

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2008
MASWCD Office, St. Paul, MN

Present: President Ken Pederson, Vice President Steve Sunderland, Area 1 Director Russ Severson, Area 3 Director Merrill Loy, Area 4 Director Mark Zabel, Secretary/Treasurer and Area 5 Director Clark Lingbeek, Area 6 Director Kathryn Kelly, Area 7 Director Rudie Spitzer, Area 8 Director Tom Schulz; MASWCD Executive Director LeAnn Buck, Assistant Director Sheila Vanney. Also in attendance: Rob Crumley, MASWCD Elections Communications Intern; Beth Mason, NACD North Central Region staff; MACDE President Rick Reimer; BWSR staff Kevin Lines; DNR Forestry staff Andrew Arends; MN Department of Agriculture staff Peter Scheffert. Absent: Area 2 Director Ross Aigner.

1. President Pederson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. Motion by Zabel, seconded by Kelly, to approve today's agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Spitzer, seconded by Loy, to approve the June 24 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. President's Report – Ken Pederson, MASWCD President
 - a. Policy/Legislative subcommittee on elections. Pederson will be appointing a subcommittee on elections which will include members from the MASWCD Policy and Legislative Committees. Sunderland will chair.
 - b. Pederson updated the board on the July NACD board meeting and legislative conference. Buck shared a publication they distributed to members of Congress related to conservation technical assistance. After farm bill implementation discussions conclude at the federal level, Congressman Collin Pederson will be developing a strategy for reorganizing USDA.
 - c. Pederson and Mason updated the board on additional NACD efforts, ongoing and developing.
 - d. Farm Fest 2008. Pederson attended and had conversations with members of Congress, Congressional staff, and other federal and state conservation leaders.
4. Finance Report – Clark Lingbeek, MASWCD Secretary/Treasurer
The committee will meet in September to develop a draft budget.
 - a. Lingbeek presented the monthly financial report. Pederson accepted subject to annual review.
5. Resolution/Policy Committee Recommendations – Steve Sunderland, Chair
 - a. Proposed Emergency Resolution. Committee reviewed the resolution and found it did not meet the criteria for an emergency resolution. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Spitzer, to accept the Committee's recommendation. Motion carried.
 - b. Adopt 2008 SWCD Resolution Packet. Sunderland and Buck noted that three resolutions were combined on realigning MASWCD boundaries to TSA areas. One resolution on conservation plan compliance was omitted because it was deemed existing MASWCD policy. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Spitzer. Motion carried. Committee recommendations
 - c. Proposed Resolution Guideline Language. Committee recommendation is to develop a policy that would state, "No SWCD may submit an essentially identical resolution that was defeated by member vote at a previous convention in the year following its defeat." Motion by Kelly, seconded by Lingbeek to accept the recommendation. Motion carried.

6. Education Committee Report – Russ Severson and Sheila Vanney
Severson and Vanney reported on activities of the committee, which met August 12. The committee had two main tasks, judging the last year of contest entries at the state level, and reviewing and updating the committee’s strategic plan. In its strategic plan, the committee identified a priority item for each of its three target audiences: SWCD Supervisors, SWCD employees, and assisting SWCDs with reaching youth and educators. For SWCD Supervisors, the Committee members support continuation of supervisor orientation for newly elected Supervisors. For SWCD employees, the Committee’s priority is supporting development of a training course for SWCD managers on managerial issues. And for Assisting SWCDs with Reaching Youth and Educators, the Committee’s priority is to support stipends for Areas that have not yet developed Junior Envirothons, as well as resources for making more effective field days.
7. Executive Director’s Report – LeAnn Buck
Buck reported on the MASWCD Watershed Task Force, MASWCD Committee updates, the annual meeting, a recent meeting of the State Technical Committee, and the Lessard Heritage Council.
8. RIM Reserve/WRP Program – Kevin Lines, BWSR Conservation Easement Administrator
Lines reported on the past and existing efforts of the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program and its success in leveraging the federal Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) program.
9. Conservation Funding Advisor On-Line Tool – Peter Scheffert, MN Dept. of Agriculture (MDA)
MDA is putting the final touches on an on-line tool aimed at assisting landowners with selecting conservation practices and programs. Scheffert presented a demonstration of the web site for the board.
10. DNR Forestry – Andrew Arends, Cooperative Forest Management Supervisor
Arends presented information on the current status of the Forest Stewardship Program – and its aim at reaching the Next Million Acres in land covered by stewardship plans. He also discussed the Managed Forest Land Tax Program.
11. MASWCD Leadership Institute – Kathryn Kelly
Kelly reported on her attendance at the graduation ceremony of the most recent leadership institute cohort. Cohort subgroups made presentations during the ceremony on the topics assigned to them by the board. Kelly provided copies of the presentations. She suggested the board consider inviting one or more of these subgroups to a future board meeting to discuss their findings on the issues.
12. MACDE Report – Rick Reimer, President
Reimer SWCD employees are busy attending job fairs and county fairs. At their annual meeting this past summer, Craig Lingen from Wilkin was presented with an Extraordinary Contribution Award. MACDE provided a scholarship for one SWCD employee to attend the NACD Legislative Conference with MASWCD representatives. Pam Tomevi from Koochiching SWCD was the recipient of the scholarship. MACDE provides \$200 scholarships to MACDE members who participate in the MASWCD Leadership Institute. MACDE also provides funds to each Area for an Area training budget. Felicia Brockoff with Carver SWCD has been updating the MACDE web site. The next MACDE board meeting is scheduled for September 30 in Waite Park.
13. The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m. Future board meetings will be held September 23 and November 7 at the MASWCD office.