

## Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees

### State Director's Meeting April 20, 2005 Stearns County USDA Service Center

#### Attendance

Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD (Area 1)  
Karen Carlsrud, Clay SWCD (Area 2)  
Karen Anderson, Clearwater SWCD (Area 8)  
Brian Watson, Dakota SWCD (Area 4)  
Brian Nyborg, Jackson SWCD (Area 5)  
Rick Reimer, Kandiyohi SWCD (Area 6)  
Anne Spanbauer, Fillmore SWCD (Area 7)

#### Agenda Approval

President Brian Watson called the meeting to order at 10:05 pm.

**Motion by Rick Reimer, second by Anne Spanbauer to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

#### Secretary's Report

Secretary's report was provided.

**Motion by Karen Carlsrud, second by Rick Reimer to approve the February 22, 2005 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

#### Treasurer's Report

Karen Carlsrud distributed the 2005 MACDE membership list. It included 196 paid memberships. Membership is up from last year. Discussion was held about the "District Paid" column on the membership list. Board members have been receiving comments about it. It is being confused with whether a person is actually paying dues or not. It is intended to show how many Boards pay for employee's membership to MACDE rather than individual employee. Karen will try to clarify that.

Karen provided the adopted 2005 Budget and Treasurer's report as of April 18, 2005. Current Treasurer's balance is \$5,722.97.

**Motion by Anne Spanbauer, second by Karen Anderson to approve the April 18, 2005 Treasurer's report. All in favor, motion carried.**

#### Update on Area 8 Representation

Art Norton (Itasca SWCD) and Karen Anderson (Clearwater SWCD) are the new co-directors for Area 8. Art is working to recruit a new director from Area 3. Currently there is no representation from Area 3. Area 8 has had one employees meeting.

Discussion was held about the staff contact list and the BWSR website which has been recently updated. MASWCD website is a very useful tool. It can be used to find SWCDs that have web sites and locate staff.

### **Annual Meeting Agenda Review**

It is time for the Registration and agenda to be distributed in order to receive registrations by May 30<sup>th</sup>. The business meeting agenda was reviewed and a few changes were made. The MACDE by-laws were reviewed for proposed changes. The by-laws will be mailed out for review by the membership for the annual meeting. Registration materials for the summer session will be sent email and through the postal service. Discussion took place regarding the selection of the Extraordinary Contribution Award. A plethora of work has been done on CREP II by two employees in Minnesota. They have represented SWCDs in the both the state and national level and have made aware the involvement of SWCD employees to the importance of the program.

**Motion by Brian Nyborg, second by Anne Spanbauer to select Kay Clark (Cottonwood SWCD) and Bev Nordby (Mower SWCD) for their contribution to the development and promotion of the CREP II that benefited conservation efforts and employees in the state. All in favor, motion carried.**

Bryan Malone will finalize registration with Ruttger's Resort. Brian Nyborg will send out hard copies to 91 SWCDs by April 27<sup>th</sup>. Sheila Vanney, MASWCD will email mailing labels of SWCDs to Brian Nyborg in order to send out packets. She will also email Brian Watson the email alias for all SWCD employees.

### **Summer Session Training Session Agenda Review**

Agenda was reviewed and minor changes were made.

### **Website Update**

Dakota SWCD has offered to operate and maintain the MACDE website. They will develop a new website with pages such as: Director contacts, Membership, summer session, Directory, map of state, Meeting minutes, job opportunities and training. Other costs will need to be covered by the MACDE such as a new domain name. It was suggested that we change our domain name to macde.us instead of mnacde.org. This domain name will cost \$75 to have for 3 years. There is also a \$25 setup fee. A hosting service called "encompass" could be used for \$210 every six months.

**Motion by Bryan Malone, second by Rick Reimer to accept proposal from Dakota SWCD not to exceed \$520 per year through December 31, 2005 and investigate if there is a less expensive hosting service. All in favor, motion carried.**

Brian Watson hopes to have new web site up and running by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Slogan Review**

It was brought up that "Blue Collar Conservationists" seems too self-serving and it not what MACDE is all about. There was discussion about possibly giving an award for someone to come up with a new slogan, such as a one-year free membership.

### **NCDEA Update**

There was a recent conference call regarding the Great Lakes Region. The North Central Region meeting will be in Fort Wayne, Indiana July 12-14. Brian Watson was asked to make a presentation. He will not have to pay registration because he is presenting but since the MACDE has it in the budget to pay registration for any director to attend these meetings, he requested that MACDE contribute towards his expenses.

**Motion by Bryan Malone, second by Brian Nyborg to pay up to \$250, the same as registration, for Brian Watson to attend the NCDEA North Central Region annual meeting. All in favor, motion carried.**

### **Agency Reports**

BWSR Report - Doug Thomas was not able to attend.

MASWCD Report - Sheila Vanney from MASWCD gave an update on the legislative session.

- The cleanwater legacy is proceeding through the legislature but has opposition on the funding mechanism.
- CREP II bonding bill was passed.
- A bill was introduced to changed SWCD supervisor boundaries to match County Commissioners. MASWCD is against such legislation.

April 22 is earth day and Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns will be in Steele County where the official signing of CREP II will take place with Governor Tim Pawlenty. The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NRCS will be celebrated at the State Capitol and Bill Hunt will proclaim April 27 as SWCD day to promote the partnership. MASWCD has received a grant from NRCS to hold another Washington DC leadership session. It will give attendees the change to see how congress works and how SWCDs can influence the process.

### **2005 Goals and Objectives**

A reminder to consider what our goals and objectives are. What do you get out of being a member?

### **Other**

Next meeting will be June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Ruttger's to stuff packets for summer session. September 28 in Waite Park will be our fall meeting. The last meeting of the year will be held at the MASWCD convention December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion by Anne Spanbauer, second by Rick Reimer to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.**