



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

MASWCD MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Tan-Tar-A Hotel
Osage Beach, Missouri
December 15, 2013

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Present

Kenny Lovelace, President
Steve Radcliff, Past President
Bruce Biermann, Area I
Tom Lambert, Area II
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV
George Engelbach, Area V
Ben Gorden, Area VI
Dan Greeson, Area VII
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.
David Hale, Area VI Alternate
David Morris, Livingston SWCD
Larry Davis, Livingston SWCD
Bill Hoy, Johnson SWCD
Scott Roy, MDC Private Lands

Not Present

Ryan Britt, Area III
Mike Kelley, Area VIII

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 9-11-2013 meeting were approved as printed and presented. Motion for approval made by Beverly Dometrorch, Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). Conference Call minutes for 11-19-2013 were approved as corrected. Correction of the roll call vote on each motion should have been yes for George Engelbach. George Engelbach made the motion for approval, Bruce Biermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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 and the 3 accounts in Jefferson City. Tom Lambert made a motion to approve the report, Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

President Lovelace then appointed the audit committee for a review of the books later today. This committee is Bruce Biermann, George Engelbach and Beverly Dometrorch.

MDC Report: Scott Roy attended for Clint Dalbom. He reported on recent leadership changes – Bill White is now the chief of the Private Lands Division and Kevin Borisenko is now Missouri River Unit Chief. The MDC Incentive funds were obligated quickly. The MD staff will be doing some field review checks on some of these practices. He stated that the numbers for all firearms seasons were down this year. He said that there was a very high production of acorns this year and that relates to the deer harvest since the deer stay in the woods eating the acorns. He also stated that the chronic wasting disease may have had a bigger effect on the deer harvest than they first thought. They are still working on feral hog eradication and are trying a drop technique that Oklahoma has been using. The elk are doing well on Peck Ranch. There are currently 40 black bear with radio collars. Once the population of black bear reaches 500 they might start discussing limited hunting. There were 3 mountain lion sightings last fall. To date there have not been any female mountain lions identified in Missouri. In response to a question about the late crop harvest, he replied that yes a late harvest could have an effect on the deer harvest.

NRCS Report: J.R. Flores stated they are still hoping for a Farm Bill. A budget continuing resolution was passed but it is going to be a tough year with the sequester and the cuts in technical assistance funds. He said they are looking at ways to absorb cuts; cutting personnel will be the last step. He said the soil health movement is strong. Approximately \$2.4 million EQIP funds were obligated for cover crops. This past year was a record year for obligating federal dollars. Approximately \$85.5 million was paid out to farmers and ranchers in Missouri.

Commission Report: Colleen Meredith reported the new Commissioner is Sam Schaumann, a Christian County SWCD Board Supervisor. He is on the District Operations Committee for the Plan for the Future. Harry Bozian is acting director for Missouri Department of Agriculture. She said there was \$3.4 million allocated in the October supplemental cost-share allocation with another \$1 million allocated in November. The Commission will discuss tomorrow the issue of a December supplemental cost-share allocation. There is a new DNR Coordinator starting on the 30th to replace Charlie Hansen. She stated that they made the first payment a week or two ago on the Department of Ag Bridge Loan Program. J. R. Flores said that EQIP cost-share is also eligible for the Bridge Loan Program. There are 2 workshops at the conference dealing with the Plan for the Future. The committees are not to the point of being ready to divulge any information but are still gathering input.

Employee Association Report: Sandy Stratman reported the district employee numbers are currently 269 in the state. They currently have 236 of the 259 as paid members of the Employees Association, along with 128 associate members. She said the number of silent auctions is down this year. They do have several signed up for the Trade Show.

Old Business: The agenda for the conference was reviewed as well as the duties for the Board members. The number registered is slightly less than last year. The Board discussed the timing of the conference and the reason for moving from the November dates. There is a question on the evaluation form about the best date for the conference. If better open dates are available the Board feels Tan-Tar-A will work to help approve an amendment to the current 3-year contract. All speakers are confirmed.

The MDC Incentive Program update was pretty well covered in the MDC Report.

New Business: An invitation for the MASWCD Board to attend a White House Roundtable Discussion Tuesday morning was included in their meeting packet. This roundtable discussion was scheduled this past week and will be led by Kirk Hanlin, Assistant Chief of NRCS, who is also the Opening Session speaker for the conference. The Roundtable discussion is by invitation only to discuss agriculture issues.

Dan Greeson distributed information on a couple of legislative issues concerning the right to farm and also funding for public schools. This information will be available to conference attendees at the registration area. Kenny Lovelace also reported that at the recent Farm Bureau meeting the passed a resolution supporting Soil & Water Commissioners needing SWCD experience.

The dates for the Education Seminar have not yet been set, but it will be either late February or early March.

AREA Reports: Area 1 – Bruce Biermann reported that most all the harvest in his area is done. There was a lot of cost-share work getting done until the weather changed. He said there is a law firm that he is working with on a lawsuit against the Corps of Engineers over the management of the Missouri River. He said they are soliciting landowners to sign up. In order to be a claimant they must have had damages of at least \$100,000. The hope of the lawsuit is to open the eyes of Congress to the problems with the Missouri River. What good is paying damages if you don't correct the problems? He stated there is a meeting about this on the 18th of December.

Area 2 – Tom Lambert said when it started raining some of the cost-share work had to stop. They are done with harvest.

Area 3 – Ryan was not able attend.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometorch said everything is going smoothly in her area. She stated she attended the Grassland Evaluation Contest and was disappointed to not be able to help with the awards presentation since MASWCD contributes to the cost of the awards.

Area 5 – George Engelbach said there is hardly any moisture in his area. They have a lot of wheat sowed after beans and a lot o hay sitting round.

Area 6 – Ben Gorden stated that the government shut down came at a bad time for them because they do a lot of no-till. They have received quite a bit of timely rain. His district started their cover crop program where they pay for the soil test, seed and use of the no-till drill. He did say they may not have started it quite soon enough. They bought a gas-powered post hole digger to rent and one of the landowners was able to set a significant number of posts in a short time with only one helper.

Area 7 – Dan Greeson said there are only 2 Area Directors that don't have a large river but they have some of the biggest lakes so they are still interested with water issues. His area was a little shy on moisture but did get a little rain and not too much snow and ice. Everything is going pretty good. He said he is a member of the District Delivery Plan or the Future Committee and they are getting information from across the state through the members of the committee. Ryan Britt and George Engelbach are also on the committee.

Area 8 – Mike Kelley was not able to attend.

Correspondence: None

Other Business: Kenny Lovelace said he had been asked by George Engelbach why they had not put a backup plan in place as previously discussed when Peggy was not able to be at the Training Conference. Kenny Lovelace said he had discussed this with Sandy Stratman and she agreed to be a backup for Peggy since she is familiar with quite a bit of the conference planning. A motion to approve Sandy being a backup for Peggy was made by Tom Lambert, Dan Greeson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). The Board then discussed what amount of payment would be appropriate and after discussion a motion was made by George Engelbach to table the discussion for the payment for now. Tom Lambert seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Kenny Lovelace then brought up the discussion of a pay increase for the Executive Director that there had not been one since 2007. Beverly Dometorch stated said she thought there was a yearly increase plan in effect that Steve Oetting had started. George Engelbach made a motion to table this discussion until the next meeting and get more information about previous motions on pay increases. Dan Greeson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Motion for adjournment was made by Bruce Biermann, seconded by Tom Lambert. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Kenny Lovelace, President