



Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**MASWCD MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Capitol Plaza Hotel**  
**Jefferson City, Missouri**  
**February 20, 2018**

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**Present**

Ryan Britt, President  
Jim Carlson, Area I Alternate  
David Morris, Area II  
Henry Heinze, Area III/Treasurer  
Dan Greeson, Area VII  
Kenny Spooler, Area VIII  
Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

Curt McDaniel, NRCS Asst. State Cons.  
Jim Boschert, DNR Soil & Water Program  
Seth Barrioz, MDC Private Lands  
Sandy Stratman, Maries County SWCD  
Kelly Smith, Farm Bureau

**Not Present**

Kenny Lovelace, Past City President  
Ron Willis, Area I  
Beverly Dometrorch, Area IV  
Derrick Cope, Area V  
Kathryn Braden, Area VI

President Ryan Britt welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. with a quorum established.

The minutes from the 11-26-17 meeting were approved as presented. Dan Greeson made a motion to approve the minutes, Kenny Spooler seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

A copy of the financial report that shows the income and expenses for all accounts in Jefferson City for 2016 and 2017 was reviewed. The report was also prepared to include the MDC funding and one without the MDC funding to show a better picture of the MASWCD income and expenses. Henry Heinze distributed a report of dues paid to date. The balance in his account is \$85,709. He stated this is a little less than last year at this time. Dan Greeson made a motion to accept the treasurer report and file it for audit. David Morris seconded. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

**MDC Report:** Seth Barrioz attended for Brent Vandeloecht who was attending another meeting. He stated they have \$1.5 million for cost-share which is mostly timber stand improvement, prescribed burn and native grass and wildflower establishment. MDC now has 12 trappers for feral hog removal and expect to hire 12 more. There were 6,500 feral hogs removed in 2017 by

shooting and trapping. They no longer have an incentive for CRP mid-contract management, only for monarch plantings. There is still about \$168,000 available for that. There is a separate monarch incentive for southeast counties. He stated they are still reviewing the last of the applications received for the recreational access program. If all are approved they will have 15,000 acres of access on 62 properties. There were around 23,000 CWD samples during deer season with 16 positive. He stated they partner with a lot of organizations and agencies and they definitely appreciate all they do.

**Farm Bureau:** Kelly Smith stated they have a pilot program – Growing Good Neighbors – which brings together all sectors involved with agriculture with others not involved in Ag. They have had 2 meetings so far in St. James and Waverly with plans for one more in Rocheport. He stated that Missouri is now able to be on the National Peanut Board due to the amount of peanut production in the southeast part of the state. There has been talk of a lot more wind and solar farms. Private landowners are not used to dealing with the issues that are involved with these private companies that develop the wind and solar farms, such as how to get the energy to where it is used, using eminent domain for transmission lines, interruption of frequency signals, etc.. The state legislature is planning to form a task force to look at these so any regulations will be on a statewide basis instead of county by county. The Farm Bureau legislative days are next week, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**NRCS Report:** Curt McDaniel, Assistance State Conservationist, attended for J. R. Flores, who was at another meeting. He stated 2017 was a great year, especially under the circumstances of reduced staffing. The 2017 annual report will be coming out soon and should be available for those who attend the NACD Fly-in in Washington, DC. Last year was a light year for CRP because of being near the acreage cap but the majority of the sign-up was for pollinators. There was over \$30.5 million obligated for EQIP with cover crops being the #1 practice. They have just started approving applications for 2018 EQIP. The CSP program provides the biggest opportunity right now for landowners. They are doing a lot of outreach to make sure landowners understand the changes to the program. The funding allocations are by FOSA so the applications are not competing statewide. The CSP is now more like EQIP, paid for performance. There have been a few FSA counties approved for ECP due to drought with a signup deadline this summer. Grants and agreements are available for partnering organizations for outreach and education. Those applications are due February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The FY-18 budget looks good; they are still trying to build capacity through partnerships.

**Commission Report:** Jim Boschert reported the cost-share is shaping up similar to last year. \$59.6 million has been allocated out to the districts with \$41.5 million of that obligated and \$17.5 million claimed. There will be a March supplemental next week. The next Commission meeting is March 5. The Commission will look at the comments received on the red-tape reduction of the rules. Those comments are due by February 26<sup>th</sup>. He stated the election process will be looked at also. There are 29 FOSA technical positions and they are working on the addition of 2 engineering positions, adding money for vehicles for the districts where these FOSA technicians are stationed. He stated they are working on a training session for conservation planning for early summer. Some of the work may be suitable for the training conference. He said Colleen Meredith was contacted by the Danforth Foundation and they said they have soil health kits for the soil and water districts. She is going to get more information on these.

**Employees Association:** Matt Blansett was not able to attend, Sandy Stratman reported in his absence. Their February meeting was re-scheduled to early March where they will be electing a new president which will most likely be Melissa White from Stone County. The number of applications for their scholarship program is down this year.

**Committee Reports:**

Budget — No report at this time.

Bylaws -- No report at this time.

Strategic Plan – This committee plans to meet later today and will forward their recommendations to Ryan Britt.

**Old Business:** Ryan Britt gave an update on the LAGERS legislation. Both bills were filed on December 1, sent to Committee and passed out of Committee. The House bill – HB1329—is now in the Senate as it was passed by the House yesterday with a vote of 139 to 2. There are 2 amendments that were added in the House, but there does not seem to be an issue with them. Most likely it will be after spring break before the Senate does anything with the House bill.

The Board reviewed the evaluations from the 2017 Training Conference and discussed some ways to improve the conference. Dan Greeson is suggesting incorporating some tours into the conference time. The Strategic Planning Committee will also be looking at the evaluations and board suggestions and will have some recommendations for the Board to consider. Tan-Tar-A is holding dates for the next 3 years, same time frame of Monday-Wednesday right after Thanksgiving. Dan Greeson made a motion to approve a 3-year contract with Tan-Tar-A again for the dates they are holding. Henry Heinze seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously (5-0).

**New Business:** The dates for Area Meetings were discussed. Due to elections this year and the bylaw requirement for 3 month notice of the election, the earliest the Area Meetings could be scheduled is May. The Board decided they would prefer July 30 – August 2 for the dates for the Area Meetings. One of the items that could be on the agenda is information on how to request the actuarial study and sign up for LAGERS. The agenda could also include the new award NACD is starting for soil health – Hugh Hammond Bennett Award. Dan Greeson made a motion to increase the monetary amount for the awards (educator, cooperator and grassland farmer) from \$100 to \$500. No second to the motion so the motion died.

Ryan Britt played a video on the 2017 Leopold Award Winners. Kenny Spooler made a motion to sponsor the Leopold Award again for 2018 at the same amount of \$2500. David Morris seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously (5-0). Ryan Britt also provided information on Grow Native which is an organization that supports planting native plants. He serves on the committee for the organization. There may be an opportunity for financial support at a later date.

Those that attended the NACD national meeting discussed the meetings they attended and the speakers they heard. The NACD spring Fly-In will be March 19-21 in Washington, DC. Kenny Lovelace will be attending; Kenny Spooler indicated he may be able to attend also if the dates work out.

The agenda for the evening Education Seminar meeting was reviewed.

**AREA Reports:** Area 1 – Jim Carlson stated it is dry and icy in his area.

Area 2 – David Morris said he had not received any complaints from his districts; there is a lot of construction getting done.

Area 3 – Henry Heinze stated it is plenty dry but they did get some rain last night.

Area 4 – No report

Area 5 – No report

Area 6 – No report

Area 7 – Dan Greeson stated they have had a little bit of a dry spell but the rain last night was good.

Area 8 – Kenny Spooler said it has been a long winter. Cape Girardeau and Bollinger counties have been declared disaster counties for drought, but there is 5-6 inches of rain forecast for this week.

**Correspondence:** None

**Other Business:** None

The next meeting date will be June 5 at 1:00 pm at the Cole County USDA office. Those interested in lunch can plan to meet at 11:30 a.m. at the JC Pizza on McCarty Street. Motion for adjournment was made by Dan Greeson, seconded by Henry Heinze. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peggy Lemons, Executive Director

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Ryan Britt, President