

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2004

St. Paul, MN

Attending: President Scott Hoese, Vice President and Area I Director Carol Berg, Area II Director Mary Ann Scharf, Area II Co-Director Glen Matejka, 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 Stefanie Martinez; Doug Thomas and Jim Lemmerman, BWSR; Steve Pahs, Rice SWCD Staff & MACDE; Loyal Fisher, Renville SWCD Supervisor; Rudie Spitzer, Winona SWCD Supervisor; Gordon Folkman, MN Dept. of Revenue; Paul Flynn, NRCS; Mike Bull, Governor Pawlenty's Office; Mark Holsten, DNR; Greg Buzicky and John Peckman, MN Dept of Ag.

1. **Call to Order** – President Hoese called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Scharf, to approve the MASWCD September 27, 2004 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Scott Hoese**
 - a. Hoese and Berg reported on NACD Board meeting in Nebraska.
 - b. Hoese led a discussion to make changes to convention standing rules.
 - c. Hoese reported that the MASWCD Auxiliary will conduct their annual meeting and discuss ending the auxiliary.
 - d. Board members discussed a letter from Carlton SWCD.
 - e. Pre-balloting resolution results will be e-mailed to the member SWCDs prior to the annual meeting.
4. **Finance Report – Greg Roiger, MASWCD Secretary/Treasurer**
 - a. Roiger presented the monthly finance report and discussed issues relating to the budget. Hoese accepted the report subject to annual review.
 - b. Board decided to not have a separate raffle during the annual meeting and will work with the MACDE for one raffle during the MASWCD Convention. The board discussed future raffles and other fundraising ideas for the Association.
 - c. Motion by Sunderland, seconded by Breuer, to have Berg purchase a gift valued at \$100-\$125, to donate to the NACD Annual Convention Auction. Motion Carried.
5. **Area Directors Reports**

Area Directors updated each other on their Area meetings and other issues in their Areas. Upcoming meeting dates are posted on the MASWCD web site.
6. **Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck**
 - a. Buck presented an overview of funding options. This included how SWCDs are funded, bonding, LCMR, fees, and current proposed 2004 Resolutions #4, #2 and #3. This information and later agenda items were provided as background information as the board and the legislative committee prepares the 2005 legislative platform.
 - b. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Sunderland, to accept NRCS Contribution Agreements. The agreements include regional training for CSP and a National Leadership Institute for members.

The board recessed for lunch at noon and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

7. Governor Pawlenty's Minnesota Conservation Heritage Foundation Proposal - Mike Bull, Senior Policy Analyst for Governor Pawlenty and Mark Holsten, DNR Assistant Commissioner

Bull and Holsten reported on Governor Pawlenty's LCMR plan. The proposal includes creating a new foundation board that would make policy and spending decisions currently made by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR). The LCMR distributes \$34 million which is generated by the portion of lottery proceeds. Holsten reported that the current process is very time consuming. The change would require legislation. The board discussed how this may impact SWCDs' long term strategy and how political the appointment process would be for foundation members.

8. Federal Conservation Program Summary - Paul Flynn, NRCS State Resource Conservationist

Flynn reported and updated Board on FY 2004 SWCD/NRCS Contribution Agreements.

9. Overview of Local Levy Options - Gordon Folkman, Director of Property Tax Division for the Minnesota Department of Revenue

Folkman reviewed the SWCD levy option for the SWCDs and county's general levy. Folkman also defined what add valorem means in terms of taxation. Board was presented with a few work sheets showing who currently has local levy authority and where the money is spent.

10. Red River Valley Leadership Program

Doug Thomas, BWSR Assistant Director, reviewed the BWSR Red River Valley Leadership program. Motion by Hansen, seconded by Berg to endorse the Red River Valley Leadership Program. Motion Carried. Staff will check to see if there is any Association funding for sponsorship.

11. Emergency Resolution - Greg Buzicky and John Peckham, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Agronomy and Plant Protection Division

Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Scharf, to take from the table, the proposed emergency resolution on Plantskydd deer repellent, submitted by the Koochiching SWCD. Motion carried. Buzicky and Peckham reviewed the current status of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's efforts to address the use of the deer repellent "Plantskydd." They explained to the Board that "Plantskydd" is a non-restricted pesticide. Because there is no need for a government employee to have a permit the board determined the resolution from Area III is not an emergency resolution. Buzicky will provide a letter for the Association outlining this information in detail. The Association will forward to the members.

12. MACDE Report – Steve Pahs

Pahs updated the board on the activities of MACDE.

13. Future Meeting Dates and Adjourn

The next meeting will take place December 5, 2004 in Duluth at 2:30 p.m.