



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Tan-Tar-A Resort
Osage Beach, Missouri
November 27, 2016

President

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Area VII

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Treasurer

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Present

Kenny Lovelace, President
Steve Radcliff, Past President
Bruce Biermann, Area I
David Morris, Area II
Ryan Britt, Area III
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
Ben Gorden, Area VI
Dan Greeson, Area VII
Mike Kelley, Area VIII
Henry Heinze, Treasurer
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Not Present

George Engelbach, Area V

J. R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist
Colleen Meredith, DNR Soil & Water
Bill Wilson, DNR Soil & Water Program
Matt Blansett, Employees Assn. Pres.
Brent Vandeloecht, MDC Private Lands
Ron Willis, Area 1 Elect
Kathryn Braden, Area 6 Elect
Kenny Spooler, Area 8 Elect
Larry Davis, Livingston SWCD
Irvin Mansbridge, Area 8 Alternate
Sandy Stratman
David Hale, Polk SWCD
David Hutsell, Area 7 Alternate

President Kenny Lovelace welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

The minutes from the 8-2-2016 meeting were reviewed. Bruce Biermann made a motion to approve the minutes. Mike Kelley seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Treasurer report and dues paid by area were reviewed. The treasurer report is now an all-inclusive report which includes all bank accounts on one report. The board also reviewed the financial report that will be given at the business meeting on Tuesday for the past year. Steve Radcliff motioned to approve the treasurer report, Ryan Britt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Due to the Sunday night hotel room not being covered by DNR this year, the Board discussed if the individual districts should pay for or if that hotel expense should be submitted to MASWCD for reimbursement. Mike Kelley motioned to submit the Sunday night hotel expense to MASWCD. Beverly Dometrorch seconded. After discussion the vote was 1 yes, 5 no – motion failed. No change on mileage to the conference, it has always been submitted to the district for reimbursement.

MDC Report: Brent Vandeloecht reported the new MDC director is Sarah Parker Pauley, former DNR Director. He expressed appreciation for the coordination between MDC and MASWCD on the CRP Incentive program. This year there were 29 counties for mandatory CWD testing, other counties provided voluntary samples. They received 19,200 samples on opening weekend. There have been approximately 6000 acres enrolled in the MRAP program so far and they hope to get 4000 more acres in the next couple of years.

NRCS Report: J.R. Flores congratulated the Board on the sales tax renewal. He stated that NRCS had cut down about 90 positions over the past 5 years. He is planning to hire another 44 positions (40 for the field) soon. The state engineer and area soil health specialist positions are being advertised now. J. R. went over the number of practices and acres treated for the various federal programs NRCS handles. They are currently in a CSP sign-up which they expect to be several applications due to changes in the program making it more flexible. He reported on the Strike Force program in 46 counties in the southern part of the state which brings in additional EQIP dollars. Missouri is one of 10 states approved for wetland mitigation banking funding. Last fiscal year NRCS was able to spend \$72 million federal funds with landowners in Missouri.

Commission Report: Colleen Meredith thanked the Board for their work on the sales tax renewal. She said the work the districts do has had a positive influence on the sales tax renewal. The new DNR Director is Harry Bazoian. He has had a lot of state experience, and will be at the Commission meeting tomorrow. Colleen reported that at the last Commission meeting they approved funding for the Water Research Center for research on ag land water use. St. Louis University is doing a poll on agriculture surface water needs, developing a 10-year plan. This was a one-time grant for 2 years for \$300,000. They also approved a \$75 incentive for attending grazing school and an incentive for a Nutrient management Plan for cost-share. Missouri hosted the NASCA meeting this year in Branson and they did a tour in Stone and Christian Counties. Last year \$33.3 million was spent on 7252 cost share contracts. \$2.9 million was for 1310 contracts on cover crops. The soil health lab has already received 900 samples this year for cover crop practices.

Employee Association Report: Matt Blansett reported that 33% of all board supervisors are associate members and 88% of the employees representing 93% of the counties are members of the Employees Association. He has not been contacted about many issues this year, he has received some comments on recent memos.

Committee Reports: Budget— No report. Resolutions – Ben Gorden said the slate of resolutions includes 5 resolutions submitted by the deadline and there are at least 5 that will be brought from the floor.

Old Business: The Area Director elections this year were discussed again. MASWCD got a legal opinion on the election process this year and if it was legal. The attorney stated that the MASWCD bylaws do not allow email ballots, nor do the bylaws allow for the MASWCD Board to elect or appoint an Area Director except in the instance of no quorum at the Area Meeting or no nominees. Mike Kelley stated he had talked with the Attorney General office and the person he talked to said the statement in the bylaws saying the MASWCD has the authority to appoint if no quorum or no nominees also implies the intent of appointing in all circumstances. Mike Kelley made a motion to move the discussion of the elections to the end of the agenda. Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

New Business: The Training Conference agenda was reviewed along with the assigned duties for the board. All auction items need to be in the storage area by noon tomorrow so the power point for the auction can be prepared. The majority of the documents normally put in the conference bag are on the mobile app this year. There will be a few printed copies available for the business meeting. All of the workshop information and the agenda for the conference are on the mobile app.

The upcoming NACD meetings were discussed. An auction items is needed for the NACD national meeting in Denver. The clock has not been bringing as much as it used to so the Bard decided to do something else. Suggested items include quilts. Wall portraits, signed books, jewelry, wine, etc. A motion was made by Bruce Biermann to gather a box of wine from various wineries. Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). There is a scholarship available for attendance at the NACD annual meeting for a board member that has not attended an NACD meeting before. Kathryn Braden and Kenny Spooler would both be eligible for this. They will consider and let Peggy know in the next few days.

AREA Reports: Area 1 – Bruce Biermann stated the cover crop practice just exploded in his area. They had good aerial seeding for the cover crops.

Area 2 – David Morris said they are getting a lot of terrace work done.

Area 3 – Ryan Britt stated that it took a while to get their shared technical position up and going but now is starting to get some work done.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometrorch said her districts would like to see more information on new programs at the Area Meetings.

Area 5 – No report.

Area 6 – Ben Gorden thanked everyone for their assistance during his term on the board.

Area 7 – Dan Greeson said cattle prices are down.

Area 8 – Mike Kelley said his area is dry.

Correspondence: Kenny Lovelace presented a request from Sandy Stratman for financial assistance to attend the NACD annual meeting in Denver. She works the auction at that meeting so her registration is comped, but she needs assistance with the hotel and travel. A motion was made by Bruce Biermann to approve assistance for Sandy for the hotel and travel to the NACD meeting. Mike Kelley seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Mike Kelley motioned for the expense to be a maximum of \$2,000. Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0),

Other Business: No other business.

Bruce Biermann left the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Mike Kelley made a motion at 9:00 pm to go into Closed Session to discuss the Area Director elections. Ryan Britt seconded. David Morris – no, Ryan Britt – yes, Beverly Dometrorch – no, Ben Gorden – no, Dan Greeson – yes, Mike Kelley – yes. Tie vote, Kenny Lovelace voted yes for closed session.

The Board came out of Closed Session at 9:17 pm. Motion made by Ryan Britt. David Morris – yes, Ryan Britt – yes, Beverly Dometrorch – yes, Ben Gorden – yes, Dan Greeson – yes, Mike Kelley – yes. Motion carried unanimously (6-0)

Ryan Britt made a motion to nullify the email ballots for Areas 1 and 5 from March 2016. David Morris seconded. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). Ryan Britt then made a motion to rescind the vote of the MASWCD Board on 8-2-2016 for Area Director in Areas 1 and 5. Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). There will be elections held for Areas 1 and 5 at their Area meetings tomorrow morning. Ryan Britt made a motion that each area will decide how to break a tie should that happen. Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

The next meeting date will be set when the Education seminar date is set.

Motion for adjournment was made by Ryan Britt, seconded by Steve Radcliff. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Kenny Lovelace, President