

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 25, 2007  
MASWCD Office, St. Paul, MN

Present: President Ken Pederson, Vice President Steve Sunderland, Area 1 Director Russ Severson, Area 2 Director Ross Aigner, Area 3 Director Merrill Loy, Area 4 Director Mark Zabel, Secretary Treasurer Area 5 Director Clark Lingbeek, Area 6 Director Kathryn Kelly, Area 8 Director Tom Schulz; MASWCD staff LeAnn Buck and Sheila Vanney. Also in attendance: BWSR Assistant Director Steve Woods, DNR Ecological Resources staff Doug Norris.

Absent: Area 7 Director Rudie Spitzer.

1. President Pederson called the meeting to order and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Loy, to approve today's agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Schulz, seconded by Loy, to approve the August 28 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. President's Report – Ken Pederson
  - a. Education Committee Appointment. Area 8 Representative to the committee – John Persells, supervisor with Beltrami SWCD – stepped down from serving on the committee. Motion by Schulz, seconded by Aigner, to appoint Kathy Loucks, staff with the Itasca SWCD, to fill this position. Motion carried.
  - b. Pederson shared information pertaining to the NACD raffle. Proceeds will go to the Canon Envirothon, National Land Judging, and the NACD Endowment Fund.
  - c. Pederson attended the most recent meeting of the Finance Committee and reported that he was very impressed with the committee's efforts.
  - d. Pederson reported that he recently contacted the BWSR Board Chair, Randy Kramer, to visit with him about the BWSR task forces in which MASWCD is participating, as well as SWCD capacity. Pederson is hoping to attend the annual convention of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts. Pederson and Buck will be meeting with State Representative Rick Hansen on October 1.
4. Finance Report – Clark Lingbeek
  - a. Lingbeek presented monthly financial report. Pederson accepted subject to annual review.
  - b. Lingbeek presented the proposed 2007/2008 Budget. Discussion was held. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Loy, to approve the draft budget. Motion carried.
  - c. Finance Committee members will be doing presentations at Area meetings to go over the draft budget. It will be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting in December.
  - d. A year-end review will be conducted by a certified public accountant.
5. Forestry Stewardship Conference: Tom Schulz  
Schulz reported on his participation in this event as an MASWCD representative. Discussion was held about SWCD involvement in forestry issues, and next steps. Blandin Foundation will be putting together a meeting summary with notes from the event and will be posting it on their web site.

6. Conservation Technical Assistance Committee: Steve Sunderland  
Sunderland reported on his participation in the most recent CTAC meeting as an MASWCD representative. There are three different resolutions relating to non-point engineering assistance on this year's resolution ballot. MASWCD and BWSR worked together to bring SWCD representatives from all 11 technical services areas together to discuss the proposed resolutions and to start the process for CTAC to provide recommendations. CTAC may be meeting again before the MASWCD convention to further review and address these issues.
7. Executive Director's Report: LeAnn Buck
  - a. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Lingbeek, to approve MASWCD staff entering into another agreement with NRCS, and another agreement with Extension Service, for the leadership program. Motion carried. This would likely be a similar program to the one currently underway, starting in August 08 and ending in August 09.
  - b. Buck noted that a 2006 resolution from Steele SWCD that was approved by the membership will be going before the BWSR drainage workgroup for consideration.
  - c. The State Legislature convened a one-day special session to address flood issues from earlier this summer. There will be a special cost-share program and RIM program for the flooded areas in southeast Minnesota, as well as a suspension of the formal cost-share rules for this area.
  - d. Buck noted that planning for the annual meeting and trade show is well underway. She congratulated and thanked Kelly for the work Area 6 has put into hosting the event. MASWCD board convention expense policy was reviewed.
  - e. Buck reviewed materials regarding Sen. Harkin's (D-Iowa) proposal for combining the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through the conservation title of the next federal farm bill. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is tracking the legislation closely and has conducted conference calls with state associations to update the members from across the country.
8. 2006/2007 Leadership Program Assignment – Supervisor Education/Training  
Zabel and Kelly reported on the work of a subgroup from the Leadership Program regarding their assignment on supervisor education/training. Their leadership class just graduated this August, 2007. Board members felt further work was needed on this topic. Consensus was to have the next leadership group continue to work on this.

*The Board recessed for lunch and reconvened.*

9. Clean Water Legacy Appropriations – Steve Woods, BWSR Assistant Director  
Woods reported on the status of the program - numbers and types of applicants, and funding non point activities.
10. LCCMR Proposal for National Wetland Inventory – Doug Norris, DNR Ecological Services  
Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Zabel, that MASWCD supports updating the National Wetlands Inventory for Minnesota, including the DNR's current proposal pending before the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). Motion carried.

11. Area Director Reports

Area Directors reported on past and upcoming meetings and other activities in their Areas.

12. Confirm Next Meeting and Adjourn

Future meetings will be held November 7, the afternoon of December 2, and a brief meeting the evening of December 4 at the conclusion of the convention. Meeting adjourned.