



**Minnesota
Chapter**

Soil and Water Conservation Society

February 2003

President's Message by David F. Rose, Sr.

Happy New Year to all in the Minnesota chapter! It has been a remarkable year since I began my term as President. We have had some tremendous events occur in the last few months, with much more to come in the future.

First, a new Farm Bill was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Bush in May. By all accounts, the 2002 Farm Bill provides the most significant federal support for conservation on private lands since 1935. There is substantial support for most existing programs, and a few new ones to broaden the federal commitment. Unfortunately, the implementation of these programs has been slowed by the rule-making process and tardy Congressional appropriations.

One of the most far-reaching elements is the establishment of a process for Technical Service Providers or TSP's. The anticipated workload is far beyond what NRCS and local SWCD's can be expected to accomplish. Therefore landowners will have the option of receiving their conservation technical assistance from private vendors. There could be many opportunities for our members under this provision. Stay tuned as the details become clearer.

Second, the budget crisis for the state of Minnesota threatens many valuable programs. While much has yet to be worked out, it would appear that the commitment of the state toward conservation programs is likely to take a cut. State agencies may be forced to cut people as well as services. The next few months will be critical.

Third, the planning efforts for the 2004 Annual Conference are moving forward. As the host

chapter, we have a fantastic opportunity to show off our state to SWCS members from around the country and the world. Each of the committees for this effort still need volunteers, so I urge you to contact Robin Martinek and offer your assistance.

Fourth, our annual chapter meeting is coming up on March 7 at Jackpot Junction Casino near Morton. For more information, see inside; it promises to be a great meeting. A stimulating group of speakers will help us point toward the future. In addition, please be aware that we are electing a new President-elect and Southern Representative.

Fifth, the election of new officers has been postponed until September. The positions up for election are President-elect and the Southern Representative. We have decided that since the President will serve two years, that it is not critical to fill the President-elect position immediately. So, our current Southern Representatives (Janell Miersch and Linda Meschke) have agreed to serve until the September elections. More information will be coming in the next few months.

Lastly, membership continues to be a significant challenge for our chapter and the society as a whole. Society membership has fantastic benefits for development of our leadership, professional career, networking, and much more. The challenge has always been to find new members to strengthen the voice of conservation. I urge all of you to find at least one person to join our society; your recruiting efforts benefit us all.

Thank you all for a fantastic year! I look forward to seeing you at Jackpot Junction on March 7.



Something to CROW About!!

Once again the Minnesota Chapter of SWCS will be awarding members, non-members and organizations for service and dedication. If you know of some hardworking person or organization who has contributed to the natural resource field, nominate them for an award that will be given at the Annual

Meeting March 7, 2003. Awards will be given to a SWCS member who has demonstrated **outstanding service** (ten or more years of service to any state chapter of the SWCS) and a Minnesota Chapter SWCS member for their **commendable service** to our chapter. Other awards requiring nominations of SWCS members, non-members and organizations include:

❖ **Honor** for accomplishments in the natural resource field

- ❖ **Merit** for accomplishments or contributions to the natural resource field
- ❖ **News/Media** for the promotion of natural resource issues
- ❖ **Education** for contribution to the conservation education of adults and/or youth

Show your pride in a co-worker, organization, or newspaper! Contact Janell Miersch to submit a nomination. Day phone 651-905-6132 or email miers004@umn.edu.

Please Stop by the registration table with nominations the day of our annual meeting

2003 Minnesota Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting and Seminar
"The Changing Face of Minnesota Conservation"
Friday, March 7, 2003
Jackpot Junction - Morton, Minnesota

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Organization _____

Complete this form and mail to:

David Rose NRCS
311 W. Gabrielson Rd., Suite 3
Luverne, MN 56156

Registration deadline is February 28, 2003. Lunch and refreshments are included. Please let us know if you have any special dietary needs.

Method of payment: please check one

- Check enclosed (Payable to MN SWCS)
- Will pay at the door

Member \$35.00
Non-member \$40.00
Student \$20.00
Guest \$20.00

Check the chapter website at www.minnesotaswcs.org.

You may email registration to David Rose at David.Rose@mn.usda.gov until Feb. 28, 2003.

Jackpot Junction Hotel/Casino is located just off Highway 19 & 71 on County Road 24 in Morton, MN (east of Redwood Falls). For information and directions to Jackpot Junction visit www.jackpotjunction.com or call 1-800-WIN-CASH

**“The Changing Face of Minnesota Conservation”
Friday, March 7, 2003
Jackpot Junction - Morton, Minnesota**

- 8:30 am** **Registration, Exhibit Setup, Coffee/Rolls**
- 9:00 am** **Welcome / Minnesota Chapter Business**
Dave Rose, 2002 Chapter President
Mike Appel, Chapter Secretary
Merle Anderson, 2003 Chapter President (after passing the gavel)
- 9:30 am** **CREP Update**
Tabor Hoeck, Board of Water and Soil Resources
- 10:15 am** **2004 SWCS National Convention Update**
Robin Martinek, Local Arrangements Chair
- 10:30 am** **Break**
- 10:45 am** **Minnesota River Basin Plan**
Larry Gunderson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- 11:30 am** **Value Added Research**
Dan Lemke, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute
- 12:15 pm** **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm** **2003 Minnesota Chapter Awards and Scholarships**
Janell Miersch, Awards Chairperson
- 1:15 pm** **Fostering Bio-based Eco-Industrial Economy in Minnesota**
Tim Nolan, Office of Environmental Assistance
- 2:00 pm** **Raingardens**
Gregg Thompson, Association of Metro SWCDs
- 2:45 pm** **Conservation Laws – Past and Future**
Ron Peterson, Peterson Environmental Consulting
- 3:15 pm** **Closing – Minnesota Chapter SWCS 2003**
Merle Anderson, 2003 Chapter President

HEADWATERS OF CONSERVATION

Dear Chapter Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our Minnesota SWCS chapter activities and planning for the 2004 annual conference, and to ask for your help with our fundraising efforts. The local arrangements committee (LAC) members have been busy, and the activities are beginning to take shape.

The social night committee has been working with the St. Paul Convention and Visitors Bureau to identify venues that would work to host 500+ people for an evening of entertainment and fun activities. The sightseeing and leisure tours committee has outlined ideas including a Gangster Tour of St. Paul, an outing to Cabella's, a golf day and a possible boat tour on the Mississippi River. The Youth and Teen committee has activities planned at the Science Museum, MN Zoo and Valley Fair. The Conservation Tours committee has enough ideas to do a weeks' worth of tours! They are busy working to pick the most feasible and interesting ones, which will include urban projects, sustainable farming practices, wetland restorations and a number of other areas.

Mike Lindstrom has been chosen by the national board to be the program chair, and the program committee is working to choose the theme and tracts for the presentations and break out sessions. It is promising to be a great meeting.

Even if you are not on a committee, this is a Minnesota Chapter Activity and our goal is to have as many members as possible participate in this conference. Those of us currently on the LAC are here to serve all of you, the chapter members.

To make all of this happen takes planning, coordination and money. The LAC has received budgets from each of the subcommittees and has set a fundraising goal of \$100,000. That sounds very ambitious, but all of us on the committee feel confident that if we work together, our chapter can accomplish this goal. I am very fond of the old saying, "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something". To date, we have received \$4000 in contributions and sponsorships, and we have made requests to a number of additional organizations including the MN Corn Growers, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, Cargill, Monsanto and ConAgra Foods. We submitted a 319 grant request for \$30,000 for 2003, but it was not selected for funding. We are looking into a few other grant possibilities, and will look for ways to improve the 319 request and submit it again next year. If any of you would like to contribute to this effort by making a tax deductible contribution to our chapter, we would welcome your support! Checks can be made out to Headwaters of Conservation and sent to Sid Cornelius, treasurer, 375 Jackson St. Suite 600, St. Paul, MN 55101.

Another way you can help is to ask any contacts that you may have at companies or organizations if they would like to do the same. Personal contact has always proven to be the best fundraising technique and meets with the best success. The attached forms explain the sponsorship opportunities that are available. All contributions will be recognized and greatly appreciated, no matter what size. If you, or anyone you contact, have questions or would like more information about the conference or our local chapter, don't hesitate to contact me or anyone on the executive committee. We will be glad to help you, help us.

Sincerely, Robin Martinek, LocalArrangements Chair, (651)602-7866

Sponsorship Levels and Methods For the Soil & Water Conservation Society - Annual Conference St. Paul, Minnesota July 24-28, 2004

Leader	\$10,000	Exhibit space in a prime location, registration and family night or conservation tour tickets for eight and recognition in the final program.
Partner	\$ 5,000	Includes an exhibit space in a prime location, registration and family night or conservation tour tickets for four and recognition in the program.
Patron	\$ 3,000	Includes a standard exhibit space, registration and family night or conservation tour tickets for two, and recognition in the program.
Facilitator	\$ 1,500	Includes a standard exhibit space, registration for one, and recognition in the program.
Friend	\$ 500	Special recognition in the final conference program and on a sign at the registration desk.

Additional Support:

- Contributor: <\$500** Donation of promotional products and or services at the conference
- Event Sponsor:** Sponsoring a specific event at the 2004 meeting, i.e. The Welcome Reception, Conference Breaks, Conservation Tours, etc.
- Silent Auction:** In addition to conservation tours for professionals, we will provide conservation education activities for families, including spouses, teens and youth. The Minnesota Chapter will reduce the costs of these activities by raising additional funds through a silent auction.

Contribution Form:

Individual _____ **Organization** _____

Address _____

State _____ **Zip Code** _____ **Phone** _____

Fax _____ **Email** _____ **Web Page** _____

****Contact person:** _____

Sponsorship Category please check which category applies:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silent Auction | <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitator |

Make Check payable to: Headwaters of Conservation

**Send payment to: Sid Cornelius
MN SWCS Treasurer
USDA - NRCS
375 Jackson Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101**

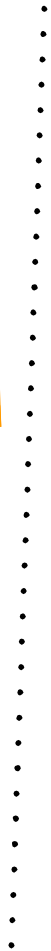


38694 Tanger Drive
North Branch MN 55056

Phone: 1-800-The-Soil

MINNESOTA CHAPTER

www.swcs.org



The Columbia – Conserving a Legacy of Life by Robin Martinek

Spokane, Washington is the setting for the 2003 annual conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. It will be held on July 26 – 30. Spokane is a spirited community nestled in the midst of a natural wonderland of forests, lakes and mountains. It is a place where hospitality blends with the modern conveniences of a vibrant, progressive metropolitan area. The heart of Spokane is the Spokane River, where spectacular falls and scenic beauty sit next door to a modern convention center and downtown retail core. Spokane is the largest city between Seattle and Minneapolis, and is the second-largest city in Washington state.

This conference will be an opportunity in integrated learning and sharing across key natural resource topic areas. The conference will focus on how conservation of natural resources is linked to local, regional, national and global concerns. The program will focus on four areas:

1. Integrated Watershed and Basin Manage-

- ment
2. Water Supplies for ecology and Economy
3. Grassland Health for Sustainable Production and Biological Diversity
4. Air Quality for Public Health and Economic Vitality

For complete information about Spokane, the conference and registration information, go to the SWCS website: www.swcs.org and click on the link to the annual meeting.

It is **vitaly important** that as many of our MN chapter members as possible attend this meeting, to volunteer and to see how things are done, so that we will be prepared for our turn in 2004. Not only will this meeting be fun and educational, it will be a very valuable “how to” session and the place to get tips and suggestions. For those of you who have never been to an annual conference, it is an experience you will not forget, and there is no way to explain it – you have to be there!! I would like to encourage everyone (not just those who currently serve on the local arrangements committee) to put these dates on your calendar. I hope to see you there!