

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2004

Walker, 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 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 and Jim Lemmerman, BWSR; Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD Staff & MACDE President; Frank Turnock, Aitkin SWCD Supervisor; Ruth Trask, Beltrami SWCD Supervisor.

Absent: Area IV Director Rick Hansen

1. **Call to Order** – President Hoese called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Motion by Roiger, seconded by Lovdahl, to approve the agenda with changes. Motion carried. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Scharf, to approve the MASWCD August 24, 2004 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Scott Hoese**
 - a. Motion by Breuer, seconded by Sunderland, to accept the Nomination Committee's report. Motion carried. Candidates on the ballot for elections at the annual meeting will include Carol Berg (Hubbard SWCD) for President and Loyal Fisher (Renville SWCD) for Vice President.
 - b. The board directed Hoese and Buck to make arrangements for a parliamentarian at the convention.
 - c. Hoese and Buck led a review of the board's strategic plan.
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 updated the board on progress made toward having a raffle in conjunction with the convention. Area Directors should contact Roiger by October 20 with information on their donation and then bring the item with them to the convention. The winner(s) of the raffle will be announced at the auction.
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 reported to the board on grants which the Association is administering.
 - b. MASWCD continues to be at the table for the second phase of the impaired waters initiative. Buck updated the board on the status of the effort.
 - c. Board members discussed strategy for levy authority.
 - d. Motion by Sunderland, seconded by Roiger to include MASWCD 2003 Resolution No. 15 for FSA public comment period for CRP extensions.
 - e. FSA initiated a joint letter for the local conservation partnership. Buck reviewed an updated letter that would go out from FSA, NRCS and MASWCD to local members.

7. Emergency Resolution – Ted Lovdahl

Lovdahl presented a resolution from Area III asking for an exemption from pesticide applicator licensure for Plantskydd deer repellent for tree plantings. Because the regular resolutions process is already underway, only emergency resolutions can be accepted into the process. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Breuer, to accept the resolution as an emergency resolution. Board members discussed whether the resolution meets the criteria of an emergency resolution. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Sunderland to table the issue and bring back to the next meeting. Motion carried.

8. MASWCD Leadership Program – LeAnn Buck

Buck went through a presentation she will be making on the MASWCD Leadership Program and the benefits for members at an upcoming meeting of other State Association Executive Directors.

9. State Technical Committee Report

Sunderland reported on issues from the last meeting of the NRCS State Technical Committee. Sunderland is MASWCD's representative to the committee. The Conservation Security Program was an agenda item. The committee discussed where future eligible watersheds would be and the criteria for ranking them. Minnesota's first CSP watershed was the Blue Earth River Basin in the central part of the state. The Federal Conservation Title programs allocate over \$200 million dollars annually to Minnesota.

10. BWSR Board Initiatives – Doug Thomas

Thomas reported on BWSR Board Initiatives and action taken at the last BWSR Board meeting. To enhance technical service delivery, the BWSR Board is recommending to the Governor that statute be changed to temporarily allow SWCDs to use up to 100% of their cost-share allocation for technical assistance over the next two years. The proposal would require a district opting to do this to show they are providing new capacity with use of these dollars. The proposal would ultimately go before the legislature for approval. The BWSR Board is also recommending a levy exemption for local water planning. This will also go before the Governor and requires legislative action. Thomas reported that the Department of Finance is currently estimating a state budget deficit of \$400 million to \$1 billion dollars. The higher end figure takes into consideration inflation. The Governor is asking state agencies to prioritize their programs. BWSR has absorbed 21% reductions in the last rounds of budget cuts. Thomas also reported on a Drainage Design Team that is being proposed to assist local government with technical issues related to drainage issues.

11. Forestry Association of SWCDs Update – Ted Lovdahl & Frank Turnock

Lovdahl and Turnock reported on the meetings of the Forestry Association of SWCDs. Lovdahl is chair and Turnock is Vice-Chair. They have an updated mission statement, have provided training sessions and are continuing work on a tree care planting handbook.

12. MACDE Report – Bryan Malone

Malone reported that the MACDE board met last week. They discussed the MACDE raffle to take place at the MASWCD convention and also discussed the future of the MACDE annual meeting.

13. Future Meeting Dates and Adjourn

The next meetings will take place November 4 in St. Paul, and December 5 in Duluth. Motion by Lovdahl, seconded by Breuer to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.