President Beckstrom called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and led the board in the pledge of allegiance. Motion by Cleveland and seconded to approve the agenda as amended to include an NRCS update. Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda. Motion by Krabbenhoft and seconded to approve the consent agenda consisting of: meeting minutes from November 8, 2017, December 3, 2017, and December 5, 2017; 2017 Resolutions Annual Business Meeting Results; and MASWCD Resolution Requiring National Action submitted to National Association of Conservation Districts (#19-2017 Conservation Reserve program authored by Dakota SWCD). Motion carried. Minnesota’s NACD Board member Emily Javens (Blue Earth SWCD) and Alternate Board member Kurt Beckstrom (Mille Lacs SWCD) will address the resolution during the NACD annual meeting January 27 – January 31.

Finance Committee Report. Krabbenhoft presented the monthly financials for board consideration and action. Motion by Krabbenhoft and seconded to approve the monthly financials subject to annual review. Motion carried. Board members reviewed background information related to MASWCD Auction proceeds and the Minnesota State Envirothon. Motion by Lingbeek and seconded to approve $7,544 (the entirety of the MASWCD auction proceeds) be allocated towards the Minnesota State Envirothon program. Motion carried. Board members considered membership dues toward the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the NACD North Central Region. Motion by Hoefert and seconded to approve payment of the $300 dues invoice for the NACD North Central Region. Motion carried. Motion by Hoefert and seconded to approve payment of $2,000 in dues membership for NACD. Board members discussed. Motion to amend by Schobrich and seconded to make the amount $1,800. Motion to amend carried 4-3. Amended motion carried approving payment of $1,800 to NACD for membership dues.

Policy and Legislative Committees’ 2018 Platform Recommendation. Vanney presented the recommendations of the MASWCD Policy Committee and Legislative Committee for MASWCD’s 2018 legislative platform. A joint meeting of the two committees was held December 19 to develop the recommendations for the board’s consideration. Motion by Cleveland and seconded to adopt the 2018 legislative platform as recommended by the MASWCD Policy Committee and Legislative Committee. Motion carried.

Minnesota NRCS Update. Acting NRCS State Conservationist for Minnesota, Curtis Elke, introduced himself to the board and spoke about issues related to NRCS staffing and programs.

NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Buck provided an informational update for the board. MASWCD and BWSR have been awarded a $2.5 million grant for One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) Accelerated Implementation. The Farm Bill funding will be available for SWCDs to utilize EQIP for voluntary best management practices for agricultural producers and forest landowners within five major 1W1P watersheds. This project advances an implementation framework that will accelerate the prioritized and targeted implementation of conservation practices to improve water quality. The grant supports the MASWCD “fund the plan” policy recommendations adopted by the board of directors in 2016.

NACD Fly-In Washington DC, March 20th. Motion by Krabbenhoft and seconded to approve expenditures for two MASWCD representatives to attend the NACD fly-in. Motion carried.

2018 Board Meeting Schedule and Adjourn. Tentative meeting dates for 2018 include: February 20, March 12, May 22, August 21, September 18, November 7, December 9, and December 11. The board meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.