

# Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2005

Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, Duluth, 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; BWSR Assistant Director Doug Thomas, North St. Louis SWCD Supervisor Gary Rantala.

1. **Call to Order** – President Berg called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Motion by Wetter, seconded by Pederson, to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Schulz, seconded by Scharf, to approve the August 23, 2005 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Carol Berg**
  - a. Berg reported on the MASWCD Washington DC Leadership Institute that was held September 13-17. She thanked Vanney for contributions toward planning the event. Fisher, Wetter and Schulz also provided comments and insights on the five day program. The Association continues to provide training opportunities for the SWCD supervisors and staff.
  - b. Berg noted that she would like the board to look at the six priorities that have been identified for the year and have board members clarify each at the November 1 board meeting.
  - c. Berg will be attending the MACDE board of directors meeting tomorrow in St. Cloud and she will be conducting a PowerPoint presentation on the reasons for supporting NACD through quota payments.
  - d. Berg referenced notes included in board members' packets from Ted Lovdahl regarding the latest Forest Stewardship Committee. Lovdahl serves as MASWCD's representative to the committee.
4. **Finance Report – Greg Roiger, Secretary/Treasurer**
  - a. Roiger reviewed the finance report and Berg accepted subject to annual review.
  - b. Roiger noted that a formal financial review was conducted by a private accountant. The Finance Committee also reviewed the materials from the accountant. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Scharf to accept the financial review. Motion carried.
  - c. Raffle tickets status is coming in slowly. Roiger encouraged board members to support this effort with the member districts in their Areas. The current proposed budget does project revenues from the raffle.
  - d. Roiger updated the board regarding the current IRS mileage rate. The IRS has changed it from \$.405 to \$.485. It is MASWCD policy to adopt the new rate.
5. **Personnel Committee Report – Loyal Fisher, Chair**

Fisher reviewed with the board their decision at the last board meeting to conduct a review of the lobbyist contract. The current projected timetable for this is to conduct an evaluation,, check into options, and hold a meeting of the Personnel Committee. A recommendation will be brought to the full board. The legislative session will start later than a regular session and begin March 1 of 2006 and is expected to end in May.

**6. Education Committee Report – Sheila Vanney**

As staff advisor to the committee, Vanney reported on the August meeting that was conducted. She also reviewed the recent efforts of the committee.

**7. Awards Committee Report – Ken Pederson, Chair and Sheila Vanney**

Pederson and Vanney reviewed items that were addressed by the committee at the September meeting.

**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. Washington DC Leadership Institute & Federal Conservation Policy**

Buck briefed the board on activities of the program that was held September 13-17 including Congressional meetings, discussions about the Federal Clean Water Act, the next Farm Bill Conservation Title and forestry initiatives. Thirty-five SWCD supervisors and staff from across the state participated in the Association's Leadership Institute.

**10. Public Drainage Ditch Buffer Strip Study, Res. #7, author Brown SWCD – Greg Roiger**

Roiger and Thomas updated the board on the status of this initiative and resolution.

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

Buck updated the board on the Clean Water Legacy initiative and the Heavy Use Protection Lane resolution. She presented possible grant opportunities with NRCS for the coming year. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Schulz, to authorize Buck to enter into the agreements. Motion carried. Buck presented a request for sponsorship from the Trust for Public Land for an upcoming training event. Motion by Scharf, seconded by Breuer, to provide \$200 in sponsorship funds for the event. Motion carried. Buck presented information on the history of the district capacity initiative and how it led to creation of proposed legislation for levy options. The board discussed the upcoming legislative session and what the Association's position should be. Consensus of the board was to direct Buck to work with Thomas and the Legislative Committee to put together an action plan on the issue.

**12. BWSR Wetland Report – Doug Thomas, BWSR**

Thomas presented a summary of the report that BWSR developed on wetlands in Minnesota. Thomas also reported on correspondence from the Governor regarding recommendations to the Clean Water Cabinet including improvements to accounting and reporting systems for wetlands, alternates to the existing WCA exemptions, alternates to the existing replacement rations, improvements on voluntary efforts that build on the success of the past but require a minimum of additional resources and other recommendations the Cabinet deems appropriate.

**13. Future Meeting Dates & Adjourn**

The next board meeting will take place November 1 at the MASWCD Office in St. Paul. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Saumer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.