



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Tan-Tar-A Resort
Osage Beach, Missouri
November 25, 2018

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Past President

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Present

Ryan Britt, President
Kenny Lovelace, Past President
Ron Willis, Area I
Larry Davies, Area II 2nd Alternate
Henry Heinze, Area III/Treasurer
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
Richard Hoelscher, Area V 2nd Alt
Kathryn Braden, Area VI
Dan Greeson, Area VII
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

J. R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist
Colleen Meredith, DNR Soil & Water Program
Bill Wilson, DNR Soil & Water Program
Melissa White, District Employees Assn.
Sandy Stratman, Maries County SWCD
Bill Hoy, Johnson County SWCD
Mike Haeffner, Area V Director Elect
Mike Kelley, Area VIII 2nd Alternate
Irvin Mansbridge, Area VIII 1st Alternate
Brenda VanBooven, Area V 1st Alternate Elect
Jim Carlson, Area 1 1st Alternate

Not Present

David Morris, Area II
Derrick Cope, Area V

President Ryan Britt welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum established.

The minutes from the 9-11-18 meeting were presented for approval. J. R. Flores had a minor correction on the NRCS Report to correct the statement to read – In August 2 new watershed reservoirs were approved for additional funding. Ron Willis made a motion to approve the correction, Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). Ron Willis made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

A copy of the financial report that shows the income and expenses for all accounts from November 1, 2017 to November 1, 2018 was reviewed. Henry Heinze stated the balance in his account is about \$50,000. Last year at this same time it was about \$60,000. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to accept the treasurer report and file it for audit. Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

MDC Report: Brent Vandeloect was unable to attend, but he did provide a written report.

NRCS Report: J. R. Flores reported they are still in the process of filling the 51 new positions with NRCS. In December he will be given a hiring cap so he will know then how many more positions may be able to be filled. There has been \$45.8 million in EQIP obligated this year which is an increase of 13.5% over last year. The top 5 practices were cover crops, terraces, fencing, high tunnels, and underground outlets. For the drought this summer there was \$4.2 million in EQIP. They were able to fund about 33% of the applications received. There are currently approximately 64 agreements with partners and agencies and they are working on the Request for Proposals for FY-19 which will be out soon. Leonard Jordan is still the acting chief of NRCS in Washington, DC. He does plan to retire in January and they are hoping to have a permanent chief announced by then.

Commission Report: Commissioner Kenny Lovelace stated he was included in a group that was invited to Salisbury to tour the Soil Health Demonstration Farm that was started 5 years ago there. He said the project was approved for another 5 years of funding. Colleen Meredith reported she will be covering some of Jim Boschert's duties at the conference due to Jim not attending due to his mother's death. She referenced the letter of response recently received on the 2017 resolutions submitted to the Soil & Water Commission. Cost-share is already a little over \$40 million obligated. \$8.2 million of that is drought related with the majority (\$8 million) being for cover crops. She stated that this year the total amount obligated for cover crops is almost \$11.7 million and that last year the total for cover crops was \$4.2 million. The current reserve balance was at \$27 million in 2017, expected to be at about \$8 million after this year. When the reserve is spent down there may be less cost-share available. She also stated that when the approved contracts total \$44 million they may stop accepting contracts for this fiscal year. Right now the projected growth of the sales tax is 2%.

Farm Bureau: Kelly Smith was not able to attend.

Employees Association: Melissa White reported on the Employees Association recommendation to address the resolution from Lafayette County in 2017 on the timing of the district employee pay increase when reaching certain goals. She explained their recommendation addresses only the years worked, not training certifications. They recommended leaving the training certifications pay increases at the beginning of a quarter following the certification. They are recommending the years worked be available at the time the years worked is achieved by districts looking ahead and requesting the increase in the previous quarter so the funds will be available when the employee reaches that goal. This will be presented to the Soil and Water Commission tomorrow. The other item the Employee board has been discussing is sharing sick leave. There was some discussion on how this could work with MASWCD acting as the third party for the sick leave pay. Beverly Dometrorch made a motion to support MASWCD handling the leave hours for sharing sick leave. Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). They are also strongly recommending districts do annual performance reviews. Not all districts have been doing them but it is in the District Operation Manual for districts to do this.

Committee Reports:

Budget —Will be doing audit later tonight. The Budget Committee is Kenny Spooler, Beverly Dometrorch, Henry Heinze and Kathryn Braden.

Bylaws --None. The Bylaws Committee is Ron Willis, David Morris and Kathryn Braden.

Strategic Plan – The committee provided recommendations for the Training Conference which are being included in the plans for the 2018 conference. The Strategic Plan Committee is Kenny Lovelace, Sandy Stratman and Andrea McKeown.

Old Business: The schedule and duties for the board for the Training Conference was reviewed and adjusted as needed. It was reminded that the board needs to get their auction items and door prizes to the storage area tomorrow morning so they can be displayed in the Trade Show area and allow time for the power point presentation for the auction to be completed.

New Business: Ryan Britt reported on the NACD Next Generation Leadership Campaign that was just released. All contributions will be matched. Ron Willis made a motion to send \$500 to the Next Generation campaign. Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The donation form and information on where to send the donation to will be sent to Henry Heinze.

The NACD Annual Meeting will be in San Antonio the first week of February 2019. Kathryn Braden was approved for the NACD Scholarship to attend. There is also a North Central Region scholarship now available for new board members. Dan Greeson made a motion to submit Mike Haeffner for the regional scholarship of \$400 and MASWCD pay the remaining travel cost for him. Ron Willis seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). Henry Heinze made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to include approving expenses for Mike to attend whether the scholarship is approved or not. Beverly Dometorch seconded. Amendment approved unanimously (8-0). Vote on original motion as amended was approved unanimously (8-0). Since Andrea McKeown is now the Missouri Envirothon Representative to the NCF Envirothon and has recently been appointed to the NCF Envirothon Operating Committee, it would be beneficial for her to attend the meetings in San Antonio. A motion was made by Beverly Dometorch to pay expenses for Andrea to attend at an approximate cost of \$1700. Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The North Central Regional meeting will be January 7-8 in Racine, Wisconsin. Typically we have sent the NACD board member and alternate. Beverly Dometorch made a motion to send the NACD Board member and alternate to the North Central Regional meeting. Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). These will be appointed after the reorganization meeting on Tuesday following the business meeting. This reorganization meeting will be held in Room 1703 immediately following the business meeting.

AREA Reports: Area 1 – Ron Willis said they have had quite a bit of rain, the corn is better than they thought it would be. They had 10 days of rain in September, the beans turned back, and then just had a major snow storm.

Area 2 – Larry Davies said the area is in a white-out right now. It was very dry but the crops turned out better than expected. He said they went from drought to flood in 48 hours. They are still harvesting.

Area 3 – Henry Heinze said some of the farmers still have crops in the field.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometorch reported her area is split between bumper crops or drier than a bone. The districts said the cover crops have kept them busy.

Area 5 – Most of the crops are out, have had a lot of rain.

Area 6 – Kathryn Braden stated they have had showers for several days. She has been visiting some of the counties in her area and discussed the payment of MASWCD dues. She had a copy of a letter Lawrence County had about knapweed. Colleen Meredith

stated they had discussed this with the MO Department of Transportation previously since it mostly appears in the road right-of-way. They said there is not a lot that can be done about it. Evidently got started from seeds in the straw used or mulching. Districts cannot cost-share on road right-of-way. Some areas have seen some success where the Nature Conservancy has paid for spraying the invasive weeds. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Area 7 – Dan Greeson said they got rain when it was needed, they do have a shortage of hay as a result of the lack of cool season days, not a lack of moisture.

Area 8 – Kenny Spooler said they have plenty of moisture, most of the bigger farms still have beans in the field. He said he has not heard much about damage to the beans. Not a lot of field work right now due to wet fields. They do have plenty of hay.

Correspondence: None.

Other Business: Two districts have paid partial dues, bylaws says they cannot vote. One district thought the dues was \$400 instead of \$450 so that is what they paid, but that does not allow them to vote. A question was raised about Extension Supervisors running for Area Director. The by-laws say must be an elected board member to be eligible to run. One issue with Extension Supervisors running for Area Director is that they represent more than one district which could cross area lines.

The next meeting date will be March 5 at 11:00 am at Capitol Plaza Hotel. Motion for adjournment was made by Dan Greeson, seconded by Ron Willis. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Ryan Britt, President