

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2008
Crown Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota

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 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. Also in attendance: MASWCD Legislative Affairs Specialist Judy Erickson, BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke, MASWCD Education Committee Chair Ian Cunningham, MASWCD Area 7 Director Elect Bob Borchert, and MASWCD Legislative Committee Chair Marilyn Bernhardson.

1. Call to Order: Ken Pederson, MASWCD President, called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. Motion by Tom Schulz and seconded by Russ Severson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
3. President's Report: Ken Pederson reported that MASWCD has been invited to participate in the DNR Roundtable event on January 9 & 10, 2008. Motion by Mark Zabel, seconded by Clark Lingbeek, to have Tom Schulz, MASWCD Area 8 Director, attend the DNR roundtable conference on behalf of the MASWCD Board. Motion carried. (Note Rudie Spitzer, Area 7 Director, entered the meeting). Ken reported that the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is seeking federal legislative priorities from each state Association. The board discussed the need for Congress to support funding for the programs addressed in the 2008 Farm Bill including EQIP, WRP, CSP, WHIP and CRP and potential items related to USDA reorganization. Ken and Steve will share information during a NACD Conference Call in December. The NACD North Central Board Meeting will take place on January 8-9, 2009 in Chicago. The MASWCD will forward the local SWCD resolutions pertaining to federal issues pending the outcome of the annual meeting. (Note: Ross Aigner, Area 2 Director, entered the meeting). Pederson noted that MASWCD will receive a top quota award during the NACD annual meeting in February. The Winona SWCD, Kim Boyce and Lisa Hinz, U of M Extension, are NACD award recipients and their work will be recognized during the NACD annual meeting. Pederson reported that statute requires MASWCD to forward recommendations to the Governor's office regarding BWSR Board appointments. Recommendations will be forwarded in January.
4. Resolution Committee Report: Steve Sunderland, MASWCD Vice President, reported on the preballoting results. There are 27 resolutions, eleven passed, zero failed, fifteen will be discussed and there is one emergency resolution submitted by the Stearns SWCD. The resolutions will be addressed by the membership during the MASWCD annual business meeting.
5. Finance Committee: Clark Lingbeek, MASWCD Secretary Treasurer, reported on the MASWCD FY 2007-08 budget. Motion by Clark Lingbeek, seconded by Merrill Loy, to accept the end of the year financial report subject to annual review. Motion carried.
6. Elections Subcommittee Update: Steve Sunderland, MASWCD Vice President, reported that the Elections Subcommittee held a meeting on November 24, 2008. The committee included general discussion on SWCD elections and reviewed existing policy, history of elections, MASWCD activities and general information on local autonomy. The committee does not have formal recommendations at this time and will continue to review.
7. Executive Director Report: LeAnn Buck reviewed the status of the MASWCD Watershed Task Force. General discussion included district capacity efforts related to larger geographical boundaries, enhancing

the technical service areas and sharing of SWCD technical staff. LeAnn reported on the two primary areas of interest for SWCDs related to the constitutional amendment. The Lessard Council will focus on wildlife habitat and the Clean Water Council's focus on the Clean Water Legacy Act and water quality. Buck shared information on the Clean Water Council budget that has been submitted to the Governor. The proposed recommendations include funding for cost share projects, technical and engineering support, AG BMP Loan program, feedlot cost share, and PRAP. Regulated non-point and groundwater programs still need to be addressed by the council. Buck reported that NRCS at a national level is going through an national audit and NACD is keeping state associations informed on policy implications.

8. Adoption of 2009 Legislative Platform: Judy Erickson, MASWCD Legislative Affairs, reviewed the proposed 2009 MASWCD Legislative Platform submitted on behalf of the MASWCD Legislative Committee. The 2009 Legislature will be addressing a \$5.3 billion dollar budget deficit as well as making recommendations for the new constitutional dedicated funding. The constitutional amendment includes language that requires the legislature to supplement and not supplant environmental funding. There will be a need to determine "base funding" for these areas vs. one time environmental spending. Motion by Mark Zabel, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, for MASWCD Board to adopt the proposed 2009 Legislative Platform subject to the addition of Green Acres policy pending the outcome of the emergency resolution voted on by the membership during the December 9 annual meeting. Motion carried. Erickson reported that the House of Representatives has created a separate committee to review all constitutional dedicated budgets and Representative Mary Murphy will chair the committee.

9. Clean Water Legacy Council: Marilyn Bernhardson, SWCD Representative on the Clean Water Council, provided an update on the Council's activities. The Council has been in place for two years and includes a diverse representation of citizens and agency members. The governor appoints the members to the Council. The creation of the council was an outgrowth of the G-16 work to address the federal Clean Water Act requirements and TMDL issues. MASWCD served as a member to the G-16 and worked for three years to develop the legislation. The council is focused on TMDLs, measurable outcomes, civic engagement and prevention/monitoring activities. The council has forward recommendations for funding to address water quality issues.

10. BWSR Report: John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director, provided an overview of BWSR activities.

11. Pederson acknowledged Rudie Spitzer, Area 7 Director, for his years of service to the MASWCD. His term will be ending in conjunction with the Annual meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.