

# Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2006

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, St. Cloud MN

Attending: President Carol Berg, Vice President & Area VI Loyal Fisher, Area 1 Director Ken Pederson, Area 2 Director Ross Aigner, Area 3 Bill Saumer, Secretary/Treasurer & Area 5 Director Clark Lingbeek, Area 6 Director Greg Roiger, Area 7 Director Rudie Spitzer, Area 8 Director Tom Schulz; MASWCD staff LeAnn Buck, Sheila Vanney; Karen Halverson, MASWCD Education Committee Chair; Kim Boyce, University of Minnesota Extension Service; Doug Thomas, BWSR; Kathryn Kelly, Renville SWCD Supervisor.

Absent: Area 4 Director Mary Wetter

1. **Call to Order** – President Berg called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Board Meeting Minutes** – Motion by Pederson, seconded by Lingbeek, to approve today's agenda with addition. Motion carried. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Aigner, to approve the June 27, 2006 meeting minutes with corrections. Motion carried, with Spitzer abstaining because he was not present at the June meeting.
3. **President's Report – Carol Berg**
  - a. As a follow-up to an approved 2005 resolution, MASWCD will be sending out a letter to districts encouraging them to refrain from seeking political party endorsements for this year's elections.
  - b. Berg and others reported on the NACD North Central Region Meeting that was held July 9-11 in Cleveland, Ohio and the NACD Executive Board Meeting that was held August 11-12 in Columbus Ohio.
4. **Finance Report – Clark Lingbeek, Treasurer**
  - a. Lingbeek presented the monthly finance report. Berg accepted subject to annual review.
  - b. Discussion was held on the proposed MASWCD 2006-2007 budget. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Roiger, to approve the draft budget. Motion carried.
  - c. Members of the MASWCD Finance Committee will be presenting the draft budget at upcoming Area meetings.
  - d. Lingbeek reviewed with the board the results of the audit conducted by Baumann & Associates. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Spitzer, to accept the report. Motion carried. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Schulz, to allow staff to implement a change in the management of funds in savings, and report back at the next meeting. Motion carried.
5. **Resolution/Policy Committee Report – Loyal Fisher, Committee Chair**
  - a. Fisher reported on the activities of the committee and reviewed the draft resolution packet. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Saumer, to accept the resolution packet. Motion carried.
6. **Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck**
  - a. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Pederson, to continue the "adopt-a-legislator" program. Motion carried.
  - b. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Schulz, to approve being a member/supporter of the Envision Minnesota, gubernatorial candidates' debate on environmental issues.
  - c. Buck reported to the board on the national NRCS Security Policy for SWCD Employees. NRCS has entered into a contribution agreement with MASWCD so that districts will be reimbursed for half the cost of the security/background checks necessary for district staff to access the USDA information.
  - d. Buck reported that the Minnesota Conservation Corps is willing to attend Area meetings if any of the board members should express interest. The MCC does address prescribed burns and other work projects related to natural resources.

**7. BWSR Report – Doug Thomas**

Thomas reported on drought disaster cost-share assistance being provided to landowners in the counties that have the disaster declaration. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Schulz, to encourage BWSR to use additional roll-over funds and for districts to use existing 06 cost-share allocations for drought assistance in designated counties. Motion carried.

**8. 2006 Leadership Program Topics – Kim Boyce U of M Extension Service: Leadership & Civic Engagement**

Boyce and Buck discussed with the board several district critical issues for the current leadership group to address during their course work over the next year. The board of directors selected four state-wide topics and will request the leadership program participants to study and provide recommendations in an advisory role to the board. The participants will provide an overview and/or recommendations for the board on each selected topic.

**9. Outlook for MASWCD Education Committee Activities – Karen Halverson, Committee Chair**

Halverson reviewed with the board the committee's strategic plan and the goals outlined in it. Because the poster and video contest packet orders have seen such a dramatic decline, the committee is looking at other opportunities for districts to reach the youth in their communities. One such opportunity is a Junior Envirothon for students in middle school. It would compliment the current State Envirothon program that is available to high school students. A pilot Junior Envirothon was conducted this past year with the Carver, Scott and Hennepin districts and was a great success. Halverson noted that the expansion of the State Envirothon from a pilot to a statewide program back in the early 1990s was due in no small part to the support and efforts of the MASWCD Area Directors at that time. She asked Area Directors in attendance to please consider promoting a Junior Envirothon with the districts in their Areas. Motion by Pederson, seconded by Lingbeek, for the MASWCD to endorse expansion of a Junior Envirothon program. Motion carried.

**10. SWCD Forestry Conference – Tom Schulz**

Schulz reported on the status of planning efforts for the conference. It will be held October 3-4 at Rutgers' resort near Brainerd.

**11. Schedule Next Meeting & Adjourn**

The next meetings will be held September 26 and November 2 at the MASWCD Office in St. Paul. Motion made by Lingbeek, seconded by Aigner, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.