President Beckstrom called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and led the board in the pledge of allegiance. Motion by Lingbeek and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda. As the minutes from the previous board meeting were not yet made available to the board members, the approval of the consent agenda consisting of the February 20 meeting minutes was postponed until the next board meeting.

President’s Report. Beckstrom reported on recent activities and events he’s attended on behalf of MASWCD.

Finance 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.

Executive Director’s Report. Buck noted that on the Board Focus Area of Development of a Public Administration Training for SWCDs, she anticipates having additional information and a proposal for the board to consider at the May meeting. Buck updated the board on the NRCS Request for Proposals Process, NACD grants, and the NACD Washington DC Fly-in.

MASWCD Legislative Platform Update. Vanney provided information on the MASWCD Legislative Platform, activity to date, and charted out the schedule for the rest of the day for the Legislative Briefing and Legislative Reception.

Cedar River Public/Private Conservation Partnership. Mower SWCD Manager Justin Hanson provided information on this initiative. The Mower SWCD has entered into a public-private pilot to improve water quality and address water resource challenges including flooding and sedimentation in the Cedar River Watershed. The watershed project is a collaboration between Mower SWCD, CFS Cooperative, Land O’ Lakes SUSTAIN, the MN Department of Agriculture, and Hormel Foods Corporation.

Drainage Work Group Policy Status. Thompson serves as MASWCD’s representative on the Drainage Work Group facilitated by BWSR. Thompson discussed MASWCD Resolution 7-2016 and Support for Runoff Based Assessment of Public Drainage Systems authored by Carver SWCD. Thompson also updated the board on a recent retirement at the U of M Extension leaving a vacancy in Research for Drainage Design and Management.

The next board meeting will take place May 22 at the MASWCD office in St. Paul. Meeting adjourned at 12:48 pm.