



**MACDE**

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees

**Minutes of the**  
**2005 MACDE ANNUAL MEETING**  
**RUTTGER'S BIRCHMONT LODGE, BEMIDJI**

**June 28, 2005**

Welcome and Announcements

MACDE President, Brian Watson, welcomed attendees and introduced Randy Ruttgers, who gave a brief history of the resort, founded in 1915.

MACDE Business Meeting

The meeting was then called to order by MACDE President Brian Watson.

- Secretary's Report. MACDE Secretary, Art Norton, presented the draft minutes from the 2004 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, 2004 business meeting. Motion carried.

- Treasurer's Report. MACDE Treasurer, Karen Carlsrud, presented the MACDE 2004 and 2005 budgets and the 2004 calendar year treasurer's report, including year to date expenses and revenues to June 14, 2005. Copies of the reports were included in attendee's registration packets. Not included were 78 registrations for the 2005 annual meeting, including 20 new MACDE members, totaling \$3,900. Registration expenses will be tallied after the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2004 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

New Business:

- By-Law Amendments. Proposed amendments to the MACDE by-laws were discussed. The changes reflect the formation of a new Area to the state organization. Copies of the by-laws, including the proposed changes, were provided by e-mail and also were given to attendees. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed by-law amendments as presented. Motion carried.

- 2004-05 Highlights. The MACDE Board voted to contribute \$100 per MACDE member who is participating in the Leadership Program. Areas I, II and III have each used their \$250 in training funds for a joint administrative training session. The other areas still have their funds available for use by the end of the year.

- MASWCD auction. MACDE will assist with the MASWCD live auction this year at the annual convention. 25% of the profits from the auction will come back to MACDE. Districts are requested to provide auction items and to assist with the auction. Area VII is the host Area for this year's state convention. Also, raffle tickets for the MACDE raffle at the state convention will be sent to district offices in the fall.

- MACDE Website. Dakota SWCD is the host. It is designed to be accessible and easy to use. Watson asked for district employees to visit the site and send back recommendations to Dakota SWCD.

- NCDEA. President Watson will be giving a presentation at the NCDEA North-Central Region convention, July 12-14, 2005. MACDE will provide \$250 to help defray expenses.

- 2006 Dues. Recommendations for 2006 MACDE membership dues were called for. Hearing none, they will be kept the same as in 2005.

- Extraordinary Contribution Award. Kay Clark, Cottonwood SWCD, and Bev Nordby, Mower SWCD, were presented with an extraordinary contribution award for their work on CREP II, and in recognition of their outstanding dedication and teamwork.

#### Agency Reports:

- MASWCD. Carol Berg, MASWCD President, addressed the meeting. Six of the ten MASWCD state board members are new. The board recently held a strategic planning session, which resulted in six areas of focus for the MASWCD Board in 2005. Participants in the Washington, D.C., Leadership trip will be announced in July. Berg encouraged SWCDs to participate in the outreach training that will be offered later this summer for SWCD boards. Districts were also encouraged to lead the EQIP Local Work Groups this fall, and to remain in the forefront of conservation efforts.

- BWSR. Ron Shelito, Northern Region Supervisor for BWSR addressed the group. Ron Shelito had hoped to come, but had to stay in St. Paul to plan for a possible state shutdown next week. Shelito reported that \$450,000 in cuts to the BWSR administrative fund is still part of the state budget. This will not affect grants to SWCDs. In order to cut costs, BWSR has moved to the MPCA building, and will share some services with MPCA. If necessary, BWSR may have to hold back 15% of 2006 NRBG grants. BWSR board member replacements are still pending. Harnack sends his thanks for the very well run Envirothon contest this year. E-link is working well, and has made it possible to produce statewide summary reports of SWCD project results. SWCD conservation efforts are much more visible to the legislature than in the past.

The MACDE business meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.