



**MACDE**

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees

**MACDE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING  
PRAIRIE'S EDGE CASINO RESORT, GRANITE FALLS, MN  
June 27, 2006**

**Welcome and Announcements:**

MACDE President, Brian Watson, welcomed the attendees and introduced Kevin Jensfold, Chairman of the Upper Sioux Community. Kevin spoke on the history and background of the Native American people in the upper Sioux community.

**MACDE Business Meeting:**

The MACDE business meeting was called to order by President Brian Watson. There was an introduction of the 2006 MACDE Board Members.

**Secretary's Report-** MACDE Secretary, Karen Anderson, presented the draft minutes from the 2005 annual meeting. Copies were provided for all attendees in their registration packets. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the June 28, 2005 business meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report-** MACDE Treasurer Anne Spanbauer presented the MACDE 2006 Budget and the Treasurer's Report, as of June 20, 2006 with a balance of \$19,367.77. As of June 20, 2006 not all of the expenses for the Summer Conference had been submitted. Copies of all reports were included in attendee's registration packets. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's reports. All in favor, motion carried.

**New Business:**

**2005-2006 Highlights-** The Board voted to contribute up to \$300 per Area in training requests. A training funds request form has been setup and is available on the website. This year scholarships will be provided to all 2006 MACDE members as of June 30, 06 who will be attending the MASWCD 2006-2007 Leadership session. The amount of the scholarship will be \$200.00. Reimbursement requests should be submitted to the MACDE Director in your area for reimbursement. The MACDE website development and updates were noted as was the goal to keep making the site more interactive for users. Recognition and thanks was given to the several employees who sit on a variety of state and national committees.

***Minnesota's Blue Collar Conservationists***

**Goals & Objectives 2006-2007-** President Brian Watson discussed goals and objectives for 2006-2007 which included communicating the value of the employees association, continuous education opportunities and collaborating with other agencies, water sheds, and districts. Some of the ideas mentioned were offering wetland certification training during the summer conference, conservation planning certification opportunities and requirements, professional development for new employees and sample position descriptions available for districts to view on the web.

**Extraordinary Contribution Award-** Don Bajumpaa, Wilkin SWCD, was presented with the extraordinary contribution award for 2006 honoring his service on several committees and partnership work with other agencies.

### **Agency Reports:**

**MASWCD-** The MASWCD report was tabled until the following morning.

**BWSR-** Doug Thomas, BWSR spoke on the 2006 legislative session highlights concerning natural resources and funding on CWL, eminent domain and CREP. The Legislative Auditor has been undertaking the process of evaluating watershed management for accountability and effectiveness. WSD's SWCD's, Counties and BWSR are some of the agencies that will be asked to supply information and be evaluated. A power point presentation on the Clean Water Legacy was given and the timelines for request for proposals and what type of projects will be considered. A new Clean Water Council was established and will be making recommendations to the legislature on funding.

**NRCS-** Bill Hunt, NRCS State Conservationist, addressed the group. He will be taking a 45 day detail at the National Headquarters in Washington, DC. Ann English, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist will be acting State Conservationist during this detail. The background check and computer security training was discussed. NRCS will be reimbursing Districts ½ the cost for the Districts to complete the checks.

Hunt commended SWCD staff for a fantastic job assisting with the EQIP program signup. Possible incentive payments were discussed to help get the existing EQIP contracts implemented and on the ground. The NRCS wetland process changes were also discussed.

**Area V Highlights-** An Area V presentation was given by Kay Clark, Cottonwood SWCD.

The MACDE annual meeting was convened until Wednesday June 28, 2006.

The MACDE annual meeting was reconvened by President Brian Watson on June 28, 2006. A welcome was given by Loyal Fisher, MASWCD Area V Director and MASWCD Vice President encouraging employees to be a catalyst in assisting supervisors to be better informed and connected.

Leann Buck, MASWCD Executive Director addressed the group. Handouts on the Clean Water Legacy updates were distributed and discussed. Due to the competition for funding, SWCD's were encouraged to relate priorities to local water quality planning, accountability, address loading issues and to take advantage of being at the conference as an opportunity to explore collaboration efforts by asking what other districts are working on.

The MACDE business meeting was adjourned.