**MACDE Board Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

10:00

1. Call to Order
   1. Meeting was called to order by Chair at 10:00 a.m.
2. Welcome –
   1. Members in attendance: Chessa Frahm, Nicole Bernd, Dan Cibulka, Tasha Lauer, Ashley Brenke, Shelly Lewis, Andy Arens, and Tara Solem
   2. Partners in attendance: Sheila Vanney, Jason Weinerman, and Keith Kloubec
3. Approval of the Agenda –
   1. Motion was made by Shelly, seconded by Dan to approve the agenda. Motion Carried
4. Approval of the Minutes –
   1. Motion was made by Nicole, seconded by Shelly to approve the Minutes. Motion Carried
5. Treasurer’s Report –
   1. Dan presented the Treasurer’s Report and Budgeting Sheet. Motion was made by Shelly, seconded by Tasha to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Motion Carried.
6. Directors’ Reports
   1. Area I – Nicole gave an update on working with the PCA to develop watershed protection information.
   2. Area II – No report
   3. Area III – Tara from Lake SWCD is the new Area III representative. Discussion on small watershed focus grants from PCA.
   4. Area IV – Dan reported the Metro Districts partnered to develop a “Work from Home” policy.
   5. Area V – Shelly from Murray SWCD is the new Area V representative.
   6. Area VI – Ashley reported Area VI is having a Manager’s Meeting next Monday.
   7. Area VII – No report
   8. Area VIII – Andy from Itasca SWCD is the new Area VIII representative.
7. Partner Reports
   1. MASWCD – Sheila Vanney
      1. Discussion on legislative session. No bonding bill passed.
      2. Holding Area meetings is up to each Area Director. Convention is remote.
      3. Some SWCD Supervisor districts are up for election this year. LeAnn recently sent out election media information.
      4. The Capacity Funding Work Group has been meeting.
      5. MASWCD will be hosting District Manager meetings in October.
   2. BWSR – Jason Weinerman
      1. 2021 Capacity grants were sent out. Capacity funding amounts were kept the same as 2020 numbers. 2021 Buffer grants are less in response to state budget reductions.
      2. Lots of things are up in the air with 2022/23 budgets. BWSR aims to keep SWCD staff capacity in place as much as possible.
      3. BWSR is still under hiring freeze and there are multiple unfilled positions.
      4. Please let your BC know if your lease is under negotiation and you are co-located with USDA.
      5. BWSR Academy is online and Jason is preparing for the budget workshops.
   3. NRCS – Keith Kloubec
      1. Troy and NRCS extend their thank you to partners.
      2. NRCS is moving forward with their reorganization. All 21 Customer Service Team leads have been hired.
      3. USDA is using data to make county-level decisions regarding phased re-opening of USDA Service Centers.
      4. There was more interest in programs (CSP, EQIP) than funding available.
      5. Minnesota has over 55,000 active CRP contracts, which is 3rd in the nation. Many local partners assist NRCS with CRP through contribution agreements. Thank you partners for this assistance.
      6. NRCS is hoping to spread out program delivery more throughout the fiscal year. They are also transitioning to more locally led funding pools.
8. Committee Reports
   1. Awards
      1. Extraordinary Contribution Award
   2. Communications
      1. Fall newsletter – no update
   3. Events
      1. Fall Social
   4. Professional Development
      1. Managers Meeting – November 18 & 19
      2. Budgeting Workshop – Sessions are filling up.
      3. UMN Onboarding Course – 12 people are registered. Cost is $120.
   5. Bylaws – no update
   6. Strategic Plan – Tara volunteered to be added to the Committee.
9. Old Business
   1. Annual Meeting – Discussion on when and if to have annual meeting. After reviewing the bylaws, the annual meeting should be held. It could be held in the afternoon after the MASWCD convention. Refer to events committee.
   2. Budget Workshop – Discussed earlier
   3. Anoka Partnership –
      1. Anoka CD is looking to expand upon their current educational videos and add videos on agriculture and forestry. They asked if MACDE could partner with them either financially and/or with technical expertise.
      2. Dan will send a formal email to Area Directors that they can forward out to local staff asking for volunteers to share their technical knowledge. Dan will also touch base with Molly Voeller at NRCS.
      3. Anoka CD has not yet asked for a specific dollar amount contribution. MACDE may be able to budget funds for this project in 2021.
10. New Business
    1. Discussion on office statuses and policies as offices reopen.
11. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Committee Assignments

Awards: Michele\*, Andy, Area 3 Director

By-laws: Dan\*, Meghan, Tara

Communications: Tasha\*, Ashley, Meghan

Website: Chessa\*, Tasha

Events: Michele\*, Chessa, Shelly

Grants: Nicole\*, Michele, Dan

Professional Development: Chessa\*, Michele, Cody, Nicole

Strategic Planning: Nate\*, Dan, Andy

Technical Team: Cody, Alternate Nate