



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**Draft MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Tan-Tar-A Conference Center
Osage Beach, Missouri
December 1, 2019**

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Present

Ryan Britt, President
Kenny Lovelace, Past President
Ron Willis, Area I
Steve Radcliff, Area II Alternate
Scot Shively, Area III
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
Mike Haeffner, Area V
Harold Lampe, Area VI Alternate
David Hutsell, Area VII Elect
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII
Henry Heinze, Area III Alt/Treasurer
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Not Present

David Morris, Area II
Kathryn Braden, Area VI
Dan Greeson, Area VII

J. R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist
Mike Squires, NRCS Area Conservationist
Colleen Meredith, DNR Soil & Water Program
Bill Wilson, DNR Soil & Water Program
Brent Vandeloecht, MO Dept. Conservation
Melissa White, District Employees Assn.
Sandy Stratman, Maries SWCD
Mike Kelley
Irvin Mansbridge, Area VIII Alternate

President Ryan Britt welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with a quorum established.

The minutes from the 9-10-19 meeting were presented for approval. A correction – Kathryn Braden is Area VI not Area V. Scot Shively made a motion to approve the minutes with the change, Ron Willis seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The financial report for all accounts that will be included in the conference packets was presented. The report covers November 1, 2018 to November 1, 2019. A financial report that shows the yearly income and expenses for the Jefferson City accounts from 2013 through 2019 was reviewed. Henry Heinze reported the balance in his account is about \$54,000. There was also a report of dues paid that covers the past 6 years. There are currently 103 districts that have paid their 2019 dues which is 90%. Steve Radcliff made a motion to accept the treasurer report and file it for audit. Mike Haeffner seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

MDC Report: Brent Vandeloecht stated they had just finished firearm deer season. There were 178,000 deer killed during the firearm season. 18,000 samples for CWD were taken and they are moving through the testing of the samples pretty quickly. The MDC cost-share funds have all been allocated with 45% spent. There is a new position being created, Regional Administrator, that will be in charge of the Private Lands Specialists. Bill White will maintain state oversight of the PLC's but the management will be by the Regional Administrator. They are hoping to send 150 people to the forested area for feral hogs in January after the Forest Service closes down. When asked about the black headed buzzard problem, Brent stated that they are aware of it. They are hoping to have an elk season in about 1½ years. There has been some recent elk poaching issues.

NRCS Report: J. R. Flores announced his retirement. He stated there has been no decision yet on who will be acting until his position is filled. Mike Squires, Area Conservationist reported on program numbers. They are finishing up payments on the first year of the CSP Grassland program. There are 2 new MRBI areas – Perry & Cape Girardeau Counties, and Linn, Sullivan and Chariton Counties. They have received 35 damage survey reports for the 2017 EWP flood damage. All be 2 have been completed. For 2019 there have been 145 sponsored requests from 83 counties with already over \$26 million requested. They have been working on the new Cooperative Working Agreement. Training on the new Conservation Desktop has started. A question on the use of drones provided a discussion on landowner privacy rights. J.R. Flores stated that the national office is developing policy on the use of drones and the privacy issues are being looked at closely.

Commission Report: Colleen Meredith stated the cost-share supplemental allocations have already put out \$22 million. There will be one more supplemental in December, then the Commission will look at the numbers to see if there will be more supplementals after that. The 3% pay increase will be available for the January stipends. Keith Stevens is a new Commissioner from Polk County. She stated landowner privacy issues will be discussed and how it will impact the districts. A lot of cost-share will need to be handled in closed session. The Program Office may develop a sample of steps to conduct this part of a board meeting. They are hiring a position for an additional person in the Springfield area. The Practices Committee will be looking at the Sensitive Area practices for any needed changes...

Farm Bureau: Kelly Smith was not able to attend.

David Hutsell joined the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Employees Association: Melissa White stated the employee board will meet right after this meeting. They have been busy getting ready for the conference. Their fund raiser this fall was successful, they use the funds for scholarships and awards. Through their membership to the Employees Association, employees and districts can access discounts available through NPP.gov. When asked about employees campaigning in local board elections, Melissa stated she had not heard anything about that.

Budget Committee: Will be conducting an internal audit later this afternoon.

Bylaws Committee: No report.

Strategic Planning Committee: No report.

Old Business:

The Board reviewed the agenda for the Training Conference and the duties each of them are assigned. Plans for the live auction were reviewed along with some of the items for the auction. The tour for Bridal Cave was full, however there is still room for additional people on the second tour of the dam. At the business meeting the clickers from the Program Office will be used instead of the green signs that have been used in the past. The board discussed how to hand the clickers out and decided on using a sign-in sheet which will include the clicker number. It was also emphasized that they need to be conscious about the return of the clickers. The program for the guests will be a local Jefferson City artist instructing on painting. The cost for this is \$25 per person, however since it was not completely arranged in time to include in the on-line registration, it was discussed to have people pay \$10 at the door and have MASWCD cover the rest of the cost. Ron Willis made a motion to approve the \$10 at the door fee. Beverly Dometorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

New Business:

The NACD National Meeting will be February 7-12 in Las Vegas. The board discussed the live auction item they would donate to NACD. They felt this might not be a good time to donate a rifle. An iPad was suggested, one that would have Wi-Fi and cellular capability. Ron Willis made a motion to approve up to \$500 for an iPad with Wi-Fi and cellular. Mike Haeffner seconded. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

Area Reports: None

Correspondence: None.

Other Business: None.

The next meeting date will be Tuesday, March 3 at the Education Seminar at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City starting at 11 am. Motion for adjournment made by Mike Haeffner, seconded by Ron Willis. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Ryan Britt, President