



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
USDA Service Center
Jefferson City, Missouri
October 2, 2012

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Present

Steve Radcliff, President
Bruce Biermann, Area I
Tom Lambert, Area II
Kenny Lovelace, Area III
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
George Engelbach, Area V
Ben Gorden, Area VI
Dan Greeson, Area VII
Mike Kelley, Area VIII (1:15 pm)
David Dix, Treasurer
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

J. R. Flores NRCS State Conservationist
Colleen Meredith, DNR Soil & Water
Clint Dalbom, MDC
Sandy Hutchison, Employees Assn. Pres.
David Hale, Area VI Alternate
Richard Hoelscher, Area V Alternate
Kelly Smith, Missouri Farm Bureau

Not Present

Fred Feldmann, Past President

President Steve Radcliff welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Introductions were made around the room. Quorum established by roll call. No revisions to the agenda.

The minutes from the May 8, 2012 meeting, June 28, 2012 conference call, and August 16, 2012 conference call were approved as printed and presented. Motion for approval made by Tom Lambert, Beverly Dometrorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

A treasurer report was given by David Dix. He stated 6 districts have paid dues since the May meeting. There are now 104 districts that have paid dues in full for this year and 2 paid partial dues and 8 that have not paid; he read the names of those who have not paid. Beverly Dometrorch motioned to approve the treasurer report and file for audit. Kenny Lovelace seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

MDC Report: Clint Dalbom reported on the EHD/BTV diseases being reported in Missouri. He stated it is normally fatal to deer, however some do survive. It is transmitted by biting flies and midges and commonly occurs during drought conditions. They have received reports statewide with 13

cases confirmed and 3628 suspected cases. Osage County has the highest number of reported cases. As soon as there is a frost the flies will die and the disease will be controlled. It is advised for humans not to handle the meat from infected animals. In response to a question about the elk, he responded that they lost 11 elk this year due to heat and stress. He also stated there will quite likely be more research on this.

NRCS Report: J. R. Flores stated that has not been a new Farm Bill approved by Congress yet. He stated that means that for the majority of the federal programs they will maintain current contracts, but no new participants. There is still a lot of work to be done. Joe Steuber is the new Assistance Conservationist for Operations replacing Drenda Williams. J. R. stated that NRCS now has some new travel restrictions which include counting the salary of the employees attending meetings, etc., and the cost needs to be under \$10,000. He stated that they are over 70% complete on the flood recovery projects. The State Technical Committee met August 1, they will be putting information on the web page on implementing the programs. J. R. announced that Doug Peterson is now the State Soil Health Specialist. He also stated that the reduction of vehicles has been put on hold for now. He stated NRCS currently has 353 vehicles, at the highest level there were 390 so some have been cut already. There were no new vehicles purchased in 2012. When asked is Districts could help support the cost of NRCS attending the Training Conference, J. R. stated that would not help as the biggest cost is the employee salary. Dan Greeson asked about the issue of getting rid of fescue. He stated his area has a lot of fescue and harvesting the seed provides quite a lot of income. Clint Dalbom stated he was due to be updated on the MDC Grassland Plan. It was questioned how much input the NRCS grassland specialists had into the MDC plan. Clint stated that in the grassland strategic plan there may be a part on private lands as well as public lands and fescue could be a major part of this. It is a known fact that fescue helped make Missouri cattle country. Clint reminded the Board that MDC does not have the authority to remove fescue from private property. The issue is that fescue is less wildlife (quail) friendly, however cattle farmers want it.

Commission Report: Colleen Meredith thanked all that worked with the drought program. She stated that some things came up that have never been paid for before in cost-share like irrigation wells and setting water meters. She stated that the workload of the drought program is equivalent to a full year of cost-share or a full year on the number of wells. She stated that most of the calls they are getting relate to the 90% cost-share and landowners not understanding it. She stated that after the landowner has been paid, they cannot go back for any additional funds. Bruce Biermann stated it would have saved a lot if all the rules could have been available up front and not changed during the program. Colleen stated that the extra costs associated with the drought program like mileage, copies, phone, comp time are being looked at. The stand-alone counties were hit especially hard. She stated they are working on the budget for FY-14 right now. She stated that right now there is \$10.6 million of regular cost-share funds obligated with another \$9 million out there now, so it currently will be a \$20 million cost-share program which is what it was for years. It will be about a \$48 million program total for the year. She stated they expect the reserve fund will have about \$2 million of unallocated or unobligated funds after this. She stated that right now the cost-share funds should be in the original resource categories, they will look at the cost-share totals in November. Depending on how much the drought funds drop, they may be able to do a supplemental allocation later. Mike Kelley asked about pond cleanout, what resource category that

would be in. Colleen stated probably sheet & rill and gully erosion. She stated the districts will still have the FY-14 advance allocation in January. When asked about the possibility of funds for equipment purchase she stated the Commission will have to talk about it, but no funding is available. That is something that needs to be looked at.

Employee Association Report: Sandy Hutchison said the Employees Association Board had not had a meeting due to the activity in the districts with the drought assistance program, they will meet next week. The majority of their discussion will be about the Training Conference.

Old Business: The contract for the new incentive grant program with MDC was reviewed. Clint Dalbom explained which counties would be eligible to participate and discussed the possibility of district employees being more involved in the approval process with this program. Beverly Dometorch made a motion to approve the contract, Tom Lambert seconded. Motion carried (7-0) with George Engelbach abstaining. The bank account used for the incentive payments will be the one that was used for the CREP payments instead of opening a new account. The funds remaining in the CREP account right now from the administrative fee of the grant will be moved to the Legislative account.

Peggy reported on the 2012 Canon Envirothon. The Missouri Envirothon team won the competition and each of the 5 students received a \$5,000 scholarship sponsored by Canon USA. The Missouri team also won the oral presentation high score award with a score of 196 out of possible 200.

Steve Radcliff reported that the laptop used by the Executive Director had been infected with a virus and was virtually unusable and appears to not be able to be fixed. He stated he approved the purchase of a new laptop to replace that one since the issue could not wait until the board meeting. Kenny Lovelace made a motion to approve the laptop purchase. Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). There is also some equipment that was purchased through a Leadership Grant from NRCS that needs to be disposed of. J.R. Flores indicated he would check to see if there were any rules from NRCS on disposing of the equipment. Tom Lambert made a motion to put the equipment up for bids if NRCS approved, and if no bids are received then to donate to Goodwill, a church or school. George Engelbach seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

New Business: The 2012 Training Conference plans were reviewed. Bruce Biermann made a motion for the registration fees to remain the same as last year. Kenny Lovelace seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). No resolutions were received, but resolutions can still be submitted from the floor.

The award nominations were reviewed and award winners selected. Tom Lambert motioned, Bruce Biermann seconded the Grassland Farmer winner. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). Dan Greeson motioned, Ben Gorden seconded the Cooperator winner. Motion carried (7-0) with Beverly Dometorch abstaining. Bruce Biermann motioned, Dan Greeson seconded the Educator award winner. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). Steve Radcliff has selected a winner for the Distinguished Award. The Area Meetings will need agendas that are staggered due to all meetings needing partner reports during the same time-frame. Agendas will be developed with some

meetings starting with the election and some starting with partner reports. Each Area will be holding an election sometime on their agenda. Nominations can be made from the floor, but the election needs to be by ballot. There must be a quorum of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the districts in each respective area that have paid MASWCD dues for the current year.

In order to make Sunday night hotel rooms eligible for reimbursement there needed to be a meeting on Sunday. The Sunday night General Session will be from 7-8 pm and will be a panel discussion of some SWCD Board members on lessons learned from their audit. The Partner Forum will be on Tuesday afternoon immediately following the Awards Lunch. There was some discussion about which groups should be represented on stage for the Forum. It was decided to ask those who were part of the Forum last year to see if they wish to participate again this year. The workshops for the conference were reviewed. The exact name or title of each workshop has not been finalized yet, but the topic of discussion and schedule has. The auction will follow the Opening Session on Monday evening. From all the items submitted for the auction and door prizes, the top 20 will be selected for the auction and the rest used as door prizes. Bruce Biermann made a motion for the purchase of the clock for the main door prize the same as last year. Mike Kelley seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). Area Directors are also asked to bring door prizes and items for the conference bags. The Board discussed the idea of an attendance prize for a supervisor that attends their Area Meeting and the MASWCD Business Meeting. A motion was made by Tom Lambert to have one attendance prize of \$100 for this. Beverly Dometorch seconded. Bruce Biermann amended the motion to one attendance prize of \$25 per area for supervisors in good standing and must be in attendance at the Business Meeting to receive. George Engelbach seconded. The vote on the amendment carried unanimously (8-0). The vote on the original motion as amended carried unanimously (8-0).

Steve Radcliff reviewed the locations of the FFA District Speaking Contests and asked the Area Director in that area to line up the 3 judges needed at each speaking contest. Peggy will line up the judges for the state speaking contest.

NACD is offering a stipend for attending their Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX the end of January. Mike Kelley and Ben Gorden both expressed interest in attending. Both names will be submitted to see if some states do not use their stipend and 2 can be approved. A motion was made by Kenny Lovelace to donate the clock for the NACD auction again this year. Beverly Dometorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

AREA Reports: 1 – Bruce Biermann reported his area was keeping busy with the drought and cost share. Extensions have been granted to some of the summer projects due to the dry soil.

2 – Tom Lambert reported several problems with the drought program, but they are working through them. They have been able to get some conservation work done.

3 – Kenny Lovelace reported the hurricane Isaac had provided some rain. He was invited to Macon for the regional Envirothon this year. Some of the counties in his area have been shut down from structural work due to dry conditions. His area did not have a lot of wells approved.

4 – Beverly Dometrorch reported the employees are overworked. She stated she had received calls with concerns on where the money for the drought program is coming from. She asked if there was any assistance for outdated terraces repair instead of starting over. They still need rain.

5 – George Engelbach reported some of his area has had a pretty good amount of rain from Isaac. The grass was really helped by the rain. There will be some hay now. Everyone is trying to salvage whatever they can. They had numerous applications for drought assistance.

6 – Ben Gorden stated his area has a lot of cattle. His county had 75 wells approved. The offices have been really busy. The Governor has been to his county 3 times for new reports. The intern project in Polk County is working well, they have 2 interns from Missouri State University. One helps with the education backpack program, the other is doing some on-line video work. They are also doing some displays and booths at local events. There have been some unhappy landowners to deal with. They did set some limits on the cost share components.

7 – Dan Greeson stated the grass is green in his area now. They had one of the best springs they have had in years, but everything is growing pretty well now, but there are some issues with shallow roots and then the plants die out. Some landowners have fed their winter hay already and some others have sold their cattle.

8 – Mike Kelley reported his area is pretty well the same as Area 5 reported. Isaac saved what little was left but it didn't put any water in the ponds, still can use more rain. The spread of feral hogs is worse, they had to go farther for water.

Correspondence: None.

Other Business: Kelly Smith of Farm Bureau thanked everyone for their work on the drought assistance program. He stated Sarah Pauley called a meeting for groups on renewal of the sales tax and something everyone needs to be aware of is that the Parks are saying they need more money. The Nature Conservancy has offered \$50,000 for a needs assessment on how much money is needed for each partner of the tax for the renewal. There is probably 1 to 1 ½ years before the campaign committee will get started. The Parks is looking at a tax increase, but the biggest question is what the mood of the voters is. If the percentage is changed, the issue will have to be approved by the Legislature or go with an initiative petition process.

A motion was made by Tom Lambert at 5:45 pm, seconded by Bruce Biermann to go into Closed Session to discuss legal issues. Motion carried (8-0) with the following vote: Bruce Biermann – yes, Tom Lambert – yes, Kenny Lovelace – yes, Beverly Dometrorch – yes, George Engelbach – yes, Ben Gorden – yes, Dan Greeson – yes, Mike Kelley – yes.

A motion was made by Mike Kelley at 7:00 pm to come out of Closed Session, seconded by Bruce Biermann. Motion carried (8-0) with the following vote: Bruce Biermann – yes, Tom Lambert – yes, Kenny Lovelace – yes, Beverly Dometrorch – yes, George Engelbach – yes, Ben Gorden – yes, Dan Greeson – yes, Mike Kelley – yes.

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made by Bruce Biermann, Kenny Lovelace seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Steve Radcliff, President