

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Board Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2006
MASWCD Office, St. Paul MN

Attending: President Carol Berg, Vice President Loyal Fisher, Area 1 Director Ken Pederson, 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; Doug Thomas, BWSR; Bob Finley, MPCA; Ann English, NRCS.

Absent: Area 2 Director Ross Aigner

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 addition. Motion carried. Motion by Spitzer, seconded by Saumer, to approve the August 22, 2006 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Report – Carol Berg**
 - a. Berg went over the nominations committee report regarding candidates for MASWCD President and Vice President. Motion by Pederson, seconded by Lingbeek to accept the names for the ballot: Loyal Fisher for President; Steve Sunderland and Tom Schulz for Vice President. Motion carried.
 - b. Berg briefed the board on a letter received from NACD Legislative Committee Chairs regarding NACD Actions and Role in the Farm Bill Development and Farm Bill Legislative Proposals. NACD is not endorsing any legislative proposals, but instead working with the agencies and Congress to create a strong conservation title of the next Farm Bill.
 - c. NACD quota – Berg reported on quota payments for the national organization. September 31 is the end of NACD's fiscal year.
 - d. Board self-evaluation – next steps. Motion by Wetter, seconded by Pederson, to go forward with individual MASWCD board member self-evaluations. Motion carried. Staff will mail to board to have them complete and mail back and staff will then compile the results for review at the November meeting.
4. **Finance Report – Clark Lingbeek, Treasurer**
 - a. Lingbeek presented the monthly finance report. Berg accepted subject to annual review.
 - b. Lingbeek presented options for investing dollars in savings for the most return. Motion by Roiger, seconded by Pederson, to put \$180,000 in CDs with varying maturity dates from 3 to 12 months. Motion carried.
5. **VP & Area Directors Reports**

Reports were presented regarding activities around the state.
6. **Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck**
 - a. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Spitzer to approve entering into contribution agreements with NRCS for a 2007-2008 leadership program and a forum on data privacy/freedom of information act issues. Motion carried.
 - b. Issues approved by the board at the August meeting were brought before the leadership five program and the participants have already begun addressing them.
 - c. Nine SWCD representatives have applied to serve on the Clean Water Council. The Governor will be making appointments to the Council, but a timeframe is not known at this time.
 - d. Buck mentioned that several organizations have been contacted by the Legislative Auditor's Office regarding their study on watershed management, including a couple SWCDs and NACD.
 - e. BWSR is putting in a proposal for a 319 grant to conduct agricultural drainage management workshops that would be held late 2007, early 2008. Target audience would be drainage decision makers.
 - f. League of Conservation Voters is in the process of sending out letters to SWCD supervisor candidates asking them to complete candidate profiles and e-mail them back to the LCV office.

7. **Annual Business Meeting and Convention Update – Sheila Vanney, Assistant Director**
Vanney presented the board with copies of the convention and program and highlighted the events and speakers lined up by the Area 1 host SWCDs.

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

8. **2005 Resolution No. 7 District Delegated Feedlot Program – Bob Finley, MPCA**
Finley presented a brief overview of the MPCA feedlot program and the delegation of permitting, technical assistance and enforcement. The MASWCD Resolution, submitted by the Wadena SWCD, requests delegation of the feedlot program to SWCDs. Currently the program is only delegated to counties. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Schulz to set-up a meeting with MPCA, AMC and districts to further discuss this issue. Motion carried.
9. **BWSR Report – Doug Thomas, BWSR Assistant Director**
Still seeking opinion from AG's office as to whether the statutory language could be interpreted as mandatory. The Attorney General's Office tends to agree that the circumstances probably do support the obligation of the county to fund some portion of the SWCD budget, but they won't go so far as to say it's mandatory or what that level of funding should be. Districts were created by referendum of the people, and can be dissolved by referendum of the people, so the circumstances support that the taxes of the citizenry in a given county pay the budget of the SWCD. Thomas also gave an update on the work of the drainage work group and distributed a handout with an update on CREP 2 in the Southwest and the Southeast. Buck suggested that drainage and WCA be on the agenda for the MASWCD annual business meeting.
10. **NRCS Report – Ann English, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist**
Only a couple SWCD employees have chosen not to go through with the background security check. On October 1st those who have not gone through the security checks will be removed from the federal computer system. This has been phase 1 of the security enhancement. Phase 2 may include smart cards for accessing the building and logging on to computers, etc. English also reported on CSP, and EQIP sign-up. As of October 1, the beginning of the federal fiscal year, federal government will be operating on continuing budget resolution. In the coming year, NRCS will be looking at decreasing the number of computers that they provide software licensing agreements for.
11. **Confirm Next Meeting & Adjourn**
The next meetings will be held November 2 at the MASWCD Office in St. Paul and December 3 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.