

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2011; MASWCD Office - St. Paul, Minnesota

Present: President Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Vice President Mark Zabel, West Central Area 2 Director Ralph Peterson, Northeast Area 3 Director Kurt Beckstrom, Metropolitan Area 4 Director Mary Wetter, Southwest Area 5 Director Ian Cunningham, South Central Area 6 Director Loyal Fisher, Southeast Area 7 Director Ed McNamara, North Central Area 8 Director Tom Schulz, MASWCD staff LeAnn Buck and Sheila Vanney, Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Executive Director Jeff Spartz, AMC staff Annalee Garletz, staff with Sen. Amy Klobuchar – Lesley Kandaras, MN Agricultural Water Resources Coalition Executive Director Warren Formo.
Absent: Northwest Area 1 Director Ross Aigner.

1. Dr. Kathryn Kelly called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led with the pledge of allegiance. Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Schulz to approve the agenda with addition. Motion carried. Motion by McNamara, seconded by Peterson to approve the May 24, 2011 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.
2. President's Report – Dr. Kathryn Kelly
 - a. Kelly reported on her attendance and participation at Farm Fest in Redwood Falls and talked about some of the conservation program topics. MASWCD Areas 5 & 6 SWCDs hosted a booth at the event.
 - b. Kelly attended a recent U of M Extension Leadership alumni event. Wetter also commented with regard to her attendance at another session. The Bush Foundation provided sponsorship funding for the events. Graduates of the MASWCD Leadership Institutes were invited, along with graduates of other leadership programs coordinated by U of M Extension.
 - c. Kelly reminded board members about the Association's *SWCD Governance 101* conference, September 12-13, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria.
 - d. Approval of Consent Agenda Process. Motion by Fisher, seconded by Beckstrom, to include a consent agenda process in future board meeting operations. Motion carried.
 - e. Board Priority: Technology and Area Meetings. Schulz and Vanney reported on the use of Skype for this summer's North Central Area 8 meeting.
3. Finance Report – Tom Schulz reported on the monthly MASWCD financial statement. Motion by Schulz, seconded by Cunningham, to approve subject to annual review. Motion carried.
4. 2011 MASWCD Legislative Platform Update – Sheila Vanney
Vanney provided the board with an update on the 2011 legislative session and special legislative session, and action on items of interest to SWCDs. A detailed report was prepared by Vanney and sent to our members.
5. Association of Minnesota Counties Partner Report – Jeff Spartz, AMC Executive Director, and Annalee Garletz, AMC staff
Spartz and Garletz visited with the board about AMC's redesign efforts, the proposed Minnesota Accountable Government Innovation and Collaboration (MAGIC) Act, and other ongoing and emerging issues for counties.
6. Clean Water Fund Policy Resolutions and BWSR Grants Committee – Tom Schulz
Schulz attended a recent meeting of the BWSR Grants Committee and presented three resolutions that were approved by the MASWCD membership.

- a. No.2 Reduce the Number of Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Categories submitted by Wadena SWCD – this resolution has been addressed and there are now fewer grant categories than the last funding round
- b. No. 4 Reduce Local Match Requirements submitted by Wadena SWCD – this resolution will be an ongoing issue as BWSR has not reduced the local match requirement, instead keeping it at 25%. One change has been that BWSR has broadened the list of eligible funding and contributions that can be claimed as match.
- c. No. 7 BWSR Runoff Reduction Grants submitted by Pennington SWCD – this resolution is no longer an issue for the time being. The specific category of grant mentioned in the resolution was added by the legislature for the last round of appropriation. The grant category was not included as a separate grant recommendation by the Clean Water Council nor again added by the legislature for this biennium. Projects for this grant are still eligible under a larger grant category.

Lunch

7. Executive Director's Report – LeAnn Buck
Buck reported to the board on several work items including: Board Priority: Governance 101 Conference; Work Plan Update; RIM 25th Anniversary Event; and Contribution Agreement for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) plans.
8. Federal Conservation Funding Update – Lesley Kandaras, office of Sen. Amy Klobuchar, and LeAnn Buck
Kandaras and Buck shared information on conservation funding at the federal level.
9. Local Government Roundtable – Kathryn Kelly, Mark Zabel, LeAnn Buck
Kelly, Zabel and Buck reported on the ongoing work of the Local Government Roundtable, which includes representatives from MASWCD, MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD), and Association of MN Counties (AMC).
10. National Association of Conservation District (NACD) Board Meeting – Mark Zabel
Zabel updated the board on the recent NACD Board Meeting, which was held in July in conjunction with the NACD Legislative Conference in DC. A written report from NACD Delegate Steve Sunderland was also shared with the board.
 - a. NACD Farm Bill Task Force – The NACD Board of Directors approved a set of principles to guide the association's advocacy efforts in advance of the 2012 Farm Bill. More information is on their web site at www.nacdnet.org.
 - b. NACD TMDL Task Force - Zabel has been selected to serve on the task force and will identify principles as opposed to strict recommendations on how TMDLs impact SWCD in terms of what practices apply.
11. Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition (MAWRC)– Warren Formo, Executive Director
Formo discussed the how and why of discovery farms. MAWRC coordinates a network of Discovery Farms locations to gather field-scale information on water quality impacts from a variety of farming systems in different settings. They are raising awareness among farmers, fostering an ethic that we should see continuous improvement, and provide a link to development of new best management practices (BMPs). SWCDs are involved in some sites related to monitoring assistance for BMPs.
12. Guiding Principles for Water Management (Action Item) – Mark Zabel
Motion by Fisher, seconded by Cunningham, to develop and adopt guiding principles regarding water management in Minnesota before the 2012 legislation session convenes. Motion carried.

13. Confirm Next Meeting and Adjourn

Fisher made a comment that for future MASWCD elections, the nomination committee should be empowered to delineate qualifications better in their vetting and forwarding of candidates to the membership. When we appoint a nomination committee, we need to provide them with direction on selection of candidates.

Next meeting will be Sep. 14, 2011, with possible location being Alexandria. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.