

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - November 6, 2008
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 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: State Senator Ellen Anderson; Thom Peterson, Minnesota Farmer's Union; Warren Formo, MN Ag Water Resources Coalition; Taralee Latoske, Renville SWCD employee and MASWCD Leadership Graduate.

1. President Pederson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Spitzer, to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Spitzer, seconded by Severson, to approve the September 23 minutes with correction. Motion carried.
3. President's Report – Ken Pederson, MASWCD President
Pederson noted that he is a member of the NACD awards committee and that NACD awards will be going to Winona SWCD as well as the MASWCD leadership program. Pederson and Buck reviewed MASWCD board meetings and issued addressed over the past year. Pederson commented on a national Wetland Reserve Program event held in Minnesota, and spoke briefly about the board's role in recommending BWSR appointments to the Governor for 2009.
4. Overview of 2009 Legislative Session – State Senator Ellen Anderson
Sen. Anderson gave an overview of the upcoming 2009 legislative session. With a projected state budget deficit, the legislature will have many difficult decisions to make.
5. Overview of Green Acres Program and Impacts to RIM Reserve & CRP: Thom Peterson, Minnesota Farmers Union
Peterson discussed the program, changes made to it last legislative session, and the Farmers Union's concerns.
6. Emergency Resolution – Steve Sunderland
Sunderland presented an emergency resolution from Stearns SWCD pertaining to the Green Acres Program. Board members discussed. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Spitzer, to approve as emergency resolution to be acted on at annual convention. Motion carried with dissenting vote from Schulz.
7. Minnesota Agriculture Water Resources Coalition – Warren Formo
Formo presented information on the coalition.
8. Leadership Institute Assignment: Health Insurance – TaraLee Letoske, Renville SWCD
Latoske presented a report by a subgroup of the leadership institute related to health insurance options for SWCDs.
9. Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck
Buck reported on MASWCD's Work Plan, a review of Technical Service Areas and related resolutions, the upcoming MASWCD 2008 Annual Meeting/Trade Show, President and VP Candidate Guidelines, Convention Auction Proceeds, and sponsorships. Motion by Loy, seconded by Lingbeek. To establish candidate speech guidelines for the officer elections at the annual convention. Motion carried. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Loy, to reaffirm purpose of auction proceeds. Motion carried.
10. MASWCD/Science Museum Groundwater Education Partnership – Sheila Vanney
Vanney reported on a partnership with the Science Museum, working with SWCDs across the state to offer hands-on groundwater education sessions to middle schools.
11. Finance Report – Clark Lingbeek, Treasurer
Lingbeek presented the monthly financial report, and Pederson accepted subject to annual review.
12. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Spitzer, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. Next meeting will be held December 7 at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul.