

# Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2005

MASWCD Office, St. Paul, MN

Attending: President Carol Berg, Vice President Loyal Fisher, Area I Director Ken Pederson, 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; MASWCD Legislative Specialist Judy Erickson, DNR Forester Larry Himanga, NACD North Central Region staff Christa Jones, U of M Extension Service educators Lisa Hinz and Mary Laeger-Hagemeister, and Doug Thomas and Jim Lemmerman, BWSR.

Absent: Mary Ann Scharf, Area II Director

1. **Call to Order** – President Berg called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Motion by Breuer, seconded by Pederson, to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Lingbeek, to approve the April 26 board meeting minutes with corrections. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Carol Berg**
  - a. Berg briefed the board on an Executive Committee conference call that was held May 26 to discuss the legislative session, lobbyist contract, dues request and top resolution priorities from 2004.
  - b. Berg and Buck reviewed with the board the 2004 Resolution Priorities that were determined at the April 26 board meeting.
  - c. Berg and Vanney explained an invitation that was extended by Duluth to host an upcoming board meeting so the board could get further acquainted with the hotel properties in the Canal Park area. Board consensus was that it would be beneficial to conduct such a meeting in Duluth. Vanney will work with facilities to coordinate the September 27 board meeting in Duluth.
4. **By-laws Update – Loyal Fisher, Vice President**

Fisher led a brief discussion on whether to have some mention of the resolutions process in the bylaws because it is such an important mechanism for determining MASWCD policy. Schulz suggested there should also be mention in the bylaws of the process for how to initiate an amendment to the bylaws. Motion by Schulz, seconded by Wetter, to direct Fisher to compile proposed changes to the bylaws for review and action at the next board meeting, with the proposed changes going through the Resolution/Policy Committee. Motion carried.
5. **Finance Report – Greg Roiger, Secretary/Treasurer**
  - a. Roiger reviewed the finance report and Berg accepted subject to annual review.
  - b. Roiger briefed the board on the status of dues and membership. Motion by Pederson, seconded by Schulz, to ratify acceptance of Marshall-Beltrami's hardship status and accept their payment of \$200 as their dues payment for the year. Motion carried.

**6. Fund Development Task Force – Ralph Breuer, Chair**

Breuer briefed the board on the recommendations developed by the task force. Task force recommendation A is to have MASWCD explore partnering with MACDE to conduct the auction during the annual meeting and sell any remaining raffle tickets; and for the possible uses of the auction proceeds to include 50% for education, 25% to start an endowment fund and 25% for the employee's association. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Pederson, to accept the task force recommendation A. Motion carried. Task force recommendation B is to assign the awards committee the task of finding sponsorships for existing Association award programs. Motion by Breuer, seconded by Lingbeek, to accept the task force recommendation B. Motion carried.

**7. Area Director Reports – Future Area Meeting Dates**

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

Area 1 – met June 23 in Bejou at Terry McCollum's pheasant reserve, Clean Water Legacy and WCA were topics on the agenda, Mahnomen and Norman SWCDs discussed their research into creating a Super District with the Wild Rice Watershed District, there were three resolutions.

Area 2 – in Scharf's absence, Berg noted that Scharf received positive comments about the leadership program at the last Area 2 meeting.

Area 3 – met on June 3 in Duluth, there were two resolutions, a presentation on WCA was conducted by BWSR staff, the next meeting will be September 28-29 in Mora.

Area 4 – met June 27 at Little Rock Lake in Benton County, there was a discussion on youth education, attendance at the meeting was up, Ron Harnack talked about the potential government shutdown, Benton SWCD made a presentation, there were six resolutions

Area 5 – met June 16 at Lake Shetek in Murray County, Roiger brought the six wheeler for display, Pipestone SWCD supervisor Richard Zupp is retiring so there was recognition of his service, BWSR staff presented information on ethical accounting practices, Murray County Environmental Office talked about the issues with septic systems around Lake Shetek, Bill Bollin talked about the history of the area, there were no resolutions.

Area 6 – met June 28 at Lt. Governor Carol Molnau's farm, she spoke to the group and indicated the Clean Water Legacy initiative is still in play and is supported by the Governor, there was a presentation on the Brown Nicollet Clean Water Partnership with a discussion of fertilizer application rates, Buck conducted a presentation on the Clean Water Legacy, the Nicollet SWCD hosted a tour of a dairy operation, there was one resolution.

Area 7 – next meetings will be July 7 in Rochester and September 29 in Rochester at the Holiday Inn South, Olmsted SWCD will be bringing up the issue with their dues payment at their next local board meeting.

Area 8 – met June 28 at the Deep Portage Conservation Center in Hackensack, they tried something a little different and broke into small groups to conduct discussions of the resolutions to be acted upon, Beltrami should be sending in their dues check, there were eight resolutions.

**8. Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck**

- a. Buck updated the board on the MASWCD Washington DC Leadership Institute, Outreach for Success workshops for SWCDs and a meeting that was conducted between the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota (BALMM).

*The board recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.  
Buck did not return to the meeting as she was not feeling well.*

- b. Berg, Fisher and Roiger updated the board on the recent meeting the NACD Executive Board held in Minneapolis. LeAnn Buck, MASWCD, & Doug Thomas, BWSR, presented information on the conservation partnership in Minnesota. The MASWCD Executive Committee, BWSR and NRCS were in attendance.
- c. Board members reviewed information about an upcoming meeting in Iowa on the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Motion by Roiger, seconded by Breuer, to approve sending Lingbeek as MASWCD's representative and pick up any expenses not covered by the retreat coordinators. Motion carried.

**9. BWSR Report – Doug Thomas**

Thomas stated the open BWSR board positions held by Vic Ormsby and Karen Harder and the empty counting commissioner seat have still not been filled by the Governor's office. The BWSR board took action on local water planning challenge grants and Thomas presented a handout that outlined proposed and approved projects. Thomas went over a handout that outlined the Capitol Bonding Requests that BWSR will be presenting to the Governor. He talked about easement management and said that BWSR will be putting together a committee to look at this issue.

**10. 2004 Resolution #6 Forest Stewardship Plan Cap – Larry Himanga, DNR Forestry**

MASWCD forwarded the 2004 Resolution No. 6 "Forest Stewardship Plans" to DNR Forestry and the Forest Stewardship Committee. The cap was raised on Forest Stewardship plans. Himanga gave a background on the forest stewardship program, the history of the State Forest Stewardship Committee, and the history of the payment structure for forest steward plans. He discussed the rationale behind the cap on forest stewardship plan payments and the issue with fair/unfair competition with the private sector foresters. Himanga suggested one way for MASWCD to work with DNR Forestry would be to encourage SWCDs to invite their local DNR Private Forest Management (PFM) foresters to their SWCD board meetings. He outlined ways DNR Forestry supports MASWCD including the Outstanding Forest Steward award presented at our annual convention, articles in our newsletter Tidbits and the opportunity for cooperative efforts to expand if the Clean Water Legacy Initiative goes forward.

Berg asked board members if they were satisfied with the action taken on Resolution #6. Consensus of the board members was that they feel comfortable with the current payment structure and status of things as they stand.

**11. Outreach for Success – Christa Jones, NACD**

Jones presented background information on the Outreach for Success program that NACD is encouraging state's to conduct with their SWCDs. The program aims to assist districts with improving recruitment of local board members and with reaching out to customers. MASWCD has a contribution agreement with NRCS to conduct eight "Outreach for Success" workshops around the state in August and September. U of M Extension Service educators will be the instructors for the workshops.

**12. State Technical Committee Report – Clark Lingbeek and Tim Wilson, NRCS**

Lingbeek and Wilson discussed the status of the Conservation Security Program in Minnesota and the board reviewed maps that outline where the eligible watersheds are throughout the state. They also talked about the local work group process and encouraging SWCDs to take part in the process again for the next round of EQIP. Motion by Saumer, seconded by Wetter, to approve Berg signing a letter with NRCS State Conservationist Bill Hunt to encourage SWCDs to conduct local work group meetings. Motion carried. Wilson also briefly touched on NRCS's interest in entering into contribution agreements for districts to get new computers in exchange for assistance with data entry.

**13. Legislative Report – Judy Erickson, MASWCD Legislative Affairs**

Erickson stated that at 4:00 today, the Legislature's Environment, Agriculture and Economic Development Working Group was to meet and hopefully come to final agreement on these items of the state budget. A partial government shutdown may take place if the legislators can't pass all items in the budget by midnight on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**14. Next Meeting & Adjourn**

The next board meetings will take place August 23 at the MASWCD office in St. Paul and September 27 in Duluth. Motion by Schulz, seconded by Wetter, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.