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; Benton SWCD Supervisor Chuck Rau, Kanabec SWCD Supervisor Paul Hoppe, MPCA staff Glenn Skuta, BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke, USDA Farm Services Agency Director for Minnesota Joe Martin, USDA NRCS State Conservationist Troy Daniell, MACDE Representative Michele Stindtman.

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. Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda. Motion by Krabbenhoft and seconded to approve the consent agenda, consisting of board meeting minutes from September 18. Motion carried

President’s Report.

a. AMC Annual Convention, Dec. 2-4, 2018. Motion by Lingbeek and seconded to authorize expenses to be covered for Beckstrom and Cleveland to attend AMC Annual Convention. Motion carried.

b. NACD North Central Regional Meeting Jan. 7-8 in Racine, Wisconsin. Motion by Cleveland and seconded to authorize expenses for sending two individuals to this event, with the individuals to be decided at the annual organizational meeting of the board of directors on December 11. Motion carried.

c. NACD Annual meeting, Feb 2-6, 2019 San Antonio, Texas. Motion by Lingbeek and seconded to authorize expenses for sending two individuals to this event, with the individuals to be decided at the annual organizational meeting of the board of directors on December 11. Motion carried.

d. SWCD Scholarships for NACD annual meeting. Motion by Thompson and seconded to approve Schnobrich as the scholarship recipient for attending the NACD annual meeting. Motion carried.

e. MASWCD Area Officer Update. Area Directors were asked to review a handout outlining Area Officers and to provide needed updates to staff.

Finance Report. Krabbenhoft presented the monthly financial report. Motion by Krabbenhoft and seconded to approve the financial report subject to annual review. Motion carried. Krabbenhoft presented the Year End Review compiled by the accounting firm Mahoney, Ulbrich, Christiansen and Russ, P.A. Motion by Lingbeek and seconded to accept the annual review. Motion carried.

Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 Focused Watershed Program. Glenn Skuta, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Watershed Division Director, provided an overview on MPCA project funding to implement best management practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution in Minnesota’s lakes, rivers, and streams.

Executive Director’s Report. Buck provided updates and information on the following:

a. NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant for “One Watershed, One Plan Conservation Practices Implementation”. This project is a collaborative effort between BWSR, NRCS and MASWCD and provides $2.53 million of EQIP conservation practices funding for landowners within the first five completed 1W1P watersheds (this includes portions of 22 SWCDs). The project represents leveraging of additional federal resources for voluntary conservation practices in Minnesota.

b. Minnesota Chapter 103 C update: Minnesota’s SWCDs first state statute was created in 1938 and was titled the Soil and Water Conservation District Law. In 1990, the legislature "recodified" or updated and combined water related legislation from more than eight separate statutes. The combination of statutes became Chapter
103, the Minnesota Water Law. The SWCD Law, Chapter 40, became Chapter 103C of the Minnesota Water Law. Parts of Chapters 103A, 103B, 103C, 103D, 103E, 103F, and 103G relate to activities of SWCDs. Vanney presented an overview of technical changes to 103C that would incorporate cross-references to other areas of statute that included responsibilities for SWCDs. Vanney will be providing similar information to the legislative committee for consideration as they develop a recommendation for the 2019 legislative platform.

c. Board Focus Area MASWCD Video: MASWCD produced and launched a new educational video to showcase the diverse range of work that SWCDs do in partnership with landowners.

d. MASWCD Standing Committee Status. Buck highlighted workload associated with several standing committees of late.

MASWCD’s Year in Review & 2019 Outlook. Buck provided information on progress on MASWCD’s 2018 work plan and board priority outcomes overview including: SWCD/NRCS locally led workshops, MASWCD & AMC Joint Workgroup, communication plan, SWCD public administration training curriculum; technical training for SWCDs; forestry program support, leadership co-hort training, public/private role of conservation delivery and 80th Anniversary of SWCDs.

Board members recessed for lunch at 12:15 pm and reconvened at 1:00 pm.

USDA Partners’ Report – Joe Martin, FSA State Executive Director and Troy Daniell, NRCS State Conservationist. Board members heard from Martin and Daniell on several timely issues from our USDA partners.

a. 2014 Federal Farm Bill Expiration and Implications for Conservation Programs including CRP, EQIP, CSP and CREP

b. NRCS Conservation Delivery Teams (CDT) proposal status: in May 2018 Minnesota NRCS announced a proposed plan to restructure the NRCS conservation delivery system to enhance technical assistance and streamline management.

c. FPAC Mission Area & the FPAC Business Center. The national center is responsible for financial management, budgeting, human resources, information technology, customer experience, strategic and annual planning, and other activities for the FPAC Mission area and its component agencies, including the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Risk Management Agency

d. Local Working Groups: In accordance with the Farm Bill, Local Working Groups are subcommittees of the NRCS State Technical Committee and provide recommendations to USDA on local and state natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs. According to NRCS Program policy, it is recommended that SWCDs should convene the Local Working Group.

e. NRCS and SWCD Operational Agreements

MASWCD Annual Business Meeting Overview. Vanney provided information on the Association’s Annual Meeting, being conducted December 9-11 2018. Program highlights include: voting on SWCD resolutions to establish member policy, soil health research, SWCD governance, plenary session, status of conservation program outcomes, tradeshow with industry and agency leaders, and recognition of landowners and voluntary conservation efforts.

SWCD Training Updates. Buck updated the board on the following SWCD training initiatives.

a. Board Focus Area SWCD Public Administration Training Co-hort: MASWCD is working to finalize curriculum for the SWCD public administration and will launch a training co-hort for SWCD Managers in 2019.

b. Board Focus Area Technical Training Teams & Area Employee Appointments: The MASWCD, MACDE, BWSR and NRCS developed Minnesota’s Technical Training and Certification Program to provide a framework for training and credentialing, including job approval authority, for SWCD and NRCS conservation professionals. The strategy includes the development of a state technical training committee and also area technical training teams.

Future board meetings are scheduled for December 9 and 11 in conjunction with the MASWCD annual convention at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington, and December 18 at the MASWCD office in St. Paul. Meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.