



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**MASWCD MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Tan-Tar-A Resort**  
**Osage Beach, Missouri**  
**November 26, 2017**

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**Present**

Ryan Britt, President  
Kenny Lovelace, Past President  
Ron Willis, Area I  
Henry Heinze, Area III/Treasurer  
Beverly Dometorch, Area IV  
Derrick Cope, Area V  
Kathryn Braden, Area VI  
Dan Greeson, Area VII  
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII  
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

**Not Present**

David Morris, Area II

J. R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist  
Colleen Meredith, DNR Soil & Water  
Bill, DNR Soil & Water Program  
Brent Vandeloecht, MDC Private Lands  
Matt Blansett, Employees Association  
David Hutsell, Wright County SWCD  
Larry Daviess, Livingston County SWCD  
Irvin Mansbridge, Butler County SWCD  
Cheryl McKay, Butler County SWCD  
Mike Kelley, Carter County SWCD  
Richard Hoelscher, St. Louis County SWCD  
Sandy Stratman, Maries County SWCD  
Andrea McKeown, Randolph County SWCD  
Audrey Rayl, Lewis County SWCD

President Ryan Britt welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Introductions were made around the room. Quorum established by roll call. No revisions to the agenda.

The minutes from the 10-3-17 conference call were approved as presented. The minutes from the 8-22-17 meeting were approved as presented. Dan Greeson made a motion to approve the minutes, Kathryn Braden seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

A copy of the financial report that will be presented at the business meeting was reviewed. This shows the income and expenses for all accounts from mid-November 2016 through mid-November 2017. Beverly Dometorch made a motion to accept the treasurer report and file it for audit. Ron Willis seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**MDC Report:** Brent Vandeloecht stated the CRP incentive program will now emphasize the Monarch incentive in the southeast part of the state. The deer season harvest was up about 6,000 for this year. There were 15,000 CWD samples opening weekend of deer season, no results yet. He thanked Ryan Britt for participating in their strategic planning meeting recently which included

several partner organizations. He stated they have been working to hire positions with partnering organizations, most recently MFA for expertise and assistance in areas supporting the work of conservation in the state. They are starting to be successful again in the reduction of feral hogs. It is more difficult during certain seasons. Mostly in the southeast right now (Shannon, Reynolds and Wayne counties). He responded to a question about the elk recently killed during deer season. He stated there were no markings on the elk and they suspect it had escaped from a captive heard. It was donated to a local food bank and the young girl that shot it has not been fined.

**NRCS Report:** J. R. Flores, State conservationist, stated NRCS has recently upgraded all their GPS equipment. The equipment will help save employee time valued much more than the cost of the equipment. He distributed a copy of an award nomination he has submitted to NACD for Kenny Lovelace for the Olin Simms award. The President of NACD selects the winner of this award but he wanted the board to know he had submitted the nomination for Kenny. J.R. stated the EQIP sign-up just finished and they will be ranking all the EQIP applications in the next 2-3 months. He stated that in 2017 the #1 practice cost-shared on was cover crops. They have experienced a reduction in the vehicle fleet of about 38 trucks. He is committed to continuing the agreements for the 50/50 technician employees, there should be one is almost every FOSA now. They are working on hiring some engineers also through the same process.

**Commission Report:** Colleen Meredith reported the next Commission meeting is tomorrow afternoon. There has been \$31 million of cost-share obligated since July 1 with \$5.5 of that for cover crops. Due to this there is a request to raise the maximum for the supplemental cost-share allocation above the \$500,000. They are working with Lincoln University to renew the contract for the employee training and certification testing. She stated they are also working with J.R. and the state administration on the vehicle issue. There is grant funding available for technical assistance through NACD and the state partnership is working on identifying where that could best be used and getting applications to submit. The next deadline for applications is December 3.

**Employees Association:** Matt Blansett stated they have 234 paid dues members out of 280 employees representing 97 of the 114 counties. They also have 129 associate members. They are still in need of a 2<sup>nd</sup> representative in Area 8. Matt stated he does not plan to run for President again next year so there will be a new representative for the Employees Association to work with.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Budget** — Kenny Spooler said they plan to complete an audit of the books tonight.

**Bylaws** — Ron Willis said the proposed Bylaws changes have been presented and are ready for approval.

**Strategic Plan** – Kenny Lovelace said some of the suggestions from their committee have already been implemented.

**Old Business:** Ryan Britt reported that the pre-file date for state legislative bills is December 1<sup>st</sup>. Senator Munzlinger and Representative Remole have both agreed to carry the legislation making district employees eligible for LAGERS retirement. Senate research has reviewed the

proposed legislation and their version has been approved by LAGERS and DNR as well as Ryan. The House research committee is reviewing the draft legislation from the Senate research. All supporters of the legislation know that we will protect our tax funds and if something should get tacked onto the legislation or changes introduced to it they will pull it off the floor. The Program Office is looking at what would be the best benefit for the employees and the boards. They may recommend an across the board 1.75 or 2% plan for all district employees.

The Board reviewed the agenda for the Training Conference and their assigned duties during the conference.

**New Business:** The NACD North Central Region will be holding their meeting in January in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ryan Britt asked who plans to attend. Kenny Lovelace and Beverly Dometrorch will plan to attend that meeting. The NACD National Meeting will be held in Nashville the end of January. Ryan asked who plans to attend that meeting. Kenny Lovelace, Beverly Dometrorch, Dan Greeson, Peggy Lemons and Sandy Stratman all plan to attend. There is a scholarship available for someone that has not attended NACD before. Kenny Spooler said he would be interested. His name will be submitted for the scholarship. Ron Willis indicated he will check to see if there is some special arrangement for the soil health champions. Dan Greeson made a motion to approve these people attending the meetings listed. Beverly Dometrorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The NACD spring Fly-In will be in March. Dan Greeson made a motion to approve sending Kenny Lovelace, Beverly Dometrorch and Ron Willis to Washington, DC for the Spring Fly-In. Kenny Spooler seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**AREA Reports:** Area 1 – Ron Willis reported about everybody is done with harvest, have had nice weather thought they could use a little rain.

Area 2 – Larry Daviess reported for David Morris. Harvest is pretty well done, it is dry.

Area 3 – Henry Heinze agreed with previous areas but said they are not really that dry.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometrorch said the vehicle reduction is a big concern in her area.

Area 5 – Derrick Cope said the harvest is pretty well done.

Area 6 – Kathryn Braden said it is very dry in her area. They have been feeding hay and a lot of the ponds are dry. She said she plans to work on the districts in her area that have not paid MASWCD dues. She also reported on attending the MDC / Conservation Heritage award banquet to accept a partner award for MASWCD.

Area 7 – Dan Greeson stated they have been getting rain pretty good, their fields are in good shape.

Area 8 – Kenny Spooler said they have had a very nice fall, a couple of decent rains, and harvest is pretty well complete. A lot of work is going on right now.

**Correspondence:** None

**Other Business:** Ryan Britt said he attended the Leopold award presentation in Kansas City. The winners were Matt and Kate Lambert from the Brookfield area.

Colleen Meredith said there has been some discussion on revising the district employee testing due to the NRCS conservation planner changes. She said they plan to get their Plan for the Future Committee that handles personnel issues together in January or February and take a look at possible changes.

The next meeting date will be at the Education Seminar. The date will be set when we get input from the legislators on when it would be most advantageous to have a group in Jeff City to talk about the LAGERS legislation. Motion for adjournment was made by Beverly Dometorch, seconded by Ron Willis. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

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Ryan Britt, President