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State Director's Meeting – February 3, 2010 Held at the Stearns County USDA Service Center

MEETING ATTENDEES:

Metro – Felicia Brockoff, Carver SWCD
West Central- Matt Solemsaas, Stevens SWCD
North East-Brad Matlack, Carlton SWCD
North Central- Kathleen Loucks, Itasca SWCD
South East- Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD
South West- Denise Severtson, Rock SWCD
South Central- Kevin Ostermann, Nicollet SWCD

Board Members Absent:

North West- Lori Thronson, Norman SWCD

Guests:

NRCS – Tim Wilson, ASTC Area 4

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by President Felicia Brockoff at 10:08 a.m.

Agenda Approval – A motion by Brad Matlack, second by Matt Solemsaas to approve the agenda with additions under #6 NCDEA Dues. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report – Motion by Matt Solemsaas, second by Brad Matlack to approve the December 7, 2009 minutes. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Agency Reports – Tim Wilson, NRCS-ASTC-Field Office Operations, gave an overall state update. NRCS is still in the process of analyzing the state budget. There is a budget deficit total of around 1 million dollars. There are many program activities in the process of sign-ups at this time like CSP, WRP and EQIP.

For those Districts who have the NRCS free computer seats, they are still being honored along with additional seats at the agreed upon fee. NRCS is working on a method to accept payment on those additional seats no Districts have been charged yet, could happen in 2010 or 2011. NRCS is working to identify all seats. Districts struggling with budget cuts to staff may have the option of applying for WAE hours for compensation. Check with your DC's for more information.

In process of hiring 12 new Conservation Security Program Conservationists to assist with the Conservation Stewardship Program. They will be like a floater going to different offices. NRCS upgraded some of the Soil Con Technicians from 7's to 8's due to increased workloads. Bill Hunts position has not been filled yet. Jennifer Hagland is temporary State Conservationist. Partnership trainings will be coming up like Wetland Training.

BWSR - No attendance

MASWCD - No attendance

Treasurer's Report – Skip Langer reported the current balance of MACDE funds (as of February 2, 2010) is \$14,942.63. There were 102 scholarships paid out for the BWSR Academy at a cost of \$2,040. Skip showed two checks on the report for insufficient funds. He will continue to work on this. Membership totals are 214 plus one affiliate. Total raffle tickets

sold for 2009 were 1489 with 2500 made. It was agreed by all that better tracking of raffle tickets and getting prizes out needs improvement.

A thank you from MASWCD for participation at the Convention & Trade show was passed around. A motion by Kevin Osterman, second by Matt Solemsaas to approve the Treasurer's Report. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

NCDEA Dues Invoice –There was discussion on whether to pay the \$200 dues to NCDEA. Majority of the Board had never heard of the organization before and wondered what benefits we would receive by being members. A motion by Brad Matlack, second by Skip Langer to table the NCDEA dues until the next meeting. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Rural Preserves Program Information – The MACDE Board of Directors is recommending that each District work with their County Assessor's Office, invite them to a meeting or set up an appointment to meet with them to discuss the Rural Preserves Program.

Area Training Guidelines – It was discussed that more specific guidelines need to be in place for the Area Trainings. No mileage reimbursements will be allowed. Felicia will update the guidelines for approval at the next meeting. A meeting with MASWCD and BWSR representatives on current trainings, strengths/weakness and efficient delivery tools will be held February 12, 2010. Felicia will attend this meeting and report back to all. There was discussion on tapping into the NRCS training logs to see what trainings get attended the most by District staff. Felicia will see about the feasibility of MACDE joining BWSR again for another training sometime this year, if so, we will ask to play a larger roll in the planning.

RIM Stakeholders Meeting Report –Matt Solemsaas attended the Rim Stakeholders meeting held January 22, 2010. He said there was good attendance and wonderful meeting. Some of the topics of discussion were:

- New RIM Buffers
- WRP
- Easement Maintenance- in the future work % into dollars for maintenance.
- Walk-in Hunting Program
- Biomass

Clean Water Listening Sessions – For those who have not attended one of these sessions, we'd encourage you to do so. Felicia Brockoff recommends if you have not taken the "Minnesotans and their Water" survey please take part. The link is: <http://wrc.umn.edu/watersustainabilityframework/minnesotansandtheirwater/index.htm>

Goals for 2010

- Diversity in Trainings
- Year-End Statements simplified
- Website
- How to do year end reporting

A motion by Matt Solemasaas, second by Brad Matlack to adjourn at 11:50 p.m. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Loucks
MACDE North Central Area VIII Representative