

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2006

MASWCD Office, St. Paul 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; Steve Woods, Dave Weirens, BWSR; Julie Olson, DNR Enforcement; Ann English, NRCS; Susan Shaw, MACDE.

Absent:

1. **Call to Order** – President Berg called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Agenda and Board Meeting Minutes** – Motion by Roiger, seconded by Spitzer, to approve today's agenda with changes. Motion carried. Motion by Spitzer, seconded by Lingbeek, to approve the September 26, 2006 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Carol Berg**
 - a. Berg asked board members to make sure they have completed and returned their self evaluations.
 - b. Doug Thompson from Clearwater SWCD has been one of the legislative committee members. He is retiring, so there was need for a short term replacement to finish out Doug's term. Marshall Nelson from Lake of the Woods has agreed to serve in this position. Berg asked the board for confirmation for this appointment. Motion by Schulz, seconded by Wetter. Motion carried.
 - c. The NACD Leadership Training Conference will be held November 29-30 in Nashville. Berg discussed the purpose of the meeting and asked board members if there was interest to have MASWCD representation at the event. Berg noted that she discussed the event with Pederson and he expressed interest in attending. Motion by Schulz to approve attendance at the meeting with the suggestion that expenses come out of the partnership representation budget, seconded by Aigner. Motion carried.
 - d. Fund Development Update – consultant Mike Henley has been conducting interviews with staff, membership and partner representatives regarding fund development for MASWCD.
4. **Finance Report – Clark Lingbeek, Treasurer**

Lingbeek presented the monthly finance report. Berg accepted subject to annual review.
5. **VP & Area Directors Reports**

Reports were presented regarding activities around the state.
6. **Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck**

Buck reported on the Conservation Title of the 2007 Farm Bill, FSA's response to 2005 resolutions numbers 18, 20 and 21, the status of December 2005 resolutions, reports to take place during the Annual Convention Business Meeting, House Research on the SWCD Levy Option, the Conservation Legacy Council, and an Annuity to MASWCD. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Schulz to set up a special account for accepting annuity gifts. Motion carried.
7. **NRCS Report – Ann English, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist**

English discussed the upcoming visit by USDA Under-Secretary Rey and a special announcement of an EQIP allocation in the Whitewater Watershed. She noted that the Local Work Group process is still being used for EQIP. EQIP cost-share has changed from a not to exceed rate to a policy of 50 % of "average cost." An ABC – Workload Analysis is underway for NRCS and NRCS District Conservationists are entering that data so Washington DC can see whether they are putting the technical assistance dollars where they are needed. English noted there are six thousand CRP plans to be written and FSA would like them done by the end of the calendar year. English stated that regarding drought assistance – NRCS is partnering with BWSR, MDA and Extension to provide training to districts on writing grazing plans.

Board recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

- 8. 2005 Resolution No. 3 Legislative Intent to Fund SWCDs – Steve Woods, BWSR**
Woods reported on discussions with the Attorney General's office regarding this issue.
- 9. Summary of SWCD Drought Disaster Assistance Projects; Nutrient Management Plans & Prescribed Grazing Plans – Steve Woods, BWSR**
Woods updated the board on the round of emergency cost-share for counties with drought disaster declarations.
- 10. WCA Assessment Process & 2005 Resolution No. 6 – Dave Weirens, BWSR & Sheila Vanney, MASWCD**
Weirens went through a PowerPoint presentation outlining the process for gathering stakeholder input to assess the Wetland Conservation Act. Sheila Vanney, MASWCD Assistant Director, and Brian Watson, Dakota SWCD Manager, have been representing MASWCD in those discussions.
- 11. DNR Fly-Overs for Wetland Violations – DNR Enforcement Division**
Julie Olson with DNR Enforcement went through a PowerPoint presentation regarding the fly-overs conducted by DNR, the wetland violations they found, and the increased workload this has brought to the SWCDs that handle the Wetland Conservation Act.
- 12. MACDE Report – Susan Shaw, MACDE Area 3 Director**
Shaw noted that the employees' association will be conducting a raffle at the MASWCD convention. Proceeds are used to support SWCD employee training needs.
- 13. Confirm Next Meeting & Adjourn**
The next meetings will be held the afternoon of December 3 and the evening of December 5 in conjunction with the MASWCD Annual Convention at the Sheraton Hotel in Bloomington. Motion made by Lingbeek, seconded by Spitzer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.