



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

**Felicia Brockoff**

Carver SWCD  
11360 Hwy. 212, STE 6  
Cologne, MN 55322  
952-466-5230  
*Metro Area*

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Matt Solemsaas**

Stevens SWCD  
12 Hwy. 28 E, STE 2  
Morris, MN 56267  
320-589-4886  
*West Central Area*

### TREASURER

**Skip Langer**

Olmsted SWCD  
1485 Industrial Dr. NW #102  
Rochester, MN 55901  
507-280-2850  
*South East Area*

### SECRETARY

**Kathy Loucks**

Itasca SWCD  
1889 E. Hwy. 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-326-0017  
*North Central Area*

### **Brad Matlack**

Carlton SWCD  
PO Box 29  
Carlton, MN 55056  
218-384-3891  
*North East Area*

### **Kevin Ostermann**

Nicollet SWCD  
424 S. Minnesota Ave.  
St. Peter, MN 56082  
507-931-2550  
*South Central Area*

### **Denise Severtson**

Rock SWCD  
311 W. Gabrielson Rd.  
Luvurne, MN 56156  
507-283-8862  
*South West Area*

### **Lori Thronson**

Norman SWCD  
100 Main Ave. E  
P.O. Box 60  
Twin Valley, MN 56584  
218-584-5169  
*North West Area*

## MACDE Board of Directors Meeting – June 2, 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 – John Knisley, Clearwater SWCD (*for Kathy Loucks*)  
North West – Karen Carlsrud, Clay SWCD (*for Lori Thronson*)  
South East – Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD  
South West – Ed Lenz, Nobles SWCD (*for Denise Severtson*)  
South Central – Kevin Ostermann, Nicollet SWCD

### Board Members Absent:

NONE

### Guests:

MASWCD – LeAnn Buck  
BWSR – Not in Attendance  
NRCS – Not in Attendance

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Felicia Brockoff at 10:15 a.m.

Agenda Approval: A motion by Brad Matlack, second by Matt Solemsaas to approve the agenda as written. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Minutes Approval: A motion made by Kevin Ostermann, seconded by Brad Matlack to approve the February 3, 2010 Minutes as written. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Agency Reports: *MASWCD, LeAnn Buck:* It was noted that the Area VIII MASWCD meeting will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> in Bemidji. LeAnn also discussed the monthly joint meetings that have been held with AMC, MAWD, and MASWCD, she felt this was a very important step to bring all the players around the table. She also reported that the state will have about a \$6 Billion deficit, which is about 20% of the general fund. BWSR has had to already reduce staff. Karen Carlsrud asked if LeAnn had any suggestions for struggling SWCD's. LeAnn suggested talking with your County Commissioners about the funds that SWCD's are able to leverage within their respective counties. LeAnn also mentioned the Maurie Lanning bill that was introduced, which talks about working on a watershed basis, rather than County boundaries. All Districts should try and have at least some staff/supervisors attend the Water Management Summit that will be held on July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud.

Treasurer's Report: Skip Langer gave a report on the Checking (Balance \$4,978.74) and Savings (Balance \$ 10,012.69) Accounts. For the Checking Account, there was receipt of \$300 in Memberships and \$44.00 for overdraft and original expenses by a member, those expenses were paid back to MACDE. There was an expense for \$300 to Area 2 MACDE training expenses. For the Savings Account there was the receipt of \$4.93 in interest from Feb. 1, 2010 – May 31, 2010. The total balance of MACDE Accounts is \$14,991.43 as of

February 2, 2010. A motion by Kevin Ostermann, second by Matt Solemsaas to approve the Treasures Report. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

Presidents Report: Felicia was in on a NACDE conference call on May 18, 2010. There was the discussion of the history of the NACDE and its beginning where it had a balance of \$41,000. Only 24 states paid dues in the beginning. Leadership training/conference attendance scholarship awards are still available through the NACDE.

Area Reports:

South East Area: Skip Langer reported that the Area II Meeting will be June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

North Central Area: John Knisley reported that the area is busy working on planning the Annual Convention. June 2<sup>nd</sup> is the day there is the planning meeting in Bemidji for the Convention, also the reason why Kathy Loucks is not in attendance. It was noted that there are a couple of SWCD's in Area VIII that are seeing significant changes in their operations (Beltrami/Crow Wing). Beltrami County SWCD has had their NRBG funding cut to the SWCD by the County as well as has the Crow Wing SWCD. Both Districts plan on moving their operations in with the county to help save on expenses and out of necessity. The Area VIII MASWCD meeting is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Bemidji.

North West Area: Karen Carlsrud reported that the Marshall – Beltrami SWCD office has closed due to financial distress. They had an Area employee meeting in March but had poor attendance. The Area MASWCD and MACDE are scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> with the JPA meeting for that area scheduled in the afternoon of that date.

North East Area: Brad Matlack reported that the Area MACDE meeting is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>. The area is currently working on the Great Lakes Initiative and will be for a while. The first round of funding proposals has come out but most of the money was granted to MPCA/EPA types of proposals.

South Central Area: It was noted that the area employees association had not met in a while. A planned meeting date for Area Employees has not yet been scheduled. The South Central Technical Service Area that serves the South Central SWCD's recently has had a request by Brown County SWCD to be out of the TSA.

South West Area: The Area employee meeting is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that there was no Area Envirothon for the SW Area due to lack of interest by the schools. Area II allowed schools that were interested in the SW Area to join their Area Envirothon at the same cost as to their Area schools. Discussion was held on the proposed Microsoft 2007 training for MACDE in the Southwest Area; the area is eligible for \$300 from the MACDE to host a training like that.

BWSR Academy: The BWSR Academy training topics were discussed. The group felt that the list that was provided from MACDE input has good options for BWSR to consider for their academy. LeAnn Buck stated that the BWSR Academy is going to be State Program oriented, since BWSR is a State Agency and they would like their programs to be well understood. Skip Langer noted that if some of the programs we are interested in are not covered at the BWSR Academy that employees should take a look at the Ag Learn Website, where there are many good, on-line trainings that are free to employees. Other training topics mentioned were: Pay Equity, Manager/Supervisor Training, IRS Audits and surviving them, contracting for services, sharing resources across county lines and being successful at it. Felicia also reminded the attendees of the \$300 MACDE training funds that are budgeted per area, for MACDE members that wish to hold a specialized training within their area.

The group discussed the reimbursement giving to MACDE members for attending the BWSR Academy. In 2009 the reimbursement was \$20 per member, whether or not they chose to say one or both days. It was agreed upon that MACDE would be sponsoring the same reimbursement; \$20/MACDE Member no matter if they attend one or both days.

NCDEA Dues Invoice: The motion was made by Kevin Ostermann, seconded by Skip Langer to approve the payment of \$200 in dues to NCDEA. Affirmative, All. Motion carried.

NCDEA Meeting in Springfield, IL: A motion was made by Kevin Ostermann, seconded by Brad Matlack to approve sending Felicia Brockoff to the NCDEA Meeting in IL including reimbursement of mileage, lodging, and meal expenses incurred by Felicia during that trip. Affirmative, All.

Scholarship Applications for NACD Legislative Conference: Discussion was held on two SWCD employees who sent in final applications for the MACDE Scholarship to attend the NACD Legislative Conference. The two employees who applied were Doug Bos of Rock SWCD and Kathy Smith of Martin SWCD. Danielle Waldschmidt, Farmbill Technician for Rice, Steele, and Waseca County withdrew her application to attend the Conference. A motion was made by Matt Solemsaas, seconded by Ed Lenz to approve awarding the scholarship to Doug Bos. Affirmative, All. Motion Carried. If Doug was not able to attend the meeting, then the group would be sending Kathy Smith.

Extraordinary Contribution Award: LeAnn Buck noted that a resolution has been approved for MASWCD to develop an award for an Outstanding Support Staff, and would like MACDE to partner in the award process. Discussion was held on what type of SWCD employee should be awarded the MACDE Extraordinary Contribution Award which was started in 2004. It was agreed upon that both administrative and technical employees were equally eligible for the MACDE award, MACDE will continue to do the Extraordinary Contribution Award.

A motion was made by Kevin Ostermann, seconded by Matt Solemsaas that MACDE will also partner with MASWCD to develop an Outstanding Support Staff award, to be given out the MASWCD Annual Convention. Affirmative, All.

A motion was made by Kevin Ostermann, seconded by Ed Lenz to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 AM. Affirmative, All. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*John Knisley, Clearwater SWCD*  
*North Central 8 Representative*