



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**MASWCD MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Capitol Plaza Hotel**  
**Jefferson City, Missouri**  
**February 17, 2016**

**President**

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

**1st Vice President**

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

**2nd Vice-President**

BEVERLY DOMETRORCH  
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  
[stevenr@greenhills.net](mailto:stevenr@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 DOMETRORCH  
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. 460<sup>th</sup> 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  
(573) 714-8064

**Executive Director**

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

**Treasurer**

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

**Present**

Kenny Lovelace, President  
Steve Radcliff, Past President  
Bruce Biermann, Area I  
Ryan Britt, Area III  
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV  
George Engelbach, Area V  
Leon Phipps, Area VI Alternate\*  
Dan Greeson, Area VII  
Mike Kelley, Area VIII  
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

J. R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist  
Karen Brinkman, NRCS Area Conservationist  
Colleen Meredith, DNR Soil & Water  
Bill Wilson, DNR Soil & Water Program  
Sandy Stratman, Employees Assn. Pres.  
Lisa Potter, MDC Private Lands

**Not Present**

David Morris, Area II  
Ben Gorden, Area VI  
Henry Heinze, Treasurer

President Kenny Lovelace welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Richard Fordyce, Director of Missouri Department of Agriculture, stepped into the meeting and gave an update on the Department's ASAP program and the Beef Check-Off referendum.

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

The minutes from the 11-29-2015 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Ryan Britt to approve a correction of removing the third from the bottom line in the NRCS report. Beverly Dometrorch seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0) Bruce Biermann made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Mike Kelley seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Minutes of the Policy Committee meeting on 11-30-2015 were approved as presented. Motion for approval made by Mike Kelley, seconded by Steve Radcliff. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Treasurer Henry Heinze was not able to attend so there was no report for the funds he manages. Kenny Lovelace did report Henry had told him that so far 84 districts have paid their MASWCD dues. There was a report for the accounts in Jefferson City including the MDC CRP Incentive funds. Steven Radcliff motioned for approval of the treasurer report, Ryan Britt seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Ryan Britt stated he had provided a format he would like to see the reports in so he can then prepare a budget. The names on the bank accounts in Jefferson need to be updated. Steve Radcliff made a motion to add Treasurer Henry Heinze to those accounts. George Engelbach seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Steve Radcliff then made a motion to add President Kenny Lovelace to the Jefferson City accounts also. Ryan Britt seconded. Motion carried unanimously (7-0). Beverly Dometrorch then made a motion to remove the other names from the Jefferson City accounts and have just the current President, Treasurer and Executive Director on the accounts. Ryan Britt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**MDC Report:** Lisa Potter they were up to 30 CWD positives across the state. There were 2 new cases outside the core area so they are aggressively sampling in those 2 areas (Cole and Franklin Counties). They have collected over 6,000 samples so far. MDC is considering a proposal to prohibit hunting feral hogs on conservation land. Lisa also stated there is a new Missouri outdoor recreation access program pilot this summer, it will pay landowners to open property to public access. Their goal is to have 10,000 acres in this program. The website for the program is [www.mdc.mo.gov/mrap](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/mrap). There is also a state monarch initiative which will address the restoration of the monarch habitat. They are in the process of developing a plan and looking a designating a state coordinator.

**NRCS Report:** J.R. Flores stated that he would not be able to attend the evening session but that Area Conservationist Karen Brinkman would be attending in his place. The next state technical committee meeting is scheduled for June 8 at the Bradford Farm in Columbia. J. R. stated there is a joint effort in looking at how to best achieve conservation planning. This group includes NRCS, NASCA, NACD, RC&D and District Employees Association. Nationwide NRCS will be hiring 250 new employees for this effort, Missouri should get 7 of those 250. J. R. stated the NRCS chief is increasing the agency's interest in urban conservation. The Boot Camp training sessions this year will also be open to districts, there will be approximately 50 spots for district employees. Of the six full RCPP proposals that involved Missouri, three were selected for funding: MO Department of Ag Cover Crop Project (Missouri is the lead state), Pheasants Forever Monarch Project (Nebraska is the lead state, Missouri collaborating), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Monarch Project (Texas is the lead state, Missouri collaborating). Missouri has been selected as a Strikeforce state with 46 counties in Missouri included. Strikeforce is a new initiative where agencies will identify ways to leverage and partner to bring economic opportunity to rural people in counties that meet "high-poverty county" criteria. J. R. stated we have seen a lot of positive results with the soil health program. Doug Peterson accepted a national position so instead of having one state coordinator replacing him, there will be a soil health coordinator in each of the areas. Due to the December flooding 78 Missouri counties were declared a disaster area with assistance available for debris and sediment removal from streams, levee repairs and streambank stabilization near infrastructure such as roads, bridges, buildings or utilities. USDA recently established a Natural NRCS Wetland Mitigation Banking Program made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill where NRCS will provide funds to help states, local governments or other qualified partners develop wetland mitigation banks that restore, create or enhance wetland ecosystems, broadening the conservation options

available to farmers and ranchers so they can maintain eligibility for other USDA programs. Karen Brinkman gave an update on the Farm Bill programs – CSP signup right now until March 31, doing pre-approvals for EQIP sign-up and initiatives.

**Commission Report:** Colleen Meredith stated the upcoming Area Meetings will include reports from partners and information on the sales tax. The facilities are finalized and they are working on the food vendors. The Commission recently approved cost-share for some of the counties for flood damage repair and a memo was sent out to the districts indicating the counties and the rules for cost-share. There is currently a bill in the Legislature on establishment of a voluntary water pollutant trading program for both point and nonpoint sources discharging to surface waters. The bill would also require DNR to develop a procedure to facilitate water pollutant trading consistent with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. For point sources, the trading is to be addressed in NPDES permits and for nonpoint sources, DNR must work with the Department of Agriculture to develop a certification program for credits to be used by nonpoint sources and within the NPDES program. The bill also exempts all wastewater treatment facilities with a design flow of 22,500 gallons per day or less from antidegradation review requirements. The bill has not yet been assigned to a committee or been discussed at a committee hearing. Ms. Meredith discussed the proposed budget for FY-17 that is currently in the Legislature. The Governor approved the expansion of the cost-share funds and added to that partly due to wanting to do some streambank work, but the expansion of the grants to districts was not included in the Governor's proposed budget. She stated that the progression line is still funded but some additional items may not happen if the increase in the grants to districts does not get included in the budget. These include the extra salary for employee sharing and the funding for the intern program. She also stated that with the increased cost-share funding, there is some concern about getting the work done with the current number of district employees. In response to a question about info-ed funds for the urban counties she stated they are looking for additional grant dollars that might be available. With the sales tax renewal coming up this year, the department put together brochures for the soils side of the tax and the parks side of the tax. The Parks Association is going to pay for printing the parks brochure and include a statement that they were printed at no expense to the state. She asked if MASWCD would be willing to pay for the printing of the soils brochure. Estimated cost is \$1300 to print 35,000 and \$1700 to print 50,000 brochures. Ryan Britt made a motion to pay for printing 1700 brochures and include the statement not printed at state expense but not to include any statements about MASWCD paying for the brochures. Dan Greeson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**Employee Association Report:** Sandy Stratman reported the new president for the Employees Association is Matt Blansett from Callaway County. The training they had at their meeting yesterday was on retirement programs and the need for a salary reduction agreement. They also talked about how the budget would affect the shared positions. There was a discussion on the CNMP requirement for cost-share and the limited staff available to write those. The deadline for their scholarship application is Friday. They reviewed the training conference for the areas they are involved in. They did make a change to the awards they give at the training conference. They will now give 1 area employee award in each of the 8 areas and 1 state employee award plus the supervisor award. Sandy reported she helped with the auction at the recent NACD national meeting in Reno where they made over \$80,000 on the live auction and draw down. They currently have 233 employee members representing 98 counties and 125 association members. The other officers of the Employees Association Board remained the same.

**Committee Reports:** Budget—Ryan Britt said he has provided a format he would like to see the financial report provided which includes categories with previous year's information also.

Policy—Beverly Dometorch said there was nothing else to add from the Policy Committee.

\*Leon Phipps, Area 6 Alternate joined the meeting.

**Old Business:** The 2016 Area Meetings were already discussed, but it was noted there will also be a short report from the District Employees Association at each of the meetings.

The Area Director elections will be held at each Area Meeting. Nominating committees are working on getting candidates for the ballot. A message will be sent out to all the districts with information on who to contact in each Area if they know of someone that would like to run for Area Director. The names of who is running and a short bio of each should be sent out to the districts in each area 2 or 3 weeks prior to the election. Kenny Lovelace has also named a nominating committee for the officer election that will be held at Tan-Tar-A. This committee includes Steve Radcliff, Henry Heinze and Ben Gorden. They would like to have names of Area Directors interested in running for officer positions 2 weeks prior to the Training Conference.

**New Business:** The board reviewed the summary of the evaluations from the 2015 Training Conference and discussed workshops and potential speakers for 2016.

Those that attended the NACD National Meeting gave a brief review of the meetings and workshops they attended. Kenny Lovelace stated that Missouri was recognized for having a training program that fits the suggested guidelines of NACD and NASCA. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year for that recognition. Missouri was also recognized as being #10 in the purchase of stewardship and education materials from NACD.

The agenda for the Education Seminar was reviewed.

**AREA Reports:** Area 1 – Bruce Biermann stated they have not had the moisture there as much as the rest of the state, they will be seeing some field work in the next few days, there is very little frost in the ground.

Area 2 – Steve Radcliff reported for David Morris. He stated that his district had been working on the MOU for sharing district employees and due to the requirements of what needs to be in the MOU they felt like it should have been sent out at the beginning of the discussion on sharing employees. The time for employees to achieve pay steps is not clearly understood, the employee reps in his area had been contacted to discuss this issue. It is very muddy in his area.

Area 3 – Ryan Britt stated a couple of his counties are working on shared employees. It is pretty muddy but a little bit of work is getting done.

Area 4 – Beverly Dometorch said she talked to the districts in her area and they are all ready to get busy on field work as soon as the weather clears.

Area 5 – George Engelbach said over Christmas they received 12 inches of rain in 3 days. The northern part of his county had a lot of damage, mostly residential. The creek went around the county bridge about 130 feet long that joins his property and took the road out. He said the fix may not include any streambank repair. MFA did some spraying, had some drift and specialty crops of neighboring landowner were affected. They were very susceptible to the chemicals.

Area 6 – Leon Phipps said they had a lot of rain in November and December and a lot of acres went to cover crops this year.

Area 7 – Dan Greeson said they don't normally have flooding due to the hills but did receive 8.3 inches of rain and did have water in their basement. A lot of fences in his area are in need of repair.

Area 8 – Mike Kelley said they had some heavy rain in December, not much snow this winter. He said they have lost a lot of trees but not sure exactly what the issue is, they don't seem to be attached to the roots.

**Correspondence:** There was no correspondence

**Other Business:** No other business.

The next meeting date will be set when needed sometime in May or June probably.

Motion for adjournment was made by Bruce Biermann, seconded by Ryan Britt. Motion carried unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

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Kenny Lovelace, President