

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 22, 2009  
MASWCD Office, St. Paul, MN

Present: President Steve Sunderland, Vice President & South Central Area 6 Director Kathryn Kelly, North West Area Co-Director Russ Severson, West Central Area 2 Director Ralph Peterson, Metropolitan Area 4 Director Mark Zabel, Secretary Treasurer & Southwest Area 5 Director Clark Lingbeek, Southeast Area 7 Director Bob Borchert, North Central Area 8 Director Tom Schulz; MASWCD staff LeAnn Buck and Sheila Vanney; Kasey Taylor, NRCS Acting Assistant State Conservationist; Julie Blackburn, Al Kean, Board of Water and Soil Resources; Peder Otterson, DNR Division of Waters. Absent: Northeast Area 3 Director Merrill Loy.

1. President Sunderland called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.
2. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Peterson, to approve the board meeting agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Borchert, to approve the August 25 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
3. President's Report.
  - a. Sunderland reported on his and Buck's participation in the BWSR Board Meeting and Tour held August 26-27. The tour highlighted the great joint flood recovery efforts in Winona, Root River and Fillmore SWCDs in southeastern Minnesota. Sunderland gave the MASWCD report at the BWSR Board Meeting and was able to visit with several of the BWSR Board Members during the tour.
  - b. Sunderland attended the MASWCD North Central Area 8 meeting on September 10-11. He commented that we are establishing a great connection with the BWSR Board's Vice-Chair Paul Brutlag; Sunderland was able to visit with him at this NC Area 8 meeting as well as the BWSR Board Tour and the summer Northwest Area 1 meeting.
  - c. Sunderland discussed MASWCD representation on the BWSR Drainage Work Group. Greg Roiger with Brown SWCD is currently our representative and Sunderland would like to appoint an alternate. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Severson, to appoint Paul Krabbenhoft, Clay SWCD Supervisor, as MASWCD's alternate to the BWSR Drainage Work Group. Motion carried.
4. Finance Report.
  - a. Lingbeek reviewed monthly financial report; Sunderland accepted subject to annual review.
  - b. An outside accounting firm was hired to conduct a review of the association's finances as of the fiscal year ending October 31, 2008. The review found no material modifications that should be made in order to be in conformity of generally accepted accounting principles.
  - c. Lingbeek presented the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 which was developed by the Finance Committee. Board members discussed. It was noted that once again, as in the past several years, the Finance Committee is not proposing a dues increase, but is projecting a budget shortfall, to be addressed by utilizing the fund balance.
    - 1.) Motion by Kelly, seconded by Borchert, to change the amounts within the group of NACD related expenses such that the subtotal remains the same, but NACD Legislative is \$3,000 instead of \$5,500 and NACD National Convention is \$5,500 instead of \$3,000, with understanding that if we need to make adjustments we have make them as needed. Motion carried.
    - 2.) Motion by Zabel, seconded by Severson, to combine two lines of the budget – NACD North Central Board (\$1,200), and NACD North Central (\$1,000) – into one line with a total of \$2,200, in anticipation of the NACD NC Board Meeting and NACD NC Regional Meeting actually combining in the coming year. Motion carried.Motion by Kelly, seconded by Borchert, to approve the proposed budget as amended. Motion carried. The proposed budget will be mailed to the membership and voted on during the business meeting at the annual convention.

5. Education Committee Report. Vanney reported to the board on the September 2 meeting of the MASWCD Education and Outreach Committee. The Committee reviewed its strategic plan and identified action items for the coming year: **SWCD Supervisor education**, Committee members are aiming to be a resource for Area Directors and will be available to provide suggestions for Supervisor education that can be part of Area Meeting agendas; **SWCD Employee education**, Committee continues to support the development of a human resource management course for SWCD managers, and urges SWCDs to take advantage of opportunities for similar training through entities such as Fred Pryor Seminars; **Assisting SWCDs with Reaching Youth and Educators**, Committee supports continued use and enhancement of hands-on outdoor conservation education days, as well as the hands-on groundwater curriculum developed by the Science Museum of Minnesota.
6. Executive Director's Report.
  - a. Buck reported that a joint partner meeting with MASWCD, AMC, MAWD and BWSR will be held November 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss opportunities for developing future partnership efforts.
  - b. Status of Committee Meetings. Buck commented that most MASWCD committees have met recently or will meet in the next few weeks. The committees provide a forum for over 60 SWCD Supervisors and Employees from across the state to provide input and direction for the association.
  - c. BWSR Staff Liaisons to MASWCD Area Directors. Buck referenced a handout which outlines the BWSR staff assigned to be liaisons to MASWCD Area Directors. Directors should contact these staff for participation at Area meetings and for other issues involving BWSR.
  - d. Convention Sponsors. Buck noted that similar to last year, MASWCD is seeking convention sponsors in a fund development effort. The invitation for sponsorship was sent to potential trade show vendors and is posted on the MASWCD web site.
  - e. Conservation Apprenticeship Academy Proposal. Buck reported that BWSR submitted a proposal to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for funding a Conservation Apprenticeship Academy. The proposal aims to provide SWCDs with workload assistance, in addition to enhancing interest in conservation careers among college students. The proposal is working its way through the LCCMR grant review process.
7. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report. Taylor reported on several current NRCS activities, including year-end books closeout, special funding for ring dikes in the Red River Basin through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), general EQIP, Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and computers.
8. Reinvest In Minnesota Reserve/Wetland Reserve Program Update. Blackburn provided information on the partnership between BWSR, NRCS and SWCDs to enroll landowners in RIM Reserve/WRP. BWSR is submitting a proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for the state portion of the program.
9. 2008 E-1 Resolution Update (Green Acres Program and Conservation Easements) and SWCD Role with New Rural Preserves Property Tax Program. Blackburn reported on the status of this new tax program and the role for SWCDs related to conservation plan approval. Additional information will be provided at the BWSR Academy, November 2-4, and at the MASWCD annual convention in December.
10. Shoreland Ordinances and Buffer Requirements. Otterson presented information related to the rule revision process for the state's shoreland management rules. Discussion was held regarding buffer strips in riparian areas. The rule revision process is on track for completion in the first half of 2010. It is likely that the required public hearings will take place late winter/early spring of 2010. The topic was broached regarding having a diminimus exception in counties/districts having very few cropland acres in riparian areas to avoid high implementation costs for counties with very little public (or environmental) benefit.
11. Overview of MASWCD Policy Requesting Legislative Action. Buck went through current MASWCD policies which seek legislative action. The MASWCD Legislative Committee will meet next week discuss the policies and which should be priorities for the 2010 session, which will be a Capital Bonding session.
12. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. Next board meeting will be November 10 at Association office in St. Paul.