



Notes from the Board of Directors

Volume 1, Issue 3

August 2008

MACDE Summer Session Highlights

Over 80 employees registered and attended the 2008 MACDE Summer Session and meeting, that was held June 23-25, at Breezy Point resort. The Business meeting focused on the MACDE 2007-2008 highlights, goals for 2008-2009, 2008 Budget, and naming of the 2008 Extraordinary Contribution Award recipient.

Craig Lingen from the Wilkin SWCD was selected as the 2008 recipient of the award. Craig has a positive attitude, outstanding work ethic, is known as a "team player" and a valuable employee. He is a leader at the district, county and state level. Craig has fostered many partnerships to promote and implement



Craig explains that he was supposed to help choose an employee. The Director's even gave him a fake name for the person they selected.

Congratulations Craig!

conservation. Craig is a 2005 graduate of the Leadership Institute sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Craig has been a huge player in Wilken County promoting buffer strips, living snow fences and working with people on septic system awareness. Craig has proven to be a valuable and dedicated resource and very worthy of this year's Award.

The MACDE Board is also happy to announce the \$2,000 scholarship that will be provided to Pam Tomevi from the Koochiching SWCD, for attending the NACD Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. July. Depending on the budget of the MACDE, this could become an annual scholarship awarded to one MACDE member.

MACDE was also pleased to announce

that a \$200 scholarship will be awarded to any MACDE member (as of June 23, 2008) that will be attending the MASWCD Leadership Institute for 2008. Application forms can be found on the MACDE website.

Training topics included State cost-share close outs (what to expect on audits); Forestry; Grant writing for Clean Water Legacy Funds; Parliamentary Procedures; TMDL's; RIM/CRP; and Risk Management & Loss Control Prospectives. The Crow Wing SWCD set up a tour for the attendees to tour the Hunt Utilities Group Campus (<http://www.hugllc.com/>) in Pine River, and return to Breezy Point to see the various stormwater management issues they are having, and how the SWCD is planning to assist with those issues.

Door prizes were handed out periodically during the session. Five Breezy Point T-shirt/Hat combos, and 5 National Conservation District Employee's Association (NCDEA) cookbooks were given out to the following lucky winners:

1. Ken Pederson, MASWCD President
2. Karen Carlrud, Clay SWCD
3. Karen TeHennepe, Clearwater SWCD
4. Craig Lingen, Wilkin SWCD
5. Pam Kuhn, Benton SWCD
6. Wayne Weber, Red Lake SWCD
7. Pam Tomevi, Koochiching SWCD
8. Casey Thiel, Chisago SWCD
9. *Mystery name*
10. *Mystery name*

Which Area would like to coordinate the 2009 Summer Session and Training?

If your Area is interested, please contact your MACDE Director. Planning for the session should start in fall, so that a place may be reserved to hold the event. Comment sheets from the 2008 Session are posted on the MACDE website.

MACDE Board of Directors:

◆ Area 1

Tanya Hanson
Red Lake SWCD
218-253-2593

◆ Area 2

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Craig Lingen
Wilkin SWCD
218-643-2933

◆ Area 3

Casey Thiel
Chisago SWCD
651-674-2333

◆ Area 4

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◆ Area 5

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Murray SWCD
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◆ Area 6

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◆ Area 7

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◆ Area 8

Karen TeHennepe
Clearwater SWCD
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Pam Tomevi Receives NACD Legislative Conference Scholarship from MACDE

The MACDE Board of Director's voted to provide a \$2,000 scholarship to one MACDE member to attend the NACD Legislative Conference in Washington, DC this summer. Pam Tomevi was very eager to attend, and was ultimately chosen by the Board to represent the employees association.

Pam had the pleasure of meeting with NACD President John Redding, and many other agencies, including the USDA Deputy Undersecretary, Secretary of Ag, US Fish & Wildlife, NRCS and Forest Service Associate Chiefs, NRCS State Conservationist from Indiana, Lead Curator of the new soils exhibit "Dig It!", NACD Director of Legislative Affairs, FSA, DRD Associates, and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

She also had the pleasure of meeting with the staff from Senators Norm Coleman and Amy Klobuchar's office, and Representatives James Oberstar and Collin Peterson.

To see Pam's full account of the NACD Legislative Conference, log on to the MACDE website to read her summary letter to Rick Reimer.

Top: Pam with Brad, NACD Member Services Director

Right: Pam at Smithsonian "Dig It" Exhibit.



Left: Steve Sunderland, Pam, Julie Klocker, LeAnn Buck, Ken Pederson



NCDEA Cookbooks are available for sale (\$25). See the MACDE website for order form!



Scenes from the MACDE Summer Session



Reminder: MACDE has set aside \$300 per AREA in training funds for employees. Area 6 recently used some of their money for a vegetation training . If your area has not used the funds yet this year, we'd encourage you to do so! Funds do not carry over from year to year, it's a use it or lose it item.