



MACDE

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees

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State Director's Meeting – July 30, 2009
Held at the Stearns County USDA Service Center

MEETING ATTENDEES:

Area 1 – Tanya Hanson, Red Lake SWCD
Area 2 – Matt Solemsaas, Stevens SWCD
Area 3 – Brad Matlack, Carlton SWCD
Area 4 – Felicia Brockoff, Carver SWCD
Area 5 – Brian Nyborg, Jackson SWCD
Area 6 – Kevin Ostermann, Nicollet SWCD
Area 7 – Skip Langer, Olmsted SWCD
Area 8 – Anne Oldakowski, Wadena SWCD
BWSR – Jim Lemmerman and Jason Weinerman
Grant Pearson, Stearns SWCD

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Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by President Felicia Brockoff at 10:00 A.M.

Agenda Approval – Felicia Brockoff asked to move the NACD Legislative Conference Scholarship Report to the beginning of the meeting. Motion was made by Tanya Hanson, seconded by Brad Matlack to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report – Motion was made by Brad Matlack, seconded by Skip Langer, to approve the January 29, 2009 minutes as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

NACD Legislative Conference Scholarship Report – Grant Pearson from Stearns SWCD thanked everyone for the opportunity to attend this conference. It was a great learning experience and he enjoyed all the discussions with the legislators. He spoke about the events and speakers that attended and also provided a written report with handouts. He has lots of pictures for news articles if needed.

Treasurer's Report – Skip Langer reported the current balance of MACDE funds (as of July 29, 2009) is \$14,074.31. The accounts have been closed in Preston and moved to Wells Fargo in Rochester. A discussion followed on interest rates and CDs. Skip Langer will give us more information on the CD rates and terms. Motion was made by Brad Matlack, seconded by Tanya Hanson to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Skip Langer will check on the letter and \$200 from NCDEA. There have been issues with an Employer Identification Number (EIN). In the past, funds were always a sub-account under the SWCD that the Treasurer was from, MACDE has never had its own EIN. Skip reported that MACDE now has its own EIN. He will work with Felicia to see if MACDE can obtain 501(c)4 Tax Exempt Status.

We will work on a 2010 Proposed Budget for the November annual meeting. We received a bill from Dakota County SWCD for \$1,500 for web maintenance. We are still looking into subsidizing MACDE members who attend the BWSR Academy. Jason

Weinerman will look into this. Tanya motioned to approve \$20 to subsidize MACDE member employees attending the Academy. Kevin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

President's Report – NCDEA sent a thank you for us paying our dues. Felicia Brockoff reported on the MASWCD and BWSR Board meetings that she attended. She also created a FAQ sheet for the website. Let her know if we have any additions.

Area Reports – Tanya reported that the RR Valley JPB is up and running. Also noted the Lee Nursery issue with trees. Matt reported that they have reorganized and the TSA engineering employees are now SWCD employees but funding through JPB. Brad reported their TSA is up and running. Resolution meeting in June with no issues. Felicia reported their TSA is up and running. Hasn't been hearing much from area members. Brian reported their area added one county. Each county pays into the TSA. FarmFest is next week and if anyone is interested in volunteering to contact the Redwood SWCD. Kevin reported they added two counties. They sent schools interested in the Envirothon to Area 5. Have had declining team numbers. Skip reported that one engineer and two technicians have been hired by BWSR due to the 2007 flood event. They will be having an employee meeting during the next supervisor meeting in September. State Envirothon went well. Anne reported they also had the Lee Nursery tree supply issue (as did other districts), she doesn't hear too much from area members, raingardens and forestry have been priorities lately.

NASCA National Webinar – Matt reported on the July 16 technical training for employee's webinar. 13 states discussed their programs for training. Some states partner with DNR and Dept of Ag for trainings. MN doesn't have a good system for training like other states do.

Computers/Email Issues – Felicia asked how districts are working out with the changes. She also noted there are several email list servs. Refer to the BWSR directory for accurate information. Also note that large email files may not arrive on time before deadlines for those employees still on the NRCS server, so be sure to not wait until the last minute for grant applications.

Emerald Ash Borer – Jim Lemmerman handed out a table of trees and shrubs that could replace ash. He also talked with the Michigan employees association and what their involvement was with EAB. Early on they worked with ID and education of how it affected trees. Now it is tree removal and replanting. St. Paul has been chipping trees and taking them to St. Paul District Energy to burn. Michigan Dept. of Ag website has good information. In MN, MDA is in charge until EAB is established, then it is DNR. Mark Abrahamson (MDA 651-201-6505 mark.abrahamson@state.mn.us) and Val Cervenka (DNR 651-259-5296 val.cervenka@state.mn.us) are the contacts.

Agency Reports:

1) BWSR: BWSR Academy – Jason Weinerman reported that the academy will be held at the Cragun's Conference Center Nov. 2-4. BWSR is also doing post-planning efforts from the legislative session. We as local districts MUST work individually with our local legislators and not depend on someone else to do the work for us.

2) MASWCD – unable to attend.

3) NRCS – unable to attend.

Extraordinary Contribution Award Nominees – Motion was made by Brad Matlack, seconded by Anne Oldakowski to nominate _____ from _____. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Items –

1) Kevin Ostermann motioned to approve reimbursement to Grant Pearson for his expenses in attending the NACD Legislative Conference, Matt Solemsaas seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2) Skip Langer received an email from Steve Pahs, Rice SWCD, about our interest in an ATV for the MACDE raffle. Skip will check into more details and get back with us.
- 3) Convention Raffle – Everyone is to email members of their area and see what they'd be interested in donating.
- 4) Next meeting potentially November 1 before the BWSR Academy, depending on room availability.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 P.M. in a motion made by Brad Matlack, seconded by Tanya Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Oldakowski

Anne Oldakowski, MACDE Secretary
MACDE Area 8 Representative

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