

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2011; Alexandria, Minnesota

Present: President Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Vice President Mark Zabel, Northwest Area 1 Director Ross Aigner, West Central Area 2 Director Ralph Peterson, 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, Stevens SWCD Education and Promotion Coordinator Judy Johnston, and Area 2 Director "Elect" Mike Jorgenson.

Absent: Northeast Area 3 Director Kurt Beckstrom

1. Dr. Kathryn Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and led with the pledge of allegiance. Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Schulz, to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Fisher, to approve the consent agenda including the approval of August 9, 2011 MASWCD Board Meeting Minutes and adoption of the Awards Committee Recommendation that the 2009 Resolution Number 20 be referred to the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE) for their consideration and action. The MASWCD Awards Committee recognizes the significant contributions of administrative support staff toward the success of SWCD operations and encourages the MACDE to find a method of recognizing these efforts. Motion carried.
2. President's Report – Dr. Kathryn Kelly
 - a. Kelly reported on her attendance on the Benton SWCD Conservation Tour and the MN Department of Agriculture's Field Tour in Goodhue County and Root River Watershed. The Goodhue SWCD was highlighted for their activities with Discovery Farms monitoring and Bev Nordby, Mower SWCD, and Donna Rasmussen, Fillmore SWCD, were speakers during the MDA event.
 - b. Kelly participated in the Association's *SWCD Governance 101* conference, September 12-13, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria. Approximately 60 SWCD individuals participated with informational sessions related to public boards and governance items.
 - c. Kelly reported on the upcoming Local Government Roundtable meeting that will be taking place on September 16, 2011. Local Government Roundtable members will be meeting with MPCA, DNR and Hennepin County to share information on local water management and TMDL topics.
3. Vice President Report – Mark Zabel
 - a. Zabel reported that he has been appointed to the National Association of Conservation District's TMDL Task Force. The task force is developing guiding principles for TMDL's issues at the national level.
 - b. Zabel attended the Drainage Work Group meeting and discussion included multi-purpose drainage approach and practices.
4. Finance Report – Tom Schulz, Secretary-Treasurer
 - a. Motion by Fisher, seconded by McNamara, to approve the MASWCD finance committee's proposed FY 2011/2012 budget and forward to the membership for consideration during the December 2011 annual meeting. Motion carried.
 - b. Motion by Fisher, seconded by Wetter to adopt the MASWCD finance committee recommendation's related to area budget processes including: a.) preparation of an area treasurer checklist to assist with area financial responsibilities and liabilities; b.) research area meeting liability for area officers; c.) at this time areas will not be able to use MASWCD's nonprofit status until additional liability issues and other items are researched and reviewed; and d.) the finance committee will revisit the issue related to area budget process during the next fiscal year. Motion carried.

- c. The Finance Committee will be able to provide reports during the fall area meetings on the proposed budget.
5. Resolution Committee – Mark Zabel, Committee Chair
 - a. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Cunningham, to adopt the MASWCD Resolution/Policy Committee recommendation for the 2011 resolution packet. Included in the packet are the committee recommendations for each resolution for distribution to the member SWCDs. Motion carried. The packet will be sent to local SWCDs for pre-balloting by member supervisors.
 - b. Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Wetter, for the MASWCD to adopt the MASWCD Resolution/Policy Committee recommendation to amend the MASWCD Resolution Process Guidelines. The specific recommendation includes the addition of the following language (underlined) to current rules for the clarification of area eligibility for resolution considerations: *“Resolutions are to be developed and passed first by a local district, and then must be submitted to and approved by the MASWCD Area Association of which that district is a member. An SWCD must be a MASWCD member in good standing in order to be eligible to submit a resolution.”* Motion carried. This will be included in the 2012 resolution process.
 6. Executive Director’s Report – LeAnn Buck
 - a. Buck reported on requests from SWCD boards related to district capacity and performance issues.
 - b. Buck updated the board on the coordination of the State Envirothon. Due to budgetary cuts, BWSR is not longer serving in this function and MASWCD is working with district volunteers to service our members in this capacity. Motion by Cunningham, second by Fisher, for the MASWCD Board to Authorize the MASWCD Executive Director to sign the Minnesota State Envirothon Coordination Agreement, with Carver and Stevens SWCDs. Included in the agreement is an outline of roles and responsibilities to be carried out for this annual youth education event. Motion carried.
 - c. Buck attended a meeting with Rep. Colin Peterson and various other organizations and agencies related to progress with Red River water retention and storage projects, and address wetland compliance and wetland mitigation efforts. Following the meeting, Buck participated in a tour with NRCS Chief Dave White, NRCS State Conservationist Don Baloun, and others related to flood retention projects.
 - d. Buck provided an update on the annual meeting. MASWCD Metro Area 4 SWCDs have done an excellent job with planning sessions and speakers in preparation for the annual convention December 4 – 6, 2011. Staff will be sending convention program materials to the members and partners later this month.
 7. Confirm Next Meeting and Adjourn

The next meeting will be November 8, 2011. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.