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Area 8

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees State Director's Meeting – September 30, 2008 Held at the Stearns County USDA Service Center

MEETING ATTENDEES:

Area 1 – Tanya Hanson, Red Lake SWCD
Area 2 – Craig Lingen, Wilkin SWCD
Area 3 – Casey Thiel, Chisago SWCD
Area 4 – Felicia Brockoff, Carver SWCD
Area 5 – Shelly Lewis, Murray SWCD
Area 6 – Rick Reimer, Kandiyohi SWCD
Area 7 – Anne Koliha, Fillmore SWCD
Area 8 – Anne Oldakowski, Wadena SWCD
BWSR – Jason Weinerman, Board Conservationist

Call to order – The meeting was called to order by President, Rick Reimer at 10:00 AM.

Agenda Approval – Rick asked that number 9, Thank You's be moved up under the Treasurer's Report. Motion was made by Craig Lingen, seconded by Felicia Brockoff to approve the September 20, 2008 Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report – Motion was made by Tanya Hanson, seconded by Anne Koliha to approve the April 9, 2008 meeting Minutes as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Anne reported the current balance of MACDE funds is \$11,808.11. Motion was made by Tanya Hanson, seconded by Casey Thiel to approve MACDE Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Rick Reimer reported that Pam Tomevi had sent a "Thank You" for providing her with the scholarship to attend the NACD Legislative conference in Washington D.C. Breezy Point also sent a note, thanking us for having the MACDE Summer Session at their resort. Connie Olson from Area 3, and Kevin Ostermann from Area 6 also thanked the MACDE for the training funds that were used in their areas.

Recap of Summer Conference – The MACDE Board discussed the comments that were received from the 2008 Summer Session. Attendees seemed to really enjoy the Breezy Point location. Some of the other comments were that no one talked while the groups were on the busses, just a long ride and no interaction until they got to the site. Casey reported that budgets were in issue in her area, for reasons staff didn't attend. She also felt that the time of the year it's held is also very busy.

MASWCD Convention – The cost for a Trade Show booth is \$450, and the MACDE will again have a booth at the trade show. Ideas for display pictures included local Envirothon's, Pam's trip to Washington D.C., and the Summer Session. Felicia will get pictures printed for the display board. Anne will send out a sign-up sheet to staff the booth.

Each Area went over the prizes that they will donate towards the MACDE Raffle. With the amount of money that is in the MACDE account, the directors discussed purchasing a Grand Prize for the 2008 Raffle. Motion was made by Tanya Hanson, Seconded by

Shelly Lewis to spend up to \$500 on a bike (commuter bike) to be given away as the Grand Prize for 2008, in an effort to promote "going green." Motion carried unanimously.

There are still some NCDEA cookbooks available that will be brought to the convention and sold there. The 2009 Summer Session will also be promoted, to see if an area is interested in coordinating the 2009 session.

Jason Weinerman – BWSR Academy Training Opportunities – Jason Weinerman discussed the "BWSR Academy of the North" training opportunity that BWSR is piloting. The idea behind the BWSR Academy, is to provide a single concentrated event for BWSR to provide training to their partners, so that better delivery of BWSR resource management programs is obtained. Jason stated this is strictly a training session, targeted for LGU's, Watershed District's, SWCD's, and WMO's.

Felicia asked Jason if BWSR and MACDE could coordinate trainings together, combine the MACDE summer session training with the BWSR Academy training. The Administrative Session that Area's I, II, III, and VIII do in the spring, could maybe be included with this as well. The MACDE Board felt that as budgets tighten in the future, this could be a great opportunity to partner with BWSR to offer SWCD staff a more affordable concentrated training event.

The MACDE Board requested that Jason report back to MACDE after the pilot Academy is held, to discuss ways we could partner. This could potentially replace the MACDE Summer Session training and meeting.

Leadership Scholarships – The MACDE Board will continue to offer a \$200 scholarship for any MACDE members attending the MASWCD Leadership classes. It was also decided that MACDE will continue to support an employee to attend the NACD Legislative Conference if there is an interest from employees for the scholarship.

NRCS Computer Information – Felicia reported that she was carbon copied on an email Terry Wittnebel (Yellow Medicine SWCD) sent to LeAnn Buck at MASWCD. The email expressed concerns about a lack of communication from NRCS relating to computer security with the Districts. Terry stated that NRCS will be changing from user ID's and passwords to an ID card that will have to be swiped through a reader. Rick Reimer stated that he would talk to LeAnn Buck about the email, and see if a letter should be sent to Bill Hunt, State Conservationist, on behalf of the MACDE.

Other – Casey Thiel reported that if the re-alignment of MASWCD areas occurs, Brad Matlock has offered to be the representative from Area 3, as Chisago SWCD will now be in Area 4.

Craig Lingen thanked the MACDE board for the nomination and receiving the Extraordinary Contribution Award from MACDE this summer.

The next meeting for MACDE will be held Monday afternoon at the MASWCD Convention in St. Paul.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM in a motion made by Craig Lingen, seconded by Casey Thiel. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Felicia Brockoff, MACDE Secretary
MACDE Area IV Representative