



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Tan-Tar-A Hotel
Osage Beach, Missouri
November 29, 2015

President

KENNY LOVELACE
NACD Board Member
2605 County Road 325
Palmyra, MO 63461
(573) 822-2545
kennyl@centurytel.net

1st Vice President

BRUCE BIERMANN
1529 Sunset Blvd
Mound City, MO 64470
(660) 491-5263

2nd Vice-President

BEVERLY DOMETROCH
Alternate NACD Member
2670 Highway 240
Fayette, MO 65248
(660) 248-2645

3rd Vice-President

DAN GREESON
29 Pin Oak Road
Eldon, MO 65026
(573) 392-3208

Past President

STEVE RADCLIFF
PO Box 571
Chillicothe, MO 64601
(660) 247-1255
stevener@greenhills.net

AREA DIRECTORS

Area I

BRUCE BIERMANN
1529 Sunset Blvd
Mound City, MO 64470
(660) 491-5263

Area II

DAVID MORRIS
3454 Highway A
Chillicothe, MO 64601
(660) 684-6685

Area III

RYAN BRITT
11764 Highway 3
Clifton Hill, MO 65244
(660) 676-4898

Area IV

BEVERLY DOMETROCH
2670 Highway 240
Fayette, MO 65248
(660) 248-2645

Area V

GEORGE ENGELBACH
3489 Linhorst Road
Hillsboro, MO 63050
(636) 475-6328

Area VI

BEN GORDEN
2282 E. 460th Road
Half Way, MO 65663
(417) 328-8899

Area VII

DAN GREESON
29 Pin Oak Road
Eldon, MO 65026
(573) 392-3208

Area VIII

MIKE KELLEY
RR 2 Box 4805
Ellsinore, MO 63937
(314) 753-1730

Executive Director

PEGGY LEMONS
1209 Biscayne Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109
(573) 893-6790 or 893-5188
peggyl@maswcd.net

Treasurer

HENRY HEINZE
RR 1 Box 76
Williamstown, MO 63473
(660) 988-3901
hjh@marktwain.net

Present

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

J. R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist
Colleen Meredith, DNR Soil & Water
Bill Wilson, DNR Soil & Water Program
Sandy Stratman, Employees Assn. Pres.
Brent Vandeloecht, MDC
Richard Hoelscher, Area V Alternate
David Hale, Area VI Alternate
Irvin Mansbridge, Area VIII Alternate
Kathryn Braden, Taney SWCD

Not Present

Steve Radcliff, Past President

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 9-16-2015 meeting were approved as printed and presented. Motion for approval made by Bruce Biermann, Mike Kelley seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

A treasurer report was given by Henry Heinze and Peggy Lemons. A copy of the report that will be presented at the Business Meeting was reviewed. The report includes the account that Henry has and the accounts in Jefferson City including the MDC CRP Incentive funds. Ryan Britt made a suggestion to include the cash balance of each of the accounts on future reports. Ryan Britt made a motion to approve the report, Mike Kelley seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

MDC Report: Brent Vandeloecht attended representing MDC. He reported approximately 189,000 deer were killed this year. He stated the MDC Commission is considering making some changes to the deer hunting regulations for next year. He stated there continues to be a lot of talk about

feral hogs. The Commission is looking at making hunting feral hogs on public land illegal. People have been bringing hogs to the public land and releasing so they can hunt them. He said they want to work with the landowners to help them learn how to trap the hogs so they get all of them in a group, not a few and the rest disperse. When asked about where the elk came from that was found in Cooper County he replied they are still checking into that.

NRCS Report: J.R. Flores stated they have received a lot of conservation dollars in Missouri this past year. 500 Missouri farmers have high tunnels now because of the EQIP program. RCPP is a new program with the Farm Bill, there were 6 projects approved last year. There are 4 proposals for RCPP this year. There are 263 new contracts for CSP. He stated they are trying to get staff out in the field more. Plans are to have 12 more of the shared NRCS/DNR district technicians. J.R. also stated they recently held listening sessions for NRCS employees across the state and received some good suggestions. In response to a question on how Client Gateway is going, J.R. responded that there are more and more signing up every week. George Engelbach asked about the sodbuster and swampbuster provisions of the Farm Bill, are they still in place. J. R. stated that the 1985 Farm Bill is still law and as long as a producer has an approved conservation plan they can do what they want on their land within the provisions of the plan. Bruce Biermann asked if others had issues with custom applicators going up and own terraces, using several excuses as to why. Others said they did but not sure what to do about it.

Commission Report: Colleen Meredith reported that it looks like a good cost share year. There is currently \$26 million obligated with \$8 million of that paid. There will be a December supplemental allocation. The goal is to spend the entire \$31 million. A lot of the obligated cost share is due to the cover crop practice, there have been about 1500 cover crop contracts. There will be a workshop on the Soil Health lab on Monday to give an update on the information on the soil samples for cover crops being submitted to the lab. The Commission meeting will be Tuesday afternoon, they will have a review of FY-15 cost share and expenses of the districts and will also look at the FY-17 proposed allocations. She stated districts have been asking for the intern program to be available year-round, not just during the summer. Dade County has a request to the Commission to no longer have the requirement of grazing school for grazing system cost-share contracts. George Engelbach expressed concern that not enough ponds are being built. He discussed the state maximum on ponds and the restrictions such as not in wooded areas. Colleen said this would be a good discussion item for the Conservation Practices Plan for the Future Committee. In response to a question, she stated that the shared district employees will need to have a minimum of 200 hours working for another county. She stated there will be a session Wednesday morning on the shared positions.

Employee Association Report: Sandy Stratman reported that they currently have 226 employee members and 118 associate members. Their annual business meeting immediately follows the MASWCD annual business meeting on Tuesday. She said they still need assistance with the silent auction during the time of their annual meeting. She said she is not running for President again, someone else will be representing the Employees Association at the MASWCD meetings this next year. She did say she is still willing to assist with the Training Conference work. A motion was made by George Engelbach, seconded by Mike Kelley, to pay for her mileage expense when she is assisting with Training Conference or MASWCD work in the future. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). Sandy said

she would like to have the next Employee Association meeting scheduled around the time of the MASWCD Education Seminar next February.

Committee Reports: Budget—Ryan Britt said they have not had a chance to meet, but have discussed the timing of the treasurer report for the Annual Meeting. A motion was made by Mike Kelley, seconded by Dan Greeson to use the 990 information for the treasurer report. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Policy—Beverly Dometorch stated they plan to meet tomorrow morning at 7 am at the restaurant.

Old Business: The District Specialist progression line was discussed. It is expected there will be several questions for the Board during the conference and they went over the information so they could answer questions that were asked of them. The minimum number of hours for benefits was changed to 32 per week instead of 1000 per year. This will affect 14 current employees. In response to the question of where the money will come from to pay for the salary increases, Colleen Meredith said it will take a few months for some of the employees to get all the testing completed and not all employees will go to a DS-IV position, but there is an increase in District Assistance Funds request in the budget for next year. They are also looking at a way to determine the number of staff approved for each district by looking at the combined SWCD/NRCS dollars output to landowners for a FOSA. They are calling this the "everything rate". She reviewed with the Board how the employees will move up the progression line and tried to answer to clear up some confusion on the progression from DS-III to DS-IV. The progression line will go into effect January 1. She did say that before a district employee is determined to be a shared employee, the boards involved should meet and come up with a plan for the hours and duties.

The 2016 Area Meetings were discussed again. The schedule for the last week of March 2016 was reviewed. There was discussion on the meal at the March Area Meetings. If DNR pays for the meal it will most likely be a sandwich meal. MASWCD could provide the meals and be able to offer a catered hot meal, however it would mean MASWCD would need to pay for all the meals. It was decided this will be discussed at the Area Meetings Monday and get a consensus of how the membership feels about the meal. The MASWCD Board will review their responses after the Monday night auction so a decision can be made.

It was also mentioned that each area will hold an election at the March Area Meetings, it is time to get nominating committees started.

New Business: The agenda and duties for the Training Conference were reviewed. A copy of the schedule for workers was given to the Board. The Board will gather in Windgate Hall after this meeting to assemble the conference bags.

AREA Reports: Kenny Lovelace decided to not have Area Reports due to time constraints.

Correspondence: Kenny Lovelace read letters of thanks from the Missouri Envirothon Committee and the Grassland Evaluation Committee for contributions to both of those programs this year. The magazine for Missouri Envirothon was distributed for the Board to look at. Henry Heinze stated he had received the invoice for NACDF dues for 2016. A motion was made by Mike Kelley, seconded by Beverly Dometorch to pay the \$775 level of NACD dues. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Other Business: Ben Gorden expressed concern about not having a poster winner from the grade 10-12 category. George Engelbach discussed the Waters of the US rule and relayed information about how other organizations were not supporting approval of the proposed rule by EPA. A motion was made by Mike Kelley, seconded by Bruce Biermann to support not implementing the proposed EPA rule of Waters of the US. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

The next meeting will be at the Education Seminar which will be mid to late February due to the Area Meetings scheduled for March.

Motion for adjournment was made by Ryan Britt, seconded by Mike Kelley. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Kenny Lovelace, President