will be able to accommodate all of the SWCD applications received for the program. There will be two cohort learning teams.
- h. MASWCD will be utilizing NRCS grant dollars to provide Technical Service Provider (TSP) workshops across the state. Exact dates are not yet known, but the format of the sessions will be similar to last year's EQIP workshops. Several sessions are planned to reduce travel costs for SWCD representatives.

- i. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Roiger, to remove the kickoff ceremony and dinner from the agenda for the 2004 annual convention. Discussion. Motion carried with nay votes from Sunderland and Breuer.
- j. Vanney presented information regarding the 2005 convention site and host selection. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Scharf, that Area VII serve as the host of the 2005 convention. Motion carried. Vanney walked through the proposals received from facilities across the state. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Scharf, to select the Sheraton Bloomington (formerly Radisson South) as the location for the 2005 convention. Dates will be December 4, 5 and 6, 2005. Motion carried with nay vote from Hansen. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Roiger, that MASWCD annual conventions be held where there are members SWCDs. Motion carried.

11. MACDE Report – Bryan Malone

Malone reported that results received from their December, 2003 survey showed interest in continuing the MACDE annual conference. This year the event will be held June 28-30 at Cragun's. Malone also stated that the MACDE board will be providing scholarships to employees attending the MASWCD leadership program, to help offset the costs to those SWCDs. The scholarships will be available to those employees who are members of MACDE. Training funding from MACDE was also provided to help support an administrative training session held for Areas 1, 2 & 3. Topics of the session included web design, Quickbooks accounting software, and personnel/insurance issues.

12. Confirm Meeting Dates and Adjourn

Future meetings will take place April 21 and June 22 at the MASWCD office. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Lovdahl, to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.