

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2009
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Duluth, Minnesota

Present: President Steve Sunderland, Vice President & South Central Area 6 Director Kathryn Kelly, North West Area 1 Director Ross Aigner, West Central Area 2 Director Ralph Peterson, Northeast Area 3 Director Merrill Loy, 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; John Jaschke and Paul Langseth, Board of Water and Soil Resources; and Don Bajumpaa Wilkin SWCD.

1. Sunderland called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. Motion by Borchert, seconded by Aigner, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. President's Report – Sunderland reported on district capacity issues and local budgetary issues. Further discussion will take place during the January board retreat. Sunderland updated the board on BWSR board appointment process. According to MN Statute 103B.101 (subd. 2c) "BWSR voting members are appointed by the governor. In making the appointments, the governor may consider persons recommended by the AMC, the MASWCD and the MAWD. The list submitted by an Association must contain at least three nominees for each position." The following BWSR Board members' terms will be expiring in 2010: Paul Langseth, Nobles SWCD, Southwest Area 5, Gene Tiedemann, Red Lake Watershed District, Northwest Area 1; Brian Napstad, Aitkin County Commissioner, Northeast Area 3. The board will address the issue during the January board meeting. (Schulz entered meeting at 2:25)
3. Finance Committee – Lingbeek reviewed the 2009 fiscal year budget. Motion by Zabel, seconded by Loy, to accept the year-end financial report. Motion carried. Lingbeek reported that the finance committee will be discussing area budget processes, liability, a voucher system, and the roles of the state association and area treasurers. Any recommendations would be forwarded to the board at a later date.
4. Resolution Committee Report – Kelly reported that a resolution has been submitted for the board's consideration as an emergency resolution. The resolution submitted by the Pipestone SWCD pertains to the Association supporting changes in legislation to allow cost-share funds to be utilized on all Non-NPDES feedlots. Motion by Borchert, seconded by Lingbeek, to adopt the resolution as an emergency resolution and forward to the membership during the annual meeting. Motion carried. Opposed: Zabel and Schulz. The board of directors reviewed the pre-convention balloting results. Twenty-two resolutions were forwarded to the members for pre-convention balloting. Eleven resolutions received votes of approval and eleven received votes for further floor discussion by the members during the annual business meeting. The board reviewed the resolutions. Kelly and Buck reported on the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Statement of Position and Support that was developed by the MASWCD, Association of Minnesota Counties, and the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts. The MASWCD Executive Committee approved the document on November 17. The document has been forwarded to the Lessard-Sams Council.

5. Executive Director's Report: Buck reported that the Lessard-Sams Council will be conducting hearings December 8 and 9 to review proposals. The RIM Reserve/WRP application and the RIM Reserve for Forest Habitat application are included in the hearing schedule. During the annual meeting, MASWCD, BWSR and NRCS will sign and MOU agreement outlining continued support for the local, state and federal RIM Reserve and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) partnership. Buck reported that the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center is in the process of developing a state water plan over the next two years. Buck reported that she will be presenting information on SWCD statutes to a water policy subcommittee. SWCD representation was included on the DNR Conservation Partners Grant Technical Advisory Committee. Also, the MASWCD provided names of SWCD representatives to serve on the U of Watershed Training Advisory Committee. The U of M is developing internet training materials for individuals addressing watershed planning and Dennis Fuchs, Stearns SWCD, and Jay Riggs, Washington Conservation District, will provide technical recommendations to the project. The University of Minnesota Extension is sponsoring an event during the annual meeting. Alumni members of the MASWCD Leadership Co-horts are invited to participate and updates will be provided on the latest civic engagement outreach efforts. Buck reviewed the guiding values and principles developed by the board of directors.
6. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next board of directors meeting will be held December 9 in Duluth.