

2010 Resolutions Which
Passed at the Annual
Convention

REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CLEAN WATER FUND COMPETITIVE GRANT CATEGORIES
AND
CHANGE THE RANKING PROCESS

WHEREAS, in the current round of Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant allocations it became apparent that preservation projects do not score as well as restoration applications; and

WHEREAS, the multiple categories left many districts bewildered as to where their application would fit into these categories; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast and North Central areas found that their proposed projects were almost uniformly unfunded in the granting process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD seek legislative change to reduce and combine the number of categories and/or make districts eligible for more categories that exist in the Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant process; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the MASWCD implore the Board of Water and Soil Resources to change the ranking process to appropriately recognize the importance of preservation of water resources for the state of Minnesota.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$2,400 (includes staff time & operating costs to work with agency and legislature)

Submitted by: Wadena SWCD

Area Association: NC Area 8

Date Adopted: June 4, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Tom Schulz, Wadena SWCD Supervisor, (218) 837-5728

Malinda Dexter, Wadena SWCD District Manager, (218) 631-3195 ext. 3

REDUCE THE LOCAL MATCH ON CLEAN WATER FUND COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, of the local entities that are eligible to apply for Clean Water funds from the Board of Water and Soil Resources, local Soil and Water Districts are the only governmental units that have no power to tax to raise the necessary local match; and

WHEREAS, since the funds to finance these activities are raised by taxing all citizens throughout the state through the Legacy Amendment which means that local citizens are forced to pay twice for these grants; and

WHEREAS, in time of budget reductions Districts find themselves at a disadvantage in finding dollars to keep staff in place to complete projects.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD seek changes in the granting process to reduce the matching percentage on Clean Water grants ~~to 25 % on the first \$25,000 of the grant and 10% on any grant funds in excess of the base amount.~~

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$2,400 (includes staff time and operating costs to work with agency and legislature)

Submitted by: Wadena SWCD

Area Association: NC Area 8

Date Adopted: June 4, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed as amended

For more information contact:

Tom Schulz, Wadena SWCD Supervisor, (218) 837-5728

Malinda Dexter, Wadena SWCD District Manager, (218) 631-3195 ext. 3

NATURAL RESOURCES BLOCK GRANT

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) consists of five different grants: Comprehensive Local Water Management (CLWM), Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS), Shoreland, and Feedlots; and

WHEREAS, the CLWM and WCA grants are from BWSR, the others are from other state agencies; and

WHEREAS, each program takes a different amount of work and staff time each year; and

WHEREAS, some years there is insufficient funds in one program or the other; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no flexibility to move funds between programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD supports and encourages the CLWM and WCA allocation of the NRBG be spent as needed each year.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$120 - \$240.

Submitted by: Pennington SWCD

Area Association: NW Area 1

Date Adopted: June 10, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD Manager, 218-683-7075

BWSR RUNOFF REDUCTION GRANTS

WHEREAS, the FY2010 Competitive Clean Water Grants offered a BWSR Runoff Reduction Grant; and

WHEREAS, these grants were designed to target structural and vegetative practices to reduce storm water runoff and retain water on the land to reduce the movement of sediment, nutrients and pollutants; and

WHEREAS, practices should accomplish restoration, protection or enhancement of water quality in lakes, rivers and streams and/or protect groundwater and drinking water; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs implement many of these types of practices; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs are not eligible to apply for these grants for FY2010 or FY2011.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD supports and encourages SWCDs eligibility for BWSR Runoff Reduction Grants through the Competitive Clean Water Grant process for FY2012 and FY2013 if funds are allocated to the program.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$2,400 (includes staff time & operating costs to work with agency and legislature)

Submitted by: Pennington SWCD

Area Association: NW Area 1

Date Adopted: June 10, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD Manager, 218-683-7075

SUPPORT OF MINIMAL IMPACT DESIGN STANDARDS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the concept of Low Impact Design is emerging as a preferential development approach; and

WHEREAS, the concept of Low Impact Design has as one of its principles the preservation of predevelopment hydrology; and

WHEREAS, the recognized practices supported through Low Impact Design are generally those supported by the conservation community; and

WHEREAS, there is resistance on the part of the development community to adopt Low Impact Design concepts due to the lack of defined standards associated with the recognized practices; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature acted to address the lack of design standards by providing funding to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for completion of the Minimal Impact Design Standards Project, the purpose of which is to develop standards for practices supporting Low Impact Design (such as rain gardens) to a level acceptable to the professional design community (similar to the level of the Natural Resource Conservation Service Field Office Technical Guide).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts supports the participation of SWCDs as members of a work group for the development of Minimal Impact Design Standards.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$4,800 (includes staff time & operating costs to work with agency and legislature)

Submitted by: Carver SWCD

Area Association: Metro Area 4

Date Approved: June 10, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Mark Zabel, Carver SWCD Supervisor, 952-443-3116

**MODIFICATION TO MN STATUTE REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF
NON-CONFORMING SHORELAND USES**

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners in restoring native buffers and topography adjacent to lakes, watercourses, and wetland areas; and

WHEREAS, the number of lakes and streams identified as impaired is increasing in MN, and vegetative buffers and natural topography provide water quality benefits by reducing nutrient and sediment loading to Minnesota’s water resources; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota allows retaining walls, sand blankets and other non-conforming uses in shoreland areas to be replaced without giving consideration to alternatives, thereby having a negative effect on water quality, aesthetics, and fish and wildlife habitat.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD work with BWSR, DNR and others to modify Minnesota Statute 394.36 Supd. 4, regarding shoreland non-conforming uses to preserve shoreland areas; and explore all options when a non-conformity is being considered for reconstruction. Specifically, retaining walls, sand blankets and other non-conforming uses in shoreland areas shall be examined for possible negative effects on water quality, aesthetics, fish and wildlife habitat, using other natural resource conserving options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SWCDs will be the lead local governmental organization in providing technical assistance and cost- share assistance in the establishment of vegetative buffers and restoration of topography in shoreland areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the agencies within the state of MN shall recognize the importance of restoring shoreland areas and planting native vegetative buffers, and develop an aggressive promotional and awareness campaign for establishing, maintaining, and restoring these ecologically sensitive areas.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$4,800 (includes staff time & operating costs to work with agency and legislature)

Submitted by: Stearns County SWCD

Area Association: WC Area 2

Date Adopted: June 3, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Dennis Fuchs, Stearns County SWCD Administrator

phone: 320-251-7800 x 132, email: dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have developed partnerships with landowners and the Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry in writing forest stewardship plans for non-industrial, private forest lands; and

WHEREAS, the forest stewardship program supports and compliments SWCD programs, the “Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program” (WHIP) program and the “Environmental Quality Incentive Program” (EQIP) program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); and

WHEREAS, landowners who have registered forest stewardship plans can receive tax reduction incentives for managing their forests; and

WHEREAS, annual “requests for proposals” can be submitted to the DNR - Forest Stewardship Committee by local units of government and private consultants to write forest stewardship plans; and

WHEREAS, the forest stewardship program has provided technical assistance to landowners through the Department of Natural Resources foresters and local partners since 1992 and DNR foresters have provided forestry plans since the 1940’s; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 1.6 million acres of private forest lands have management plans written statewide and approximately 36% of forest lands in the state are family owned forests; and

WHEREAS, state and federal funding for the forest stewardship program has decreased in recent years, therefore a fee system was recently established to charge landowners a fee for this service ranging from \$230 to \$1,000 per plan, to help cover the costs of the program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) work with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Department of Natural Resources to support legislation for state and federal funding for the forest stewardship program in Minnesota.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$1,200 (includes staff time & operating costs to work with agencies and legislature)

Submitted by: Kanabec SWCD

Area Association: NE Area 3

Date adopted: June 4, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact: Kanabec SWCD at 320-679-3982

RESOLUTION TO INCREASE SWCD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING

WHEREAS, Minnesota has a strong natural resource base to preserve and protect; and

WHEREAS, no publicly funded conservation project is completed in Minnesota without someone qualified to work with the landowner and provide technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota SWCDs have been a leader in providing technical assistance to landowners and effectively implementing multiple conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs have a strong working relationship with other governmental units-such as cities, schools and townships-, private industry, local conservation groups and other nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota SWCDs have been significantly impacted by budget reductions and cuts to staffing across the state; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008 significant new funds for conservation related project implementation will be available across the state and will require qualified technical assistance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD develop a strategy to request and acquire additional Technical Assistance funding for SWCD staff from the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that at a minimum, funding be requested to annually support one staff person per District, across the state, at a suggested level of at least \$45,000 per district.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$4,800 (includes staff time, committee time & operating costs to work with agency and legislature)

Submitted by: Martin SWCD

Area Association: SC Area 6

Date Adopted: June 3, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Linda Meschke, Martin SWCD Supervisor, 507-235-3127, linda@ruraladvantage.org

STATE ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE LAND

WHEREAS, the Outdoor Heritage Fund was created to “...restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota’s wetlands, prairies, forests and habitat for fish, game and wildlife...; and

WHEREAS, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) is responsible for recommending how funds should be used from the Outdoor Heritage Fund; and

WHEREAS, the LSOHC has recommended some state acquisition of land in order to fulfill the goals of the program and is getting pressure from sportsman’s groups and other organizations to focus more effort into public access than achieve habitat goals; and

WHEREAS, public access is not required for easements that restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota’s wetlands, prairies, forests and habitat; and

WHEREAS, according to the OLA, “about one-fourth of the land in Minnesota is already owned by government agencies”; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) submitted an evaluation report summary stating “While its long range plans propose significant future acquisitions of land, the DNR appears to lack adequate resources to manage and maintain its current land holdings”; and

WHEREAS, another concern of private land being acquired by the DNR is the possible impact of reduced property tax revenue.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD supports and encourages assisting private landowners and local governments with the restoration, protection and enhancement of Minnesota’s wetlands, prairies, forests and habitat for fish, game and wildlife as opposed to the state acquiring and managing more public land.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost \$120. This is a policy statement.

Submitted by: Pennington SWCD

Area Association: NW Area 1

Date Adopted: June 10, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD Manager, 218-683-7075

SUPPORT OF A BAN ON COAL TAR-BASED SEALCOATINGS

WHEREAS, coal tar-based sealants contain high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); and

WHEREAS, the application of coal tar-based sealants to driveways, parking lots or roadways leads to their being carried by runoff to water resources; and

WHEREAS, the PAHs cause tumors in some fish and disrupt the reproduction of aquatic organisms; and

WHEREAS, PAHs bind to sediment and those sediments become expensive to manage when removed, as they may be considered hazardous materials, and the costs of their management falls to the public, especially when it comes to management/maintenance of stormwater treatment ponds by cities, towns or townships; and

WHEREAS, legislation banning the sale or use of coal tar-based sealants was introduced in the 2010 session of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts supports legislation effecting the statewide ban of the sale and use of coal tar-based sealants.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$1,200 (includes staff time & operating costs to work with agencies and legislature)

Submitted by: Carver SWCD

Area Association: Metro Area 4

Date Approved: June 10, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Mark Zabel, Carver SWCD Supervisor, 952-443-3116

UPLAND BUFFERS

WHEREAS, upland buffers on water resources provide multiple conservation benefits, i.e. reduction of soil loss, improved water quality, improved wildlife habitat, improved aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, upland buffers on water resources also provide direct economic benefits of reduced maintenance costs and reduced need for restoration activities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD supports upland buffers on all water resources areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MASWCD supports the establishment and maintenance of native vegetation in upland buffer areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MASWCD supports harvestable options for upland buffers on drainage ditches.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$120 - \$600.

Submitted by: Carver SWCD

Area Association: Metro Area 4

Date Approved: June 10, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Mark Zabel, Carver SWCD Supervisor, 952-443-3116

GARLIC MUSTARD AWARENESS NEEDED AT DISTRICT LEVEL

WHEREAS, Garlic Mustard is known to be widely distributed (especially in the southeastern portion of the state); and

WHEREAS, Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an introduced species of European origin; and

WHEREAS, Garlic Mustard is a Minnesota prohibited noxious weed (Minnesota Rules 1505.0730) that must be controlled or eradicated as required in Minnesota statutes, section 18.78; and

WHEREAS, Garlic Mustard tends to aggressively invade a woodland community and cause a decline of native grasses, herbs and tree seedlings within ten years; and

WHEREAS, for a County Board to control Garlic Mustard it must be widely recognized in counties where present, and control measures formulated and implemented.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) encourage the Department of Agriculture and MN DNR to ensure reporting, via a web site, of populations of Garlic Mustard by district, county and township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) collaborate with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Minnesota DNR to provide information, education, and advice to districts and counties on control of Garlic Mustard; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD encourage the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to explore and promote biologic control agents for this problematic plant.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$4,800 (includes staff time, committee time & operating costs to work with agencies and legislature

Submitted by: Rice SWCD

Area Association: Southeast Area 7

Date adopted: June 30, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Gary Wagenbach, Rice SWCD Supervisor, gwagenba@gmail.com, (507) 645-8549

SUBSURFACE (TILE) DRAINAGE TO REDUCE TURBIDITY AND PROVIDE FLOOD CONTROL

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to adopt water-quality standards to protect waters from a wide range of pollutants; and

WHEREAS, yearly, many waters of the State are added to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Impaired Waters List due to sediment loading (turbidity); and

WHEREAS, flooding has and continues to be a serious problem throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, artificial drainage systems have supported agricultural production in Minnesota for over a hundred years; and

WHEREAS, open field ditch drainage systems contribute to sedimentation problems during heavy rainfall, flood events, and to some extent spring runoff; and

WHEREAS, subsurface (tile) drainage promotes better percolation, slowing water delivery from the landscape thus reducing surface runoff pollutants, lowers the water table allowing greater water infiltration and increased storage during heavy rainfall or flood events; and

WHEREAS, proper soil drainage improves agricultural production by ensuring timely planting and field operations (such as harvesting) as well as improving the opportunity to employ other conservation practices such as minimum tillage; and

WHEREAS, poorly drained soils increase risks to agricultural production from excess water and high water tables; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal legislators look for ways to reduce crop damage payments due to emergency/disaster declarations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts support and encourage BWSR, NRCS, and Watershed Districts to explore subsurface drainage as a means of reducing sediment to waters of the State and also as a potential flood control measure.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$2,400 (includes staff time, committee time & operating costs to work with agency, partners including drainage work group).

Submitted by: Clay SWCD

Area Association: NW Area 1
Date Adopted: June 10, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: September 14, 2010

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 7, 2010
Action: Passed

For more information contact:
Clay SWCD – (218) 287-2255

Background: Since 1993 parts of the state have been enduring a severe wet cycle. Local government units are looking at options to not only reduce flood damages and prevent sedimentation problems, but also maintain a profitable crop production system. Naturally, avoiding any wetland impacts would be paramount and all subsurface drainage requests would need to follow present permit procedures. Numerous studies by Minnesota Extension Service and Minnesota Department of Agriculture have been and are being conducted to explore the positive side of subsurface drainage systems. Potentially, surface drainage systems could be filled in and replaced by subsurface drains.

NRCS EQIP DOCKET

WHEREAS, NRCS has conducted an EQIP sign up each year since 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Local Work Group in each SWCD meets annually to determine local priority resource concerns and ranking; and

WHEREAS, each year NRCS updates and changes the EQIP docket; and

WHEREAS, the Local Work Group needs this updated information to aid in their establishment of local priority resource concerns and ranking.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD encourage NRCS to release its updated EQIP docket prior to the Local Work Group meetings.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$120-\$600 (staff time and operational costs)

Submitted by: Pennington SWCD

Area Association: NW Area 1

Date Adopted: June 10, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD Manager, 218-683-7075

TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDER (TSP) CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), Technical Service Areas (TSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have a common purpose of helping to bring about conservation and wise use of land, water, wildlife and related resources; and

WHEREAS, the SWCDs, TSAs, and NRCS jointly share in the responsibility of providing technical assistance to those participating in USDA programs that are administered by NRCS; and

WHEREAS, NRCS has the authority to enter into a Contribution Agreement with the SWCDs and TSAs to be the Technical Service Provider (TSP) to assist NRCS with the technical assistance workload, and

WHEREAS, many of the participants need a preliminary survey and design completed to establish a cost for the installation of the conservation practice before they can be considered for cost-share assistance; and

WHEREAS, technical assistance costs are incurred by SWCD and TSA Staff when determining eligibility of the conservation practice; if it is determined the landowner is ineligible or does not receive funding for the conservation practice there is no compensation for the time spent on that project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) work through the National Association of Conservation District (NACD) and the USDA Department of Agriculture to amend language in the 2008 Farm Bill to allow for TSP reimbursement payment to SWCDs and TSAs for technical service costs incurred when landowners are not funded or pull out prior to construction of their conservation practice.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$2,400 (includes staff time, board time, & operating costs to work with agency, federal legislature, NACD and TSAs)

Submitted by: Murray SWCD

Area Association: SW Area 5
Date Adopted: June 17, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: September 14, 2010

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 7, 2010
Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Arland Moger, Murray SWCD Supervisor, 507-920-8433
Howard Konkol, Murray SWCD Manager, 507-836-6990 ext. 3

INCENTIVE PAYMENT FOR CRP LIVING SNOWFENCE PRACTICE

WHEREAS, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); and

WHEREAS, the CP5A Field Windbreak Establishment Practice is eligible for the 20% incentive payment; and

WHEREAS, the CP5A Field Windbreak Establishment eligibility for cost share shall improve environmental benefits to less than the soil loss tolerance, and prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring after establishment; and

WHEREAS, the CP17A Living Snow Fence Practice eligibility for cost share shall improve environmental benefits to below the soil loss tolerance, and prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring after establishment; which is virtually the same as CP5A eligibility requirements, and

WHEREAS, the CP17A Living Snow Fence Practice currently is not eligible for the 20% incentive payment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) request that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) consider giving the 20% incentive payment to land that is enrolled into the CRP CP17A Living Snow Fence Practice.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$1,200 (includes staff time, board time, & operating costs to work with federal agency)

Submitted by: Yellow Medicine SWCD
Lincoln SWCD

Area Association: SW Area 5
Dated Adopted: June 17, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: September 14, 2010

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 7, 2010
Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Menno Fokken, Yellow Medicine SWCD Supervisor, 507-223-7707

Norris Peterson, Yellow Medicine SWCD Supervisor, 507-223-5457

Yellow Medicine SWCD, 320-669-4442 Ext 3

WIND EROSION EQUATION FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR CP5A FIELD WINDBREAK ESTABLISHMENT

WHEREAS, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the technical aspects of CRP; and

WHEREAS, land must meet wind erodibility equal to or greater than T in order to be eligible for the CP5A Field Windbreak Establishment; and

WHEREAS, in the past the potential soil loss was determined for a single field windbreak using the wind erosion equation which included an unsheltered distance length that was to be shortened by the establishment of the Field Windbreak; and

WHEREAS, the current potential erodibility equation developed by Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2007 does not include an unsheltered distance length in the calculation; and

WHEREAS, the current equation under predicts soil loss to the point that few if any sites in southwest Minnesota are eligible for Field Windbreaks regardless of the length of the unsheltered distance that exists.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) request that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) relook at the wind erosion equation and include an unsheltered distance in the calculation.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$1,200 (includes staff time, board time, & operating costs to work with federal agency.)

Submitted by: Yellow Medicine SWCD
Lincoln SWCD

Area Association: SW Area 5
Dated Adopted: June 17, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: September 14, 2010

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 7, 2010
Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Menno Fokken, Yellow Medicine SWCD Supervisor, 507-223-7707
Norris Peterson, Yellow Medicine SWCD Supervisor, 507-223-5457
Yellow Medicine SWCD, 320-669-4442 Ext 3

INCREASE CCRP HEADLAND BUFFER WIDTH

WHEREAS, modern farm equipment has generally increased in size and complexity; and requires more than a 15 feet wide buffer to turn around on field ends which are commonly referred to as 'Headlands'; and

WHEREAS, these headlands often follow property lines, roads, or other features that do not fit well with contour farming practices. This results in either end rows that are highly erosive due to lack of contouring or the abandonment of this cropland area to allow turning of farming equipment; and

WHEREAS, current Continuous Conservation Reserve Programs (CCRP) only allow the enrollment of headlands where required for drainage of no more than 15 feet in width; and

WHEREAS, the former Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allowed an enrollment of headlands up to 60 foot wide, which is a more reasonable and popular buffer width for most farm equipment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD encourage the State FSA Committee to increase the CCRP Headland Buffer width to a maximum of 60 feet.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$1,200 (includes staff time, board time, & operating costs to work with federal agency)

Submitted by: Goodhue SWCD

Area Association: Southeast Area 7

Date Adopted: June 30, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Glen Roberson, District Manager, Goodhue SWCD, 651-923-5286

INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR WIDE HEADLAND BUFFERS

WHEREAS, modern farm equipment has generally increased in size and complexity; and requires more than a 15 feet wide buffer to turn around on field ends which are commonly referred to as 'Headlands'; and

WHEREAS, these headlands often follow property lines, roads, or other features that do not fit well with contour farming practices. This results in either end rows that are highly erosive due to lack of contouring or the abandonment of this cropland area to allow turning of farming equipment; and

WHEREAS, current Continuous Conservation Reserve Programs (CCRP) only allow the enrollment of headlands where required for drainage of no more than 15 feet in width; and

WHEREAS, the former Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allowed an enrollment of headlands up to 60 foot wide, which is a more reasonable and popular buffer width for most farm equipment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MN Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts encourage the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources to create a State Buffer Incentive Program that can be either independent of or complimentary to CCRP Headland buffers; and will provide cost share and limited term (10-15 year) acreage payments to landowners willing to establish adequate width Headland Buffers.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$2,400 (includes staff time, board time, & operating costs to work with state agency and legislature)

Submitted by: Goodhue SWCD

Area Association: Southeast Area 7
Date Adopted: June 30, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
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Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Glen Roberson, District Manager, Goodhue SWCD, 651-923-5286

COMPLIANCE WITH BUFFER STRIPS FOR GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY PAYMENT

WHEREAS, there is more and more land going into row crops and we need to reduce erosion run-off to help clean up our streams and rivers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that any farmer, in order to receive government subsidy, will be required to have and maintain buffer strips and filter strips where needed.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$1,200 (includes staff time, board time, & operating costs to work with agency, federal legislature, and NACD to change federal policy)

Submitted by: Wabasha SWCD

Area Association: Southeast Area 7

Date Adopted: June 30, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Ralph Breuer, Wabasha SWCD Supervisor, 651-345-3651

CRP AND BIO-MASS USAGE

WHEREAS, CRP rates and rental rates are far apart; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for bio-mass to produce needed energy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that bio-mass crops be allowed to be planted on CRP acres and can be harvested and sold to off-set the difference in rent and CRP and still help control erosion not to exceed one-third using a three-year contract.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$1,200 (includes staff time, board time, & operating costs to work with agency, federal legislature, and NACD to change federal policy)

Submitted by: Wabasha SWCD

Area Association: Southeast Area 7

Date Adopted: June 30, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Ralph Breuer, Wabasha SWCD Supervisor, 651-345-3651

**WAIVER OF U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE EASEMENT REQUIREMENTS
FOR EROSION CONTROL PRACTICES**

WHEREAS, in 1937 the Minnesota State legislature passed legislation to create Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 103C directs Soil and Water Conservation Districts to maintain and enhance the quality of soil and water resource of the state of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts work with landowners to install conservation practices on their land to reduce and prevent soil erosion and improve water quality; and

WHEREAS, soil erosion practices installed by Soil and Water Conservation Districts are sediment blocks, terraces, and grassed waterway. These conservation practices require the installation of underground outlets (drain tile) to carry runoff water underground to a suitable outlet to prevent soil erosion; and

WHEREAS, these conservation practices reduce soil erosion and reduce sediment reaching wetlands, streams, and lakes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have easements with landowners to protect wetlands from drainage and being degraded; and

WHEREAS, landowners who have U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service easements on their property are restricted in placing any underground outlets on their property because of the easement; and

WHEREAS, the underground outlet installed with the erosion control practice is not intended to drain wetlands, but is prohibited because of easements on landowner's property.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create an exemption or waiver for the installation of underground outlets (drain tile) for the purpose of erosion control practices on land that has a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Easement.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$2,400 (includes staff time & operating costs to work with agency)

Submitted by: Douglas SWCD

Area Association: WC Area 2

Date Adopted: June 3, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: September 14, 2010

Date: December 7, 2010

Action: Passed

For more information contact: Gary Thoennes, Douglas SWCD Chairman

ANNUAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, many Districts need to travel Sunday to attend Monday morning convention meetings; and

WHEREAS, there are limited activities for Sunday evening; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the Districts leave after the Tuesday Outstanding Conservationists Luncheon; and

WHEREAS, attendance is low at the Tuesday afternoon session and evening banquet; and

WHEREAS, the Tuesday evening banquet requires some Districts to spend an extra night at the convention and the next day traveling.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD begin its Annual Convention on Sunday evening and end after the Outstanding Conservationist Luncheon on Tuesday.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: \$120 – \$600 estimated in staff time and operational costs to MASWCD.

Submitted by: Pennington SWCD

Area Association: NW Area 1
Date Adopted: June 10, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: September 14, 2010

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 7, 2010
Action: Passed

For more information contact:
Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD Manager, 218-683-7075

MASWCD DISTRICT CAPACITY PROGRAM MODIFICATION

WHEREAS, MASWCD encourages and acknowledges superior service to the public by its members through the District Capacity Awards program; and

WHEREAS, the current MASWCD District Capacity Awards program favors agricultural conservation practices over other forms of conservation and presumes co-location and a close partnership with NRCS; and

WHEREAS, many districts are not co-located with NRCS and/or do not work in primarily agricultural areas and so do not have the demand for agricultural conservation practices presumed to exist when the awards criteria were established; and

WHEREAS, many of the criteria are focused on encouraging members to participate in MASWCD sponsored activities, which is not necessarily reflective of the level of service provided to the public, i.e. 'District Capacity.'

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD modify the District Capacity Awards program to focus on the capacity of district to provide services needed by the public in their area, removing agricultural bias and reducing the penalty for not participating in MASWCD sponsored activities.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Estimated cost to MASWCD to implement is \$1,200 (includes staff time, committee time & operating costs).

Submitted by: Anoka CD

Area Association: Metro Area 4
Date Approved: June 10, 2010

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: September 14, 2010

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 7, 2010
Action: Passed

For more information contact:
Chris Lord, District Manager, Anoka CD, 763-434-2030, ext. 13

2009 Resolutions Which Passed at the Annual Convention

**STATEWIDE DIALOGUE ABOUT THE SWCD STRUCTURE FOR FUTURE NATURAL RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DELIVERY IN MINNESOTA**

WHEREAS, Minnesota has a strong natural resource base to preserve and protect; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota SWCDs have been a leader in providing technical assistance and implementation programs, in collaboration with their partners, toward improving and protecting Minnesota's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs have a strong working relationship with multiple county offices, including Water Planning, Drainage, Wetland Conservation Act, Planning and Zoning, Shoreland, Feedlots, Highway Department, Parks and Trails, Land Commissioners and others; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs have a strong working relationship with other governmental units-such as cities, schools and townships-, private industry, local conservation groups and other nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota SWCDs historically have been county based; and

WHEREAS, many natural resource initiatives are watershed based; and

WHEREAS, periodically there has been discussion and proposals to change the SWCD structure to be watershed based rather than county based; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of any SWCD in Minnesota to have a statewide dialogue about what SWCD structure will best meet the future needs of the people and natural resources of Minnesota.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD develop and conduct a statewide dialogue about the future structure of SWCDs across Minnesota; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that when consensus has been reached, that the MASWCD develop a strategy to strengthen each SWCDs technical, financial and political status to effectively lead conservation efforts across Minnesota in the future. This task shall be completed by the 2013 MASWCD convention.

Submitted by: Martin SWCD

Area Association: South Central Area 6

Date Adopted: June 29, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: August 25, 2009

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: December 8, 2009

Action: Approved as Amended

NO NET LOSS OF PUBLIC LAND

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are subdivisions of State government charged with the responsibility of maintaining the quality of our land and water resources for the benefit of the public; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota and its agencies own and control lands open to public use and enjoyment; productive of natural resources; and which conserve the environment and soil and water resources; and

WHEREAS, from time to time the State of Minnesota and its agencies declare parcels or land as surplus and offer these parcels for sale; and

WHEREAS, current law provides that proceeds from State land sales be deposited in the general fund to be used for general purposes, and

WHEREAS, some counties and other units of local government have policies requiring no net loss of public land acreage or value within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota and its agencies have no such policy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD endorses and supports a change in state law to adopt a no net loss of public land acreage or value for all state land which has value for natural resources, including but not limited to forestry, or value for conservation of the environment and soil and water resources, or value for other public use and enjoyment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD endorses and supports a change in state law to provide that proceeds from State land sales of such resource or conservation or public use lands be deposited in a special fund to be used for acquisition and protection of high priority resource or conservation lands in the county from which the proceeds of land sales were realized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD endorses and supports a change in state law to provide that before the State sells any lands with natural resource or conservation or public use value, all county and other interested local units of government be given the opportunity to comment as to the resource or conservation or public use value of the lands and as to any high priority resource or conservation lands within the jurisdiction of said local units of government which should be acquired in the event that the State sells any lands with natural resource or conservation value; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD endorses and supports a change in state law to provide that the State and its agencies give fair and reasonable consideration and weight to the comments of county and other interested local units of government before selling any such lands and before acquiring or protecting replacement high priority resource or conservation lands.

Submitted by: Cass SWCD

Area Association: North Central Area 8
Date Approved: June 12, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 25, 2009

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 8, 2009
Action: Approved

For more information contact:
John Sumption, Cass SWCD District Manager, (218) 547-7256, john.sumption@co.cass.mn.us

STATE SUPPORT FOR LIDAR

WHEREAS, LiDAR is an acronym for Light Detection And Ranging; and

WHEREAS, LiDAR is a remote sensing technology used to collect high resolution digital elevation data in a cost effective way for creating contours and 3 dimensional digital maps as accurate as 1 foot in elevation, using lasers mounted on small aircraft; and

WHEREAS, the cost has rapidly diminished since the year 2000 due to changes in technology, but has stabilized due to non-technology constraints such as flight and ground calibration expenses. Large scale projects are much more efficient than small projects due to set up costs; and

WHEREAS, high resolution elevation data is an essential part of SWCD programs including Conservation Planning, Wetland delineation, Sinkhole mapping, Soil mapping, and Stream bank and bluff erosion measurement, often allowing this data to substitute for much more expensive on the ground survey work for pre-design work; and

WHEREAS, LiDAR data is available in only a few parts of the State; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 MN DNR LiDAR project was completed in the 7 Counties identified as federal disaster areas after the August 2007 floods in Southeastern Minnesota (Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, Winona), and the State is now proposing Statewide coverage; and

WHEREAS, State projects are paid by State funds, meaning that the data is now Public Data; whereas some of the first LiDAR coverage was paid by local or private funds and is only available to other entities for a significant fee; and

WHEREAS, older LiDAR data was collected with less reliable technology resulting in areas with unreliable data which does not allow for LiDAR model creations, lower resolution, and does not show land changes since it was collected; and

WHEREAS, expected payback in reduced costs for all use, including transportation planning, floodplain mapping, TMDL studies and mitigation, and Conservation planning will be rapid.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD support Statewide LiDAR data coverage for Minnesota and lobby for Legislative authorization and funding to achieve this goal.

Submitted by: Goodhue SWCD

Area Association: Southeast Area 7
Date Adopted: July 1, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 25, 2009

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 8, 2009
Action: Approved (Pre-Convention Balloting)

For Further Information Contact: Glen Roberson, District Manager, Goodhue SWCD, 651-923-5286

WETLAND IMPACT MITIGATION

WHEREAS, the past mitigation practices have not yielded the desired results or flexibility needed to meet the no net loss requirements.

WHEREAS, SWCDs have technical expertise in water resource management and have knowledge of local mitigation potential and problems; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs are established to act in a non-partisan manner to protect and restore the natural resources of Minnesota.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts supports the creation of a wetland mitigation fund of which 50% of said fund will be used to create or purchase wetland easements or create wetlands within the affected wetland banking service area and where the remaining 50% would be used to create meaningful wetlands in areas of the state where they are most needed. This would be funded through payments from landowners/project coordinators for the purpose of wetland mitigation. This fund should be managed by BWSR. This program would be made available to all LGU's but participation in it would be voluntary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if wetland credits are available within the county they would be directed to utilize them.

Submitted by: Itasca SWCD

Area Association: North Central Area 8

Date Approved: June 12, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 25, 2009

Date: December 8, 2009

Action: Passed

For more information contact:

Darrel Lauber, Supervisor, Itasca SWCD, (218) 326-0017 or (218) 326-5791

BACKGROUND: Northern Counties have most of their pre-settlement wetlands intact, and forcing mitigation to be accomplished in those same areas may cause the loss of productive upland. Current regulations allow for site specific mitigation through the conversion of uplands to wetlands. This proposal would develop a funding mechanism to create wetland credits within effected service areas and restore critical areas outside of the service area.

WILD PARSNIP PLACED ON MINNESOTA'S NOXIOUS WEED LIST

WHEREAS, Wild Parsnip is spreading rapidly throughout Minnesota and into counties where it was not previously found; and

WHEREAS, Wild Parsnip is a danger to people as the sap, if absorbed into the skin in the presence of sunlight will cause a severe burning reaction followed by blistering and discoloration of the skin; and

WHEREAS, Wild Parsnip tends to invade and infest open grass fields which has a detrimental effect on the wildlife potential of these areas; and

WHEREAS, Wild Parsnip can severely affect recreational activities in grasslands especially during the summer months when the plant is the most dangerous; and

WHEREAS, if a County Board wants to control Wild Parsnip it is currently not able to add it to the County's list of noxious weeds due to the fact that it is not on Minnesota's Secondary Noxious Weed list.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) work directly with the Department of Agriculture to have Wild Parsnip added to Minnesota's Secondary Noxious Weed List so that a County Board using procedures in MN Rule 1505.0750 would have the ability to place it on the County's Noxious Weed list to control if it desires; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD enter into conversations with the Department of Agriculture and others to explore the possibility of finding and promoting a biologic control agent for this dangerous plant.

Submitted by: Wright SWCD

Area Association: Metro Area 4

Date adopted: June 18, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 25, 2009

Date: December 8, 2009

Action: Approved (Pre-Convention Balloting)

For additional information contact:

Kerry Saxton, Wright SWCD Office Manager, 763-682-1970, kerry.saxton@mn.nacdnet.net

RAIN GARDEN SPECIFICATION REVISION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors and the Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the addition of rain gardens as a cost share best management practice; and

WHEREAS, rain gardens slow storm water control runoff, help prevent erosion, provide wildlife habitat, create beautiful landscaping and remove pollutants in the process; and

WHEREAS, the design specifications for this practice were added to the Bio-Engineering Retention Specification (712) and this design specification is neither feasible nor cost effective for rain gardens; and

WHEREAS, the installation of rain gardens offers a unique opportunity for Soil and Water Conservation Districts to reach urban dwellers and partner with them to promote conservation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Board of Water and Soil Resources develop a cost share rain garden standard similar to the “Blue Thumb” design that is environmentally sound, practical and cost effective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Technical Approval Authority and training be made available to staff for this approved cost share practice.

Submitted by: Brown SWCD

Area Association: South Central Area 6
Date Adopted: June 29, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 25, 2009

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 8, 2009
Action: Approved (Pre-Convention Balloting)

RAIN GARDEN SPECIFICATION REVISION RESOLUTION ATTACHMENT: What is “Blue Thumb”?
It is an educational program of the Rice Creek Watershed District that was designed to meet water quality goals identified in their strategic plan and to help cities meet their federal Clean Water Act mandates. Blue Thumb now reaches beyond their boundaries and into the Twin Cities metro and out state Minnesota. Blue Thumb has developed a Design and Installation Guide to Rain Gardens for the Upper Midwest homeowner that is feasible and cost effective for the urban dweller. More information can be found at www.bluethumb.org.

INCREASE CRP COST-SHARE NOT-TO-EXCEED RATE FOR ANCHORED MULCH

WHEREAS, it is very important that landowners and contractors who work on conservation practices to use appropriate best management practices during construction for erosion prevention and sediment control; and

WHEREAS, failure to apply proper construction site erosion control practices can damage local soil and water resources; and

WHEREAS, mulching is an important best management practice that is critical to the establishment of vegetation on many conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, proper mulching requires special equipment to spread and anchor mulch; local contractors are charging from \$500.00 to over \$1000.00 an acre to apply and crimp straw mulch; and

WHEREAS, the current CRP not to exceed rate is \$135.00 per acre and places a burden on landowners that are required to mulch their waterways.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD encourage the State FSA Committee to consider increasing the not to exceed rate for anchored mulch.

Submitted by: Mower SWCD

Area Association: Southeast Area 7

Date adopted: July 1, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 25, 2009

Date: December 8, 2009

Action: Approved (Pre-Convention Balloting)

For Further Information Contact: Bev Nordby, Mower SWCD, 507-434-2603

EDUCATION ON BENEFITS OF GRAZING ANIMALS FOR EROSION CONTROL

WHEREAS, grazing animals are an important component in soil conservation, allowing sensitive lands to be utilized for hay land and pasture instead of corn and soybeans; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, MASWCD seek appropriate funding to launch a statewide education/awareness campaign on the importance of grazing animals for soil conservation.

Submitted by: Root River SWCD

Area Association: Southeast Area 7
Date Adopted: July1, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 25, 2009

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 8, 2009
Action: Approved (Pre-Convention Balloting)

For Further Information Contact: Ralph Tuck, Root River SWCD, (507) 724-5261 ext. 3,
Ralph.Tuck@mn.nacdnet.net

STATE NURSERIES TO REMAIN OPEN

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Nurseries support themselves on sales of their tree stock as a not for profit entity; and

WHEREAS, many Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) continue to sell seedlings purchased from the State Nurseries for the purpose of conservation and wildlife habitat development; and

WHEREAS, privately owned nurseries would have a difficult time supplying the thousands of bare root seedlings needed for the demand required by the SWCDs for their Tree Programs and NRCS Conservation Programs that landowners have enrolled in; and

WHEREAS, the closing of the State Nurseries would result in significant shortages for reforestation and riparian buffer practices for the reduction of sedimentation and improvement of water quality state-wide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD work with partnering agencies to encourage the continuing operation, and oppose any bills recommending the sale or closure, of the State owned (General Andrews Nursery) and operated (Badoura Nursery) nurseries in Minnesota.

Submitted by: North St. Louis SWCD

Area Association: Northeast Area 3
Date Adopted: June 5, 2009

Review by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 25, 2009

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 8, 2009
Action: Approved (Pre-Convention Balloting)

For additional information contact
Paul Ojanen, Resource Conservationist (218) 742-9505
Gary Rantala, N. St. Louis SWCD Supervisor (218) 984-3601

FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

WHEREAS, permanent conservation easements are a recognized method of open space protection with well established legal precedent; and

WHEREAS, family forest landowners play a vital role in Minnesota’s forests and their associated values; and

WHEREAS, family forest lands are increasingly under development pressure, which leads to forest fragmentation and the loss of essential ecological functions provided by these lands; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs, working with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), have a track history of efficiently establishing and monitoring conservation easement programs such as Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and more recently the Camp Ripley Army Compatible Use Buffer program; and

WHEREAS, a RIM conservation easement program dedicated to preventing forest fragmentation will cost effectively help to protect Minnesota’s natural water quality infrastructure in perpetuity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD pursue a Forestry RIM program to be established through BWSR to protect forested land with priority and landowner compensation based on sensitivity of the landscape.

Submitted by: Crow Wing SWCD

Area Association: North Central Area 8
Date Approved: June 12, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 25, 2009

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 8, 2009
Action: Approved (Pre-Convention Balloting)

For more information contact:

Jim Chamberlin, Forestry Technician, (218) 828-6197, harvey.chamberlin@mn.nacdnet.net

BACKGROUND: Working forest lands have long been recognized for their wildlife and timber value. More recently the “social values” of forests are being recognized. While the ability of our forests to maintain clean water and air are well documented, the role of forests to store CO2 is becoming more important.

FOREST LAND ESSENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

WHEREAS, large tracts of privately owned forest lands provide an essential economic and environmental resource necessary for the health, safety and future economic security and well being of the residents of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the following uses or practices in forest lands may adversely impact the health, safety and future economic security and well-being of the residents of Minnesota, and may increase the cost of public services more than the tax benefits realized from such uses or practices:

- conversion of large tracts of privately owned forest lands to uses other than forestry,
- fragmentation of large tracts of privately owned forest lands into multiple ownerships,
- intrusion of uses other than forestry into large tracts of privately owned forest lands.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD requests the Legislature of the State of Minnesota commission a study which will advise the State as to 1) the economic and environmental value of such tracts, 2) the identity of such tracts which should be maintained and preserved for their economic and environmental value, 3) the uses other than forestry which may be implemented in such tracts which will not adversely impact their economic and environmental value; and 4) the identification of such tracts which may be converted, fragmented or suffer intrusion without adverse impact to the local or state economy and environmental well being; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study be completed within three years.

Submitted by: Cass SWCD

Area Association: North Central Area 8

Date Approved: June 12, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 25, 2009

Date: December 8, 2009

Action: Approved as Amended

For more information contact:

John Sumption, Cass SWCD District Manager, (218) 547-7256, john.sumption@co.cass.mn.us

CONSOLIDATION OF SWCD FINANCIAL REPORTING

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) submit Annual Financial Statements to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Office of State Auditor; and

WHEREAS, the SWCD Annual Financial Statements include:

- Statement of Net Assets and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet
- Statement of Activities and Governmental Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
- Budgetary Comparison Statement
- Notes to the Financial Statement
- Management’s Discussion and Analysis Notes
- Fixed Assets List; and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota State Statute Section 6.74, adopted in 2008, SWCDs are required to complete a “Special District Financial Reporting Form” annually for the Office of the State Auditor; and

WHEREAS, the majority of information requested in the “Special District Financial Reporting Form” is already submitted to the Office of the State Auditor in the SWCD’s Annual Financial Statements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts work with the Office of the State Auditor and the Board of Water and Soil Resources to coordinate a streamlined financial reporting process to limit duplication for SWCD staff.

Submitted by: Lake of the Woods SWCD

Area Association: North Central Area 8
Date Approved: June 12, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 25, 2009

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 8, 2009
Action: Approved (Pre-Convention Balloting)

For more information contact: Mike Hirst, Lake of the Woods SWCD, (218) 634-1842

POSTER, MURAL, VIDEO CONTESTS

WHEREAS, the participation in the Poster, Mural and Video Contests has steadily declined for many years to the point where many Districts and Areas don't have them, MASWCD tried to discontinue the State level contests; and

WHEREAS, most Districts already hold field days or classroom instruction that they feel are more successful at educating youth than the Poster, Mural and Video Contests; and

WHEREAS, the Envirothon and Jr. Envirothon are gaining strength, visibility and participation as tools to educate our youth about conservation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) discontinues these contests at the State level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MASWCD investigates new ways to support educational efforts at the local level.

Submitted by: Wright SWCD

Area Association: Metro Area 4
Date adopted: June 18, 2009

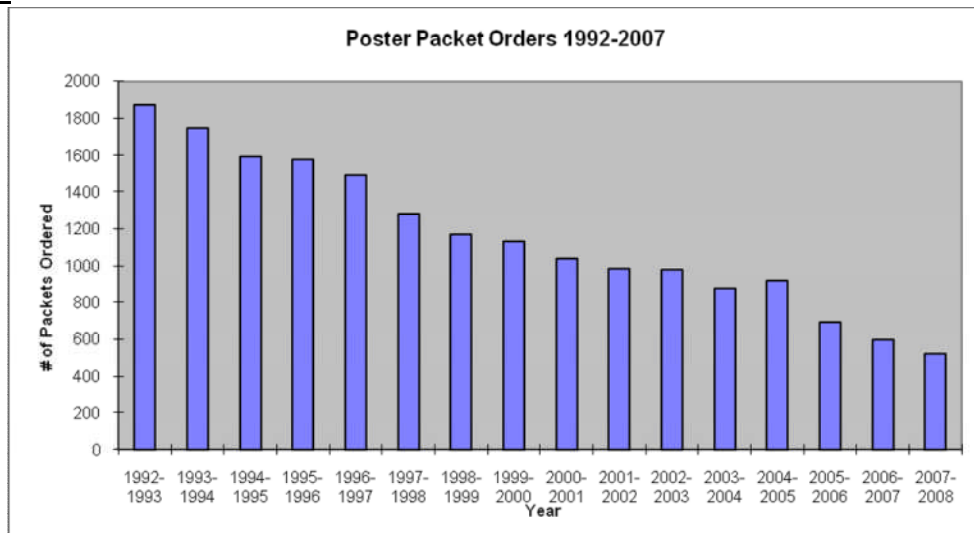
Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 25, 2009

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 8, 2009
Action: Approved (Pre-Convention Balloting)

For additional information contact:

Mary Wetter, Wright SWCD Supervisor, 763-477-5723, mwetter01@gmail.com or
Kerry Saxton, District Manager, 763-682-1970, kerry.saxton@mn.nacdnet.net

Background:



AWARD FOR SWCD SUPPORT STAFF AT MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resource recognizes an Outstanding District Employee at the MASWCD Annual Convention; and

WHEREAS, this award is typically awarded to SWCD District Managers, Coordinators, Administrators, Technicians; and

WHEREAS, SWCD Secretaries, Administrative Assistants, etc, play a major role in the success of the local SWCD; and

WHEREAS, SWCD Secretaries, Administrative Assistants, etc have not been recognized for their role in implementing conservation practices on the local level.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and or the Minnesota Association Soil and Water Conservation Districts develop and have an award for Outstanding District Employee support staff at the MASWCD Annual Convention.

Submitted by: Douglas SWCD

Area Association: West Central Area 2
Date: June 4, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 25, 2009

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 8, 2009
Action: Approved (Pre-Convention Balloting)

For more information contact:
Gerhard Thoennes, Douglas SWCD Supervisor, (320) 763-4811

**INCREASE WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT FUNDING
FOR COUNTIES OUTSIDE OF THE 11 COUNTY METROPOLITAN AREA**

WHEREAS, in 2007 through 2009, the 11 county metropolitan area received an increase in Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) funding for enforcement related violations; and

WHEREAS, baseline funding for SWCDs and LGUs outside of the 11 county metropolitan area has not increased since 2004; and

WHEREAS, producer participation in the USDA Farm Program is no longer a valid exemption under the WCA; and

WHEREAS, agricultural drainage activity on cropland in greater Minnesota has increased significantly due to many factors; and

WHEREAS, DNR wetland enforcement flights are being conducted on a regular basis in greater Minnesota, leading to an increase in enforcement issues for LGUs and SWCDs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD work with the Minnesota State Legislature, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) to lobby for enhanced funding for SWCDs and LGUs outside of the 11 county metropolitan area experiencing increased workloads related to WCA enforcement issues.

Submitted by: West Otter Tail SWCD

Area Association: Northwest Area 1

Date Approved: June 16, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 25, 2009

Date: December 8, 2009

Action: Approved (Pre-Convention Balloting)

For more information contact:

Julian Sjostrom, West Otter Tail SWCD Supervisor, 218-739-1308

Brad Mergens, West Otter Tail SWCD District Manager, 218-739-1308

FEEDLOT COST-SHARE SIZE LIMITATION

WHEREAS, The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) accepts, processes and awards legislative appropriated dollars as cost share to address feedlot runoff issues.

WHEREAS, Cost-share contracts are approved, and prioritized at the local level.

WHEREAS, Funding sources may include state cost-share, clean water legacy, and clean water amendment.

WHEREAS, Current legislation only allows funds to be utilized on feedlot sites which are less than 300 animal units.

WHEREAS, Feedlot sites larger than 300 animal units have runoff issues, and are in need of assistance.

WHEREAS, Feedlot producers are having to increase to more than 300 animal units to stay economically viable.

WHEREAS, "National pollutant discharge elimination system permit" or "NPDES permit" means a permit issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the purpose of regulating the discharge of pollutants from point sources including concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

WHEREAS, Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, section 122.23.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers (MACFO) has made a motion supporting the use of cost-share funds on all Non-NPDES feedlots.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, MASWCD support the change in legislation to allow cost-share funds to be utilized on all Non-NPDES feedlots.

Submitted by: Pipestone SWCD

Area Association: Area 5

Date Adopted: November 19, 2009

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: December 6, 2009

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: December 8, 2009

Action: Approved

For Further Information Contact: Kyle Krier or Angie Raatz

Phone: 507-825-6765

2008 Resolutions Which Passed at the Annual Convention

CHANGING MASWCD AREA BOUNDARIES TO MATCH TSA BOUNDARIES

WHEREAS, the change in boundaries will improve the focus of MASWCD areas demographically and ecologically; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries and number of Technical Service Areas (TSAs) are in the process of changing due to funding challenges; and

WHEREAS, the number of TSAs will match the number of Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District (MASWCD) areas; and

WHEREAS, having the boundaries the same will increase the efficiency and communication between the TSA representatives of SWCDs; and

WHEREAS, meetings and communication can occur during areas meetings which could decrease the number of TSA meetings that are needed and save SWCD operating funds.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this convention, by passing this resolution, directs the MASWCD Board of Directors to revise the current MASWCD areas to be in conformity with the TSA boundaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MASWCD Board of Directors act to revise the MASWCD area boundaries January 31, 2009 and that the new areas be effective no later than March 1st, 2009.

Submitted by: Chisago SWCD
Stearns SWCD
Crow Wing SWCD

Area Association: 3, 4 & 8
Date Adopted: June 5, 6 & 27, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 26, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 9, 2008
Action: Approved, Pre-Convention Balloting

For additional information contact:

- Crow Wing SWCD, (218) 828-6197
- Chisago SWCD: Craig Mell, SWCD Administrator (651-674-2333), craig.mell@mn.nacdnet.net
- Stearns SWCD: Dennis Fuchs, SWCD Administrator (320-251-7800 ext. 132,) dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net

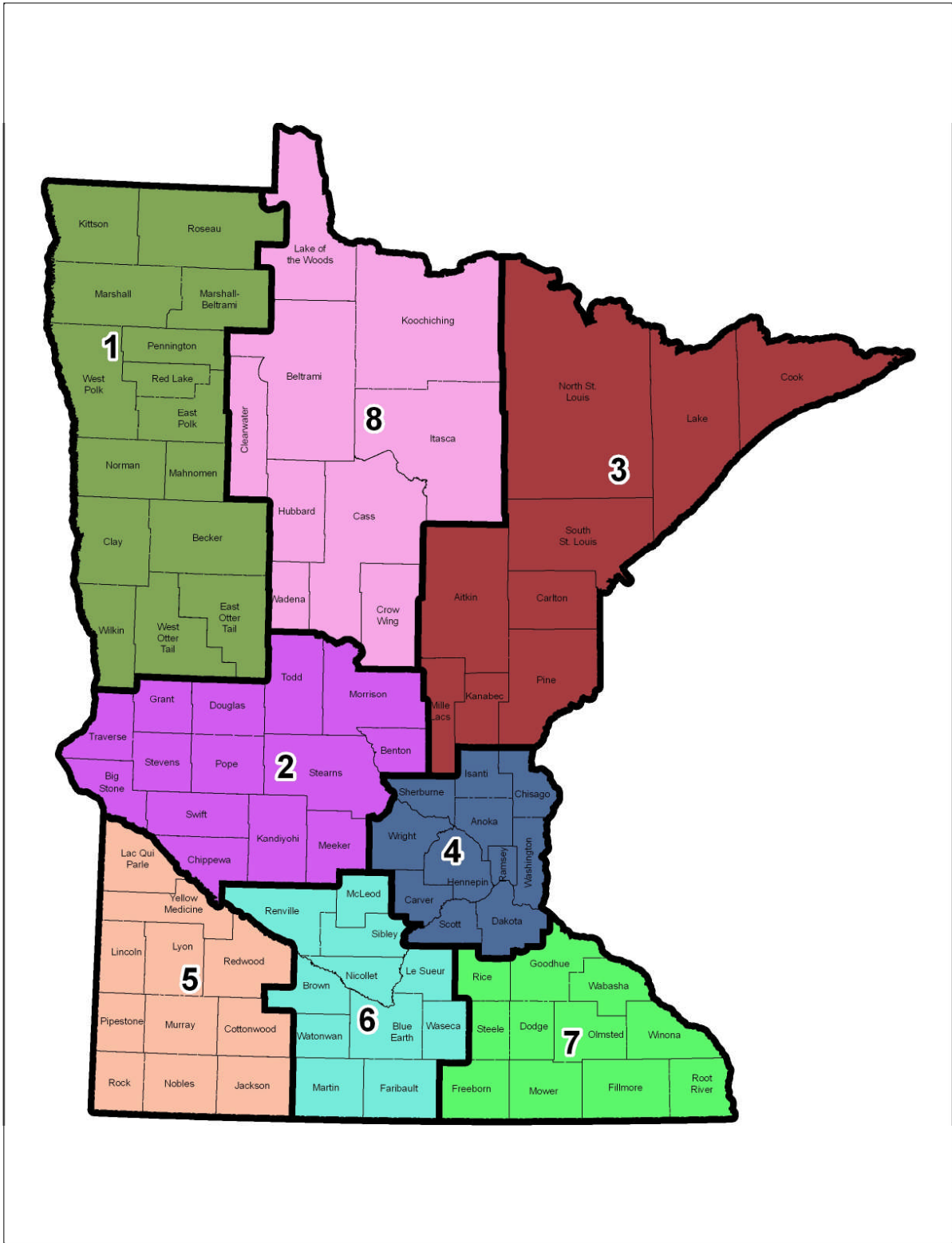


Figure 1. Proposed MASWCD Area realignment.

INCREASING BASE FUNDING OF EXISTING STATE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Non-Point Engineering Assistance (NPEA) Program, State General Services Grant and Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (CLWMP) are all under the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) regulation; and

WHEREAS, the NPEA program funding has not been increased since it was established in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the General Services grant has only had approximately a 7% increase in the last decade; and

WHEREAS, the CLWMP was permanently cut by 43% in FY 2004; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff 43 FTE funded by general fund and 22 FTE from other sources (bonding, grants, agreements) for a total of 65 for FY 2004; and

WHEREAS, BWSR has received funding increases to add 7.8 FTE staff from general fund and 6 FTE from other sources, during the last 5 years, to a current total of 78.8 FTE staff; and

WHEREAS, most SWCDs have experienced budget cuts, reduced staff hours and/or reduced positions during the last 5 years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD work with BWSR to pull together their resources to increase base funding for SWCDs through existing state programs or by developing a new funding source specifically for SWCD/JPA staff funding.

Submitted by: Mahnomen SWCD

Area Association: 1

Date adopted: June 10, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 26, 2008

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Pre-Convention Balloting

For additional information contact:

Aaron Neubert, Mahnomen SWCD Manager, 218-935-2987 x3, aaron.neubert@mn.nacdnet.net

EXPLANATION:

If the MN State Legislature feels it's important to continually increase BWSR administrative funding to maintain and increase staff positions, why can't the programs that the SWCDs implement under BWSR receive administrative increases? How does the state account for inflation and cost of living increases for BWSR administration? Why can't the state programs implemented by SWCDs receive similar increases?

TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ALLOCATION FOR BWSR GRANTS

WHEREAS, there are a number of BWSR grants available to provide technical assistance to landowners installing conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, these grants are made available to landowners through the local SWCD that provides the technical and administrative assistance to the landowner; and

WHEREAS, a certain percentage of the grant allocation to the local SWCD is dedicated for technical and administrative assistance; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs are not allowed to count technical and administrative dollars as income until the practices are complete; and

WHEREAS, costs are incurred for SWCD staff to promote programs through advertising, establishing landowner contacts, and correspondence; and

WHEREAS, conservation practices also involve technical assistance to determine program eligibility; if it is determined the landowner, property or practice is ineligible there is no compensation for the time spent on that project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD work with BWSR to change grant program rules to allow half of the technical and administrative assistance funding to be counted as income to SWCDs once the grant agreement is approved and the other half when the practices are complete.

Submitted by: Pennington SWCD

Area Association: 1

Date adopted: June 10, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: August 26, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Convention Voting

For additional information contact:

Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD Manager, 218-683-7075

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SWCDs

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota requires SWCDs to complete annual financial reports in addition to regular independent audits; and

WHEREAS, completing these annual financial reports creates a significant workload for SWCDs with high administrative turnover or SWCDs without adequate administrative support; and

WHEREAS, most SWCDs use accounting software that could be utilized to create the needed financial information for submission as is to the State Auditors office without the need for transferring data to forms that meet the State Auditors requirements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD work with the BWSR financial oversight staff and the State Auditors staff to develop reports within existing accounting programs to reduce SWCD staff time required to meet the states reporting requirements.

Submitted by: Carlton SWCD

Area Association: 3

Date adopted: June 6, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 26, 2008

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Pre-Convention Balloting

For additional information contact:

Brad Matlack, Carlton SWCD Manager, 218/384-3891 or bradmatlack@carltonswcd.org

DISCUSSION:

Each year SWCDs complete financial reports for the state auditor's office following a template provided by the BWSR. Typically information is generated from an accounting program such as QuickBooks to plug into the template. Using directions from BWSR the information is manipulated by adding and subtracting certain entries to result in the information in the proper accounting terms presented in tabular format for the State Auditor. In addition to the required reports a multiple page "Notes to the Financial Statements" document is completed by the SWCD using a BWSR template to provide documentation of how certain entries were arrived at. And lastly a "Management Analysis and Discussion" document is completed by the SWCD to further describe the financial condition of the SWCD.

SWCDs employ a wide range of talented specialists to address local conservation needs. These staffs are resource specialists, not accounting specialists. Most SWCD have only a basic knowledge of accounting and many struggle with completing these reporting requirements base on that basic knowledge. Administrative staff does their best to meet the state requirements but with staff turnover and limited time resources for state reporting these reports put an unnecessary workload burden on many SWCDs across the state. Professional accounting services are available to SWCD in some areas of the state but with rates as high as \$100/hour, costs are prohibitive for many SWCD afford professional help.

Most SWCDs use accounting programs such as QuickBooks, or its equivalent, to conduct the SWCDs financial business. Accounting professionals could design a selection of memorized reports that in total could meet revised state auditors requirements without the need for major manipulation and additional information on the part of SWCDs.

STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE CHARGING FOR AUDIT REVIEW

WHEREAS, all the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in the state are required to hire a private auditor to audit their financial statements; and

WHEREAS, these private auditors are Certified Public Accountants and audits are conducted by accepted practices; and

WHEREAS, these audits are to be full scope in nature, resulting in audited financial statements, the auditor's opinion on the financial statements, and reports on internal control and compliance; and

WHEREAS, these audits will be conducted in accordance with general accepted auditing standards and the Minnesota Legal Compliance Guide for Local Government; and

WHEREAS, these audits are forwarded to the State Auditor's Office for review and assessed a fee for their audit review of up to 15% of the audit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts look into the removal of this fee that is assessed to the SWCDs from the Office of the State Auditor and work toward any necessary rule or legislative change necessary for the removal of the fee.

Submitted by: Becker SWCD

Area Association: 2

Date adopted: June 12, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: August 26, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Pre-Convention Balloting

For additional information contact:

Brad Grant, Becker SWCD Administrator, 218-846-7360, brad.grant@mn.nacdnet.net

WCA FUNDING DIRECTLY TO SWCDS

WHEREAS, Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have many Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, SWCDs receive funding from the state through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources as compensation for some of our WCA workload, and

WHEREAS, this funding from BWSR is in the form of Natural Resources Block Grants that are received by counties with a portion required to be passed-through by the county to the SWCD(s) in the county, and

WHEREAS, BWSR has an existing relationship with SWCDs where grants (General Service, Cost-share, etc) are paid directly to SWCDs, and

WHEREAS, BWSR allocating funds first to counties to pass-through to SWCDs is a step that has caused delays in WCA payments being made to SWCDs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts work with the Board of Water and Soil Resources to make any necessary changes to allow payment of WCA funds directly to SWCDs without first going through a county, and without any requirement that SWCDs match the WCA funds.

Submitted by: South St. Louis SWCD

Area Association: 3

Date adopted: June 6, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 26, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Pre-Convention Balloting

For additional information contact:

Dave Davis, South St. Louis SWCD Supervisor, (218) 624-7901

R.C. Boheim, South St. Louis SWCD Manager, (218) 723-4629, R.Boheim@southstlouisswcd.org

STORMWATER INFILTRATION COST-SHARE ELIGIBILITY

WHEREAS, stormwater runoff conveys nutrients, sediments and a capacity for erosion which holds the potential to degrade downstream waters as volumes increase; and

WHEREAS, by 2030, the seven county metropolitan area alone is expected to add over one million new residents and 470,000 new households; and

WHEREAS, other major metropolitan areas within the State will experience similar growth and development over the next 25 years; and

WHEREAS, new development increases impervious surface which produces increased stormwater runoff volumes that impact our shared water resources; and

WHEREAS, stormwater infiltration can reduce the burden on stormwater infrastructure, provide recharge to groundwater aquifers as well as abstract stormwater runoff volumes to downstream waters to the benefit of the environment; and

WHEREAS, raingardens, porous road surfaces, vegetated swales and other such low impact development techniques have a history of use and effectiveness in stormwater infiltration and management; and

WHEREAS, technologies exist to implement stormwater infiltration techniques as best management practices on residential, but are often cost prohibitive.

THEREFORE ,BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts supports the development of practice standards and the eligibility of infiltration techniques as a practice eligible under the State Cost Share Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts encourages the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources to include stormwater infiltration techniques as a practice eligible for State Cost Share Program assistance.

Submitted by: Hennepin Conservation District

Area Association: 4

Date adopted: June 27, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 26, 2008

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Convention Voting

For additional information contact:

Mike Wyatt, Hennepin Conservation District Supervisor, 612-817-7427, mwyatt@minnehahacreek.org

STORMWATER RE-USE COST-SHARE ELIGIBILITY

WHEREAS, stormwater runoff is often viewed as a liability conveyed away from residential and agricultural sites to area waters; and

WHEREAS, stormwater runoff conveys nutrients, sediments and a capacity for erosion which holds the potential to degrade downstream waters as volumes increase; and

WHEREAS, stormwater detention and reuse at the site of runoff can reduce the use of potable water for activities such as irrigation, livestock applications, household consumption in toilets and laundry; and

WHEREAS, stormwater reuse can reduce the burden of potable water harvesting on groundwater aquifers and surface waters as well as abstract stormwater runoff volumes to downstream waters to the benefit of the environment; and

WHEREAS, detention basins, cisterns, constructed wetlands, and other such engineered devices have a long history of use and effectiveness in stormwater reuse; and

WHEREAS, technologies exist to implement stormwater reuse techniques as best management practices on residential and agricultural sites, but are often cost prohibitive.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts supports the eligibility of stormwater reuse techniques as a practice eligible under the State Cost Share Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts encourages the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources to include stormwater reuse as a technique eligible for State Cost Share Program assistance.

Submitted by: Hennepin Conservation District

Area Association: 4

Date adopted: June 27, 2008

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 26, 2008

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Convention Voting

For additional information contact:

Mike Wyatt, Hennepin Conservation District Supervisor, 612-817-7427, mwyatt@minnehahacreek.org

EXPAND STATE COST-SHARE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE SOIL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT, AND LIVESTOCK WATER PRACTICES

WHEREAS, protecting soil quality is as vital for the soil resource as prevention of soil erosion; and

WHEREAS, improving soil quality can: increase the capture of excess nutrients in the soil profile, alleviate soil compaction, reduce agricultural demands on water resources by increasing efficiency of natural precipitation and Irrigation water use; and

WHEREAS, efficient irrigation water management can reduce demand on water resources, reduce leaching of nutrients and pesticides from the soil to groundwater, and reduce soil erosion and sedimentation; and

WHEREAS, the State of MN has deemed ensuring adequate livestock watering a priority via the drought disaster assistance emergency program; and

WHEREAS, a regular livestock watering cost share assistance program would allow the time needed to get the most efficient and effective practice in place before drought periods occur and protect water quality by reducing the need for livestock access to surface water; and

WHEREAS, expansion of the State Cost share program could allow SWCDs to make better choices in allocating funds to local high priority projects.

THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD will work with the BWSR Grant Committee to expand the State Cost Share Program to add soil quality improvement, irrigation water management, and livestock watering as approved conservation practices utilizing applicable existing practice standards in the USDA Field Office Technical Guide.

Submitted by: Carlton SWCD

Area Association: 3

Date adopted: June 6, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 26, 2008

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Convention Voting

For additional information contact:

Kelly Smith, Carlton SWCD Technician, 218/384-3891 or kelly.smith@carltonswcd.org

EXPAND STATE COST-SHARE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE SOIL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT, AND LIVESTOCK WATER PRACTICES

DISCUSSION:

Full utilization of state cost share program funds has been an issue for some SWCDs across the state. In other districts putting the limited funds available towards the best projects is a challenge. Using the state cost share to accompany federal cost share and increase funding levels for landowners is sometimes the only way to get high priority projects completed. All of these scenarios indicate the need for a flexible cost share program that local SWCD boards can use in making decisions to fund the highest priority projects.

Case in Point - the special drought disaster program in 2006 for emergency livestock watering practices. SWCDs in the drought area had to implement a program in 5 working days to fund practices that have not even been on the state cost share docket in the past. In some cases this rush to help livestock producers lead to confusion in contracts, questions about designs, and at a very minimum hasty decisions for funding allocations. If livestock watering practices are a priority for the state in emergency situations then those practices should be part of the regular program to help livestock producers prepare for drought situations through the regular process of project evaluation, design and implementation.

As long as there is documented water quality or erosion control impacts to the practices of livestock watering, irrigation water management, and soil quality improvement, then making them part of the state cost share docket helps local SWCD boards better address the resource issues and allocate funding to the most appropriate projects. The decision is left up to the local SWCD board as to what practices to fund but the program allows for opportunities in these areas.

APPROPRIATION OF MINNESOTA'S GROUND WATER AND SURFACE WATER TO PROJECTS OUTSIDE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, water of the State of Minnesota is a public resource owned by the citizens of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, landowners within the State of Minnesota can appropriate water for domestic use, industrial use and irrigation through a permit process with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has expressed concern about expanded use of water for ethanol plants, irrigation and other high capacity wells; and

WHEREAS, international waters are protected through agreements between Minnesota and Canada.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts be directed to support the development of legislation that protects the States groundwater and surface water resources from being appropriated outside the State of Minnesota.

Submitted by: East Otter Tail SWCD

Area Association: 2

Date adopted: June 12, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 26, 2008

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Pre-Convention Balloting

For additional information contact:

Marion Gill, EOT SWCD Supervisor, (218) 346-7295, or

Darren Newville, District Manager, (218)346-4260 ext. 3, darren.newville@mn.nacdnet.net

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FOR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT AREAS (DWSMA)

WHEREAS, groundwater is an important source of drinking water in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, fifteen to twenty agricultural communities are currently struggling with elevated nitrates; and

WHEREAS, 70% of Minnesota's residents rely on groundwater for drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, a drinking water supply management area (DWSMA) is the geographic area, including the wellhead protection area, which is to be protected and managed by the wellhead protection plan; and

WHEREAS, nitrate removal systems on community water supplies often cost \$1-\$3 million plus annual maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, perennial crops and/or native vegetation can reduce nitrate leaching losses by a factor of 30 to 50 times less than conventional row crop systems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD work with Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Rural Water Association, and USDA in developing a conservation easement program that leverages local, state and federal resources (similar to CREP) to protect drinking water supplies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the conservation easement program would target community water suppliers with elevated contamination, especially suppliers approaching or exceeding health standards.

Submitted by: Stearns SWCD

Area Association: 4

Date adopted: June 27, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 26, 2008

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Convention Voting

For additional information contact:

Dennis Fuchs, Stearns SWCD Administrator, 320-251-7800 x 132, dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net

INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR VEGETATIVE BUFFERS ALONG LAKES AND STREAMS

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) provide technical assistance to private landowners, in establishing vegetative buffers adjacent to lakes, riparian, and wetland areas; and

WHEREAS, the number of lakes and streams identified as impaired is increasing in MN and vegetative buffers can reduce loading to water resources; and

WHEREAS, vegetative buffers provide water quality benefits to Minnesota’s water resources; and

WHEREAS, greater landowner participation can be achieved by providing incentives for establishing and maintaining vegetative buffers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD will work with BWSR, DNR and others to explore the opportunity of establishing a buffer incentive program in MN; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SWCDs will be the lead local governmental organization in providing technical assistance in the establishment of vegetative buffers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the agencies within the State of Minnesota shall recognize the importance of vegetative buffers and develop an aggressive promotional and awareness campaign for establishing, maintaining, and restoring these ecologically sensitive areas.

Submitted by: Stearns SWCD

Area Association: 4
Date adopted: June 27, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 26, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 9, 2008
Action: Approved, Pre-Convention Balloting

For additional information contact:
Dennis Fuchs, Stearns SWCD Administrator, 320-251-7800 x 132, dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net

CONTINUE BWSR STATE FORESTER POSITION

WHEREAS, forests are a vital natural resource in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has become an important contributor to forest management in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have built strong forestry programs and continue to expand those programs; and

WHEREAS, BWSR has provided valuable forestry assistance and coordination to SWCDs through its state forester.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts encourage BWSR to hire a qualified full time forester, in a timely manner, to continue to provide vital forestry assistance to SWCDs and the citizens of the State of Minnesota.

Submitted by: Aitkin SWCD

Area Association: 3

Date adopted: June 6, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: August 26, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Pre-Convention Balloting

For additional information contact:

Frank Turnock, Aitkin SWCD Chair, (218) 768-2713

Steve Hughes, Aitkin SWCD Manager (218) 927-6565

FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts have participated in private forest land management through “Forest Stewardship Plan” contracts with the Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, private forest lands consist of more than 40% of Minnesota’s 14.8 million acres of timberland; and

WHEREAS, demands for technical assistance to private landowners for Forest Stewardship Planning are increasing; and

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are in a position to provide a wide variety of technical assistance to landowners that address forest management and other practices such as erosion control, wetlands protection and water quality issues; and

WHEREAS, beginning with the FY 2005 Forest Stewardship Grant – “Request for Proposals” from the State Forest Stewardship Committee placed a “cap” on Grant Proposal for Local Government Units at \$1.50 per acre, plus \$200 per plan; and

WHEREAS, the cap was raised to \$200 per plan and \$2 per acre for current contracts; and

WHEREAS, in previous years, grants were awarded to participating SWCDs on a competitive basis at rates that may have been higher than the current rates.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), support SWCDs in working with the State Forest Stewardship Plan Committee on lifting the “cap” on Forest Stewardship Plan Proposals, in order to make it more affordable for SWCDs to continue participating in the delivery of Forest Stewardship Plans to private landowners.

Submitted by: Crow Wing SWCD

Area Association: 8

Date adopted: June 5, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: August 26, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Convention Voting

For additional information contact:

Crow Wing SWCD, (218) 828-6197

LCCMR CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) has prepared a STATEWIDE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION PLAN (www.mnconservationplan.net); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the PLAN is to offer a long term vision and serve as a guide for natural resource conservation and preservation efforts for the next 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are a local unit of government dedicated to assisting land occupiers with the protection of soil and water resources; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs have a long history of building effective conservation partnerships throughout the State of Minnesota.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD and BWSR be active participants in the ~~finalization and~~ implementation of the STATEWIDE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION PLAN to ensure SWCDs are recognized as a pivotal partner for successfully accomplishing the goals and strategies outlined in the PLAN.

Jointly submitted by: Stearns SWCD
Washington SWCD

Area Association: 4
Date adopted: June 27, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 26, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 9, 2008
Action: Approved, Pre-Convention Balloting

For additional information contact:

Dennis Fuchs, Stearns SWCD Administrator, 320-251-7800 x 132, dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net

or

Jay Riggs, Washington Conservation District Manager, 651-275-1136 Ext. 20, jay.riggs@mnwcd.org

EQIP COST-SHARE RATE

WHEREAS, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to assist landowners to implement practices that protect and improve soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources on their farm; and

WHEREAS, many landowners rely on practice payments in order to commit to installing needed practices; and

WHEREAS, NRCS has established practice payment rates for all practices; and

WHEREAS, terrace practice payment rate covers only about twenty-five percent of construction cost; and

WHEREAS, the water and sediment control basin practice payment rate is based on a number instead of feet; and

WHEREAS, both terraces and water and sediment control basins ridge heights most often vary between two and four feet; and

WHEREAS, the current break point for water and sediment control basin’s practice payment rates are based on break points at three feet, six feet and greater than six feet; and

WHEREAS, the costs for terraces and water and sediment control basins are virtually identical when comparing the cost per foot with consideration of ridge height; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, practice payment rates for both practices should be based on a formula which includes the cost per foot with ridge break points at two feet, four feet, six feet and above six feet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the payment rate for terraces and water and sediment control basins should reflect 50% of the cost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) request that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) consider reviewing their practice payment rates for both a terrace and a water and sediment control basin.

Submitted by: Yellow Medicine SWCD

Area Association: 5

Dated adopted: June 19, 2008

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 26, 2008

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Convention Voting

Action at NACD Annual Convention: Failed

- rationale – most states resolve this issue through their State Technical Committee

For additional information contact:

Yellow Medicine SWCD office 320-669-4442 Ext 3

Menno Fokken, Supervisor, 507-223-7707, Norris Peterson, Supervisor, 507-223-5457

MANAGED HAYING AND GRAZING FOR CRP

WHEREAS, prices for most field crops have advanced to record or near record levels recently, reflecting strong demand, tight supplies and competition for acres. CRP rental rates are not competitive with other uses such as raising commodity crops. The increased demand for commodities and resulting higher prices has impacted the livestock industry in particular; and

WHEREAS, the “critical feed use program” initiated for 2008 will provide much needed feed and forage while maintaining the conservation benefits of CRP by haying and grazing after the nesting period and only charging a \$75 administrative fee; and

WHEREAS, haying and grazing are beneficial management practices that improve habitat for wildlife, similar to burning, by increasing diversity of the stand and provide long term benefits for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Farm Bill also authorizes limited haying and grazing CRP contracts; and

WHEREAS, rules allow haying and grazing of CRP contracts with a 25% reduction in the annual payment only after the end of the primary nesting period; and

WHEREAS, the primary nesting period has been determined to end August 1 in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the value of such forage is not worth a 25% reduction in payment; and

WHEREAS, under the present rules, this practice will not be utilized to the extent the Congress intended, which is to improve habitat while providing forage to livestock producers; and

WHEREAS, not all CRP practices are eligible to be hayed and grazed (such as CP23 & CP25); and

WHEREAS, mid contract management is mandatory in all new CRP contracts, calling for some sort of disturbance whether it be mowing, burning, haying, etc.; and

WHEREAS, ultimately it is better to have CRP that is hayed and grazed with a management plan rather than lose it to raising commodity crops.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD work with FSA and NRCS to eliminate the 25% reduction in payment and make all practices with grass vegetation eligible for haying and grazing. Basically, make the critical feed use program an annual program including all conservation practices with grass vegetation.

Submitted by: Pennington SWCD

Area Association: 1

Date adopted: June 10, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 26, 2008

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Convention Voting

Action at NACD Annual Convention: failed

- rationale: program set-up so participants compensated for taking land OUT of production – land retirement

For additional information contact: Greg Hilgeman, Pennington SWCD Supervisor, 218-796-5395

REMOVE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST REQUIREMENT

WHEREAS, the MN State Legislature has passed into law that SWCD supervisors have to complete the Statement of Economic Interest; and

WHEREAS, the SWCD supervisors are required to disclose a vast amount of information for relatively small monthly per diem reimbursements; and

WHEREAS, the fine of \$3,000 for failing to disclose the information seems very excessive compared to modest monthly per diems; and

WHEREAS, the SWCD Boards are local units of government that do not establish or collect taxes as compared to county commissioners or state legislators; and

WHEREAS, this additional requirement for SWCD supervisors will hinder the interest of candidates to run for these positions; and

WHEREAS, for 69 years, SWCD supervisors have shown a track record of getting conservation on the ground without conflicts due to personal economic interest.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD work with legislative representatives to develop a bill to remove SWCD supervisors from the requirement of Statement of Economic Interest.

Submitted by: Mahnomen SWCD

Area Association: 1

Date adopted: June 10, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: August 26, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Pre-Convention Balloting

For additional information contact:

Aaron Neubert, Mahnomen SWCD Manager, 218-935-2987 x3, aaron.neubert@mn.nacdnet.net

AREA POSTER, MURAL, VIDEO CONTESTS

WHEREAS, it is important that the young people of America be introduced to conservation ideals; and

WHEREAS, it is important that young people be taught good conservation methods and reasons; and

WHEREAS, the poster, mural and video contest is an excellent method of receiving active participation in learning conservation reasons; and

WHEREAS, it is important to encourage the youth of America to participate actively in conservation learning.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) continue the poster, mural and video contest at the area level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MASWCD restore the poster, mural and video contest at the state level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all areas in the MASWCD be encouraged to conduct a poster, mural and video contest at the area level.

Submitted by: Rice SWCD
Date: May 21, 2008

Area Association: 7
Date adopted: June 17, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 26, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 9, 2008
Action: Approved, Convention Voting

For additional information contact:
Bob Borchert, Rice SWCD Supervisor, 507-291-1538, mnborch@yahoo.com

ADVANCE NACD MEETING LOCATION NOTICE

WHEREAS, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is a non-profit organization that represents Conservation Districts by providing a unified voice for natural resource conservation; and

WHEREAS, the NACD Annual Meeting, held in various locations throughout the nation, is the platform for resolutions and policy for resource concerns of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout the nation annually contribute to support the NACD; and

WHEREAS, the NACD, until 1995, announced the location of the Annual Meeting three years in advance allowing Districts to budget and plan for participation in the Annual Meeting process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts support having the NACD announce the location of the NACD Annual Meeting a minimum of two years in advance to facilitate District budgeting and participation.

Submitted by: Brown SWCD
Date: January 23, 2008

Area Association: 6
Date adopted: June 4, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 26, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention
Date: December 9, 2008
Action: Approved, Pre-Convention Balloting

Action at NACD Annual Convention: taken under advisement
▪ this is already a practice of NACD

For additional information contact:
Brown SWCD, 507-794-2553

GREEN ACRES PROGRAM & CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

WHEREAS, the "Green Acres" program is a tax deferral program for agricultural property, and

WHEREAS, "Green Acres" farmland is valued for tax purposes on its agricultural value, rather than its future development potential or highest and best use value, and

WHEREAS, these "Green Acres" are entitled to valuation and tax deferrals, otherwise, taxes on potential development land could get so high they would force farmers off the land prematurely, and

WHEREAS, recent modifications resulted in confusion of "Green Acres" program eligibility for conservation easement type lands, such as, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Re-Invest in Minnesota (RIM), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and other conservation easement type programs, and

WHEREAS, this confusion will reduce landowner participation in conservation easement programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts work with Minnesota Department of Revenue, Minnesota legislators, and other interested parties in developing a solution to the problem.

Submitted by: Stearns SWCD

Date: October 10, 2008

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: November 6, 2008

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: December 9, 2008

Action: Approved, Convention Voting

For additional information contact:

Dennis Fuchs, Stearns SWCD Administrator, 320-251-7800 x 132, dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net

2007 Resolutions Which Passed at the Annual Convention

WATER QUALITY TRADING & SWCDs

WHEREAS, Minnesota's rivers, streams and lakes are a valuable resource for the state; and

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Water Act requires states to adopt water quality standards to protect the nation's waters; and

WHEREAS, many of Minnesota's water resources cannot currently meet their designated uses because of pollution problems from a combination of point and nonpoint sources; and

WHEREAS, Water Quality Trading is a market-based tool for water quality improvements where one pollutant source with high treatment costs pays another to make a voluntary yet quantifiable pollutant reduction for a lower cost; and

WHEREAS, Water Quality Trading many times requires the implementation of nonpoint source pollution best management practices (BMPs) to reduce pollutant loadings; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs are the optimum local units of government to provide the necessary state-wide technical assistance to private landowners in the protection of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs have been a vital tool in leveraging additional USDA and other Federal technical and financial assistance dollars for conservation practices in MN; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs can assist with the promotion, design, implementation, inspection and tracking of installed BMPs as part of a future Water Quality Trading program.

WHEREAS, SWCDs believe that market-driven approaches such as water quality trading provide greater flexibility and have potential to achieve water quality and environmental benefits greater than would otherwise be achieved under more traditional regulatory approaches.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) cooperate with the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Minnesota Legislature in developing and implementing a Water Quality Trading program for Minnesota using SWCDs as technical resource; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD be an active participant in both the development and review of Minnesota's Water Quality Trading rule that is being developed by the MPCA, to assure that the role of SWCDs is clearly established and recognized.

Submitted by: Stearns SWCD

Area Association: 4

Date: June 20, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For additional information contact:

Dennis Fuchs, District Administrator, 320-251-7800 x3, dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net

LEVY AUTHORITY FOR DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, the original concept for funding of districts was for the state government to pay the administrative costs and the federal government to pay the operating costs. When Minnesota law was passed in 1937, it provided for the state to pay grants to the districts, the federal government to assist the district directly and through in-kind support, and for districts to submit annual budget requests to the county; and

WHEREAS, based on previous resolutions and the New Century Initiative, expanded funding options have been reviewed and proposed to improve conservation incentive programs and technical service delivery; and

WHEREAS, authorizing levy authority for districts would provide funding options and budget flexibility for districts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Minnesota Statutes 2006, Section 103C.331, Subd. 16, be amended as follows:

Minn.Stat. 103C.331, Subd. 16:

Subd. 16. Budget. The district board shall annually present a budget consisting of an itemized statement of district expenses for the ensuing calendar year to the boards of county commissioners of the counties in which the district is located. The county boards [DELETE "may"] [INSERT "shall"] shall levy an annual tax on all taxable real property in the district for the amount that the boards determine is necessary to meet the requirements of the district. The amount levied shall be collected and distributed to the district as prescribed by chapter 276. The amount may be spent by the district board for a district purpose authorized by law.

Submitted by: Crow Wing SWCD and Beltrami SWCD

Area Association: 8

Date: June 1, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Keith Pohl, Crow Wing SWCD Manager, (218) 828-6197

NOTE FROM AUTHOR: This Resolution replaces and amends a prior resolution set to sunset in 2007.

LOCAL PROPERTY TAX VALUATIONS
ON PERPETUAL RIM RESERVE & PERPETUAL CREP I & II LANDS

WHEREAS, there are landowners who enrolled in the Perpetual RIM Program and the Perpetual CREP I and II Program for the intention of using the land for their own purposes with no intent to the sell the property; and

WHEREAS, sales of RIM and CREP land across the State of Minnesota have caused property tax valuations on these lands to increase dramatically; and

WHEREAS, these lands are in perpetual easement and cannot be developed, built upon or produce commodity crops and will remain in the RIM and CREP Programs permanently; and

WHEREAS, these tax payments could become a burden on the original owners or the heirs of the original owners.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) will support legislation to keep property valuation on these lands for the original landowners and heirs at the rate during the time that they originally enrolled.

Submitted by: Martin SWCD

Area Association: 6

Date: June 19, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Kathy Smith, Martin SWCD Manager, 507-235-6680

EMERALD ASH BORER PROTECTION

WHEREAS, since the late 1990's the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has killed over 20 million ash trees throughout Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Southeastern Ontario; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota has the third highest population of ash trees in the nation; and

WHEREAS, larvae feed just under the bark of ash trees, killing them by preventing the flow of water and nutrients in the tree; and

WHEREAS, movement of firewood has been linked to the spread of EAB from its initial infestation of Detroit; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature enacted legislation to control the movement of firewood into land administered by the MN DNR; and

WHEREAS, failure to protect the State of Minnesota from an infestation of EAB could cost us millions of dollars not only in trees, but industry, tourism and aesthetics.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD encourages a strong partnership beyond state and federal agencies to prepare for and respond effectively to a potential infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Submitted by: Pennington SWCD

Area Association: 1

Date: June 20, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For more information contact:

Bryan Malone, District Manager, Pennington SWCD, 218-683-7075

USE OF NATIVE SPECIES

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) facilitate the distribution of millions of bare root tree and shrub seedlings and thousands of pounds of seed annually for the purposes of conservation and wildlife habitat development; and

WHEREAS, invasive and exotic tree, shrub and herbaceous species compromise wildlife habitat productivity by reducing ecological diversity; and

WHEREAS, there are many species native to Minnesota that can be substituted for invasive and exotic species while still providing the same function.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD will encourage the use of native species in tree sales and conservation plans and support policy to that effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MASWCD will encourage that Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to continue efforts to develop, promote, and require the use of native plant alternatives.

Submitted by: Beltrami SWCD

Area Association: 8

Date: June 1, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For additional information contact:

Chris Parthun, Beltrami SWCD Manager, 218-755-4339, chris.parthun@mn.nacdnet.net

NON-INVASIVE & NATIVE PLANTS

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) facilitate the distribution of millions of bare root tree and shrub seedlings and thousands of pounds of seed annually for the purposes of conservation and wildlife habitat development; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota is graced with a diverse landscape of prairies, forests, waters, and agricultural areas that have high social, economic, and ecological value, and, a long tradition of resource-related recreational activities such as fishing and hunting, commercial activities (agriculture, forestry) and tourism, and

WHEREAS, invasive species, not native to Minnesota, harm our valuable state resources, and displace native species, thus threatening outdoor recreation opportunities, increase costs for industry, and diminish the natural heritage of significant sites in the state such as parks and natural areas, and

WHEREAS, there are many species native to Minnesota that can be substituted for species known to be invasive while still providing the same function.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD will encourage the use of non-invasive plant material in tree sales and conservation plans with emphasis on using native species and support policy to that effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MASWCD will encourage the Natural Resources Conservation Service to continue efforts to develop and promote the use of non-invasive native plant alternatives.

Submitted by: Stearns SWCD

Area Association: 4

Date: June 20, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For additional information contact:

Dennis Fuchs, District Administrator, phone: 320-251-7800 x 132, email: dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net

NON-INVASIVE PLANTS

EXPLANATION:

Nonnative species are not necessarily harmful; in fact the majority have beneficial purposes. When nonnative species cause ecological or economic problems, they are termed "invasive" or "harmful exotic species." Minnesota's natural resources are threatened by invasive species such as the zebra mussel, Eurasian water milfoil, purple loosestrife, gypsy moth, and garlic mustard. These species, along with new invasive species, could be easily spread within the state if citizens, businesses, and visitors don't take necessary steps to contain them.

An Invasive Non-Native Species List has been provided by the DNR – Ecological Services:

GRASSES & WILDFLOWERS

- *Alliaria petiolata* - Garlic mustard
- *Berteroa incana* - Hoary alyssum
- *Bromus inermis* - Smooth brome grass
- *Butomus umbellatus* - Flowering rush
- *Carduus nutans* - Musk thistle
- *Centaurea maculosa* - Spotted knapweed
- *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* - Ox-eye daisy
- *Cirsium arvense* - Canada thistle
- *Cirsium vulgare* - Bull thistle
- *Coronilla varia* - Crown vetch
- *Daucus carota* - Queen Anne's lace
- *Digitalis lanata* - Grecian foxglove
- *Euphorbia esula* - Leafy spurge
- *Glechoma hederacea* - Creeping Charlie
- *Iris pseudacorus* - Yellow iris
- *Linaria vulgaris* - Butter and eggs
- *Lotus corniculatus* - Bird's-foot trefoil
- *Lythrum salicaria* - Purple loosestrife
- *Melilotus alba* & *M. officinalis* - White & yellow sweetclover

- *Miscanthus sacchariflorus* - Amur silver grass
- *Nymphaea* spp. - Non-native waterlilies
- *Pastinaca sativa* - Wild parsnip
- *Phalaris arundinacea* - Reed canary grass
- *Polygonum cuspidatum* - Japanese knotweed
- *Sonchus arvensis* - Sow thistle
- *Vicia villosa* - Hairy vetch

TREES & SHRUBS

- *Acer ginnala* - Amur maple
- *Acer platanoides* - Norway maple
- *Berberis thunbergii* - Japanese barberry
- *Caragana arborescens* - Siberian peashrub
- *Elaeagnus angustifolia* - Russian olive
- *Lonicera tartarica* & hybrids - Non-native honeysuckles
- *Rhamnus cathartica* - Common buckthorn
- *Rhamnus frangula* - Glossy buckthorn
- *Robinia pseudocacia* - Black locust
- *Ulmus pumila* - Siberian elm

CONS

There may be confusion and difficulty defining the scale for natives. In example, if a plant is native to the Midwest, can we grow it in central Minnesota (i.e. Black Hills Spruce)? Also, some non-natives are not invasive (i.e. Lilac).

CONTROL OF INVASIVE SPECIES AS A COST SHARE PRACTICE

WHEREAS, invasive species such as Buckthorn, Prickly Ash and Garlic Mustard are adversely affecting ecosystems throughout Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, these species left undisturbed tend to develop into monocultures that negate the effects of the diversity of ecosystems including the degradation of water quality; and

WHEREAS, both the Federal EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) and WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) have control of such species as a cost share practice under these respective programs; and

WHEREAS, not every landowner can qualify for participation in these programs and/or there is lack of funding to adequately meet the need; and

WHEREAS, the MN State Legislature has recently recognized this need and called upon the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to “develop forest ecological restoration standards and policies.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) develop a state cost share practice for control of invasive species on the private lands of Minnesota.

Submitted by: Wadena SWCD

Area Association: 8

Date: June 1, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For more information contact:

Tom Schulz, Wadena SWCD Supervisor, (218) 837-5728

Malinda Dexter, Wadena SWCD District Manager, (218) 631-3195 ext. 3

RESOURCE PLANNING FOR SMALL TRACT FORESTRY COST SHARE

WHEREAS, Minnesota’s 14.4 million acres of forestland makes up 27 percent of the land use in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, ownership of less than 20 acres is the fastest growing category of forest ownership. According to a recent United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service forest inventory analysis, there are more than 125,000 landowners in the 0-20 acre category; and

WHEREAS, many of these smaller parcels are in sensitive areas adjacent to lakes, streams, and rivers; and

WHEREAS, many of these small tract owners are not interested or able to manage their property for timber/fiber production; and

WHEREAS, these small tract owners are far more interested in other recreational uses of their property, as information from the Non-industrial Private Forest Landowner survey has shown; and

WHEREAS, the MN State Legislature has recently recognized this need and called upon the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to develop a “forestry cost share docket.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) also include Resource Management Planning as a cost share practice using the model formulated by the MN SWCD Forestry Assn for those landowners who do not qualify for assistance under Forest Stewardship Program.

Submitted by: Wadena SWCD

Area Association: 8

Date: June 1, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For more information contact:

Tom Schulz, Wadena SWCD Supervisor, (218) 837-5728

Malinda Dexter, Wadena SWCD District Manager, (218) 631-3195 ext. 3

NATURAL RESOURCE BLOCK GRANT FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) receives funding from the State of Minnesota to provide funding to Counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other entities through the Natural Resource Block Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resource Block Grant provides funding for Local Comprehensive Water Planning, the Feedlot Program, the Wetland Conservation Act Program, the Individual Septic Treatment Systems Program and the DNR Shoreland Program; and

WHEREAS, these programs are very important to the state of Minnesota to be completed in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resource Block Grant applications are due on October 30th each year; and

WHEREAS, Counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other entities doing the Natural Resource Block Grant work are in need of those funds to keep the programs staffed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) develop a timeline in getting the funding out to the Counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other entities in a timely manner.

Submitted by: Wadena SWCD

Area Association: 8

Date: June 1, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For more information contact:

Tom Schulz, Wadena SWCD Supervisor, (218) 837-5728

Malinda Dexter, Wadena SWCD District Manager, (218) 631-3195 ext. 3

WETLAND ACTIVITY PERMIT CARDS

WHEREAS, some activities in wetlands are exempt; and

WHEREAS, the exemption status of a project is very difficult to be determine by most land owners; and

WHEREAS, failure to properly identify wetlands and comply with the associated regulations can have severe implications for the landowner and contractor; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs have technical expertise in wetland resource management, delineation and have knowledge of local; and state and federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs are established to act in a non-partisan manner to protect and restore the natural resources of Minnesota.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts support the requirement of a permit to be obtained from the Local Government Unit (LGU) and conspicuously displayed onsite, with said card to have allowed activities and impacts clearly defined.

Submitted by: Itasca SWCD

Area Association: 8

Date: June 1, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Darrel Lauber, Itasca SWCD Supervisor, 218-326-0017 or 218-326-5791

Background: The landowner and contractor responsibility form is rarely being used. The issuance of this permit would be an acknowledgement by the LGU that the described activities are in compliance with the WCA regulations. The absence of this displayed permit should cause contractors, and enforcement agencies to stop and ask questions regarding WCA compliance prior to allowing work to continue.

SHORELAND WETLAND AREAS
NON-BUILDABLE CLASSIFICATION

WHEREAS, certain shoreland properties have substantial near shore wetlands; and

WHEREAS, these wetlands are critical to maintaining the quality of the associated waters; and

WHEREAS, current classifications may allow impacts to these wetlands and tax said area as buildable; and

WHEREAS, a new classification could provide land owners a break from current tax structure and therefore provide an incentive for not developing these near shore wetlands; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs have technical expertise in water resource management, wetland delineation and have knowledge of local pollution sources and problems; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs are established to act non-partisan.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts supports the development of a new land classification that will help protect shoreland wetland areas from development.

Submitted by: Itasca SWCD

Area Association: 8

Date: June 1, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Darrel Lauber, Itasca SWCD Supervisor, 218-326-0017 or 218-326-5791

Background: Due to the high real estate value being placed on near shore wetlands, property owners are being encourage to develop this property to a state that will yield its highest dollar sale value. This activity is contrary to the actual health of the wetland or adjacent lake. By creating a new land classification to these areas it may provide a tax incentive not to develop or impact these wetlands.

**EXEMPTION OF NPDES PERMITS FOR NRCS/SWCD
STREAMBANK STABILIZATION & DRAINAGE DITCH
CLEANOUT PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the removal of sediment in drainage ditches is an agricultural practice that reduces soil erosion and improves water quality; and

WHEREAS, stabilizing ditch banks by reducing the slope of the bank and establishing it with grasses is an accepted means of erosion control; and

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service work to reduce soil erosion and improve the quality of our surface waters; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency exempts agricultural activities from NPDES permits; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency interprets cleaning and stabilizing drainage ditches as a non-agricultural activity; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Districts are involved in these types of projects for the sole purpose of improving water quality.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to allow an exemption from NPDES permits on all ditch and streambank stabilization projects that are engineered and overseen by an SWCD or NRCS employee with proper technical approval authority.

Submitted by: Rice and Mower SWCDs

Area Association: 7

Date: June 25, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Steven Pahs, Rice SWCD Manager, 507-332-5408, steven.pahs@mn.nacdnet.net

Bev Nordby, Mower SWCD Manager, 507-434-2603, bev.nordby@mn.nacdnet.net

SEWAGE DISCHARGE NOTICE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Minnesota’s rivers, streams and lakes are a valuable resource for the state, providing great natural beauty, and supply water necessary for recreation, industry, agriculture and aquatic life, many of Minnesota’s water resources cannot currently meet their designated uses because of pollution problems from a combination of point and non point sources; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Clean Water Act requires states to adopt water quality standards to protect the nations waters; and

WHEREAS, Wastewater Treatment Facilities are given specific discharge guidelines through the MPCA permitting process and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) loading allocations in water bodies where the study has been completed, for regular wastewater discharges; and

WHEREAS, due to unusual circumstances relating to weather, capacity, or equipment problems, it is becoming more frequent for facilities to find it necessary to release untreated or partially treated wastewater to water bodies. This is known as a sewage bypass and has the potential to contribute a large amount of pollution to surface waters, far exceeding most non-point sources attributed to agricultural practices; and

WHEREAS, the public use of these Minnesota waters is growing in frequency and concentration; and

WHEREAS, the public has the right to know the potential of high nutrient or contamination levels in the waters they are using.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) partner with the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to encourage wastewater treatment facility operators to provide adequate notice to the public 24 hours before any regular or bypass discharge takes place.

Submitted by: Todd SWCD

Area Association: 2

Date:

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For more information contact:

Lee Buchholz, Todd SWCD Supervisor, 320-285-5401

SUPPORT OF CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY

WHEREAS, Minnesota has established itself as a leader in supporting clean, renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, initiatives that support cellulosic ethanol production from sources such as prairie grass, woody biomass and other cellulosic materials build on the ongoing success of Minnesota's ethanol industry; and

WHEREAS, production of clean, renewable energy has the potential to support cropping systems that protect and enhance land and water resources; and

WHEREAS, the resulting economic development will enable landowners to reinvest in soil and water conservation practices on land they own or manage; and

WHEREAS, a RIM Clean Energy program and related initiatives can support landowner efforts to participate in renewable energy production while protecting land and water resources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD support conservation treatment of land and waters in any clean, renewable energy initiatives.

Submitted by: Chisago SWCD

Area Association: 3

Date: June 12, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Jim Birkholz, Chisago SWCD Supervisor, 651/674-2333

PERENNIAL GRASS AS ALTERNATIVE FUEL

WHEREAS, current subsidies for alternative fuels are being provided for the corn to ethanol production; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Minnesota is a vast area of karst topography and loess soils prone to very high rates of erosion; and

WHEREAS, the production of row crops as feed has been known to be a contributing factor in soil erosion, and pollution of area streams and drinking water; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that a mixture of prairie grasses and forbs that were originally growing here naturally is more economically feasible per acre for alternative fuel production and carbon sequestration which has become another national concern.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) urges legislators to adopt a bill to subsidize alternative fuel production utilizing perennial vegetation as a viable alternative fuel option.

Submitted by: Winona SWCD

Area Association: 7

Date: June 25, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Winona SWCD, 507-523-2171

BIOMASS FOR ETHANOL PRODUCTION

WHEREAS, increasing energy needs are occurring throughout the world, and there is movement away from petroleum based energy, with increased emphasis in the development of energy sources that can help meet our future energy needs; and

WHEREAS, a new national policy has been established to produce up to 25 percent of all energy presently coming from petroleum to ethanol and or bioenergy products; and

WHEREAS, only 5 billion gallons of ethanol are produced at the present time, mainly from corn. The future plan is to produce 30 billion gallons of ethanol and bioenergy products by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, East Central and Northern Minnesota have thousands of acres of low quality mixed hardwoods forest and wetland areas that support considerable vegetative growth. Also found in these regions are large acreage of farmland that presently are producing small grains, hay and low quality forage grasses; and

WHEREAS, the University of Minnesota is doing considerable research on bioenergy plants that could provide large quantities of renewable energy for the future; and

WHEREAS, the planting of mixed grasses and forbs that will greatly reduce erosion and improve water quality of our lakes, streams and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, there are resource development agencies such as BWSR, the Onanegozie RC&D Council, the Department of Natural Resources as well as County Soil and Water Conservation Districts found in this region that could provide technical assistance, leadership, education and organizational skills; and

WHEREAS, there is a very strong need to improve alternative economic opportunities for people and landowners in these regions; and

WHEREAS, there is a need globally, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions into our atmosphere.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the MASWCD and local SWCDs, with assistance and cooperation of BWSR, RC&D Councils, the University of Minnesota, the Department of Natural Resources and the private sector, shall launch a cooperative and concerted effort to support the development of a cellulosic ethanol and bioenergy industry. This would help to protect soil, water and air quality for future generations.

Submitted by: Kanabec SWCD

Area Association: 3
Date: June 12, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 28, 2007

MASWCD Annual Convention
Action: Approved
Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:
Kelly Osterdyk and Paul L. Larson, Kanabec SWCD, 320/679-9382

CELLULOSIC ETHONAL PRODUCTION
UTILIZING CRP NATIVE PRAIRIE GRASSES

WHEREAS, President Bush in his 2006 State of the Union speech encourages the use of Cellulosic Ethanol;
and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Governor Pawlenty has a goal of 20% renewable energy by 2025; and

WHEREAS, energy policies both at the federal and state levels indicate there is a future to cellulosic ethanol production by utilizing biomass; and

WHEREAS, proponents of biomass energy production are advocating the use of Cellulosic Biomass crops, such as native prairie grasses, for ethanol production; and

WHEREAS, there are millions of CRP acres planted to native prairie grasses that can be utilized as a Cellulosic Biomass Crop for ethanol production; and

WHEREAS, CRP contract holders are required to perform a mid-management practice activity as part of their approved conservation plan; and

WHEREAS, the mid-management practices, such as light disking, prescribed burning or mowing, are the only acceptable management practice activities allowed to be performed on these CRP acres; and

WHEREAS, burning creates potential liability issues and mowing without removal of residual vegetation can cause more problems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) will encourage USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) to allow a percentage of CRP native prairie grass acres to be harvested for the purpose of supplying cellulosic biomass to a prototype cellulosic refinery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CRP contract holders supplying cellulosic biomass to a cellulosic facility will not see a reduction in their CRP payments and will be eligible to receive a reimbursement payment from a cellulosic plant for costs incurred in harvesting and transporting of the cellulosic biomass to a cellulosic facility.

Submitted by: Murray SWCD

Area Association: 5
Date: June 21, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 28, 2007

MASWCD Annual Convention
Action: Approved
Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Arland Moger, Murray SWCD Chairman, 507-920-8433
Roger Steinman, Murray SWCD Supervisor, 507-879-3194

**CONSTRUCTION OF CONSERVATION
PRACTICES ON LAND ENROLLED IN GENERAL CRP**

WHEREAS, due to the changing farm economy and farm bill, many expiring CRP contracts will not be renewed and the land will be put back into production; and

WHEREAS, many of the lands enrolled in CRP did not have adequate conservation practices, such as waterways, sediment basins and terraces before being enrolled in CRP; and

WHEREAS, permanent vegetation upslope from conservation practices reduces the erosive effects of precipitation; and

WHEREAS, installing conservation practices before the grasses are removed would reduce the risk of damage to newly constructed and seeded conservation practices.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD work through the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to encourage the USDA to allow the construction of conservation practices on lands currently enrolled in CRP, if approved by the SWCD board and the corresponding Farm Service Agency County Committee.

Submitted by: Fillmore SWCD

Area Association: 7

Date: June 25, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Fillmore SWCD, 507-765-3878, ext. 3

CRP RENTAL RATES

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program establishes rates based on soil types and current rental rates with higher rates paid for soils with higher productivity potential; and

WHEREAS, environmental benefits, such as erosion control and water quality, is a primary goal of CRP; and

WHEREAS, the most highly erosive soils generally receive the lowest CRP rates; and

WHEREAS, increasing CRP rental rates on these most highly erodible soils would provide an incentive for producers to enroll these environmentally sensitive soils resulting in greater environmental benefits than more productive, less erodible soils.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) seek changes to current Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payment rates, which would add a 20% bonus to soils with an Erodibility Index greater than 15, in addition to the current rate.

Submitted by: Root River SWCD

Area Association: 7

Date: June 25, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Ralph Tuck, Root River SWCD Manager, 507-724-5261, ext. 3

CRP ELIGIBILITY

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program eligibility is based in part on crop history; and

WHEREAS, certain land in a crop rotation including hay land may be ineligible for CRP depending on the year of establishment of the hay land, while other land with the same rotation may be eligible; and

WHEREAS, much of the highly erodible land (HEL) acres may have a crop rotation containing hay land; and

WHEREAS, crop records are generally readily available to determine crop rotations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) seek changes to current laws, policies, regulations and/or interpretations of the same which would allow rotational hay land to be eligible for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Submitted by: Root River SWCD
adopted June 14, 2007

Area Association: 7
Date: June 25, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 28, 2007

MASWCD Annual Convention
Action: Approved
Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:
Ralph Tuck, Root River SWCD Manager, 507-724-5261, ext. 3

EMERGENCY HAYING & GRAZING OF CRP

WHEREAS, 2006 saw drought conditions throughout much of the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, drought conditions met the requirements of the State Technical committee to release CRP for emergency haying and grazing; and

WHEREAS, two weeks passed before some requests were approved by the Committee; and

WHEREAS, livestock producers were in desperate need of relief from the drought when the request was submitted; and

WHEREAS, many requests were approved in two or three days; and

WHEREAS, failure to act on a request in an appropriate matter of time indicates that the request may not be taken seriously.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) work with NRCS, FSA and the State Technical committee on CRP to determine an appropriate timeline to respond to request of emergency situations and all be treated the same.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in emergency situations certain practices such as CP-23 be included on the list of practices eligible to be hayed and grazed.

Submitted by: Pennington SWCD

Area Association: 1

Date Adopted: June 20, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For more information contact:

Greg Hilgeman, Supervisor, Pennington SWCD, 218-796-5395

INCLUDE HAY AS PART OF "BASE ACRES"

WHEREAS, producer's eligibility for Farm Bill Assistance payments are determined on one's "base acres;" and

WHEREAS, "base acres" are determined by the number of acres seeded to corn, soybean or small grains; and

WHEREAS, acres planted to hay can only be counted if during the farm bill program years the area is planted to corn soybeans or small grains; and

WHEREAS, hay rotations are part of a producer's conservation plan to manage operations to prevent excessive erosion; and

WHEREAS, by not allowing acres planted to hay as part of a producer's base acres, the Farm Bill programs encourage less perennial vegetation on the landscape and make the landscape more susceptible to erosion; and

WHEREAS, using hay as part of "base acres" determinations will encourage more perennial vegetation in conservation planning and increase the economic vitality of producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD through the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) encourage USDA to consider acres planted to hay as part of a producer's "base acres."

Submitted by: Fillmore SWCD
adopted June 13, 2007

Area Association: 7
Date: June 25, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 28, 2007

MASWCD Annual Convention
Action: Approved
Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:
Fillmore SWCD, 507-765-3878, ext. 3

HEL SOIL LOSS COMPLIANCE

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs require an approved conservation plan on all Highly Erodible Land (HEL) in order to stay eligible for many USDA programs; and

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are asked to review and approve these plans; and

WHEREAS, failure to follow an approved conservation plan can make a producer ineligible for USDA programs, which may cause significant financial hardship for that producer; and

WHEREAS, there is some apprehension by fellow producers and county committee members to enforce HEL planning provisions of the farm bill because of fear of causing catastrophic financial hardships; and

WHEREAS, RUSLE2 has been adopted by the NRCS to determine soil loss for programmatic purposes; and

WHEREAS, RUSLE2 soil loss tolerances do not seem to correspond to the same amount of soil savings on the land as RUSLE or USLE; and

WHEREAS, a conservation plan that meets the "2T" standard of RUSLE2 may not meet the requirements of "2T" using the RUSLE criteria; and

WHEREAS, a conservation plan for fields being sod busted is required to meet the "T" standard for allowable soil loss; and

WHEREAS, more erosion would be prevented if USDA would require a conservation plan meet the standard of "T" using the RUSLE2 on all fields.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) through resolution, solicit the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to advocate elimination of farm payment to producers who are not following a farm plan that lowers erosion to "T" or less; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the MASWCD through resolution, solicit the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to advocate for a system of penalty for failure to comply with the requirements of a conservation plan that is based on the severity of non-compliance.

Submitted by: Fillmore SWCD
adopted June 13, 2007

Area Association: 7
Date: June 25, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 28, 2007

MASWCD Annual Convention
Action: Approved
Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact: Fillmore SWCD, 507-765-3878, ext. 3

FSA AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

WHEREAS, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has taken aerial photos annually for crop compliance since the late 1970's; and

WHEREAS, this collection of annual records has become a valuable tool for all natural resource agencies; and

WHEREAS, limited funding has forced FSA to eliminate aerial photography for 2007; and

WHEREAS, if funding does not become available, all natural resource agencies may lose a valuable tool for assisting landowners to implement conservation practices.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD work with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to acquire, at the national level, adequate funding for aerial photos for crop compliance to be completed annually; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that regardless of which agency is handed the responsibility of acquiring this information, that all public natural resource agencies are allowed access.

Submitted by: Pennington SWCD

Area Association: 1

Date Adopted: June 20, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For more information contact:

Bryan Malone, District Manager, Pennington SWCD, 218-683-7075

**PLASTIC MULCH ELIGIBILITY FOR
FEDERAL COST SHARE**

WHEREAS, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) rule which makes Minnesota townships with an annual precipitation of 25 inches or more ineligible for tree fabric is not practical; and

WHEREAS, SWCDs continue to sell and plant trees for their environmental benefits and beauty to the landscape. It also helps districts earn income to sustain their districts operations; and

WHEREAS, this directive is limiting the planting of new plots. Tree fabric is so important to weed control and survivability of newly planted trees; and

WHEREAS, the loss of cost-sharing dollars is decreasing new or added tree plantings which are so critical to our environment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD pursue a USDA Farm Service Agency statewide cost-share funding of tree fabric.

Submitted by: Swift SWCD

Area Association: 5

Date: June 21, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Orvin Gronseth, Swift SWCD Supervisor, 320-366-3754

Clint Schuerman, Swift SWCD Supervisor, 320-567-2136

FEDERAL FIELD WINDBREAK COST-SHARE ELIGIBILITY
TO ALLOW PLANTINGS ON SITES WHERE SOIL LOSS FROM
POTENTIAL WIND EROSION DOES NOT EXCEED TOLERABLE LEVELS

WHEREAS, The Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) jointly prepared eligibility rules for field windbreaks (Practice CP5A) that state “documented potential wind erosion must be equal to or greater than tolerable soil loss (T) in order for the practice to be eligible for cost-share;” and

WHEREAS, in many areas of the southern part of the state it’s difficult to find locations that have soils eroding at levels greater than T from wind alone; and

WHEREAS, even though soil erosion may not exceed T on a site, soil erosion reduction benefits will be realized on all sites; and

WHEREAS, Field Windbreaks provide many other benefits including protecting nearby crops from wind related damage, managing snow deposition, increasing carbon storage and enhancing wildlife habitat.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) take appropriate action to encourage the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to change their policy and allow cost-share on field windbreaks planted on any site deemed appropriate, without regard to wind erosion rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event this cannot be changed for FSA Cost-Sharing under provisions of the CCRP Program, changes will be made to State Cost-Sharing Policy to allow field windbreaks on appropriate sites, without regard to wind erosion rates.

Submitted by: Freeborn SWCD

Area Association: 7

Date: June 25, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Dan Flatness, Freeborn SWCD Manager, 507-373-5607

SUPERVISOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

WHEREAS, our effective conservation delivery system depends on mutual respect and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, respect is often a result of recognized competence and passion of stakeholders who know what should be done to promote soil and water quality; and

WHEREAS, a certain level of understanding is the personal duty of elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of becoming and remaining informed about Soil and Water Conservation District issues and policies is that of the individual supervisor; and

WHEREAS, supervisors can be more effective in the conservation delivery system if they recognize the possibilities and limitations of their position on SWCD Boards.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD Board designate and direct either a committee (perhaps the Education Committee) or a task force to gather, sort and report ideas to provide effective learning opportunities especially for supervisors at the District level.

Submitted by: Renville SWCD
adopted June 11, 2007

Area Association: 6
Date: June 19, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 28, 2007

MASWCD Annual Convention
Action: Approved
Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:
Kathryn K. Kelly, Renville SWCD Supervisor, kkkay@hotmail.com
Loyal Fisher, Renville SWCD Supervisor, loyal@centurytel.net

NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGES

WHEREAS, SWCDs need to do more to increase their exposure to the general public and get their message encouraging the adoption of conservation practices to a national audience; and

WHEREAS, many people are not aware of the existence of SWCDs and the services that they provide; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Council is a non-profit group that produces, distributes and promotes thousands of public service campaigns on behalf of non-profit organizations and government agencies in issue areas such as environmental preservation; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Ad Council is to identify a select number of significant public issues and stimulate action on those issues through communication programs that make a measurable difference in our society; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is an organization that is national in scope and has a formal network of local chapters, affiliates and other ties throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the NACD meets the eligibility requirements for consideration for selection as an Ad Council campaign.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MASWCD work through the National Association of Conservation Districts to create a national message about the need for conservation practices and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP's) and apply to be selected as an Ad Council campaign.

Submitted by: Fillmore SWCD
adopted June 13, 2007

Area Association: 7
Date: June 25, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 28, 2007

MASWCD Annual Convention
Action: Approved
Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:
Fillmore SWCD, 507-765-3878, ext. 3

**PROMOTION OF SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AT CAREER FAIRS**

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are always looking for well-qualified individuals to fill positions across the state; and

WHEREAS, many graduating college students are unfamiliar with the opportunities to work for an SWCD; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for colleges and students to know what is available in the future job market; and

WHEREAS, career fairs held at colleges and universities are a good way to expose the organization to the types of jobs available with SWCDs; and

WHEREAS, by attending a career fair, all positions available for employment at the time could be advertised.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Area 7 MASWCD supports and strongly encourages the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to organize a program that sponsors a booth at career fairs held at colleges and universities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD adequately fund the costs associated with attending a career fair including, but not limited to, registration and travel expenses.

Submitted by: Rice SWCD

Area Association: 7

Date: June 25, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:

Steven Pahs, Rice SWCD Manager, 507-332-5408, steven.pahs@mn.nacdnet.net

MASWCD STATE OFFICERS SERVING ON NACD COMMITTEES

WHEREAS, MASWCD state officers may serve on Association of Conservation Districts committees; and

WHEREAS, some of these committee assignments extend into the year following the expiration of the state committee term of office; and

WHEREAS, the state officers are not currently funded beyond their term to complete responsibilities on national committees; and

WHEREAS, in such cases the supervisor is responsible for his/her expenses at the national convention the following year to complete his/her committee responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, these committee responsibilities benefit the MASWCD and all districts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts fully budget for current board members serving on national committees to complete their responsibilities on national committees even if their term has expired.

Submitted by: Hubbard County SWCD

Area Association: 8

Date: June 1, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors

MASWCD Annual Convention

Date: August 28, 2007

Action: Approved

Date: December 4, 2007

For further information contact:
Hubbard County SWCD

NONPOINT ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: MOVING FORWARD

WHEREAS, several resolutions have been submitted by local Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) requesting changes to the non point engineering assistance program and technical assistance areas to address the future delivery of SWCD engineering services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Conservation Technical Assistance Committee (CTAC) which includes representation from all eleven technical service areas, MASWCD, MACDE and BWSR, forward a recommendation to the BWSR Board to address the structure and financial resources of the eleven joint power boards and nonpoint engineering assistance program (NPEA); and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the CTAC will review the resolutions submitted by local SWCDs as well as all additional factors impacting the nonpoint engineering assistance program in developing a recommendation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a the CTAC recommendation be forwarded to the BWSR board by June 1, 2008 for consideration for future fiscal years' grant allocations and to create a long term resilient delivery system for SWCD technical assistance.

Submitted by: MASWCD Board of Directors

Date: November 7, 2007

Reviewed by: MASWCD Board of Directors
Date: August 28, 2007

MASWCD Annual Convention
Action: Approved
Date: December 4, 2007

For Further Information Contact:

- SWCD Supervisors and Staff serving as your NPEA Technical Service Area Representative to the Conservation Technical Assistance Committee
- Steve Sunderland, MASWCD Representative to CTAC (Chippewa SWCD Supervisor 320-269-7861)
- R.C. Boheim, MACDE Representative to CTAC (So. St. Louis SWCD 218-723-4629)

Background:

At a meeting on September 5, 2007 the Conservation Technical Assistance Committee (CTAC) determined that none of the solutions contained in the three resolutions, as written, completely addresses the challenges faced by this program. It was recommended that the CTAC develop an appropriate solution, based on current realities and the vision for a resilient delivery system for shared technical services. The alternative resolution language (listed above) was agreed to at a CTAC meeting on November 1, 2007.

The Conservation Technical Assistance Committee (CTAC) was assembled in January 2004 to address the financial and service delivery for the Nonpoint Engineering Assistance Program. The stated purpose of this effort is to ensure long-term viability and relevance of the NPEA program, on a statewide basis. The CTAC includes representation from all eleven technical service areas, MASWCD, MACDE, and BWSR.