



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD MINUTES Conference Call October 6, 2020

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Present

Ryan Britt, President
Kenny Lovelace, Past President
Ron Willis, Area I
Steve Radcliff, Area II Alternate
Scot Shively, Area III
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
Mike Haeffner, Area V
Kathryn Braden, Area VI
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director
Henry Heinze

Scott Edwards, NRCS
State Conservationist
Kurt Beckmann,
DNR SWCP Director
Jim Boschert, DNR SWCP
Melissa White,
Employees Association
Sandy Burd, Maries SWCD

Not Present

David Morris, Area II
David Hutsell, Area VII

President Ryan Britt welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Quorum established and the agenda was approved.

Due to prior commitments, the discussion on the COVID-19 office issues was moved forward on the agenda. The list of questions and concerns from districts has been jointly revised into a FAQ sheet that should help provide guidance to district boards and employees. Scott Edwards provided the latest update on the USDA guidance and policy on COVID-9 for NRCS field offices. He stated the most important clarification in the update is in the mission essential travel and guidance on travel between offices. The plan is for these 2 documents be sent out by NRCS and DN to all NRCS and district employees with information that it is guidance from NRCS, DNR and MASWCD together. Scott Edwards stated that 30 offices were in the process of moving to Phase 2 status which will allow scheduled appointments by landowners to come in to sign paperwork or discuss the programs. In the past 60 days he has completed 44 listening sessions across the state with office staff related to COVID-19 issues.

Kurt Boeckmann, new Program Director for the DNR Soil & Water Program stated he would be appointing a contact person in the Program Office for COVID-19 related questions from districts. MoSWIMS access has been approved for outside the office so district employees that are teleworking have access to cost-share, timesheets and the accounting. They have approved filling the majority of district employee vacancies. The sales tax revenue for July was up. The next

Commission meeting will be on October 14 and will be virtual by WebEx. He also stated that Bill Wilson, long time employee of the Program Office retired effective September 30.

MASWCD minutes from the 8-17-2020 conference call were reviewed and approved. Motion for approval made by Beverly Dometorch, seconded by Kathryn Braden. Motion approved (7-0).

A brief treasurer report was provided. Henry Heinze stated there is approximately \$57,000 in the checking account which is a little less than last year. 85% of the districts have paid their 2020 dues so far. Henry provided a current list of those districts that have paid their 2020 MASWCD dues. The accounts in Jefferson City which includes the incentive program funds are just over \$600,000 total. Motion for approval of the treasurer report made by Steve Radcliff, seconded by Ron Willis. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The 2020 resolutions were reviewed and approved. Motion to accept the resolutions and send to the districts for voting was made by on Willis. Beverly Dometorch seconded. Motion carried (7-0). The votes on the resolutions are due back by December 1.

The Area Directors were reminded to line up 3 speech judges for the FFA district speech judging which will be virtual this year.

Ryan Britt asked for an update on the Area Director elections in Areas 2-4-6-8. The current dues paid list was sent to the nominating committee chair in each of those areas. The votes or Area Director are due by December 1.

Ryan Britt then discussed the officer nominating committee. Kenny Lovelace has agreed to be the chair and Beverly Dometorch and Sandy Burd will also be on the committee. He reminded the board if they are interested in being an officer to let one of the committee know. All possibilities for officers will not be for sure until voting for Area Director elections are completed.

The Leopold winner was just announced last week, Josh and Addie Yoder of Leonard, MO. Addie is the granddaughter of Steve Hopper, former MASWCD President and Livingston SWCD Board member.

Melissa White gave a brief Employee Association report. She said they continue to have discussions on the Progression Line. There is a feeling that length of service should be considered in the salary progression. The new ArcMap software coming out will be a big help to districts. She stated if continued access to MoSWIMS could be approved past the pandemic it could be an incentive to boards in their personnel management. Their employee membership is about 75% right now. They had a fall fund raiser with hoodies, and are in the process of planning area employee meetings. They are continuing the scholarships and awards for this year.

Area Reports:

Area 1 – Ron Willis stated is kind of dry, they could use some rain.

Area 2 – Steve Radcliff agreed with the same.

Area 3 – Scot Shively said harvest is underway. There have been a few beans cut. With the drought in August it has hurt the yield.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometrorch agreed on the previous crop statements. Some of the offices in her area are still trying to fill positions.

Area 5 – Mike Haeffner said harvest appears to be fine, yields seem to be up. He attended the NRCS listening session recently for his district.

Area 6 – Kathryn Braden stated their drought started around the first of July. They have been feeding hay for about a month.

Area 8 – Kenny Spooler said they have been blessed with rain until about 2 weeks ago. Their harvest is going good and they are getting a lot of field work done. He did say the cover crop cut-off date of October 5 was a concern.

Steve Radcliff suggested MASWCD recognize Bill Wilson for his work over the years and his assistance to MASWCD. Kathryn Baden made a motion to present Bill with a plaque. Steve Radcliff seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

There being no further business a motion for adjournment was made by Beverly Dometrorch, seconded by Ron Willis. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting for the MASWCD Board will be December 8 at 9:30 a.m., place and format to be decided.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Ryan Britt, President