Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2018  
MASWCD Office, 255 Kellogg Blvd East, Suite 101, St. Paul MN 55101

Present: President Kurt Beckstrom, Vice President and Metro Area 4 Director Roland Cleveland, Secretary Treasurer and Northwest Area 1 Director Paul Krabbenhoft, West Central Area 2 Director Mike Jorgenson, Northeast Area 3 Director Bob Hoefert, Southwest Area 5 Director Clark Lingbeek, South Central Area 6 Director Mark Schnobrich, Southeast Area 7 Director Bill Thompson, North Central Area 8 Director Ken Laporte, MASWCD staff LeAnn Buck and Sheila Vanney; MPCA staff Glenn Skuta, BWSR Assistant Director Doug Thomas, BWSR Chief Engineer Manager Al Kean, Kanabec SWCD Supervisor Paul Hoppe.

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. Motion by Cleveland and seconded to approve the consent agenda, consisting of board meeting minutes from August 8. Motion carried

President’s Report. Beckstrom provided updates on the Local Government Water Roundtable, as well as the status of the Conservation Title of the federal Farm Bill. Board members were provided an update on the work of the MASWCD Nominations Committee related to upcoming elections for MASWCD President and MASWCD Vice President. The elections will take place during the Tuesday business meeting at the annual convention in December. Vanney presented the Nominations Committee report on behalf of the committee. Motion by Lingbeek and seconded to approve the Nominations Committee report and recommendation that the following be placed on the ballots for election at the MASWCD annual meeting, as these are individuals from SWCDs in good standing who submitted letters of interest to the MASWCD for these offices: for President – Roland Cleveland, Chisago SWCD Supervisor; and for Vice President – Paul Krabbenhoft, Clay SWCD Supervisor. Motion carried.

Finance Report. Krabbenhoft presented the monthly financial report. Motion by Hoefert and seconded to approve the financial report subject to annual review. Motion carried. Krabbenhoft presented for the board’s action the proposed 2018-2019 MASWCD Budget. Discussion was held on some of the change items in the budget, including a Public Administration Training opportunity MASWCD will be offering. Board members discussed the proposed dues increase included in the budget, in light of a decrease in expected contract income. Motion by Lingbeek and seconded to approve the 201-2019 proposed budget for distribution to the SWCD offices in advance of action by the members at the December annual meeting. Motion carried.

MASWCD Resolution/Policy Committee Report. Jorgenson presented the committee’s recommended 2018 Resolution Packet. The committee met earlier in the month and reviewed resolutions approved at local SWCD board meetings, and submitted and approved at Area meetings. The committee consolidated three identical resolutions into one, and pulled one resolution because of it already being standing policy. The resolutions process is the means by which local SWCD Supervisors can identify soil and water conservation needs and issues and bring them before the membership of the Association for review and action at the MASWCD Annual Convention. Motion by Jorgenson and seconded to approve the resolution packet for distribution to member SWCDs for the pre-convention balloting process. Motion carried.

Executive Director’s Report. Buck provided updates and information on board focus areas, potential streamlining changes to the SWCD Statute – Chapter 103C, Pheasant Action Plan MOU signing event, Sen. Tina Smith proclamation for the 80th Anniversary of SWCDs, and MASWCD resolutions to NACD.

Board Focus Area Enhanced MASWCD Communications – MASWCD video. Vanney updated the board on the progress of this project and indicated a final vide should be ready for viewing in October, in advance of SWCD
elections. The intent of the video project has been to serve as an educational tool about the importance of SWCDs and to showcase the diverse and collaborative projects that SWCDs conduct across the state.

*Board members recessed for lunch at noon and reconvened at 12:45 pm.*

The afternoon portion of the meeting was devoted to different aspects of conservation drainage efforts, several of which relate back to resolutions approved by the membership.

MASWCD Water Retention Policy Requests and Status - Al Kean, BWSR Chief Engineer and Doug Thomas, BWSR Assistant Director

a. Upland Detention Storage: *the Mower SWCD submitted a MASWCD resolution requesting the Association work with BWSR to investigate new or existing program funding opportunities for targeted detention and upland storage. BWSR has been finalizing a white paper that is addressing future options for water retention.*

b. Cost Share for Removal of Tile Intakes: *The Wright SWCD submitted a resolution requesting the Association support cost share practices at the federal and state level to remove tile intakes from drainage areas to sensitive to water bodies and provide pattern tile alternatives when practical. The resolution also requests the development of standards and specifications for this practice including exploring ways to direct smaller storms through the soil profile. Agencies are still working on the development of a design standard and guidance for alternative tile intakes.*

c. Support for Runoff Based Assessment of Public Drainage Systems; *the Carver SWCD submitted a MASWCD resolution supporting the optional application of runoff based assessment as an alternative for apportioning repair costs based on current land use for public drainage system. This has been a priority for the Drainage Work Group.*

BWSR Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management (MDM) Grant Program Status – Al Kean, BWSR Chief Engineer (Information Item); *The purpose of this program is to facilitate multipurpose drainage management practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation, reduce peak flows and flooding, and improve water quality, while protecting drainage system efficiency and reducing drainage system maintenance for priority Chapter 103E drainage systems. Practices include eligible on-field, on-farm, and on-drainage system practices within the benefited area or the watershed of a priority Chapter 103E drainage system.*

Drainage Water Management Technical and SWCD Informational Opportunities. Board members discussed Minnesota’s Drainage Water Management Team, Minnesota’s Drainage Work Group, and the Agricultural Drainage Leadership Position at University of Minnesota. Thompson provided a draft letter for the board’s consideration for sending to the Association Dean for Academic Programs and Faculty Affairs to inquire about the status of filling the position at the University of Minnesota that had previously been held by Dr. Gary Sands and focused on research and information distribution related to agricultural drainage. Sands has been promoted, leaving that position vacant. Motion by Thompson and seconded to approve sending the correspondence to inquire about the status of the function/work associated with the position previously held by Dr. Gary Sands at the University of Minnesota. Motion carried.

Local Government Water Roundtable correspondence to the Clean Water Council. Board members reviewed the draft correspondence. Motion by Jorgenson and seconded to approve MASWCD being a signatory on a letter from MASWCD, AMC, and MAWD. Motion carried. The letter outlines how the three organizations (the Local Government Water Roundtable) support the work of the Clean Water Council and encourage future increases in the percent devoted to implementation projects and Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Grants and the funding to implement them.

The next board meeting will take place November 7 at the MASWCD office in St. Paul. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.