

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 6, 2011 - Bloomington, Minnesota

Present: President Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Vice President Mark Zabel, Northwest Area 1 Ken Pederson, West Central Area 2 Director Mike Jorgenson, 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.

1. MASWCD President Dr. Kelly called the meeting to order at 3:45 pm and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Motion by Cunningham, seconded by McNamara, to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Motion carried.
3. Dr. Kelly welcomed new board members:
  - a. past MASWCD President and former NW Area 1 Director Ken Pederson from East Polk SWCD was elected at the fall NW Area 1 meeting to once again represent the SWCDs of northwest Minnesota, taking the place of Wilkin SWCD Supervisor Ross Aigner, who stepped down;
  - b. Big Stone SWCD Supervisor Mike Jorgenson was elected at the fall WC Area 2 meeting to represent the SWCDs of west central Minnesota, taking the place of Pope SWCD Supervisor Ralph Peterson, who stepped down.
4. Motion by Wetter, seconded by Cunningham, to nominate Tom Schulz as the MASWCD Secretary/Treasurer. Motion by Beckstrom, seconded by McNamara for nominations to cease and for a white ballot to be placed for Schulz. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Schulz, to designate MASWCD's delegate and alternate to the NACD board of directors as follows: from now through the NACD North Central Region meeting on January 5-6, 2012 in Chicago – MASWCD immediate past president Steve Sunderland to continue as NACD voting delegate, with Vice President Mark Zabel continuing as alternate; from January 7, 2012 through December, 2012 –Vice President Mark Zabel to serve as NACD voting delegate, with SE Area 7 Director Ed McNamara as alternate. Motion carried.
6. The annual winter meeting of the NACD North Central Region will be January 5-6 in Chicago. Buck, Sunderland, and Zabel will be in attendance. The NACD annual meeting will be held January 29 – February 1 in Las Vegas, and board members in attendance will include Dr. Kelly, Zabel, McNamara, Cunningham, Wetter, and Fisher.
7. Consensus of board members was to hold an annual retreat from approximately noon to noon January 24-25, 2012 in St. Cloud. Board members are encouraged to provide Buck with suggestions for the retreat agenda. Buck will line-up a professional facilitator for the retreat.
8. Vanney reported to the board that the legislative committee will meet in December or early January to develop a legislative platform for the board's consideration. The legislative session will begin on January 24. MASWCD's 2012 Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol will be held February 15-16 at the Embassy Suites, Downtown St. Paul.
9. Dr. Kelly led discussion of the upcoming appointment process to fill vacancies on the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The twenty member board includes three voting members representing SWCDs, and one of the SWCD positions will be vacant, and will be filled through the Governor's appointment process. Schulz informed the board that he will be applying for the position. MASWCD immediate past president Steve Sunderland will also be applying. Motion by Beckstrom, seconded by Cunningham, to submit a letter to the Governor's office supporting both Schulz and Sunderland. Motion carried. Schulz abstained from the vote.
10. Motion by Schulz, seconded by Fisher, for MASWCD to respond to the BWSR request for input toward their strategic plan update with a letter outlining our concern that the plan does not currently include refilling the BWSR forester staff position. Motion carried. MASWCD has policy that supports the continuation of this staff position.
11. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.