

## Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes December 3, 2006

Sheraton Bloomington Hotel – Minneapolis South, Bloomington MN

Attending: President Carol Berg, Vice President Loyal Fisher, Area 1 Director Ken Pederson, Area 2 Director Ross Aigner, Area 3 Bill Saumer, Area 4 Director Mary Wetter, 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, Stefanie Martinez; BWSR Executive Director Ron Harnack; Dakota SWCD Manager Brian Watson, MACDE; Area 3 Director-Elect Merrill Loy; Area 6 Director-Elect Kathryn Kelly; Chisago SWCD Supervisor Roland Cleveland; Aitkin SWCD Supervisor Frank Turnock; Koochiching SWCD Supervisor Al Linder; Steve Sunderland, Chippewa SWCD Supervisor.

1. **Call to Order** – President Berg called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Board Meeting Minutes** – Motion by Wetter, seconded by Roiger, to approve today's agenda with changes. Motion carried. Motion by Spitzer, seconded by Wetter, to approve the November 2, 2006 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Carol Berg**
  - a. Berg led the board members in a review of their self evaluations.
  - b. The annual meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) will be held February 4-8 in Los Angeles, California. Although Berg will not be Minnesota's state association president at that point, she will still be representing the NACD North Central Region on the NACD Legislative Committee, as well as on a Task Force that will be meeting February 2-3, also in Los Angeles. She requested that the Association pay her registration for the NACD annual meeting along with 2 hotel nights. Consensus of the board was to delay taking action on this request until Tuesday night meeting, after everyone has had time to consider it.
  - c. The NACD North Central Region's annual winter meeting in Chicago will be held January 4 - 5, 2007. MASWCD's executive director, president and vice president typically attend this meeting.
  - d. Berg and Buck reviewed a letter that went out from the Association to Minnesota's Congressional Delegation including Congressman Collin Peterson. The letter requested his support of at least the Senate level of funding for Conservation Operations - \$835.331 million – in the fiscal year 2007 agriculture appropriations.
4. **Pre-convention Balloting Results – Loyal Fisher, Vice President**

Fisher reviewed which resolutions were approved through the pre-balloting process and which would be up for debate and vote during Tuesday's business meeting.
5. **Finance Report – Clark Lingbeek, Treasurer**
  - a. Lingbeek presented the monthly finance report. Berg accepted subject to annual review.
  - b. Lingbeek referenced the proposed budget that he will be presenting to the membership for approval during Tuesday's business meeting.
  - c. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Schulz, to authorize staff to work with an outside accountant to conduct a year-end financial review. Motion carried.
6. **Bylaws – Tom Schulz**

Schulz noted that while no immediate changes are necessary, in the future we should clarify somewhere in the organization's records that pre-convention balloting results need approval from the membership before becoming effective.

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

Buck reported on the results of the first round of impaired waters grants, the status of the drainage ditch assessment, exit interviews with outgoing Association board members and presented an end of the year summary. She noted that the Legislative Committee will have a proposed legislative platform ready for the board to act on in mid-December and the board will need to convene a conference-call at that time to take action on it.

**8. WCA Assessment – Brian Watson, Dakota SWCD Manager, MACDE President**

Watson and Vanney served as the MASWCD representatives to the BWSR WCA Assessment process. The Governor requested the Clean Water Cabinet and BWSR to facilitate a stakeholder process to review and make recommendations pertaining to the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act. Watson presented a written and verbal report on the status of the WCA Assessment Stakeholder Process and an summary of the various initiatives discussed during the eight month process. Board members discussed. Motion by Wetter, seconded by Aigner, to endorse the concepts presented in the November 21, 2006 memo from Brian Watson, with flexibility in ongoing discussions and debate to reach consensus/compromise during the legislative session and rule-making process. Motion carried.

**9. Other Reports**

- Aitkin SWCD Supervisor Frank Turnock was in attendance and reported on the activities of the MN SWCD Forestry Association, including the conference the group put on that MASWCD helped to fund.
- Area 1 Director and East Polk SWCD Supervisor Ken Pederson reported on his attendance at the NACD Leadership Meeting that was recently held in Nashville.
- MASWCD Board members and staff thanked BWSR Executive Director Ron Harnack for leadership and commitment to conservation in Minnesota. Harnack will be stepping down from his position in January.

**10. Next Meeting & Adjourn**

The next meeting will be the annual organization meeting, after the conclusion of the annual convention events, Tuesday evening, December 5 in Atrium 3 on the second floor of the hotel. Motion by Spitzer, seconded by Pederson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.