

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2005

MASWCD Office, St. Paul, MN

Attending: President Carol Berg, Vice President Loyal Fisher, Area I Director Ken Pederson, Area II Director Mary Ann Scharf, Area III Director Bill Saumer, Area IV Director Mary Wetter, Area V Director Clark Lingbeek, Area VI Director and MASWCD Secretary/Treasurer Greg Roiger, Area VII Director Ralph Breuer; Area VIII Director Tom Schulz; MASWCD staff LeAnn Buck and Sheila Vanney; Area VII Co-Director Rudie Spitzer, U of M Extension Educators Donna Rae Scheffert & Kim Boyce, BWSR Executive Director Ron Harnack, NRCS Acting Assistant State Conservationist John Beckwith.

1. **Call to Order** – President Berg 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 Schulz, seconded by Scharf, to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Lingbeek, to approve the June 29 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President’s Report – Carol Berg**
 - a. Berg, with input from Roiger and Fisher, briefed the board on the NACD North Central Region Meeting held in Fort Wayne Indiana. She also commented on the NACD Board Meeting held in Orlando, Florida. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Breuer, to send both Berg and Fisher to the NACD Annual Convention to be held January 29 to February 2. Motion carried.
 - b. Berg represented MASWCD at the Farm Bill Forum in Redwood Falls. USDA Secretary Mike Johanns led the forum and solicited comments from attendees on what is and isn’t working well with the current Farm Bill programs. Berg’s comments focused on the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill and drew from approved resolutions from the membership.
 - c. Berg led a discussion on board goals relative to maintaining and nurturing a political network. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Lingbeek, to look into instituting an “adopt a legislator” program where rural SWCDs would “adopt” urban/suburban legislators, helping to educate them on SWCD issues from across the state to give them a broader perspective of what happens outside the metro area. Motion carried. The item will be forwarded to the Legislative Committee for further review and action.
 - d. Berg noted that a letter went out from MASWCD to Vic Ormsby, Winona SWCD Supervisor, for his service on the BWSR Board. Vic’s term on the BWSR Board ended this summer.
4. **Finance Report – Greg Roiger, Secretary/Treasurer**
 - a. Roiger reviewed the finance report and Berg accepted subject to annual review. Schulz noted he would like to see the previous month on the balance sheet for comparison.
 - b. Roiger went through the draft 05-06 budget that was developed by the Finance Committee. Board discussion followed. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Breuer, to approve the draft budget as recommended. Motion for amendment by Saumer, seconded by Scharf, to make the increase in dues a flat \$50 for all districts. Motion for amendment carried. Amended motion carried. Motion by Schulz, seconded by Scharf, to review the legislative affairs contract at the next board meeting. Motion carried. Roiger noted the draft budget will get presented at the fall Area meetings, prior to being voted on by the membership at the December annual convention.

5. Resolution/Policy Committee Report – Mary Ann Scharf, Chair

Scharf briefed the board on the August 15 Resolutions/Policy Committee Meeting. She then presented the draft resolutions packet for the board's consideration. A few errors were noted in the which will be corrected by staff. Motion by Scharf, seconded by Lingbeek, to adopt the resolution packet as corrected and have distributed to the membership for the pre-balloting process. Motion carried. Scharf also reviewed the committee's recommendations for each resolution that was on a separate sheet (approve, disapprove, neutral). Motion by Scharf, seconded by Wetter, to include the recommendations as a separate sheet for the membership's information. Motion carried. Schulz recommended including a list of the committee membership on this list and a brief explanation as to why the votes don't add up at times (members abstaining, arriving late, leaving early, etc.).

6. Bylaws Recommendation – Loyal Fisher

Fisher presented recommendations on revisions to the bylaws. These included text that would clarify the role of the resolutions process in setting policy for the Association, a clarification on how amendments to the bylaws may be introduced, a revision to the parliamentary authority, an elimination of duplicate number references, and a change allowing the President a vote on the board to make or break a tie. Board discussion followed. Motion by Scharf, seconded by Schulz, to approve the proposed revisions for consideration and vote by the membership at the December annual meeting. Proposed changes will be mailed to the members prior to the meeting and will be in strike-through format. Motion carried.

7. Fund Development Task Force – Ralph Breuer

Breuer reviewed recommendations from the Fund Development Task Force. Motion by Breuer, seconded by Roiger, to go forward with a long term fund development strategy. Motion carried.

8. Area Director Reports – Future Area Meeting Dates

Area Directors provided updates on activities from their areas and summer area meetings.

The board recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

9. Convention Planning Report – Sheila Vanney, Assistant Director

Vanney reviewed with the board the program/schedule of events for the December annual meeting.

10. Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck

Buck updated the board on impaired waters issues, the Washington DC Leadership Institute, 2004 Resolutions. She presented a draft memo from herself and Ron Harnack outlining the supervisor election options. Motion by Pederson, seconded by Scharf, to approve sending the joint memo to the members. Motion carried. Buck also presented information on the training opportunities MASWCD has been providing over the last year. She solicited input on how the board would like to move forward with their priority issue of training for SWCD Supervisors.

11. Leadership Program Analysis – Donna Rae Scheffert and Kim Boyce

Scheffert and Boyce presented an analysis of the leadership institutes in which they partnered with MASWCD as instructors.

12. 2006 Leadership Programs – LeAnn Buck and Kim Boyce

Buck and Boyce outlined potential options for moving ahead with a future leadership program. Motion by Scharf, seconded by Lingbeek to go forward with a seven session leadership institute, to include a Washington DC component, and contract with U of M to provide the instruction. Motion carried. Motion to amend by Schulz, seconded by Lingbeek, to target districts that have not participated in the past programs and have as a goal a 50-50 split between supervisor and staff participants. Motion to amend carried. Amended motion carried.

13. BWSR Report – Ron Harnack

Harnack reported on BWSR Board Appointments, Technical Service Area allocations, the buffer study the legislature directed BWSR to conduct, BWSR's wetlands report, the September BWSR Board Meeting in Rice County, and the new BWSR wetlands coordinator – Dan Giralamo.

14. NRCS Report – John Beckwith

Beckwith discussed the Conservation Security Program, contribution agreements with MASWCD, and 1026 forms/wetland workload for NRCS staff.

15. Future Meeting Dates & Adjourn

Future board meetings will take place September 27 in Duluth, and November 1 at the MASWCD Office in St. Paul. Motion by Pederson, seconded by Wetter, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.