

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2010
Holiday Inn, St. Cloud MN

Present: President Steve Sunderland, Vice President & South Central Area 6 Director Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Northwest Area 1 Director Ross Aigner, West Central Area 2 Director Ralph Peterson, North Central Area 3 Director Kurt Beckstrom, Metropolitan Area 4 Director Mark Zabel, Southwest Area 5 Director Ian Cunningham, Southeast Area 7 Director Bob Borchert, Secretary/Treasurer and North Central Area 8 Director Tom Schulz; MASWCD staff LeAnn Buck and Sheila Vanney; University of Minnesota Extension staff Kim Boyce and Scott Chazdon.

1. Call to Order.

President Sunderland called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and led the board in the pledge of allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Kelly, to approve the board meeting agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Kelly, to approve the November 10 board meeting minutes with changes. Motion carried. Motion by Zabel, seconded by Kelly, to approve the December 6 board meeting minutes with change. Motion carried. Motion by Kelly, seconded by Cunningham, to approve the December 8 board meeting minutes with changes. Motion carried.

3. President's Report.

- a. Sunderland noted some changes in representation on MASWCD committees. Because Schulz is Secretary/Treasurer, he now serves as chair of the Finance Committee and represents North Central Area 8 on the Committee. As a result, North Central Area 8 representative and Hubbard SWCD Supervisor Carol Berg steps down from the Committee. Schulz will no longer serve as North Central Area 8 representative on the Resolutions/Policy Committee. Sunderland has asked Berg to fill that position and she is considering it. Lastly, Cottonwood SWCD Supervisor Clark Lingbeek, immediate past-Secretary/Treasurer, has agreed to continue to serve on the Finance Committee as the Southwest Area 5 representative. Motion by Beckstrom, seconded by Borchert, to ratify these changes in committee appointments. Motion carried.
- b. Sunderland reported on the recent meeting of National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) North Central Region Board, held in Chicago January 7 and 8. Sunderland was elected to serve as chair for the region.
- c. Sunderland reported on the opportunity for MASWCD to submit a recommendation to Governor Pawlenty as he considers appointments to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The Governor will be addressing expiring terms for an SWCD representative, a watershed district representative, and a county commissioner representative. The positions come from Southwest Area 5, Northwest Area 1, and Northeast Area 3. Paul Langseth, Nobles SWCD Supervisor, currently holds the SWCD position that is up for re-appointment. Langseth expressed interest in continuing to serve when he was in attendance at our December 6 board meeting. Motion by Schulz, seconded by Cunningham, to submit to Governor Pawlenty a recommendation that Paul Langseth be reappointed to the BWSR board. Motion carried.

4. Adoption of 2010 MASWCD Legislative Platform.
Buck presented to the board a proposed legislative platform for their consideration. The Legislative Committee met on December 17 to put together the proposal. The 2010 legislative session is a bonding year, however the legislators will also need to address a significant budget deficit. Items identified in the platform include: supplemental budget, 2010 bonding, Legacy funding, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) funding, and two issues to monitor including governance issues, and feedlot water quality cost-share. Board members reviewed and discussed. Motion by Borchert, seconded by Aigner, to approve the 2010 MASWCD Legislative Platform as presented. Motion carried. Buck also noted the 2010 MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol will be held February 17-18 at the Embassy Suites in St. Paul. Area Directors need to work with their local SWCD or their Area in order to register and make lodging reservations for the event.
5. MASWCD Leadership Program Analysis.
Chaszdon and Boyce presented a report providing information and analysis on the MASWCD Leadership Program, conducted with the University of Minnesota Extension.
6. Executive Director's Report.
Buck noted that approximately \$14 million in Clean Water Funds will be going out from the Board of Water and Soil Resources to successful grant recipients. She also commented that regarding meeting the needs of small tract landowners, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) is being considered as a potential funding source. Buck is also still working with partners at the University of Minnesota, NRCS and BWSR to collect economic data showing the benefit of an SWCD to the local economy.
7. Confirm Next Meetings & Adjourn.
Motion by Beckstrom, seconded by Aigner, to establish the following as future board meeting dates. Motion carried.
 - February 17 (in conjunction with MASWCD Legislative Briefing)
 - March 23
 - April (no meeting)
 - May 25
 - June (no meeting)
 - July (no meeting)
 - August 10
 - September 14
 - October (no meeting)
 - November 9
 - December 5 & 7 (in conjunction with annual meeting)Motion by Aigner, seconded by Schulz, to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Motion carried.
Meeting Adjourned.